



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



# U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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

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Sep/Oct 2020

## **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	Diane Scott	01278 428422
Membership Secretary	Barry Ede	07779 793463
Group & Events Co-ordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Assistant Membership Secretary	Neil Scott	01278 428422
Charity Commission Co-ordinator	Carole Loveridge	01278 780060
Committee Member	Bernard Martin	01278 787230
Committee Member (co-opted)	John Ellis	01278 685483

## **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

<b>Magazine Editors:</b>	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees <u>Phone:</u> <b>07973 512709</b> <u>Email:</u> <a href="mailto:darrylinda@knight-rees.com">darrylinda@knight-rees.com</a>
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Note: In accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, information relating to all of the U3A of Highbridge's members will be held on a computerised database and will be used solely for the U3A of Highbridge's business and communications.

## Chairman's Message

Hello Everybody

We have been fortunate in lockdown with the nice weather and I am sure everyone's garden is looking really good. Also, those of us who like growing vegetables have had more time to attend to our plots.

Regarding the present situation, we seem to go one step forward then one step back which is frustrating for all of us. Just when things seem to be starting to get better, there is another lock down, particularly in places where large groups meet. With this in mind, the committee do not think it would be safe to start holding coffee mornings for some time, especially with most of our members being 'of a vulnerable age'. Unfortunately most group activities are also suspended at the moment.

None of us know how long this situation is going to continue and personally I really miss chatting to you all at our weekly coffee mornings. This is one of the reasons we wanted to restart publishing the magazine and I would like to thank our team of volunteer distributors for making sure that all our members receive a copy.

Darryl would love to hear from you with any input for the magazine. It can be anything, eg photos, what you have been doing in lock down, etc. so please send him your input.

Alison, our Treasurer has now resigned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the Committee for all the work she has done over the past three years, it is really appreciated. Hopefully you will have more time for your mosaics now Alison!

A very big 'thank you' to Diane for taking on the role as our new Treasurer and to Carol for her support.

Wishing you all the very best and hope to see you soon.

Regards

Rod



## **Club and Group News**

### **SOME GOOD NEWS**

Dear Members

We find ourselves living in strange times these days, which nobody could have foreseen nine months ago, but here we are, each one of us trying to cope with it all in our own way.

Following a recent committee meeting, it has been decided NOT to request your annual subscription of £10 per member for this current year of 2020/2021 which was obviously due back in April.

The committee feels that members are not receiving the benefits of being part of the Highbridge U3A at this time, ie no bi-monthly magazine, no weekly coffee mornings, no trips out etc, etc.

However, we, as part of the National U3A, still have to pay them a capitation fee of £3.50 for every member joining each year (going up to £4.00 next year) which comes out of *your* annual subscription. Therefore, to cover this, it was agreed in committee, that the U3A of Highbridge will pay the capitation fee for each and every member this year. The cost will be paid from monies coming out of our general funds.

All members who joined us or rejoined last year (2019/2020) will remain fully paid up members until April 2021.

Next year, for 2021/2022, members will be asked to pay their normal annual subscription fee of £10.00 as per normal, (required March/April 2021) as the club would not be able to subsidise the capitation fee for a second year running, as there are no monies currently coming into the club.

I note that there are a few members who have already paid their subscriptions for this current year, prior to the 'lockdown'. For those mem-

bers their subscriptions will be carried over to the following year 2021/22 or, if you wish to receive your subscriptions back, then please let me know in order that this can be arranged.

So to each and every one of you, rest assured, you are still a member of the Highbridge U3A until April 2021.

Stay safe and take care!

Barry (Membership Secretary)

### **Strollers Group Update**

Little did we know that when we had our last coffee morning way back in March what was in store for us all. Coronavirus has affected us all in a way that no one could have imagined. The latest must have accessories are now a face mask, hand gel and antibacterial wipes! Unfortunately many people have lost their lives, and our prayers go out to their family and friends. Hopefully we are now over the worst.

One the bright side, it has brought communities together, neighbours have been helping each other and gardens have bloomed. Many of our U3A members have kept in contact with each other, either by phone, email or Facebook. Those of us on Facebook have had our brains regularly tested thanks to Audrey and her constant supply of quizzes.

Cycling and walking has been the order of the day for those that are able and we are lucky enough to live in an area that has some lovely places to while away a few hours.

Some members have been forming their own bubble and going for

walks. The Strollers met for the first time on 11th September for a very enjoyable walk. Please see separate report.

On a personal front, a lot of time has been spent in the garden and I now have a freezer full of veg and have had a beautiful display of flowers.



Take care and stay safe, and hopefully things will soon get back to as near to normal as possible.

Denise Godby

### **Mosaics Group Update**

Mosaics group will not be running for the remainder of this year. The situation will be kept under review. Hopefully we will be back early 2021.

Alison Joyce

## **Walking Group Update**

The Walking Group have had one walk since lockdown. Six of us did a circular from Chilton Polden Playing Field around the outskirts of the village and back. It was a sunny day and really nice being back with the group again. We hope to do more walks in the future but do not have any planned at the moment.

## **Table Tennis Group Update**

Under current legislation one must wear a mask in community halls/centres. Obviously this makes Table Tennis impractical at present.

Hope you are keeping well.

John Ellis

## **Somerset Churches Group Update**

The Church Group no. 18 will resume as soon as the social distancing is lifted. There are two main problems at present:

- 1) Transport one person per car unless family.
- 2) Most churches were closed to the public at the start of the pandemic, but I believe some are now open for visitors but not for religious ceremonies.

I have several places in mind for our next visit, so we will have to see nearer the time. I hope to carry on when we get the OK. The next two dates in the calendar will be October 31st 2020 and January 30th 2021.

P.S. Not sure about cafes or pubs for lunch.....

Bernie....

## **Card Making 2 Group Update**

Hello everyone, long time no see !.

Have you successfully survived the P.P.E. (Pandemic pandemonium experience)? From what I have heard this U.3.A. has endured the past few months well and, apart from the inconvenience, has come through the period without much trouble.

Group Activities have, because of the need to abide by the strict quarantine conditions, had to be put on hold for a while. How much longer we will need to do this is anyone's guess.

However, you will be aware that, before the enforced 'lockdown' came into effect the Card Making Group changed its meeting place from Southwell House to the home of Linda and Darryl Knight-Rees in West Huntspill. This took place in September 2019 when Linda offered to let the group meet at her home, an offer, for which this U.3.A was extremely grateful and readily accepted.

Unfortunately, this change in venue was not convenient for all its members, 'going the extra distance' was going to be a problem. So, a satellite class (Card Making Group-- 2) was started, the members meeting at the home of Fay Burston. However, it had been running for only a few months, when Covic-19 appeared!.

BUT! there is now a glimmer of light at the end of the end of the tunnel:

Card Making -2 has re-started, on Monday 24th August 2020 4 members (including Fay) met at Fay's home and, having got their card making paraphernalia out of its cases, attempted to discover if they had lost any of their skills and enthusiasm. The afternoon went quite well, some 'bits and pieces' had been lost or misplaced, "How do you ---" was heard a lot, but they enjoyed a very social, chatty couple of hours.



They plan to have another go on the afternoon of Monday 28th September to see if they can make some cards

Fay & Ken

### **Away Days**

Hello everyone, what a year 2020 has turned out to be—no trips due to Covid 19 restrictions. I have really missed our days out and have sadly had to cancel all this year's dates. However I have rebooked this year's for next year when hopefully we will be luckier.

Those of you who have paid for Symonds Yat / Ross on Wye and Eastnor Castle will be refunded soon if you haven't already been so.

Proposed dates for 2021:

Symonds Yat /Ross on Wye	April
Eastnor Castle	May
Killerton House	June
River Exe Cruise	July
Poole	September
St Fagans	October
Cheltenham	December

Actual date's will be confirmed later. Stay safe and keep well.

All good wishes Vour.

### **Calligraphy Group Update**

This is another group that lends itself to being a small manageable number of attendees.

The original group members have been contacted and some have agreed to make an attempt at re-starting. The seating for 4 members can be arranged to meet the social distancing requirements.

We propose to re-start, at the same address on Monday 7th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

Ken

### **Skittles Group Update**

We are unable to commence skittles yet because the size of the alley will not allow playing safely while maintaining social distancing.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we can start playing again and will notify all members of the group when this is going to be possible.

In the meantime we hope you are all keeping well and safe.

Philip and Barbara

### **Holidays Group Update**

What strange times we are living in/through!

Our Torquay holiday was not meant to be and was cancelled by Daish's. I had the option to re-book or receive a credit note. Knowing that some people might not want to venture out again I pressed for a full refund (we had a right to this) and this was agreed to and confirmed by email. Knowing their circumstances I didn't chase them, just checked once, and we eventually received the full refund and even the return of the insurance

premiums. It was pointless hassling them when they had non-existent funds plus we don't really need to antagonise them should we want to book with them again in the future.

Hope you have all managed some sort of staycation or even a holiday in this country. We shall be back U3A holidaying eventually when restrictions are finally lifted when we shall consider all the options.

Stay safe!

Christine & the holiday team



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## **Schoolreaders Volunteers Required**

Volunteers needed to listen to children read in local primary schools after lockdown.

Our reading volunteers are going to be desperately needed following the Coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of children won't have had enough reading practice during lockdown. In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Most children will have missed a term of school, so the reading gap is now even wider. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.

Schoolreaders needs more volunteers in Highbridge to support children's reading and prevent them falling further behind. If you want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading and some spare time each week.

To join us, please visit the website [www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form](http://www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form) or call 01234 924111 for further information.

Charity Number: 1159157

Kind regards,

Caroline Dowson  
Operations Coordinator

Schoolreaders  
Bedford Heights  
Brickhill Drive  
Bedford  
MK41 7PH  
Tel: 01234 924111  
Web: [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org)

# What is a Senior Citizen?

A Senior Citizen  
is one who was here before;  
the pill, television, frozen foods,  
contact lenses, credit cards.....  
and before man walked on the moon.

For us, "Time Sharing" meant  
togetherness, not holiday homes,  
and a "chip" meant a piece of wood.  
"Hardware" meant nuts and bolts,  
and "software" wasn't even a word.

We got married first, then lived together,  
and thought cleavage was  
something that butchers did.

A 'stud' was something that fastened a  
collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way'  
meant staying on a double decker  
to the bus depot.

We thought that "fast food" was what you ate  
in lent; a 'Big Mac' was an oversized  
raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea.

In our day; 'grass' was mown,  
'pot' was something you cooked in,  
'coke' was kept in the coal house and  
a 'joint' was cooked on Sundays!

We are today's SENIOR CITIZENS.

A hardy bunch when you think  
how the world has changed!

# The Pandemic Files

## Social separation – Paula’s view

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
March. Popped into  
Highbridge for a few  
odds and ends, said  
“hello” to the U3A folk



and then came home to stay for heaven knows how long. The first couple days were spent responding to emails, reading posts on the very useful facebook group set up by Audrey, crossing events off my calendar and generally tidying up. Saturday brought Mothering Sunday gifts. I shall not run out of chocolate for some time! And the cakes were scrummy.



Well here we all  
are at home,  
hopefully avoiding  
all virus and other  
nasties. Homes



have been scrubbed clean, (my door handles  
are shocked by the attention they are getting) gardens dug and lawns  
cut, cars washed and vacuumed, it's amazing what we achieve when



we are stuck at home and bored silly. I  
have put new compost in three tubs and  
split and re-potted the hostas. The  
strange blue blobs are not some arty ar-  
rangement but smelly crystals to stop my  
neighbour's cat from using them as a

litter tray.

Thank goodness for the internet and telephones to keep in touch with family and friends.

Day eight of incarceration, I have not ventured beyond the boundaries of my property. Exercise consists of gardening, in addition to weeding I have dug out one compost heap and spread it on the veg beds, it looks untidy but hopefully the worms will do the work from here on. The water feature (I call it the flying saucer) has been cleaned and refilled after its winter rest. The lights around the jet have stopped working but I doubt I can do much about that. Today I must tidy up the area around it.

Household activities also provide exercise, at least I have stairs to go up and down. I hear that some of my friends are spring cleaning, it's so long since I did that I am not sure I remember how! I also do a short series of Tai Chi moves (not a proper form) to keep the joints moving. As the weather has been so nice I have done this outside so it may be entertain-



ing my neighbours too. Yesterday I tried to turn soap slivers into new tablets, I have been saving the



left over bits from the shower (I can't use gels) for ages with the intention of "having a go". Two different methods, one very messy, one not so bad, and I've ended up with two very odd shaped tablets, it remains to be seen if they are useable.

March is going out with a roar and I do not like the cold wind so have been looking for something keep boredom at bay. The dining room table, suitably protected, has been turned into a workbench for my mosaic and



the spare bed has disappeared under a hotchpotch of fabric. What I am going to do with it I have not yet decided.



While looking around the garden I came across two mirror



doors in, what the antiques trade call, a

“distressed state”. I knew there was some reflective film left over from turning my shed windows into mirrors so decided to renovate them. Some success, as shown



by the reflection of my ample middle. They are now deployed behind a fuchsia plant, which hopefully will shoot soon, meanwhile it's the daffodils reflected.

Day fourteen and cabin fever is setting in, so decided to take a stroll down the lane. It was a pleasant afternoon and I was rewarded by some beautiful Blackthorn blossom. A lady and two dogs were coming toward me on my return but she kindly stood into a gateway while I passed giving us the regulation two metres.

Here I am starting my fourth week “at Home”. My daughter included my groceries in her on line shop, I was amazed that she got a slot, she just tries all the stores locally till she finds one I think. The bags of provisions were duly left in my porch, then she retreated to the front gate and we had a short, long distance, conversation. The young lady next door, she has four children and a husband to shop for so pops out for fresh stuff about once a week, kindly offered to pick up anything I need. I am very lucky.





The garden is very demanding at this time of year and the weather is good so seeds have been sown and have come up in the greenhouse. The early broad beans are planted out, if the slugs don't get them I shall enjoy fresh

beans in the summer. I try not to leave my estate as if I fell or had an asthma attack it would increase the strain on the emergency services.



Easter weekend and I am now looking for things to do. A solar light string in the garden had stopped working so I took it down to bin it. However it had plastic dragonflies on it and I was sure I could do something with them. I cleaned them and attached them to some plastic sticks, then the problem was how to mount them. Ah! a plastic container waiting to be recycled, some packing foam that I saved in case it came in useful and some silicon glue left over from goodness knows what! For a day or so the bench in the conservatory looked like a Blue Peter studio but a flight of dragonflies were eventually hovering over the garden.

I have spoken to several of you and through that and our U3A page on facebook, have received news of other members. With exception of the sad loss of Nita, we all seem to be coping quite well.

Thus ends my first 28 days of incarceration. I hope my pitiful efforts make you smile, I am sure you all did similar things to keep yourselves occupied.

*Continued overleaf .....*

## September 2020 personal view - update

Well here we are 6 months on and still struggling with ever changing regulations. We are all trying to get some normality and social interaction back into our lives.



In my case the original enthusiasm gradually wore off. On line shopping became the norm. I bought a kneeler for the garden but mostly it was mundane



things. The craft work tailed off in favour of gardening but I managed to renovate three vintage leather handbags and make some beeswax candles from a kit I bought on a U3A outing. My birthday came and went with a super present of a hypnotic wind spinner.



The weather turned stormy and the autumn cyclemen are out in the garden, the nights are drawing in. We missed summer this year.

Paul Cook



## **Recent Trip**

Three young herons decided to take up residence along the river Brue estuary. They were not accepted by the local seagulls who attacked them mercilessly. Finally this heron found sanctuary in the Apex lake, along with ducks etc. He/she didn't stay long and they have found their own niches.

Jude Clark



## **That was the year that wasn't**

We have all lived through unprecedented times this year, which has had a remarkable knock on effect to so many things.

The real downside has been the loss of so many loved ones up and down the country.

Whilst we have all had to suffer in various ways during the lockdown the real heroes have been staff of the NHS and Care Workers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Fingers crossed that things will return to something like normal soon. It has been hard times for many companies.

On the other side of the coin it has given people time at home to do jobs that have been on the to do list for a long time. It was splendid to have such solitude. With birds singing with the clear blue skies and brilliant unpolluted air with not a vapour trail in sight.

Personally I have been able to concentrate on my love of gardening during all that lovely Spring/early Summer sunshine. When the weather wasn't so good I moved indoors to decorate the kitchen, lounge/diner, downstairs toilet and put a coat of bitumastic on the double garage flat roof plus large porch.

I have missed the company of fellow members and taking part in various activities.

To look on the brighter side I have picked up on a number of fake news items. Some said that manufacturers of Batteries were taking advantage of the situation by overcharging, in a random survey 50 per cent gave a positive response and 50 per cent gave a negative answer.

A major Tyre company said they were treading carefully and described sales as flat and the fear of going to the wall. In a shock move this week

an all party meeting to discuss the environment crisis decided that all motorists must change to an electric car, to stop any panic by the general public it was agreed it would not apply until 4am on Sunday. They agreed many more charging points would have to be installed, to give the public easy access, traffic light junctions and slip roads on motorways would be ideal positions, this should be completed by 2030. Regardless of whether a deal is struck with the EU the government believes there will be a smooth transition at the ferry terminals for lorries, however in the very unlikely chance of problems with paperwork or blockades, roads such as the A303, A38 and A39 could be used by joggers or dog walkers which would at least alleviate problems with social distancing. Just a thought, with a decline in the Bee population will nectar cards be phased out?

Mike Parker





## Monthly Draw

March 14th 2020	No. 14	Brenda Hooper and Sheila Carpenter

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 Sybil Tilley	781567 787054
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	P.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
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning	C.H.	N/A	N/A
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

### Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Crochet	C.H. (4)	Alison Ridley	077071
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
1 <sup>st</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 (Room Number)
P.H. .... Private House	G.H. .... Gospell Hall
L.I. .... Lighthouse Inn	

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

## **The Pandemic Files (cont)**

### **Staycation!**

One day a few weeks ago, Aud and I looked at each other and decided we felt a bit flat and thought “wouldn’t it be nice to have a few days break in Looe in Cornwall”. Having done quite a bit of research on line to find somewhere to stay the best we could find was one night’s B and B. We felt a bit stumped then the Chairman, i.e. Rod, had one of his rare brainwaves! Let’s try Torquay! The first hotel that came up was the Devonshire where we were hoping to have our April holiday with the U3A. It was a brilliant offer, so we booked from the following Tuesday to Saturday.

We duly arrived on a nice sunny day in Torquay. Our temperatures were checked when we arrived at reception and the young lady told us we were a ‘healthy pair’. Like most things at the moment, there was a one-way system around the hotel, lots of hand sanitiser stations and the tables were arranged at a safe distance apart with only family members sitting together. All the waiting staff were wearing masks, the tables were empty until we sat down when all the cutlery etc. was brought. There was no self service, which we quite enjoyed! The food was really good and plentiful and the staff went out of their way to make us welcome.

There was no evening entertainment except for bingo each evening and two quizzes and everyone sat at their allocated dining tables for these.

Three Daish coaches arrived while we were there but they only had a limited number of passengers on board, mostly from ‘up north’ and Sussex. I would guess there was approximately 100 guests in the hotel

at the time. Not a lot considering the size of the hotel but at least they were open and their staff were employed. We were told they had been open for two weeks when we went.

Although obviously a lot of local amenities had not reopened, we found plenty to do including a nice walk, a trip to Brixham on the bus (wearing masks) and returning on the public ferry where we had a very interesting commentary by the captain.

The next day while exploring the town, we had a visit to Wetherspoons which was very well run. We had to master their App to place an order and felt a great sense of achievement when our order successfully arrived on our table.

On Friday we booked a trip from the hotel to Totnes and Dartmouth and surprisingly didn't have to wear a mask as the coach was privately hired as opposed to public transport. When we arrived at Dartmouth we were welcomed on the coach by the pleasure boat captain who was really pleased to see us. We were only the fourth coach to visit the town since lock-down. He wasn't worried whether we took a boat trip or not, just glad to see some visitors.

All in all we had a lovely holiday and would thoroughly recommend the Devonshire to Chris and Diane our Holiday Reps. Let's hope it won't be too long before we can all go again as a group.

Here are a couple of photos (on next page) we took on our holiday.

Rod



Golden Hind, Brixham



View from coastal path, Torquay

## **News from Alison Joyce—Ex Treasurer**

I did the job for 3 years and it was a challenge for me but I enjoyed serving the members. The Charity Commission only allows Treasurers to serve for 3 years. It will be a few years before our takings reach £35,000 again.

I am enjoying lockdown. We are still being very careful as my husband has lung problems. I was going shopping to Tesco's at 10pm. It was very empty but with the holiday makers in B.O.S, I have gone back to Sainsbury's at 9pm—again empty.

My veg plot in the garden has kept me busy. I grow early potatoes in the greenhouse and early maincrop outside. My garlic, onions and red onions have improved this year due to regular feeding. Cucumber, cherry and large tomatoes have gone mad in the greenhouse. Cabbage, broccoli and kale kept us in greens but the courgettes have been very poor (why?)

The rhubarb has been lush all season. My daughter has made lots of rhubarb and ginger jam. I have been eating raspberries for breakfast for many weeks. My cooking apples have been OK but the pears are not ripe yet.

My son and family have visited every Sunday in the garden. The boys (age 6 & 8 years) love to run around the garden and play hide and seek. My daughter comes in with her boys (age 7 & 10 years) from South Gloucester for lunch. The highlight of the visit is the boys urinating into a pot in the garden—they thought this was great fun!

Keep well—Alison

### **Strollers Outing September 11th 2020**

On 11th September the Strollers met for the first time since March. Ten members met in the Bank car park in Highbridge. Spreading ourselves out to ensure we were socially distancing, we walked from the car park to Clyce Road, walking down there towards the new sluice gates. A couple of members couldn't resist stopping to pick some lovely damsons growing alongside the Brue. Looking forward to tasting some of Fay's damson jam!! At the sluice gate we crossed over the river and carried on walking alongside the Brue, being careful where we walked so as not to tread in a pancake!

There was plenty to see whilst we walked along having a good old natter and catch up. There were a couple of Alpacas grazing in a field alongside four deer who were laying down having a rest. Unfortunately I couldn't get close enough to take a photo of them. I did however manage to get a photo of the 'socially distanced Strollers '



We also met up with five horses riders and their dogs, the dogs all coming over to say hello to us.

After walking so far along the river we turned back and retraced our steps, but didn't cross the sluice gates, instead walked back alongside Brue, to the opposite side we came down. Only problem; we had to climb over a stile to get to the A38, made even harder trying to avoid the dog muck on it!! We then made our way back to the car park, with three of us going for coffee and a toasted sandwich in Sopha.

It was lovely to meet up again and as there can be no skittles on a Friday under present circumstances, the Strollers are planning to stroll every Friday, going off in groups of six, in line with Government guide lines.

Take care, stay safe and keep strolling.

Denise Godby



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## **The Light-hearted Section ☺**

### **Quiz**

- 1 Who did Diana Ross portray in the film Lady Sings the Blues
- 2 In which country is the resort of Rimini
- 3 Which aircraft were used by the Dambusters
- 4 Who wrote, produced and directed the film 'A Clockwork Orange'
- 5 Who had a 1958 hit with Hoots Mon
- 6 From which 1976 song do the lines 'Though it hurts to go away, it's impossible to stay' come
- 7 What do the initials W M stand for in author W M Thackeray's name
- 8 Which company's trade mark is Nipper the dog
- 9 Who stars as Phryne Fisher in the Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries
- 10 What number is the Psalm that begin "The Lord is my Shepherd..."
- 11 In 1713 which city replaced Moscow as capital of Russia: St Petersburg, Kiev, Novgorod, Smolensk
- 12 What was the first name of former Soviet premier Krushchev
- 13 In aviation, what is meant by VTOL
- 14 What weapon did David use to kill Goliath



15 What kind of material is cheesecloth

16 Of which American city is Hollywood a suburb

17 What name is given to the medical condition in which people suffer dangerous loss of body heat

18 Name the Gilbert and Sullivan opera set in Venice

19 Which of the dung beetles was revered by the ancient Egyptians

20 The postage stamps from which country are printed with the word Helvetia on them.

### ***Answers on page 39***

### **The Patient**

If I should die, think only this of me

I was lying on a trolley, in a local A and E

I was left there to ponder because they thought that I was dead

At least that's what the doctor who saw me said,

Well, he wasn't really a doctor, not fully trained as such.

He was a nurse who couldn't speak English, he only spoke in Dutch

He said a Mr Hancock had begged him to try and come

He didn't say for how much, but it was a goodly sum.

But to get back to me, on my trolley of doom

Oh! If only they could find me a private room.

*Apologies to Rupert Brooke for the original and the late C. A. Berry for resurrecting this parody.*

I don't believe it !!!

Just arrived at B&Q and they've now got designated parking spaces for fat blokes buying barbecues! How good is that! 😊



## The Match

It was going to be a great fight, one that hopefully, those watching, would remember for a very long time after, a match that was not going to be easily forgotten!

I felt sure that we were both up for it and I had been waiting a long, long time for this encounter, in fact I had come out of retirement a couple of years ago for it. I was already the favourite to win, which made me feel more confident and positive about myself. I knew that if I concentrated fully on what I was doing, focused my mind, then I knew I could do it, I could win! this is what I kept telling myself! If that *were* to happen, then I would be certainly be a champion for the very first time in my life. I also knew that this was going to be my last opportunity for a while, maybe my last chance, certainly for this year, so I needed to be, and thought I was, in peak condition to face my enemy, not that I really thought of him as an enemy more as an opponent, a challenge.

I had never met him before, in fact I had never seen him in action, I had heard a lot about him though from other people. I had a lot of respect for him even though I don't think he was even aware of who I was for he didn't mix with those who knew me. I had been told many times that he was a big fellow and that he wouldn't give in without a good fight, I had gained a lot of experience before I had gone into retirement and now my reputation was growing. Over the past couple years I had been matched with those that *he* knew and when I had come up against them, more times than not I had come out on top, but sadly, not on every occasion, but I hoped that I had learned enough each time that I *had* lost, to now come out as the clear winner this time.

The big day finally arrived, it was warm and sunny, not that the weather would matter, nor would it affect the outcome, but at least it put me in a good frame of mind, making me feel better in myself.

When the time came I left home allowing plenty of time to get to the venue, I didn't want to be late as the traffic these days, often made even the shortest journey longer and more frustrating, Fridays were always a bad day for travelling and I didn't want to get too uptight before I even got there.

Approaching the venue my heart began to race, I was feeling lucky and confident as I arrived well ahead of schedule. I had recognised a few landmarks on the way making me feel more at ease, even though this was more *his* territory than mine and it was *his* home town.

There were already a number of vehicles in the car park when I arrived. They, like me, wanted to be on time. People were paying good money to be there and they wanted to get their moneys worth and there were those wishing to get to their favourite seats to be nearer the action, they all needed to be there well in good time to avoid any disappointment.

I looked anxiously towards my mentor and valued friend who had already arrived and was waiting for me. He had been with me from day one, he had taught me everything I knew for I was a complete novice when I had first met him. The look he now gave me was one of knowing, knowing that I could do this. I looked around as we entered the venue, there were other people there who were hoping to see a great fight, I hoped we would all benefit from what was soon to happen.

We were about half way through when I somehow felt it was going to be

me, I was going to end up the winner. The fight was going well, pressure was building up, there was strong resistance from both of us, my arms were beginning to tire as I had to hold them up as much as I could to ensure success, sweat was pouring off me as I battled on to win.

The end, when it came was sudden, I felt the resistance from my opponent start to wane, I could feel that he was beginning to tire more than me, he was definitely slowing down, I felt he was near the point of giving up., I sensed it, but I knew that I had to hold on just a little while longer to ensure complete success, failure now would be devastating, I still needed to give a hundred per cent concentration. Then suddenly it was all over, he lay exhausted on the ground a few feet in front of me, his eyes looking up at me, a look to say that I was the winner. He was breathing heavily but unharmed except for his pride maybe.

Then a voice beside me said 'You've done it mate, you've landed the monster, the biggest carp in the lake and it must weigh at *least* 30lb – what a great fight!!

## **Barry**

## **Jokes**

William Shakespeare went into a pub.  
The barman took one look at him and said  
“You’re bard!”

First man: “I once knew a man with a wooden leg called Smith”  
Second man: “Really, what was his other leg called?”

Son: "What are you getting Mum for her birthday?"

Dad: "A new bag and a belt. . . . the hoover hasn't been working very well lately"

First man: "Tell me, do you file your nails?"

Second man: "No, I just cut them off and throw them away"

A man went into a chip shop and asked for cod and chips twice.

The man behind the counter said "I heard you the first time!"

An English cat called One-Two-Three challenged a French cat called Un-Deux-Trois

to a race across the English Chennel. Which one won?

One-Two-Three won, because Un-Deux-Trois cat sank.

First man: "Who was that lady I seen you with last night?"

Second man: "You mean 'I saw'

First man: "OK, who was that eyesore I seen you with last night?"

Son: "I've got a part in the school play, playing a man who's been married for twenty years"

Dad: "Well do a good job son and maybe next time you'll get a speaking part"

## **Answers to Quiz**

- 1 Billie Holliday
- 2 Italy
- 3 Lancasters
- 4 Stanley Kubrick
- 5 Lord Rockingham's XI
- 6 Save all your kisses for me - Brotherhood of Man
- 7 William Makepeace
- 8 His Masters Voice
- 9 Essie Davis
- 10 Psalm 23
- 11 St Petersburg
- 12 Nikita
- 13 Vertical Take Off Landing
- 14 Sling and Stone
- 15 Cotton, Muslin
- 16 Los Angeles
- 17 Hypothermia
- 18 The Gondoliers
- 19 Scarab
- 20 Switzerland

## The Fab Four

It felt good to be back home here in Liverpool, so much better than *"Back In The USSR"* where I had been living for some time now. In comparison, the weather is so much kinder here in the UK. It promised to be a *"Good Day, Sunshine"* was forecast for most of it, although at the moment, there were low clouds covering most of the sky.

I was just ambling along the banks of the Mersey deep in thought, when, as I rounded a corner, I almost collided with a group of 'hippies.' I edged nearer the bank to let them pass by. *"If I Fell"* into the water, then what! I thought, for I couldn't swim! "Hey! *"Get Back"* from the edge man" the one with the long hair and flowing robes shouted, "You could fall in!" As they approached me the same chap said "Hey man, what you doing, where you going?"

*"Nowhere Man"* I replied "Just maybe *"Here, There, Everywhere"* just sort of wandering lonely as a cloud.

"Hey, now that's real cool" he replied. "A Wordsworth fan like me eh? so, if you're free then come and join us for a party?"

"Where?" I asked looking around me

"We all live in that *"Yellow Submarine"* moored just around the bend, opposite *"Penny Lane"* we've converted it into a real cool houseboat"

Maybe *"I Should Have Known Better"* but I agreed to go with them as *"Something"* told me, that despite their somewhat unconventional appearance, they seemed a real nice bunch of people.

*"Here Comes The Sun"* a young *"Girl"* shouted happily, as the clouds began to open up. "That's Judith" he told me. *"Hey Jude"* come over and say Hi to er, sorry mate, I didn't get your name?"

"It's Father McKenzie, but please call me John"

"OK John, my name's Mike"



**“Hey everyone, we got us a real life Holy man here” he shouted to the others. “How long you been a priest then, all your life?” he asked.**

**“No not at all, a long time ago I was an author or *“Paperback Writer”* but I gave that up and became a local *“Taxman”* for a while, then a few years ago I joined the church and went off to Russia”**

**“You will have to say hi to our Maddie ‘cause she was once a nun, we call her *“Lady Madonna”* because of what she used to be, that’s groovy eh?”**

**We got to their boat and sat where we could, mostly on the floor of the cramped lounge. I couldn’t help but notice the large amount alcohol and cannabis laying all over a beautiful looking coffee table, Mike saw me admiring it, “It’s made out of *“Norwegian Wood”* he told me.**

**Just at that moment, a figure appeared, seemingly from nowhere, Mike saw the surprise on my face as she hadn’t come in the same way as we had. *“She Came In Through The Bathroom Window”* he explained. She looked at me and said “Hi, you must be John the Baptist *“I Am The Walrus”* and with that she nonchalantly and awkwardly ambled away, *“Hello, Goodbye”* was all I could think of to say to her.**

**“Hey Rev don’t you go paying no attention to her” Mike said, *“She’s Leaving Home”* tomorrow, going into Rehab for a while. “Yes” I replied, she does seems a bit strange, maybe a word of advice *“From Me To You”* Mike, I really think she needs to get some *“Help”* if she doesn’t get it, then I think *“You’re Going To Lose That Girl”*.**

**“I’ve already done what I could for her” he said “Plus with *“A Little Help From My Friends”* here, but sadly, all to no avail, she’s got herself hooked on the harder stuff”**

**I felt that the time had come to change the subject. “So tell me, what are you doing around here?” I inquired.**

**"We *"Come Together"* here every year about this time, just the ten of us, for the fruit picking season. There are *"Strawberry Fields For Ever"* and ever, as far as the eye can see, they're a bit further up the river which you can just about see from the window here" he said pointing. "See *"The Long And Winding Road"* just up there on the left? that's where we go, bit of a trek but it's worth the effort 'cause they pay us very well"**

**"We all work hard picking those strawberries, it's real back breaking work, sometimes it feels like we are working *"Eight Days A Week"* up there" he continued.**

**"What about *you* Reverend John" he asked turning towards me. "What brings you into this neck of the woods?"**

**"Well" I replied, "I thought about coming up here *"Yesterday."* I am what you might call a *"Day Tripper"* I went on to explain that I had been given a free *"Ticket To Ride"* on the local buses, and had decided to return for a visit just for the day, to relive some old memories of being a teenager here.**

**Just at that moment, someone put a Beatles CD into the player, *"Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds"* came blasting out of the speakers. I looked up to see who had put the music on. For an instant, I swear my heart missed a beat. I stared open mouthed, I couldn't believe it was her, *"Eleanor Rigby"* the girl I'd loved and lost so many years ago. She, like me had aged, but I instantly knew it was her!**

**Thinking back, there was a time many years ago, when I had given her *"All My Loving"* Now, as *"I Saw Her Standing There"* I was sure she hadn't recognised *me*. I remembered the last time we had seen each other. Then, I had asked her to stay with me, I had pleaded with her, *"We Can Work It Out"* I had said to her, just *"Love Me Do"***

She had told me at that time that her best friend wanted me, *"She Loves You"* she had said, *"More than I ever will"* and that was it, she just upped and walked away from me, we never met or spoke again. Nowadays, *"If I Needed Someone"* I would always compare them to Eleanor. I continued to miss her for a very long time after that and even today, *"I Love Her"* still.

Now, seeing her again after all this time, so many memories came flooding back, mostly about all the good times we had shared.

After she'd left the room I asked Mike about her, but he knew very little about her background. Eleanor, I thought to myself, I've *"Got To Get You Into My Life"* again. But being realistic, I knew deep down that it wouldn't work, it hadn't worked out the first time, so there was no reason why it should a second time around. I *"Can't Buy Me Love"* I told myself, so I decided there and then not to say anything to her, but just to *"Let It Be"*

I felt I needed to leave then, I wanted to get away, get some air. *"I must Get Back" now* I said to Mike. *"OK Rev, but why don't you Drive My Car"* he offered, *"No that's OK, but thanks anyway, I Feel Fine"* about walking, the bus stop isn't that far away".

I said my *"Goodbyes"* to everyone, making sure that I avoided Eleanor, just in case. Jude accompanied me on my walk back to the bus stop. *"I Want To Hold Your Hand"* she said as we walked arm in arm along the towpath. We stopped to listen to a solitary *"Blackbird"* singing in the hedgerow, his answer coming from a little further up the path. It would really *"Please, Please Me"* if you came back to see us again tomorrow" Jude said.

*"I'll think about it"* was all I could say. *"Don't Let Me Down"* she replied. *"Shall I wait with you?"* she asked, once we arrived at the bus stop. *"No that's OK, It Won't Be Long"* before the bus arrives"

Passing the now famous *"Liver Birds"* on my journey back home, I re-

flected on the day's events, about the *"Things We Said Today"* but most of all, how strange it had been to see Eleanor again, I remembered thinking at the time, *"You've Got To Hide Your Love Away"* and not let on to her exactly who I was. In hindsight, I expect it was the clerical collar, the beard plus the lack of hair on top that had prevented her from recognising me, after all, it was a long time ago now.

Once I arrived back home I thought about the last few hours, *"A Day In The Life"* of the Reverend John, a lonely old man I thought, maybe I should think about signing up to the *"Sargent Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band!"*

I rose slowly and wearily up from the chair and switched off the record player, *"While My Guitar Gently Weeps"* seemed totally inappropriate for me right at this moment in time.

Barry

### Lockdown Poem By Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl  
 I love to meet my mates  
 But lately with the virus here  
 We can't go out of the gates  
  
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
 We need to stay inside.  
 If they haven't seen us for a while  
 They'll think we've upped and died.  
  
 They'll never know the things we did

Before we got this old.  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth.  
But we grew up in the 60s—  
if you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll

The pill and miniskirts.  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more.  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour.  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller.  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle.  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health.  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates.  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
TO FIT THROUGH THE FLAMING GATES!



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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2021—Provisional</b>		
April	Symonds Yat / Ross-on-Wye	TBA
May	Eastnor Castle	TBA
June	Killerton House	TBA
July	River Exe Cruise	TBA
September	Poole	TBA
October	St Fagans	TBA
December	Cheltenham	TBA

Cheques to cover payments for all “Away Days”, Theatre trips and Holidays must be made payable to “U3A of Highbridge Social Account”

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- a) helps to identify you on the passenger list, and
- b) If a trip is cancelled you can be notified quickly.