



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk

Issue 88

May/Jun 2016

Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Pearl Price	793954
Vice-Chairman	Bernard Martin	787230
Secretary	Ken Burston	782529
Treasurer	Carole Loveridge	780060
Membership Secretary	Fay Burston	782529
Assistant to Secretary	Janet Preddy	783743
Committee Members	Philip Buoy	783647
	Pat Clipstone	788128
	Barbara Croker	780260
	Vour Orchard	788984
	Sally Williams	787274

* 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 pm. You are very welcome to join us.

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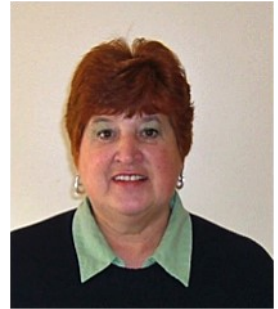
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Welcome to your Magazine

Welcome to the May/Jun 2016 edition of the U3A of Highbridge Magazine. Please note that deadline dates for submissions to future magazines will now be shown on page 2 of the magazine from now onwards.

Chairman's Message or Pearl's Piece

It was lovely to see so many members at our Street Party, the hall looked great decorated with bunting and the tables were set in rows down the hall and looked very nice decorated in red, white and blue, and we had a nice plate of food and a glass of bucks fizz. This was all prepared by Vour Orchard and the ladies of her team and they did a wonderful job. Thank you all very much. The Chairman proposed a toast to the queen and we sang Happy Birthday. What a lovely time we all had.



May is of course the Annual General Meeting, so it would be nice to have a good turn out on the 11th May at 10.30. This will be my last report as I will be giving up the chairmanship at this meeting. I have enjoyed my 2 years and who knows if you will have me I may take another term in years to come.

It is a sure sign that summer is on its way when the members who go on the day trips are raring to go. They have been to the Willows & Wetlands Centre and recently on a lovely outing to Rosemoor Gardens and the next one will to Paignton in Devon. I'm sure you will agree there is a great variety of places to visit, our thanks to Vour and Carole.

Ann Cross has done very well almost filling the coach to the theatre in Weston to see Save the Last Dance for Me. The performers are touring the country at the moment and are not an amateur group so it should be a great show. There are some seats left so make sure you contact Ann to save your seat.

That's all for now, take care Pearl.

From the Secretary

May is the month during which we hold the Annual General Meeting, this year it is on Wednesday 11th May at 10.30 am; all members are invited to attend.

Only fully paid up members are eligible to vote so if it is your intention to attend and have your say please renew your membership for 2016/7. Make sure you are up-to-date, we are not chasing you to renew but we may need your vote during the meeting.

You may remember that last year I announced I would be relinquishing the office of Secretary at the next A.G.M.; this that meeting, you may also remember that we were exceptionally lucky on that day because immediately after the meeting member Janet Preddy volunteered to take over the position. It was certainly our lucky day because many U3A's find they have quite a struggle to get Committee positions filled, but that of Secretary being especially difficult to fill - -
- -Thank you Janet!

During the past year she has been finding out what goes on and I am sure she is forming her own ideas on how she intends to do things. Recently she took charge of the booking arrangements for our Annual Lunch, thus gaining an opportunity to meet members and put names to faces.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank all members, past and present, for their co-operation, courtesy and patience during my years as Secretary. When I agreed to take on the Secretaryship back in 2003 this U3A was in its infancy, we were all on a steep learning curve. I knew it was going to be rather a challenge, but, at that time, none of us knew what was involved. We could have contacted 'Head Office' for help and perhaps obtained some literature, but you can't do that every few weeks.

Of course today there are 'experts' coming out of the woodwork, but in those days you needed to use, what is now a rare ability, your common sense; if we made a mistake- - tough! Hopefully, we didn't repeat it!

By working together we sorted out the problems and the result is what you have today; a successful, happy and solvent U3A.

Reviewing 2015/6 -- I am sure we can look back and feel that we have had another very successful year; we celebrated our 15th Birthday in July with a party and were entertained by the Burnham U3A Concert Party and Ukulele Band. Afterwards we enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch each plus a variety of cakes and a celebratory drink. The Disco and Supper Social Evenings held at the Ritz were virtual sell-outs, being enjoyed by all. We thank Pat Clipstone for organising these functions and look forward to her being back with us soon following her recent encounter with the big C.

The Macmillan Big Coffee Morning and other charity based Coffee Mornings always do very well, again indicating that we in Highbridge are a generous caring bunch. The holidays are invariably fully booked within a few days of being announced; and the "Away Day" trips to various attractions are equally well supported and enjoyed.

Their success is due, in no small measure, to the dedication of the respective Group Leaders - -Diane Barnard, Brenda Clapp for the holidays and Vour Orchard and Carole Loveridge for the days out. Thank you ladies! (I understand room reservations for the 2017 holidays to Weymouth and Llandudno are going fast).

During the past year we did experience a few disappointments; Art-1 Group on Tuesdays ceased, mainly due to health reasons, it is not possible to always ensure a 'full house' and the rent still needs to be paid.

The Photographic Group is, at present on a sabbatical, we look forward to it restarting before too long.

The newly formed Ukulele Group is doing very well, Mick Emms, the Group's Leader, is very happy with their progress and we may soon be asked 'may we entertain you'.

I understand members of the Music Appreciation Group spend a very pleasant couple of hours on a Wednesday afternoon enjoying their chosen CD's. It sounds like a very social and civilised way to spend an afternoon.

The Skittle Group moved to a new venue on 1st April and now meets at the Lighthouse Inn in Highbridge Road, Burnham. The group has moved from the Crossways Inn after having played there for a number of years.

Although it tries very hard to always rain on a Friday the Strollers Group have managed to stroll somewhere lately, not always where they intended, but they have got in a little exercise.

The remaining Groups are, apparently, keeping active and performing to their expectations, because as we have not received any comments from their Leaders to the contrary **[ed: there are group closures, please see page 10]**. It is assumed their attendances have also fluctuated, due to holidays, hospital/medical appointments and looking after grandchildren; it does tend to upset routines.

Our Magazine Editor is feeling a little neglected because she is not receiving many write-ups from Group Leaders and the general membership; I know the feeling, I tried for years without. Go on! Surprise her with a report on what your group does with its time each time you assemble.

Club News

Quiz Team



The Highbridge Quiz team (Jan Raine, Denise Godby, Kay Lloyd and Wendy Hughes) who were entered in the North Somerset U3A Quiz in February. This was held at Wells Golf Club where a delicious afternoon tea was provided to feed the brain cells. The team were pleased to come 5th in a field of 10.

General Information

A question that is regularly raised is that regarding 'members of one U3A' participating in the group activity of another U3A.

The Northern Somerset Association of U3A's, to which we are affiliated, agreed some years ago that U3A's within the Association should try to adhere to; it is: -

"If your U3A does not have a group activity that caters for your specific needs, but it is possible for you to attend one that does; you are entitled to apply to that U3A for permission to 'join' that group activity. You would obviously need to abide by any conditions that U3A's has laid down, e.g. pay the group fee, etc. but would NOT be required to join that U3A. This applies to ONE group only; if you wish to attend more than one group within that U3A you need to become a fully paid-up member.

TO JOG YOUR MEMORIES

1. Please be aware that if you have not paid your membership fee for 2016/7 by the end of May you will not be receiving further copies of this magazine.
2. Would Group Leaders please remember to check that the members within their group have current 2016/7 memberships; this is for insurance purposes.

Forthcoming attractions in Highbridge

“Our unofficial home”, the Highbridge Community Hall, is operated under the stewardship of a ‘Trust’ and the Trustees look after it on behalf of the residents of Highbridge. Because it is not funded by the Council it needs to raise funds for its upkeep and we thought you might like to know about a couple of functions arranged for this year, they are:

A Fashion Show by The Edinburgh Woollen Mill has been arranged for the evening of Thursday 19th May; more precise details will be announced as soon as EWM provide them. Please refer to the ‘Notice Board’.

Later in the year a Craft Fair will be held, this is scheduled for Saturday 26th November, again details to follow nearer the date.

Annual Lunch 2016

On Wednesday 9th March members headed for the Beachcomber Inn at Breaan looking forward to a sumptuous carvery lunch; Richard and his very efficient staff did not disappoint us. This year we had, initially topped the 100, but there were a few last minute cancellations due to illnesses.



Photo courtesy of Wendy Conibeer

We always enjoy our visits to the Beachcomber, their carvery lunches are especially generous, everyone finding that they were rather full and secretly wishing that they had not had that extra helping.

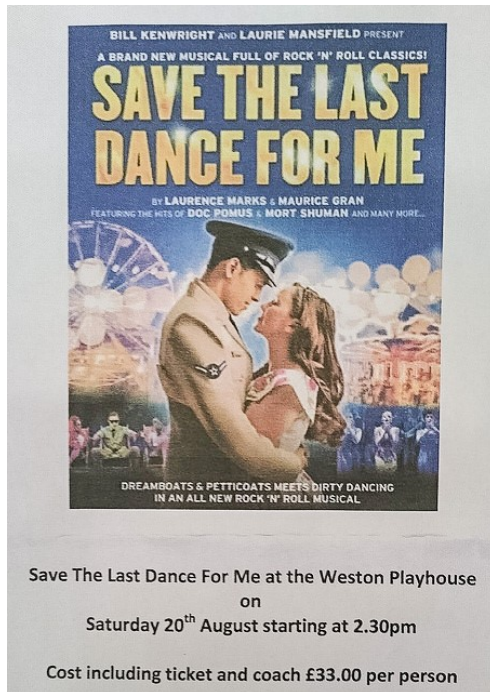
After the results of the quiz had been announced, Pearl drew the tickets for the annual raffle; she thanked the restaurant staff for taking care of our needs and for their excellent service. Finally, she thanked Fay for again organising this popular function.

With Pearl's wish that we all had a safe journey we did just that, feeling full, contented and looking forward to next year.

Ken Burston

Group News

Theatre Group



For information please ring Ann Cross on 01278 786425.

Card Making Group

There are a number of spaces available for new members in the Card Making Group. If anyone would like to know more about this group and would like to join, please contact Rose Bateman on 01278 795906.

Group Closures

The Creative Writing Group and the Sewing Group have now closed for the foreseeable future. Sadly, there weren't enough regular attendees for these groups to justify keeping them going.

Away Days Group

A new trip to **Hinkley Point Power Station** will be arranged for sometime in August (exact date and price to be advised).

Should you wish to go on this tour, you will need a current British passport, or a photo driving licence, PLUS your birth certificate.

NO photographs to be taken and NO mobile phones allowed.

It is recommended that you wear sensible shoes, i.e. no sandals or high heels.

There will be a talk at EDF Office in Bridgwater prior to the visit to Hinkley B on the morning of the visit.

Please let Your know if you are interested as soon as possible.

Tel. 01278 788984.

Somerset Churches Group

The Somerset Villages Group has been renamed the Somerset Churches Group to more accurately reflect the destinations chosen by this group to visit.

Local History Group

The first meeting was held on Monday April 25th. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 16th at 2.30 pm in Southwell House. Two members will be giving a short talk on The Brick Industry of Bridgwater Experience as an evacuee. The group aims to meet once a month, preferably on a Monday depending on rooms and visits out somewhere.

Group Leader Bronwyn Fraley is keen for anyone interested in joining and/or suggesting ideas to contact her on 01278 788487, or email bronwyn.fraley110@gmail.com.

A Bus Ride –2016**Or-****‘How times have changed’**

I recently caught an early morning bus from Berrow Triangle into Highbridge, this instead of my usual after 9.00 am pensioners’ transport, the experience being quite an eye opener.

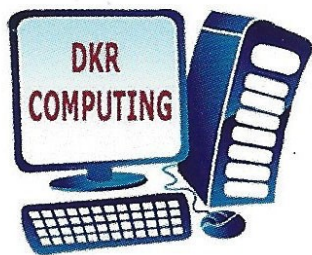
The bus, a double deck, when I boarded it at 8.05 already had on board about 10 students, they were obviously on their way to college in Bridgwater; and, by the time I reached my destination the bus was full. There being two other passengers down stairs besides myself and the students; the other passengers (pensioners) spoke to the driver upon boarding and one spoke to me as I alighted.

Of the students, numbering in the region of 50 plus, not ONE spoke, either to each other or to other passengers. The bus was eerily quiet during the whole journey to Highbridge; there was complete silence throughout, not a smile or a sound passed between them, no-one even used their mobile phone to speak to someone else.

How the generations have changed with the introduction of modern technology?

A few short years ago it was the pensioners who did not speak to anyone unless they ‘knew’ them or were regular passengers; nowadays it’s the ‘old folk’ who chat throughout the journey, quite often it’s a bit of a ‘hub-bub’ all very friendly and sociable. In those days it was the young, the students who made a racket, being boisterous, talking to all and sundry with and without mobile phones. There times when the older generation would not have got on the bus if it was crowded with students.

Fay Burston



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Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1st	10.00 to 12.00	Card Making	S.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
1 st & 3 rd	2.00 to 3.30	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

Tuesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st & 3 rd	2.00 to 4.00	Mosaics	P.H.	Alison Joyce	784633
Every	2.15 to 5.00	Board Games	G.H.	Betty Worthy	795823
Every	10.00 to 12.00 2.00 to 4.00	Patchwork / Quilting	P.H.	Ann Lismore	787607

Wednesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st & 3 rd	2.00 to 4.00	Music Apprecia- tion	P.H.	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
3 rd	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	S.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

EVERY WEDNESDAY: 10.00 to 12.00 COFFEE MORNING

Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
2 nd , 4 th & 5 th	2.00 to 4.00	Barn Dancing	M.C.H.	David Napper	792371
Every	1.30 to 4.00	Art	S.H.	Jean Berry	785840
Every	2.30 to 4.30	Ukulele Group	C.H.	Mick Emms	07799 115347

Group Activities

Friday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st & 3 rd	11.30 to 1.00	Skittles	C.I.	Philip Buoy Betty Worthy	783647 795823
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to ??.	Strollers		Self-Regulating	792529
5 th	10.00 to ??.	Somerset Churches		Bernard Martin	787230

Occasional

Weekdays	Activity	Contact	Tel
Mondays (usually)	Local History	Bronwyn Fraley (email: bronwyn.fraley110@gmail.com)	788487
Thursdays	Away Days	Vour Orchard Carole Loveridge	788984 780060
Thursdays	Luncheons	Pat Clipstone	788128
Saturdays	Theatre	Ann Cross Brenda Clapp	786425 787963
Varies	Holidays	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp Gloria Brown	781009 787963 785359

Legends

S.H. Southwell House	C.H. Community Hall
P.H. Private House	G.H. Gospell Hall
M.C.H. Methodist Church Hall	C.I. Crossways Inn

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

Crossword #10 Answers

ACROSS

1. Swindle
5. Tape
7. Lee
8. Deportee
9. Image
10. Reek
13. Tame
14. Rake
18. Saga
19. Auger
21. Knitting
22. Run
23. Wear
24. Curious

DOWN

1. Soldiers
2. Ice Packs
3. Dudley
4. Expert
5. Target
6. Pies
11. Kangaroo
12. Bearings
15. Easter
16. Maniac
17. Danger
20. Once

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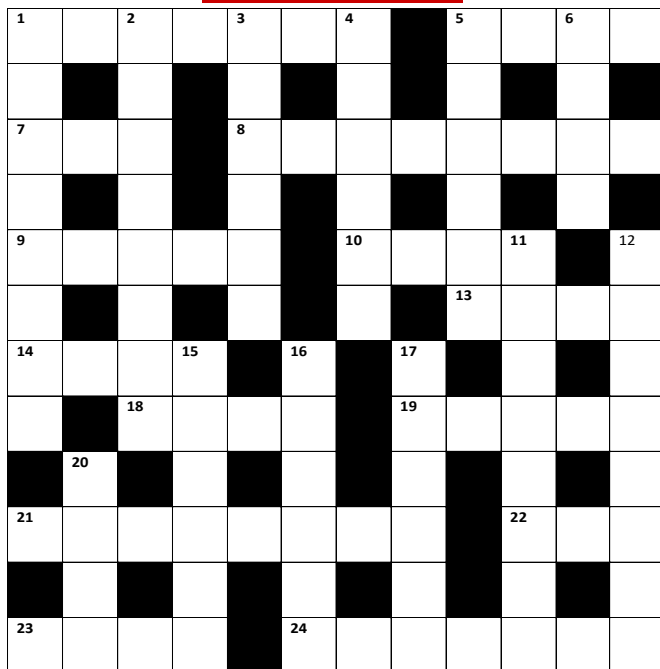
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Crossword #11



ACROSS

1. Paris for example (7)
5. Magic charm or spell (4)
7. Vase (3)
8. 'A door led' [anag] (2,6)
9. A group of Gold finches (5)
10. Correct (4)
13. Following (4)
14. Balanced (4)
18. Sodium Chloride (4)
19. Sped (5)
21. 'Pit I fear' [anag] (8)
22. Flightless bird (3)
23. Afresh (4)
24. Hates (7)

DOWN

1. Religious places (8)
2. Tortillas for example (8)
3. Woman's name (6)
4. Steps (6)
5. An edge (6)
6. A type of gemstone (4)
11. Hectares [anag] (8)
12. Sport venues (8)
15. Slender (6)
16. Declared (6)
17. Financial gain (6)
20. Undo (4)

Solutions next issue

Member Contributions

caring@christmas.org.uk / caringinbristol.org.uk

We all have homes. Pigs have their sties, otters create holts, squirrels their drays, the hermit crab its shell. We humans live in houses whatever their construction be it bricks and mortar, wattle and daub, mud brick, concrete, wood, or adobe. However, some of our species have nowhere to call home. They might own a dog, a sleeping bag, if they are fortunate but generally their only warmth comes from a bottle, their shelter from palletes, cardboard boxes or tents. It is estimated that some 100+ people are rough sleeping on the streets of Bristol currently.

On Xmas Day Janet Holderness and I went to the shelter for the homeless in Bristol to help 'look after' some of these homeless people who had the good fortune to find a bed for a few nights, hot food aplenty, clothes, shower facilities, entertainment, medical and social advice if they wanted it. The charity 'caring@christmas.org.uk' takes over the Julian House hostel in St Pauls for 10 days at Xmas to provide more accommodation and services than are usually on offer there. This year they provided 80 beds per night, served 4600 hot meals (many guests have food but do not stay overnight) and 6500 sandwiches. The charity recruits and trains hundreds of volunteers to cover the daily shifts, providing food and care for their guests. They also produce a most helpful guide book for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. The guide book, including map, lists addresses for available accommodation, places where free or very cheap food may be available, health centres especially in relation to alcohol and drug use, advice centres, animal welfare charities and advice on safety during rough sleeping. Very help-

ful so long as you can read or know someone who can.

The charity receives massive donations of food, toiletries, bedding and clothes from the public, supermarkets and various large corporations. I was told the firm AXA had sent a party of their staff to help with the setting up of the shelter. This was my second year of volunteering. On the first occasion I worked in the kitchen, which was great fun and the time passed rapidly. I was very impressed with the politeness and gratitude with which we were treated by the guests. This year I was a general volunteer chatting with guests, playing table tennis, manning the doors as requested (to ensure no one unauthorised entered nor brought in dogs, alcohol etc) by supervisors, accompanying guests into the locked sleeping quarters when they needed something left there, finding videos for guests to watch, helping them look for items of clothing in the jumble and sourcing toiletries as requested. Again the time passed rapidly and the traditional Xmas lunch looked delicious and was roundly praised. After lunch a guitar playing singer came to entertain and many guests joined in singing and dancing. We left them to their amusement knowing we had added very slightly to the company's wellbeing. As did the Mayor of Bristol who came to greet guests individually and looked like one of us, not a superior entity in chains office. He went home after his visit as we did but grieving for those we met who would be back on the streets sleeping rough again in January until such time they find a home once more.

Janet Raine

Spring in Somerset

Hail, the month of May approaches.
A time of many fulfilled promises,
a time of sun, when temperature soars,
and we are glad to be outdoors – here in Somerset

When blossoms hang on every bough
to give us sweet contentment now,
and gardens can their gifts bestow
when fruits and vegies start to grow – here in Somerset.

With larks ascending, blackbirds call,
sparrows, tits and robins all
dutifully feed their young,
with hearts full of merry song – in lovely Somerset

For where else would you rather be,
than in the country, near the sea ?
This County has so much to give
No wonder it's where we want to live, at home in Somerset.

Sylvia Shepherd

WILLOWS & WETLANDS

One thing I learned from our first U3A outing of this year was that I obviously don't know much about the area which I live in. 'Maybe It's Because I'm A Londoner' (whoops!!), I mean a 'foreigner' to Somerset, for when I read that the trip would be heading out to the Wetlands Centre, my immediate thought, (and one that stayed with me right up until just after the coach pulled into the car park) was that we were going to some sort of bird sanctuary!

Now I don't think that I can be blamed entirely for thinking this, as according to the Oxford English Dictionary, under 'Wetlands' it is described as 'an area of swampy or marshy land, considered as part of an ecological system'. Now, 'ecology' to me, suggests birds, plants and animals so I was assuming we were going to an area where the wildlife was the main theme! Strange how in just a name, I could get it oh so wrong!!

Soon after arriving there, those that were desperate for their first coffee of the day went one way while the remainder of us went off to visit the museum, and it was there, seeing all those willow products in every shape and form from baskets and prams from the past 200 years to modern day coffins (at a mere £425 + the cost of the handles of course). It was then that I came to realise that Wetlands had nothing to do with birds at all! I felt so pleased that I had left my binoculars, camera and my encyclopaedia of British birds back home on my kitchen table, as I may have looked slightly out of place to say the least!

So this was what it was all about. The Willows and Wetlands Centre. It all began in 1819 and the business continues to this day. Home of the Coates family since it started, they continue to produce many items using willow stems (known as 'withie's') to this

day and are the only company left in the country to do so. It was all very interesting in every aspect. They even produced beehives plus an old style coffin for the film 'Robin Hood', chairs for 'Sweeny Todd' with Johnny Depp, plus shell baskets which were depicted in the film 'War Horse'.

Following our coffee, we then all met up in the 'classroom' where we were shown a short film detailing the willow from it's first planting to the finished product. Once a willow has matured, stems can be cut from it for the next 25 to 30 years.

We then ventured into one of the outside sheds to watch four crafts people weaving various wicker items. Margaret, who had been working there for many many years, was wicker working on her final basket, as this was the day that she was retiring.

Then onto where the second shed where the wicker is stored, stripped of its outer bark and dried and also, where required, soaked to give it a darker shade. Much of the water used to process the willows is pumped naturally using wind power.

Following our buffet lunch we had to forgo the short walk around the willow growing area due to rain, so back to the Lemon Tree cafe for our last coffee, and admire the photographic exhibition of local landscapes by Don Bishop. Then into the obligatory gift shop.....I wonder if Carole has finished her wicker bird yet?

The journey back was not without incident. Stuck for some time just outside Bridgwater, trying to gain access to the M5, we were at a standstill due to a major traffic holdup, Martin, our driver, turned the coach around and drove the opposite way down to Taunton endeavouring to get onto the motorway there, sadly we were again

held up due to an accident. Still, it gave me time to reflect on a great day out.

My final thought was that out of all the 40 or so people on our trip, I probably learned more about the Willow Centre than any of my fellow travellers, as I doubt anyone else was expecting to go bird watching for the day!

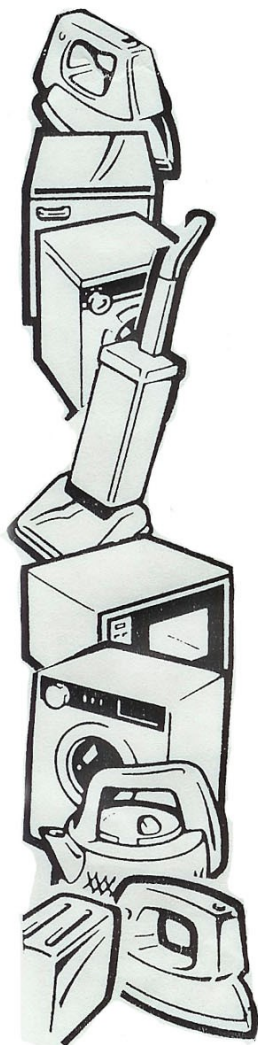
Barry Ede



Photo taken at the Willows & Wetlands Centre courtesy of Ken Burston

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Away Days

The first trip is to Paignton on Thursday 26th May. This seaside resort on Torbay needs no introduction because most of you have probably been there a number of times; all you need that day is good weather.

The next trip is to St Fagans on Thursday 23rd June; this is the National History Museum of Wales, entry is free. In 1946 the castle and land were donated to the people of Wales by the Earl of Plymouth and a museum was built based upon the style of one in Stockholm, Sweden, it being an open-air attraction. Opening in 1948 it has grown dramatically; it includes buildings from all over Wales. Old buildings that were thought to be of historic interest have been carefully dismantled, the parts numbered and then rebuilt at St Fagans. Churches, chapels, shops, forges, potteries, you name it, it will be there.

If it is your intention to visit, remember to wear sturdy walking shoes, your feet will very happy on the trip back home. There are a number of members who have probably been here three or four times already; there is so much to see.

Joke Corner

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

Monthly Draw

March 19th 2016	No 22	Wendy Conibeer and Janet Raine
April 16th 2016	No 54	Fay Burstn and Derek Hand

Each received £20.00

Sharon Elliott

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For further details please contact: **Sharon**

Phone 01278 788315

Mobile 07787 787571

Sandra

Hairdressers

We welcome O.A.P.'s

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



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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2016		
May 26th	Away Day: Paignton, Devon	£10.50
Jun 6th—Jun 10th	Holiday: Isle of Wight (fully booked)	£210.00 (single supplement £10)
Jun 23rd	Away Day: St Fagans Museum, Wales	£8.00
Jul 28th	Away Day: Tewksbury Canal Boat	£20.00
Aug 20th	Theatre Trip: Save the Last Dance for Me. Starts at 2.30 pm.	£33.00
Sep 22nd	Away Day: Weymouth	£10.50
Oct 20th	Away Day: Sudely Castle, Gloucester	£16.00
Nov 24th	Away Day: Gloucester Quays	£6.00

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.**