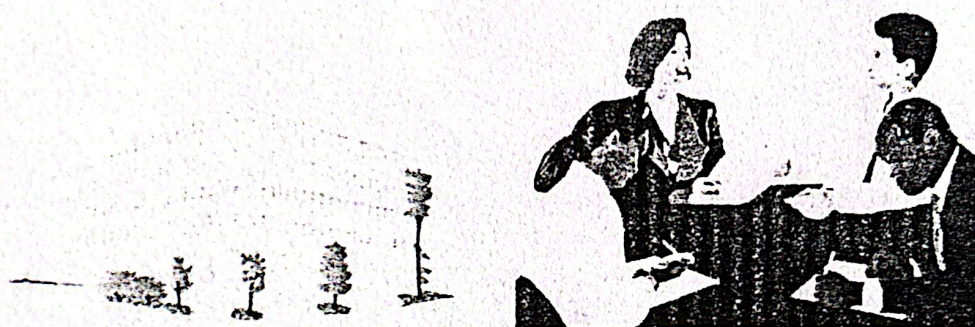


NEWSLETTER

HIGHBRIDGE U3A



SEPTEMBER 2000

NO 4

THE EARLIER NEWSLETTERS 1, 2 & 3 WERE
A4 SHEETS, AND, AS SUCH, WERE NOT SAVED
OR HAD COPIES SAVED; THEY LISTED ~~THE~~ GROUPS AND
WHERE & WHEN THEY MET, NO 4 IS THE FIRST
'TRUE' MAGAZINE.

THE ORIGINALS WERE 'PUBLISHED' BY THE THEN
CHAIRMAN ROY PRESTON. — Number 8 & MISSING

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Your Committee plan to meet regularly on the third Friday of each month.

We have experienced difficulty in the past in getting all the committee together at the same time, so we are experimenting with holding the meetings at the Royal Artillery Public House, starting at 10.30am. The U3A of Highbridge Skittles Group meet there at 11.30am on the same day, so we will have to ensure our business is concluded before then.

If you have any matter you wish to bring to the attention of the committee - be it complaint or suggestion, brickbat or bouquet - please put it in writing and contact any member of the committee who will then bring it up at the earliest opportunity.

Minutes will be kept at each meeting and any important matters that we feel all members should be told about will be published on the notice board at the coffee mornings (10-12 on each Wednesday at Southwell House).

Roy Preston

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to changing circumstances Bob Ramsay will be resigning from the Committee as from 1st November 2000. Anyone interested in taking over the role please see Mr Roy Preston Chairman, or Fay Burston Vice Chairman. I wish to thank all members for their support during my time as Treasurer. I will still be a member of the U3A of Highbridge but not in an active role. Thankyou.

Bob Ramsay

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Forthcoming Events

Members are invited to submit any activities that they would like to see introduced. For example the following:-

SOCIAL EVENING

EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 2001

DAY OUTINGS 2001

FRANCE DAY OUT

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

GERMANY CHRISTMAS MARKETS

These are but a few that could be organised, any members wishing anything else, please let any Committee Member know.

Bob Ramsay

WANTED

TREASURER TO TAKE OVER FROM BOB RAMSAY

AND TO BE A COMMITTEE MEMBER

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News from the Groups

Art

Hello from the U3A Art Group.

We are happy to say how pleased we are with the success of the U3A Art Group in Highbridge.

The enthusiasm of the members is very rewarding and if membership keeps increasing we shall have a beginners class starting in the Autumn, which our good friend Anne Young will take.

It is lovely to see so many pictures created in a variety of mediums, and Oil Painting will be our next challenge for those who want to try.

There was an excellent display at the Huntspill Fete of the different pictures created, of which two of our members succeeded in obtaining awards for their efforts.

Congratulations to Sylvia Shepherd who received a 1st Award, and to **Anne Young** who received a 3rd award.

Very well done to you both!

Congratulations to everyone for all their efforts.

Jean Berry

Coffee Mornings

This is a venue that could do with a boost, as sometimes only a few turn up, so come on members support your U3A by coming along and you can see what is going on in the various groups. Remember it is 10am - 12noon at Southwell House.

Cycling

So far this group really has not "taken off", in more ways than one. However we will persevere, not be down hearted.

The weather has only stopped us once, when we really had a downpour 15 minutes before we were due to start. A blessing in itself before we started.

Prior to this, a cycle out to Mark was very pleasant, lovely weather, not a lot of traffic plus a cup of coffee and home made cake in Mark before the return journey.

Thank you Barbara for your support, and I hope the next Newsletter can say thank you to a few more cyclists.

Fay Burston

Carols in August

Yes, I was singing Christmas Carols at Sidmouth during the 46th International Folk Festival. There were actually four workshops held - mainly for musicians but singers were invited to attend and I managed to get to two of them. Then it was suggested that we went to the Balfour Arms on the Thursday evening and give the "the works"!! There must have been about thirty in the band and well over seventy "singers" so there really wasn't the room for any "ordinary" customer in the Bar we assembled in.

So, why not sing Carols in August or any other time of year? The workshops were run from the "Folk" point of view and many carols were variations with different tunes from different areas. There are people like Cecil Sharp, who travel round the countryside collecting words and music from old people before they are lost to posterity.

The five members of the U3A of Highbridge who were lucky enough to attend the Dillington weekend are committed to collecting as much History of Highbridge as possible from present inhabitants in much the same way.

But back to the Carols - I have always thought it a pity that we only get a chance to sing Carols for a week or so.

Are there any other members who would like to get together once in a while to practice singing some Carols and perhaps go out later in the year to join with other groups of people for some singing?

The dates I have set aside are:-

13th September 2000, 4th October 2000, 1st November 2000, 15th November 2000 and 29th November 2000.

All at the Gospel Centre on Wednesdays at 3.30pm. Bring along any instruments if you have them.

Joyce Beard

Social Dancing

On Saturday 14th October 2000 a dance will be held at Highbridge Community Hall from 8.00pm - 11.15pm. Watch out for poster.

Anyone interested in forming a dance group in the New Year please contact me.

Joyce Beard

Gardening Group

The Group's activities have been curtailed throughout the Summer months, largely due to holidays, although we did have an enjoyable visit at Copse Hall, Brent Knoll, with a personal tour by the owner and tea and cakes served afterwards.

Our plant sales from donations have been successful and funds raised will go towards group outings where we can all benefit.



The postponed visit to Cannington College Gardens, we hope to arrange for a date in September.

Sylvia Shepherd

Gardening Group

On Friday evening of August 25th, ten of us visited Ray & Doreen at their home in Walrow.

We spent some time wandering round their delightful garden with its lovely vista over the lake.

I was most fascinated by the squashes they were producing, especially as I grew the plants from seed, and sold them at a coffee morning fund raising for the U3A.

I myself have not yet had one fruit on my plants!

However it was to hear a talk by Ray about bee-keeping that we had gathered together.

It was a fascinating talk and I would not be able to remember all the information imparted by Ray.

Suffice to say, his smiling patience and great knowledge of all aspects of bee keeping kept us all enthralled, and he answered even the most mundane questions with enthusiasm.

His bees were all out at their work places and had all recently passed inspection by a government official. I was most impressed by the careful way the honey was produced for human consumption.

The numerous processes it passes through (with of course the help of Doreen) and the standard of hygiene was excellent.

It was a truly informative and enjoyable evening.

Phyllis Walsh

Local History Group

So far there have been four talks - one on Romans in Somerset, one on the life of General Higgins who was born in number 10 Church Street, one on Frank Foley who was born in 7 Walrow Terrace and one on the Brick and Tile Works. There are three more dates booked:-

Wednesday 20th September - meeting in Bank Street Car Park at 11.45am for an expansion on the Highbridge Trail - to include the local ghost stories.

Wednesday 11th October at 3.30pm at the Gospel Centre "A London Experience"

Wednesday 22nd November - 3.30pm at the Gospel Centre "Arthurian Somerset".

Anyone who would like to suggest talks etc, for the History Group is invited to contact Phyllis Walsh or Joyce Beard who are already working on next year's programme.

Joyce Beard

Keep Fit

This Group has been meeting weekly since the end of November 1999, on a Tuesday afternoon at Morland Hall. With an average of 10+ members (three of these are male) we combine with the Scrabble Group for

refreshments. There is room for more participants in both groups and members are welcome to drop in at any time.

Because we took part in a "Quiz Evening" earlier in the year we have been able to purchase our own CD and cassette player, and a game of Rummicub which is proving popular and we now have the choice of five tapes for use for keep fit exercises.

Joyce Beard

Keep Fit Poem

Great excitement Tuesday afternoons for the keep fit session,

making all us oldies feeling we're at school and in a lesson.

The legs won't swing as high as we would like them to,

and the brain can't seem to fathom all the things the taped

lady is telling us to do.

Oh my that hurt, you can see the pain on the faces of the class,

now it's lying on the floor legs and bodies everywhere, hope

no one looks in the window as they pass.

Puffing and panting the strain is beginning to show,

we are sure to regret all these exercises I know.

Thinking of the cup of tea and biscuits when all the pain is done,

it would be so much easier sat in a chair out in the sun.

Poem by Doreen.

Quiz

At the Annual General meeting it was suggested that we have our own QUIZ competition, this I have booked for Wednesday 8th November 2000, at the Gospel Centre, from 3.30pm. The cost will be £5 for a team of up to five people.

Joyce Beard

Skittles

The Skittles has proved a great success and everyone enjoys themselves, as it is fun and the Landlord is very good too. The venue is so popular that it has been decided to hold it every second Friday in the month, so tell your friends and we may take on the Burnham Skittles Group (for a laugh), this to be arranged later.

Bob Ramsay

Swimming



After an encouraging start this year, the flu epidemic laid our swimmers low, and it took a few weeks to get off the ground again.

We did not swim during the holiday months, as we have to join a public session, and this is not always "beginner friendly".

The sessions will start again on Friday 15th September 2000 at 12.30pm. Any non-swimmers are welcome, as I am a qualified teacher of swimming.

Please meet in the Foyer at 12.30pm.

Phyllis Walsh

Table Tennis

This venue has not proved very successful as only three people turn up, sometimes only two, so I have now decided to end this Venue, but if someone else would like to take it on then please let me know.

Bob Ramsay

Walking Group

Since the last Newsletter we have been very lucky regarding suitable weather and had three walks.

The Group meets in Highbridge Car Park every second Friday morning of the month (weather permitting) at 11.00am, why not come along, you will be very welcome. Where we go does depend on how many people arrive and if we have adequate lifts in the cars available. Should this occur, a local walk is arranged.



Recently we have walked along Black Ditch - West Huntspill - a showery day, however we were lucky no showers while we were walking, studying the fishermen by the pond and stopping in the "Crown Inn", East Huntspill for refreshments.

The next month, a windy dry day the stroll was along the Huntspill River, very exhilarating to say the least, good fun, this gave one or two of us a good appetite for lunch. The Carvery in the Highbridge was sampled and given approval. Their cups of coffee can also be recommended.

On 11th August 2000, most recent walk, Puriton was our choice, lovely day, good company, an exploration of Downend proved to be very interesting as nobody on the stroll has walked around that area before, followed by a visit to Puriton Inn for refreshments.

Fay Burston

Creative Writing Group

The members of the Writing Group take it in turns to hold meetings at their homes on the second Tuesday of every month.

The numbers attending have fluctuated between seven at one meeting and three at another.

Contributions range from up to a few hundred words of fiction, autobiographical anecdotes or, when the Muse is upon us, a few lines of poetry.

We try to make meetings a pleasant social gathering, with nothing too heavy or stressful.

Through the Summer we have had a break and will re-commence with new vigor in the Autumn.

Roy Preston

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The U3A Highbridge Committee

Chairman	Roy Preston	781843
Vice Chairman	Fay Burston	782529
Treasurer	Bob Ramsay	788197
Secretary	Syliva Shepherd	780377
Assistant Secretary	Anne Young	794492
Membership Secretary	Doris Feyerabend	784437
Committee Member	Joyce Beard	783913
Committee Member	Jean Berry	785840

Group Activities Timetable

Day	Morning	Week	Afternoon	Week
Tuesday			Keep Fit	Weekly
			Scrabble	Weekly
			Creative Writing	2nd
Wednesday	Coffee Morning	Weekly		
Thursday			Art	Weekly
Friday			Swimming	Weekly
	Strollers	2nd		
Every other Friday	Skittles & Darts			
	Cycling	4th		

Occasional Groups

Theatre Visits	Contact Joyce Beard	Tel: 783913
Welfare	Contact Fay Burston	Tel: 782529
Puppet Theatre	Contact Roy Preston	Tel: 781843
Ten Pin Bowling	Contact Alan Didswell	Tel: 783706
Local History Group - Meeting Time and place to be announced later	Contact Joyce Beard	Tel: 783913

This is meant as a guide only, please confirm dates, times and availability of space before the meetings.

Contact telephone numbers appear below for the various activities.

We are endeavouring to extend the activities we offer and are open to suggestions anyone may have.

Directory of Groups

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Tel No:</u>
ART	Jean Berry	785840
CREATIVE WRITING	Roy Preston	781843
CYCLING	Fay Burston	782529
GARDENING	Sylvia Sheppard	780377
KEEP FIT	Joyce Beard	783913
LOCAL HISTORY	Joyce Beard	783913
PUPPET THEATRE	Roy Preston	781843
SCRABBLE	Betty Worthy	785106
SKITTLES & DARTS	Bob Ramsay	788197
STROLLERS	Fay Burston	782529
SWIMMING	Phyllis Walsh	786486
THEATRE VISITS	Joyce Beard	783913
TEN PIN BOWLING	Alan Dadswell	783706

Suggested Groups

ANTIQUES		793020/792247
BALLROOM DANCING		784187
DRESSMAKING	Sue Preston	781843
EMBROIDERY		782795
ENGLISH/SCOTTISH NATIONAL COUNTRY DANCING	Joyce Beard	783913
LINE DANCING	Joyce Beard	783913
MODEL MAKING		783875
PUBLISHING	Joyce Beard	783913
SPANISH	Roy? Preston	781843
STAMP COLLECTING	Roy Preston	781843
WHIST	Joyce Beard	783913
YOGA	Phyllis Walsh	786486