



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk

Issue 93

Mar/Apr 2017

Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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Vice-Chairman	Bernard Martin	787230
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	Fay Burston	782529
	Pat Clipstone	788128
	Barbara Croker	780260
	Pearl Price	793954

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

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Next Magazine Deadline: **April 20th 2017**

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Chairman's Message

Hello, everyone!

It's nice to see that Spring is on its way with snowdrops, primroses and daffodils showing their faces. And the days are getting longer! Hooray!



I know many of you have had this awful flu-type virus that has been going around. I hope you are all on the road to recovery or fully well again.

I would like to say a big thank you to Di and Brenda for arranging our Weymouth holiday. It was great. There is an account of it in this edition.

It is nice to see more attending our coffee mornings and to have gained some new members. Please make them welcome. We have the reputation of being a friendly group. Let's keep it that way. I am sure you will!

All good wishes.

Vour

—oOo—

Club News

Reminder

A REMINDER! for your new 2017 diary: -

Please remember there will **NOT** be a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 15th March 2017 because the Highbridge Festival of the Arts are holding their Music competitions there all the week.

This has come at a very convenient time for us this year because our **Annual Lunch is on Wednesday 15th March at the Beachcomber Inn Brean.**

A Thank You

We thank all those members who turned up on Wednesday 28th December, Christmas week, for their usual coffee and chat; you are, by now, fully aware that we do not close at Christmas. It has always been our practice to open over the festive season, unless, of course, Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday. We have several members who live on their own and, at this time of the year, do find, unfortunately, that many of their usual contacts have other interests. Therefore, we feel it is our 'duty' to give them the opportunity to get out, weather permitting, to stretch their legs and meet up with colleagues at the usual coffee morning. This year there was quite a good turn out and we are sure everyone that called in that day enjoyed the experience. It was certainly a pleasure to see you all, thank you!

Get Well Soon

Most of you probably had a good Christmas but there were others who suffered a variety of ailments over the holiday period. Coughs, colds, flu, and an assortment of other illnesses have struck a lot of people; some are still suffering, to them we send "Get Well Soon" wishes.

Whilst on the subject of 'getting well' it is felt that we thank Fay Burston

for all the “Get Well” Cards she posts to those of you who fall sick. When Fay is told that a member is ill, no matter what the problem, she sends them a card; so, if you have been ill and not received a card, Fay was not informed. Therefore, if you do hear that a colleague is ill please let Fay know, you do not have to go into any detail, just advise her that “X” is not well and a card will be sent p.d.q.

We need also to thank those members who have visited sick colleagues recently; regrettably a couple of members are temporarily, we trust, housebound. When confined within your own ‘four walls’ for long periods the days drag by and you long to see a friendly face; but when you are then, unexpectedly, visited by colleagues it bucks you up no end.

Theatre Trip

We have a trip to Weston Playhouse booked for Saturday 22nd April to see and be entertained by the first musical to visit the West End following World War II. In 1947 the show “Annie Get Your Gun” opened in London following its successful run on Broadway.

The show covers the fictional life of Annie Oakley (1860—1926) who had gained the reputation as a ‘sharp-shooter’ whilst appearing in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.

This a great song and dance show, there are a few tickets left, the details are: -

Date: Saturday 22nd April at 2.30 pm cost £22.50.

As usual the coach will pick up outside the Community Hall and deliver you to within a few yards of the Playhouse.

Pick up time will be as indicated on your receipt.

Contact Ann Cross on 786425 if you are interested.

Membership

Officially all memberships expire at the end of March; so, there is a Membership Application Form for 2017/8 on Page 28.

May I request that do not all rush to pay your Membership Fee at the same time, apart from the fact that this will be my first session as Membership Secretary renewing memberships, does, sometimes get a bit hectic.

The Membership Fee remains at £9.00. keeping you up to date on where the money goes, please remember that it is made up as follows:

- £3.50 Third Age Trusts Capitation Fee, (per member) this includes our Third Party and Product Liability Insurance cover. *paid per member.*
- £5.50 remains to cover our costs, rents, insurances (any not covered by the Trust,) to keep us operational and solvent.

Postage Costs---A note to members who have their Magazine posted to them, you are obviously aware that postal charges have risen somewhat over the years; therefore, may we request that you pay an extra £4.00 to cover this. Alternatively, you could supply the appropriate stamps, quantity, and value.

On occasions when a member has not collected a magazine, due to illness etc. we will make suitable arrangements.

Sale of Derek Hand's Decorated Eggs

You have received a letter of thanks from St Margaret's Hospice for the £106.00 donation following the sale of Derek's eggs. The hospice was very grateful for this donation, stating that they have more than 3,000 patients under the care which they provide for both patients and their families, so all donations are very welcome.

Obituary—Anne Young

Anne developed cancer just before Christmas and was fighting for life until Monday 16th January when sadly she died. Anne's funeral was at the Sedgemoor Crematorium on Friday 27th January.

Anne was a very well known member of U3A having spent some time running an art class, and was always very friendly and helpful. She will be sadly missed .

Obituary—Chris Varley

We regret to advise that member Chris Varley has lost her long battle against the big "C", Chris was another of our founder members, joining within the first months following our registration. Her membership lapsed for a few years due to family commitments but she was able to re-join us a few years ago.

Group News

Calligraphy Group

We are pleased to announce that the Calligraphy Group has, from the 27th February, started to hold TWO classes each month again, e.g. on the second and fourth Mondays.

The classes, held in Southwell House, are from 10.00 am until 11.30 am and cost £1.00 per session, you get a mug of coffee mid-morning at no extra cost.

Interest in this type of writing has recently increased and the class members have asked us to provide an additional meeting.

You are welcome to join us if you so wish.

NEW: Walking Group (Saunterers?)

Are you interested in doing a little walking – no more than 5 miles but could include some hills and rough ground? If so, please contact Audrey or Rod Downing Tel 01278 256895 or email audrey_downing@hotmail.com

If we get enough interest, we propose to walk on the alternative Friday to the Strollers (1st and 3rd). Maybe still meet up at the Bank Street car-park to car share and go from there or meet up at the start of the walk, whichever you prefer.

There will also be a notice on the board at the Coffee Morning if you would like to add your name to the list.

Look forward to hearing from you.



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Member Contributions Part 1

Somerset Churches 3

Our proposed day for our last church visit did not materialise owing to bad weather. So we made a date for January 13th (could be unlucky for us), but it turned out ok cold, dry and sunny.

We made our way to St. Michael's church Brent Knoll, a lovely position on the side of the knoll with a well tended churchyard. The building dates from the 11th century; the remains of a Norman Church are incorporated in the fabric of the present building. The dedication to St. Michael is also a relic of the Norman's since it was a favourite name for churches in Normandy at the time of the Conquest. There are several things of interest, the large memorial to John Somerset and less prominent is the coat of arms over the vestry door that dates from the time of Charles 2nd, who after the reformation enacted a law that all churches should display the royal insignia. There's a peal of 6 bells dating from medieval times, the last one installed in 1817.

This church contains several 15th century Bench Ends which are well worth looking at. One indicates a fox in Bishop's clothing which indicates the disrespect of the people of South Brent (as Brent Knoll was then called) for the Abbot of Glastonbury, under whose jurisdiction this church came, who was trying to lay his hands on the tithes of this wealthy parish. Another shows the completion of the vengeance. Here the fox has been hanged by the geese and the watchdogs bark in triumph. Certainly a church worth a visit.

East Brent was our next stop. St. Mary's church dates from around 1300; the tower and spire were added about a century later. There was certainly an earlier church because a rector was recorded in 1190. Of that church nothing remains. Abbot John Selwood was vicar from 1467-1493 and built himself a manor house adjacent to the

church (demolished in 1708). He also brought from Glastonbury most of the pews. These bear his initials and are rich in fine carvings. During the reign of Charles 1st the pulpit was acquired and the following year a gallery. The fine lath and plaster ceiling of the nave decorated with a blackberry thorn motif, added in 1637 by Italian craftsmen. On the exterior of the tower are three niches; the upper one contains an effigy of King Ina with a sceptre and mound embracing a monk. The middle niche is Queen Frithegrand and in the lowest, her husband King Ethelard who succeeded Ina. During the 19th century extensive restoration was carried out.

Next on to Lympsham. The earliest reference of a religious building on the site was 1235. in that year the Abbot of Glastonbury made a survey of all the Abbey Estates. The earliest reference to a Rector of Lympsham was not until 40 years later on 24th September 1274 when King Edward 1st appointed Bartholomew de England rector.

There is no record when the present church was built, but was thought to be around 1400AD. The St. Christopher peal of bells originally consisted of 5 bells until 1864. Four of the bells were dated 1696, 1734, 1794, and 1825. The 5th was undated. These 5 were re-cast by George Mears and Co. of Whitechapel in 1864. A sixth bell, the treble was added in 1878. The tower is over 2 feet out of perpendicular and has been for centuries. The clock dated 1849 was made by Thomas Hale and Co. of Bristol. In May 1991 it was motorised.

If you leave the churchyard by the SE corner there's a kissing gate, one of the few left in the county.

We then made our way to Ollies for lunch.

Bernard Martin

Autumn & Winter Strolling

We have enjoyed several good ambles during the autumn and winter.

Unable to find a vaguely remembered footpath at Burtle we walked from the church through Robins Lane and back along Mark Road. There being no nearby café we went to the White Horse but the food was considered to be a bit pricey so a return visit is unlikely.

At Brean Down some of us stayed on the flat land and some tackled the hill. Those who went up, took the road gaining shelter from the brisk wind, and reached the fort, where I felt that the proclaimed range of the gun on one emplacement put Cardiff at great risk! The returning party split into two, some returning by the road and some down the steps. The three groups re-assembled for lunch at Brean Down Café.

A tree lined section of the Cheddar railway track back to the reservoir was delightful with the leaves displaying their autumnal glory. It was Remembrance Day and we held our own silence standing together on the track. Cheddar Garden Centre had our patronage for lunch.

Early in December, with our Christmas dinner at the “Pimp” firmly in our minds, we walked around West Huntspill, as reported in the last magazine. Faye and others in the group pointed out various local features and related stories and memories of the village. We were a little early arriving at the pub but sat and chatted until the restaurant was ready and then enjoyed our meal with much friendly laughter.

The day before Christmas Eve, a damp and misty day as I recall, saw us walking from the Apex Park along the river bank and sea front to stop for coffee at Reeds Arms, time passed and some of us stayed for lunch. We returned to Apex via Marine Drive.

As our “church crawl” had been abandoned on the Friday before New Year due to icy paths we took the opportunity to re-instate it in place of our 1st walk of the year. As there was a very cold wind howling the

warmth of the churches was welcome. The lunch venue was “Ollies” where we were made very welcome.

January saw us walking around Cheddar Reservoir, chosen as the day was damp and we needed a firm footing. We were amazed, and relieved, to see how the level had risen since our last visit. It still has a way to go before it is full and water was pouring in at a steady stream. We started on the windy side, where there were waves lapping the steps, and enjoyed the calm when we came into the lee. The only wildlife of note was a cor-morant sitting on a breakwater. A short drive took us to Cheddar Garden Centre for lunch.

The 1st walk of February was cold and misty. It was decided that the Strawberry Line from Axbridge to Winscombe would shelter us from a biting wind. Most of the party walked to the town and found a café for refreshment before returning to the car park. A few returned after about 2 thirds of the walk and came back towards home for lunch and a “warm”.

Paula Cook

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Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st	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.	Pat Gray	786905
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
1 st & 3 rd	10.00 to ??.	Walking		Audrey Downing	256895
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
Wednesdays	Luncheons	Pat Clipstone	788128
Thursdays	Away Days	Vour Orchard Carole Loveridge	788984 780060
Saturdays	Theatre	Ann Cross	786425
Varies	Holidays	Diane Barnard Brenda Clapp	781009 787963

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 #15 Answers

ACROSS

1. BACKLOG
5. NILE
7. BAD
8. MEATLOAF
9. COLON
10. TINT
13. SHOP
14. ALAS
18. CLAM
19. SNARL
21. ANYWHERE
22. HOP
23. BEND
24. SATISFY

DOWN

1. BABYCHAM
2. CADILLAC
3. LAMENT
4. GRAFTS
5. NYLONS
6. LEAF
11. THRASHES
12. EPILEPSY
15. SLOWED
16. EMBERS
17. ASPECT
20. ONCE

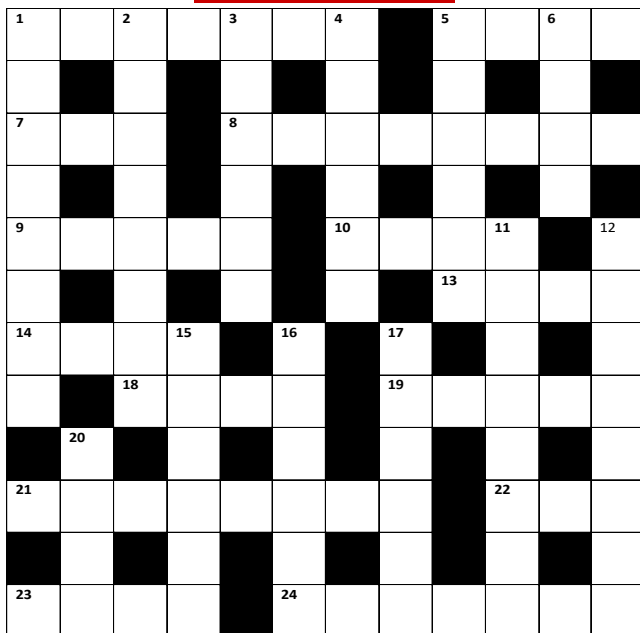
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Crossword #16**ACROSS**

1. Enchantment (7)
5. Competent (4)
7. A pair (3)
8. Ben Lemon [anag] (8)
9. Wash out (5)
10. Unfasten (4)
13. Cut into (4)
14. Boys name (4)
18. Extinct bird (4)
19. Chain mail (5)
21. Robots (8)
22. Set of tools (3)
23. Musical instrument (4)
24. Stitches (7)

DOWN

1. Motherly (8)
2. Confined (8)
3. Stop (6)
4. Work (6)
5. Puts right (6)
6. Vegetable (4)
11. Spectator (8)
12. Spare toe [anag] (8)
15. Works (6)
16. Comedians (6)
17. Hunting dog (6)
20. Ignore (4)

Solutions next issue

Member Contributions Part 2

Weymouth Holiday 2017

We boarded our coach on Monday morning, looking forward to our winter holiday at The Prince Regent Hotel. The journey was without hold-ups and our driver made a stop for coffee on the way down.

We arrived at our hotel at about 2-ish and were met by the assistant manager who gave us a welcome talk. Our rooms weren't available until 3pm so some of us went for a walk, whilst others adjourned to the coffee lounge.

Ann, Jean and I walked to the quay to find a Tourist Information Bureau only to be told that Weymouth doesn't have one anymore. The council has decided that they can no longer afford one!

We had a lovely three course evening meal each night and very good entertainment. Three members struck lucky and won at Bingo, which was great to see!

There was a trip to Bridport and West Bay on Tuesday. Bridport is a nice little town with a variety of independent shops alongside the usual High Street stores. West Bay was very quiet as it was out of season. Some of you will know that it is where some of *Broadchurch* is filmed.

Several of us went to Dorchester on the local bus service which was excellent and ran every ten minutes from outside of our hotel. Wednesday is market day in Dorchester and what a market it is! People come by coach from Birmingham and the Isle of Wight amongst other places.

The market has every fruit and vegetable imaginable and the quality was superb. Apart from the usual market stalls there is an indoor section selling bread and cakes and countless antique and bric-a-brac stalls. It is really worth a visit and there is a very good town museum as well as the

Castle Military Museum.

On Thursday some of us went on a trip to Bournemouth where we enjoyed a little retail therapy. After lunch we travelled to Poole to visit the pottery. Whilst some looked around the shop, others walked along the harbour side which was full yachts and other boats.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The service at the hotel was very good and the choices at breakfast and dinner were excellent. Sadly, one of our group was taken poorly and was admitted to Dorchester Hospital. Fortunately, his wife was able to stay on at the hotel until Sunday which was a great relief for her. I am pleased to report that he was discharged on the Saturday.

I have to say that Brenda coped brilliantly with the situation. One never knows what will happen on these occasions, but she dealt with it like a professional.

It just remains for me to say that we had a safe journey home, after having to change coaches at Cartgate Services due to a failure by our assigned coach. Fortunately, there was a café and toilets so we managed to stay warm and comfortable.

So a big thank you to Di and Brenda for another successful holiday. I know you both work very hard arranging them for us and we really do appreciate it. Here's to the next one.

Vour Orchard



Away Days

Details for all Away Days in 2017 are shown below.

Wednesday 22nd March	“Bygones” at Babbacombe	£17.00 (price includes admission)
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“Bygones” is a privately run museum that includes many artefacts from Victorian times, with shops and streets of that era, plus reminders of the 1940’s and 50’s.

The museum is on three floors. Unfortunately, there are no lifts so access is rather limited for those unable to cope with stairs.

Thursday 18th May	Newark Park, Gloucestershire	£13.00/£5.50*
Thursday 22nd June	Lynton & Lynmouth	£10.50
Thursday 20th July	Athelhampton, Dorset	£20.00/£8.00*
Friday 25th August	Bristol Packet Boat Trip to Bees Tea Gardens	£15.50
Thursday 21st September	Cirencester Park	TBC
Thursday 19th October	Batsford Arboretum, Gloucestershire	£13.50
Thursday 23rd November	Worcester and Christmas Market	£8.00

* Price for National Trust members

Please book as soon as possible. Places are going fast!

Monthly Draw

January 21st 2017	No 51	Ken Burston and Stan Vousden-White
February 18th 2017	No. 4	Joy Daine and Maise Hand

Each received £20.00

Sharon Elliott

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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2017		
March 22nd	Bygones at Babbacombe	£17.00
April 22nd	Theatre Trip: Annie Get Your Gun at The Weston Playhouse (2.30 pm)	£22.50
May 18th	Newark Park, Gloucestershire	£13.00/£5.50 (for NT members)
June 22nd	Lynton & Lynmouth	£10.50
July 20th	Athelhampton, Dorset	£20.00/£8.00 (for NT members)
August 25th	Bristol Packet Boat Trip to Bees Tea	£15.50
September 5th—9th	Holiday: Llandudno The Somerset Hotel	£225.00
September 21st	Cirencester Park	TBC
October 19th	Batsford Arboretum	£13.50
November 23rd	Worcester and Christmas Market	£8.00

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.**

Annual Lunch

at

THE BEACHCOMBER INN, BREAN

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2017

MENU

Main Course:

- 1 Traditional Roasted Topside of Devonshire Beef**
- 2 Local Roasted Somerset Turkey**
- 3 Vegetarian Nut Roast (Blend of nuts, cous cous, etc.)**

All served from their renowned carvery with a selection of freshly cooked seasonal vegetables, potatoes together with usual accompaniments.

Desserts:

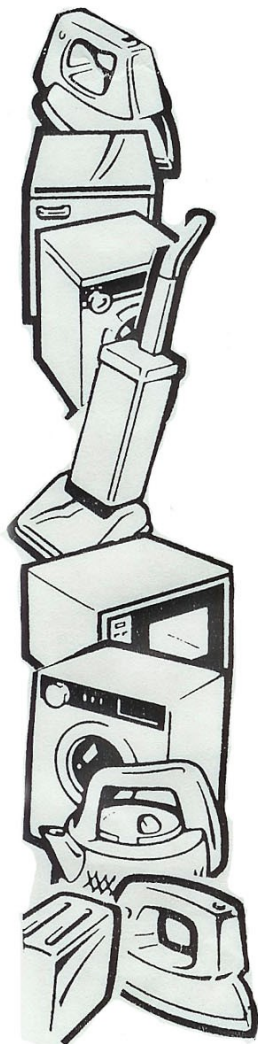
- K Apple Pie with thick Devonshire custard**
- L Fresh Fruit Salad with medley of fresh fruits serve with fresh double cream**
- M Raspberry Pavlova, on a crisp meringue base**
- N Cheese Platter, Cheddar, Stilton and Brie with biscuit selection**

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Please see over for Prices and Booking Form

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Annual Lunch

Wednesday 15th March at Beachcomber Inn Brean

12.00 noon for 12.30 p.m.

BOOKING FORM:

Price:

Members: £11.00

Guests: £14.00

Name.....

I also wish to book a lunch for.....Guest/s

My choice from Menu is:

Main Course	1	Dessert	K
	2		L
	3		M
			N

Please indicate your choice/s

Would you please complete this booking form and take it with you when you book your lunch with Fay Burston?

Fay will be accepting bookings between 18th January and 1st March

PAID..... DATE.....No.....

This page intentionally left blank

University of the Third Age

The U3A of Highbridge

The membership of a U3A, which is self-help educational and social organisation, is open to all in their third age, which is not defined by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.

Membership Application/Renewal

I wish to enrol as a member of the U3A of Highbridge. The Annual Membership Fee of £9.00 and is from 1st April until the end of March the following year, it includes a Capitalisation Fee to our national organisation, *The Third Age Trust*.

Title & Full Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone No.....

New Member.....Renewal.....Are you a fully paid up member of another U3A?

Terms and Conditions of Membership

All Members must:

1. Abide by the Aims and Guiding Principles of the U3A movement.
2. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
3. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
4. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
5. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.
6. Advise the committee of any change in your personal details.

I will comply with the terms and conditions of membership set out above

Signature of Applicant.....Date.....

Please return the completed form with your subscription of £9.00 to the Membership Secretary--- Cheques to be made payable to U3A of Highbridge

PRIVACY STATEMENT. Your personal details will be held on a secure database and will be used solely for purposes of administration and the communication of U3A matters. They will not be supplied to an outside agency or party unless you have paid to receive the 'Third Age Matters' directly mailed.

The Club produces 6 bi-monthly magazines per year free of charge; these may be collected at the weekly Coffee Morning held every Wednesday (10.00 am to 12.00 pm) at Highbridge Community Hall.

NB If a member is not able to collect the bi-monthly magazine or have it collected for them and wishes the magazine to be posted to them an extra charge of £4.00 is required to cover postage.