

Of Highbridge  
**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



# **U3A of Highbridge Magazine**

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

Issue 114

Sep/Oct 2021

## **Your Committee**

<u><b>Position</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Tel</b></u>
Chairman	Rod Downing	01278 256895
Vice-Chairman	Allen Owen	01278 784500
Secretary	Audrey Downing	01278 256895
Treasurer	Carol Marriott	01278 795773
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
North Somerset Association Representative	Paula Cook	01278 789960
Committee Member	Diane Scott	01278 428422
Committee Member	Bernard Martin	01278 787230
Committee Member	John Ellis	01278 685483
Committee Member (co-opted)	Peter Manning	01278 780203

## **Other non-committee roles**

Webmaster	Darryl Knight-Rees	07973 512709
Welfare and Greeting New Members	Fay Burstons (Janet Preddy standing in for Fay currently)	01278 782529 (F) 01278 783743 (J)

Magazine Editors:	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees <u>Phone:</u> <a href="tel:07973512709">07973 512709</a> <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 are back!

I am still trying to catch up with meeting people and am glad to say we have had a good turn out at our first few coffee mornings.

I am pleased to say most of our groups are now meeting up again but unfortunately we may have lost a few on the way. Please have a think if you have some ideas for a new group and if you would be happy to lead one. The committee are all here to help you if you are keen but a bit unsure about how to go about it.



We had our AGM last week and are pleased to welcome Carol Marriott who will be our new Treasurer, Peter Manning, Allen Owen and Paula Cook on to the committee. Also John Ellis is now a fully fledged committee member.

Janet Preddy has stepped in as meeter and greeter of new members and also welfare officer as Fay is looking after Ken who isn't so well recently. If you know someone who is under the weather and think a card would cheer them up please let Janet know.

We have been approached by Mell who is hoping to do some podcasts about Highbridge. He has been popping into coffee mornings to have a chat with members about their experiences of living in and around Highbridge. If you have any interesting tales and would be happy to talk to him, please contact him on [broadcastmediauk@gmail.com](mailto:broadcastmediauk@gmail.com) and he will get back to you.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best wishes Rod

## **Club and Group News**

### **Walking Group**

I am so disappointed that we have had no walks recently. I hurt my back in April and have been hoping it would get better so that we could make the most of the summer weather and start walking again. Unfortunately, it seems to be getting worse and I can't see me leading any walks in the near future. Neither can Rod because of his own ongoing medical problems. I wonder if there is someone who would be willing to lead the group, either permanently or until we are back on our feet again so that we can keep the group going. I have a file of potential walks and would be more than happy to share them and help in any way I can.

Kind regards and Keep Walking! Audrey

### **Mosaics Group**

The Mosaics Group sessions will resume on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at Smurl Lane in West Huntspill. Sessions will be 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 2pm to 4pm. Newcomers are welcome.

### **Card Making Group**

Card Making sessions resumed at Smurl Lane, West Huntspill on Monday August 2nd 2021. For the time being this group will only run on the 1st Monday of every month, 2pm to 4pm.

## **Strollers – post lock down**

Denise suggested, at the request of others, to start the strolling group again. She duly announced in June that we would gather in the Highbridge car park as usual. There were fewer of us than in the good old days but we set off for Huntspill in fine form. After parking by the sluice, we walked along the bank toward Highbridge. I turned around after about half a mile, which was to become my habit on future walks, but the others went some way toward Highbridge. Steve decided to walk on home and the others returned to the cars. Denise invited us back to her garden for refreshments and treated us royally to quiche and salad, followed by a choice of cake with tea or coffee. Most of us sat and chatted while Jean, smiling and cheerful as always, waited on us.

It was agreed that it was a successful stroll and, as there were no Skittles for the time being we would walk weekly. That has been the pattern to date. Our numbers vary but we remain a small group, although larger than the first outing now that people are more relaxed about giving lifts.

So far, the path along Sedgemoor Drain at Bradney, Locks Way at Cosington, a shady route in Huntspill during our brief heatwave, again returning to Denise for ice creams, Apex to Holimarine, a circular trip through Isleport and back to Highbridge, and a circuit around Southwick and Watchfield have all been graced by our presence.

In Locks Way we were intrigued by some shallow boxes in the trees. Some had an opening each end and some only one opening. On my solitary return, the others were walking on to Bawdrip, I fell into conversation with a local lady who told me “they” are monitoring harvest mouse numbers. The single-entry boxes are nest boxes and are left undisturbed but the double entry ones have paper inside that show the mouse foot prints. I am not sure whether the paper has some special coating or whether they rely on the mouse having muddy feet! Also, I did not like to

ask who “they” were as it sounded a bit rude to question her. I think the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation may be involved. Google tells me it is a national survey.

The trip along the Sedgemoor Drain revealed large notices advertising that Peasey Farm (that is the one where the path joins Bradney Road) sells ice creams and drinks, I assume the farmer is taking advantage of the increased use of paths by walkers and cyclists during these unusual times. Good for him. We also wondered what the blue numbers are on the fence posts, so I will try and find out.

The day of the Isleport walk was very hot, and I chickened out quite early on. I stopped for a chat with Mary who was sitting in her garden, it was good to see her.

We have suspended plans to have lunch following the walks until September when we will assess the situation and reconsider. We will also have to consider whether to continue weekly walks when skittles restart. It will depend on how many play and how many don't, together with whether people like strolling each week.

When a month has five Fridays, we are hoping Bernie will restart his excellent Church visits.

Paula

### **Day trip to St Fagans**

After a hard 18 months, and the loss of Vour, a much missed and very valued member of the U3A, Chris Owen and myself have temporarily taken on the role of organising days out.

Our first trip will be the one that was originally planned for October of last year (and this year) and will be to St Fagans National Museum of History of Wales. It is a place we have visited before, and that many mem-

bers wanted to visit again.

The trip will be on Monday 11th October and the cost will be £14 per person.



Hopefully this will be the start of our days out again and we welcome suggestions from members for places to visit.

Take care.

### **Skittles Group**

The skittles group will be starting again on Friday 3rd September in the Lighthouse Public House in Burnham. Please note a new starting time of 1.30, this is due to the new opening hours of the Lighthouse.

We shall continue to meet on the first and third Friday of every month.

New members are always welcome.

For further details please contact Philip on 01278 783647.

### **Kurling Group**

We have now just returned to our Kurling after a long break and are having a good time.

The next one will be 13th September then 27th September.

We run the 2nd & 4th Monday each month.

Anyone wishing to join us, it's £1.50 per session.

Sybil Tilley

### **Holiday Group**

Hope everyone has remained fit and well during the recent troubling times.

There has been little interest in us resuming our holidays as some members have arranged their own "breaks away" for the remainder of this year. I hope to resume our group holidays in the spring.

Please get in touch to register your continuation of this group.

NB If we don't get at least 35 members for any holiday we will not be able to have our own coach, but will have to share – possibly with many other individual "happy holiday makers"!

Stay safe

Chris (and the Holiday team)



## **New Group**

Are there any members interested in classic/vintage cars and motor cycles?

If so, I would be pleased to organise trips to local shows/events and perhaps a regular pub meet just to "chew the fat".

Malcolm Manser 07932 734473

mal.manser77@gmail.com

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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 46775
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
Every Fri-day until further notice	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
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen Diane Scott	784500 428422

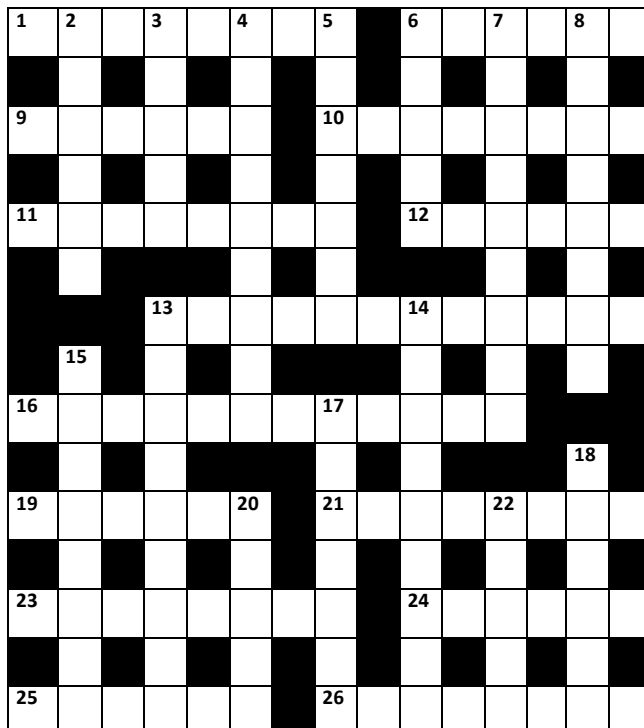
Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

### 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.**

## Crossword #33 (solution on page 22)



<b><u>ACROSS</u></b>		<b><u>DOWN</u></b>	
1.	Support (8)	2.	Insect (6)
6.	Spur (6)	3.	Arrive (5)
9.	AWOL (6)	4.	Provide enjoyment (9)
10.	Concentrated (8)	5.	Deviate (7)
11.	Lead monoxide (8)	6.	Cured pork (5)
12.	Metal coating (6)	7.	Connect (9)
13.	Filly on a cart [anag] (12)	8.	Intelligently (8)
16.	Beach harpoon [anag] (12)	13.	Flippant (9)
19.	Hand tool (6)	14.	Unscented (9)
21.	Water (8)	15.	Vegetable (8)
23.	Barred from (2,2,4)	17.	Exclusive (7)
24.	Number (6)	18.	Untidy person (6)
25.	Paper (6)	20.	Strange (5)
26.	Group of performers (8)	22.	Shimmer (5)

## **Quiz (answers on page 23)**

- 1 By what name were the hosts and entertainers at Butlins Holiday camps known?
- 2 Of which English county is the Isle of Sheppey a part?
- 3 In which English city is there a railway station called Lime Street?
- 4 In which year +/- 5 did Alaska become the 49th US state?
- 5 Where would you find the ciliary muscle?
- 6 A chemist calls it NaCl, what does a cook call it?
- 7 Which stand-up comedian used the catchphrase 'It's the way I tell 'em!'?
- 8 What did Tonto call the Lone Ranger?
- 9 What is charlock?
- 10 Of which religion is the Koran the Holy Book?
- 11 By what name was Geertruida Zelle better known during the First World War?
- 12 What do the letters ps stand for at the end of a letter?
- 13 On the banks of which river is Winchester?
- 14 Name the Cunard liner sank by a German submarine in 1915?
- 15 What is known as 'The Sport of Kings'?
- 16 What English prison was built 1806 and 1809 to house French POWs?
- 17 What bird is the National Symbol of Iceland?
- 18 Who was almost kidnapped on the Mall on 20th March 1974?
- 19 Who kept insisting he wasn't a number but a free man?
- 20 Which actor had problems with Rising Damp and had to do Porridge?

## **Members Contributions**

### **Coming out of Lockdown.**

April 2021 Easter was early this year, Good Friday on the 2nd, but the weather was kind the first 3 days turning colder on Easter Monday. The lockdown is easing. The schools opened on 8th March with only a small blip in the downward trend of the virus. We are now allowed to meet, rule of six again, outdoors. The majority of people conform but, as always, a minority flout the rules. There is a ban on overseas travel (except for business or compassionate reasons) and Europe, particularly France and Italy are seeing a 3rd wave of infection and have instigated a total lockdown. I sincerely hope we can avoid this. Our vaccination programme is going well, far better than Europe, so there is hope. I had my second dose on the 17th. I think all my older friends have had two now.

We can now meet outside for a meal or drinks, publicly or in private gardens (rule of six and social distance applies) and I feel I should try to go out despite the risk as it will lift my mood. I had lunch with a friend at Riches on the 21st, the weather was bright but a bit chilly with a cold east wind but it was great to meet someone face to face. I had further lunch dates on 27th and 29th also at Riches.

Internationally the virus raged on. India is the latest to be overwhelmed. The hospitals are full, peoples dying outside, and the oxygen supply has run out in many hospitals. South America continues to struggle. New variants are appearing frequently in all the countries where it gets out of control and the scientists are working flat out to check if the vaccines currently in use are effective so that we may keep ahead of the thing. Until all nations can vaccinate their populations this will be a problem.

May 2021 The sunshine and showers we should have had in April arrived and made working in the garden a patchy affair. The frost and very cold wind we had throughout last month has gone but it's still not as warm as it



should be. I ventured to the Puriton Inn for lunch, taken in an open-ended marquee, on the 13th. The rain was torrential and all around the tent flooded!

I am still reluctant to go anywhere too busy.

June 2021 The regulations are easing and I am going out a little but still not comfortable with crowded places. I guess I never did like crowds. We are still being asked to wear masks in shops and when moving around restaurants. Strollers are going out on Fridays again and I try to walk a little way with them. Hand sanitisers are still supplied for use on entry to public places and I carry my own for use before getting back in the car. The date for full repeal of all restrictions was extended until July.

July 2021 Regulations removed in England; foreign travel restrictions remain. Over 50s people are still careful but the young seem to have thrown caution to the wind. I visited a friend in Winchester for a few days, which made me realise how up tight I had been. It was good to have company. We went out but avoided busy places.

Our coffee mornings have resumed, as you know. I popped in to pay my dues only to find I was still in credit, thank you Barry for keeping a record, but didn't stay long. Other activities are slowly starting up.

We are now into August and although there are lots of holiday makers about, I still feel there is a caution among us. We stand further apart, use hand sanitiser and wear masks in shops, and leave our contact details at venues. I do this manually as my mobile phone is too old to download the app. I am not sorry about this. My dinner arrangement had to be postponed last week as my friend was "pinged", so I have mixed feeling as to whether it is good or bad to have it.

I wonder if we have all been permanently changed by this experience. I am sure you have all had similar thoughts and experiences.

Paula

## **Buttery Shortbread Recipe**

### **Ingredients**

- 125g/4oz unsalted butter, softened
- 55g/2oz caster sugar, plus extra to finish
- 180g/6oz plain flour

### **Method**

- Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5.
- Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.
- Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick.
- Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
- Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.



## Victoria Sponge Recipe

### Ingredients

- 225 g (8 oz) softened butter
- 225 g (8 oz) caster sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 225 g (8 oz) self-raising flour
- 2 level tsp baking powder
- 2 x 20cm (8in) greased and lined sandwich tins
- For The Filling And Topping:
- 4tbsp strawberry or raspberry jam
- A little caster or icing sugar, for sprinkling



Buttercream optional! 500g icing! 125g butter! 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence!

### Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 160°C/gas 4. Grease two sandwich tins then line the base of each tin with baking parchment.
- Measure the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, and baking powder into a large bowl and beat until thoroughly blended. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins and level out.

- Bake in the preheated oven for about 25 minutes or until well risen and the tops of the cakes spring back when lightly pressed with a finger. Leave to cool in the tins for a few minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.
- When completely cold, sandwich the cakes together with the jam. Sprinkle with caster or icing sugar to serve!

If using Buttercream! Beat together Icing sugar! Butter and vanilla essence until smooth and creamy!

Adele Stevens

### **For Anyone Missing Their Golf**

On the **17th** of this month, I went out in my VW **GOLF** to meet Mr. **GREEN** at his **CLUB** at **3 IRON**bridge Rd. **ROYAL BIRKDALE** which is a **FAIRWAY** from where I live. I was hoping to purchase an antique **TEE - CADDIE**, about to be auctioned ( or so a little **BIRDIE** told me)

As I **APPROACH** a corner, suddenly, on the road in front of me I see a Bald **EAGLE**, the car veers off road and I **DOGLEG**, trying to avoid it, ending up in a ditch in the **ROUGH** at the edge of the **WOOD**.

I check the tyres and note I have a **HOLE IN ONE** of them, '**PAR FOR THE COURSE**' I say to myself.

This was now going to **HANDICAP** me for the rest of the day!

As I wait for a **RECOVERY** van to help me out, I **PLAY THROUGH** my list of CD's in the car and check my shopping list for later. How stupid, am I? having written **PUTTER** instead of butter.

I suddenly get a **WHIFF** of diesel as a **RANGE** Rover pulls up beside me, a Four by **FORE** version of **COURSE**.

Out steps my friend Jane **DIVOT**. "Good to see you" she says and **LINKS** her arm in mine. We started **PLAYING A ROUND** making a date for tomorrow . . . . am now so looking forward to the **18<sup>th</sup>**!!

Barry

The logo for 'Mandy Maid 2 Clean' features a collection of colorful cleaning supplies. On the left, there is a blue spray bottle with a red trigger, a red-handled scrub brush, and a blue bucket with a red handle. A yellow cleaning glove is draped over the side of the bucket. A squeegee with a blue head and a red handle is positioned behind the bucket. The background is a light green gradient.

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## Crossword #33 Answers

ACROSS		DOWN	
1.	BEFRIEND	2.	EARWIG
6.	BRANCH	3.	REACH
9.	TRUANT	4.	ENTERTAIN
10.	FOCUSSED	5.	DEFLECT
11.	LITHARGE	6.	BACON
12.	NICKEL	7.	ASSOCIATE
13.	FRACTIONALLY	8.	CLEVERLY
16.	ARACHNOPHOB	13.	FACETIOUS
19.	SCYTHE	14.	ODOURLESS
21.	IRRIGATE	15.	BROCCOLI
23.	NO GO AREA	17.	PRIVATE
24.	ELEVEN	18.	STREEL
25.	TISSUE	20.	EERIE
26.	ENSEMBLE	22.	GLEAM



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## Quiz Answers

1	Red Coats	2	Kent
3	Liverpool	4	1958
5	In the eye	6	Salt
7	Frank Carson	8	Kemo-sabe
9	Herb	10	Islam or Moslem
11	Mata Hari	12	Post Script
13	Itchen	14	Lusitania
15	Horse Racing	16	Dartmoor
17	Falcon	18	Princess Anne
19	The Prisoner	20	Richard Beckinsale

# SANDRA

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2021		
October 11th	Day trip to St Fagans Museum, Cardiff, Wales	£14



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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.