

U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

LINDA/DARRYL KNIGHT 2015

9 SMITH LANE

W. HUNTSVILLE



of

HIGHBRIDGE

MAGAZINE

May-----June

2015

ISSUE NUMBER 82

Your Committee

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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 (Retd)
	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. You are very welcome to join us.

Website: - <http://www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk>

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Chairman's Message

As we go into the month of May we will be nearing our A.G.M. and it would be the opportunity for one or two new members to join us on the Committee. You would be very welcome; we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions. If you feel you would be able to contribute in some way, please let me or Ken know.

We had a lovely time at the Beachcomber Inn for our Annual Lunch, good food, and good company! Thank you Fay and Ken for organising a great event.

Another gathering was held at the Ritz recently, courtesy of Pat Clipstone who organised the Social evening for us and once again a very good time was had by all, thank you Pat.

With summer just around the corner we can look forward to a Cream Tea, an American Picnic and also to celebrate our 15th Birthday in July, not forgetting all the outings and holidays that are coming. All details will be in the magazine.

Who said "What will I do in my retirement"?---Join the U3A, we never have a minute to spare! You can't beat it!

Well, that's all for now dear members. Regards,

Pearl.

Editorial

Firstly, a warm welcome to all who have joined us for the year 2015/6; if you were already a member we say thank you for your confidence in the U3A of Highbridge and look forward to your continued support.

If you have just joined us, what took you so long? We do especially welcome you and trust that, after a short while, you will realise you made a good decision.

Pearl has referred to our future activities; we certainly do have a busy time coming up later this year; July is starting off with a 'bang', please see later in the magazine. (Page 5)

Reminder

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 10.30 am

This meeting will be held during the weekly Coffee Morning.

All fully paid up members are invited to attend; if you wish to attend and have yet to renew your membership please do so as soon as possible.

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on the 14th May 2014**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Accounts**
- 6. Secretary's Report**
- 7. Election of Officers/Committee Members**
- 8. Any other business**

Nominations are invited for membership of the Committee; these should be in writing and must be received by the Secretary 11th MAY

Copies of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2014 will be made available to members before the meeting takes place.

Annual General Meetings are held in order that members may be kept informed of U3A of Highbridge's progress during the past twelve months; it also gives them the opportunity to raise questions they may have concerning the organisation of the U3A of Highbridge.

P.S. Please be aware, if you have not renewed your membership by the end of May this is the last copy of the magazine you will receive.

Editorial (continued)

15th Anniversary Celebrations....July 13th 14th & 15th

On Monday 13th July there will be an American Picnic at Lower Maunsel Lock on the Taunton & Bridgwater Canal. The format will be as before, you will be expected to bring along a plate of food to share with others. Don't forget your cutlery and, of course, a glass.

Past events have always been enjoyed; all we can hope for is a warm, dry day, keep your fingers crossed.

The July/August issue of the magazine will give details of times, plus all other relevant information.

On Tuesday 14th July there is the trip to Moreton in Marsh and Bourton on the Water, details of this event have already been issued by Vour.

On Wednesday 15th July we celebrate the 15th Birthday of this U3A. The full extent of this 'do' has yet to be finalised, but we are planning to lay on some entertainment for that Coffee Morning.

So please mark this date in your diary, we look forward to a full house that day. Suitable refreshments will be available.

As soon as details are confirmed an appropriate notice will be posted so that you will be fully aware of what is to take place..

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Cream Tea

In the last magazine we advised that we would be unable to hold our Cream Teas at Wick Farm this year and asked for suggested alternative venues.

Well, with a thank you to member John Baker, we hope we have found one; it is to be at the Windmill Club; a visit was made to sort out the catering and the details are on the page ~~opposite~~ 4.

Editorial continued**Group News****Membership? What's in it for me?**

Your subscription, for the year (1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016), has remained at £9.00; this fee entitles you to attend any activity, group or otherwise, organised by this U3A. You would, of course, be expected to make any additional payment that may be levied to cover the groups running costs, rent, materials etc.

The Third Age Trust, to which this U3A is affiliated, arranges Third Party Liability and Product Liability Insurance on our behalf, although there is NO personal accident insurance included in the arrangements. Should you wish to have an insurance to cover personal accidents or personal property this needs to be through your own private arrangements? In any event NON-members would not be covered by an insurance that is only applicable to this U3A and its paid up members.

Cream Teas

At a new venue; it is the Windmill Club at Edithmead.

Tea with Scones, ample cream and jam, plus a fancy cake, (*or Coffee if you prefer*)

We will need to serve ourselves, avoiding extra costs for staff.

It is an 'all-weather' venue, if the weather is against us we will sit indoors, however, if it is a warm sunny day we can sit out on a veranda.

The price would be £5.50 --- similar price to that at Wick Farm.

The date will be Tuesday June 9thtime 3.30 pm

Tickets are available from Fay Burston: -

Houses of Parliament

A few weeks ago nine members of this U3A joined forces with the local Moose Charities on a trip to the Houses of Parliament. Although it turned out to be a full day, it was well worth the journey to our nation's capital, despite the early morning 7 o'clock start.

We were met at the entrance with airport style security. How that Guy Fawkes managed to gain entry carrying gunpowder under his arm beats me, for what with body scanners, handbag scans, including the removal of coats, belts, watches, etc.. Why or how our Treasurer managed to set off the alarm on the body scanner was worrying and will probably remain a mystery. It wasn't until *after* this happened with Carole that we first spotted a number of police officers looking furtive as they wandered around with loaded rifles at the ready.

Once inside, what first surprised me was the vast number of public visitors, who, at any one time, were walking around this huge but exciting building, they like us were on guided tours.

Sadly we could not gain entry to the House of Commons; this was because Members of Parliament were attending Prime Ministers Question time during our visit. Members of the general public *are* allowed to sit in the public gallery to observe proceedings, but only by booking in advance. Today, David Cameron's wife and family were in the gallery so we probably wouldn't have been able to get tickets for security reasons.

We did however; spend some time in the House of Lords, being warned by our guide *not* to sit on the benches! The Queen's throne was an incredible sight; so much gold went into the design and building of it, and, like the rest of the rooms that we were able to go in, the overall perception is of huge, highly decorated and ornate rooms and corridors.

(Continued on Page 8)

Houses of Parliament--Continued

There are many frescos, painted directly onto the walls, some of which took one artist sixteen years to complete five of them. A further two, depicting the Battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar are at least 30 feet long and took eight years to complete.

Busts, statues and paintings of previous prime ministers; along with those of past and present kings and queens of England adorn every room. Ceilings are decorated to the same very high standard.

As we wandered the corridors of power we rubbed shoulders with the likes of Dennis Skinner, David Blunkett and Andrew Mitchell (he of 'pleb' gate fame) They, however, were just going about their daily business seemingly totally ignorant of our presence.

We were taken into the Queens' Robing Room (where Her Majesty changes into her ceremonial robes for the annual opening of Parliament) the Royal Gallery, the Prince's Chamber plus other areas before entering the Central Lobby. This is where the media interviews MP's as they come and go and as seen on television when the BBC's political correspondents give their reports in front of the TV cameras.

The end of our tour culminated in the 900 year old Westminster Hall. Here both Guy Fawkes and King Charles I were tried, and where both Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama addressed parliament in more recent times.

A good insight into the daily workings of an MP was described to us by our very own local MP, Tessa Munt. She clearly enjoys being an MP and would, on the face of it, seem to be doing a worthwhile job. By the time this article is read we will know if she was destined to remain the Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for our constituency.

Our meeting with Tessa was held in the Thatcher Room which forms part of the relatively new Portcullis House. This room is used for general meetings and public enquiries, the sorts we see on our televisions when the Select Committee, usually made up of MP's, questions either public figures or indeed themselves, on a range of issues that are in the public interest.

Portcullis House was built in the grounds of the Houses of Parliament and was opened by the Queen in 2001, mainly to house a further 200 offices for government staff.

(Continued)

House of Parliament (Continued)

It is seven storeys high and built around an indoor courtyard which sits directly over the top of the new underground station.

We left soon after for our meeting for our journey back. We did, however, break the journey to enjoy a meal at a Beefeater pub, plus a bottle of wine.

To sum up the visit we all felt it was a great day out and well worth the trip. The guided tour itself lasted just seventy minutes and it was felt, generally, that it could have been longer. We would then have been able to better absorb more of what we were told, and would have been able to soak up the incredible atmosphere that emanated from every corner of this magnificent building.

Barry Ede

Annual Lunch

Wednesday 18th March was a sunny day (yet again) as about 90 of us gathered at the Beachcomber Inn, Brean for our Annual Lunch?

Our Chairman, Pearl Price gave us all a warm welcome to start the festivities. We have been to the Beachcomber Inn before and were expecting very high standards and were not disappointed. Members of staff were available to help hang coats, scarves and hats.

The tables were well spaced and invitingly laid. Apart from water, which was on the tables, drinks were available from the bar at very reasonable prices. As usual, the presentation, cooking and serving of the food was of the very highest standard. To start there was as much roast turkey and beef with a wide selection of vegetables as individuals could manage. With three desserts and a cheese plate much humming and hawing could be heard as members tried to remember what they had chosen weeks before.

Following the coffee and chocolates, the draw was held with the usual shouts of 'Fix—fix'. Ending the proceedings, our Chairman thanked us for coming and all the persons involved in organising the lunch and especially our evergreen couple, Fay and Ken Burston. Everyone had an enjoyable and laughter filled experience with the hope that even more of our members will come in 2016.

Roger Ouston

Group Activities

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel.
<u>Monday</u>					
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
3 rd	10.00 to 12.00	Beading	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
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
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

1 st & 3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Music Appreciation	P.H.	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Card Making	S.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
4 th	10.00 to 12.00	Photography	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

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

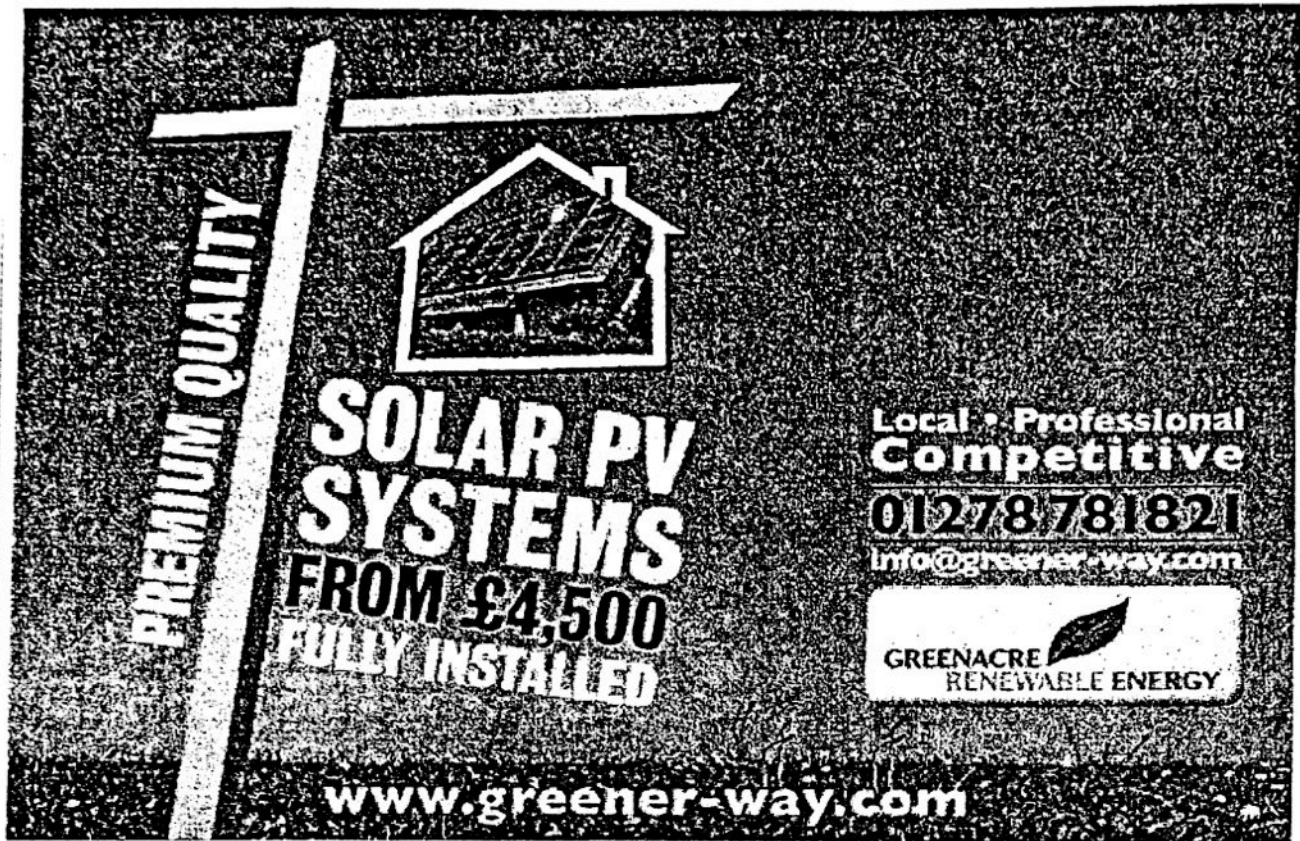
Occasional

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 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.



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Crossword

Herewith the answers to Crossword No 4

Across: - 1. Pilgrim 5. Race 7 Ian 8 Password
 9 Trace 10 Euro 13. Diet 14 Nude
 18. Sash 19 Satan 21 Fiendish 22 Era
 23 Plod 24 Planted

Down: - 1 Pristine 2 Lanyards 3 Rapier 4 Mister
 5 Reward 6 Core 11 Ointment 12 Standard
 15 Earned 16 Shrimp 17 Asthma 20 Dill

Well? What are your feeling/thoughts about the Crosswords, do you wish them to continue?

"Away Days" for 2015

The first "Away Day" for this season was to Oakham Treasures, it was sold out, bookings for the remaining trips are going 'very nicely' and some are filling up fast. So if you fancy a day out at any of the following get in touch with Vour soon.

21st May- - - - Beer Caves & Seaton.....£13.50

The Beer Caves are between Lyme Regis and Sidmouth and comprise a complex of vast man-made underground caverns created during centuries of quarrying. It was used to build many of our cathedrals, e.g. Exeter, St. Pauls, parts of Westminster Abbey, etc.

Seaton is a town just along the coast from Beer, and is known as the gateway to the Jurassic Coast. There is also a Heritage Tramways that operates between Seaton and Colyton passing through nature reserves in the valley of the River Axe.

25th June- - - National Botanical Gardens, Wales.....£20.00

The National Botanical Gardens of Wales cover 568 acres of the Carmarthenshire countryside and contain in the Great Glasshouse a vast variety of plants, this being the central feature. . This trip may require an earlier than usual start due to the distance from Highbridge.

Mobility scooters are available for hire (£5) if any member feels the need.

**14th July (Tuesday) ----Moreton-in -Marsh & Bourton on the
Water.....£7.50**

24th September Winchester:£11.50

29th October - -Ford Abbey, Chard.....£15.50

26th November- -Bath & Christmas Markets.....£6.50

It is our intention to give a brief description of what you might be expected to see for each of the venues as the year progresses and it is hoped these will prove to be useful.

Photography Group

Slide show Programme April to December 2015

I am pleased to announce the next programme of slide shows for your entertainment. The group have been working hard; visiting places that we hope you will find to be of interest, we enjoyed going to them. The next series of shows cover a wide range of subjects, scenic English and foreign visits, wildlife, topical events, and some pictures for the boys.

You will see that we propose to have two shows each month; they started in April, and will be on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. We hope you will enjoy them, your feedback is welcome.

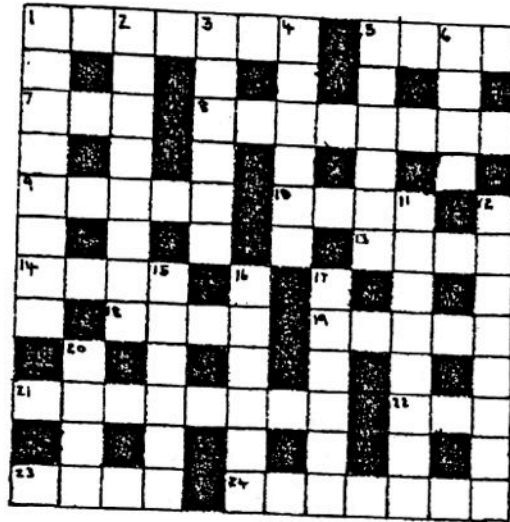
April 1 st	Highlights of Baltic, inc, Russia (By Kevin Gainford)}	shown
.. 15 th	Westonbirt	} last month
May 6 th	Classic Car Show Shepton Mallet (One for the boys)	
.. 20 th	Safari to Botswana (Presented by Sue Bloska)	
June 3 rd	Slimbridge	
.. 17 th	Sorry no show this week due to prior arrangements	
July 1 st	Abbotsbury Swannery	
.. 15 th	A presentation by Andrew Eley	
Aug 5 th	Bovington Tank Museum (One for the boys)	
.. 19 th	A presentation by Billy Conibeer	
Sept 2 nd	Weymouth Sea Life	
.. 16 th	Galapagos Islands (Presented by Sue Bloska)	
Oct 7 th	Longleat House and Gardens	
.. 21 st	A presentation by Andrew Eley	
Nov 4 th	National Motor Cycle Museum	
.. 18 th	Proposed Burnham Carnival 2015	
Dec 2 nd	A presentation by Billy Conibeer	

That is the programme for this year; we will be back on January 6th 2016 with a brand new programme, but until then please enjoy the shows and let us know what you think of the various programmes.

Photography Group Leader---Kevin Gainford

Activating your 'Grey Matter' page: -

Crossword V



Across

1. Sack made from rubber (7)
5. U3A's destination in May (4)
7. Writing fluid (3)
8. Memorable sayings (8)
9. Senior teachers (5)
10. Sooth with soft sound (4)
13. Paid for work (4)
14. Bird types (4)
18. Compass direction (4)
19. Pointed weapon (5)
21. GRAB DIED (anag) (8)
22. Not one or the other (3)
23. Exit point for lava in a Volcano (4)
24. Belgium town (7)

Down

1. BOTH GRIN (anag) UK Town (8)
2. Pleasant & friendly person (8)
3. Resist (6)
4. Round strip of pasta (6)
5. Insect (6)
6. Recedes (4)
11. Boys name (8)
12. Flower (8)
15. One who enjoys inflicting pain (8)
16. Mark of social disgrace (6)
17. Robber (6)
20. Capable (4)

Anagrams: - NNNIITTEO

ACEEINORSTVV

Group News--Continued

On Page 4 there is a reminder about the forthcoming A.G.M., we look forward to as many of you as possible turning up for this important meeting. We usually have very good support and, as regulars will know, the meeting does not, usually, take up a lot of your chatting time.

By-the-way, please be aware that if you have not renewed your membership by the end of May this is the last copy of the magazine you will receive.

Floral Art Group

Some time ago it was announced that this group would be in-active 'until further notice'; we have now to confirm that its Group Leader-- Jean Williams has found she is not able to take charge of the group on a Tuesday. However, if there are a number of members interested in the group restating Jean will find a day, time and location to suit all concerned.

During April we had our first "Away Day" to Oakham Treasures and the visit to the Tacchi Morris Theatre to see the show "Sister Act". (Both had been fully booked)

During February there was the visit to the Houses of Parliament and our Annual Lunch; reports on both of these are on Pages 7, 8, & 9.

Bonus Ball Draw

The monthly draw was started in 2004 and comprised one sheet and one winner; it became so popular that after a few weeks, and 'public' demand, we added another sheet and thence forth there were two winners. Many members have picked up the £20.00 per month prize through choosing the appropriate winning ball number.

That was until a few weeks ago when Bernard Martin, who runs the scheme, found that interest had increased to such an extent that he decided to have three sheets. So, from early in April, an additional sheet has been included, you can now look forward to there being THREE lucky winners every four weeks. See Page 17 for latest winning numbers and lucky members.

Monthly Draw

February **No 36** **Jean Burton & Vour Orchard**
March/April **No 10** **Janet Holderness, Irene Klein and**
 Sally Williams

Each received £20.00

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Sharon Elliott

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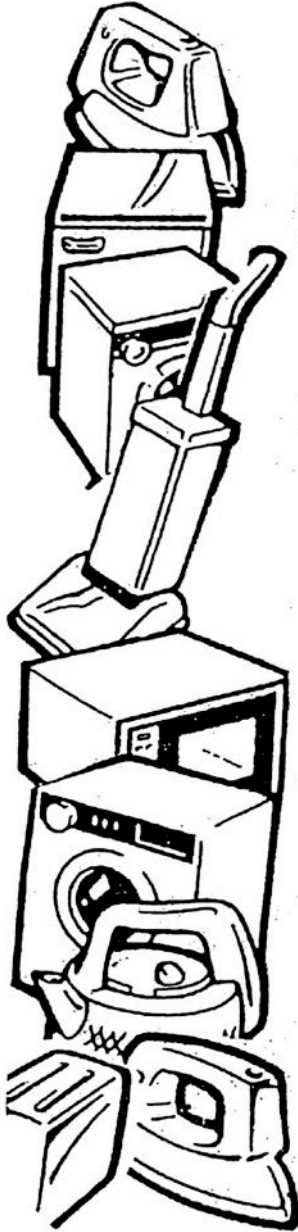
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Social Activities--2015

"Away Days"

Beer Caves & Seaton

Date: Thursday 21st May

Price: £13.50

Berrow: -	Triangle.	9.00 am
Burnham: -	Morrisons, Pier St.	9.10 am
Highbridge: -	Alpha House, Market St.	9.20 am

National Botanical Gardens of Wales

Date: Thursday 25th June

Price: £20.00

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.

Anniversary Celebrations

On Wednesday 15th July during the Coffee Morning

Holiday

Torquay

Date: Sunday 20th September until Thursday 24th September
5 Days/4Nights at £170.00 per person

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.