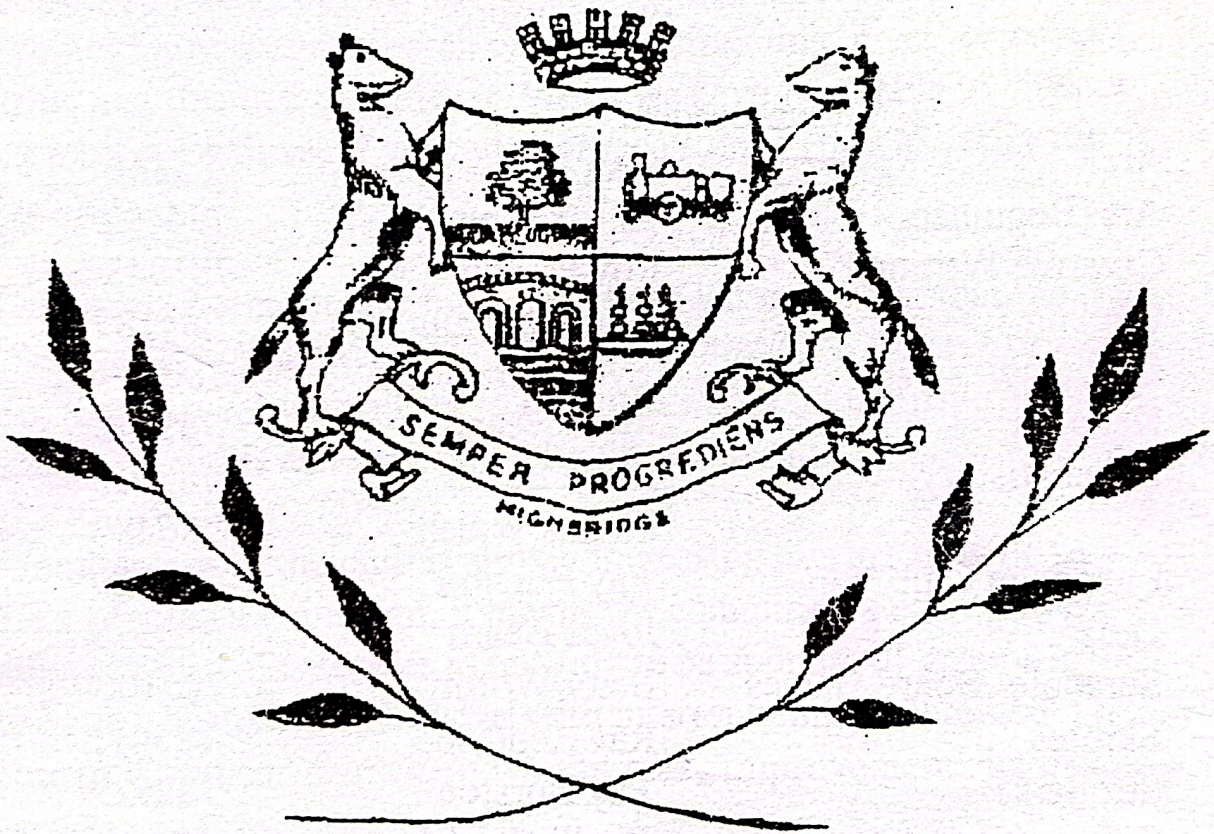


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U.3.A of HIGHBRIDGE



AUTUMN
2004.

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 8

Who's Who in U.3.A. of Highbridge

Committee Members

Chairperson	Roy Preston	781843
Vice Chairperson	Fay Burston	782529
Secretary	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Treasurer	Ken Burston	782529
Membership Secretary	Doris Feyerabend	784437
Groups Organiser	Joyce Beard	783913
Committee Members	Pat Gray	786905
	Philip Lyes	784629
	Ethel Titford	788811

Group Leaders

Art	Jean Berry	785840
Art (Beginners)	Ann Young	794492
Creative Writing	Roy Preston	781843
Cycling	Barbara Palin	784187
Gardening	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Keep Fit	Joyce Beard	783913
Local History	Joyce Beard	783913
	Phyllis Walsh	786486
	Fay Burston	782529
Luncheon Club	Fay Burston	782529
Quiz	Joyce Beard	783913
Scrabble/ Board Games	Betty Worthy	785106
Skittles	Ray Reddish	785411
Strollers	Fay Burston	782529
Swimming	Phyllis Walsh	786486
Social Group	Roy Preston	781843
Welfare	Fay Burston	782529

Group Leaders meet on the fifth Wednesday in the month.

There is just one remaining this year on October 31

If you wish to join a group, please first contact the group leader to make sure there is a space for you ,also check the time and venue.

EDITORIAL

This is my first attempt at editing the magazine and I feel I must ask you to forgive any errors that occur. I did have a short spell at editing a motor club magazine some 30 odd years ago but most of the copy had been prepared by others

Of course I have a good act to follow, trying to improve on the standard set by Roy, will be difficult, but I will have a go..

You will note that we have a new cover design, this has been made possible through our involvement with the History in the Making Project. During our research we came across this 'crest' or coat of arms and decided to utilise it. When we have been able to clean it up a bit we will see if we can approach some office to verify the Design

I am not a Latin scholar but I have been led to believe that the text 'Semper Progrediens' loosely translated means 'Forever Forward'. So, that is what we will try to do go forward and improve our social activities and general make-up of this club.

Membership of the club is slowly increasing, we are now up to 70. This I feel is a good sign, it means the committee's efforts to provide the right mix of activities is proving to be sound. All groups appear to have a regular membership with interest being maintained. Of course if you can see where we can make improvements let us know.

New groups are in the pipe line, Tony Webb is hoping to start a Play Reading Group and a new member, Collin Moore is in the process of getting ideas together to form a Photographic Group. Further details on these ideas will hopefully appear later in this issue.

Incidentally, I understand the club is 2 years old in November so we should wish ourselves a Happy Birthday.

New Groups

As advised in the editorial we could be getting 2 new groups.

The first would be run by Tony Webb, this is a Play Reading Group, what this involves I do not know except what the title implies. A meeting was to be held on Tuesday 18th September, the outcome of this was too late for inclusion in this issue but no doubt Roy will bring you up-to date in his monthly news sheet.

The second group would be a Photograph Group, the leader of this group would be Collin Moore.

Collin is a new member having moved to the Highbridge area fairly recently, he has been very involved with the History in the Making project and has created some very good photographic records. He worked for many years in the world of film making in the T.V. and Film Industries and has a wide experience in every aspect of photography. He has given me a few words for you to consider and to give you some idea of what can be achieved by you with your own camera :-

IMAGING GENERAL

"Still, cine, video, digital animation form.

Before the above implications- it is you who can visualise with imaginative powers and create such stunning pictures ever to be produced ! You can of course capture that once- in-a- lifetime moment naturally."

No doubt you can discuss with Collin your latest batch of films from your Summer holidays, why some did not turn out as you intended, or how do you get rid of images which are spoiling your photograph. I know he has recently taken a course in Digital Imaging at the U.K.ON-LINE centre so will be au fait with what you have to do to put it right.

There you are two new groups to help you though the Winter Evenings, if you are interested watch for details on the notice board or look for information in Roy's news sheet.

CERAMICS by PAM LYES

When this group started it was planned for once-a-month with 5 members. However, as everyone found it so enjoyable and therapeutic we agreed to meet every fortnight, especially as there were so many lovely things to make for Christmas. It was felt that only meeting monthly would not give us enough time to get them all completed. The maximum number for each class is 8- we now have 7.

GARDENING by SYLVIA SHEPHERD

As yet we have no regular meeting place or time. In fact no group as such, just the members who join in with activities and outings (garden related). I feel I can not run a regular members group without assistance and as this is not forthcoming I regret there cannot be more involvement. Perhaps an advert in the magazine would bring a response from 2 or 3 interested members, I feel it would require 2 to run a successful group of this nature. In the meanwhile I will carry on in this small way, next year, without foot and mouth restrictions we can perhaps be more active with visits to gardens etc.

SKITTLES by SYLVIA SHEPHERD

A ghost writer did this for Sylvia but the sentiments are the same . On the 30th August we had an extra skittles meeting at the Royal Artillery and it was a "HO DOWN "affair, a few turned up in check shirts/blouses plus an assortment of, what you might call cowboy hats. Malcolm had devised a new competition for us, it was throwing horse shoes, no, not at each other , at a peg in the ground. We were allowed 3 shoes each and after the first round there was a tie, with one each (Roy Bryant and Ken Burston). After another round there was Still a tie, but following further rounds it was resolved by Ken Burston getting 2 shoes on the peg .He became the first Winner of Malcolm's Golden Horseshoe. Thanks Sylvia and Malcolm it was fun and we all enjoyed the Bangers and Beans.

6 Luncheon Club

In January this year the Luncheon Club had it's first meeting at the Highbridge Hotel and the members met there for three months, this prove to be very successful and we all enjoyed our lunch, had a good laugh, in all a very sociable occasion.

Since then we have spread our wings, travelled further afield, changed the day of the lunch about from Wednesday now sometimes on a Friday or Sunday hoping to suit any members who wish to join us. It is a great opportunity for us just to sit and chat, get to know new members, new members to feel at ease over a meal, gradually meeting a few people at a time.

June

We met at Southwell House at 12.15 p.m. on Sunday 24th June and drove out to the "Tom Mogg" (some confusion as to the best route to be taken a convoy stopped all that). Sixteen of us arrived to have a carvery, a choice of meat and a large selection of vegetables, followed by some very naughty but nice deserts, many of us took advantage of these, in all a very nice meal, a bit more expensive than normal but Sunday lunch it was to be expected.

July

Being on a Wednesday a lot of the members went straight from the coffee morning on to the "Watchfield Inn". We were served within 15 minutes of arrival, as nearly everybody had selected their choice from the menu previously, a great advantage, as this enabled the staff to get it prepared beforehand. Fourteen of us had a room to ourselves, which was really a good idea as we have been known to make a bit of noise when we are all chatting at the same time. I think everyone enjoyed their meal and again one or two decided to have a desert. All in all, a very pleasant atmosphere, had it not been so hot, it would have been nice to sit out in the garden.

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August

"Dunstan House " on Friday the 24th August turned out to be successful. A total of twenty four, originally we should have had twenty seven which was really amazing as I thought it might be considered a bit pricey, unfortunately three members had to cancel at the last minute. Again as we had ordered the majority of meals beforehand, we didn't have too long to wait, I got the impression that everybody was pleased with their meal.

Septembers' meal will be at the Lighthouse on the Burnham Road. Wednesday on the 19th of the month, the menu is on display at the coffee morning for you to make your selection, so hope to see a lot of people there. I have never been to the Lighthouse myself, yet another new experience!

For the lunch in October the Hungry Horse has been suggested as another new venue we should try, followed by the Premier in Abingdon Street during November.

I would like to hear your feelings about a lunch in December, some people may already have too many commitments during that month others be please to go out for a meal. Please let me know how you feel about this as soon as possible as if we are eating out, it will most likely be advisable we book shortly.

P.S.

If we do not have a lunch in December, would it be an idea to have a New Year's meal instead?

KEEP FIT

8

by Joyce Beard

This group restarted on 11th September after its summer rest although two or three members were still on their hols. There are sufficient tapes for members to have a better variety of music and exercise, although the "warm up" will be to familiar tunes.

BOARD GAMES

by Betty Worthy

At the 11th September meeting there were three tables, one for Scrabble, one for Rummicub and the four on the third table played Triominos and then Upwords. A fine selection of games exist.

Joyce and Betty confirm that new members are welcome, not necessarily with prior notice. The groups run between 2 p.m. and 3.15p.m. for Keep Fit, a break for tea until 3.30 p.m. followed by Board Games.

The groups meet on a Tuesday at Morland Hall, the charge being £1.00 to cover the cost of the hall.

HISTORY

by Joyce Beard/Phyllis Walsh

The meeting was held on Thursday 6th September and five enthusiasts perused the second log book of the Highbridge National School. This covers years 1889 – 1929 and some familiar names appeared, - Frank Foley, his brothers and sisters had their daily records in the register. The headmaster making mention of the three eldest brothers when they left the school in Highbridge to attend the newly opened Catholic School in Burnham on 12th September 1890. The logbook noted 1st July 1892 "The Foleys were returned this week" no reason was given. The sister (Margaret) also went to the National School (not the Catholic School) but did grow up to become a nun.

(continued)

At present both Joyce and Phyllis are involved in another group namely the computer group(see below) and so Local History has been rested until the New Year. Phyllis has however indicated that she would be happy to resurrect the group in 2002 if sufficient members are interested.

(Editors Note: - With the Highbridge "History in the Making" proving so popular, I thought this group would have had a healthy attendance. Ah Well!)

COMPUTER GROUP

Joyce Beard

This is the new group and its first meeting was on Thursday 13th September at the Highbridge UK-ON-Line Centre. The group is open to sixteen members but unfortunately two people failed to turn up and did not advise Joyce. Please let group leaders know if you cannot attend. There is a waiting list for this group so if you miss out without notice you could lose your place. The group, once they have learned how to switch the computers on and how to "save" what they have done, will work towards producing something in which they have a personal interest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Mary Draper

Mary being a keen photographer submitted an entry to the Third Age Trust's U3A magazines photographic competition. This was to find twelve photographs for their 2002 calendar.

Mary's photograph has been accepted and will appear under September 2002. It is great that the work of a member of the U3A of Highbridge is being acknowledged in the National U3A Calendar. Well Done!

Mary has recently had an operation and is at present convalescing – we wish her a speedy recovery.

Joyce Beard

Joyce has had a poem accepted for "Visions in Verse" which is being published next year by United Press Ltd.

A TRUE STORY

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It is the time of year to think of ghosts, witches, spectres and things that go bump in the night. Yes, Halloween, and we have a true ghost story for you.

Before coming to Highbridge, I lived in a first floor flat in an old style house in Surrey; we had a friend who lived in a flat a few doors away, who, at the time of this occurrence had his daughter, her French husband and their son of about 5 years living with him. The son had just developed a severe case of measles, and, as there was not much room in our friends flat he used to come early each morning to use our bathroom.

One day after he had left for work, I went into the bathroom and was overwhelmed by a strong smell of garlic. My immediate thought was he must have eaten a tremendous amount of garlic for his evening meal. I used all types of disinfectant and sprays, left doors and windows open, but nothing removed the strong smell of garlic.

During the evening our friend called in and said he had had a weird experience that morning; whilst he was shaving he had felt a presence behind him exuding a strong smell of garlic, I told him I had also smelled garlic. He went home and we heard no more about it until the next evening.

He told us that when he went to bed he had felt the presence again, he looked up to see a man dressed in foreign clothes and with a savage red mark round his neck. The presence said to him "I know you are worried about your grandson, just come with me." Our friend felt himself going through the wall into the bedroom where he saw his daughter and her husband huddled round their son's bed, he looked desperately ill. The presence said "Don't worry he is over the worst". Then our friend found himself back in his own bedroom. Next day the little boy was much better and as our friend told of his night time experience his daughter's husband paled as he said "Your description of the man fits my grandfather who hanged himself many years ago."

As we all know with ghosts stories only the person experiencing the incident knows it is true, other people must make up their own minds, but this is a true record of events.

I Do Hate Mondays

by Honey Reddish

I am quite laid back and easy to get on with and I don't have much responsibility except for sorting out the aeroplanes, helicopters and seagulls. I wouldn't wish the experience I had last Monday morning on anyone.

I got up as usual went to toilet, had a very nice breakfast, then I noticed, as I was watching for the postman, that the car had been taken out of the garage. I was given an extra special groom, then we set off, I was expecting to go for a nice long walk to the park or on the beach, but we suddenly turned off into a side road and before I realised it, we were at the vets. Oh! How I hate vets, so much and all due to what happened to me when I was very young. I'm not really a big baby but I couldn't walk into the waiting room so my dad had to carry me (and I'm quite a big dog) we had to wait about fifteen minutes and I'm afraid I cried very loudly and was shaking like a leaf. Suddenly we went into the surgery, one look at the lady vet and I knew something terrible was going to happen to me, then they had the cheek to put a thing over my mouth so I couldn't bite her. I would you know! I felt so embarrassed especially when she pushed something up my bottom then she put something in her ears and put this funny thing on my ticker, she must have liked me though, even with my constant growling as she then started feeling all around my body.

Oh! If only I could get this contraption off my mouth I would give her what for. The final humiliation was having a needle pushed into my neck. These humans are so cruel and not satisfied with all that they then tried to cut my toenails, I fought them to get away but with three humans against one dog, there was no way I was going to keep my nails. I really was hot by this time but suddenly the door was opened and I dragged my dad out like a rocket to the car.

I am now home, I had a lovely drink, a lot of attention and even extra biscuits, so I'm hoping I won't have to go through an experience like that again.

We'll need a urine sample." The Vet said, giving me a little plastic pot. Just drop it back and we can check if there is any infection". Now this might faze some people, but I was not daunted, for had'nt I perfected the art of collecting doggie wee with our other dog, dear old Bella? Simple. I would just wait until she stoops to pee and quick-as-flash, pop a sponge under her then pop it into a poly-bag—sorted.

Right" I said, "No problem" and out we scampered clutching the pee bottle.

This dog, Jinnie however, being a poor rescued thing and still of a nervous disposition, I soon found to be a different kettle of fish. When I let her go out, early mornings to do the pee, I realised there was no way I could keep up with her, sponge at the ready, and dashing around the garden in pyjamas, so that idea was abandoned.

As time went on it became apparent that more drastic measures were called for, one day, out for a walk along the lane, where Jinnie would love to sniff and pee at every third blade of grass, where others had peed before, I formed a cunning plan!

The ideal solution! On our next walk, now being armed with the sponge firmly nailed to the end of my walking stick, I was able to reach under and mop up a goodly portion. So as I saw her get ready to stoop, I was soon there, wielding my walking stick in the appropriate place and got a nice soggy spongeful, Voila!

On our return home however, my neighbour remarked, seeing me holding my walking stick end inside a polybag – "You're walking much better these days, you don't use your stick now, do you?" "Well" I said grinning sheepishly, "Not for walking with!" I wonder if she thought I was taking the P?

Doreen Reddish visited Wales recently and thought we might be interested to hear about their visit to :-

MILLENIUM STADIUM

As you are aware this is in Cardiff, --let Doreen tell you about the tour :

" The cost to go in was £3 and they have a tour every hour, we arrived at 2.45 and sat in a reception area where there was a film showing all the great moments of Welsh Rugby. We then went on our tour with a very nice young man as our guide, the stadium was opened on 26 June 1999. We were told about the pitch which is made up of pallets of turf so that as they wear they can be replaced and at the end of the season are taken to an airfield for the summer; other events can then take place ie car shows, pop concerts and athletics etc. We then visited the dressing rooms, very modern, no communal baths, now they have single one ,there is also a warming- up room with a very soft floor so that they do not injure their ankles etc. The tunnel came next, down to the pitch then up in a lift to the hospitality rooms, some cost thousands of pounds a year for companies to hire ,we also visited the royal room and sat where royalty have sat.

There are 7 doctors plus the team doctors on duty on match days, also within the stadium is the police headquarters in order to control, not only the spectators ,but also the whole of Cardiff.

The roof is separate to the stadium, in fact they say that the stadium could be taken away and the roof would still be there, also they can close the roof in a very short time to protect the pitch and spectators from bad weather. They have had problems with pigeons when the roof is open,,so they employ a falcon to fly around to encourage the pigeons to go elsewhere. All the stewards have to be trained and have first aid skills , and are paid ,they can clear the stadium in a very short time.

Anyone interested in rugby would enjoy all the details about the building and the running of the stadium- our tour lasted 1.1/4 hours and we found it a very enjoyable experience .

Doreen Reddish Nov. 2000.

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Did you know ?

It is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

Opinions, some people have them, some do not-----

In the U.3.A News some members from around the country have been advocating a change to the title of the organisation, saying it puts people off to infer that "older "or should we say "senior citizens" are not interested in the University implications of the U.3.A.

What do you think?

To me a university is where students, no matter of what age, gather to improve their knowledge, whether it be art or academic, it could be for fitness purposes, but it is a place where you gather.

We all get together to improve our sociality, to get to know one another, that is to "learn" is it not .If we happen to kill two birds with one stone by also enjoying the company of our friends, so what- we are a universal fellowship.

We enjoy our U.3.A. (I am sure many more people would if they took the trouble to find just what we do) so leave us alone, we are doing nicely thank you.

MINI QUIZ

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1. Which Somerset park and house was the location for "To the Manor Born"?
2. Film World – She was Eliza Doolittle?
3. Letter of the Alphabet – 5 G.R.'s
4. Where was the cheese market held in Highbridge before the second world war?

Answers in next issue, no prizes but have a go.

The next U3A Quiz is booked for

Wednesday 10th October – 3p.m. at the Gospel Centre.

Finally I have now completed my first edition and realise it is quite a task to compile, type, print, collate, and staple all the magazines in time for publication. It was a very interesting exercise and to be honest I enjoyed it.

Editor – Ken Burston

Production - Fay & Ken Burston

Distribution – Pat Gray, Betty Pocock, Phyllis Walsh,
Gwen Williams and Roy Preston

Deadline for the New Year Issue is: - 5th December 2001

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

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GROUP ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

Day	Morning	Week	Afternoon	Week
Tue	Writers Group	2 nd	Keep Fit	Weekly
			Scrabble	Weekly
			Art II	<i>WEEKLY</i>
Wed	Coffee Morning	Weekly		
			Ceramics	1 st / 3 rd
			Quiz *	2 nd / 3 rd
			Luncheon Club etc	<i>VARIES</i>
Thur			Art I	<i>WEEKLY</i>
			History *	
Fri	Committee	3 rd		
	Skittles	1 st / 3 rd		
	Strollers	2 nd		
	Cycling	<i>4th th</i>		

- Contact Group Leaders for dates, times and venues for these
- because they are usually determined by the group leader
- when making the final arrangements.

If you are a member of a group and are unable to attend a meeting PLEASE ring the group leader. This is very important and avoids Problems when finalising arrangements.

Most groups can take new members, but please check with the leader for more information.