

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 116

Jan/Feb 2022

## **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
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Treasurer	Carol Marriott	01278 795773
Membership Secretary	Barry Ede	07779 793463
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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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## Chairman's Message

Hello Everybody

So where do we go from here? I don't know about you but I don't know what is happening. Are we moving forward? I suppose, we will just have to wait and see.

On a lighter note, I really enjoyed the day out to Winchester, it is always nice to go somewhere you haven't been before AND we had good weather! A big thank you to Chris and Denise for organising everything.

Thank you to everyone who made donations to our annual Christmas Hamper raffle. It was a great success and you will be pleased to know that we raised £166 towards our funds.

Thank you to Janet for organising our Christmas party to give us a lift – and didn't it go well?!! Thank you as well to Chris Owen and Adele for the lovely food. We were spoilt! We were entertained by Christmas music once a slight hitch was resolved by our technical advisor Alan, who got the CD player working by piling several large books on top it – it worked a dream! And last but not least Father Christmas arrived to give us all a pressy to open on Christmas Day.

Sadly we have lost a few groups recently for a variety of reasons. If anybody would like to start a new group, please let a committee member know and we will help you as much as we can.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and hopefully a much brighter 2022!

Rod



## **Club and Group News**

### **Skittles Group**

After many years of running the skittles group Barbara and Philip Buoy have decided to step down. They will however not be hanging up the skittles, but will carry on playing. On behalf of all the people that have played skittles, now and in the past, can I say a great big thank you for all you have done.

Skittles will be carrying on but will be self regulated. We meet on the first and third Friday of the month, meeting at 1.30pm upstairs in the Coopers Arms, Market Street.

Denise Godby



## **Annual Lunch Update**

We usually put details of the annual lunch in the magazine at this time of year but, unfortunately due to being unable to obtain pricing structures from suppliers and also problems with staffing, The Beachcomber are unable to send us menus in time for them to be included in this edition. With this in mind, and also the fact that the Berrow Road will be closed until 8th April we have asked them to postpone the meal until 13 April. Please watch this space for further news.

## **Thank You from Linda Knight-Rees**

I would just like to say thank you for all the good wishes and the get well card from U3A of Highbridge.

## **Members Contributions**

### **Churches 18**

Welcome back everyone the last time we ventured out to our religious buildings was the end of January 2020. Lets hope nothing gets in our way this time.

Our first church outing since covid arrived was to St. Marys at Berrow, where the sand blows from the seashore over the churchyard wall, for its medieval building lies nearly in the Bristol Channel.

As we walk across the common to the church gate there are mounting stones at which my lord and lady would mount their horses. At the church the old wooden door still swings on its hinges as it has swung

open for seven generations of Berrow folk.

It is known that there was a church in Berrow in 1020AD. But nothing of this building remains, the present church was built around 1280AD.

Inside the twentieth century has seen the church further beautified. In the north wall is a fine 1914-1918 war memorial window. In the tower vestry is a lovely window designed in 1970. It depicts a ship—an early Christian symbol for the church—driven by the wind of the Holy Spirit through time. The window is illuminated by the wonderful sunsets over the sea at Berrow and throws colour into the body of the church.

In 2018 major restoration took place inside, making it a very welcoming place to visit. Should you like to make a visit, you will have to contact the rector, as the church is kept locked, only open for regular services.

We then moved on to Brean or Breane as it was once known. The church of St. Bridget's has survived the passing of time where it has stood for 700 years. The church was probably founded by Irish Monks, it is one of a series of churches in Somerset which lie close to the shoreline, the seafaring Celts liked to build their churches close to the sea.

The church is dedicated to St. Bridget, who was abbess to a monastery and nunnery at Kildare in central Ireland. In 1729 lightning struck the tower and it was shortened and re-roofed with a saddle-back roof, the tower still contains three pre-reformation bells dating from about 1500.

The church was heavily restored in 1890. After a period of neglect, a new chancel was built, new seats put in and the old floor consisting of pebbles from the beach was replaced with the present tiles. A new organ was put in. It seems that for twenty years prior to this there had been no singing at all in services at Breane.

In the churchyard there is a heart-shaped iron over the grave of a sailor which once read:

The cruel winds and yawning waves  
 Hurried me to my doom,  
 While my wife and children dear  
 Waited for me at home.

On to Lympsham or Lymplesham as it used to be—it was given by the Saxon King Ine to the Abbot of Glastonbury in 690AD. The parish remained one of the Glastonbury Estates from that date until the Abbey was destroyed in 1539.

The earliest reference to St. Christopher's church is not until 1235. There is no record of when the church was built, but the mouldings on the pillars separating the nave from the north isle suggest a date of around 1400. The church has been extensively restored, principally through the generosity of the Stephenson family. Three of the family were rectors of Lympsham for 97 years between 1809 and 1912.

The tower belfry contains a peal of five bells until 1864. Four of them dated 1696, 1734, 1794 and 1825 with the fifth undated. They were all recast by George Mears & Co. of the Whitechapel Foundry London. The sixth was added in 1878, and in the belfry it is perched on the top of the other five with an inscription which reads.

The Rector placed me here on high  
 That we might sound with fuller cry  
 And sing above the Heavenly Host  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Here's to the next time.....Bernie.

## **Winchester Cathedral Visit by Fay Burston**

A few years ago Ken and I had visited Winchester on a coach trip and while there had been into the Cathedral. Unfortunately we did not have time to see all that we would have liked. On the tour I learnt that at the start of the 20th century the south east corner of the Cathedral had started to subside, with many cracks appearing in the walls and that a man in a diving suite was engaged to carry out the repairs. Because we had to leave to catch the coach we knew no more.

When Chris and Denise announced a coach trip to Winchester, you can guess who was one of the first to book. As soon as I arrived I went straight to the Cathedral, no messing, and was there for the next three and a quarter hours and could have stayed longer. I learnt so much in such a short time. I just hope that I can retain some of it.

In 1905 William Walters, wearing the old fashioned type of diving suit (metal helmet), worked 6 hours a day, 6 days a week for the next 6 years, building supports for the Cathedral underground in water. This part of the Cathedral was an extension, built in the past on marshy ground, consequently it subsided. A large team of men were involved, but he was the diver. For this 6 years work he was awarded a Rose Bowl at that time. The work was completed in 1911 just a short time before the start of the First World War. William Walters died just at the end of the war when the flu epidemic arrived. Later a statue was erected in his name.

While in the Cathedral I visited the library of 2000 books (massive volumes) dating from 1570—1670. I saw the oldest door in situ, only 900 year old at the exhibition. I also learnt how the paints that were used to paint pictures in the bible were made; nearly all toxic ingredients which killed many of the artists within five years.

Needless to say I didn't make it to the Christmas Market. Thank you Chris and Denise for the very fulfilling day.



## Photos from U3A of Highbridge Christmas Party 22-12-2021



## Monthly Draw

Sat 23rd Oct 2021	No. 19	John Preddy and Ivor Alford
Sat 20th Nov 2021	No. 53	Carol Gibbons and Barry Ede
Sat 18th Dec 2021	No. 59	Lynne Hembrow and Linda Brigg

Each received £25.00

**This space available for an advert. If you or anyone you know would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact our secretary Audrey (tel: 01278 256895 / [audrey\\_downing@hotmail.com](mailto:audrey_downing@hotmail.com)). The cost is £30 per annum for a half page advert. The magazine is published 6 times a year and distributed to approximately 200 members.**



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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

### 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	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

### Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Crochet	C.H. (4)	Alison Ridley	077071 46775
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.	Self-Regulating	238526
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.**

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

- 1 After which war was the Potsdam Conference held?
- 2 Name the Persian astronomer poet who wrote a celebrated collection of quatrains?
- 3 What colour is gunmetal?
- 4 Who had a 1981 hit with Tainted Love?
- 5 What is meant by the heraldic term 'rampant'?
- 6 Who was the 'arry' from Frank Bruno's "Know what I mean 'arry"?
- 7 In which country is Timbuktu?
- 8 In which year did Charlie Chaplin make his last film, A Countess from Hong Kong?
- 9 In which ocean is the Humboldt Current?
- 10 Name the major concert venue opened on the South Bank of the Thames in 1951?
- 11 In heraldry what is meant by the term couchant?
- 12 Which pop group named itself after an American firetruck?
- 13 What is Nimitz?
- 14 What is TEFL teaching?
- 15 What is a marmite?
- 16 A normal adult would have how many Incisor teeth?
- 17 Which 'superhero' was created by Bob Kane?
- 18 In computing, for what does/did DOS stand?
- 19 Which 1990s boy band hailed from Walthamstow?
- 20 What is the second most spoken language in the world?

## **More Members Contributions**

### **Trip to Winchester**

The coach trip to Winchester was very comfortable. At our coffee stop we had a nice hot chocolate made by our driver who looked very festive in his Santa hat.

On the way to Winchester, the landscape changed dramatically and as we entered Wiltshire it became snow covered.

Our coach took us into the centre of Winchester and after collecting a good map from the local Tourist Information Office we set off to explore the many historical buildings.

The Christmas market was very festive with seasonal music playing and lots of lights. Many visitors were enjoying a glass of mulled wine while deciding what they would like to buy.

After exploring the ancient city, we used our trusty map to find the local Wetherspoons The Old Gaol House which, like most Wetherspoons, has a very interesting history.

“The use of this site as a prison is thought to date from 1228. In 1805, accommodation at the gaol was improved by the building of a new prison for debtors. The very centre of this new building was the Governor’s House – now this pub. After a new prison opened in Romsey Road, in 1849, the old gaol closed and was sold”.

After a leisurely lunch we had another walk around to look at some more historical buildings and were surprised to find a beautiful Elizabeth Frink sculpture of horse and rider. We then made our way back to the coach for a much deserved snooze on the way home.

Rod and Audrey





Old Church



Winchester Cathedral





Horse and Rider by Elizabeth Frink



Main Street, Winchester

## **Strollers Autumn – 2021 by Paula Cook**

At my suggestion we set off for Dunwear Ponds as we had not been there for some time, which became apparent when we arrived and found huge locked gates had been erected! There was a pedestrian kissing gate for access. Denise asked a local about it and was told the only place to park was in the housing estate; the small convoy of three cars set off again! Having successfully parked we went through a twitchet onto Dunwear Lane and back to the kissing gate. Strolling along the footpath it became obvious that the angling club have had problems as all the swims were heavily fenced and locked. Undeterred we kept going along the path which discharged us into the afore mentioned estate, but nowhere near the cars as far as we could see. It was interesting to see the care (well mostly) people take of their gardens. We asked a postman how to get back to our cars and he sent us in the right direction. Fortunately, Denise remembered the name of the road where we had parked and equally fortunate that at the next confusing junction a man who was working in his garden could direct us home. Not quite the walk we had expected but interesting and amusing.



Only five of us on this lovely autumn day so we walked the length of the sea front and returned along Berrow Road, St Andrew's churchyard and Marine Cove where this picture was taken of my jolly strolling companions. At one point we were highly amused by a discreet house plaque

which stated "On this exact spot in 1642 absolutely nothing happened". There are very few changes since I played on the prom in the 1950s, the mighty sea wall being the most obvious. We stopped at the Bay Café for refreshments before returning to the cars parked by the yacht club behind

a Black Maria, painted white and converted to a motor home!

Rain threatened so we avoided the hills, which were very black, and headed for Bridgwater Canal. Turning right from the car park we walked along to the YMCA, at which point we crossed to the other bank. The canal was high and fast flowing. I turned back down the right bank and the others walked on towards the dock. Because building works for the new multiplex cinema are happening on the old Mount Street car park it is all fenced off therefore preventing the circular route back across town, so they retraced their steps when reaching the Malt Shovel Inn. All eight of us popped into Morrisons for a bit to eat.

Despite the damp not quite drizzle we decided to tackle the Strawberry Line from Winscombe. The car park was busier than normal but all three cars found a space. The old trackway was carpeted in gold and brown leaves so care was needed not to slip but the damp air was mild and walking very pleasant. I cut back across the field by the community hall and the magnificent seven walked on to the Sandford Road. We found lunch in the Woodford Inn.

Storm Arwen was threatening so we retreated to Sander's, looked at the changes and the Christmas sparkly things then treated ourselves to Brunch.

The following week there were only four of us. We parked at Apex and walked up onto the rivet bank at which point I turned back. Then there were three, who went on to the Bay Café for coffee.

Numbers are dropping, five of us gathered. We went to West Huntspill and parked in the Baliol Hall car park. I gamely set off up the road and along Sloway Lane but after a short way realised I wasn't up to it so cut across the footpath and back to my car. The fitter four (a variation on the famous five) did the circuit to the bridge, up the service road to the A38 and returned.

## **Strollers Christmas Lunch by Paula Cook**

The 17th December, coronavirus defied, thirteen Strollers went ahead with their planned Christmas lunch at the Hobbs Boat. A jolly time was had by all.





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## **FRIENDLY ADVICE (from Fay Burston):**

### **Drinking and Driving...**

I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving.

This might save you the cost and embarrassment of being arrested for DUI. (driving under influence)

We may have brushes with the authorities from time to time, often on the way home after a "social session" with family or friends.

Well, this year, it happened to me. I was out for the evening to a party and had more than several margaritas coupled with a bottle of rather nice red wine. It was held at a great Mexican restaurant. Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something I've never done before...I took a taxi home.

On the way home there was a police roadblock, but since it was a taxi they waved it past and I arrived home safely without incident. These roadblocks can be anywhere and I realised how lucky I was to have chosen to take a taxi.

The real surprise to me was I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it.

If you want to borrow it, give me a call.

## Quiz Answers

1	World War II	2	Omar Khayyam
3	Dark Grey	4	Soft Cell
5	Standing on hind legs	6	Harry Carpenter
7	Mali	8	1966
9	Pacific	10	Royal Festival Hall
11	Lying down	12	REO Speedwagon
13	Winking	14	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
15	Earthenware cooking	16	8
17	Batman	18	Disk Operating System
19	East 17	20	English

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2022</b>		
13th April?	U3A of Highbridge Annual Lunch at the Beachcomber, Brean	TBA



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Please also add your name, address and phone number on the reverse of the cheque, this: -

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