

Of Highbridge
u3a learn,
laugh,
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U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Issue 118

May/Jun 2022

Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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Charity Commission Co-ordinator	Carole Loveridge	01278 780060
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Committee Member	Bernard Martin	01278 787230
Committee Member	John Ellis	01278 685483
Committee Member (co-opted)	Peter Manning	01278 780203

Other non-committee roles

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Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>June 27th 2022</u>

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Chairman's Message

Hello Everybody

First of all, I would like to welcome all our new and returning members. It is nice to see our membership numbers are steadily increasing.



We have had a few visitors recently at coffee morning. Claire from Engage

Somerset came to talk to us and a few of our members took advantage of her offer of improving their computer skills. Also we have had our local community police popping in. They were very friendly and chatted to several members. I must say they look even younger than my grandchildren!

This will be my last message as my three years as Chairman will be up at the next AGM. It is good to see that we have survived covid and will be moving forward with a new strong committee.

Thank you for all your support and enjoy the summer.

Rod

Club and Group News

NOTICE OF AGM

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the U3A of Highbridge will be held on **Wednesday 11th May at 10.30am in the Highbridge Community Hall.** All members are invited to attend. The business of the AGM shall include the following:

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of the minutes of the last year's meeting
3. Matters arising from previous minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and acceptance of accounts
6. Appointment of an Examiner of the accounts for 2021/2022
7. Secretary's report
8. Election of Committee members
9. Any other business
10. Date of next AGM

All fully paid up members are eligible to attend and vote. If it is your intention to attend and have your say, please renew your membership before the meeting.

Day Trip to Weymouth — Monday 9th May 2022

Our next day out is to Weymouth. This will be on Monday 9th May and the cost will be £20.00 per person. See Denise Godby or Christine Owen to book your place.



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Members Contributions

DAY OUT IN SALISBURY

Thank you Denise and Chris for organising a lovely day out in Salisbury. We were lucky to have Martin from Bakers Dolphin as our driver, making the journey really pleasant as usual.

When we got to Salisbury, a few went off to visit the famous cathedral which, I believe, has the tallest spire in England while the rest enjoyed the sights and buildings of this lovely city.

We had a walk round then adjourned for lunch in the local Wetherspoons and found a window seat where we could watch the 'world go by' while we ate. After a nice rest, we went off to see the cathedral.

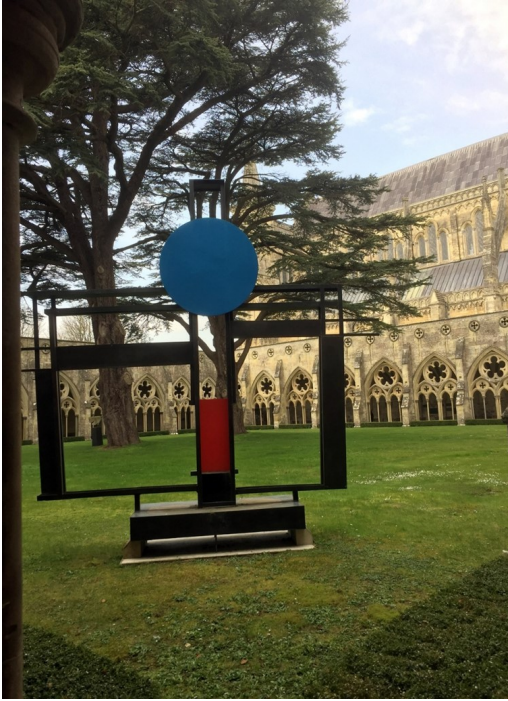
We had a walk around the cloisters but didn't go into the cathedral as by then, we wouldn't have had time to have a proper look around (or get our £10 entry fee money's worth). When we came out, there was a lot of activity in the cathedral grounds. People were causing smoke with canisters and there was a film crew there. Apparently a period drama was being filmed for the BBC and the smoke was to make it look like a foggy day.

Also in the grounds there were a number of 'interesting' modern sculptures which didn't seem to really fit into the ancient surroundings. However, they did make us talk about them, so maybe they had the desired effect.

It was a great day out and I can't wait until the next visit which will be to Weymouth.

Audrey

Barbara Hepworth Cross



Elizabeth Frink – Walking Madonna







Monthly Draw

Sat 12th Mar 2022	No. 16	Barbara Croker and Mary Akers
Sat 9th Apr 2022	No. 17	Mike Parker and Ivor Alford

Winners each received £20.00



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

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

For friendly, no obligation advice/estimate.

Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 nd & 4 th	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Stan Vousden-White Sybil Tilley	781567 787054
1 st & 3 rd & 5 th	2.00 to 4.00	Board Games	S.H.	Dawn Ferguson Pete Manning	07738 630431 07976 408843

Tuesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st & 3 rd	2.00 to 4.00	Mosaics	P.H.	Alison Joyce	784633

Wednesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning	C.H.	N/A	N/A
2 nd	12.00 onwards	Luncheons	Varies	Adele Stevens	07486 909687

Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Crochet	C.H. (4)	Alison Ridley	07707 146775
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Table Tennis	C.H.	John Ellis	685483

Group Activities

Friday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st & 3 rd	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	238526
Every Fri-day until further notice	10.00 onwards	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	238526
5 th	10.00 onwards	Somerset Churches	Varies	Bernard Martin	787230

Occasional

Weekdays	Activity	Contact	Tel
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen Diane Scott	784500 428422
Varies	Classic Vehicle Appreciation Group	Malcolm Manser	07932 734473

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 20)

- 1 What was the first name of Hitler's Minister for Propaganda?
- 2 In what field did British academic A J P Taylor become famous in the 1950s and 60s?
- 3 Which ancient Greek had the world on his shoulders?
- 4 Who led the Kon Tiki Expedition?
- 5 In the Jungle Book what type of creature was Baghera?
- 6 Which 'man' fossil discovered in 1912 in a Sussex gravel pit was proved a hoax in 1953?
- 7 What bird sounds as if it should be able to lift heavy loads?
- 8 Which country comes last in a world alphabetical listing?
- 9 Where is Shovel (or Shuffle) Board most commonly played?
- 10 What was the profession of Mrs Lillie Langtry?
- 11 In which activity did Ralph Vaughan Williams achieve fame?
- 12 Which fish gets its name from its long whiskery barbells?
- 13 Who developed the General Theory of Relativity?
- 14 Of which Mediterranean island is Cagliari the capital?
- 15 Who was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at the Ford Theatre?
- 16 What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in 1963?
- 17 What is a Sally Lunn?
- 18 How did St Stephen die?
- 19 Who moves first in chess?
- 20 At the end of WWII China was the world's most populous country. What was the second largest?

More Members Contributions

Strollers Late Winter – Early Spring

Nobody went out on the 18th of February as storm Eunice was trying to blow us off the face of the earth, and the NSA meeting was postponed so I hunkered down like everyone else.



A week later and Friday dawned clear and bright with a fresh breeze. We met at Brean Down, looked at the rough sea, though the tides were on a low spring, and then set off along the path. Some hardy souls debated going up the steps or

the road, ruled out the steps and joined us to the bottom of the steep service road. Three brave warriors tackled it while the rest of us ambled on towards the river bank. The intrepid three soon hove into view not far behind us so we assumed the wind was a bit sharp on the higher elevation! We again split when we reached the river bank, where the photo was taken, with Bernie and me making our way back to the cars. We reconvened in the car park and decided to grace “The Café at the Pavilion” in Lympsham for lunch.

March, the start of metrological spring, and indeed, after a few gloomy days it was gloriously sunny. As it was the first Friday of the month, several of the skittlers were not with us, but Julia had made it back after several weeks unable to come. We decided on Burnham seafront for our stroll. We tried to start from Seaview Road end but we were unable to park so drove to the southern end by the yacht club as we have done be-

fore. I stopped when we reached the Pavilion and sat in the sun while the fitter and more energetic five went on. I re-joined them on their return and we went to the “Front Parlour” for lunch before walking back to the cars. Next week I shall be unable to go as the postponed NSA meeting is re-scheduled for the 11th.

Last week it poured with rain and I’m told no stroll took place. In true British fashion the weather had done a complete about face on the 18th and there was wall to wall bright, warm sunshine! Only 4 of us met due to skittles and other commitments and we decided on a road walk. The cars were parked in a lay-by at Watchfield and we set off along Southwick Road. Opposite the site of two bungalows being built there was a beautiful pink magnolia in full bloom and further on, along a ditch bank, a wonderful show of daffodils of various shapes and colours interspersed with large clumps of primroses. We retraced our footsteps rather than walk on the Mark Road and returned to Rich’s to sit in the sun, drink coffee (or in one case tea) and put the world to rights.

Nine of us gathered in the Steart Marshes car park and set off along the well-made pathways. The tide was out so the salt marsh was visible in all its glory. We watched a very large swan having a bath, splashing and submerging vigorously. I took the picture on the way back while he was sun bathing! The Black-thorne blossom, a few shining Marsh Marigolds and a Cowslip brightened our walk. Bernie and I returned and sat on a bench enjoying the sun and bird song. The others did the circuit and said the walk back along the river bank was beautiful in the sunshine. Lunch at the Quantock Gateway rounded off the trip.



Four of us braved the bitter north wind and strolled the length of Merry Lane in East Huntspill. We parked on the wide verge at the start of the walk as fishing closed season meant there were no fishermen taking all the space. The hedges gave us some shelter from the wind and we were interested in the number of caravans now on two sites toward the bottom of the lane. The foot bridge over the river has been repaired with metal grid plating, a big improvement over the broken wooden planking on my last visit. A big swathe of Blackthorne blossom clothed the river bank in all its brief glory and was lovely to see. The tractor road back to the village is private so we retraced our footsteps.

Friday the 8th of April and Sustrans volunteers were doing maintenance work on Locks Way so we stopped for a chat. They are removing Spanish bluebells, or foreign invaders as I called them, and nurturing the few



wild English ones in the hope they will survive. The bushes have been cut back or cleared and there is a clear view down to the road in places. The waterfall and the stream were flowing gently and the weeds had been cleared so the metal swans and boats appeared to gliding along (picture taken 4 years ago). As ever I turned back rather than tackle the steeper bit and was joined for the return journey by Fay and Bernie, we took our



time and had not long reached the car park when the speedy bunch arrived. All eight of us then graced the Knowle Inn for lunch.

Good Friday Stroll, the better the day the better the deed as my mother-in-law used to say. Six of us decided to avoid the holiday mayhem and headed for the Huntspill River A38 car park. As

we ambled down the road toward the sluice gate there was great excitement from “Meg Merrilies”, aka Keith, when he spotted what we thought was a cuckoo flower, but we were unsure. If it is, I haven’t seen one of those since I was a boy, he declared! There was a lot less trouble identifying the cowslip. Whether it is male or female can be judged by the number of spots in the cup, Fay told us, unfortunately no one knew which was which. All in all, a less than successful nature watch, but a pleasant stroll!



Paula

Churches 19

Our first visit today.....

Until 1800 the villages of West and East Huntspill did not exist at all, except as a sprinkling of hamlets going by the names such as Batts Bow, Causeway, Cote, Withy Bow and Dotts.

The Church of St. Peter and All Hallows in West Huntspill was established by 1208, rebuilt around 1400 and extended in the early to mid 15th Century. It was gutted by fire on 9th December 1878. Fortunately the stone structure survived; only the red stained pillars and the tomb of an unknown knight and his lady were left to tell of the fire which destroyed most of the interior, but they both still lie here, hewn from the same quarry stone as the church itself.

Also saved from the fire was a Jacobean chest and a magnificent pulpit—300 years old; it’s black oak finely carved with lilies and roses and it’s 10 sides cut with texts from King James Bible.

The total bill for the restoration after the fire plus 6 new bells cast at J Taylor’s bell foundry at Loughbrough came to £4000.

The Church of St. John the Baptist in Pawlett dates from the 12th Century. The Norman church replaced an earlier Saxon structure. The church is thought to have been a popular station on pilgrimages from Watchet to Glastonbury.

The south doorway arch features three bands of decorations, lozenges, zigzags, and biting beasts motif on the outer ring. The font is made in two parts, a Saxon base topped with a upright plain Norman font. The 20th Century window contains a scene Christ blessing children who are in modern dress and holding a teddy bear and a boat. The box pews still retain their hat pegs, reflecting a time when the congregation all wore hats to church.

Many ask why is the church painted white. In Victorian times it was decided that the Blue Lias stone of the building was crumbling so they rendered the outer walls in cement, even though the church has stood for 900 years without falling down.

Onward to Holt Trinity Church Chilton Trinity.

Straight lines of pollard willows reach out towards the mouth of the river Parret, across whose muddy waters lie the lowlands of Sedgemoor where the last English battle was fought.

It is a bare little church we come upon in this bleak land, a tiny 13th Century building with the base of it's 13th Century cross beside it. The preacher climbs up the old rood stairs into the high pulpit, carved 300 years ago. Here also is a font made 400 years ago and five ancient bells, one older than the Armada, and two of them were made before the Reformation. As bells were rung to celebrate great national events, these may of rung to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Lunch for the team was taken at the Quantock Gate pub.

Bernie.....

Quiz Answers

1	Dr Goebbels Joseph	2	History
3	Atlas	4	Thor Heyerdahl
5	Black Panther	6	Pitldown
7	Crane	8	Zimbabwe
9	Ship's Deck	10	Actress
11	Composer	12	Catfish/Barbell
13	Albert Einstein	14	Sardinia
15	Abraham Lincoln	16	A Beatle
17	Teacake	18	Stoned to death
19	White	20	India

SANDRA

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Walk

Thank you Barry for arranging a lovely flat walk ending with a cream tea on Sunday 10 April.

The weather was perfect as ordered, and twelve of us set off.

We were lucky to meet some beautiful friendly Exmoor ponies on the way and the walk took us from Muchelney along the banks of the River Parrett to Langport.

Three of us old crocks took a break on some benches while the others took a longer route and then we returned for a delicious cream tea at School Farm where they had opened just for us.

Hopefully there will be some more walks organised for the future. I had forgotten how much I missed getting out in the countryside since having my walking problems. It is definitely one of the best tonics for anyone.

Audrey



**Photograph of Salisbury Cathedral by Maurice Stapley taken
during recent day trip**



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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2022		
9th May	Day Trip to Weymouth	£20.00



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