

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><b>Position</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Tel</b></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

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Next Magazine Deadline:	<u><b>Sunday October 22nd 2023</b></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**

Welcome to all our new members!

I'm not sure where the time has gone!

We are already in September!

I'm sure we will have a heat wave now!

We have lots of things coming up, so look forward to seeing lots of you!

Thank you as always for supporting U3A in Highbridge!

Adele



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

Club and Group News

OPEN DAY

*Highbridge Community Hall*  
*November 8TH 10-12pm*

**u3a** of Highbridge

EVERYONE WELCOME

**Come along and see  
what we are all about**

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Donations for The Raffle, Tombola and Cake stall are all very welcome!

If anyone would like a craft table to sell goods, it's £5 a table!

Book with Adele.



A poster for a Macmillan Coffee Morning event. The text is arranged in a vertical layout. At the top, 'COFFEE MORNING' is in black. Below it, 'HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT' is in green and purple on a green brushstroke background. Further down, 'WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT' is in green. To the right is a cupcake illustration. The bottom section, in purple and green, lists the location 'Highbridge Community Hall', the day 'Wednesday', the date '13th September', and the time '10am - 12pm'.

**COFFEE MORNING**

**HAVE YOUR  
CAKE  
AND EAT IT**

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Highbridge  
Community Hall**

**Wednesday**

**13th September**

**10am - 12pm**



## **Members Contributions**

### **Churches 24**

Our first visit on a very wet day was to St. Mary the Virgin church Christon. This is a small Norman Church built about AD1170 although there is reason to believe that the eastern end of the church containing the altar is of Anglo-Saxon origin as there is “herringbone” masonry to be seen in the outer walls; this would date it from about AD1050.

The late Norman arched door-opening is ornamented with zig-zag stone work. The porch and its stone seats are believed to be a medieval addition. There are a few who will accept the invitation of the ancient stone seats to stay awhile and look out at the other picture in this frame, where Crooks Peak shoots up like a miniature volcano from the Mendip Ridge, an attractive spectacle.

Around the tower runs a line of animals which must have given the Norman sculptor infinite delight as he fashioned them each with a quaintness of its own. There are two bells, one of which is dated AD1638 and the other is considerably earlier and bears the inscription ING (?) NAZARENVS REX IUDEORUM. Believed to mean Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

In trying to find the right road which was quite difficult, we eventually made our way to the church of St. Andrew's at Banwell. The church was built during the 14th-15th centuries, with a tower rising over 100ft and its turret higher still. It has a pierced parapet, gargoyles, stone faces, and two dainty rood stair turrets with a sculptured Madonna in one recess and the angel bringing her good news in the other. The body of the church has a nave with a clerestory, north and

south aisles and a rather short chancel considering the proportion of the rest of the church.

The tower, which dates from around AD1417 contains 10 bells that date from 18th century; they were cast by the Bilbie family, bell founders based at Chew Stoke, Somerset and later at Collumpton, Devon. They produced more than 1350 bells which were hung in churches all over the West Country.

Our third visit was to the church of St. James the Great at Winscombe. It is not known when the first church was built in Winscombe but between AD959 and AD978. King Edgar granted the estate of Winscombe to Aelfwith, a lady of high status, shortly afterwards she gifted it to Glastonbury Abbey. The Domesday Book records that the manor of Winscombe was still in the possession of the Abbey in AD1056. And there is evidence to suggest that there was a church here by the 12th century. The present building dates from the 15th century and there is nothing visible of an earlier church. The four-stage 100ft tower (one of the most elegant in the whole of Somerset) was added around AD1433 by Bishop John Harewell. It contains 8 bells - 6 were cast by the Bilbie family of Chew Stoke in AD1773 and 2 newer bells were added in AD1903, cast at John Taylors Bell Foundry at Loughborough, Leicestershire.

In AD2013 a new set of gates was commissioned to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. They were designed and installed by the award-winning West Country sculptor and blacksmith, Richard Brent. As well as the royal monogram, the design incorporates the three scallop shells which are traditional symbol of St. James. Between the gates and the North Door is a Yew tree estimated to be between 600 and 800 years old. While walking up the

path to the church we heard the sound of the organ being played. It was quite a surprise to hear. The organist used to be the organist at St. Andrew's Burnham-on Sea. A perfect end to a very wet day.....

Bernie



The window and the door is St. Marys church at Christon. The third picture is St. James, Winscombe

## **Strollers—Summer 2023**



Seven of us enjoyed a lovely stroll around Ralph's Wood, Brent Knoll. The sun was bright but a pleasant breeze had blown away the muggy humidity of the last few days. None of us could identify all the trees or what type of orchid we found but our ignorance did not spoil the walk. Steve took point and we all followed on, as you can see below. We found an engraved stone which settled the discussion of how old the wood was, it was created in 1999. The group photo, taken by Rod, is almost at the end of the walk.



Another Brent Knoll stroll, again led by Steve. It was hot and sunny. We parked on the road and took a clearly marked footpath which led us along a shady track to some fields, one of which had some young cows grazing. They were clearly used to walkers as they showed little interest in us, we showed interest in avoiding the pancakes they had left on the path! After very carefully crossing the railway line at the designated place we walked beside some horses one of which came and made friends with Audrey. The photo, taken by Barry, clearly shows Farmers Rod and Steve in the background. The path joined Crooked Lane and we returned via Station Road, cut through the new housing built on the corner, where a small green with a seat gave me the chance to rest, before walking back to the cars.



After missing a couple of strolls I rejoined the group on August bank holiday Friday for a lovely walk along Pillrow Wall beside the Mark Yeo. Shortly after the group photo we saw the sign saying we were headed for Draycot, us local folk felt this was in error! Rain was forecast for later but we decided to chance it, although we took a slightly shorter route back via Vole Road rather than Kingsway. The access to

the footpath across the fields was overgrow with rushes but we battled though. Thank you for your hand, Hugh.

There were cows in the first field but they showed no interest in us and we met the farmer in the second one. He was most welcoming and stopped for a chat. The return trip along the road revealed an old house for sale. The windows were boarded up so the group wandered in for a look. I found it on line when I came home and saw the reason for boarding the windows, paint had been daubed over the walls and fixtures. I despair! We returned to the cars and met up with Bernie and Fay who had turned back earlier in the walk. We went to Ollies for an al fresco lunch and the rain arrived just as we left!



Paula



**The misleading sign**



**King Kieth surveying the landscape from the medieval bridge**



**A swan family enjoying the sunshine**



**New pylons marching north with cattle grazing under them**

## Monthly Draw

Sat 1st July 2023	No. 34	Pearl Price and Janet Holderness
Sat 29th July 2023	No. 25	Thelma Tripp and Mary Lovibond
Sat 26th August 2023	No. 43	Brenda Hawkes

Winners each received £20.00

# IN NEED OF ADMIN SUPPORT?

Typing correspondence, completing forms, organising appointments, general filing, proofreading, cross-checking information.

**Phone Elaine**  
**07971551023**  
**All enquiries welcome**

Retired educator with technical science and administrative experience.

**No job too small.**





## Card Making Group Latest Photos





## Group Activities

### Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> (excluding bank holidays)	2.00 to 4.00	Board Games	S.H.	Pete Manning  Chris Murphy	07976 408843  07947 203046
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	Card Making	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> (excluding bank holidays)	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Pete Manning  Lynne Hembrow	07976 408843  07562 919566
4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 to 4.00	Beading	P.H.	Rose Bateman	795906

### 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

### Wednesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning	C.H.	N/A	N/A
2 <sup>nd</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	238526
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 onwards	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	238526
5 <sup>th</sup>	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 30)**

- 1** What is the more popular name of the Royal Botanic Gardens?
- 2** With which sport is Sunil Gavaskar associated?
- 3** Name the US President's rural retreat in Catoctin Mountain Park?
- 4** Who had a 1963 hit with The night has a thousand eyes?
- 5** Eva and Maria Estela were both wives of which Argentinian President?
- 6** What city did the Mormons establish as their headquarters in 1847?
- 7** Who wrote the opera Madam Butterfly?
- 8** Who sang the theme tune to the 1978 film Grease?
- 9** Three verdicts are available to Scottish jurors: Guilty, Not Guilty and what?
- 10** Which US state has Indianapolis as its capital?
- 11** In the original TV series of The Avengers, who played Emma Peel?
- 12** Which British political party was founded in 1900?
- 13** Which expensive spice gives food a yellow colour?
- 14** From which animal do the Canary Islands get their name?
- 15** From which country does haiku verse come?
- 16** Canada, Brent and Greylag are all types of which bird?
- 17** What is the plural of axis?
- 18** What is the largest island in the Caribbean?
- 19** Who in American politics became known as Tricky Dicky?
- 20** What was the nationality of Alfred Nobel?



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Jon Glenn  
Appliance Engineer

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and surrounding areas

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## **Day Out in Exmouth**

A nearly full coach set off for our day trip to Exmouth. Everyone was in very good spirits and thanks to Dave, our driver, we had a nice comfortable journey arriving in plenty of time to explore.

We set off for a walk along the sea front, which was very pleasant until black clouds appeared above our heads. The next minute the clouds burst but luckily we found shelter under some trees on the opposite side of the road and the shower soon passed.

When it stopped raining, we decided to head towards town along a path which led us through some pretty gardens where we saw the most laid back squirrels ever.

After looking for directions on Google Maps (not so easy), we found the local Wetherspoons where the food turned out to be very good. Surprisingly, or not so, we met several other people from the coach there as well!

After this pleasant interlude, we decided to take the 2.00pm boat trip up the River Exe. No sooner had we set sail, the black clouds returned and a very kind young lady came around with big black brollies for the passengers. We didn't need them for long and the sun soon came out.

After a very enjoyable trip we stopped off in a pub garden for a welcome cup of tea before returning to the coach for our journey home.

A big thank you to Denise and Chris for organising a very relaxing outing and we look forward to the next one!

Audrey





## **A Walk on the Wild Side**

It was *only* because I was taking photographs of the “Saunterers” during our bi monthly walk, that I was informed by the rest of the group, that I should be the one to take on the onerous task of composing a short essay to accompany the photos.

“No way!” was my immediate response, which generated gasps of astonishment. “Why ever not? they asked in unison. I replied, stating that there were three *very* good reasons why I should *not* be the one to put pen to paper. One, at that particular moment of being asked, I hadn’t got a clue as to where we were! Secondly, I explained, I wasn’t even sure where we had started out on our walk a couple of hours prior! And lastly, had they abandoned me there and then, I would probably *still* be trying to find my way home even now! So, I said that I didn’t think I was the right candidate for the job,

“Nonsense” I was told “Rubbish - that’s not a problem, just blag it” they said. And so, unable to think of any additional arguments or valid excuses as to why I should *not* be sitting here writing up our adventures, then all I have to offer is my interpretation of what went on during that Sunday morning.

Most of us found the car park first time round but not all eh? (red faces in red car!) which was located somewhere in Brent Knoll, close to the church (so my navigator informed me). The sun shone down on all twelve of us as we exited our vehicles to begin our gentle ascent up to Ralph’s Wood, which was to be our destination. We welcomed both Malcolm and Val who had not been on our walks for some time, so it was good to see them back again!

I did wonder whether or not to take my weatherproof jacket out of the car and take with me (just in case) I eventually opted to stuff it

into my backpack which, in the end, turned out to be a wise move (more on that later).

And so we began our walk at “Windy Ridge”, I have to confess, I only know it was called “Windy Ridge” *not* because of any prior local knowledge, but because it was signposted on the gate that we went through, so that was a bit of a ‘give away’ really!



Out of the wind, the sun became pleasantly warm which saw the majority of us discarding our jackets to continue in shirt//blouse sleeves. Bernie and Gill were accompanied by their eight year old granddaughter Olivia, who seemed to be really enjoying herself and could be seen many times striding out there in front. I assumed that was because her legs were so many decades younger than ours, but no, I got *that* wrong, as I later learned that she thought that the quicker we got to our destination, then the sooner she could get to eat her lunch! obviously, the memory of her breakfast now lay hidden somewhere in the deep and distant past!

We came upon an area which was the highest point in our walk. We

looked across at an unbroken vista of low lying fields, trees and the occasional farm buildings and out to the River Severn and beyond, a magnificent view, the wind really began to blow hard at that point, so I assumed we had actually arrived at ‘Windy Ridge’



### **Wind swept at Windy Ridge**

Eventually we arrived at the bottom of Ralph’s Wood which is an area of young woodland planted by Ralph Rich and his father Mac in 1999 and which is now dedicated to the memory of Ralph who died in Canada, aged only 48. The Rich family generously allows the public access to the wood and Mac continues to maintain it today. Although part of the Rich’s Cider family, they were not directly involved with the business.



Then ahead of us, much to the delight of young Olivia (who was already sitting on the bench waiting for her lunch) we arrived at our destination.

Scrambling around in the bottom of our haversacks, out came an assortment of packed lunches which we started to devour. But then, seemingly out of the blue (or in our case, out of the grey) the rain started and continued for about twenty minutes. The majority of us continued with our lunch while sheltering under the adjacent trees and bushes, but not *all* of us! . . . ; rain soaked sarnies certainly wouldn't be *my* first choice!!



Soon it was time to move on. The rain had stopped, the sun reappeared, waterproofs were discarded and our official walk photograph was taken.



The second part of our walk was a mere twenty minutes long, to arrive back at the car park where we had started off from.



It was “Thanks” all round to Steve who had organised the walk having reconnoitred it before hand, to make sure that we could all navigate it safely. Having said our goodbyes, we left to go our separate ways. All of us I’m sure, eagerly awaiting our next adventure out!

Barry

## **CLUTTER...**

My life is full of clutter,  
 I ought to make a stand  
 Against this “hoarding” instinct,  
 Must take myself in hand.  
 You're absolutely right, I am  
 ... I know, I know, I know ...  
 A jumble kleptomaniac,  
 Unable to let go.  
 I've cupboards full of crockery  
 I'll never, ever use.  
 My feet are now a different shape  
 To that of all my shoes.  
 The bookcases are stuffed with books  
 All purchased on a whim,  
 The chances of my reading them  
 Are pitifully slim.  
 My wardrobe's bulging at the seams  
 With clothes I'll never wear,  
 (Some in residence so long  
 They're probably quite rare!)  
 I really can't remember when  
 They last saw the light of day,  
 Hopelessly old-fashioned, but

“Too good to throw away.”  
I’ve hats and socks and gloves galore  
And scarves of every hue,  
All packed together like sardines  
And most of them brand new.  
I’ve ornaments and knick-knacks  
Adorning every nook,  
And dangly things and tinkly chimes  
Each hanging from a hook.  
The fridge is full, the freezer too,  
The cupboards groan and creak.  
The making of a meal entails  
A game of hide-and-seek.  
I don’t know what I’m going to do  
... You think I need a shrink?  
Alas, my brain is cluttered too...  
There isn't room to think!  
It seems there’s one solution friends,  
So, should you ever see,  
“This house for sale, all contents too”,  
Well, then you'll know ... It’s me!

Tricia Sturgeon

**Poem supplied by Rose Bateman**

## 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***

### Quiz Answers

1	Kew Gardens	2	Cricket
3	Camp David	4	Bobby Vee
5	Juan Peron	6	Salt Lake City
7	Puccini	8	Franki Valli
9	Not Proven	10	Indiana
11	Diana Rigg	12	Labour
13	Saffron	14	Dogs
15	Japan	16	Goose
17	Axes	18	Cuba
19	Richard Nixon	20	Swedish

# SANDRA

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2023		
September 13th	Macmillan Coffee Morning, High-bridge Community Hall, 10am-12pm	£5 (for sellers)
November 8th	U3A of Highbridge Open Day, High-bridge Community Hall, 10am-12pm	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.