



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Issue 97

Nov/Dec 2017

Your Committee

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	Carole Loveridge	780060
	Fay Burston	782529
	Pat Clipstone	788128
	Barbara Croker	780260
	Bernard Martin	787230

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Chairman's Message

Hello everyone!

When Darryl asked me for this message for the November/December issue I was amazed at how quickly this year has gone. Since the last edition we have had a lovely holiday in Llandudno, and yet another cream tea which was very well attended. The Macmillan coffee morning was also successful we have many talented cooks in our group. Also one of our gentlemen surprised us with some cake's he had made; I won't mention his name as to spare his blushes but they were good.



We have the Ukelele band coming to entertain us at our coffee morning on the 6th December, with I am told some seasonal music to get us in the Christmas spirit which I hope you will enjoy.

That's all for now,
Vour



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Darryl Rees

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No Fix No Fee!

Club News

Scams & other Dodgy Schemes

(courtesy of Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter)

Beware 1471

A neighbour heard a brief ring on his phone extension, then nothing more. Curious he did a 1471 and was given a number. He called and was put on hold. Being suspicious he blogged the number on his computer and found he was on a premium rate number, he quickly cancelled. A scam and clever ploy to take your money; because if he had rung them back he would have been charged an exorbitant sum, not illegal apparently, but dodgy.

Moral -----If in doubt ----DON'T.

Rogue Traders

Be wary of cold-calling 'traders'. Genuine traders will give you a written quote that includes their address. It will also contain a 14-day cooling off period before work is started. Refer to your U3A of Highbridge Traders List for local traders, these will not cheat you, because they have their local good name to maintain, reports of bad workmanship etc. will soon spread if they fail to be straightforward.

Cashpoint Safety and Security

Two examples of recent attempts to obtain cash.

- a) A member of public spotted a miniature camera stuck where it would overlook the cashpoint key pad, he removed it and handed to the police.
- b) An illegal card reader was slotted into the card reader on the cash machine, this was also spotted because the set-up looked different. The police were called.

Always be suspicious who is near when using a cash machine!

(Recently, neighbour had £50.00 snatched from his hand before he could put it in his pocket, his wife dived into the shop and spent it before he could stop her)

Royal Mail deliveries

Be warned that if you get a card stating there is a delivery for you that could not take place. DO NOT ring the 0208 number on the card as requested, it is NOT a Royal Mail registered number. If you ring it you could be billed for £45.00 it is another of those dodgy numbers.

Lottery

It has been decided to increase the prize money up to £25.00 from now on; however we will only be using 2 charts, therefore if you want to play put your name down early to be in with a chance.

OBITUARY—Joy Daine

It is with regret we announce the death, on Monday 09th October, of JOY DAINE.

Joy felt ill the previous evening and rang her neighbour who rang for an ambulance, Joy was taken to Weston General Hospital.

Christmas Hamper

We intend to again produce a Hamper similar to last year's and are inviting all members to donate suitable items.

The draw will take place during the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 6th December; the items will therefore be required not later than Wednesday 29th November so that the hamper may be produced; plus additional baskets as last year, if a surplus of items are donated.

Group News

Away Days

To those of you wishing to go on the day trips can you please be sure to pay Vour or Carole 2 weeks prior to the date of the said trip, as of late we have had waiting lists of people wanting to go and if you haven't paid you may find someone else has been given your place.

The coach has to be paid for 2 weeks in advance, therefore Vour and Carole need your payment.

Liverpool holiday

Staying at the Mercury Atlantic Tower 4 star Hotel in a Prime City Location from the 23rd April to the 27th April for £235.00 p.p. Plus single supplement.

Price includes Coach travel from Highbridge to Liverpool and return, Half Board ensuite accommodation and Coach day trips.

At time of writing there was 1 double or twin room available. No single rooms left.

Further information see Di or Brenda.

Member Contributions Part 1

Bristol River Trip

The weather prior to our proposed river trip had been great, would it last until Friday 25th August's River Trip? Apparently, we all hoped that it would, judging by the banter as everyone took their seats on the coach at Highbridge. This was going to be a new experience, cruising on a river, with nothing to do but sit back, relax and enjoy the ride!

John, our driver, took us on a scenic route to the S.S Great Britain Dock at Bristol, and, by arriving early we were able to obtain a drink and stretch our legs whilst awaiting the sailing time. The cruise boat (Bagheera) arrived and we all went aboard this glass canopied vessel, it was ideal for the forthcoming cruise and we had a clear, uninterrupted view of the river and its environment.

When all were aboard and settled, we moved out into the Floating Harbour and the "captain" started his very informative commentary on what we were about to see, starting off with this area of Bristol.

Firstly, he told us about the Floating Harbour.

Yes! Why a Floating Harbour? This title has probably puzzled most of us.

Harbours, are, as a rule, on a coast or a river and are subject to tides, when the tide is in, they are wet, but dry or 'silted up' when the tide is out. When silted up they become unnavigable, preventing the loading and unloading of goods. This obviously reduces their viability because everything must wait until the next tide. A 'floating harbour' on the other hand, it is always 'wet' because it is fed with water from another source, in this instance the River Avon and the Feeder Canal, ensuring the water level is always constant.

It is understood that in the 18th century Liverpool became the predominant port on the west coast of the U.K.; Bristol was missing out. Some-

thing needed to do done to redress the situation, so in order to make the most of its tobacco and other industries Bristol looked for a remedy. An Act of Parliament granted Bristol permission to construct a floating harbour and work commenced in the early 1800s; the harbour officially opening in 1809.

Bristol City Council have further developed the harbour area and it has vastly improved this part of the city, it is now a hive of activity, both for business and leisure; the Harbour Festival being an annual event.

The commentary, as we made our way up river, was very useful because it is doubtful that any of us had done this trip previously, we now had the opportunity to absorb a little of the history/environment. The harbour, as always, had a lot of activity, ferries were going back and forth with their fares and leisure craft are busy preparing the day's adventures.

The S.S. Great Britain was attracting many visitors, and the Matthew, (*the replica of John Cabot's ship*) was moored further along the dock, we received waves and greetings from its visitors as we sailed past. The St Mary Redcliffe Church is the most prominent building on the city side of the river, we learnt that it is the largest parish church in the U.K., the height of its spire is the maximum allowed for any building in the city.

Apparently, a lot of the buildings in this area are involved in finance, there not being any industry this close to the city centre.

We made steady progress up river, past St Philips' Marsh, eventually reaching the junction of the River Avon and the Kennett and Avon Canal near Netham Lock. It is here where the water is diverted from the Avon into the canal, giving access to the Floating Harbour. We needed to wait a while as the lock filled to allow us to resume our cruise, journeying through wooded banks near the Eastwood Farm Nature Reserve before arriving at Beese's Riverside Bar; a haven of tranquillity where we disembarked anxious to enjoy our lunch before the return voyage.

Luckily, we were the first group to arrive so could quickly place our lunch

orders and find the best places to sit in the large garden. It is a very popular lunchtime venue; the bars and garden seating were rapidly filled. The staff did an excellent job preparing and delivery our orders, their lunches are very good value for money, plenty of variety and lots of food on your plate, perhaps excessive for some. We all re-embarked at the allotted time and sat back to enjoy the return cruise.

This, you might say, was all downhill, we arrived back at the dock far too quickly, and reluctantly boarded the coach to make our way home. Again John, (the driver), excelled, bringing us safely back to Highbridge without getting us involved in the holiday traffic, good thinking.

It had certainly been a new experience for most of us, one that a majority would like to repeat before too long.

Our day out and the cruise on the River Avon were thoroughly enjoyed, I doubt we could have had a better day, again we were blessed with good weather.

Thank you Vour and Carole.

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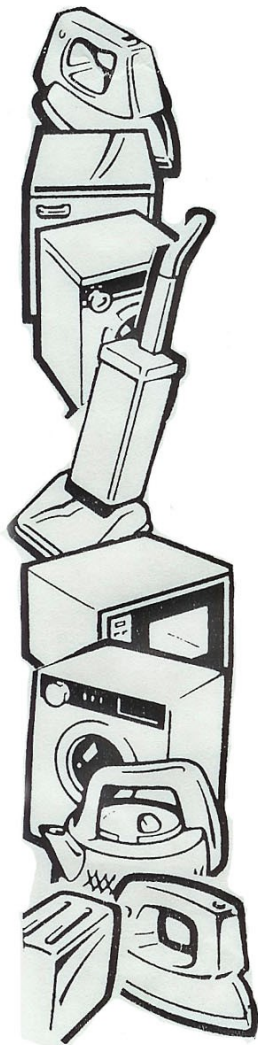
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Group Activities

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	1.45 to 3.45	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 & Rod 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 #19 Answers

ACROSS

1. DAY TRIP
5. TIME
7. ARC
8. PARASITE
9. OFTEN
10. TRUE
13. EVEN
14. INNS
18. GOLD
19. SINGE
21. CASHMERE
22. FAT
23. HIDE
24. BIPOLAR

DOWN

1. DRACONIC
2. YACHTING
3. REPENT
4. PIRATE
5. TISSUE
6. MATE
11. EVENTFUL
12. ANCESTOR
15. SOPHIE
16. ADVERB
17. ASLEEP
20. TAXI

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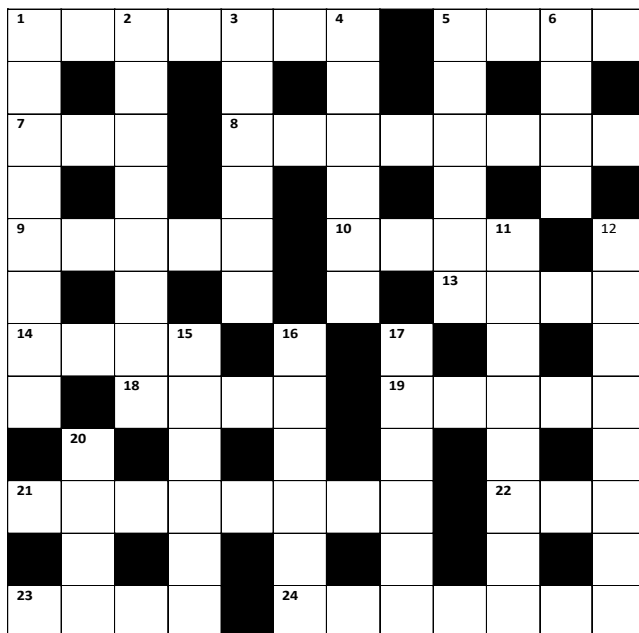
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Crossword #20



ACROSS

1. Broken Free (7)
5. Deposit (4)
7. Part of dungarees (3)
8. Musical instrument (8)
9. Extra to requirements (5)
10. Large deers (4)
13. Sign of tiredness (4)
14. Looked at warily (4)
18. Pout (4)
19. A group of soldiers (5)
21. Dead cute [anag] (8)
22. Cinder (3)
23. Belonging to a female (4)
24. Not the fastest! (7)

DOWN

1. Carved on a surface (8)
2. Begs a cab [anag] (8)
3. To spoil (6)
4. Main meal (6)
5. Weird (6)
6. Flank (4)
11. Deliberate damage (8)
12. Quick informal photograph (8)
15. Blockheads (6)
16. Moves on ice (6)
17. Artists workshop (6)
20. Hand chopping tool (4)

Solutions next issue

Member Contributions Part 2

Somerset Churches 7

St. George Parish church, Wembdon

There was a church at Wembdon by the late 13th century. In 1284 William Testard, lord of Wembdon Manor granted permission for a church to be built. Originally comprising of a north and south aisle, chancel and nave with four bays, the west tower was added during the 14th century. In the 15th century a rood screen, a loft, font and stair tower were added. In the 17th century the nave was decorated with murals. In 1868 after a fire in the church, much of the building had to be rebuilt, unfortunately someone forgot to renew the fire insurance. So significant local aid enabled the church to be rebuilt, the tower was the only part of the building to survive, the rest of the structure was rebuilt with an extension to the nave. A lovely place of worship. Nearby is the St. George Parish centre, the coffee shop is open 10am-12noon weekdays; well worth a visit.

St. Peter's church, Combwich

The church or St. Peter's at Combwich is a fairly recent building as churches go, it was built in 1870 chiefly at the expense of Susanna Lewes Jeffery, widow of Dr. John Jeffery rector of Otterhampton. The church has an unusual two storeyed south porch surmounted by an octagonal belfry with a spire which contains a peal of 5 bells. The church is not in regular use because it's in need of much restoration.

St. Mary the Virgin, Cannington

The original church in Cannington was demolished in the 15th century, parts of its Norman origins can still be seen in the church. The nave and chancel are enclosed under the lofty wagon ceiling with the original 131

painted bosses. The tower was built during the 14th century. There are 17 carved stone consecration crosses on the outside walls of the chancel, a rare sight. There's a slit in the north wall believed to be a viewing window used by the nuns of Cannington Priory. The Priory was the home to the daughters of some of Somerset's leading families. It is said that "The Fair Rosamund" (Mistress of King Henry ii) was born or educated there. An inquiry in 1328 looked into the illicit wanderings of the monks and nuns! In the 14th Century there was evidence of corruption in the Priory. In 1536 the Nunnery was dissolved.

Lunch was to be taken at the Quantock Gateway Pub unfortunately it was not to be, we were turned away because of a gas leak.

Bernard Martin

Autumn Strolling

I missed the walk on 8th September but I am told that as most people were on the holiday and the weather was extremely wet it was cancelled.

On the 22nd we travelled to Maunsel Lock at North Newton. It was bright and fresh and being the day of the equinox was the first true autumn walk. The stroll took us toward Taunton from the Lock along the path of the planets; Mars, Earth, Venus and Mercury to the Sun on the next road bridge which was as far as I ventured. The rest of the group being fitter and more energetic continued on along the path, though I doubt that they reached Taunton! Please note, no claims were made in that respect. I returned to the café, admiring the crop of blackberries along the way and enjoying the lovely weather. Later Mary and Bernard returned to join Ken and I at the cafe and the main phalanx came back later still. The traffic was horrendous for our return journey so we split up at this point.

Friday the 13th and there had been an early morning storm. We needed somewhere firm under foot so headed for Cheddar Reservoir. The day was very mild but overcast with light cloud and we set off on a clockwise circuit. The lake was higher than we have seen it at times but still not



brimming. Workmen were pointing the joints in the steps and further on a new access to the Strawberry Line had been constructed. This latter



was in connection with a new water supply pipe being installed. There seemed to be more dogs than ever, people with two or even three each sometimes. Neither the

dogs nor their owners could read the notice as a ball was being thrown into the water for the dogs to retrieve! After about half a mile three of us with creaky joints turned back, the others continued on and completed the circuit.

Lunch was taken at Ollies.

Paula Cook

Llandudno Holiday

*Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor,
Without any fuss, we got on a bus, and set off to look at the scen-
ery,
There were castles at Conway, Beaumaris, Caernarvon too
(With apologies to Fiddler's Elbow)*

Someone ----Have a go and finish the verse!

Our holiday at the Somerset Hotel was thoroughly enjoyed by us all, everything was great, the food, staff and weather.

The hotel was positioned near the centre of the a very impressive and open promenade, the whole town, the seafront, and the hotel, were very clean and looked as if they had been recently painted and done up ready for us. Of the seaside resorts we have so far visited, I, personally, believe Llandudno, has some of the best all round facilities.

It has a shopping centre of the type shopaholics usually die for, an 'old-fashioned' type of high street with helpful and well-mannered staff, not something we are used to these days. The unusual attractions included an "Alice in Wonderland Trail", it is understood two members did tour the town and saw ALL the statues of the characters, and photographed them to prove it. Another very popular destination was The Great Orme, to reach the top involved climbing a steep hill; if you are not young and agile, that included most of us, you could use a tram, we did. Upon reaching the top you could be sustained at the café before returning by tram to the town, some members were, however, 'brave' and ventured down the old mine from where copper was extracted (from about 2,500 years ago, until the 19th century). An alternative mode of transport up the Orme was by a Cable Car, but due to it being breezy most days, it did not run.

The weather throughout the holiday was good, breezy, there was the odd shower but the rain held off until we were coming back down the

M6. We arrived back in Highbridge at a reasonable time (mid-afternoon) and went home to unwind and unpack.

Thanks Di and Brenda, another success story, a change from the south coast holidays and thoroughly enjoyed.

'West Country Grockle on tour'



Photos from Llandudno holiday supplied by Sue Bloska (photo 1) and Sybil Tilley (photos 2,3 & 4).

Comment from Sue Bloska re photo 1:

"There were cars driving down the road watching us and laughing. We shouldn't be let loose!"





Away Days

Most of you will know by now that our usual Coach company Coombs has ceased to do business. It is sad because we were very fortunate with our drivers, especially Martin. However I have acquired Berrys to take us on our trip to Worcester next month. Carole and I will be shopping around in the meantime to find another firm to take us on our trips next year.

Our visit to **Worcester Christmas Market** on November 23rd. The Christmas Market is very popular with lots of stalls and the stall holders usually dress in Victorian costume. There are lots of places to eat and drink should you wish. The Cathedral is well worth a visit and there is a nice walk along the riverside if you want to get away from the shops.

Sadly we have to raise the cost of this trip to £9.50 from £8.00 due to the fact that Berrys are more expensive to hire.

The **Shepton Mallet Prison** visit seems to be very popular and we have full capacity for the coach, however when we find a new company they may have larger vehicles, then we can take more, so if you are interested in going please let us know and we will put you on the list.

Monthly Draw

September 2nd 2017	No. 8	Brenda Hooper, Ann Cross & Paddy Shinn
September 30th 2017	No. 20	Julie Watson & Veronica Hawkins

Each received £20.00

Joke Corner

Question-----Why did the scarecrow get promoted?

Answer-----Because he stood out in his field.



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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2017		
November 23rd	Worcester and Christmas Market	£9.50
December 6th ** NEW **	Christmas Hamper Draw	N/A
2018		
February 5th— 9th	Holiday: Eastbourne Claremont Hotel	From £120.00
February 22nd	Shepton Mallet Prison Visit	£TBC
April 23rd— April 27th ** NEW **	Holiday: Liverpool Mercury Atlantic Tower Hotel	From £235.00
September 11th—15th	Holiday: Bournemouth Bournemouth Sands Hotel	From £215.00

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.