



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Issue 110

Jan/Feb 2020

Your Committee

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Assistant Treasurer	Diane Scott	01278 428422
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Committee Member	Bernard Martin	01278 787230

Other non-committee roles

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North Somerset Association Representative	Paula Cook	01278 789960
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Next Deadline:	<u>Monday February 24th 2020</u>	

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Chairman's Message

By the time you read this we will well into the new year hopefully the days will be lighter and warmer.

On a personal level I am looking forward to our next U3A holiday in Torquay in April as we always have a very enjoyable time.

Ann Smith has decided to step down from the role of magazine co-ordinator and I would like to thank her on behalf of the committee for all the hard work she has put in over the years. We really appreciate it. Thankfully, Bernie Martin has volunteered to take on the role.

Our next main event is the annual lunch in March at the Beachcomber which I am sure we are all looking forward to after the dismal winter.

Plans are also being made to celebrate our 20th birthday party on 22nd July 2020. So put the date in your diary.

Thank you as well to Vour and her team of helpers for a very enjoyable social evening on 14th December. It was a great night with lots of lovely food and the disco was so good most of the guests were up and boogying.

We are always looking for new group leaders so if you would like to attend a group that we don't already have, how about starting one? The committee will give you all the help and support we can, just have a chat to any one of us.



Rod

Club News

Happy Birthday

Did anyone remember ? It was this U3A's Birthday last November?

Yes, it was 20 years old. Not a lot of people knew that!

It's a bit like the Queen, our birth was in November 1999, but we had our official birthday in July 2000, this when it was officially recorded by The Third Age Trust.

So, in July (22nd) you lucky people can have a Birthday Party!

Claremont Hotel, Eastbourne

More sad news: -

Regrettably we won't be staying at Daish's 'Claremont Hotel' in Eastbourne for a while will we. A lovely hotel, right on the sea front, opposite the pier, handy for the shops and buses, it could not have been better placed.

Now gone up in flames. No-one was injured, thankfully and luckily, but they will have lost all their luggage, a few insurance claims there.

Table Tennis Group Vacancies

The Table Tennis Group have some vacancies for new members. If you are interested in playing, please contact John Ellis on 01278 685483.

Membership Renewal

To all Members,

It will soon be that time of year again to renew your membership to Highbridge U3A.

Look out for your application form in the next issue of our magazine (you will find this on the back cover of the March / April issue).

Points to remember when filling out your application form:-

- Please write clearly, especially when giving your email address
- Remember that the cost has now risen to £10 per member (£6.50 for those of you who are members of another U3A branch.) This was voted on and agreed at our AGM in March 2019
- Please also remember to tick the front page (where indicated), agreeing that we can use the information you provide us.
- Your subscription MUST be accompanied by a signed application form.
- Please ensure you are a fully paid up member by the end of April – ‘Thank you’

Barry (Membership Secretary)

Neighbourhood Policing Visit

Ryan Coleman from the Neighbourhood Policing Team will be attending our coffee morning on 5th February from around 10.30 am. He will be chatting to members and answering questions. Please have a think if there are any questions you would like to ask him on the day.

U3A Member in this Year's Carnival

I feel it is good to give credit where credit is due: So.....

Did you see where member Lorita Gainford made and wore a coat made up of 'knitted woollen poppies' and joined the carnival that paraded through Burnham in November.

Lorita collects funds for the "Help for Hounds" charity.

She was accompanied by her friend Jessie Maddox.

Well done both of you, very commendable.

Group News

Holiday Group

Happy New Year to everyone. Well, Christmas is over, we have all but forgotten the Isle of Wight (thank you to Audrey for the fantastic write up) and are now looking forward to our next holiday to Torquay from 20th to 24th April.

I need everyone's payment of the balance of the amount by, at the very least, the 12th of February, please. If you can't get to Wednesday coffee mornings please contact me on 01278 784500 to make other arrangements.

If anyone intends inviting a guest to join them for a meal at the hotel would they please, out of courtesy, inform me – this is especially important if seating plans have been agreed with the hotel/restaurant.

The destination and date for the autumn holiday will be in the next magazine.

Here's to Torquay!

Christine & the Holiday team

Calligraphy Group Change

Would those members who may be interested please note:

The Calligraphy Group classes, will, from Monday 13th January 2020, be held at the home of a member. Regrettably, this has become necessary because the increase in membership of this class was not maintained. We did gain extra interest but, unfortunately, this could not be guaranteed.

So, our return to Southwell House was short-lived, sorry, but when the fees paid by the attendees is not enough to, regularly, pay the rent, you must make alternative arrangements. (This is a very common complaint lately).

We will carry on with the class, its members enjoy their fortnightly sessions, frequently putting the world to rights, (without much success), but never mind.

Classes are from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month. Ring 01278/782529 if you wish to join us.

Members Contributions

Strollers — Early winter

Following a week of uncertain and very wet weather we headed for Pawlett to do a road walk as that way we were sure of our footing. Leaving the sports hall car park we turned right and headed up the hill. On reaching the top, or there about, we were rewarded by the most glorious view of Burnham beach, all seven miles of it, right along to Brean Down and Uphill and across to Steep Holm and Wales. The air was crystal clear as it often is after rain and we stood in wonder to take in the sight. Continuing downhill towards Stretcholt, and turning right away from the sea wall, where a bitter north wind caught us, we passed the balloon hanger and peered into several “produce for sale” boxes but with no luck, were grieved to see the most beautiful apples in a small orchard being left un-gathered with many lying on the ground. The only person we saw was a very jolly man cutting his hedge. Turning right again to climb Chapel Road, blessedly out of the wind, there was plenty to see and admire, though unfortunately the Chapel was locked, another right turn saw us complete our circle, about two and a half miles, still in beautiful sunshine. A lovely uplifting walk followed by a good lunch at the Pimpernel.

Despite the fact that it had rained all night we decided that, as the sky was brightening with a few small breaks and the rain was light, we would chance it. After all November is an unpredictable month and, as Denise pointed out, skin is waterproof. We tried a new road walk which was not all that successful. Parked in the layby at Watchfield and set off toggled up with various waterproofs and umbrellas. We lost one member, Bernie, to Riche’s almost immediately as he felt a coffee was more sense. The pavement only went a short way leaving about a quarter of a mile along the road before we could turn off into a quiet back lane. Two of

our group did not want to walk on the road as they felt the puddles would put us too far out in the traffic and went back to join the coffee drinker. Around the point of no return the skies opened, hoods and umbrellas were deployed and we marched on. We arrived at a junction where we could extend the trip for a further mile or leg it back to the cars, the latter option was taken. At this time four of us went home to get dry and the others, together with the coffee drinkers went to Ollies.

Well December kept to the pattern and although not wet our strolling day was blowing a gale. I was firmly anchored but the smaller lighter ones amongst us were in danger of being blown over. We were discussing somewhere sheltered to stroll when it started to spit with rain, decision made – off to Sanders! It would be easy to spend a fortune on all the beautiful, glittery things, not to mention real Christmas trees and plants, but we wandered around just looking and a first for me, I didn't buy anything despite thinking how nice a pair of Skimmia with the bright red berries (£40 a pop) would look by the front door. We then walked the 500 yards down to Ollies. While we were waiting for our lunch Ann, a Brent Knoll girl and fully aware of the hill's mystical properties, saw an alien space ship hovering there. Close Encounters of the Third Kind were expected. Bernie thought it was a vapour trail from a 'plane that couldn't find Bristol airport. Great imagination Ann and Bernie, shame it was only a reflection of the light in the restaurant, still you gave us all a laugh!



Paula

Bodenham Arboretum

By the time anyone gets to read this, Christmas and New Year will have been and gone, and we will be well into 2020.

However, those of us that ventured out on our trip to the arboretum in October will remember what a great day out we had, along with the beautiful weather that we were lucky to have, following the rain we experienced on our journey up to Kidderminster.

Having arrived just before lunch, we started our tour in the restaurant with a wonderful carvery, a choice of four meats from their own farm along with some delicious vegetables.

Then we 'walked it off' in this internationally recognised arboretum which includes over 3000 species of trees and shrubs around several miles of paths and woodland walks.

A large lake sits in the middle of the area where, after a couple of hours we sat on the lakeside to enjoy a refreshing cup of tea in the glorious sunshine.



It was a brilliant day out and despite the lack of numbers, all those that went enjoyed it to the full.

Thank you Vour! I know I say this every time, but it is well meant! Keep up the good work for us all in 2020.



Now who does that remind you of in the bottom right hand corner
any ideas anyone?!!answers on a postcard please!

Monthly Draw

November 23rd 2019	No. 31	Betty Andrews and Gillian Cadwallender
December 21st 2019	No. 26	Brenda Howe and Janet Sum- mers

Each received £25.00

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meaning to fix but cannot get around to doing!**

Please feel free to contact: ---- F. J. Hales

Home: - 01278 788247 - - - Mobile: - 07939.664538

For friendly, no obligation advice/estimate.

Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 nd & 4 th	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Stan Vousden-White Sybil Tilley	781567 787054
4 th	2.00 to 4.00	Beading	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to 11.30	Calligraphy	P.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
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning	C.H.	N/A	N/A
3 rd	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

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 st & 3 rd	11.30 to 1.00	Skittles	L.I.	Philip Buoy	783647
3 rd	09.30 to ??.	Walking	Varies	Audrey & Rod Downing	256895
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to ??.	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	238526
5 th	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	

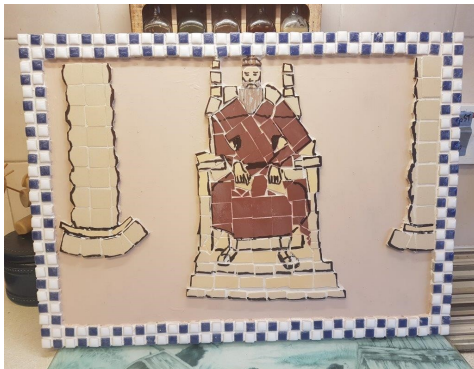
Should you wish to join a Group please first contact its Leader.

More Members Contributions

Mosaics for Kingsmoor School

Ros Thomson has been working with the Key Stage 3 children (years 3,4,5 and 6) at Kingsmoor School, Bawdrip for their project on the Romans.

We made a set of mosaics to illustrate the story of Romulus and Remus. All the children were involved and they really enjoyed seeing the pictures take shape. It is hoped that the pictures will be mounted in the main corridor.





Strollers Christmas Lunch

Keith had again organised our lunch this year and had done a splendid job. The date clashed with a pre-organised walk with the other group which was unfortunate and made our numbers less than other years. As on previous attempts at a walk this autumn the weather was uncertain, so we went to the Princess coffee lounge before travelling on to The Hobb's Boat where they did us proud. A room had been set aside for us (they know how noisy we can be), tables laid, lovely brown paper crackers with a wooded gift inside and the delicious food was sensibly brought through on a large tray so we were served quickly for each course. There was much laughter and many funny stories told. For the first time this year I felt like it was Christmas!



It was also Brenda's birthday and somehow Father Christmas had heard of this and made time in his busy schedule to come and present her with a beautiful cake, then lead us in the Happy Birthday song!





Churches 16

The church of St. John the Evangelist Highbridge

In 1855 it was thought that Highbridge would become a commercial centre for Mid-Somerset, and for the staple trade of the district that it must develop in importance and population. Highbridge had no church and was too far from Burnham to admit of the mother church being available, or (looking to the future), supplying adequate accommodation for the residents of the town. Reasons such as these induced Mary Ann Ruscombe Poole to offer to build a church and a parsonage here, for a new Ecclesiastical District soon to become a separate parish.

The Founder laid the foundation stone on October 29th 1856. The Bishop of the Diocese (Lord Auckland) performed the religious ceremony; a large body of clergy and laity were present, and subsequently a public luncheon was held at the "Railway Hotel".

By the end of 1858 the church together with the parsonage was completed at a cost of £4,840. The church was built in the early English style consisting of a tower and a octagonal spire containing 5 bells. Ominous cracks began to appear in the fabric and was soon apparent that the steeple was leaning outwards and the whole structure was sinking and being dragged with it. The steeple had to be removed in 1911—much

renovation was done in that year and on later occasions, to make the building safe.

St. Mary's church, Berrow

The sand blows from the beach over the churchyard wall, for its medieval church lies nearly in the Bristol Channel. The richly carved head of the old cross has been brought indoors for protection, but it's too late; the little figures worn by sea and mists, sun, and rain are fading away. So are the gargoyles, and the two old figures lying near the porch. The old wooden door still swings on its hinges as it has swung open for seven generations of Berrow folk, and in the niche of the wall are two small stone figures, battered and broken, with their hands clasped in prayer.

The present church was built around 1280 of carboniferous limestone from the nearby Mendip Hills with the softer Ham Stone being used for carvings. The main font is fourteenth century. In the chancel is a second which is a century earlier; it was discovered in 1926 buried in the churchyard.

The tower built in the fifteenth century contains a peal of six bells dating from 1688. The Royal Coat of Arms on the south side of the west wall dates from the Reign of Charles I. The date 1663 was presumably added when his son, Charles II came to the throne. Painted on six wooden panels, this must have been hidden away when Oliver Cromwell ruled.

The twentieth century too has seen Berrow church further beautified. In the north wall is a fine 1914-1918 war memorial based on the hymn 'Lord of our life and God of our Salvation'.

Another fine window in the tower vestry, designed in 1970 depicts a ship, an early Christian symbol for the church driven by the wind of the Holy Spirit through time. The window is illuminated by the wonderful sunsets over the sea at Berrow, and throws colour into the body of the

church.

St. Mary's is a church with a tradition of living faithful worship, well worth a visit.

St. Bridget's church, Brean

Brean church has a long and fascinating story. This small and simple building shows that that the village was neither populous nor wealthy. The Village has seen many disasters. In 1607 the sea broke through the sea-wall and many were drowned, and even in 1801 there were only eight houses and forty people in Brean.

The church was probably founded by Irish monks in the sixth century. The seafaring Celts liked to build their churches close to the sea. The church is dedicated to St. Bridget, who was an abbess of a monastery and nunnery in Kildare in Central Ireland.

The present building dates from the thirteenth century, and for 700 years has withstood the pounding of the Atlantic gales. In 1729 lightning struck the tower, and it was shortened and reroofed with a saddle-back roof. The tower contains three pre-Reformation bells dating from about 1500; they were cast by Bilbie's of Chew Stoke nr. Bristol. They contain the inscriptions "Sancta micali" (Saint Michael), "Deus Sancta Virgo Maria" (God out of the Virgin Mary), and "Sancta Dionisi Ora Pro Nobis" (Saint Denis Pray For Us). The second bell and the treble bell were cast by The Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London in 1880 and 2000.

The interior has a delightful cradle beam roof with angels supporting the side beams. In the chancel itself is an ancient Piscina in the form of a shamrock, perhaps because of the dedication of the church to the Irish saint, Bridget.

Bernie

Sale of Work — November 20th 2019

A really buzzy morning at our recent Sale of Work. I think everyone will agree it was really enjoyable with lots of chat. A big thank you to all the stallholders and cake makers for making it such a success!





Kingfisher Mosaic by Ros Thomson

First off an apology—in the last magazine we described the mosaic created by Ros Thomson as a Hummingbird. It is of course a Kingfisher.

Ros has asked us to publish the information below in this magazine relating to the mosaic:

“I made the mosaic of a Kingfisher for my daughter’s school (Kingsmoor at Bawdrip where she is a teacher) as it is their school logo, which they use on uniforms, books, bags etc.”





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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2020		
February 5th	Visit by Ryan Coleman from the Neighbourhood Policing Team at 10.30	Free
April 20th to April 24th	Holiday: Torquay	From £189
July 22nd	U3A of Highbridge Birthday Celebrations	Free

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 11TH MARCH 2020

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 Alabama Chocolate fudge cake

N Cheese Platter, Cheddar, Stilton and Brie with biscuit selection

Coffee & after dinner mints

Please see over for Prices and Booking Form

Annual Lunch

Wednesday 11th March 2020 at Beachcomber Inn Brean

12.00 noon for 12.30 p.m.

BOOKING FORM:

Prices:

Members: £14.00

Guests: £16.00

Name(s).....

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 choices

Please complete this booking form and take it with you when you book your lunch with Denise Godby.

Denise will be accepting bookings between 8th January and 26th February.

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