



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



# U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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

Issue 109

Nov/Dec 2019

## **Your Committee**

<u><b>Position</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Tel</b></u>
Chairman	Rod Downing	01278 256895
Vice-Chairman	Vour Orchard	01278 788984
Secretary	Audrey Downing	01278 256895
Treasurer	Alison Joyce	01278 784633
Membership Secretary	Barry Ede	07779 793463
Group & Events Co-ordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Assistant Membership Secretary	Neil Scott	01278 428422
Assistant Treasurer	Diane Scott	01278 428422
Charity Commission Co-ordinator	Carole Loveridge	01278 780060
Committee Member	Bernard Martin	01278 787230

## **Other non-committee roles**

Webmaster	Darryl Knight-Rees	07973 512709
North Somerset Association Representative	Paula Cook	01278 789960
Welfare and Greeting New Members	Fay Burston	01278 782529
Magazine Editors:	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees ( <b>phone: 07973 512709, email: <a href="mailto:darrylinda@knight-rees.com">darrylinda@knight-rees.com</a></b> )	
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Distribution:	Ann Smith (West Huntspill), Fay Burston, Mary Akers, Chris Winter, Oliver Cox, Thelma Tripp, Marion Wright and all who give a hand!	
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## Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone.

Whether we like it or not we are heading towards Winter and the festive season. It is time to sort out your hats and woolly gloves or, if you are lucky, book a break to somewhere sunny and warm.



It is nice to see one of our newer members' enthusiasm for starting a new group. Alison Ridley has agreed to start a crocheting group. If you would like to join her, you can find details later in the magazine and also on the U3A of Highbridge website.

The McMillan coffee morning was once more a great success, thank you and well done to everyone for all your hard work.

I must thank our Holiday Group organisers for ordering the nice weather and excellent hotel on the Isle of Wight. I am sure all those who went on the holiday will agree we had a brilliant time. Bring on April 2020 and Torquay.

Our next event is the annual sale of work to be held on 20th November.

There will be a slight change in the format this year whereby members who are not in one of our arts and crafts groups are welcome to bring their work along to sell. One to look forward to!

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an excellent 2020. Rod



**From your Committee**

## **Club News**

### **Defibrillator**

It has been proposed by one of our committee members that it would be a good idea to purchase and install a Defibrillator in the Community Hall for our members.

However the question arises regarding other hall users having access to it. We cannot donate it to the hall as the hall has charity status and as we also have charity status are not allowed to do this. Therefore we would like to have your opinions on the subject please. Can we in all consciousness refuse someone using the hall the use of it if it could save a life?

### **Local Traders Directory**

Once a year we insert of page of recommended local traders into the magazine. If you have anyone you would particularly like to recommend to other U3A members, please send their details to our secretary Audrey. Please first make sure that you have the trader's permission to include them.

### **Interested in joining a new Crocheting Group?**

We are hoping to start a new crocheting group. Alison Ridley has kindly volunteered to become group leader and would like to know if anyone would be interested in joining her. The group would be for all levels from beginners to anyone who has crocheted before. Please contact Alison for more details on 07707 146775 or email [alisonridley5000@gmail.com](mailto:alisonridley5000@gmail.com)

# **U3A of Highbridge**

## ***Christmas Sale of Work***

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**Highbridge Community Hall**  
**10.00am until 12.00pm**

**Art - Jewellery Crochet - Patchwork**  
**Many Items for Christmas**

**Come along and see the work of the members  
of the U3A of Highbridge and perhaps  
find yourself a bargain for Christmas.**

**Refreshments - Tea/Coffee Cake**

**Everyone Welcome**

If you have an interest ie. Craft – Art etc. that you pursue at home but are not in any of the groups and would like a table to sell your items please get in touch with Pearl.



## **Macmillan Coffee Morning 2019**

Thank you all very much for your wonderful support one again at our coffee morning, we raised an amazing £530.60.

Thanks to all of you who manned a stall, made the coffee and cakes and generally worked hard to make a success of the morning.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to be there myself but thank you to Janet and Sally for making sure it all ran smoothly.

Regards Pearl.x

## **Evening Social**

Vour is proposing to hold a sixties night on the 14th December at the Community Hall with a bring and share supper. She is still awaiting confirmation from the DJ but if all is well, the cost will be £7.00 per person. More details to follow on the web site and also at the coffee mornings when we have them.



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## **Members Contributions**

### **Isle of Wight Holiday**

The holiday started well with a very smooth journey down to Portsmouth with our driver Craig. We passed the old dock yard and Craig pointed out an old sailing ship called The Warrior which looked well worth a future visit.



We embarked on the smart new ferry taking in a view of the beautiful spinnaker as we left port.

Sitting in the panoramic lounge we had excellent views of the Solent. It was fascinating to see many historic buildings and wonder what they are used for today. Also it was exciting to watch the busy shipping, from large cargo ships and ferries to small sailing craft. The journey was over too quickly.

When we arrived at the hotel we were made very welcome and our cases were taken to our rooms. So nice not to have to carry them ourselves! Next thing was dinner - delicious, as were all the meals. The menu could not be faulted and the same could be said for the staff. The service was excellent.

The next day we decided to walk along the cliff path to Sandown. It was so warm that I think we all got a bit of a tan. We stopped for a cup of tea and a buttered tea cake and then walked back along the esplanade to Shanklin. A good try out for Rod's new hip. As we got back towards the hotel we could hear the sound of music and made our way to the local park where a concert was in full swing. What more could you want – sunshine, seaside and a brass band, a perfect English Sunday afternoon.





In the evenings we all looked forward to the quiz and bingo which turned out really well. Denise, Chris and team won the quiz three times (we did manage to tie with them once) and added to their stock of fudge. Then even more exciting, Diane won the bingo on Monday evening! The entertainment was really good most of the time and some of us even managed a bit of a boogie to some of our old favourites.

On Monday the weather was sunny again and we decided to have a walk along the cliffs the other way to Ventnor. So pleased we did, as it was a beautiful walk. After a cup of coffee and a snack we had a look around the town and then caught a bus back to Shanklin.



Tuesday was the day we had chosen to have a Daish's tour to Alum Bay (The Needles), Yarmouth and Godshill. Probably a good choice for a bus





trip as the weather wasn't so good. Craig was our tour guide and we learnt many interesting facts about the Isle of Wight including how second hand cars from the Island are sought after because of their low mileage, the cheaper price of petrol

and the value of alpaca poo. Places of local interest included the new Asda just outside of Newport and a large carved wooden red squirrel. Good news is that the grey squirrels have not made it to the Isle of Wight and there are still red squirrels to be seen.

At a small village called Shellfleet there are some traffic lights with sensors which operate when some rare ducks cross the road. We looked for the ducks but couldn't see any but you might expect that as they are very rare. 😊😊

Wednesday morning came too soon and we were on our way home. We had a brilliant holiday and many thanks to Chris, Diane and Denise for making everything run so smooth.

We must also take this opportunity to mention Chris Owen's many roles, one of which is Tour Medic. Like most surgeries these days, it was hard



to get an appointment but one of our group did manage to be treated on Tuesday morning which we know was very much appreciated. Thank you Dr Owen. 😊

We think we speak for all of the holiday group when we say that we are looking forward to the next holiday in Torquay - expecting the same weather of course! Audrey & Rod Downing

## Monthly Draw

August 31st 2019	No. 15	Rod Downing and Janet Pred- dy
September 28th 2019	No. 26	Nita Brown and Janet Sum- mers
October 26th 2019	No. 32	Sallie Park and Mike Parker

Each received £25.00

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## Group Activities

### Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Stan Vousden-White	781567
4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	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.	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 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

**EVERY WEDNESDAY: 10.00 to 12.00 COFFEE MORNING**

### Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	1.45 to 3.45	Art	S.H.	Ann Lismore	787607
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Table Tennis	C.H.	John Ellis	685483

## 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
3 <sup>rd</sup>	09.30 to ??.	Walking	Varies	Audrey & Rod Downing	256895
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 to ??.	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	238526
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 to ??.	Somerset Churches	Varies	Bernard Martin	787230

### Occasional

Weekdays	Activity	Contact	Tel
Wednesdays	Luncheons	Gloria Brown	785359
Thursdays	Away Days	Vour Orchard Carole Loveridge	788984 780060
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen Diane Scott	784500 428422

Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

### Legends

S.H. .... Southwell House	C.H. .... Community Hall
P.H. .... Private House	G.H. .... Gospell Hall
L.I. .... Lighthouse Inn	

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

## **More Members Contributions**

### **Strollers—Early Autumn**

Well it's autumn again, how the years slip by. It was a beautiful balmy day following overnight rain and we headed for Wayacre Drove, parked by the sewerage works, we go to all the best places, and set off along the Cycle Route 33. I know that doesn't have quite the impact of Route 66 but this is Somerset not the USA! The track led us through fields of maze, which we observed was taller than some of our more petite walkers, with its husks filling out for harvest. It is quite a short walk, just under 2 miles return, to Diamond Farm caravan park, which was full but with very few people about. Although the tide was ebbing there was still enough water in the channel to enhance the view and Weston, Uphill and Brean were all crystal clear. The channel up-stream of the sluice was full, holding the water for agricultural use and to keep ground water levels stable. The two sluices, Brean Cross and Bleadon, enable quite sophisticated management of different levels and reduce salt water ingress. We took lunch at The Hobbs Boat where we were made very welcome.

Unfortunately (for me) due to inclement weather and other commitments this is the only stroll I have managed this time. Paula.





## Hummingbird Mosaic

Ros Thomson from the Mosaics Group created a mosaic of a hummingbird for a school. A photo of the mosaic is shown below.





## **Away Day Report—Bennetts Water Gardens**

Following on from all the rain we had on the Tuesday & Wednesday, I was beginning to wonder why we were bothering to go all the way down to Weymouth the following day, just to visit Bennetts Water Gardens, when all I needed to do was to sit in the conservatory and look out of the window at all in the water in our garden!

However, the following day, the early morning sun was full of eastern promise and by the end of our day, the only rain we experienced, came hammering against the coach windows during our return journey. How Your gets to organise such favourable weather for our 'Away Days' is way beyond me!

Bennetts Water Gardens houses a national plant collection of water lilies which are scattered across six ponds. On our arrival there, we were starting to wonder if we would even get to see any of them, as our welcoming statement from their receptionist was "We were expecting you yesterday!" They had laid on extra staff and food for the restaurant, both of which had been reduced on the day we arrived, as we were obviously not expected.

Thankfully it all turned out right in the end, it was their mistake, so they brought in extra staff to cater for us, and so we began our visit.

The ponds cover an area of eight acres with a Monet style Japanese bridge as the centrepiece and with over 140 different varieties of lilies, there are, in the middle of summer, tens-of-thousands of flowers. The bridge was commissioned here in 1999 to commemorate 100 years since Monet's painting 'Water Lilly Pond 1899'

Many of the original water lilies planted here by the Bennett family in 1959 came from the same nursery in France that supplied Monet's garden in Giverny.

We ambled around each pond prior to having lunch, which, despite their stated earlier problems, was exceptionally tasty and quick to exit the kitchen.

Feeling a bit 'stuffed' (like the heron – which I nicknamed Gordon by the way . . . . (Gordon Bennett?? . . . . oh never mind!!)



Gordon

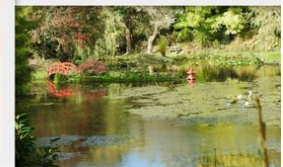
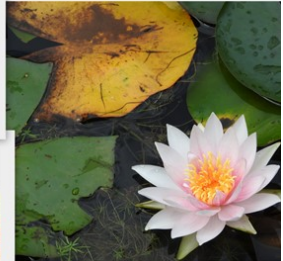
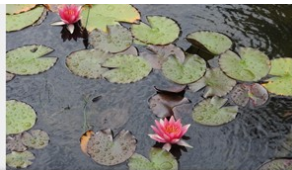
After lunch we then embarked upon a second trip round the ponds in the warm sunshine. Then into the museum to learn about the history of the site from the Brickwork & Clay pits of 1859 right through to the gardens of today.

Those that went enjoyed a lovely relaxing day, it was different, it was unusual but none the less' an interesting day out. "Thank you Vour for ar-ranging the trip".

It was then time to say our 'Goodbye's' so from all of us . . .



"Bye bye everybody"



## **Somerset Churches 15**

Too many motorists travelling along the A38 between Shute Shelve and East Brent it must appear that Biddisham is an over-sized nameplate for a cluster of swiftly passed houses. It would not occur to them (as it did with our group) that it is a village with a very long history of many hundreds of years. To find the church of St. John the Baptist it is necessary to turn left into Biddisham Lane (which is a dead end road) to glimpse at among a cluster of trees, a churchyard scene repeated hundreds of times throughout our country, the ancient church, the churchyard cross and the giant yew tree. The church has stood on the present site for nearly 800 years. The tower has a peal of 4 bells, all over 300 years old, and for some reason the lower half of the tower is leaning but the top half which has been restored, is vertical. Much restoration has been done inside and outside the building in Victorian times. The church has a Norman font, a carved Jacobean pulpit somewhat similar to that at Weare, and on one wall is a scratch dial, survival of time keeping before there were clocks. Well worth a visit to the church know one knew was there.

A few miles up the road from Biddisham is the church of St. Gregory in Weare, it's one of 6 churches which comprise the Parish of Crook Peak. The present church was built in the Perpendicular style at the time Henry VII was king, but there would have been previous buildings on the site. It has a fine 15th century tower with pinnacles and parapet, the belfry contains 6 fine-toned bells. The splendid front door with 1755 on its latch, opens on to old oak pews with shapely ends. The chancery paving, rails and carved stalls representing the life of Gregory the Great were given to the church in 1901 by the Luttrell family who lived in Badgworth Court. The beautiful carved stalls were the work of 2 Pinwill sisters, who

had a woodcarving studio in Devon. Also not many of us know that the comedian Frankie Howerd and his partner Dennis Heymer are both buried in the churchyard.

Our final visit was to the church of St. Mary the Virgin in Christon. This small and simple example of Norman architecture has stood here for 900 hundred years. The church has a three bay nave with a south facing porch and chancel, the short two-stage tower is central and contains 2 bells one dated 1638, the other one is considerably earlier and bears the inscription *ING. NAZARENVS REX IUDEORUM* (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). There are 3 stain glass windows from Joseph Bell studio Bristol, the west window of the nave depicts Faith, Hope and Charity as shown by the emblems held by the figures. In the opposite north wall is a post-war memorial window depicting sergeant Durrant, a bomber navigator who was killed in a raid on the Kiel canal. He is shown in full kit with a map of the German port below. In the east window is a memorial to the Reverend Sepitmas Pope dated 1878. In the south wall there is a window of Medieval Somerset glass. The eagle and book depicted there, is the emblem of St. John the Baptist. The picture below is Keith and Paula enjoying the sun at Christon.





## **Group News**

### **Calligraphy Group Change**

Déjà vu day Yes, we have been here before, please would the members who are interested in Calligraphy note that the Group is returning to Southwell House for its classes.

The circumstances that have prompted the return are due to that time-honoured reason---'S---s Law'

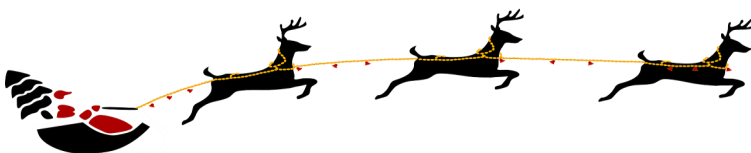
In your last issue of this magazine you were informed that the Calligraphy Group would be changing its meeting place to the home of a member. Well, it did, and everything was fine, a jolly, friendly gathering, that enjoyed doing calligraphy and exchanging gossip. We all fitted in nicely, plenty of room to do calligraphy.

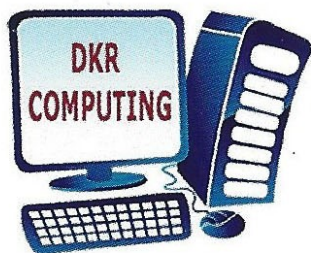
But, there is usually a but, calligraphy started to become popular, the class size, that was shrinking, started to grow, and the lounge is now no longer big enough to accommodate a full compliment comfortably. So, the decision was made to go back to Southwell House, we will 'play it by ear' as they say and see how things pan out.

Meeting times and all other details remain unaltered.

Meetings re-start at Southwell House on Monday 14th October at 10.00 a.m.

Still ring 01278 782529 if interested.





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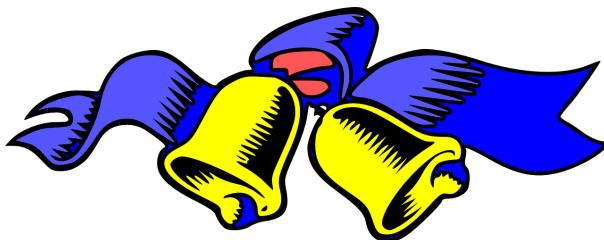
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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2019</b>		
November 20th	Christmas Sale of Work	Free entry
November 28th	Bath Christmas Markets	£10.00
December 14th	Sixties Night Social Evening (TBC)	£7.00
<b>2020</b>		
April 20th to April 24th	Holiday: Torquay	From £189



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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.