



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Sep/Oct 2016

Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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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

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Next Magazine Deadline: **October 20th 2016**

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Chairman's Message

Hello, fellow members.

Summer is coming to a close and Christmas cards are in the shops! However, we won't think of them for a while, will we? I hope you have all enjoyed these warm days we have been having. Many of you will have been on grandparent duties during the school holidays and be grateful for dry weather.



We have a couple of events to look forward to in September. Firstly, there is the Macmillan Coffee Morning organised by Pearl, and later we are hoping to have a table-top sale. If you have any items you want to part with, please bring them along. The date has yet to be fixed.

All of you who went to see Save the Last Dance for Me have said how much you enjoyed it, so a big thank you to Ann Cross, who organised it.

The away day to Weymouth on 22nd September is now fully booked. Now all we need is a nice sunny day!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those of you who help clear away the chairs after our coffee mornings. It is much appreciated.

That's all for now!

Take care.

Vour

Club News

Ray Reddish ---“The Honey Man”

It is with regret we announce the death, on Thursday 15th July, of one of our founder members; Ray Reddish.

Ray finally succumbed to an illness that limited his activities over the last few years; he has always been an active person; whether it was his large garden, his bees, involvement with various local associations or this U3A. He was continually on the go and, eventually, was totally worn out.



When this U3A was founded in 2000, Ray and his wife Doreen, were two of the first to sign up, being Nos 28 and 29. They both immersed themselves in U3A activities from the start; he became Group Leader Skittles and Doreen was involved in Creative Writing.

The Royal Artillery Inn at West Huntspill was where the Skittle Group met and became renowned for its parties at Christmas and Easter when various competitions were held, such as the ‘Best’ Easter or Christmas Bonnet. The food provided on such occasions was a gastronomic delight.

When the pub was demolished in 2010 Ray, with Betty Worthy his co-leader, arranged for the group to move to the Crossways Inn; it now resides at the Lighthouse Inn in Burnham.

Ray was elected onto the Committee in 2003 where he served until his retirement a short time ago, his ill health also curtailed his Strollers participation; his local knowledge was indispensable when it became

necessary to find new walking territory.

The Strollers, on one occasion, were taken to see his bees on Brent Knoll, he afterwards took them to see a Badgers' Sett and demonstrated his knowledge of animal behaviour by showing them how to recognise a badger's toilet. (*Not a lot of people know that*).

Of late Ray's ill health had prevented him from visiting us at the Wednesday Coffee Mornings where he always joined the 'male' discussion group and put the world to rights. Although Ray was born in Kent he became a "Man for Highbridge", we will miss him.

Ken Burston

Derek Hand (1934---2016)

We do, regretfully, need to announce that Derek died on Tuesday 23rd August; he died peacefully at his home in Pawlett with his family present, following a losing battle with the big 'C'.

Derek will be remembered by members as the craftsman that produced the beautiful decorated goose eggs, the intrinsically made ornaments were a work of art. With his wife Helga he joined this U3A in October 2002 being regular members of the Coffee Mornings.

Following WWII he was a member of the R.A.F. Regiment serving some of his time in Germany; being a carpenter by trade when back in civvies his working life was spent at Woodbury Bros. and Haines where he met and worked with Ray Reddish.

Ken Burston

Motor Neurone Disease Raffle

The raffle that was held recently in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, raised a total of £80.00; we have received their letter/ receipt expressing the associations' sincere appreciations.

The items raffled comprised prizes that were won by a members who had attended the charity film show and instead of rejecting them, decided to re-raffle them for the charity, thus gaining more cash for their funds.

Jigsaw Sale Wednesday October 12th

If you have a Jigsaw Puzzle that you have done so many times you know where all the pieces go and want to get rid of it, now's your opportunity. The suggested price is 25p per 100 pieces e.g £2.50 for a 1000 piece puzzle.

Any puzzles remaining unsold must be taken away by whoever brought it in.

Group News

Local History

A short while ago we advised you about the project at the Avalon Marshes Visitor Centre that concerned the construction of two replica buildings; an Anglo-Saxon long hall and a Romano-British house.

Progress has been made on both buildings and there will, hopefully, be something interesting to see in the near future. Good progress has been made on the house, the hypocaust (under floor heating) has been tried, and a temperature of 40C was attained. The timbers of the long hall are in place and the outside walls will soon be covered in 'wattle and daub'.

A recent 'Open Day' was very successful, so watch the press for details of future activities at the Centre.

Theatre

On Saturday 20th August members visited the Weston Playhouse to be see the show "Save the last dance for me", this was a musical based on tunes from the 1960's and 70's. The show was about a group of American Servicemen, who were stationed in East Anglia, and how they dealt with and enjoyed their free time in Lowestoft.

The show was thoroughly enjoyed by our members who wish to thank Ann Cross for organising their visit to Weston Playhouse.

Member Contributions Part 1

Away Days—Trip Reports

We have had two successful 'outings' recently, the first, on Wednesday 28th, to Tewkesbury included a boat trip on the River Severn. On arrival at St John's Island in Tewkesbury we boarded the M.V. Conway Castle looking forward to our lunch, to be taken during the cruise up the river.

The weather, by then, had brightened up and the sun was showing an interest in appearing out of the somewhat greyish sky. The crew welcomed us aboard and, once we were all settled with appetites raring to go, we set off.

The scenery was purely rural this being the mainly agricultural part of Gloucestershire, we noted there are many dead trees on the river banks, this apparently, was caused by the rather long period during

which they were subjected to the flood waters some three years ago. The tree roots had 'drowned'; however, a few are beginning to produce some new growth and may still survive. There was not a lot of wildlife but someone did see a heron.

The fish and chip lunch was served soon after we set 'sail' and this proved to be an excellent meal, tea/coffee was served to all by the crew and we enjoyed the relaxing hour or so cruising through the countryside.

Upon returning to Tewkesbury we disembarked and made our various ways back to the coach; this was parked near the Abbey. Tewkesbury is a medieval town and has many half-timbered buildings; these include the Black Bear which dates from 1308 and the Royal Hop Pole that is mentioned in Dickens's *Pickwick Papers*. The bridge over the River Avon was commissioned by King John in the 12th Century and still contains some of the original stone work. Also, the English Civil War featured a lot in the town's history, the Battle of Tewkesbury being fought on the outskirts of the town.

A very interesting town, a truly medieval place; there are not many left that have not been ruined or supposedly 'modernised' by over-zealous town planners.

The second outing, on 11th August, was to the Hinkley Point Power Station, members had been looking forward to this visit for some time, is the site really as big as it appears on T.V.? Having now seen close up, it is huge and if and when given the go-ahead will keep a lot of workers busy for years.

Very stringent security requirements had to be met, and, regrettably, 4 members were denied entry to the Power Station; a matter of

the interpretation on the rules concerning Birth Certificates.

When you look across Bridgwater Bay towards the existing Hinkley A and B sites they don't look too out of place because we are used to seeing them. But as you approach the area their domination of the surrounding countryside really strikes you. Hinkley 'A' is at present being decommissioned, but the life of Hinkley 'B' has been extended by another 7 years. We were to be shown around 'B' and, with security vetting completed we set off in two groups suitably attired in yellow 'dayglow' jackets, red hard hats (with ear defenders) and a security pass on a tape around our necks.

Our guides, Maggie and Sheila were certainly very knowledgeable on all things Hinkley, keeping us fully informed about the turbines, reactors, cooling procedures and what happens to the spent fuel, etc. Although we may not be fully aware of what happens to it, spent fuel is regularly transported by train from Bridgwater railway station to Sellafield for long term storage or disposal.

Ken Burston

Somerset Churches 2

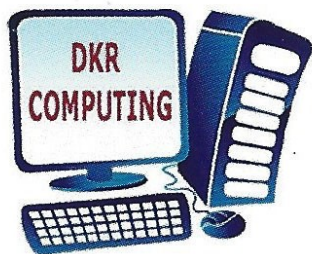
Our first visit this month was to West Huntspill; there's been a church on the present site since 1208. It was rebuilt some 200 years later. The church underwent extensive Victorian restoration between 1878-80 following a major fire which gutted the interior and roof leaving only the stonework still standing. The tower holds a peal of six bells dating from 1879 when they replaced the previous five, the oldest of which was cast in 1693. The Effigies in the niche on the south wall probably dated from the 14th Century and represent the Lord of the Manor, Sir Richard Cogan and his wife Isabella. The church original dedication was to All Saints this changed to St. Peter's around 1872. In the 1950's the dedication to St. Peter's and

All Hallows was adopted.

We moved on to the church of St. John the Baptist at Pawlett. It is known that a church stood on this site for at least a thousand years, of the Saxon church the base of the font seems to be the only visible survival. About 1120 the Saxon church was pulled down and work started on the present building; the tower was the last part to be built, some 300 years later. There's a peal of six bells; three were cast by Thomas Bayley and Bayley Street & Co. bell foundry Bridgwater. The organ was built in 1873, it was purchased from Messrs Hill of London for £170 (paid for by the poor of the parish). The church possesses 2 clocks, the one in use has been keeping time since 1921. Recent renovation of the outside of the building has had the cement rendering removed; it was wrongly applied many years ago. The proper lime plaster and lime wash has now been reapplied.

Our final destination was to visit St. Michael and All Angels at Puriton. It is known that there was a church at Puriton as far back as the time of King Edward the Confessor in 1042. The present building dates from the 13th Century and completed some 200 years later. The REGISTERS of the church date back to Elizabeth 1st in 1558. The entries in the Marriage Register from 1653-58 that all marriages within that period were performed by a JP not a minister of the church. The reason for this was an act passed in 1653 to establish in every parish a registrar of Marriages, Births and Burials, by which the rite was taken out of the hands of the clergy, and Justices performed the ceremony of marriage. The church was built of Blue Lias stone as was Pawlett and found not to be very good material being quiet soft. The tower has an unusual pyramid style roof and holds bells from a medieval Bristol foundry and three more dated 1725 by Abraham Rudall of Gloucester.

Bernard Martin



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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	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
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	L.I.	Philip Buoy	783647
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	L.I. Lighthouse Inn

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

Crossword #12 Answers

ACROSS

1. Foreign
5. Acid
7. Elm
8. Cauldron
9. Kraft
10. Arch
13. Team
14. Eats
18. Sand
19. Dried
21. Bearable
22. Ode
23. Glad
24. Everton

DOWN

1. Freckles
2. Ramparts
3. Incite
4. Nougat
5. Addict
6. Iron
11. Heliport
12. Smidgeon
15. Sacred
16. Edible
17. Adhere
20. Yell

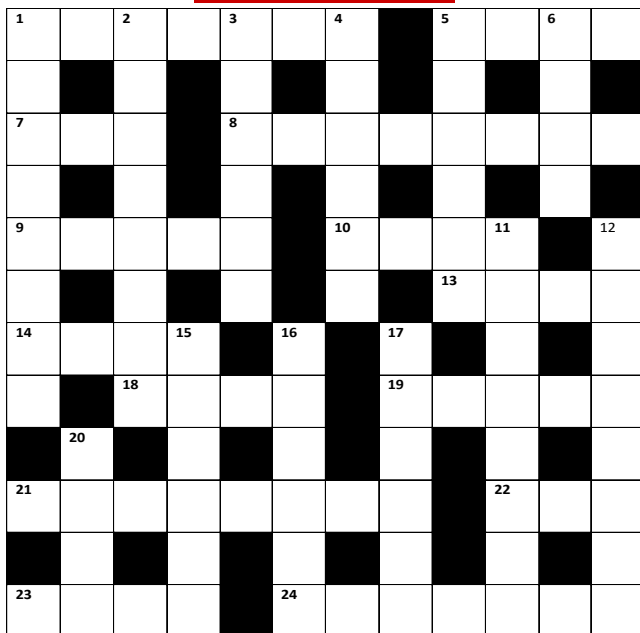
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Crossword #13**ACROSS**

1. Result of some process (7)
5. Competent (4)
7. Rage (3)
8. 'Swans Lid' [anag] (8)
9. Having had food (5)
10. Slant (4)
13. Era (4)
14. Land area (4)
18. Simple (4)
19. Yellow-orange to orange (5)
21. Wealthy (8)
22. Prompt (3)
23. Enquiries (4)
24. Worrier (7)

DOWN

1. Earliest time in history (8)
2. Part of an opera (8)
3. Relax (6)
4. Sensation of the skin (6)
5. On board a ship (6)
6. Itemise (4)
11. 'Ping chat' [anag] (8)
12. Building converted to flats (8)
15. Type of birds (6)
16. Reflexive form of the word 'I' (6)
17. Parts of the year (6)
20. Juvenile newts (4)

Solutions next issue

Member Contributions Part 2

One Off the Bucket List

Several months ago Sue Boska asked me if I would like to join her, and 2,500 other women, on 29th June to demonstrate outside of the Houses of Parliament for Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI). I learnt that this affects husbands as well as all women born in the 1950's and later.

We boarded a coach at Sedgemoor Services at 8am. It was almost full with women coming from as far away as Plymouth. Everyone was very friendly, wearing lilac WASPI sashes and united in one cause. Once we reached Bristol we were full.

On arrival at Westminster we all gathered outside Parliament. There were women from all over the country: Northern Ireland, Tyne & Wear, Liverpool, Lancashire, Scotland, the Amber Valley, Sussex, Wales and even the Netherlands and Argentina! We were joined by Baroness Joan Bakewell and Robert Peston, who posted us on Twitter. Natalie Bennett and Mhari Black, the youngest Scottish MP, were among about sixty MP's who came to speak in our support.

We were all given song sheets to sing against pension inequality, which even the MP's joined in! The atmosphere was wonderful and friendly and even van drivers were tooting their horns and waving in support. The police on duty told us that this had to be one of the top three most peaceful demonstrations they had ever seen.

We all chanted "We paid in! You pay out!", and lots of us went on to lobby their MP's. The Somerset contingents were meeting theirs in Bridgwater on Friday. He is very much on our side which is good

to know.

At the end of the demonstration we made a dignified exit. Sue and I joined the rest of the Somerset delegation at a nearby hostelry for liquid refreshment and food where we spent the next hour putting the world to rights. As you do!

I have never been on a protest march before, but I felt privileged to do so. This is not so much for me, as I am fortunate enough to have been born before all the changes came in, but for my daughter and all women who this does affect.

I returned home feeling I had done something worthwhile. If you want to find out more and how this might affect you, Google "WASPI".

Vour Orchard



July Stollers

What an intrepid bunch we were.

The 1st outing took us to Winscombe. The weather looked a bit unsettled while we were in Highbridge car park assessing the likelihood of rain, but we decided to set off. Proper rain started at Shuteshelf and by the time we parked at Winscombe someone above was emptying a very large bath tub over us. We sat in the cars for a spell to see if it was going to abate. It didn't! One of our number bravely went to check if the pub was open and serving coffee, it was, so using a variety of water shedding devices, coats with hoods, coats without hoods over heads and umbrellas in a wide range of colours and sizes, we repaired to the hostelry and put the world to rights over a drink.

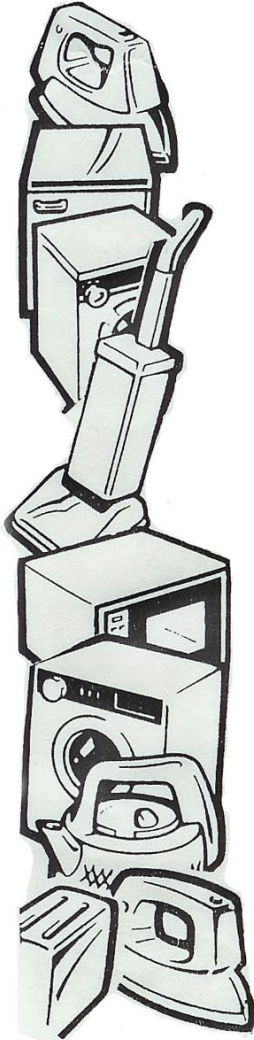
For the 2nd meeting the weather had done a complete about face and we decided not to risk heat stroke with a long car journey and a walk with no shade. Some of our troupe had been on the natural history walk at Apex Park the previous day so we asked them to educate us with what they had learned. The stroll around the lake was going well until we suddenly came upon the wild flower meadow tucked away behind a bank, the stunning sight arrested us in our tracks. Red White and Blue. I think the flowers are (though I am happy to be corrected) red poppy, white daisy (fever few or bachelor buttons), blue cornflower and a scattering of corn cockle. We spent a lovely interlude just drinking in the beauty of this meadow before completing our walk around the lake and then retiring to have a drink the shade of the canopy at Lizzies Kitchen.

Paula Cook



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Away Days

Weymouth—September 22nd

The next trip is to Weymouth on Wednesday 22nd September, some of you may remember that we had a great holiday there a couple of winters ago. In fact we are going there again next January/February so this could be a good opportunity to size up the area and plan for 2017. It is a relatively short run down to the south coast and it could turn out to be a very pleasant day out.

Sudeley Castle—October 20th

In October the trip is to Sudeley Castle and Gardens is situated near Winchcombe in Gloucestershire, (not far from Cheltenham). This privately owned castle is the only one in England to have a Queen buried in the ground; it is Katherine Parr the last of Henry VIII's six wives. The Queen's Gardens are named after Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth I. and are, apparently, beautiful but what they will be like in September is open to speculation.

Don't forget to wear sensible walking shoes for both of these trips.

Joke Corner

Donald Trump addressed a major gathering of the American Indian Nation. He spoke for almost an hour about his plans for increasing every Native American's present standard of living. Though vague in detail, he spoke about his ideas for helping his "red sisters and brothers".

Afterwards, the Tribes presented him with a plaque inscribed with his new Indian name, "Walking Eagle", which he proudly accepted.

After Trump left, a news reporter asked the chiefs how they came to select this name. They explained that "Walking Eagle" the name given to a bird so full of shit that it can no longer fly.

Monthly Draw

July 9th 2016	No 12	Pat Clipstone and Margaret Wall
August 6th 2016	No 8	Maisie Hand and Ingeborg Thomas

Each received £20.00

Sharon Elliott

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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2016		
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 12th	Jigsaw Sale (during Coffee Morning)	Free
Oct 20th	Away Day: Sudely Castle, Gloucester	£16.00
Nov 24th	Away Day: Gloucester Quays	£6.00
Nov 30th	U3A Craft Sale	Free
2017		
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.**