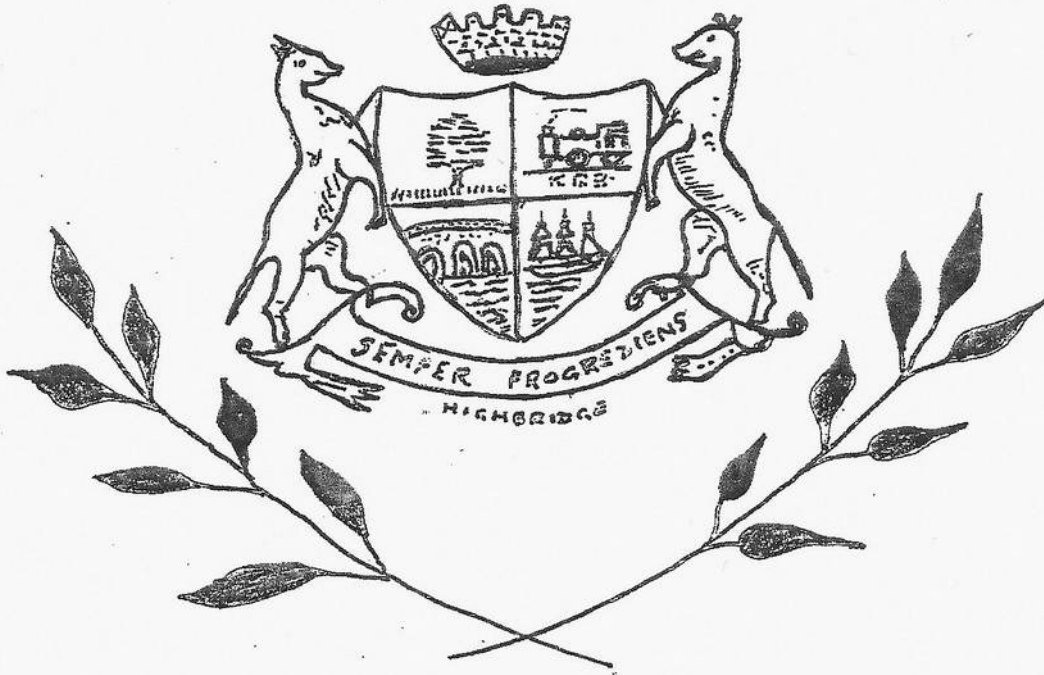


U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE...



of

HIGHBRIDGE

MAGAZINE

May-----June

2014

ISSUE NUMBER 76

Your Committee

Chairman:	Tony Webb	Tel: 787483
Vice-Chairman:	Bernard Martin	Tel: 787230
Secretary:	Ken Burston	Tel: 782529
Treasurer:	Carole Loveridge	Tel: 780060
Membership Secretary:	Jean Williams	Tel: 785240
Assistant to Secretary:	Barbara Croker	Tel: 780260
Committee Members	Fay Burston	Tel: 782529
	Pat Clipstone	Tel: 788128
	Billy Conibeer	Tel: 792311
	Pearl Price	Tel: 793954
	Ray Reddish	Tel: 785411
	Sally Williams	Tel: 787274
Web master	Darryl Knight-Rees	Tel: 783081

Prefix all telephone numbers with STD code 01278

Coffee Mornings are held every Wednesday at The Highbridge Community Hall from 10.00 am to 12.00 am. All are very welcome to join us.

Website: - www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk

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Editorial

We have reached that time of the year when we have to hold our Annual General Meeting; it is to be held in the Highbridge Community Hall on Wednesday 14th May at 10.30 am.

All paid-up members are invited to attend; in line with our usual practice copies of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (held on Wednesday 15th May 2013) will be distributed prior to the start of the meeting.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows: -

- 1) Apologises for Absence.
- 2) Adoption of Minutes of last years' meeting.
- 3) Matters arising from previous meeting.
- 4) Chairman's Report.
- 5) Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts.
- 6) Election of an Examiner for the Accounts for 2014/2015.
- 7) Secretary's Report.
- 8) Election of Committee Members for 2014/5.
- 9) Any other Business.
- 10) Date of next Annual General Meeting.

In line with our Constitution all current Committee Members will be standing down, some are prepared to stand for re-election; however, this year we need to elect another Chairman because the 3 year term of office of Tony Webb has now expired.

If you feel that you would like to put your name forward for nomination onto the Committee please let the Secretary know and you will be given a nomination form to fill in. The Committee will be very pleased to receive nominations because we are always looking for 'new blood'; fresh ideas and opinions are good for any organisation because they help it to move forward.

This Annual Meeting gives all members the opportunity to raise issues that may concern them and clear the air on matters that have, perhaps, caused them a problem in the past. Should you wish to raise a matter or put forward a motion please let the Secretary have details in writing prior to the meeting.

By-the-way, have you renewed your membership for 2014/2015?

No! Then you will not receive the next copy of the magazine!

Chairman's Report

Another successful year has passed and we have to thank the many members who have given up much of their time to ensure that success. There are far too many to permit me to mention each one individually, but there are two who always make the U3A of Highbridge their priority, Fay and Ken Burston. On behalf of all members I offer them a very sincere thank you.

All our groups have now been jogging along quietly, being well supported and during the year we have produced four new groups; Photography, Happy Snappers, Barn Dancing and Keep Fit. Membership is small in a few groups but never the less they are a positive part of our overall membership.

"Away Days" and Holidays have both played an important part in our diary this year and I know they are appreciated by all who have taken part. During the year we had two outside speakers, Keith Conway from the Lions and two gentlemen from Somerset Road Safety, the information they imparted to us was very useful, their visits well worthwhile.

Coffee Mornings are maintaining a good average of 50 plus, on the occasion of the Somerset Road Safety visit we were astounded to discover that over 80 members attended. The Coffee Rota is managing to run fairly well at present, it 'stutters' a bit occasionally so please keep an eye on it, please do not leave it to the willing few.

Another highlight was our Open Day, to which the Mayor attended, a very successful event. Also, please note that we now have our own website so please, if you are able; take a look at it from time to time in order to maintain its usefulness.

From this report you can see why I cannot attempt to single out anyone by name, you all do a grand job and the continued success of the U3A of Highbridge is proof enough of your dedication.

Over the year we have been able to generously support charities such as the Macmillan Cancer Fund and the local Gymnastic Club.

Finally, I will be standing down as Chairman this year because my 'term of office' is ending; I therefore say a big 'Thank you' to you all for your support during my three years as your chairman.

Tony Webb

Club News-Social

Annual Lunch

Our 2014 Annual Lunch was again, at popular request, held at The Beachcomber Inn, Brean, where we are always cordially invited. Upon arrival the staff members always gives any assistance that may be needed, a small touch, but greatly appreciated.

This year the weather was cold, but dry, so no-one had to dispose of heavy wet clothing. Once seated members were presented with the usual annual quiz sheet; questions were based on General Knowledge with a few current news items thrown in for good measure.

As soon as all had assembled the 'head waitress' announced the order we would be served, upon which Tony (Chairman) welcomed everyone and thanked Fay Burston for again organising this annual function.

The lunch was excellent, the choices offered exceeded all expectations and we are invited to partake of extra helpings if we had room for them, no-one did, being too full after the first serving.

Following the quiz prize giving and raffle a relaxed exodus was made, it is thought many may have had snooze until the evening.

Night at the Ritz

The "Dining and Dancing at the Ritz" evening held on Saturday 1st March was a great success, this was a 'first' for us and it proved to be a great success. About 70 attended this disco evening, being the first it took a little time to get going but following the excellent buffet supper feet felt like dancing. The floor was soon full of members twisting and shaking, reliving their younger days.

Thank you very much Pat, the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Cream Teas

There are two dates booked for this year:-

Friday 20th June.....and.....Tuesday 22nd July

Venue: - Wick Farm at Lympsham Price: - £5.50 Time: - 04.00 pm

Don't worry about the weather, if it is dry and warm we will be in the garden, if wet we take tea in the farm house. Tickets available from Fay.

Group News
"Away Days"

Hampton Court Castle & Gardens
Herefordshire
Thursday May 22nd

The Hampton Court Estate has a rich and fascinating history dating back to the 15th century; the estate was originally formed by the merging of the manors of Hampton Richard and Hampton Mappenor. It was granted by Henry IV to Sir Rowland Lenthall at the time of his marriage to Margaret Fitzalan, daughter of the Earl of Arundel and cousin of the King. Lenthall built the original quadrangular manor house in 1427 and in 1434 was granted a licence to crenellate the house by Henry VI.

Sir Rowland was succeeded by his daughter whose grandson sold the Court to Sir Humphrey Coningsby in 1510; in the early 19th century it was purchased by Richard Arkwright (son of the famous inventor) when it was remodelled in the 1830's and 40's. The Arkwright's lived at the Court until 1912.

The Gardens, recently completed, are one of the most ambitious garden creations of our time. Original Victorian garden walls enclose stunning new flower gardens divided by canals, island pavilions and pleached avenues.

There is a maze of a thousand yews with a gothic tower at its centre, climb to its top for a panoramic view of the gardens or descend underground to a tunnel that leads to a waterfall in a sunken garden.

Beyond the lawns are riverside and woodland walks.

Bournemouth
Thursday 19th June

Bournemouth does not need to be described in detail because many members have probably visited it at some time or other, it being a popular coastal resort in Hampshire. Before 1810, when it was founded by Lewis Tregonwell, the area was a deserted heathland occasionally visited by fishermen and smugglers.

The town is noted for its Victorian architecture, sandy beaches and tree lined walks that have become part of the towns' character.

Group News

"Keep Fit"--- with Roger

Well, it has been two months since Roger started the Keep Fit class on a Wednesday at 1pm. five intrepid keep-fitters have stayed the course so far. It has been a learning curve for all of us and I am sure for Roger too. Certainly he has had to adapt some of his moves! We don't get up and down off the floor as easily as we used to, that's for sure. However, Roger is very patient and has managed to get us all moving in harmony. He is very motivating and most encouraging and is certainly bringing out the best in us.

I can't go without saying a word about the music which is original Rock 'n Roll! Wonderful and guess what, we all know the words.

It's surprising what you find out at classes like these. Roger is a talented artist; I for one didn't know that.

Many thanks Roger

Ann Smith

Calligraphy

The members of this Group are continuing with their endeavours to master some of the 'skills' of this art. Ron Turner, its original leader, was in the process of introducing some variety to their workload when he, very regrettably, died as a result of injuries received in a road accident.

The group is now guided, certainly not instructed, by Ken Burston who, it so happened, had previously attended a calligraphy group and was therefore able to impart some of his knowledge to this group. We are slowly 'getting there'; calligraphy is something that you need to practice and practice and practice. The more you do the better it looks and the easier it becomes.

The members of this group who also attend our Card Making Group are now writing the texts for their own cards, so we have achieved something along the way.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month from 10.00 am until 11.30 am in Southwell House and it costs £1.00 if you are interested.

Play Reading

Tony is still keen to get this group up and running again; the 'old' members still meet at Tony's home at 10.00 am on the 4th Friday of the month. Have a word with him at a Coffee Morning if you are interested.

Barn Dancing

Some months ago we introduced this new group to our list of activities, a few members had, on occasions, attended the Burnham U3A's sessions held at the Methodist Church Hall in Burnham. Although a few members had shown an interest in this activity we would not have been able to form our own group, lack of 'caller' and necessary equipment. David Napper (Burnham's Group's Leader and 'caller') came up with the suggestion that if he joined the U3A of Highbridge our members could then attend, what would become a 'Joint Group'; an example of mutual co-operation between two local U3A's.

The new Group is proving to be a success with a good attendance from members, if you are interested, it is held on the 2nd -4th -5th Thursday of each month, I understand everyone is tired out at the end of a session because they spend so much time, not only dancing, but also laughing. A very social activity; as was the successful Barn Dance held in the Highbridge Community Hall on 29th March. There was a full house for this dance and social supper evening.

Genealogy

Roger Ouston, who leads the group, decided last year to produce a small biography of the young men from East and West Huntspill who gave their lives during the Great War. The 100th anniversary of that catastrophe falls on 4th August 2014 and he hoped his project would serve as a remembrance to them.

Unfortunately, after spending many hours researching the lives of the 'fallen' Roger was experiencing some difficulty in finding a local organisation that would be prepared to print and publish the results. It was felt that this was a good opportunity for us to 'do our bit' and, following a discussion between Ken Burston and Carole Loveridge, we made an 'executive decision' to help Roger publish his research.

It was decided that we, the 'U3A of Highbridge', would sponsor the printing and publishing of the booklet (having already seen a draft copy); we would then be reimbursed from the monies raised from the sale of this 'Memorial to the Fallen'.

Copies of the booklet will be available shortly; we trust some members will be interested in the publication and will buy a copy. Local memorials to 'The Fallen' are not very comprehensive, in some instances incomplete; we trust our actions will help to redress the situation.

Beading Late News!! I have just been advised that this group has closed, reasons or details why, not available.

"Away Days" for 2014

The following are the proposed day trips for this year:

Thursday 22nd May-----Hampton Court Castle Gardens
 Price: £18.00 includes Castle Tour

Thursday 19th June-----Bournemouth
 Price: £11.50

Thursday 17th July-----Tenby
 Price: £12.00

Thursday 11th September-----Tintern Abbey and Chepstow
 Price: £8.00

October-(Date to be arranged)---Houses of Parliament--To be advised

Thursday 27th November-----Salisbury Christmas Market & Wilton
 Price: £10.00 Outlet

The above prices include the drivers' gratuity.

If you do intend going on a trip please book with Vour as soon as you are able because places are already being reserved.

Your pick up point and time will be advised when you book.

Details concerning the proposed trip to the Houses of Parliament will be advised as soon as Vour is able to arrange a date.

ooooOOOOoooo

Somerset Villages

The first 'fifth' Friday this year is on 30th May, we hope the weather has improved sufficiently to enable us to spend a morning discovering the history and wonders of one of our local villages.

The Strollers have not been very lucky this year; most of 'our' Fridays have been wet and or very dull resulting in the group spending most of its time supping coffee and putting the world to rights.

Group Activities

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel.
------	------	-------	-------	--------	------

Monday

1 st	10.00 to 12.00	Card Making	S.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
1 st & 3 rd	02.00 to 03.30	Kurling	C.H.	Stan Vousden-White Sybil Tilley	781567 787054
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to 11.30	Calligraphy	S.H.	Ken Burston	782529
Last	02.00 to 03.30	Creative Writing	P.H.	Linda Knight-Rees	783081

Tuesday

1 st & 3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Mosaics	P.H.	Alison Joyce	784635
4 th (#)	10.30 to 12.00	Floral Art	S.H.	Jean Williams	785240
Every	02.00 to 04.00	Art-1	S.H.	Maureen McLaren	773804
Every	02.15 to 05.00	Board Games	G.H.	Betty Worthy	795823
Every	10.00 to 12.00 02.00 to 04.00	Patchwork /Quilting	P.H.	Ann Lismore	787607

(#) Re-starts in April

Wednesday

3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Card Making	S.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 nd	10.00 to 12.00	Photography	C.H.	Kevin Gainford	789374
Every	01.00 to 02.00	Keep Fit	B.C.G.	Roger Cross	284753
4 th	10.00 to 12.00	Happy Snappers	C.H.	Kevin Gainford	789374

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.00 to 12.00 COFFEE MORNING Community Hall

Group Activities

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel.
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Thursday

1 st	10.00 to 11.00	Genealogy	C.H.	Roger Ouston	795007
2 nd , 4 th & 5 th	02.00 to 04.00	Barn Dancing	M.C.H.	David Napper	792371
Every	01.30 to 04.00	Art-2	S.H	Jean Berry	785840

Friday

1 st & 3 rd	11.30 to 01.00	Skittles	C.I.	Phillip Buoy Betty Worthy	783647 795823
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to ? ? ?	Strollers		Self-regulating	792529
5 th	10.00 to ? ? ?	Somerset Villages		Bernard Martin	787230

Occasional

Thursdays	"Away Days"	Vour Orchard Carole Loveridge			788984 780060
Thursdays	Luncheons	Pat Clipstone			788128
Saturdays	Theatre	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp			781009 787963
	Holidays	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp			781009 787963

Legends

S.H.....Southwell House	C.H.....Community Hall
P.H.....Private Home	G.H.....Gospel Hall
M.C.H.....Methodist Church Hall	C.I.....Crossways Inn
B.C.G.....Boxing Club Gym	

Should you wish to join a Group please first contact its Leader.

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Penguin Swimming Club

The Penguin Swimming Club is there for all those who would enjoy a weekly visit to a swimming pool; we meet at the Burnham Sports & Swimming Academy pool in Berrow Road.

Many of the members are also members of local U3A's.
 Membership is limited to women and men of 60 years of age, and older.

We have exclusive use of the pool from 09.30 am to
 10.30 am every Tuesday.

The shallow end of the pool is kept for the non-swimmers
 and the less confident swimmers.

There are easy access steps at the shallow end.

There is a £5.50 joining fee and then a swimming
 Fee of £7.00 every four weeks.

We have a few vacancies

More information can be obtained, either by visiting the pool on a
 Tuesday morning before 10.00 am.

OR: - ring Tom on 787431—Hazel on 641546-----Peter on 786825
 (Peter Shannon)

Weekends

Thank goodness its Friday you hear them say
 Why, think I, it's just another day
 Then I remember, they are not fancy free,
 They are not retired like you and like me
 Tomorrow the shops will be filled to the top
 No room for us to park or to shop,
 Confined to the house all weekend we'll be
 Thank goodness for Monday when we are set free.

Joy Daine

"Away Day" to Tyntesfield

On Friday 11th April a full coach left Highbridge and headed to this outstanding Victorian country house and estate between Clevedon and Portishead; the day had dawned bright and dry, staying that way all day.

The saying goes "Where there's muck there's brass" and back in the 19th century this proved to be so. William Gibbs became the richest commoner in England in between the 1850's and 1860's by importing guano (bird poo) into this country for use as a fertiliser. Not only did the crops grow but also did his bank balance and each of the four generations of the family left its mark on the house and estate.

After the death, in 2001 of Richard, the second Lord Wraxall, the last member of the Gibbs family to live there, the property was put up for sale, much of the house had remained untouched for years and was in a bit of a state. The National Trust leapt into action and, with the help of the general public money was raised to purchase the property for the nation.

A lot of work has been done since the Trust took over but a lot has still to be done, rooms that are open now will be 'rested' and different rooms prepared for the public to see. Many of the public there on Friday had previously visited the house and enjoyed the experience, proving it must be well worth the effort.

I am hoping one of the members that visited on Friday 11th March will have a go at providing a more detailed write-up than that I have done, please have a go someone in time for the next issue, you've got 6 weeks.

Photography Group News

This Group continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in room 1 upstairs at the Community Hall, our latest member Andrew Eley is proving to be a highly valued member. Andrew is very willing to share his experience and knowledge; not only on photography but also his computer skills.

The group plans to go on a series of field trips during the year, ranging from shooting natural history, nature, transport and life in general, all as it happens. In January we enjoyed a visit to the Haynes International Motor Museum and saw some fantastic examples of cars, motor cycles and pedal cycles from across the years. Unfortunately our February trip had to be cancelled due to the flooding around the area; we hope to resume our adventures in March. The majority of our trips, being on a Wednesday; may coincide with the normal group meetings, so some familiar faces may, occasionally, be missing from Coffee Mornings.

Unfortunately one of the group's founders has been somewhat unwell for the past weeks and missed the field trips; we all wish you a speedy recovery John and look forward to your return, make it soon, we miss your experience and expertise, especially with the Windows 8 programme, Sue and I are tearing our hair out trying to sort it.

Happy Snappers

This newly formed group got off to a flying start in January; it looked at being able to take better snaps rather than the traditional formal photography. The group is scheduled to run until June, following which, hopefully, there will be sufficient interest to run another group from July to December. If you are interested, or are even considering you may be, please speak to any member of the group (or Photography Group) or add your name to the sheet on the Notice Board in time for the next session.

The present group comprises 9 members, all with different versions of the compact camera. They are all learning from each other as well as getting help from the Photography Group members; the subjects covered so far were, in January, getting to know your camera and in February, learning to transfer photographs from your camera to your computer or tablet or iPad.

The meetings, on the 4th Wednesday of the month in room 1, are great fun; incidentally, the Happy Snappers are welcome to join the main group on field trips if they wish.

Please keep an eye open for more information and watch this space.

Cheers: Kevin Gainford (Group Leader)

Bristol Blue Glass-Thursday 20th March 2014

Tony, the coach driver, welcomed us onto his new vehicle of which he seemed very proud and rightly so, it was extremely comfortable although the journey to Bristol was too short for any discomfort. We called first at Cabot Circus to drop off the shoppers then proceeded to our destination in Bedminster; the tour of the city was interesting to those who do not know it well.

The Bristol Blue Glass Company's premises are most unprepossessing as a 'factory' building; certainly not a place in which one expects to find a museum, but then it is also a working glass manufacturing company. It did have the huge advantage of being accessible to disabled people. We were welcomed by the friendly staff and invited to take our seats in front of the furnaces where the glass blowing demonstrations were to take place. There were insufficient seats for a full coach load but those who stood at the back probably had a better view.

Nick (Bryant) commenced his commentary by telling us the history of glass blowing and of what glass comprised. A jar containing the raw product was handed round, he also explained and showed to us the cobalt (also in a jar) that is added to the sand in order to produce the wonderful deep blue colour obtained when mixed with the sand and other chemicals.

The craftsman, Martin a young Polish man, was introduced; he produced a lump of molten glass from the furnace, attached it to a tube and proceeded to

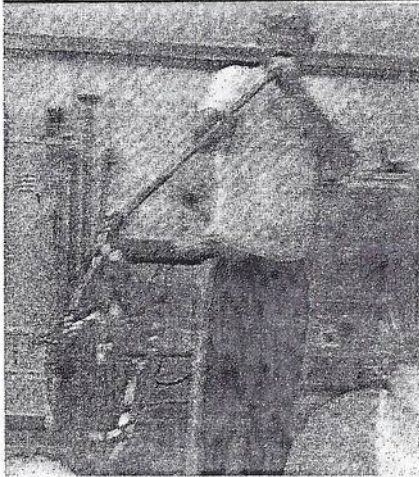
blow into a bowl shape. It was then rolled up and down some guides to create what was to be a jug, (right) it was then held for a while in a 'glory hole'. This is a furnace used to help return heat to the object, which was, by then, cooling and losing its fluidity, in the meantime his colleague had produced from the heat a molten lump of glass. This was stretched to the required length, added to a point near the base of the jug and expertly shaped into a handle; whilst still pliable a lip was formed in the rim, (obviously opposite the handle) the



finished product was quickly cooled in a bucket of water. There followed a round of applause, given in appreciation of Martin's expertise, a true craftsman who, you could see, enjoyed what he was doing.

Bristol Blue Glass continued

For an encore we were then treated to some more craftsmanship, another lump of molten glass was produced and was blown and shaped into a dish form, it was then lowered gently onto a metal 'wheel' that produced a dish with a wavy rim. To please us all Martin then produced his 'party' pieces, we were invited to guess what it was to be and a number of ideas were put forward. When completed it was a cat with a curly tail, finally a penguin was produced, and in each case, because they were obviously still very hot, we were shown 'ones they had produced early'.



Next Martin demonstrated how glass could be blown to an extreme thinness before it shattered; the thinner the glass became Martin got redder in the face; it took a lot of 'puff' but it finally burst. Martin is a skilled craftsman and obviously enjoys his work; we felt we could have sat and watched him much longer.

Whilst our buffet lunch was prepared there was an opportunity to purchase mementos and/or visit the museum.

It would have been interesting to hear a little about the history of the company, but it was understood a shortage of staff had rather upset their normal arrangements. It had however, been a very enjoyable and worthwhile trip, all thanks to Vour and Carole for making it possible.

The museum cases held many interesting artefacts where one could learn the history of glass. "The earliest evidence of man-made glass dates back over 4,000 years to Mesopotamia where archaeologists identified glass beads. Ancient Egyptians were proficient glassmakers, making use of metals and metallic oxides to colour glass. They made glass using a core-forming method which was extremely labour intensive and time consuming. The Phoenicians revolutionised the way glass was made by discovering you could take a blob of molten glass on the end of a hollow iron tube and 'blow' it into shape. The Romans learnt these new skills and introduced glassblowing throughout their vast empire; they brought their glassmaking skills to Bristol." A number of industries were set up, many have closed, and two only remain.

Janet Raine

Monthly Draw

February No 45 Sybil Tilley No 45 Wendy Hughes
March No 41 Andrew Eley No 41 Jean Williams

Each received £20.00

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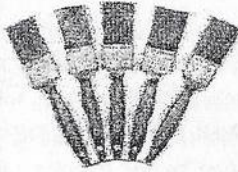
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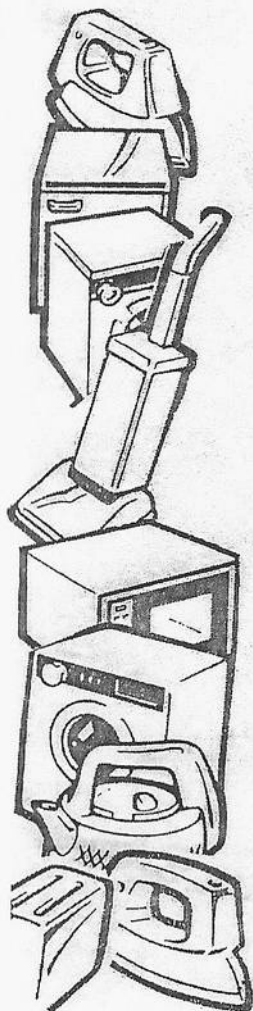
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Social Activities---2014

“Away Days”

Hampton Court Castle & Gardens
Herefordshire

Date: Thursday 22nd May
Cost: £18.00 includes Castle Tour

Bournemouth

Date: Thursday 19th June
Cost: £11.50

Tenby

Date: Thursday 17th July
Cost: £12.00

Pick-up points for “Away Day” trips are:-

Berrow: - Triangle.
Burnham: - Morrisons, Pier St.
Highbridge: - Alpha House, Market St.

Times of Pick-ups for an “Away Day” trip will be advised when you make a booking and are always given on the ‘Payment Receipt’, if in doubt PLEASE check with Vour or Carole well before the trip.

Cheques to cover payments for all “Away Days”, Theatre trips and Holidays must be made payable to “U3A of Highbridge Social Account”

Please also add your name, address and phone number on the reverse of the cheque, this: -

- a) helps to identify you on the passenger list, and
- b) If a trip is cancelled you can be notified quickly.