

Of Highbridge
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Issue 138

Sep/Oct 2025

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	Nina Richards	07711 560353
Assistant Membership Secretary	Neil Scott	07702 290471
Group & Events Coordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Committee Member	Diane Scott	07484 869011
Committee Member	Peter Manning	01278 780203
Committee Member	Paul Parkin	07563 164620

Other non-committee roles

Webmaster	Darryl Knight-Rees	07751 565705
Welfare and Greeting New Members	Janet Preddy Dawn Porter	01278 783743 01278 325225

Magazine Editors	Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees <u>Phone:</u> 07751 565705 / 07708 344530 <u>Email:</u> magazine@u3ahighbridge.org.uk
Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>Wednesday October 22nd 2025</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, we have had quite a few over the last few months which is lovely to see.

Well Autumn has arrived which means just over 16 weeks until Christmas.

We've had some lovely days out and it's been lovely to see so many of you supporting them.



I hope you have all had a lovely summer, we have been very lucky with the weather.

Enjoy the Magazine and don't forget it's the members magazine so keep filling it with lots of photos, stories etc.

Bye for Now.

Adele



Club and Group News

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

HIGHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY
HALL

WEDNESDAY
24TH SEPTEMBER
10AM – 12PM



ALL
WELCOME

Obituary

Unfortunately we lost a very dear member Mary Akers on Tuesday 5th August.

Mary will be missed by all her Friends at U3A.



Ukraine donations

I just want to thank everyone who kindly donated all the hygiene products for the people of war torn Ukraine.

I was overwhelmed with your generosity, especially for the personal items for the poor ladies who are unable to obtain the basic hygiene products.

I know they all will be very grateful for these items, that we all take for granted.

It is lovely that there is so many kind, caring and generous people in our organisation.

Thank you all so much.

Gloria Brown

Table Tennis Group Update

The Thursday Table Tennis slot has paused for the summer, hopefully restarting in September/October.





HALLOWEEN

RAFFLE & RAIL

WEAR AN OUTFIT OR HAT

EAT SPOOKY CAKE



10 AM – 12 PM

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29TH

Days Out

The October day trip will be to Gloucester on Monday 20th October. Cost will be £21.00 per person.



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2026 CHEEKY CALENDAR LAUNCH PARTY

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

7pm til late

HIGHBRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL



Cheese, wine, nibbles & soft
drinks, entertainment, raffle,
and an auction that'll leave you
screaming for more!

Meet the fearless men and women
who dared to bare all for our
sizzling 2026 charity calendar.

And don't forget to purchase your copy of the 2026
Cheeky Calendar on the night, with all proceeds sup-
porting U3A Heartbeats' mission to install
defibrillators in our local community.



PROVIDING DEFIBRILLATORS
TO SAVE VITAL TIME IN AN EMERGENCY

U3A HEART♥BEATS

2026
Cheeky CALENDAR

Members Contributions

Strollers Summer 2025

A short walk was scheduled for 4th July as it was a “skittles day” so I tried, for the umpteenth time, to join them and this time I was partially successful! It was a lovely day, not as hot as it had been, and a pleasant breeze making it ideal for strolling. Nine of us set off from Bason Bridge along the Brue bank towards Catherine Street. The footpath runs behind two



holiday sites, both appeared to be well supported, and as Keith commented, it was clear to see why. The area is peaceful and very green with the river flowing by, the sites are well kept and even the M5 is only a distant hum. We noticed some Himalaya Balsam on the river bank; it is so pretty but an alien invasive that causes problems if it gets out of control.



We also met some curious onlookers; Mr Paca and his friend Al Paca who gave Denise the once over!

I turned back after $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile leaving the younger, fitter

group to go on to Hackness Sluice. They made it, as the picture of “The Boys” proves.



I sat on a shaded picnic bench at Wall Eden waiting for them to return. On their arrival we went into the café for refreshment. Seven had tea or coffee but I reverted to childhood and indulged in a milk shake! The picture broadcasts my shame.



Fully refuelled, we ambled back to the cars, stopping to photograph "The Girls" not fishing Publicly or Privately!



Continued on page 16



Lion Window Cleaning

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washed. Conservatories and roofs
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Group Activities

Monday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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

Tuesday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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Wednesday

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

Thursday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Table Tennis	C.H.	Adele Stevens Janet Preddy	07486 909687 01278 783743
Last	Varies	Classic Car Appreciation	Varies	Malcolm Manser	07932 734473

Group Activities

Friday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
1 st & 3 rd	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
1 st & 2 nd & 3 rd & 4 th	10.00 onward	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
5 th	10.00 onward	Somerset Churches	Varies	Bernard Martin	01278 787230

Occasional

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen Diane Scott	01278 784500 07484 869011

Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

Legend

S.H. Southwell House	C.A. Coopers Arms
P.H. Private House	C.H. Community Hall (Room Number)

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



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Monthly Draw

31st May 2025	Mary Crowe and Steve Allen
28th June 2025	Denise Godby
26th July 2025	Sheila Carpenter and Sally Meek

Winners each received £20.00



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BYO DRINKS

Strollers cont.

Towards the end of July Denise invited us to her garden after our walk. We parked at the Baliol Hall and set off to work up an appetite. I decided to take a short cut across the field footpath to the church yard, Fay elected to join me. We sat for a time under the shade of a tree then repaired to “the hub” in the church for coffee. After a while the main group came in so we all found our way to Denise’s lovely garden, where ample seating had been provided. She had laid on a magnificent buffet.


The photo shows the energetic party working up an appetite!



The following Friday, 1st of August, we assembled in Saxondale Avenue and Fay guided us on a stroll along a sandy footpath between the houses and the golf course. The path was shady and single file but there were “passing places” which was lucky as several dog walkers were returning home. We rejoined the road by the Co-op store and Fay suggested we return to her for a cup of coffee. This

suggestion was enthusiastically and gratefully agreed and we had a lovely interlude in her peaceful garden.
Thank you to our two lovely hostesses.

It had been decided on the coach returning from Sidmouth that we would visit Bernie. Members living Burnham side of the road works gathered in Marine Drive car park and we from Highbridge battled through to join them there. I decided that it was further than I could walk that day so I drove to Rectory Road and acted as the advance guard! It was lovely to see Bernie looking so well. A few more of the group arrived (they had caught a bus) and we took over the "blue lounge". When the walkers arrived, we early birds left and waited in the garden. Bernie came to the door to wave us all off as we headed for BOS café where we had a snack. Hugh came in just before we left and it was good to see him out and about. **Paula.**



Glennys Appliance Repair

Jon Glenn
Appliance Engineer

Burnham-on-Sea
and surrounding areas

07833696251

glennysappliancerepair@gmail.com

I live in Burnham and cover from Weston to Bridgwater and to Cheddar area. I have never received anything lower than a 5* review on Google.

“Oh I say – anyone for tennis?”

Finally, it's over! – peace reigns yet again – no more of this *racket* coming from that little black box which sits in the corner of the lounge, as the leafy suburb of London known as Wimbledon, once again, returns to normal.

I recall many years ago, I met this beautiful young tennis player, and she was *ace*, I tell you! She was also absolutely besotted with the game, she was always in the centre of the court, *A nnette* was her name. Sadly nothing ever came of us as a couple because to her, *love* meant nothing!

An interesting fact that I learnt only a week ago, and that is, most players from America, either live in or were born in the state of *Tenness-ee*

I did watch a bit of it this year on the television, and it struck me, that you know when a match involving a British player ends, when it's *Wimble-done*

What surprises me is, nowadays a lot of these matches go on until late in the evening. I had always assumed that the players went to bed around *ten-ish*

A friend of mine was telling me a little while ago, that his wife was complaining to him as he had already told her 14 jokes about tennis. He responded by saying, “Right now, I’m telling you joke *15-love*” Following *that* conversation, she informed him that she was divorcing him and would see him in *court*. I empathised with him, but thought

to myself that this would **serve** him right, as she clearly had the **advantage**.

I really wish they would change the scoring system though, but the tennis world seems to be **set** in it's ways and does not see the **point** in changing anything. For the hierarchy, I suppose they feel it's just not worth changing, as it's only a **game**!

Talking of the scoring system, I was amazed recently about the number of people that I had spoken too, who did not know why the scoring system should be 15, 30, 40 etc. and not, as you would expect, 1, 2, 3 etc. Let me explain.

The modern game of tennis (also known as 'Lawn Tennis') was invented by a chap called Major Walter Copton Wingfield in 1873, although the game itself, can be dated back to the middle ages, a time well before any sound system, but they still needed to let the spectators know the current score. This was achieved by using two very large clock faces, strategically placed on the court, with each being marked 0 to 60 (one for each player) so as to make sure that the score could be seen from a distance, so there could be no misinterpretation and to avoid any confusion.

When a player scored their first point, the hand on the clock face was physically moved a quarter of the way round to 15. With the second point being scored, it then went onto the next quarter to 30, followed by another to 45 and in those days, a win was when one player reached 60.

But hang on, I hear you say, the scoring is 15, 30 & 40 and NOT 45! – so what happened? Well, when tennis became more popular and sound systems were in their infancy, it was felt that to say the words ‘forty five’ (which has three syllables), it took too long to pronounce, so they truncated it down to 40 to match the two previous two syllable score words of fifteen and thirty.

While I’m at it, I will explain why the word ‘love’ is used as a score instead of saying ‘nil’ or even ‘nothing’. When written, zero is shown as an ‘0’ which resembles the shape of an egg. The French word for egg is ‘l’oeuf’, the pronunciation being not too dissimilar to the English word ‘love’.

Finally, we hear the word ‘deuce’. This word is used when both players have scored three points each, ie 40-40. But to win the game, one player then needs to win two more points in succession. The French word for two games, (or in our case two points) is ‘deux de jeux’ which I suppose, can sound a bit like ‘deuce’.

And there we have it!

I recall going to Wimbledon once, a few years ago now. I was very impressed with the **service** I got from all the staff there. It was during the John McEnroe era. They used to say that, at home, he never changed a light bulb, because he refused to admit that it had gone out!

PS Look out for our next magazine folks, I can’t wait! I will be delving into the exciting game of rugby, when I will **try** to explain the rules relating to this appealing and absorbing sport!. . . .”eerr sorry, what did you say?. ...Oh, I see. yes, OK I understand, I’ll just forget that then!

For those of you who are still awake, there now follows a short tennis quiz.

1. In which year was Wimbledon first played?
2. What year was Wimbledon first televised?
3. Why were the white tennis balls changed to yellow in the 1986?
4. How long was the longest match ever played at Wimbledon (to the nearest hour)
5. How many tennis balls are used during the two week Wimbledon tournament?
6. With the winner receiving 3 million in prize money (both for the men and ladies champion) how much is awarded to those exiting the first round?
7. For 2025 what was the total prize money for the tournament, including those that exited the *qualifying* rounds?
8. The first tennis balls were made of what?
9. What was used to hit the ball prior to the racket?
10. In 2019, the International Tennis Federation reported how many people were playing tennis throughout the world?

For the first three people handing in correct answer sheets, each will each receive FREE entry to our weekly coffee mornings for the rest of the year! - (please see Adele who will give you your vouchers)

(No cheating by looking at the answers, which are printed somewhere near the back of this magazine, at least I think they are!)

Barry

Burnham Mobile Foot Health Clinic

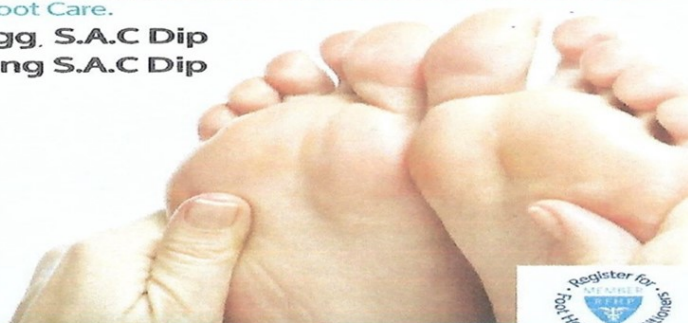
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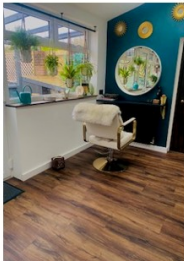


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TENNIS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1877
2. 1937
3. They are easier than white balls to see on a TV screen
4. 11 hours (and 5 mins). The final set of the match went to 70 – 68 games
5. 50,000
6. £66,000 (£15,000 for those exiting at the qualifying rounds)
7. £53.55 million
8. Wool
9. Players used their hands.
10. 87 million



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Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2025		
September 6th	2026 Cheeky Calendar Launch Party Highbridge Community Hall 7pm til late	N/A
September 14th	Country Afternoon Tea Highbridge Community Hall 3pm - 6.30pm	£16
September 24th	Macmillan Coffee Morning Highbridge Community Hall 10am - Noon	N/A
September 29th	Day Out: Stratford Upon Avon	£22
October 20th	Day Out: Gloucester	£21
October 29th	Halloween Raffle & Rail Highbridge Community Hall 10am to Noon	N/A
November 30th to December 4th	Tinsel & Turkey Holiday at Prince Regent Hotel, Weymouth	£304 (+£10 to £25 single supplement)

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

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.