



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



# U3A of Highbridge Magazine

[www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk](http://www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk)

Issue 89

Jul/Aug 2016

## **Your Committee**

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

**\* Prefix all telephone numbers with STD code 01278.**

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## Welcome to your Magazine

Welcome to the Jul/Aug 2016 edition of the U3A of Highbridge Magazine.

### Chairman's Message

No-one was more surprised than I to be asked to stand as chairman at the Annual General Meeting, and I was even more surprised to be elected! However, here I am and I hope to do my best for you all.



By now our holiday group will be back from their Isle of Wight holiday, which I am told was a lovely week. I'm sure you all appreciate what Di and Brenda do in organising these events. They do a great job.

We have a new group up and running. The Ukulele class has ten members who are all enjoying the fun of learning to play. Many thanks to Mike, our tutor. We already have a group name, Mick's Minstrels. Who knows, one day you may get to hear us play!

Finally, I would like to thank Pearl, who resigned the chairmanship this year, for all her hard work. I am pleased to report that she will remain a valued member of the committee.

That's all for now, folks!

Vour

## **From the Secretary**

Hi everyone I thought I would introduce myself; in case some of you are not aware I have taken over the role as Secretary from Ken Burston.

This is the first time for me in this sort of post. I sat on a few committees before but not in such a responsible role, so I hope you will all bear with me in the first few months.

In my working life I worked mainly as an auxiliary nurse both in hospital and a doctor's surgery. I was also a health claims assessor for Prudential insurer.

I am married to John, who many of you know. We have four children and seven grandchildren.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail or at the coffee mornings and I will try very hard to meet your expectations and help make our U3A friendly and nice group to be a member of.

Janet Preddy



## **Club News**

### **Forthcoming Events**

Are you interested in the Industrial History of Somerset?

Norton Radstock U3A have organised a “Study Day” for Monday 10th October, it is scheduled to cover:-

#### **“Coal Mining and Canals”**

The event will be held at the Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, From 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and the 4 speakers will cover the history and legacy of the Industrial Heritage of the area.

The cost is £10.00 and includes a buffet lunch and refreshments.

These events are usually very popular, being well supported and, invariably, sold out. So if you feel you would like to indulge in a bit of Somerset’s Heritage, let me (Ken Burston) know, I have the booking details.

Please let me know by Wednesday 28th September.

### **Cream Tea**

We will again be making our annual visits to a ‘cream tea’ provider; the afternoon get-togethers are always very popular. Unfortunately we are still not able to visit Wick Farm but Fay has successfully obtained two dates at The Greenwood (B&B), 76 Main Road, West Huntspill.

The first date is Tuesday 12th July, this was soon sold out when announced at the Coffee Morning; however, there is another booked for Thursday 21st July again at The Greenwood. Both dates are arranged for a 3.30 pm. start.

The cost will be £5.00, this covers scones and tea/coffee, if you have special dietary needs please let Fay know because gluten-free scones can be provide. If you wish to attend the later date please tell Fay not later than Wednesday 13th July.

Parking is somewhat limited, so if you are able to 'car-share' please try to do so.

If, heaven forbid, the weather is inclement, the event will be held indoors.

## **The Book Stall**

Some years ago we set up the 'lending library' with just a few paperbacks and, due to its popularity, it grew very quickly.

Unfortunately, it is now getting a bit out of hand and becoming a 'dumping place' for old Videos, CDs and DVDs. So may we please ask you to treat this facility as an asset; if you should find that you have, what are considered, to be old Videos and the like, please bin them yourself, do not expect us to do it for you?

When we (Committee) find that some of the books have been there too long they are taken to a Charity Shop; this is now becoming, an unnecessary, weekly task.

## **Treasurer Position**

For those members who were not at the AGM you may not be aware that as your Treasurer I stated that I would like to stand down at the end of this financial year.

Your committee is now searching for my replacement and if there is anybody out there who would like to take on this task - not as daunting as you may think - it would be good to hear from you as you could take a look at what happens on a weekly basis and I would be there to answer questions if you had any. Its just a matter of recording money in and money out. Please give it a try.

Carole - Treasurer

## **Away Days**

Can people who have put their names down for trips and later for any reason cannot go to said trip please inform the Away day team ASAP as there may well be other members wishing to go on these trips but of course require as much notice as possible. It also helps us in getting the costings right.

Regards, Away Day Team.

## **Future Dates For Your Diary**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning:** Wed 28th September 2016, 10.00 to 12.00.

**Christmas Sale of Craft Work:** Wed 30th November 2016, 10.00 to 12.00.

Thanks in anticipation, Pearl.

## **Group News**

### **Calligraphy Group**

This group will be meeting just once a month, e.g. on the 2nd Monday, this new arrangement commenced on Monday 13th June and will continue until further notice.

We are open to accept new members if you are interested, just turn up at Southwell House, we start at 10.00 am Ending at 11.30 am.

### **Art Group (Thursday)**

Although this Thursday group is, at present, fairly full we have found lately, that due to health reasons and holidays, attendances have fallen off to a point where it is not practicable to hold a class every week. Therefore, today, (16th June) it was decided to take a break for eight weeks; the group to restart on Thursday 18th August at 01.30 pm.

### **Table Tennis**

Are you fairly nimble on your feet and have quick reactions? Then you would be made very welcome at the Bay Club on a Friday afternoon. One of Burnham U3A's Table Tennis Groups have a session there and, at present, are short of a few playing members. If you are interested, just turn up, say you are from the U3A of Highbridge and have come along at the invitation of David Ellison and you will be handed a bat.

### **Card Making**

The Card Making Group will be closing during the summer months. The next meetings will be on September 7th at 2pm and September 21st at 2pm, both in Southwell House. Note these dates are both Wednesdays and not 1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday as is normally the case.



## **Music Appreciation**

This group is now closed.

## **Away Days**

Wendy Conibeer has kindly sent the photograph below of Diane Barnard taken at the recent Rosemoor Gardens trip.



## **Somerset Churches Group**

It has been brought to our attention that it is possible to 'read' a church. Why read a church? Apparently churches and cathedrals are full of meaning, it is understood that the images in older churches were meant for people who could not read. Church became a 'storybook' for the illiterate, and by their design became equally familiar to the literate and illiterate; very democratic.

I think members of this group are, in future, going to view the churches they visit in a different light, be interested in the imagery and the history.

## **Local History Group**

Are you aware that the history of Somerset goes way, way, back into the distant past? I didn't until with other members of this group we visited the Blake Museum in Bridgwater on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

In the Archaeology section there are two skulls, not very large, but very old; they were discovered at Greylake which was once an island. The skulls, there were originally 5 (but that's another story), and have been there years and were considered to be 'just a couple of skulls'. However, when 'carbon-dated' it was found they are over 10,000 years old, dating from around 8,400 B.C; some of the oldest found in the U.K.

Also displayed were 2 Chert Axe Heads, which, after carbon dating, were thought to be from pre Lower Palaeolithic period, (2.5 to 3 million years ago) rather than Neolithic (4,000 to 2,400 years). Indicating that those who occupied the Greylake island were 'hunter gatherers' e.g. being Homo Erectus, pre Homo Sapiens? An interesting note on their display card implies that nowhere else in the U.K. have they found relics of this age.

Our intention was to study 'local history' but it is so easy to get side-tracked, especially when you see something of that significance. However, it has certainly put a different 'slant' on things, tending to make one realise that we are just a blip in the history of this planet. We still have a lot to learn.

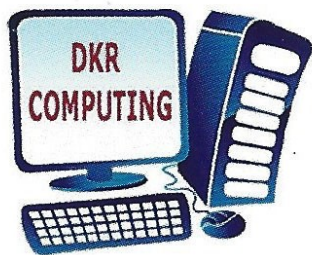
The proposed programme of this group's activities covers:

Tour of St Andrews Church- - -Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Visit to Brick & Tile Museum - - -August Date to be advised.

History Quiz - - - -Venue and date to be advised.

Visit to Taunton Museum- - -to be advised.



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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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Stan Vousden-White Sybil Tilley	781567 787054
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 to 12.00	Beading	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 to 11.30	Calligraphy	S.H.	Ken Burston	782529

### Tuesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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
3 <sup>rd</sup>	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 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.30 to 1.00	Skittles	L.I.	Philip Buoy	783647
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 to ??.	Strollers		Self-Regulating	792529
5 <sup>th</sup>	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	L.I. .... Lighthouse Inn

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

## Crossword #11 Answers

### ACROSS

1. Capital
5. Mojo
7. Urn
8. Eldorado
9. Charm
10. Edit
13. Next
14. Even
18. Salt
19. Raced
21. Aperitif
22. Emu
23. Anew
24. Detests

### DOWN

1. Churches
2. Pancakes
3. Thelma
4. Ladder
5. Margin
6. Jade
11. Teachers
12. Stadiums
15. Narrow
16. Stated
17. Profit
20. Open

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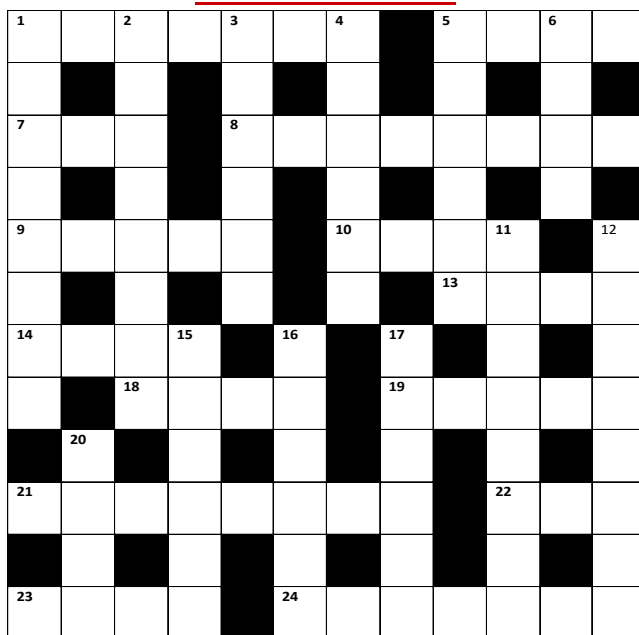
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## Crossword #12



### ACROSS

1. From another country (7)
5. LSD informally (4)
7. Tree type (3)
8. Large metal pot (8)
9. Strong wrapping paper (5)
10. Curved structure (4)
13. People working together (4)
14. Consumes (4)
18. Grit (4)
19. Aired (5)
21. 'a beer lab' anag. (8)
22. Verse (3)
23. Pleased (4)
24. Popular football team (7)

### DOWN

1. Skin blemishes (8)
2. Defensive walls (8)
3. Provoke to action (6)
4. Chewy sweet (6)
5. Dependent on something (6)
6. Press (4)
11. 'Hole trip' anag. (8)
12. A vey small amount (8)
15. Hallowed (6)
16. Fit to eat (6)
17. Stick to (6)
20. Shout (4)

Solutions next issue

## **Member Contributions**

### **Somerset Churches Outing April 29th 2016**

Our first village church outing proved very popular. We decided to visit 3 churches on the Polden Hills. St. Mary's, Woolavington our first stop. It is thought the building was first started in the 12th century, but it was 200 years before the tower and chancel were added, there's a peal of 8 bells the first cast in 1400. The inside is quite modern carpeted through out and the pews have been removed in favour of chairs.

The second stop was St. Mary's, Cossington it dates from the 13th century and underwent extensive restoration in 1900. Inside there's a brass-cut figure of John Brent (d.1524) lord of the manor and his wife Maud Pouncefoot. If you plan to make a visit parking can be difficult.

And finally to St. Michael's and all Angels, Bawdrip. The design of the building is quite unusual the tower being in the middle giving the church a cruciform shape. The church dates from the late 13th century, and the near by rectory has been suggested as one of the sites about the legend of the Mistletoe Bough, which tells the story of Eleanor Lovell a young bride-to-be hid herself away in an old oak chest.

The story goes....At length an oak chest that had long laid hid,  
                                     Was found in the castle; they raised the lid,  
                                     And a skeleton form lay mouldering there  
                                     In the bridal wreath of that lady fair.....

Well worth a visit, and if you fancy any refreshments I can recommend the near by Knoll Inn.

The next Somerset Churches Visit will be on the 29th July.

Bernard Martin



## **An Ordinary Boy Who Just Wants To Fly**

He is stood at the fence, eyes raised to the sky.  
The other kids taunting as they pass him by.  
Words never nice and certainly not kind,  
But he barely notices, let alone mind.  
Why does he always stare at that field?  
Doesn't he know there is a goal to be built?  
But his focus unswerving, staring straight ahead  
At the scattered collection of military sheds.

A noise can be heard, for those who might listen.  
A dull hum, accelerating to a definite whistle.  
A Wessex? A Wasp? Or maybe a Lynx.  
He gets quite excited, as he starts to think..  
How it must be for the people on board,  
A prestigious position he could never afford.  
Boys like him are not meant to fly,  
The careers teacher said 'don't even try'  
Jobs like that are so hard to get,  
Perhaps it is better just to forget.

His focus is broken by the Bulldog above,  
Looping and rolling, those guys must be tough.  
He watches it climbing and diving back down,  
That's called 'Aerobatics', he recalls with a frown.  
Surely there must be a place in the sky,  
For an ordinary boy who just wants to fly?

The rotors are turning, biting the air.  
Ready to launch as the Bulldog starts to flare.  
Their time is up, it's time to come back.  
As the drab olive helicopter takes to the track.  
A Wessex it is!  
His favourite machine.  
The two based here are often seen.

HMS Daedalus or Lee-On-Solent,  
Many types of aircraft are here at the moment.  
They call it the Air Day, an annual affair.  
But most of his mates don't really care.  
Of course there's a fun fair and field gun runs,  
Plenty to do for fathers and sons.  
But on this day just once a year,  
It allows the ordinary boy to be near,  
Those shapes in the sky that often distract him,  
as he dreams of one day becoming a captain.

It's 1988 and 'The only way is Up',  
Perhaps Yazz understood his wish to be up.  
In gliders and Chipmunks, and all things that fly.  
One things for sure, he will definitely try..

So forward we go to 1995,  
It all happened quickly, had he really arrived?  
Coventry they said.  
Now where exactly is that?  
The Midlands he learned, as he started to pack  
His life in a bag as he said his goodbyes.  
Was this ordinary boy going to be paid to fly?

Through good times and low times, the path wasn't easy.  
Certainly not a place to hide for the lazy!  
Training was flown between menial jobs,  
from baling hay to driving the mobs  
of pilots ahead of him living their dream,  
or perhaps not exactly as it often did seem!  
At 3 in the morning, the whole car is yawning.  
The crew off to work as a new day is dawning.

Survive it he did, and after a year  
There finally was a time for good cheer.  
Qualification, the ink not yet dry  
Allowed the ordinary boy to take to the sky!

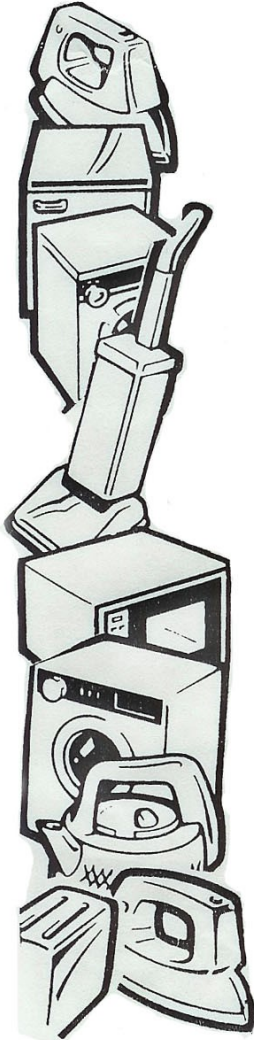
For two decades, just over, he plied his trade.  
Never once regretting the decisions he made.  
To focus so young on the things that had mattered  
On achieving this dream when others had scattered.  
He stuck to his guns, Not always great fun,  
But sacrifices well made in pursuit of the sun.

**Poem written by Paul Gibbs, who is a Freelance Airline Captain  
currently contracted to Tianjin Airlines in China.**

Supplied by Linda Knight-Rees.

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## **Away Days**

### **Tewkesbury River Trip Wednesday 27th July**

We will board the MV Conway Castle at King Johns Island, 15 minutes prior to departure. We will then cruise along the River Severn enjoying a Fish n Chip lunch served on board with a choice of tea or coffee.

Please note the Fish n Chips will be served in the traditional way wrapped in paper, so you may need some Wet wipes!! Lets hope we have a nice fine day to enjoy the Peace and tranquillity on the river.

### **Hinckley Point Power Station on 11th August**

The trip to will cost £6 per person for the coach. Pick-up times, Berrow 8.30am, Pier Street 8.40am, Highbridge 9am. The tour begins at Angel Place, Bridgwater at 9.30am, after which we travel to the power station. The tour finishes at 1pm, when we will go to the Friendly Spirit in Cannington for lunch. I will have a menu available later to enable you to pre-order your lunch. This trip is now fully booked.

## **Joke Corner**

One day Jimmy got home early from school and his mum asked, "Why are you home so early?" He answered, "Because I was the only one that answered a question in my class." She said, "Wow, my son is a genius. What was the question?" Jimmy replied, "The question was 'Who threw the rubbish bin at the headmaster's head?'"

### **Monthly Draw**

May 14th 2016	No 16	Barbara Croker and Eunice Cox
June 11th 2016	No 3	Rene Lewis, Vivian Wyatt and Bronwyn Fraley

Each received £20.00

### **Sharon Elliott**

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2016</b>		
Jul 12th & Jul 21st	Cream Tea at The Greenwood, West Huntspill	£5.00
Jul 28th	Away Day: Tewksbury Canal Boat	£20.00
Aug 11th	Away Day: Hinkley Point Power Station	£6.00
Aug 20th	Theatre Trip: Save the Last Dance for Me. Starts at 2.30 pm.	£33.00
Sep 22nd	Away Day: Weymouth	£10.50
Sep 28th	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Free
Oct 10th	Study Day: Coal Mining & Canals, Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton	£10.00
Oct 20th	Away Day: Sudely Castle, Gloucester	£16.00
Nov 24th	Away Day: Gloucester Quays	£6.00
Nov 30th	U3A Craft Sale	Free
<b>2017</b>		
Jan 30th—Feb 3rd	Holiday: Weymouth	£110 (sea view supplement £10)

**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.**