

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 125

Jul/Aug 2023

Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Adele Stevens	07486 909687
Deputy Chairman	Allen Owen	01278 784500
Secretary	Janet Preddy	01278 783743
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	07751 565705
Welfare and Greeting New Members	Fay Burston Pearl Price	01278 782529 01278 793954

Magazine Editors:	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees Phone: 07973 512709 Email: darrylinda@knight-rees.com
Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>Sunday August 27th 2023</u>

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Chairman's Message

Hello everyone!

I can't quite believe that we are half way through the year already!

We've had some fantastic days out! Lunches and our social night was fantastic!

We have seen lots of new members and we have lots of great things to look forward too!

Let's hope the warm weather is here to stay!

Enjoy your holidays if your going in one!

Bye for now!

Adele



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Club and Group News

Table Tennis

Our friendly Table Tennis Group meet every Thursday afternoon at the Highbridge Community Hall between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We have three good quality tables and bats and balls are provided. The cost is £9 per month to cover the cost of the hire of the hall.

We welcome new members at all levels of ability. If you would like to give us a try or would like some more information, please give Audrey Downing a ring on 07467 029154 or just come along and have a look for yourself!

Day Out to Exmouth

The following day out has been arranged:

Monday 17th July to Exmouth—cost is £18.00 (£5 non refundable deposit).

Please contact Denise to book.



Social Night 2nd June 2023

We had a fantastic evening for our social party night!

Look forward to another one very soon!

Thank you all for coming along and supporting!

Adele







Members Contributions

Walk along the River Brue to East Huntspill

We met up at Highbridge railway station and set off along the River Brue. There was a promise of rain later so we were not sure what to take in the way of waterproofs but most of us decided to take a chance.

It was very humid and the insects really enjoyed taking their lunch on my arms as we fought our way through some overgrown paths. Luckily Steve had kindly hacked his way through the worst bits earlier in the week.

The walk was really lovely passing through fields, camp sites and the riverside path. We met sheep, donkeys, swans, ponies and cows on the way and took a break for lunch at a camp site that had a cafe where Steve and Hugh had a hot drink.

As we walked under the motorway bridge we could see how much the mud had dried out making interesting patterns (photo).

On the way back to our cars we met Mary sitting in her front garden and had a wave from Paula as she passed us in her car.

Thanks Steve for the great walk and look forward to many more.

Audrey

If anyone interested in joining the Walking Group for future walks (only occasional at the time of writing), please contact Audrey Downing or Rod Downing 01278 256895 or 07467 029154.





Slinky Bus

Some info regarding the slinky bus!!

Forms and Leaflets available in U3A

What is Slinky?

Slinky is a door-to-door demand-responsive transport service funded by Somerset Council for people not served by or unable to access conventional transport. All the vehicles are accessible.

The service can be used for various purposes including; getting to local health appointments or exercise classes, visiting friends or family, going shopping or attending social events. You can also use the Slinky as a link to other forms of public transport.

Who can use the Slinky?

You will be eligible to use the Slinky bus if you:

Do not have access to public bus service,

Do not have your own transport; or

Have a disability which means you are unable to access a public bus

The service is available to all eligible passengers which could include parents with young children, teenagers, students, the elderly, the retired and people with disabilities.

If you are eligible you will first need to register as a member of the scheme. You must fill in a registration form and return it to the booking office before you use the service for the first time.

You can then book a journey by contacting your booking office at least 24 hours before you want to travel. Trips can be booked up to

two weeks in advance.

For journeys up to 3 miles

Single: £2.50

Return: £4

For journeys over 3 miles

Single: £3.50

Return: £5

There is a 50% fare for English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/concessionary-bus-passes/>) passes on all SLINKY services within Somerset. Concessionary Pass Holders and children aged between 5-16 will be entitled to a 50% reduction in the cost of the fare. Children under 5 travel free.

You will need to show your pass every time you travel.



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Monthly Draw

Sat 6th May 2023	No. 7	Geraldine Stevens and Christine Murphy
Sat 3rd June 2023	No. 17	Pearl Price and Hugh Griffith

Winners each received £20.00

This Space available for an advert. If you or anyone you know would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact the U3A of Highbridge Secretary (tel: 07312 088849, email: high-bridgeu3asecretary@gmail.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.

Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 st , 3 rd & 5 th (excluding bank holidays)	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 (excluding bank holidays)	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.	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	07467 029154

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
Varies	Walking	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	256895 or 07467 029154

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 26)

- 1 Which American city is an anagram of the word diagnose?
- 2 A car from which country bears the registration plate of CH?
- 3 What was the nickname of American civil war general Thomas Jackson?
- 4 Which country was invaded during the German Operation Barbarossa?
- 5 What name is given to a male bee in a colony of bees?
- 6 Who starred as Mickey Bricks in The Hustle?
- 7 In which film do Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye mime to the song 'Sisters'?
- 8 What collective noun describes a group of magistrates?
- 9 By what collective name were Moe Howard, Jerry 'Curly' Howard and Larry Fine better known?
- 10 What percussion instrument is commonly played by flamenco dancers?
- 11 In which country is Colleen McCullough's The Thorn Birds set?
- 12 Name the S American river which was the scene of a naval battle between British and German ships in 1939?
- 13 Which TV programme featured the Queen Vic?
- 14 In Canada what are the RCMP?
- 15 Who are Bella, Jake, Fizz and Milo?
- 16 For what does the acronym SCUBA stand?
- 17 Of what are sand, limestone and soda the three main ingredients?
- 18 Which animal charges backwards when attacked?
- 19 Name the Spanish hero who drove the Moors from Spain and is celebrated in poem?
- 20 What vegetable is sometimes called a scallion?



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Strollers—Early Summer 2023

May had started cooler and wetter than the last few years but we battle on! I missed last weeks walk at Cheddar Reservoir but went with five others to Berrow and enjoyed a stroll along the edge of the golf course from the triangle to the church. There was a flower festival, with a Coronation theme, being prepared in the church so we popped in for a look. The red white and blue flowers were very bright and cheerful. We returned along the road and inspected the round pigsty as some of the group had not seen it before.



The following week we became Intrepid Explorers! We parked in Morrisons and walked through to the canal and turned left in a change from normal. A short way along we saw a path that none of us knew. “Let’s give it a try” said Fay enthusiastically, so off we went. It took us on a very pleasant walk over Hamp brook and along side Middlebrook (there were name plaques or we would not have known), We asked a local for help and were told “just keep turning left, it will take you back.” This route took us around the perimeter of Blake Academy, where youngsters of various age were playing. We met the same local

again later who greeted us cheerfully with “not far now, you are doing really well!” After a photo shoot to prove not all of Bridgwater is dreary, we returned to Morrisons for lunch.



Only four of us on the 19th so we enjoyed a pleasant and uneventful stroll from Apex Park, along the river bank and sea front to the Bay Café for a drink. We returned through Steart Avenue and Marine Drive.

Summer arrived at the end of May and we took advantage of it with a trip to Steart Marshes. Not a cloud in the sky but a pleasant breeze so the temperature was just right for strolling. Wild flowers everywhere, flag iris, buttercups, cow parsley, elder flower, dog rose and one we had not seen before. Luckily Bernie has a gizmo on his phone and it was identified as possibly an oak leaf hydrangea. There is a native wild hydrangea so it may have been that. There was plenty of bird song but I think we make too much noise to for them the venture out of cover, though we did see a flight of very white, dark headed, ducks. Fay, Bernie, and me took a shorter circuit back and left the other six to make a hike of it.



I missed the stroll on the 2nd of June but understand it was at Brent Knoll.

The following week Steve steered us across the fields from Tesco's to People's Bow and back via a paved path on the edge of Marconi Drive on the 9th of June. It was a strenuous walk for me and only achieved through the help of the four gentlemen strollers. The stiles and the rhyne crossings are in a poor state of repair and one was a narrow plank with no hand rail. All negotiated with great care. The photos by Audrey and Barry tell it all.



Walking the plank

Hot and Sunny but only five of us set off for a local stroll. We decided that as there had been reports that the footpath from Isleport Road to Springfield Road had been cleared we would check it out. We detoured to inspect the two show houses at Isleport Grove and decided the three bed was suitable for a couple but the four bed would suit a



family. The gardens are small but big enough to sit in!

The hand rail for the ditch crossing to the footpath has been badly bent so we eased around with care. The ground was cracked and rutted in some places and as you can see from the photo of Neil striding along, the bushes still encroach. A bramble caught my leg and left a nasty gash (my skin is not as tough as it once was. I will spare you that gory photo) so I delayed our party

while I mopped up the blood!

The walking was easier from Asda through the Rec to Market Street. The other four went for a cuppa at Sopha but I went home to attend to my “wound”. It was an enjoyable walk despite the hazards.



The hot weather continued and the longest day had gone when fifteen of us decided to stroll at West Huntspill and take advantage of Denise’s generous offer to host lunch in her garden. There was a slight hiccup as we parked at the Baliol Hall when the gardener advised us that there was a large funeral at 11.00 o’clock and the car park would be needed. We hastily redeployed to Church Road and Grange Road from where we took the footpath

across to Silver Street. On joining Plymore Road I turned for home and Bernie joined me, the others headed for Sloway Lane. Fay said she left the group shortly afterwards to return through the village and by chance met up with some of her old neighbours. We were all together again for a wonderful cold buffet, thank you Denise.



Our hostess



Photos by Audrey

A Senility Poem *(supplied by Adele)*

I really hate to say it,
But my memory's starting to go.
I'm occasionally forgetting names,
And other things I used to know.

But maybe I can use this
To get out of things I don't want to do,
Like mowing the lawn and washing the car,
And scrubbing the toilet too!

And I won't have to talk to my mother-in-law
If I can't remember to call.

Her memory is even worse than mine,
So she probably won't miss me at all.

And as for paying my taxes,
Well that goes right out the door.
Who's gonna come after a senile senior
Whose fixed income leaves him poor?

Yes I can see some advantages
To this failing memory thing.
As long as I can still play golf
And it doesn't affect my swing.

And what about my weekly card game?
I just might forget that too,
So I'll just... wait... I'll... um...
What was I about to do?

Mosaics created by the Mosaics Group



Picture Frame
by
Sally Meek



Dragon
by
Ros Thomson

Light Humour

From one of our days out!!

On your marks! Get set! Go!!!

Adele



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**

Beading Group Photo

This photo was taken after a Beading Group session during April this year.



Quiz Answers

1	San Diego	2	Switzerland
3	Stonewall	4	Russia
5	Drone	6	Adrian Lester
7	White Christmas	8	Bench
9	The Three Stooges	10	Castenets
11	Australia	12	River Plate
13	Eastenders	14	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
15	The Tweenies	16	Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
17	Glass	18	Porcupine
19	El Cid	20	Spring Onion

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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2023		
17th July	Day Out to Exmouth	£18 (£5 de- posit)



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.