

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



# **U3A of Highbridge Magazine**

Registered Charity No: 1184925

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

Issue 115

Nov/Dec 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**

It is nice to see more of our members turning up for coffee morning on a regular basis and to see everyone relaxing and enjoying a chat.

Our first 'Day Out' since lock down was a great success and our thanks to Denise and Chris for organising the trip to St Fagans. If they can just organise the same weather for the next one, it will be perfect!



The next event in our calendar is the 21st Coming of Age Birthday party on 17th November. Please see details further on in the magazine.

I would like to say well done to Janet and team who raised so much money at the McMillan Coffee Morning, it is such a worthwhile cause.

On a sad note, we send our condolences to Fay on the loss of Ken one of our founder members. He will be much missed.

Enjoy the colours of autumn!

Rod

## **Club and Group News**

### **U3A of Highbridge Coming of Age Party**

We were hoping to celebrate our 20th Birthday Party last year but for obvious reasons it wasn't possible. However undaunted, we are now 'coming of age' and will be holding our special celebration on Wednesday 17th November 2021. This is the nearest Wednesday to the anniversary of our first meeting in 2000. Lunch of either a ploughman's or soup, both served with either a roll or cheese scone, will be served at 12.00 and the hall is booked until 1.30pm. Please pre-book your lunch and your preference for either a celebratory glass of prosecco or a soft drink. Tickets will be £3 and they can be purchased at coffee mornings from Denise.

### **Message from Fay Burston**

I would like to thank you all for the support I received over the previous months of Ken's illness and subsequent death. I have received over 60 sympathy cards. Ken would have been amazed, as I was.

When I turned around at the crematorium and saw so many people, I daren't turn around again, as I would have burst into tears. For a man of 96 to still have so many friends was wonderful. I was so proud of him.

Being Secretary of the club and also editing the magazine for so many years, contributed to Ken being alert and active for so long. I'm sure that having a busy life is what kept him going

Fay

## **Day Trip**

Our next day out is to Winchester to visit the Christmas Market or if the market is not for you, there are plenty of other attractions to see. This will be on Monday 29th November and the cost will be £16.00 per person. See myself or Christine Owen to book your place.

Take care.

Denise



## **Annual Hamper Raffle**

We will be holding our annual Hamper Raffle on 1st December at the coffee morning.

Diane and Audrey will be happy to receive any of your kind donations for the hampers. Please can you ensure that your contributions will be with-in their sell by date on 1st December.

## **Table Tennis Group**

We currently have 8 members in this group, most of whom play regularly. We will soon have better times, but we need new members of all abilities to survive.

John Ellis

## **Members Contributions**

### **Strollers—Late Summer**

The end of August saw us again in West Huntspill, there are so many paths, bridleways and quiet roads all with the advantage of being close to base, we are happy to go that way often. The day was intermittently cloudy with a sharp wind but very pleasant for walking. We went along Church Road, Langlands Lane, through to Maundrills Farm, then over the stile, across three fields (and two more stiles) then re-joined the track and the road. At Plymor Hill most of our party branched off to extend the walk but Bernie and I had done enough, about a mile and a half, so headed back the cars. We detoured slightly to look at the felled beech tree in the church yard, it has left a huge stump and some mighty sections of the trunk were lying there. Denise told us, when we joined up again, that the wood is being sold.

There were only three of us for the first walk in September, others saving themselves for skittles, so we took a short route through the nature reserve on the Huntspill River at Woolavington Causeway. There were lots of butterfly and grasshopper around but my photography skills were not up to getting a pic-



ture so here is one of the geese who were more co-operative! They had been in the river but were drying on the bank by the time I was close enough.

It was still warm from our mini Indian Summer earlier in the week but overcast and showery. We drove to Brean, a few caravans and camper vans about and a lot of people who have no idea of the width of their car and are terrified on narrow roads but we made it safely to the National Trust car park. The tide was high and the flood gates were closed, Denise had never seen the water that high at Brean. We took the flat route along the base of the Down, as no-one felt up to the climb to the top. Bernie, Keith and me turned back when we got to the farm but the others set off along the river bank. It rained on the way back and Bernie kindly shared his umbrella, we bought coffees and sat under the projecting roof to drink them. I soon dried off (due to the warm weather, not because I'm hot stuff!) and the other walkers joined us. It was good to sit and chat and laugh.

The last stroll of September and the weather was uncharacteristically hot and dry so we decided that Westhay Nature Reserve should be our ven-



ue. Unfortunately one of our party missed the turning so we were a little delayed but as we all had plenty of time it didn't matter. We set off along the main drive from the car park, it was a little uneven but no real problem. There were more people about, both walkers and cyclists, than usual, perhaps lockdown has raised appreciation of our beautiful area. On

reaching the North Drain we were treated to the spectacle of a squadron of swans landing. We stood and admired the view and chuckled watching the cattle egrets feeding around the steers. Bernie and I turned back at

this point but most of the group walked on to the Wedmore road. We reassembled and went to Sweets for refreshment. It was lovely, jolly and relaxing morning.

Autumn temperatures arrived in October, together with showers, so waterproof coats were needed. We took a route from Apex Lakes along the



river bank and sea front to Pier Street. We watched an approaching shower coming across the bay, it arrived just as we reached the Bay Café so we went in for a drink and a light snack (it was too early for lunch). The rain stopped and we set off again, three to head down the beach to the

lighthouse and the rest of us back to the Apex. We encountered an electric scooter coming toward us on the pavement and for the first time I realised why people are concerned about them. If it had been behind us we would not have known it was there.

Cheddar Reservoir hosted us on a warm but grey day, lovely for a stroll. We were delighted that Fay joined us again. Beautiful views, lots of birds and people walking. Two black swans we have not seen there before and a dozen or more cormorant. The white blob in the back of the picture is water cascading into the lake.







Below are some of the quicker walkers waiting for the slowcoaches and picture takers!



Fifteenth of October and the weather is still warm. We walked the cycle track from Uphill and luckily for me there was a seat with a beautiful view a little way along. Bernie joined me after a while and we walked back to the café to wait for the others who had followed the path until they could access the river bank and they came back that way.

Paula

## Monthly Draw

Sat 28th Aug 2021	No. 41	Valerie James
Sat 25th Sep 2021	No. 53	Kay Lloyd & Carol Gibbons

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 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>	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	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

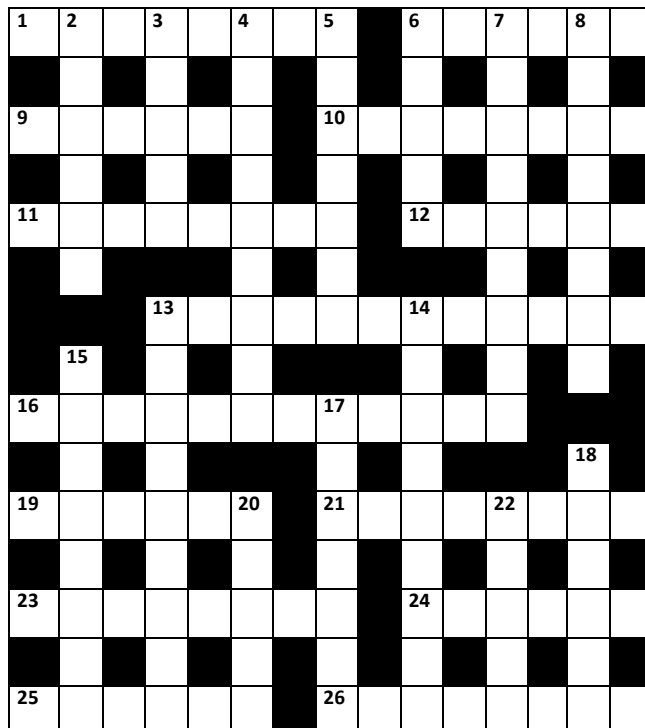
Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

### Legends

S.H. .... Southwell House	C.H. .... Community Hall (Room Number)
P.H. .... Private House	G.H. .... Gospell Hall
C.A. .... Coopers Arms	

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

## Crossword #34 (solution on page 22)



<u>ACROSS</u>		<u>DOWN</u>	
1.	Facilities (8)	2.	Experience (6)
6.	Produce (6)	3.	Hazy (5)
9.	Proverbs (6)	4.	Tapes (9)
10.	Expect (8)	5.	Metal (7)
11.	Fleeting (8)	6.	Canopy (5)
12.	Perches (6)	7.	Installed (9)
13.	Neat car wings [anag] (8,4)	8.	Strengthens (8)
16.	I find clauses [anag] (12)	13.	Received with pleasure (9)
19.	Loops of thread (6)	14.	Silent (9)
21.	Usher (8)	15.	Contrive (8)
23.	Vegetable type (8)	17.	Creatures (7)
24.	Bird species (6)	18.	Composes (6)
25.	Breakwater (6)	20.	Take (5)
26.	Tension (8)	22.	Crowd (5)

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

- 1 Which two countries compete for the Calcutta Cup?
- 2 By what name is Tenzin Gyatso better known?
- 3 For what purpose did the Mayans build pyramids: as tombs, temples, palaces or treasure troves?
- 4 Of which country was Haile Selassie once Emperor?
- 5 What is the capital of Venezuela?
- 6 Which famous service was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary?
- 7 Which city is served by Tempelhof Airport?
- 8 What is the fourth root of 81?
- 9 What name is given to the offspring of a tiger and a lioness?
- 10 Which organisation developed the Teletext system?
- 11 Which saint is associated with 15th July?
- 12 What type of fish is a jack?
- 13 With which of the 'arts' is Barbara Hepworth associated?
- 14 Who is next in the sequence; Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius ... ?
- 15 What is a claymore in the Scottish Highlands?
- 16 To the nearest minute how long does light take to get from the sun to earth?
- 17 The Balearic Islands belong to: Italy, Spain, Greece, Libya?
- 18 Who might have the right of Primogeniture?
- 19 What is the main colour on the first choice strip for the Dutch football team?
- 20 What value is given to the pink ball in a game of snooker?

## **More Members Contributions**

### **St. Fagans, (or as some people pronounce it St. Fagins!)**

“Away Day’s is back! Back with a vengeance. Back from a dormant two year gap, and now, hopefully its ‘Back to the Future’

It is only due to the enthusiasm of both Denise and Christine, plus the hard work that is always involved with organising such events, that the future of our ‘Away Days’ remains very much alive today. I feel that we all owe these two ladies a special vote of thanks (whether you joined us on our recent trip or not) for actually making it happen!

Following in Vour’s footsteps with what she used to do for our regular day trips was never going to be easy, but I, along with all those that went on our first trip, know that Christine and Denise excelled in their organisation.

It was a few years ago that our u3a took a trip out to Cardiff to visit the National Museum of History at St. Fagans, just outside Cardiff. Christine did mention at one of our coffee mornings before we went, that there was the option for Martin, our usual coach driver, (and No, he hasn’t retired!) dropping people off in Cardiff to go shopping if they preferred, rather than visiting the museum. But no!, everybody that went on the trip wanted to go to St. Fagans, so I feel that the choice made by our two ladies was exactly the right one for our first trip out!

It’s the type of place where you can return time and time again, as you cannot expect to see it all or take it all in during a single visit.

They bring in new buildings (well, actually they are old buildings) as and when they become available. Dismantling them from anywhere throughout Wales to bring them to the site and re-erect them. Their latest venture is to rebuild the pub/hotel which is currently well on it’s way to be-



ing finished. I understand, when complete, they will be offering B&B on a fairly regular basis.

This hotel is situated next to the Workman's Institute building which was originally sited at Oakdale, near Caerphilly. Sadly, on our trip, we were not allowed to view the upstairs 'function room' as two days prior to our visit, it had been used for a wedding reception, a commonplace occurrence at St. Fagans, and as they were still to Hoover up the confetti and collect all the empty beer and champagne bottles off the floor before they could open it up again to the general public, it was therefore, off limits. Shortage of staff was being blamed for this.

If there was a downside to our visit, then it was caused by the lack of staff that they are currently experiencing there (hence the lack of clearing up after the wedding). A few of the buildings could not be opened up, along with a couple of the eating venues because of this problem. Staff shortages is commonplace these days wherever you go, blamed mainly on the pandemic, or is it Brexit? No hang on, maybe it's the shortages of silicon chips! Anyway, whatever the real reason for it, we still managed to get coffees and a lunch, so it wasn't that bad!

I recall coming out from visiting the castle, when the security/guide chap had to close and lock the door behind us, "Just for ten minutes" I heard him say to a couple who were wanting to go in and view. He told them that he needed a 'comfort break' and sadly there was nobody available to take his place, much to the annoyance of yet another couple of visitors who arrived just at that moment to explore it. (the castle that is – NOT the loo)

It was still a lovely day out, despite the odd hiccup. Just wandering around, getting an insight into the way people lived and worked dating back hundreds of years up to almost the present time, that being a pre-fab house of the 1950's.

Crossing the bridge over the river, we ventured up into the Italian gardens and then onto, and into the castle, which is in fact, an Elizabethan Manor house. A Grade 1 listed building, which was originally built in 1580. The area around the 'castle' also includes a thyme garden a rose garden. There are fish ponds, fountains plus a mulberry grove and vinery all with views stretching across the Welsh countryside beyond. It was so peaceful just to sit there in the sunshine gazing out across the fields.

And so our day at St. Fagans drew to a close, it remained only to board our coach for a non eventful trip back along the M4 & M5 to Highbridge.

Hopefully, all our members will support Christine and Denise in the future. A full coach to Winchester Christmas market towards the end of November must surely be incentive enough for these two ladies to continue organising many more places for us to visit on a regular basis throughout 2022.

The committee trusts they can count on your support for our Away Day's' to continue!



Part of the walled garden



The castle



Part of the Italian Gardens

## **Weekend in Cornwall**

We decided to have a weekend in Looe because we both had fond memories of going there a long time ago. Being the time of the year – October - we were expecting the weather to be variable and it certainly was!

We had grey skies, and some very wet patches and occasionally the sun shone through to create some nice subjects for paintings. Aud snapped away with her camera to record them, will see in time if I ever get around to painting any.

The Portbyhan hotel was very good, overlooking the river and we were all treated to a delicious Cornish cream tea on arrival.

Looe is very picturesque and in the sunny spells there were quite a lot of people on the beach. On Sunday morning we watched the dinghies with blue sails being launched for a race.

There were trips organised to Mevagissey, Charlestown and Polperro. All nice bus rides for the views but unfortunately apart from a few gift shops, a divers' museum in Charlestown and one tea room in Mevagissey, Cornwall appears to close for the winter. This was a surprise, bearing in mind how many people have decided to spend their holidays at home this year.

Despite the rainy Saturday, we had a very enjoyable weekend and are looking forward to our next trip in February.



Polperro



The beach at Looe



Lights over the river, Looe

Rod and Audrey



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## Crossword #34 Answers

ACROSS		DOWN	
1.	SERVICES	2.	ENDURE
6.	CREATE	3.	VAGUE
9.	ADAGES	4.	CASSETTES
10.	ENVISAGE	5.	SPELTER
11.	BRIEFEST	6.	COVER
12.	ROOSTS	7.	ENSCONCED
13.	WATERING CANS	8.	TIGHTENS
16.	UNCLASSIFIED	13.	WELCOMLY
19.	PICOTS	14.	NOISELESS
21.	SHEPHERD	15.	ENGINEER
23.	CELERIAC	17.	INSECTS
24.	EGRETS	18.	WRITES
25.	GROYNE	20.	SEIZE
26.	SUSPENSE	22.	HORDE



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## Quiz Answers

1	England & Scotland	2	Dalai Lama
3	Temples	4	Ethopia
5	Caracus	6	RNLI
7	Berlin	8	3
9	Tigon	10	BBC
11	St Swithun	12	Young Pike
13	Sculpture	14	Nero
15	Double Handed Sword	16	8 Minutes
17	Spain	18	First Born (son)
19	Orange	20	6 Points

# SANDRA

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2021</b>		
November 17th	U3A of Highbridge Coming of age party	£3.00
November 29th	Day trip to Winchester Christmas Market	£16.00

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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.