

Of Highbridge
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Your Committee

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Assistant Membership Secretary	John Ellis	01278 685483
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Committee Member	Diane Scott	01278 428422
Committee Member	Peter Manning	01278 780203

Other non-committee roles

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Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>Sunday December 24th 2023</u>

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Chairman's Message

Hi Everyone,

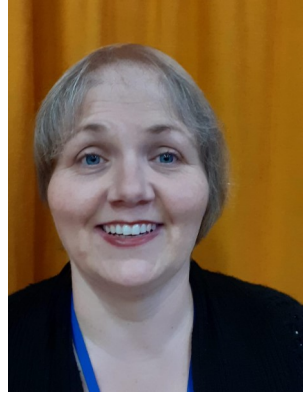
I can't quite believe that we are in November already!

Welcome to all new members and existing, it's great to see so many friendly faces coming through the door!

We have some great events coming up for the winter, so enjoy and support where you can!

We've had some great days out!

Although early I wish you all a Merry Christmas too as this is the last Magazine of the year!



Take care

Adele



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**

Hamper Raffle and Christmas Party

Hamper Raffle (all donations gratefully received) and Christmas Party on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at Highbridge Community Hall during Coffee Morning (10am—1pm). Cost is £4.00 each.

Photos from the Macmillan Coffee Morning on
October 13th 2023



Members Contributions

Churches 24

St. Mary's Church Westonzoyland

The date of the first building on the site of St. Mary's church is not known, but there was certainly a chapel there in 1268 when the Abbot of Glastonbury agreed to repair and maintain its chancel. The effigy of the priest in the north transept, dated to about 1300, is the oldest recognisable part of the fabric.

The current church seems to be a rebuilding of the late 15th century and early 16th century, both because of its style and because of initials RB for Richard Bere Abbot of Glastonbury 1493-1524. There is a bench end still in regular use clearly carved with the initials RB.

The church of St. Mary's was surrounded by the events of 6th July 1685 when the Battle of Sedgemoor was enacted, reputedly the last significant battle on English soil.

Major improvements to the fabric of the church were made in the 17th and mid 18th centuries. The tower was partially restored in 1907; it contains 6 bells the oldest being medieval from the foundry of Thomas Jeffries of Bristol, two others are from the 18th century by Thomas Wroth and Thomas Bayley of Bridgwater. The sixth bell was added in 1934 when the bells were re-hung.

Features to be seen in the church:

The church is notable for the exceptional height of its splendid tower which is typical of the Somerset perpendicular style. The tower, along with the whole south front of the church is richly decorated in Ham Stone.

The nave roof is described as the most elaborate of its tie-beam type in the country.

The font is from the 14th century.

The chancel is enclosed by a rood screen installed in the 1930s.

In the 1980s, visited by a growing number of travellers, the church ministers were far more than just parishioners. Once itself a prison for those who fought for a cause in which they passionately believed, it is now a place of prayer for those who seek to bring an end to fighting.

St. Mary the Virgin Chedzoy

The Anglican church of St. Mary's dates from around the 13th century. There is evidence of a church on Chedzoy in 1166. When it was given along with the parent church in North Petherton to Buckland Priory Somerset, it was once the property of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem at Mynchin Buckland.

Much of the building is from the 17th century although the Norman Chancel arch and doorway remain.

Throughout its long history of over 700 years, Chedzoy church has had many patrons including King Henry VII, King Henry VIII and the Earls of Salisbury and Pembroke.

The brass memorial on the floor by the South entrance depicts Sir Richard Sydenham of Chedzoy, wearing armour of the 15th century. He left a piece of land to the church to be sold by auction every 21 years. The auction takes place while a half inch of a candle burns and the last bid before the flame dies is the successful one.

During the English Civil War, Lord Fairfax made Chedzoy his head-

quarters during the siege of Bridgwater in 1645. Six regiments of the Parliamentary army encamped at Chedzoy.

The most famous event in the church's history was the Battle of Sedgemoor on the 6th July 1685 when the Duke of Monmouth led the 'Pichfork Rebellion' on a midnight raid on the Royal Army at Weston-zoyland. The Duke an illegitimate son of Charles II was attempting to seize the throne of England after the death of his father. Local tradition says that the church still bears marks from the forces who sharpened their swords before the battle.

St. Michael and all Angels Bawdrip

The parish of Bawdrip was formed long before the present parish church was built. The Domesday Book of 1086 records the settlements of Bawdrip and Bradney as being owned by the great landowner Walter de Douai. For several centuries his descendants, the Lovells of Castle Cary, were the feudal overlords.

The Anglican church was built in the late 13th or early 14th century on the site of an early church which belonged to Athelney Abbey. It underwent much Victorian restoration in 1866 and is now a grade 2 listed building. The parish is part of the benefice of Woolavington with Cossington and Bawdrip which is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The church was built of Blue Lias stone and consists of a two-bay nave, chancel, and north and south transepts and within the crossing tower are 4 bells, two of these are believed to be from 1448 and the others from 1671 and 1745. In the North Aisle is an effigy of Sir Simon de Bradney under a large gothic arch; between his hands is a heart carved in stone indicating that only his heart is buried there. It

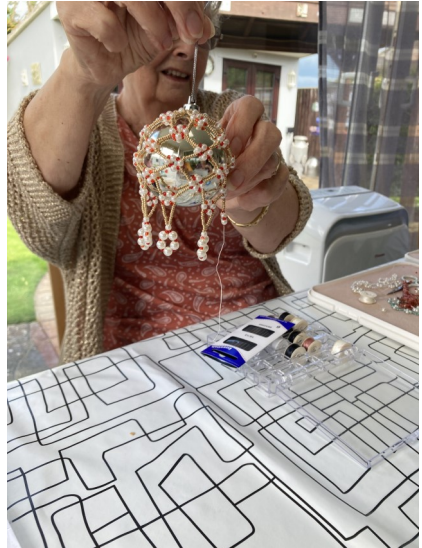
was common practice for knights who held land in more than one parish to have the heart buried in one and the body in another.

A very interesting church.

Bernie.....



Christmas Card Making and Beading Photos



Monthly Draw

Sat 23rd September 2023	No. 13	Sheila Ball and Sally Meek
Sat 21st October 2023	No. 6	Sheila Ball and Sally Meek

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.

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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.

True or False Quiz (answers on page 22)

- 1** Alfred Nobel who bequeathed the Nobel Prize created dynamite
- 2** James Bond met Vesper Lynd in Thunderball
- 3** It's a Wonderful Life a perennial Christmas film by Frank Capra
- 4** Judd Trump is an English professional snooker player
- 5** Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour has the largest English population of Red Squirells
- 6** England's National Exhibition Centre, opened in 1976, is in Manchester
- 7** The Manager of England's Women's football team, The Lionesses, is Dutch
- 8** The scapula is the 'proper' name of the kneecap
- 9** Rooks are the birds associated with the Tower of London
- 10** "And so, as Scrooge observed, God bless us, every one!" is the last sentence of A Christmas Carol'
- 11** Lady Day, one of the four quarter days falls on 24th June
- 12** The English version of 'Cantique de Noel' is known as O Holy Night
- 13** Randolph Peter Best was the drummer for the Beatles before Ringo Starr
- 14** Andorra City is the capital of Andorra
- 15** Emmental cheese is from Switzerland
- 16** London's Natural History Museum is in Hammersmith
- 17** P L Travers wrote Mary Poppins
- 18** Thor Heyerdahl was the leader of the 1947 Kon Tiki expedition
- 19** The Solheim Cup is contested in women's hockey
- 20** A Tagine is a north African dish named after the pot in which it is cooked



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Recent Table Tennis Group Photos
From Audrey Downing





Strollers—Late Summer 2023

The September heatwave was going full blast so we postponed our planned stroll from Maunsell Lock and headed for Locks Way Cossington which is a shady walk.



On the approach we were met with a “ROAD CLOSED AHEAD” sign with no indication how far ahead. We tried for the car park only to find the road closed before we got to it! About turn and head for Bawdrip. A sizeable chunk of the hall car park was fenced off but there was room for our three cars. The stone track that members thought we should take was marked “Private” but there was a narrow mud path,

which in other weather it would have been impassable, heading in the right direction so we followed it and were discharged at the bottom of Locks Way. Phew!

Hugh felt the need to sit and wave to his subjects as they appeared from the trees and we gathered around to celebrate with the group photo.



I decided to turn back at the A39 bridge, another photo opportunity. Fay and Bernie joined me.



There are several apple trees along the route and Fay took some samples, we returned to the cars along the road.

The water-fall and stream were nearly dry leaving the metal swans



and boats stranded.

I was unable to join the stalwarts on the 15th September but understand they had a very enjoyable walk on Brent Knoll from the East Bent side. It appears from Kieth's re-enactment of his baptism that East Brent church was also visited. Pictures from Audrey.





I joined in the following week when there were only five of us. After discussion it was decided to walk the coast path from Brean towards Uphill, leaving the two cars at Café 33. This was fine except neither Denise or I knew exactly where it was and drove straight past it! Finding ourselves nearly in Lympsham we turned around and headed back, receiving a phone call on route asking where we were! Steve bravely stood in the road to flag us down as we neared the café. Bernie and I only walked as far as the River Axe and sat on a bench, Fay walked a little further and came back and joined us. We three then strolled back to the café and ordered a hot drink to wait for the more energetic two. Once we were all together again we had lunch outside, the sun was nice but the wind cooled our food.



Two weeks later, it is now October, and a different group assembled in the car park, five of whom had missed the Route 33 stroll and café so we reprised. The weather was unusually warm and very nice for strolling. The group photo shows a warning sign, I will leave you to interpret! I do not know why Rod and Barry are looking skyward or

Kieth gazing into the distance, I muscled in as a silhouette. I stopped by the River Axe, which had a lot of birds swimming on the seaward side, mostly Shelduck. The others walked on to Accommodation Road.




I was unable to stroll on the 13th and the 20th but understand the group went to Uphill and West Huntspill on those days.

Paula

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

Quiz Answers

1	TRUE	2	FALSE—Casino Royale
3	TRUE	4	TRUE
5	FALSE—Isle of Wight	6	FALSE—Birmingham
7	TRUE	8	FALSE—Patella
9	FALSE—Ravens	10	FALSE—Tiny Tim
11	FALSE—25th March	12	TRUE
13	TRUE	14	FALSE—Andorra La Vella
15	TRUE	16	FALSE—South Kensington
17	TRUE	18	TRUE
19	FALSE—Golf	20	TRUE

SANDRA

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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2023		
November 8th	U3A of Highbridge Open Day, High-bridge Community Hall, 10am-12pm	NA
December 20th	Hamper Raffle and Christmas Party, Highbridge Community Hall, 10am—1pm	£4.00



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.