

U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



of

HIGHBRIDGE

MAGAZINE

July-----August

2014

ISSUE NUMBER 77

Your Committee

Chairman:	Pearl Price	Tel: 793954
Vice-Chairman:	Bernard Martin	Tel: 787230
Secretary:	Ken Burston	Tel: 782529
Treasurer:	Carole Loveridge	Tel: 780060
Membership Secretary:	Fay Burston	Tel: 782529
Assistant to Secretary:	Barbara Croker	Tel: 780260
Committee Members	Pat Clipstone	Tel: 788128
	Ray Reddish	Tel: 785411
	Tony Webb	Tel: 787483
	Jean Williams	Tel: 785240
	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

Welcome to the U3A of Highbridge's new 2014/2015 year
The Annual General Meeting, which was held on Wednesday 14th May 2014, was well attended and successfully concluded in a record time.

Meetings are not the flavour of the month for most people, especially A.G.M.'s but they are, unfortunately necessary. We always try to cover the important matters quickly and to get the approval of as many members as possible in the shortest time. This year we did, I feel, achieve that and I wish to thank all those who were present for their support and interest; the Committee greatly appreciates your loyalty.

Your presence at this recent meeting does, I hope, indicate that you are happy with the way your Committee Members are running this U3A and that the Group Leaders are looking after your interests.

As a matter of interest, the total attendance at the meeting was 30% of the membership, well over the number required for a quorum. The total attendance that morning was very good, up to the usual numbers.

Our Treasurer (Carole Loveridge) reported that our financial position was sound and healthy; the Social Activities e.g. "Away Days", Holidays and Theatre Visits were well supported during the past year and are proving to be very popular.

Most of our Groups are well supported, except the Keep Fit Group but more about that later. The Photography Group members are getting involved with local projects, being 'Official' Photographers for Burnham Foodfest and the Carnival. Our Creative Writers wrote a play that was broadcast on 10Radio so they too are benefiting from the help and advice supplied by Somerset Film & Video Ltd.

The 2013/4 Committee members had resigned prior to the A.G.M. but had offered themselves for re-election (Except Billy Conibeer) and were all unanimously re-elected en bloc.

The newly elected Committee held its first meeting immediately after the Coffee Morning; this was to elect the Officers for the next 12 months.

Editorial Continued

Tony Webb, (Chairman) having held this office for three years (2011/12/13) had to stand down, Bernard Martin who had been Vice-Chairman for just one year is not bound to automatically take up the Chairmanship and did not wish to do so.

The situation was therefore resolved in accordance with our Constitution which states:

Clause 5 (i) The Committee shall consist of.....members, including the principal Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) who shall be appointed by the Committee at their first meeting.

Three of the posts were straight forward e.g. those of Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer because all were happy to continue; we did, however, need to elect the new Chairman.

After some discussion, with no-one keen to step forward, Pearl Price offered to 'give it a go', subject of course, to receiving a lot of help from Tony and the rest of us. We accepted Pearl's brave offer unanimously.

There was still the position of Membership Secretary because Jean Williams had resigned. It was decided to leave this position open until all the Committee were present, three members being absent on holiday.

Since the meeting the following positions have been agreed: -

Chairman.....Pearl Price
 Vice-Chairman.....Bernard Martin
 Secretary.....Ken Burston
 Treasurer.....Carole Loveridge
 Membership Secretary....Fay Burston (Fay, who has previously held this office and is conversant with the system offered to fill the vacancy)

Assistant to Secretary.....Barbara Croker
 Committee Members.....Pat Clipstone
 Ray Reddish
 Jean Williams
 Sally Williams
 Tony Webb

So, your Committee was finalised, we will all endeavour to make sure your U3A is run successfully and properly; and will do our best to ensure your requirements are met. We, the Committee look forward to your continued support and interest.

Message from your Chairlady

First of all and on behalf of the members of the U3A of Highbridge, I would like to express our thanks to Tony Webb for all the work and dedication he has done over the past three years as Chairman. Also our thanks to Billy Conibeer who has decided to retire from the committee.

We are a flourishing U3A, with a membership that cannot be faulted. When we ask members to support us at events and especially for fund raising you give your support 110% for which we thank you very much.

The U3A can be a lifesaver to many people who find themselves at a loss after retirement or are left alone for whatever reason. Personally, I had not heard of the U3A until I came to live in Burnham-on -Sea and when I told members of my family that I had joined, my brother-in-law said "I should be very careful about joining these Cult groups!" But it received his approval when I joined following my retirement.

There are plenty of interesting activities within our U3A, something to suit most people, all interesting activities you can share with others. There may of course be something we are not covering, in which case please come forward with your suggestions. I would like to get the Beading Group reinstated, but we need someone who knows the subject well enough to guide us; so watch this space.

I will endeavour to do my best as Chairlady of the U3A of Highbridge, we are a friendly U3A and I am sure that, along with the Committee and the goodwill of our Members, we can only go forward.

My regards to you all.

Pearl.

Note: Pearl told me she is keen for members to make more use of our website, the details are on page 2.

It is not very comprehensive at present because we do not receive information from you that we are able to add to it.

Darryl Knight-Rees (Webmaster) is always prepared to add information to the site if you feel it would be of interest to your fellow members. His email address is: darryl@knight-rees.com

Group News--- continued

Play Reading. Tony is still waiting for an opportunity to restart this Group; some of the 'old' group is willing and anxious to get going again so please give it a thought. Ring Tony on 787483 if interested.

Happy Snappers This new Group, having completed its first 6 month term, is, on the 23rd July, starting another 6 months of tuition for those members who wish to improve their 'camera' skills. Put your name down a.s.a.p. if you wish to join them. Kevin Gainford would like to hear from you, ring 789374

Beading Members who supported this Group when it was run by Jessie Maddox will be aware that it has been discontinued. However, for those who are interested in this Craft I can tell you that Pearl Price is hoping to get it going again later this year; I don't yet know who will be its leader but will issue a notice as soon I receive the information.

Holidays The next holiday is to Weymouth, from Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October. See page 9 for more information.

Theatre Visits Di, Brenda and Gloria (yes, Gloria Brown has joined the team) do not, as yet, have any plans for another visit to the Weston Playhouse; as soon as information is available a notice will be displayed on the board giving all the relevant details.

"Away Days" The next is **Tenby on Thursday 17th July**

Tenby is a walled seaside resort in Pembrokeshire on the Welsh coast facing Carmarthen Bay. The beautiful harbour is overlooked by Georgian and Regency buildings, there is still some history to be seen, the 13th century medieval town walls include a five arch Barbican gatehouse; there is also a Merchants House (N.T.), museum and art gallery.

Keep Fit As already mentioned this Group has moved its activity from the Boxing Club Gym in Springfield Road near ASDA to Room 2 in the Community Hall. We hope those members who could not 'settle' at the Gym will find Room 2 more to their liking; the car park is certainly nearer to the action and they will be on more familiar ground.

Roger Cross the Group Leader and 'instructor' is keen to get a few more attending his classes, so please try out this new venue

Hampton Court Castle and Gardens---Herefordshire
(Or All's well that ends well)

On Thursday 22nd May, forty-six of us boarded a coach for a visit to Hampton Court Castle & Gardens, near Leominster, Herefordshire. All were in good spirits, as was our driver, Martin, who was a chirpy chappie.

It was a good journey and Martin informed us that we would stop at Strensham Services for a comfort break. The sun was shining and most of us took the opportunity to stretch our legs and pick up a coffee. However, on returning to the coach we had a problem. Martin couldn't unlock the steering wheel; he tried all sorts of remedies but had to call back to base. A recovery van was sent out which took over an hour.

In the meantime, most of us ate our packed lunches or bought sandwiches. Martin was very apologetic and all the passengers were very understanding and patient. We were beginning to wonder if we would ever get there, but suddenly the problem was solved and we were on our way.

When we arrived at the castle, we were more than pleased with the sight of the gardens and grounds. Our tour was originally for 1.45 pm, but, thanks to mobile phones, I was able to notify the castle of our late arrival and our slot was moved to 3.00 pm.

We gathered in the small courtyard and were met by Sharon, our guide, who was a marvellous narrator. The Castle predates Hampton Court Palace, in London, by some eighty years. Sir Rowland Lenthall built the original manor house twelve years after his knighthood at the Battle of Agincourt.

In the early 19th century the estate was purchased by Richard Arkwright, son of the inventor of the Spinning Jenny. It then passed to two more owners; one sold off all the contents, including the stained glass windows in the chapel and the castle became in need of some TLC. Thankfully an American billionaire bought the castle and had it completely restored. He spent over a million pounds on the roof alone! Sadly, he died aged 64 and never got to enjoy the finished product.

(Continued on page 8)

Continued from page 7

Since then the castle has returned to an English owner. It is a beautiful place and has only been open to the public for six years; in my opinion it is one of England's hidden treasures. The 150 year old wisteria alone is a sight to behold, like a floral waterfall.

Sadly, after our tour, it started raining heavily and therefore, we were unable to walk around the maze and sunken garden. However, I believe we were all pleased with what we saw in the time we had.

Martin drove us back through the Wye Valley which looks gorgeous.

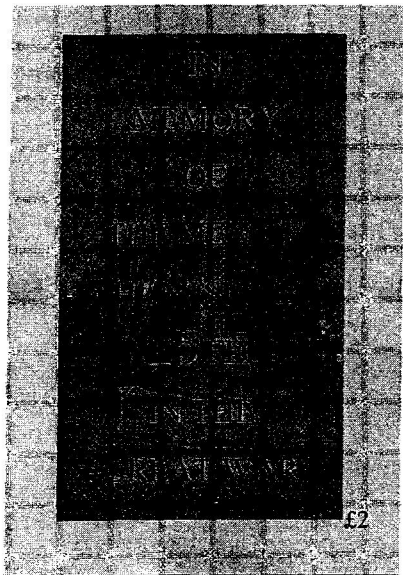
I would really like to thank all of our members on the trip for being so kind and understanding about our delay. So to quote the great bard, 'all's well that ends well'.

Your Orchard

+++++

Genealogy

Group members are now taking a break from researching family roots until the next sessions start in October.



Roger Ouston the Group Leader was busy earlier this year researching the biographies of the young men of East and West Huntspill who volunteered to fight for King and Country in the Great War.

It includes 24 men from West Huntspill, from young men in their late teens to men their mid-thirties; 9 men from East Huntspill gave their lives, their ages ranging from 19 to 30, all in the prime of life.

Roger's booklet covering these men was published at the end of May and copies are available at the Coffee Morning, it costs £2.00.

This U3A has sponsored the printing of the booklet and all profits from its sale are to be donated to the 'Help for

Heroes Fund' so please think about buying a copy?

"Away Days" for 2014

The following are the proposed day trips for this year:

Thursday 11th September----Tintern Abbey and Chepstow

Price: £8.00 (Seats available)

October-Please see below --Houses of Parliament--

Thursday 27th November----Salisbury Christmas Market & Wilton

Price: £10.00 Outlet

(Reserve list)

The above prices include the drivers' gratuity.

If it is your intention to go on a trip please book with Vour as soon as you are able because places are being reserved well in advance.

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

Regrettably the proposed trip to the Houses of Parliament will have to be early next year; Vour has done her best to arrange a visit by dealing direct with the office concerned and through Tessa Munt's office, but to no avail. She has been informed that there is so much pressure by organisations to arrange visits, they are now completely full. We understand however, that our request to visit will be included in the programme for early in 2015.

ooooOOOOoooo

Holiday in Weymouth

This is will be from Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October, it will again be with Daish's and we will be picked up in Highbridge.

Daish's recently took over two hotels in Weymouth; they are the Prince Regent, a splendid Georgian hotel, and the Russell Hotel. They are adjacent to each other on the Esplanade giving you the full use of the facilities in both.

At the time of going to press there are still some rooms available, so please ring our Holiday Team of Diane, Brenda or Gloria.

The telephone numbers of the team are on Page 11.

Group Activities

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel.
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Monday

1 st	10.00 to 12.00	Card Making	S.H. Rose Bateman		795906
1 st & 3 rd	0200 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

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	C.H. 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
On summer recess--restart October					
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.L	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"	Your Orchard Carole Loveridge			788984 780060
Thursdays	Lunchcons	Pat Clipstone			788128
Saturdays	Theatre	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp			781009 787963
	Holidays	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp Gloria Brown			781009 787963 785359

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

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

Sandra

Hairstylists

We welcome O.A.P.'s

3 Market Street
Highbridge, Somerset
TA9 3BW
Tel: 01278 784950



Northern Somerset Association of U3A's
Workshop Friday 10th October @ Burnham Community Centre

The courses at this workshop are:-

Creative Writing led by Lois Sparshott

Earth Sciences led by John Raffield

Genealogy led by Pat Hase

Landscape Painting led by Mike Hoskin

Play Writing led by Gwen Hoskin

The aims of these workshops (full day) are to give members an introduction to the subjects and to, perhaps, give you a taste of what each has to offer. You may learn something, you may not, but the experience will, at the very least, give you some idea of how other people approach the different subjects.

Times: Start 10.15. Workshops 10.30 to 12.30 & 1.15 to 3.15 Ends 3.45
Applications for places can be submitted now and I have the relevant form should you need a copy. (Ken Burston)

The fee for the day is £5.00, tea/coffee is provided on arrival but you will need to take a picnic lunch if you intend to stay all day, the lunch break is from 12.30 to 01.15 pm.

There is a café opposite St Andrews Church if you would prefer to leave the premises.

Somerset Villages

The Somerset Villages Group meets just four times a year (only when there are 5 Fridays in a month), and on Friday 30th May went to Shipham. It is a village on the western end of the Mendips, (mentioned in the Domesday Book as Sipeham which means 'the sheep home').

The parish also includes Rowberrow and the hamlet of Star, having a total population of just over 2,000.

After we had found somewhere to park, our first visit was the church of St Leonard, it was built in 1843 on the site of an older place of worship; their first recorded rector was John in the 13th century, very little of the old plain building remains, but it is said that the font cover is carved from the original door. In the porch is a list of rectors that dates from 1328 in the reign of Edward III.

The village does not have the conventional compact village layout, its homes are rather scattered around the area so with very little to see we adjourned to 'Lenny's Cafe' where we found out why. After taking our requests the lady, whilst we supped and were very attentive gave us a brief history of the village.

The village is built on strata of rich mineral deposits, e.g. zinc, lead and cadmium. In the 18th and 19th centuries locals would, in order to conceal a mine build their homes over it, this was to avoid paying the taxes that had been levied. Apparently it was not unknown for rooms to collapse into the mine years later. The Singing River Mine that was worked in the 18th and 19th centuries and in the 1920's was used as an underground reservoir.

In the 1970's there was a scare when radon was found to be present in the area, It is considered a health hazard due to its radioactivity and villagers were tested to see if their bodies had absorbed any. There were passed as being safe from contamination but it is recommended that they do not grow and eat green vegetables grown in their gardens. Some villagers do grow veg but in raised beds using compost that is deemed safe.

We learnt that although small, the village was very active; they have regular film shows and plays by a dramatic group, plus all manner of other activities. We were also told that the Village Hall was that very day, providing a lunch in aid of the 'Save the Children Fund' so we went along to support the charity and had a lunch provided by the village hall volunteer staff, we were made most welcome.

A good day out! Very educational, in true U3A 'live and learn' style!

The Somerset Village Group will meet next on Friday 29th August.

My Jersey Holiday—May 2014

I was due to travel by ferry from Weymouth early in the morning so I had journeyed by train and booked into a rather grotty (but cheap) room in a pub overnight, sharing a bathroom with the chef. The pub had a very good Thai restaurant that was very popular. When I got to the ferry terminal next morning I found that the ferry had gone. Fortunately I had the telephone number of SAGA (with whom I was travelling) with me so I asked the girl on duty if she would ring them for me (I don't have a mobile phone). I learnt that because bad weather was expected in the English Channel the ferry had left early and they had been unable to contact me.

The outcome was, SAGA arranged to fly me from Southampton to Jersey, the lady at the ferry terminal offered to drive me to the station to catch a train to Southampton. This was going to be much better than enduring a rough sea passage, and having my passport with me had proved to be invaluable. It was an easy flight, taking about half an hour, and the holiday guide met me at the airport because she was also collecting others that were on the trip. Incidentally the return ferry journey was perfectly calm.

Jersey is a beautiful island and very green at this time of the year. The people are very polite and it is almost like being back in the 50's. There is no graffiti or rubbish on the island, its residents apparently very proud of their island; it must be a very special place in which to live.

My hotel was excellent, and could not be faulted; the restaurant served very good buffet-style food for breakfasts and dinners. It was good to taste Jersey Royals and Jersey milk and yogurts.

The holiday package included a couple of trips, these being half days to the centre of the island and to the beautiful bays. My "must see" trips were to the Durrell Wildlife Park and Second World War tunnels.

The Wildlife Park was specifically opened to cater for endangered species from all over the world; Gerald Durrell was a conservationist and a writer of fascinating books about his trips to collect the endangered species, these I can thoroughly recommend, especially "My Family and Other Animals". There are 132 species in the park, including mountain gorillas, aye-aye, lemurs, tamarins plus many endangered birds and amphibians. I loved the reptile house spending a lot of time in them.

(Continued on Page 15)

My Holiday in Jersey---continued

The tunnels, my other "must see", were built by slave labour from throughout occupied Europe by the Germans who occupied Jersey for four years. The tunnels are huge and were primarily used as a hospital, they are very atmospheric and with the sound effects of aircraft overhead and bombs dropping, it felt as if you were there. A lot of the inhabitants of Jersey collaborated with the Germans in order to get food for their families, and were obviously given a very rough time by other residents. On the videos shown in the tunnels, one resident said that one morning you might look out of your window and your garden would be normal another time it would be full of Germans. The residents were starving most of the time and had to abide by the rules and conditions laid down by the Germans; otherwise you were liable to be imprisoned or deported to Germany. It was an incredible relief when there were finally liberated by the British Army on 9th May 1945.

I didn't get to see any of the other islands but would like to go back to see Guernsey and Sark on an island hopping tour done by the travel company. Some people are wary of SAGA if they are on their own but it is not only for married couples. Most of their holidays cater for singles or couples and it is easy to pull up with someone, you are certainly well looked after.

Janet Holderness

Theatre Visits

There is a reference on page 6 to the theatre visits because I thought it might be a good idea to say how much we appreciate the work Di and Brenda have done to set these up. The 'Theatre Goers' amongst us have recently visited the Weston Playhouse to see some excellent shows; since the pair started organising these Saturday matinee trips a few of us have become regular fans of the Weston Operatic Society. To date we have seen "Hello Dolly" and "Anything Goes", both excellent shows, equal to any West End production and thoroughly enjoyed; the most recent show by the W. O. S. was "Me and My Girl" which we saw on Saturday 26th April.

'Local boy' Alan Hunter, who played Billy Sneddon the Cockney costermonger who finds he has inherited the title of the 14th Earl of Hareford, gave, what was to me, a very 'professional' performance. When informed by the duchess that he could not return to Lambeth to be with his girlfriend but has to stay and do his 'lordly' duties, his comedy performance with a tiger skin rug was hilarious.

An afternoon of excellent entertainment.

Hello everyone!

Back during the latter half of 2008 my son Matthew was diagnosed with Blood Cancer Lymphoma; however, following a course of intensive Chemotherapy he was placed in remission for two years. Unfortunately in November 2010 the Cancer reappeared and in a more aggressive form. When the second course of Chemo together with radiotherapy proved to be insufficient, the decision was made that a Stem cell transplant was necessary using the white blood cells harvested from his brother (my eldest son).

He was very fortunate and after many months of treatment made it through and won his battle. But when he lost his best friend from the same Cancer, he decided (his own words) "take the opportunity to give a little something back".

So on July 6th he is doing a skydive/parachute jump to raise money for St Luke Hospice, Plymouth who play a vital role in providing help and support both Cancer patients and their loved ones. Being a charity they rely on financial donations through fund raising and sponsorship.

To support him with this event I am holding a Sales Table at the 2nd July (today) and 9th July Wednesday Coffee Mornings. There will be hand-made greetings cards and various other goodies for sale and I will have sponsorship forms to hand. So, if you have, in any way, been touched by what you have just read and would like to add your support, my son and I will be most grateful.

Rose Bateman (Group Leader-Card making)

Cream Teas

Two dates were originally booked for these social and gastronomic gatherings at Wick Farm, one of which has already taken place the next being on Tuesday 22nd July. However, due to popular request Fay has had to slot another date in; the third event will be on Tuesday 8th July. The price will be the same e.g. £5.50 and time 04.00 pm.

Venue: Wick Farm at Lymphsham, map available if you need one.

Don't delay, it is next week!

Monthly Draw

April No 28 Ron Fulcher No 28 Wendy Hughes
May No 37 Janet Raine No 37 Kit Partington

Each received £20.00

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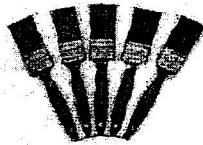
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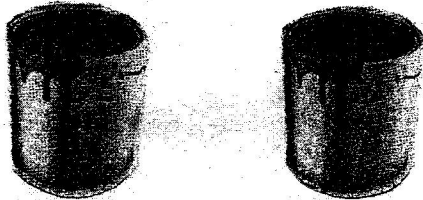
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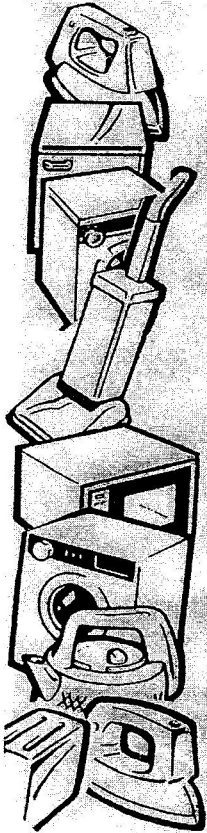
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Social Activities---2014
“Away Days”

Tintern Abbey and Chepstow

Date: Thursday 11th September

Cost: £8.00

(Spaces available)

Houses of Parliament

See note on page 9

Salisbury Christmas Market & Wilton Outlet

Date: Thursday 27th November

Cost £10.00

(Reserve list)

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.

STOP PRESS

Theatre News

Saturday 1st November is scheduled to be the next visit to Weston Playhouse to see "ANNIE" a musical based on a little girl dreaming about leaving an orphanage.

Details to follow in next magazine.

"AWAY DAY"

Houses of Parliament: this trip will take place, but NOT on a Thursday, it has been re-scheduled for mid-October but on a Monday or Tuesday.

Your will announce the date and other relevant details as soon as they are confirmed.

STOP PRESS

Since this magazine was printed a number of announcements have been received, these need to be circulated to members:

Group Activities.

Keep Fit:

This group will be taking its summer break throughout July and August; it will restart on Wednesday 3rd September.

ART-1

This Tuesday afternoon activity is taking its summer break from the 29th July; until Tuesday 2nd September.

All remaining Groups,

It is assumed these will continue unchanged throughout the summer, I have not been told otherwise.