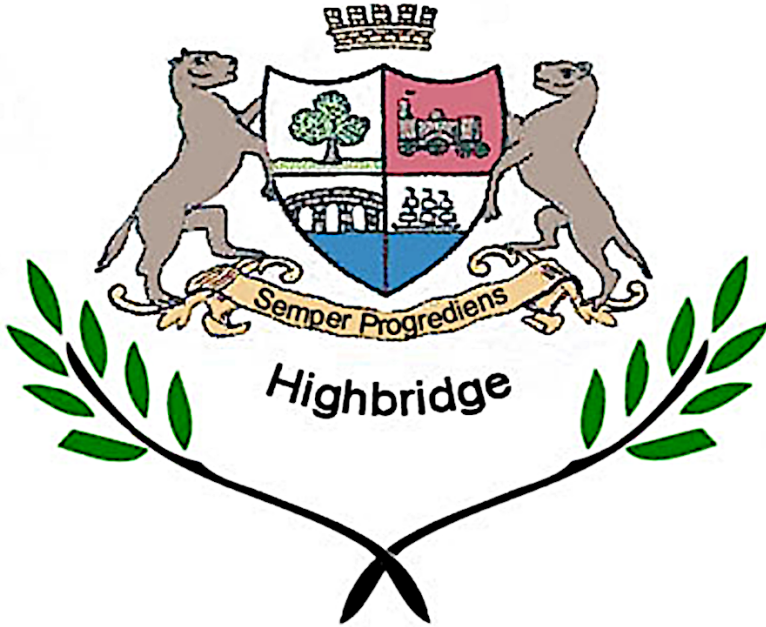


Of Highbridge
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

Registered Charity No: 1184925

Website: www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk

Issue 143

Jul/Aug 2026

Your Committee

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Tel</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Chair | Adele Stevens | 07486 909687 |
| Deputy Chair | Allen Owen | 01278 784500 |
| Secretary | Janet Preddy | 07870 532257 |
| Assistant Secretary | Alison Ridley | 07707 146775 |
| 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 | Dawn Porter | 01278 325225 |
| Committee Member | Christine Owen | 01278 784500 |

Other non-committee roles

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Webmaster | Darryl Knight-Rees | 07751 565705 |
| Welfare and Greeting New Members | Janet Preddy Dawn Porter | 07870 532257 01278 325225 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Magazine Editors | Darryl & Linda Knight-Rees Phone: 07751 565705 / 07708 344530 Email: magazine@u3ahighbridge.org.uk |
| Next Magazine Deadline: | <u>Monday August 17th 2026 at 3pm</u> |

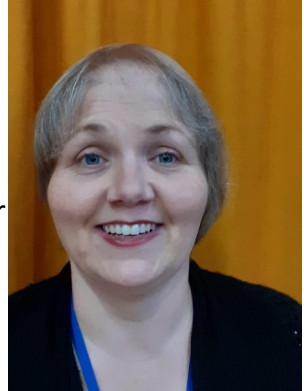
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Note: In accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, information relating to all of the U3A of Highbridge's members will be held on a computerised database and will be used solely for the U3A of Highbridge's business and communications.

Chair's Message

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year. Time certainly seems to be flying by!

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the committee members who have worked so hard during my absence and kept everything running smoothly. Your dedication and commitment to U3A has been greatly appreciated.



Our AGM was a great success, and I would like to welcome our new committee members. I look forward to working together as we continue to support and develop our U3A over the coming months.

You may also have noticed some positive improvements at our venue, including the appointment of a new cleaner. The facilities are looking excellent, and the sparkly toilets certainly haven't gone unnoticed!

We have been fortunate with the weather so far this year, which has helped everyone enjoy the many activities, groups and events that make our U3A such a vibrant organisation. Let's hope the sunshine continues throughout the summer.

Thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing many of you at future meetings and events.

Bye for now,
Adele

Club and Group News

Lunch Club – A Friendly Monthly Get-Together

Our Lunch Club continues to be a great success, with members enjoying good food, good company, and plenty of laughter. Held on the **second Wednesday of every month**, the club is always well attended and provides a wonderful opportunity for people to get together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

One of the things that makes the Lunch Club special is our commitment to finding **new and interesting venues** to visit. Exploring different restaurants and dining locations keeps each month fresh and gives everyone something to look forward to.

With room for up to **40 people**, there is plenty of space for both regular attendees and new faces. The feedback on the meals is always positive, and everyone enjoys the chance to share a delicious lunch with friends.

Adding to the fun are our **free raffle and quiz**, both of which continue to be extremely popular and help make each gathering even more enjoyable.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Lunch Club so far and encourage members to **continue supporting this popular monthly event**. Whether you are a long-standing attendee or thinking of joining us for the first time, we look forward to welcoming you at our next Lunch Club gathering.

Many Thanks
Adele

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Morning

TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

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COUNTS!

Highbridge
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WEDNESDAY
23RD SEPTEMBER

10AM - 12PM
(WITHIN U3A)

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Tea, Cakes
& Great
Company!

LET'S BREW
SOMETHING
AMAZING

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FOR A DELICIOUS
MORNING AND HELP
SUPPORT PEOPLE
LIVING WITH CANCER

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We are also looking for Donations to the Cake Stall, Raffle and Tombola

Please see Adele

Many Thanks

Members Contributions

“For Whom the Bell Tolls”

“For Whom the Bell Tolls” a classic novel written by Ernest Hemmingway, which was first published in 1940.

Now, fast forward 86 years, when today, the answer to that particular question is, that the bell tolls for Denise, Carole, Steve & Jenny, Barbara, Neil & Dianne, along with the author of this account, to name but a few, who, from our u3a ‘Strollers’ group, had accepted the challenge on this particular Saturday. Sadly, not all our Strollers were there to experience this, for they had all contributed financially to the following project

It began a few months ago, when the Strollers had *‘bought’* one of the ‘steps’ that leads from the ground floor, up to the bell ringing chamber at the St Peter & All Hallows church in West Huntspill.

The reason for this, was to enable the church to buy, and have fitted, a rigid hand rail, allowing the bell ringers to safely negotiate the circular stone staircase with it’s very narrow steps leading up to the bell ringing chamber.

In all, there are 116 steps leading up to the church roof, most of which were *‘sold’* to either groups or individuals, which raised enough money to allow this project to go ahead.

So, a few weeks ago, all those that had contributed, were invited to attend the official ‘opening’ which included explanations both from Rev. Chris, regarding the church’s finances, followed by Dave Paul the Chairman of the *‘Friends of the Church’*, whose function is to raise money on behalf of the church, allowing these type of projects to go ahead.

Following these two very interesting and informative accounts, in the church beforehand, we were then provided with a picnic lunch brought directly to our tables. There were approaching some 50 plus interested parties there on the day, so, thanks to all those that supplied the lunches, plus those that waited on us at our tables.

Following our tour lunch, those that felt able, began the ascent to the top of the tower negotiating the 116 steps to finally exit out onto the roof of the tower. There were about 20 of us for the afternoon visit. I gave Keith a ring as he was due to join us for the visit, but sadly he couldn't make it, but said he would give me a bell later, to see how it went.

We stopped twice on our way up to the roof, once at the ringing chamber where the Captain of the bell ringers (I don't know his name, but his face rang a bell!) proceeded to give us a potted history on bell ringing, along with a demonstration on how to actually ring a bell.



We then proceeded to go even higher, reaching the bell chamber, where again, the fascinating history of these bells was explained.



It was at this point in the visit, that I noticed a couple of bells laying on the floor in a corner, completely covered in dust. One of them had a price tag, which said £750. The other had no price on it at all, so I said to the captain, that I was interested in buying one of them, and pointed to the one that wasn't priced and said "Is that bell free?"

Leaving the bell chamber, we continued our climb up the tower in order to gain access to the church roof. It was at this time that I began to falter! I felt dizzy, I knew that I would never make it to the roof of the tower, but Steve, who was right behind me, kept urging me on, telling me all the time that I could and would make it to the top. It was then that I realised, that on the day, he definitely was my tower of strength!

Finally, a few more steps higher, we could then see welcoming daylight ahead.

Now in order to get out onto the roof, we had to exit through a very small doorway, which measures just 24" x 27" Head first, we all made it through safely, some more easily and elegantly than others!



The views to the north, east, south and west were amazing. Thankfully the day had been kind to us and the sun shone making it a memorable visit. I couldn't help but notice the number of mobile phone masts in the immediate area. It reminded me of the day when I got married, because, as I recall, the venue was very close to one of these masts. The ceremony wasn't that great, but the reception was perfect!



From our vantage point, I gazed long and hard, but I couldn't see, St. John's church in Highbridge, where, in the year 1744, the bell tower was removed for safety reasons, and the bells were then taken away. If that had happened post 1901, then the church may have been in-line for a No-bell prize!



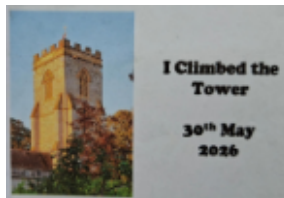
Following a 20 minute topside view and discussions, it was then time to head back down, this time feet first through the narrow aperture. It was noticeably a lot easier walking up the steps than walking down them.

Safely back on terra firma, we were each presented with a sticker as we exited the tower, pronouncing that we had climbed the tower, and then, waiting for us back inside the church, was a welcoming celebratory glass of Prosecco and orange juice.

A short while later, I said my “goodbyes” and then wandered back home, proudly wearing my “*I Climbed the Tower*” badge and silently singing one of my all time favourite Meatloaf songs, Yes, you’ve guessed it

“Dead Ringer for Love”

Barry



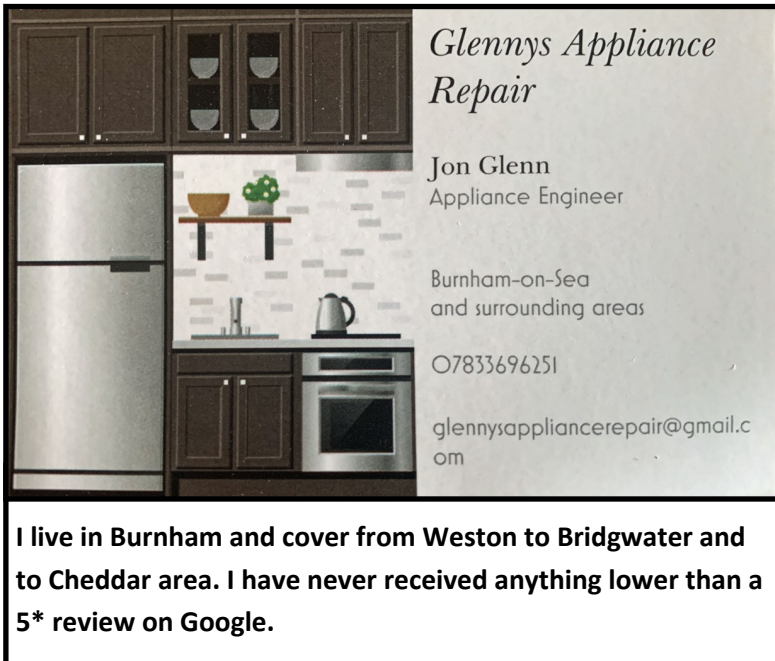


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glennysappliancerepair@gmail.com

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.

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. | Peter 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> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|

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 | Social Afternoon | C.H. | Janet Preddy Adele Stevens | 07870 532257 07486 909687 |
| 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 | Keith Kick | 07715 676047 |

Occasional

| <u>Weekdays</u> | <u>Activity</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Tel</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|

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.

Quiz (answers on page 21)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | For which city is Leonardo da Vinci an airport? |
| 2 | With which pop group do you associate Gerry Marsden? |
| 3 | Which comedy series on TV was set on Craggy Island? |
| 4 | What fruit is the flavouring for Slivovitz? |
| 5 | Who was Michael Jackson's first wife? |
| 6 | What is the chemical formula for Nitric Acid? |
| 7 | On what date each year do the United States celebrate their independence? |
| 8 | On which day of the week is Pancake Day? |
| 9 | Which capital city is also the name of the mythological Trojan prince who slew Achilles? |
| 10 | Where was the first of the Butlins holiday camps? |
| 11 | In which country is the island of Penang? |
| 12 | Name the singer who has had chart success with Olivia Newton John, Elton John, Phil Everley and Sarah Brightman. |
| 13 | Which bear eats seals? |
| 14 | On whose poems is the musical 'Cats' based? |
| 15 | Name the small plants and animals that float in the top layer of the sea |
| 16 | What four letters were placed on the cross on which Christ was crucified? |
| 17 | Name the marmalade cat invented by Kathleen Hale |
| 18 | Name the dessert that comprises a peach on vanilla ice cream topped with raspberry puree |
| 19 | Across which river was Charon the ferryman? |
| 20 | Which writer's christian names were Pelham Grenville? |

A Day in the Life of U3A

When younger folk ask, "What do you do?"
 We smile and say, "Far more than you."
 You spend all day in meetings and strife—
 We're out having the time of our life.

On Monday there's history, Tuesday there's art,
 Wednesday's choir where nobody starts
 In quite the same key, or quite the same song,
 But somehow we finish and all sing along.

Thursday is walking. We stride through the mud,
 Discussing the weather, the council, and blood—
 Pressure, of course. We're not vampires, you see,
 Though some of us seem remarkably spry.

The language group meets and attempts a few phrases.
 We've been learning French now for several ages.
 We can order a coffee, ask where is the station,
 Then immediately switch back to English frustration.

The gardening group swaps cuttings and tips,
 While others compare their new knees and their hips.
 A rose wins a prize, a tomato grows huge,
 And somebody's hearing aid lands in the delphiniums.

We study astronomy, geology too,
 Then spend twenty minutes deciding whose
 Car keys are missing. The answer, it seems,
 Is usually "mine" ... or at least so it seems.

The technology class is a wonderful sight:
 Thirty bright minds in a terrible fight
 With passwords created in 2008,

Written on paper they've managed to misplace.

Retirement, frankly, is terribly hard.
There's coffee on Monday and quizzes in halls,
Lunches on Tuesdays and theatre calls.
By Friday we're shattered and needing a rest—
Good thing the weekend is built for just that.

The knees may creak and the backs may groan,
And some of us occasionally wave at a cone,
Thinking it's someone we know from the group—
Who, in fairness, was wearing a very similar coat.

Yet here's the great secret that nobody knew:
Growing old isn't boring—not with this crew.
We're curious, busy, opinionated and loud,
And nobody's louder than the U3A crowd.

So here's to the members, still learning each day,
Who refuse to grow old in the usual way.
We may walk a bit slower and repeat what we've said—

What?

We may walk a bit slower and repeat what we've said! 😊

Adele 😊

Charlie Tillam: a Family History

Where to start? I was born in Hereford and it was really nice to go back on a day trip with the U3A.

I was born in Hereford 73 years ago in the county hospital, my father was a Fireman. My mother ran a theatrical boarding house for many many years and all the people that came to stay were all the stars of the show. People like Val Doonican always wore a cable jumper in those days and they would do all the Jack and the Beanstalk Cinderella etc. They used to stay at our house which used to be quite nice because they would all get dressed up do make up and paint our faces.

My grandparents had a butcher shop in the war. They were there for many years. My uncle, who was their son, was in the RAF and he used to be in a Lancaster or Spitfire. One day he was due to go home on leave and they'd asked him to stand in to be the gunner because the guy that was supposed to go had been taken ill, so he agreed and went up. Unfortunately that day he was shot down over Holland; he was 21 his name was John Tillam. His name is in the church in Hereford and his family are in the church yard, but he's actually buried in Holland. However in Holland the graveyards are maintained by a lot of the local people. Each person is handed over a grave every so often to take care of and they are actually immaculate.

My parents ran a pub in Hereford called the Royal George; plus at some stage they had the first radio controlled taxicabs in Hereford. Unfortunately it didn't survive. My parents ended up in selling up and moving away.

I have many stories to tell, but unfortunately I'm not great at telling them. I'm not good at writing my words down, but I do have a few pictures of old Hereford. I do go back quite often because I still do

have school friends there and we meet up all over the country every year.

01:22

butchers shop in hereford G tillam in 1940s

WIL +1

In the 1940s, the Tillam family owned and operated a well-known butcher's shop in Hereford, run by **Jack Tillam** and his son, **Gerald "Jack" Tillam**. The shop was located in **St. Owen's Street**, specifically noted to be opposite The Barrells pub and near the Lamb Hotel. [Bartonsham Hi... +2](#)

Here are a few specific details about the family and business during that era:

- **Location:** St. Owen's Street, Hereford. [Bartonsham Hist...](#)
- **The Proprietors:** The shop was established by Jack Tillam, and later passed to his son.

Ask anything

Q butchers shop in hereford G tillam in 1940s

01:23

- **Wartime Legacy:** The Tillam family is prominently remembered in Hereford's local history due to the loss of Gerald's younger brother, **Sergeant John Lane Tillam**, who was killed in action in 1944 while serving in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. John was also widely known in the area for playing in a popular local dance band during the war. [Bartonsham Hi... +1](#)
- **Shop Legacy:** A historic photograph of the Tillam family standing outside their butcher's shop was featured in Volume 11 of *Age to Age*, a local history newsletter published by Herefordshire Lore. [Bartonsham Hi... +1](#)

After the war, Gerald Tillam moved on to become the landlord of the Royal George pub in Widemarsh

Ask anything

Q butchers shop in hereford G tillam in 1940s



Photo added by Rob Wethly

Sgt John Lane Tillam

BIRTH 1922

Hereford, Herefordshire Unitary Authority, Herefordshire, England

DEATH 25 Mar 1944 (aged 21–22)
Hollandscheveld, Hooerveen Municipality, Drenthe, Netherlands

BURIAL Hollandscheveld General Cemetery
Hollandscheveld, Hooerveen Municipality, Drenthe, Netherlands

[Add to Map](#)

PLOT Plot A, Row 6, Grave 7.





Butcher

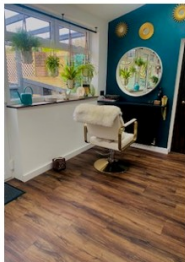
Jack Tillam, seen outside his butcher's shop, could prepare a good cut of best Herefordshire beef.

Dorothy Tillam sent us the picture. But who knows where the shop used to stand?

Have you any memories or pictures of former County Crafts people? You can send them to:

Herefordshire Lore,
Pool Farm,
Belmont Road,
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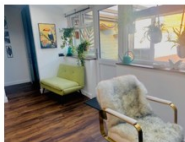
Please call, message or WHATS App - Mel

07784832640

Email

westneybarber@gmail.com

Find me on 



Quiz Answers

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Rome | 2 | The Pacemakers |
| 3 | Father Ted | 4 | Plum |
| 5 | Lisa Marie Presley | 6 | HN03 |
| 7 | 4th July | 8 | Tuesday |
| 9 | Paris | 10 | Skegness |
| 11 | Malaysia | 12 | Cliff Richard |
| 13 | Polar Bear | 14 | T S Eliot |
| 15 | Plankton | 16 | INRI |
| 17 | Orlando | 18 | Peach Melba |
| 19 | Styx | 20 | P G Wodehouse |



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And keep up to date with all of our news and what we have going on!

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Burnham Mobile Foot Health Clinic

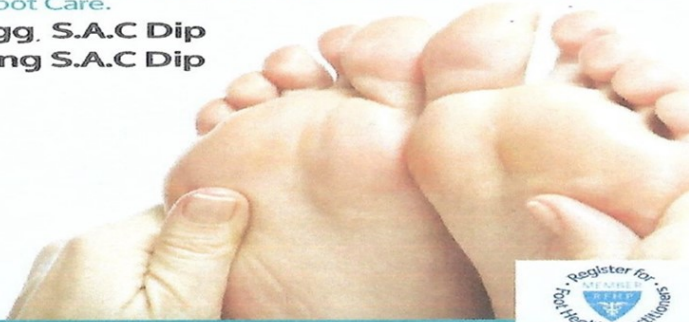
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Calendar

| <u>Date(s)</u> | <u>Details</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| 2026 | | |
| July 23rd | Day Trip to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary and Seaton | £20 |



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.