

NEWSLETTER

HIGHBRIDGE U3A



DECEMBER 2000

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

No 5

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Fourteen U3A members spent a very enjoyable Tinsel and Turkey weekend at Torquay. We had just returned home from our pre-Christmas break and, before we had time to settle back into our normal routine, Bob Ramsay brought me back down to earth with a bump, by reminding me that he needed my Chairman's report for this latest issue of our Newsletter. Ah well back to normality, but we must do it again next year.

Although Bob has given up his post as Treasurer, he is going to carry on as editor of the Newsletter, I am sure he will welcome any letters or comments you may care to make about it, the U3A or anything else of interest.

We are pleased to announce that Ken Burston has taken over as Treasurer from Bob and wish to thank Bob for his excellent work as Treasurer.

All the groups apart from Creative Writing, which is rather slow at the moment after their Summer recess, appear to be running successfully thanks to the efforts of the group leaders.

Most group leaders tell me that once a group has started, it invariably tends to run itself without too much organizing effort on the part of the leader. In most instances, they tell me, members keep things rolling themselves.

Don't forget, it is possible to start a new group in almost any subject. Joyce Beard has been appointed as our groups organiser, so if there is anything at all you are interested in doing, we must find someone else who would like to do it too. Have a chat with Joyce, or see me, I am at most Wednesday

coffee mornings and I usually play skittles at the Artillery Arms on the first and third Friday mornings of each month.

The U3A Trust in London has a vast library of information on most subjects. This information is available to us in various forms from a simple leaflet up to a complete Open University course. There is even information and a Video available to help in the starting and running of a group.

Thanks to you, our members, we have had a very successful first year. Let us try to make our second year even better.

Roy Preston.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Skittles Christmas Party has been arranged for Friday 15th December 2000, commencing 11.30am with Skittles as usual, followed by a Christmas Buffet at 1.00pm and then entertainment in the afternoon.

A notice of this appears on the board at Coffee Mornings, all members welcome.

Please give your name to a member of the Committee with your £3.00 as soon as possible. Numbers required by Friday 8th December 2000.

This is a story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Everybody got angry about that because it was Somebody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

What have you left undone today?

If you are worried about security install six locks on your door. When you go out only lock three of them. No matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three of them!

You have to stay in shape. An aging relative of a friend of mine started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She is now 74 and they have no idea where she is.

A tip for parents: Never raise your hands to your kids - it leaves your groin unprotected!

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down by court reporters who had the torment of having to keep a straight face while these exchanges took place:-

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July fifteenth.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?

A: He said "Where am I, Cathy"?

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

Q: Officer when you stopped the Defendant, were your red and blue lights flashing?

A: Yes.

Q: What did she say?

A: What disco am I at?

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK. What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

“Lets separate the men from the boys”. “Yes sir, I’ll fetch the crowbar”.

“What do you mean, no Benson & Hedges? What kind of toboggonist are you anyway?”

The parrot had a bad attitude and worse vocabulary; every other word was an expletive.

The new owner tried hard to change its ways and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music anything to set a good example. Nothing worked,. He yelled and it yelled back. He shook it and it just got ruder.

Desperate, he put the bird in the freezer. For a few moments it swarked and screamed. Suddenly there was quiet. Concerned, he opened the door.

The parrot calmly stepped out and said: “I believe I may have offended you. I will endeavour at once to correct my behaviour. I am truly sorry.”

The owner was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change when the parrot continued warily: "May I ask what the chicken did?"



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Thoughts of life

I wish I knew the reasons why
The folks like you and I
see countries rich in wealth
and some so poor in health.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
let great lakes and rivers dry
and lovely birds and cattle die.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
see the hunter and his gun
shoot rare wild life till there is none.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
make our beauty spots around
a mess with litter on the ground.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
fill the atmosphere with fumes and smoke
then watch our little children choke.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
see the aged and downtrodden
wonder why they're so forgotten.

I wish I knew the reasons why
the folks like you and I
see these things until we die
and never know the reasons why.



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News from the Groups

The Beginners Art Group

Welcome New Recruits

We have seven newcomers and still have two or three more places. A good standard is being achieved by all. **Congratulations to Shirley Adams on picking up a 1st for her Watercolour "Primroses" also a 2nd for her Acrylic "Daisies" at the Chrysanthemum Show on Saturday 4th.**

Shirley attends our group as well as attending the advanced group, we are delighted with her results.

Ann Young

Art

Hello from the U3A Art Group.

The September Newsletter disclosed our next challenge would be Oil Painting, it was a great success, many lovely pictures were painted.

Shirley Adams also received 2nd prize for her "Cottage" in oil, so very pleased Shirley for what you have achieved "Well Done".

"Welcome back Gwen, after a long illness, it's lovely to see you well again".

Would you Art Lovers like to submit a logo for our Highbridge U3A Art Group Membership Card. Welcome any ideas.

Jean Berry

Cycling

4th Friday of the Month

Meet: 11am Highbridge Car Park

Due to a rather wet morning in October the cycle ride was cancelled.

Weather permitting the following date for November is 24th at 11.00am.

There will be no cycle ride on 22nd December, too close to Christmas and as I will be in Australia seeing my grandchildren in January no cycle ride on the 26th, unless of course a volunteer is kind enough to take the cycle.

Fay Burston - Tel: 782529.

Dancing

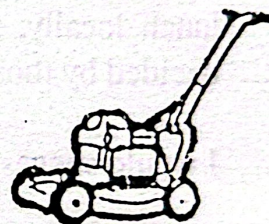
Country dancing, Folk dancing, Scottish dancing, Irish dancing, Welsh dancing, Sword dancing, Norris dancing, Belly dancing - you name it - I've done it!! The problem now is that I need at least three people to join me in dancing, will one be **YOU**?

Please contact Joyce on 783913.

Gardening Group

The proposed visit to Cannington College Gardens was again cancelled through lack of numbers, and as interest has apparently wained for the time being, we shall defer our activities until after the Winter.

Would anyone with an interest in helping to organize the Gardening Club please contact me so that we can plan forthcoming meetings and events. Any suggestions, in this respect, from Members would be welcome.



Sylvia Shepherd Tel 780377

Local History Group

Leaders: Phyllis Walsh & Joyce Beard

The History Group meets once a month - so far we have had talks on Romans in Somerset, Highbridge Brick and Tile Works, General Higgins, Arthurian Somerset, as well as a walk round the Highbridge Town Trail and Sounds, pictures and Quiz on the City and West End of London. Our programme for the next 6 months will include - Clocks, Listed Buildings in Burnham & Highbridge, Road names in Highbridge and Highbridge Schools.

Keep Fit

Leader: Joyce Beard

This Group has been meeting weekly for a year now on Tuesday afternoons at Morland Hall. A 'new' tape of exercises by Eileen Fowler has been introduced recently. Members exercise at their own pace - standing, sitting or lying down. The group exercises for approximately 1 hour before having a short break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

With an average of ten members we combine with the Scrabble/Board Games Group for refreshments. New members are made very welcome. Our grateful thanks to the tea-makers and washers-up.

Luncheon Club

Interest has been shown recently in the possibility of members going out to lunch locally, purely a a social occasion. How often and when is to be decided by those members interested.

I would suggest the first meeting for lunch as follows:-

Wednesday 17th January 2001, after coffee morning, at 12.15pm, at Highbridge Hotel, for a Carvery at £2.50 (present cost). A discussion by all those present as to where, when, how often, for the lunches will be arranged. Anybody interested please contact Fay Burston 782529 before the 17th January 2001.

Scrabble

Leader: Betty Worthy

There are usually three tables of games. Scrabble was the first game played by this group. During the past year other games have been introduced and so far we have played Triominos, Upwords, Rummikub, Draughts, as well as Whist and Bad Eggs.

New members do not need to be proficient in any of these games - we play for the enjoyment, amid friendly banter.

Skittles

Leader: Bob Ramsay

The skittles is going very well and attendance is very good, if anybody would like to attend it is held the first and third Friday's of the month at 11.30am at the Artillery Arm, Highbridge. You will be made very welcome.

Swimming

Details to be announced later by Phyllis Walsh.



Table Top Sale

One of the other organizations meeting at Morland Hall, organised a Jumble Sale recently and offered the U3A a stall. Ann Young turned out her attic and many other members brought along so many items that we could easily have run the whole event!! With the items left over we could consider having a stall outside Southwell House during a coffee morning next spring. Although the event had not been advertised too well so customers were few, the U3A made £24 for the general fund. Thanks due to all the keen members who turned up to 'man' our stall.

Walking Group

2nd Friday of the Month

Meet at 11.00am at Highbridge Car Park

The stroll in October was not very well supported. I'm sorry to say only one member came with me. It was a bit of an unusual walk and rather a long way to get to the start.

The weather was cool and sunny, ideal for a walk. I spent part of the time hugging a lady I hardly knew around the waist, while she took a photograph (she was scared of heights). While my friend was grabbed by a China man and hauled up this hill until she protested. Where were we? The Great Walls of China is only about 3400 miles long. We didn't walk the whole length.



November most of the strollers were on their way to Torquay for a Turkey and Tinsell weekend. A notice was placed on the notice board cancelling the walk, do hope no one was disappointed.

December - Hope to see you all raring to go on the 8th at 11.00am after two months rest, weather permitting.

Fay Burston

Creative Writing Group

This group seems to be slow to start up. Anyone interested please contact Roy Preston Tel: 781843.

A Visit was made to Walpole Landfill site by U3A Highbridge members on Saturday 14th October 2000.

The site Manager is Mrs Selena Pearce B. Eng (hons) C. Eng, M.I.C.E.

The planning and setting up of the site took eight years, and it opened in July 1988.

The type of this landfill is called 'landraise' and it covers an area equal to 73 football pitches.

Most of the waste comes from Sedgemoor, Bristol, Weston, Devon via the Council collections.

Waste is weighed-in because there is an environmental tax based on weight and the dumpers pay a fee based on the tonnage of their load.

Waste is unloaded at the tip face under a huge net which cost £100,000. This net helps to keep the birds away and stops litter flying off the tip face.

Before 1985 Wyvern (the tip owners) discussed with the environmental agency the possibility of using birds of prey to deter the birds. This was not adopted because a pigeon fancier said they would prey on his birds. Next the firing of rockets was tried, but residents complained about the noise. The net was, the solution to the problem, adopted.

The machine which drives over the waste to compress it, is called a Compactor and weighs 40 tonnes. A new one costing a quarter of a million pounds had just been delivered to the site.

The land is divided into cells which are three and a half metres deep, 30 metres wide and 600 metres long. It takes 6 months to fill one up. Channels are dug across its width and length for the drainage of the leachate.

Leachate is mostly water, but also contains ammonia, organic matter, inorganic chemicals and heavy metals.

When waste degrades, leachate and landfill gas, is generated. The gas which contains mostly methane and carbon dioxide is used to generate electricity and this power is used to run the site. Any surplus goes into the national grid, and can supply about 1300 homes.

The leachate is treated to reduce pollutants to a sufficiently low level. The permitted level is 15 parts per million, but this plant gets it down to 5 parts per million. The lechate drains into two lagoons as a black liquid. It is aerated in the lagoons until it reaches 5 parts per million, and then it is discharged by pumping through a buried pipe line and released into the River Parrett estuary.

When the cell is full, it is covered with a foot of earth; gas collecting pipes; a gas proof membrane on top and finished off with three feet of earth, and is returned to agriculture. Over a period of time the mound of the cell will be reduced by 25%. There are already sheep grazing on filled-in cells.

As the soil on the site is clay, care is taken that the lorries when leaving the site have no mud adhering to the wheels. The lorries are driven through a wheel wash which removes any mud and prevents it being dropped on public roads.

Finally it is a sobering thought that the plastic waste dumped by us all takes 25,000 years to degrade!! Perhaps it is now time to re-use our discarded paper waste to make bags and bin liners which are degradable instead of leaving the problem to be solved by future generations.

Pat Grey and Phyllis Walsh.

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The Gospel Centre

The Gospel Centre is a venue that can be made available for the U3A of Highbridge to use on any day.

There is a table tennis table, cassette player, musical instruments, microphone and flip chart.

We have made use of the premises for History meetings, the Quiz and Carolers.

If there is any member keen to start another Group - please contact Doreen Manning - 795477 or Joyce Beard - 783913.

Anyone who would like to suggest talks etc for the History Group is invited to contact Phyllis Walsh or Joyce Beard.

The U3A Highbridge Committee

Chairman	Roy Preston	781843
Vice Chairman	Fay Burston	782529
Treasurer	Ken Burston	782529
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			
	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	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



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