

Of Highbridge
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

Registered Charity No: 1184925

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

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Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Adele Stevens	07486 909687
Deputy Chairman	Allen Owen	01278 784500
Secretary	TBA	
Treasurer	Carol Marriott	01278 795773
Membership Secretary	Neil Scott	01278 428422
Assistant Membership Secretary	John Ellis	01278 685483
Group & Events Co-ordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Committee Member	Diane Scott	01278 428422
Committee Member	Peter Manning	01278 780203

Other non-committee roles

Webmaster	Darryl Knight-Rees	07973 512709
Welfare and Greeting New Members	Fay Burston Janet Preddy	01278 782529 01278 783743

Magazine Editors:	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees Phone: 07973 512709 Email: darrylinda@knight-rees.com
Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>Sunday April 23rd 2023</u>

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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

Hi Everyone!

Firstly I would like to welcome all New Members! I hope you will enjoy everything that we have to offer!

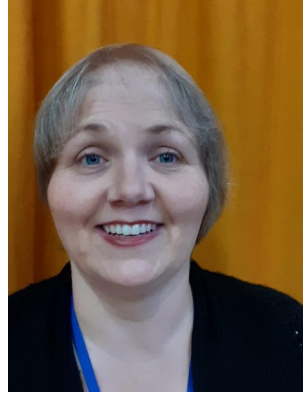
Well dare I say welcome to spring? Well in around 20 days anyway! It's been a long time coming and let's hope it's the start of some lovely weather!

My recent trip to Spain was lovely despite the weather on the last 5 days. I think you had better weather here!

Anyway keep enjoying your cuppa and chats and the exciting things to come!

Until next time!

Adele



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Club and Group News

Board Games Group Update

Our Board Group members enjoying their afternoon at Southwell House.

The popular games being played at present are Rummi Kub, Rti-Dominoes and Scrabble.

We have over 20 games in our cupboard including Dominoes, Tri-dominoes, Mah Jong, several sets of playing cards but we still welcome you to bring along any game that you enjoy that you would like to share with us.

See the "Activities page for days and times.

Pete Manning





Easter Get Together

On 5th April in normal U3A 10-12 noon.

We will have :-

- Hot cross buns and cake.
- A raffle
- Decorate a hat competition! A prize for the best Ladies and Gents Hat.

All welcome.

U3A of Highbridge Annual General Meeting 2023

To be held on 10th May 2023 at 10.30am. Agenda to follow in the next magazine.

Annual Membership Renewal

Don't forget it's time to renew your membership by the end of March. The price has been held at £10.00 per member for another year, or £6.50 for paid up members of another U3A group.

If you wish to renew, please fill in the form on pages 21 & 22 of this magazine and bring it with you to a Coffee Morning along with your payment.

Day Out — St. Fagans, Cardiff

Our first day out of the year will be to Cardiff or St Fagans on 24th April. You can either spend the day seeing what Cardiff has to offer or spend the day exploring St Fagans. The choice is yours! The cost will be £18.00 per head.

Denise



Skittles Group Update

The skittles group presents two trophies a year: one for the person who has scored the highest over the year and the other for the person who scores the highest on the last meet of the year. Last year both trophies were won by Steve Allen, with Bernard Martin being the runner up over the year. Well done Steve!

Denise



Members Contributions

Skittlers and Strollers go for lunch.

We gathered on the number 21 bus to Taunton and took over a fair portion of the top deck, much to the surprise of the students who normally have the top deck to themselves! We enjoyed being able to have a good view of the countryside.

Denise had booked a table at Mei's, the Chinese buffet, just a short walk from the bus stop. It took a little while for us all to pay, the card machine was slow, and get to our table but once there it was nicely set out and close to the food, a very important consideration! As always there was a varied selection and plenty of it.

Audrey was on the camera, she takes such good photos, then one of the Chinese waiters took our photo and it is really good to have everyone in it.

After lunch we all went our own ways, some to go straight home and some to go shopping and catch a later bus. I thoroughly enjoyed the day as I think everyone did. I did not eat again till next day!

Paula





MIKE - U3A MEMBER

Are you looking for some help with
gardening or any odd jobs?

For more information

Contact me on: **07936 549090**

Or email: **mdsm2003@hotmail.co.uk**

Monthly Draw

Sat 14th Jan 2023	No. 24	Bernard Martin
Sat 11th Feb 2023	No. 50	Hazel Lewis

Winners each received £20.00



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**Need that door adjusting?
Thinking about decorating?
Want a shelf put up?**

All those 'little' jobs around the house you keep meaning to fix but cannot get around to doing!

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 , 3 rd & 5 th	2.00 to 4.00	Board Games	S.H.	Pete Manning Chris Murphy	07976 408843 07947 203046
2 nd	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 nd & 4 th	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Pete Manning Lynne Hembrow	07976 408843 07562 919566
4 th	2.00 to 4.00	Beading	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

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	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
1 st & 2 nd & 3 rd & 4 th	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	

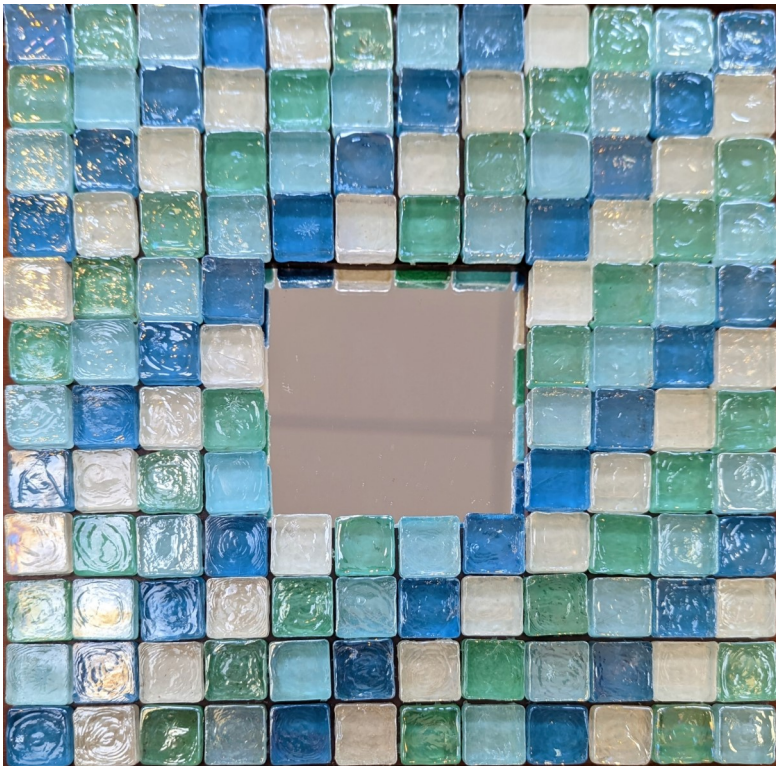
Should you wish to join a Group please first contact its Leader.

More Members Contributions

Mosaic Mirror by Sally Meek

The photo below was taken during the last Mosaics Group meeting and shows a simple but elegant mosaic design that was stuck onto a standard mirror by Sally. Not all mosaics have to be intricate and take weeks to complete!

If you are interested in creating something like this then Alison Joyce would be more than happy to hear from you. Details can be found in the Group Activities pages of this magazine.



Winter Strolls 2023

The first Friday of the year and our numbers, usually small on a skittles day, were increased by the welcome return of Rod and Audrey, (thanks to Audrey for taking the photos) Barry (who had a free Friday) and Hugh (recovered from his stay in hospital) together with the hardy regulars made a group of eight.



Here we are (except Audrey taking the snaps) on the foot bridge at Cripps Farm at the bottom of Merry Lane. A pleasant walk,



firm under foot, countryside views and even some early lambs and goats to see. Lunch was at Ollies.

The second walk of the year. The preceding week had been frosty and Friday was no exception. We arrived in Pawlett car park and decided that a stroll down River Road would be less slippery than up over the hill as the slope is south facing and glorious sunshine was making its presence felt. All of us made it safely to the river, where I stopped, the rest of the group set off along the bank towards Dunball. We were all surprised at how low the river was considering the water is being pumped off the moors at Northgate. A quick call, by Denise from the carpark to the Orchard Inn, organised lunch.

I missed the next walk, along the beach.

We parked in the playing field car park and set off along Locks Way. After a short distance we came across a cast iron, blue painted way marker that we had not seen there before. We were puzzled but it was a perfect photo opportunity! Fur-



ther along some SusTrans volunteers were clearing scrub and they told us there were a thousand of these erected on the National Cycle Route for the Millennium but that one had been stolen. A while ago they learned where it was and recovered it. Research when I came home showed that there are four different designs by four artists, one from each of the four UK nations. The Locks Way one is by Welsh artist Andrew Rowe. I turned back shortly after this but the others went on the Bawdrip, looked around the church, which fortunately was open, and returned via the footpath. We came back to the Watchfield Inn for lunch. The food was good, the staff friendly and helpful but when we went to pay the landlord was grumpy about us wanting to pay individually and about paying by card.

A typical grey February day but it was dry with gentle breeze when we arrived at Brean Down. The tide was going out but still made the whole scene attractive. We set off and as usual we split at the bottom of the old service road with Brenda, Bernie and Fay walking along the base where it is flat and the rest going up the road to walk towards the fort. After Audrey had taken the photo of those who made it to

the top, I left them to continue their walk and came down the steps. We all met up again by the café where some of us had a snack and others went into Burnham for refreshment.

Paula



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Churches 22

Our last walk of 2022 was to the Parish of the Three Saints. St. Mary the Virgin at East Brent being the first. It's stone spire, seen for miles, rises from a tower sculptured with three groups one above the other, of God the Father, Our Lord, and the Madonna. Indoors it is the ceiling and the medieval glass which draws all eyes. In one window are pictures of the Betrayal, the Judgment, and the Scourging, all from the 14th century. Three golden figures in the North Windows are thought to be medieval German. The ceiling is a rare one of embossed plaster with huge pendants; it's crown-of-thorns design picked out in a brown colour in 1637AD. Glass, plaster, ironwork and carving are fine examples of them all. For woodcarving there are lines of 15th century bench-ends, a fine Jacobean pulpit, a bold eagle with gilded wings, and a Jacobean gallery.

The arms of Glastonbury and the winged beasts of the Evangelists are on the bench ends; some say they came from the Abbey at Glastonbury. Two stone priests of the 14th century lie in the church, while a layman, probably one of their congregation, lies outside in the grass.

Parts of the building date from 1298AD. The tower and spire were added around 1400AD. It contains a ring of six bells cast between 1450AD and 1910AD.

We went on to visit the church of St. John the Baptist at Biddisham. The original construction in the 13th century was on the site of an earlier church; parts of the church were rebuilt in the 15th century. It underwent extensive Victorian restoration around 1860AD. The font (the only remains of an earlier church) is Norman. The wooden pulpit is an interesting example of Jacobean craftsmanship, and is similar to that at Weare, which is dated 1617AD. The beautiful windows are

15th century and the South doorway is 16th century.

Outside the remains of the Medieval Scratch dial (the early time piece) can be seen opposite the South wall buttress. The tower contains 4 bells cast in 1609AD and 1628AD by the foundry of Richard Purdue.

Onto the "Historic Church of Weare".

Although most of the existing church building was built in the 15th century, the history of this church goes back to the 11th century. Perhaps the oldest piece in the Church of St. Gregory is the font which dates back to 1150AD. This beautiful church is home to a number of artistic pieces from various time periods, some of these include a Jacobean pulpit and carved choir stalls depicting the life of St. Gregory in Weare; it's a lovely place to visit. You may also like to know the late comedian Frankie Howerd is buried there.

We ended our tour with lunch break at Ollie's café, a lovely meal enjoyed by all.

Our next church visit will be on the 29th April.

That's all for now happy new year to you all.

Bernie.....

Churches 22 Part 2

There is a stuffed owl which sits in a alcove, gazing out towards the congregation in the church at Weare.

Of the twelve of us "Strollers" who visited this place on one of Bernard's church trips recently, not one of us could offer up any ideas of exactly why it was there!

On investigation, I happened upon the following explanation. The owl, who was never given a name, lived for many years in the church before its demise (the owl that is, not the church). Rumour has it, that the late Frankie Howerd who lived not far from Weare in the village of Cross, and is buried in the graveyard at Weare, used to visit the church on a regular basis and talk to the owl. It is also rumoured that the owl became his audience while Frankie rehearsed his lines for whatever show or film that he was about to star in.

Sadly, on one visit to St. Gregory's church some forty years ago, Frankie was informed that the owl has sadly passed away. This affected him greatly, so much so, that he decided to get the owl stuffed and put back into the alcove so that he could continue using him as his audience while reciting his 'up and coming' lines. This he subsequently did, and the owl remains there to this day. Frankie was buried in 1992, and it was decided the owl should remain where it was as a memorial to this great comedian.

All this happened thirty years ago now, and trying to confirm this story using the internet, and searching both the church's and Frankie Howerd's Wikipedia forums, I am at a loss to find any reference at all to the above story.

What is true however (that's not to say the above is not true), is that bats are extremely afraid of owls, who are their natural enemies and by placing a stuffed or plastic owl somewhere close to the bat's roosting place, then this will deter them. This is the theory, but it would appear that this does not work in this church. Maybe someone needs to move the owl to a different location within the church or maybe look for an alternative comedian to keep the rumour alive.....

Story By Barry Ede

U3A of Highbridge

Reg. Charity No: 1184925

Membership No:

Application for Membership

Membership of a U3A, which is self-help educational and social organisation, is open to all in their third age, which is not defined by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.

I (Title & Full Name)

Address:.....

Postcode:..... Telephone No:.....

Mobile:..... Email:.....

The Annual Membership Fee is £10.00 (£6.50 for members from other U3A areas) that includes a fee of £4.00 per capita which is paid to our National Organisation, 'The Third Age Trust', which provides a wide range of services and benefits. It also includes liability insurance cover. The membership fee is paid annually and is from 1st April and **VALID ONLY** to March 31st of the following year.

Terms and Conditions of Membership - **ALL MEMBERS MUST:-**

- Abide by the Aims and Guiding Principles of the U3A movement.
- Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
- Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
- Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.
- Advise the committee of any change in your personal details.

During my membership I confirm that I will abide by the terms of membership (as stated above) **and sign to that effect below.**

PRIVACY STATEMENT (see overleaf): Your personal details will be held on a secure database & will be used solely for purposes of administration & for the communication of U3A matters. They will not be supplied to an out-side agency or party unless you have paid to receive 'Third Age Matters' magazine (mailed directly to you).

I ALSO agree that my personal details can be stored & processed as described above. **Please tick**

Signature of applicant.....Date:.....

The U3A of Highbridge produces 6 bi-monthly magazines free of charge per year. These may be collected at the Coffee Morning held every Wednesday (10.00 am to 12.00 pm) at the Highbridge Community Hall on the first Wednesday in the month of release.

NB If you are unable to collect your magazine, (or have it collected) and wish to have it posted to you, then there would be an annual charge of £5.00 to cover p&p, **payable at time of membership renewal.**

YES . . . PLEASE POST TO ME!

Official use: Amount paid £..... Dual member (..... U3A)

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The GDPR (Data Protection) requirements came into force in May 2018. As a registered charity, we need to have your explicit permission to retain the information we hold about you.

The information we keep is on the reverse side of this form. The information is as follows:

- Your name and address (essential)
- Your email address (if you have one)
- Your telephone number plus mobile (if you have one)
- Your emergency contact details (optional)

This information is a condition of membership of the U3A of Highbridge and we require it to identify you as a member and to communicate with you. In addition, we may record your membership (or to put on a waiting list) of U3A Groups and activities.

We do not retain any information defined as ‘Sensitive Personal Data’.

We process your data by:-

- Using it to communicate with you, and to keep you informed about U3A activities.
- Maintaining attendance records, waiting lists, booking and contact lists etc., in connection with U3A travel, holidays plus other activities.
- Using it to validate your attendance and voting rights at General Meetings.

We will not transmit your data to anybody outside U3A without your explicit consent, except to the Third Age Trust, if you subscribe to their magazine. Other members may receive your email information during general circulation of emails.

We will not retain your personal data for longer than one year after you cease to be a paid-up member of the U3A of Highbridge. If you cease to be a member, you have the right to have your personal information deleted immediately by notifying the Membership Secretary.

I agree that my personal data can be stored and processed as described above.

.....

NB For more information relating to the U3A of Highbridge please ask for a copy of our Constitution along with our Policy Document from the Membership Secretary.

SANDRA

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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2023		
March 15th	Annual Lunch @ The 37 Club, Puriton	£15 (members) £16 (non-members)
April 5th	Easter Get Together @ Highbridge Community Hall from 10am to 12 noon	NA
April 24th	Day Out to St. Fagans, Cardiff	£18
May 10th	AGM Wednesday @ Highbridge Community Hall at 10.30am	NA



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

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.