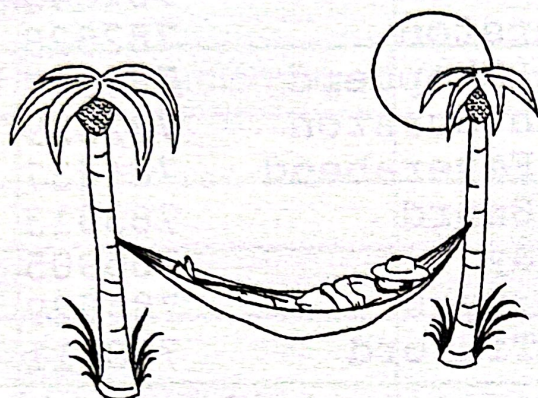


Leisure



Times

U3A of HIGHBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Number seven

Summer 2001

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Who's Who in the U3A of Highbridge

MEMBERS of the COMMITTEE

Chairman	Roy Preston	781843
Vice Chairman	Fay Burston	782529
Secretary	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Treasurer	Kenneth 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 for beginners	Ann Young	794492
Creative Writing	Roy Preston	781843
Cycling	Fay Burston	782529
Gardening	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Keep Fit	Joyce Beard	783913
Local History	Joyce Beard/	783913
	Phyllis Walsh	786486
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

A group leaders meeting is held on the fifth Wednesday in the month. This year they are May 20th, August 29th, October 31st. If you wish to join any group, please contact the group leader first to make sure there is a space for you and to check the time and venue.

Groups organiser - Joyce Beard

GROUP ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

day	morning	week	afternoon	week
Tue	Writers Group	2 nd	Keep Fit	weekly
			Scrabble	weekly
			Art II	weekly
Wed	Coffee.morning.	weekly		
			Ceramics	1 st
			Quiz *	2 nd /3 rd
			Lunch *	3 rd
Thu			Art I	weekly
			History *	1 st
Fri	Committee	3 rd	Swimming	weekly
	Skittles	1 st +3 rd		
	Strollers	2 nd		
	Cycling	4 th		

*Contact Group leaders for dates, times and venues of meetings

Skittles Group Easter Bonnet Parade

by Doreen Reddish

Our Skittles Group met for an enjoyable game on Friday 6th April at the Royal Artillery Arms. We all arrived in our Easter bonnets and hats and skittled for an Easter Bunny (a chocolate one).

I decided to throw like Doris, that is double handed from between the legs, and lo and behold, I had two floppers and ended up with the highest score. As usual with our group there was lots of laughter and convivial banter.

The Landlord did the judging for the best decorated Easter Bonnet. Barbara Palin won the ladies section and Pete Worthy the mens. Both received Easter egg prizes and a good time was had by all.

Skittles Group meet at 11.30am first and third Fridays of the month at the Royal Artillery Arms, Huntspill Road. Details from group leader Ray Reddish 785411.

EDITORIAL

The new Committee elected at the recent AGM are as listed on page two. Two of last year's Committee did not stand for re-election and three new names have been added.

Some of the Officers are taking on more than one position in the running of our U3A. Ken Burston, in addition to his job as treasurer, has also offered to become Assistant Editor of this Newsletter. Philip Lyes has accepted the task of organising the Wednesday Coffee Mornings at Southwell House. Both of these are new posts.

Please help Phil by volunteering to take your turn to make the coffee - there is a list there for you to chose when you would like to do it. Another way you can help is to ensure that anything you wish to be pinned onto the notice board is no larger than A5 size whenever possible.

Other Committee members are, I am sure, slogging away at their allotted tasks behind the scenes. Help them to help you. Tell them what you think about our U3A and how we can make it better for you.

THE HISTORY OF HIGHBRIDGE

There is in Highbridge a project called 'Highbridge - History In The Making'. The project team consists of a group of people who will be investigating the past of Highbridge. Why is it called Highbridge? When? Who were it's first inhabitants? What happened here 100 years ago? What is happening now?

Those involved will be digging into the very roots of Highbridge. Asking questions. Checking past records. Looking for all the clues they can find in and around the area. You may well want to get involved to find out more about the place you live in. No experience is needed.

You can put in as much time as you wish. One week each month or just one hour each week. Contact me for more details.

Fay Burston

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT - write a short letter for inclusion in the next edition of your Newsletter.

A COMMENT ON THE U3A

from Phyllis Walsh

Recently I had a worrying phone call from my sister who lives in Surrey. Her husband was in hospital to have major surgery and my sister had slipped on some fruit in a shop resulting in a cracked vertebrae. She contacted neighbours who had said 'You can count on us for help'. but of course, they were all busy.

I thought of our U3A library. Fay, our librarian, kindly found me some phone numbers (thanks Fay). I phoned one number and discovered it was in North London, and was given the number of a contact near my sister. When I told this contact of my problem she said 'We have no welfare group here, we have purely academic groups'.

Perhaps the wealthy areas do not think it important to dispense kindness and care. Thank goodness for both the Burnham and our own Highbridge U3As and their Welfare Groups.

EDITORIAL NOTE from Ken Burston

It is obvious from Phyllis's 'Comment' that some U3As are not as charitable as those of Highbridge and Burnham. Our constitutions put the welfare of fellow members high on our list and our respective Welfare Groups do an excellent job in catering for the members who, due to some misfortune, are ill or need a kindly word.

Surely it is not asking too much to visit someone who is laid up for any reason. Collect some shopping for them, have a chat for half an hour, or even send them a 'Get Well Soon' card.

It is apparent that some U3A members in the South East of England are in their associations for their own ends, and do not exercise any Christian charitable feelings to their less fortunate members.

Computerisation of the Membership List

To enable the Committee to better organise the running of your U3A it is planned to enter the names and addresses of all members on to a computer database.

This information will not be disclosed to any outside body, it will only be used to (hopefully) make the running of our organisation more efficient.

If you object to your name being included, please inform the Chairman.

Letters Page

To all my friends at U3A of Highbridge,

By the time you read this I shall have moved and will be living near my daughters in Greenwich.

I would like to thank you all very much for the friendship I've found since joining the U3A, especially at the coffee mornings and the Keep Fit sessions I was persuaded to take part in. Joyce was a very kind teacher and didn't insist that I always stay the course. Often I just sat out until it was tea and biscuit time. The natter I enjoyed and playing Scrabble afterwards. I was never any good but I enjoyed every minute of it. Skittles was also good fun, although I think Betty Worthy gave me up as a lost cause with all her tutoring.

Anyone joining need never be lonely, there's always someone to talk to and so many activities. Many I joined in with and found all the groups very supportive.

The Committee have to be congratulated in their enthusiasm and hard work, I am sure, in time many more activities will be added.

Looking back, I wonder how I would have coped during this past year without joining. Hope I will be as fortunate in the area I'm moving to.

Again, thank you for your friendship, especially my Keep Fit and Scrabble buddies. I shall always think of you all with great affection. May the Society go from strength to strength. It certainly deserves to.

Kindest Regards,

Joan Noseworthy.

I am sure everyone wishes Joan many happy years in her new home.

SUBS are now overdue

Membership fees were due on 1st of April. If you have not yet renewed your subscription please contact Doris Feyerabend as soon as possible either at the Coffee morning or by phone.

Our Constitution states that: *'membership may be terminated if membership fees have not been paid within three months of them becoming due'*.

A Request from the Chairman

Feeling that our U3A in Highbridge was too much like a social club, I have, for some time, been trying to encourage the formation of more academic type groups.

But, after reading the two letters published in this issue of *Leisure Times*, one by a prominent member of both Highbridge and Burnham U3As; the other by a keen member of ours who, unfortunately for us, has now moved out of the district, I feel that although we are not going down the road originally envisaged by the founders of the University of the Third Age, the popularity of our weekly coffee mornings prove that we must be doing something right.

If more proof is needed one has only to look at other long running groups such as skittles, board games and the monthly quiz, not to mention the cycling and strollers groups that have, through no fault of their own, been going through a bad patch of late.

Recently I had a letter from the U3A Trust reminding me that we had not taken advantage of the plethora of information available from them on a multitude of subjects such as Literature, Science, Social Studies, Languages, Music, etcetera.

Please let me know how you feel about it. Do you want more academic type groups or do you want more emphasis placed on social activities.

Write me a letter, give me a note or just talk to me about it. I, and your Committee are here to help you.

MAH — JONG

Cherry Starkey is a keen Mah-Jong player and hopes to start a group. She says she will teach the rules and intricacies of the game to anyone interested.

Cherry may be contacted at coffee mornings or phone 780031.

how about a **READING GROUP?**

There is a new glossy magazine recently launched. The title? 'New Books. Mag - the magazine for readers and reading groups'. It gives information on new books (and some older ones), there are letters and reports from established reading groups throughout the country and other items of interest to book lovers.

In the past, some libraries only offered multiple loans of published plays for use by amateur dramatic companies or play reading groups. One of the items of information contained in the new magazine is that Somerset Library Service is launching a service aimed at readers groups offering multiple copy loans.

If you enjoy reading books, and talking about them afterwards, the thing to do is to form a Reading Group. If you are interested in this as a new venture within the U3A of Highbridge contact Roy Preston.

To All Library Users

The Library Campaign has had a welcome boost by the decision of the National Conference of the U3A to take out membership of the Library Campaign on behalf of its members throughout the country.

Most U3A members use library services and constitute natural supporters for the work of libraries in contributing to the intellectual life of the population of this country.

The Committee of the Avon Group of the Library Campaign includes Ron Bleach, vice-chair of the Bristol U3A, he says they look forward to the participation of members of other local groups. Ron would also appreciate any comments in regard to our library service. His address is 48 Ravenswood Road, Bristol, BS6 6BT.

Is there in existence a local Group of the Library Campaign? If so please contact the editor, I am sure other U3A members would like to know about it.

DISABLED SWIMMING

There are a few places available in the Disabled Swimming Group (also called Sheltered Swimming). They hold their meetings on Wednesday mornings at the Burnham Swimming Pool between 9.00 and 10.30. If you know of anyone who might be interested contact Phyllis Walsh.

THE GATHERING

On Wednesday 31st October 2001 there will be a Gathering of U3As from Somerset, Bristol and Mid Wiltshire areas.

This year Kennet U3A is hosting the Gathering at St John's School in Marlborough.

The U3A of Highbridge have been invited to attend with representatives from all the other U3As.

Provision has been made for four delegates from each U3A.

A full programme has been arranged for the whole day.

There will be speakers on three aspects of third age learning. What should they learn. How should they learn. Why should they learn. This will be followed by lunch and then Discussion Groups to consider-

What? How? Why?

1. Information Technology - Consider Computer Groups/U3A Records/Data Bases for Third Age News etc.
2. Newsletters - Consider problems producing them/ distribution/information contained in them etc.
3. Keeping up the momentum - Consider finding Group leaders/New groups etc.
4. External Resources - Consider Payment of speakers/ Funding from external sources etc.

The Chairmen from these discussion groups will then make reports followed by a Panel to take questions from the floor.

Then, if this is not enough, there may be a tour of the 'Town House and Shop' in Marlborough High Street. This was built by the silk merchant Thomas Bayly following the Great Fire of 1653.

This should prove to be a very stimulating day and if you are really interested in our U3A and would like to be a delegate and represent us at the Gathering please contact the Chairman as soon as possible. Applications must be sent in before the end of July.

STOP PRESS - Computer Group booked
at Alpha House 1pm - 4pm Thursdays.
FREE !!! Limited to 16 members - 783913

SKITTLES

by

Sylvia Shepherd

See us knock them skittles down.
Watch us send 'em flyin'.
If we miss 'em, don't we frown!
Some of us start cryin'.

Friday mornings, first and third,
we meet in our alley.
U3A'ers quite absurd,
feeling very pally.

Though we do our best to aim,
when all is said and done.
As long as we enjoy the game,
that way we know we've won.

LUNCHEON CLUB

Fay Burston. 782529

The Luncheon Club has been meeting once a month for the past four months and is proving to be very popular.

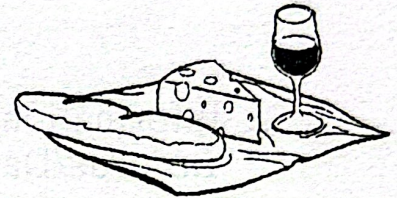
The first three lunches were on a Wednesday at the 'Highbridge Inn'.

The April lunch was on a Friday at the 'Somerset and Dorset' in Burnham. Nineteen members were present. A nice meal,

unfortunately a long wait for service. A lesson learnt from this is whenever possible, make sure we look at the menu and order beforehand so the meals can be served on time.

Hopefully, throughout the year, we will have several different places to visit within say, a four mile radius of Highbridge, possibly on different days of the week, to give all members an opportunity to join our group.

If you are interested but lack transport to the venue, please let me know and I will try to arrange for you to have a lift from the Southwell House car park and back. A small charge, depending on the distance, say 50p - £1 for the driver would be appreciated.



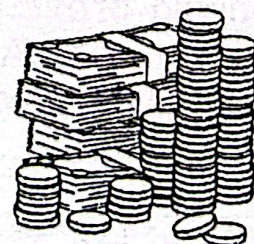
ADVERTISEMENTS

are welcome from local businesses

SUBJECT TO SPACE AVAILABILITY

and an APPROPRIATE DONATION

contact the editor



"Highbridge Town Trail"

to be included in a new book due to be published soon.

A new publication "*South West England in Words and Pictures*" scheduled for 31st August 2001 is to include a potted history of Highbridge. This was submitted by Joyce Beard from her third issue of "Highbridge Town Trail" and will cover pages 105 to 109.

The book will be an A5 size hardback with a colour dust jacket. Cover price £15.99; International Standard Book Number 1862266824.

A PLEA FROM YOUR EDITOR

As reported elsewhere, Ken Burston has stepped forward to assist in editing *Leisure Times*, but, as has been said often before, 'many hands make light work', we are still seeking help in preparing these pages

If you fancy having a go, please contact me at our coffee mornings or phone 781843.

It is not a difficult task to put it together, most of the items within are written by Group Leaders and Committee Members, it is just a matter of fitting it all in.

Ken and I will give all the help we can to anyone wishing to join the editorial team.

Inability to use a computer will not be accepted as an excuse. I do not own one, this issue of our Newsletter has been produced by a 'two finger typist' on a word processor (a glorified typewriter).

If I can do it anybody can.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS at TAUNTON

Ken Hindle of Burnham is, once again, organising a Christmas Carol Service to be held at St Mary Magdalene Church Taunton, on Thursday 6th December 2001. More information will be given closer to the date. Members for the choir will be appreciated.

Contact Ken on 01278 787831 or ken.hindle@tinyworld.com.uk

TELL US what is happening in your group.

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HISTORY

leaders: Phyllis Walsh & Joyce Beard

The History Group have been meeting about once a month. Phyllis gave a talk on the life of Frank Foley at the end of April, (he died on the 8th May 1958). The day of remembrance was held on Sunday 6th May and began with a church service in the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist at 11am. The guest of honour was the Very Reverend retired Dean Emirates of Westminster, Michael Mayne, who was stepson to Frank's brother in law.

The congregation was given food for thought when Michael Mayne suggested how Frank would have viewed the present immigration problems.

After the service a permanent display at the back of the church was dedicated.

A super buffet lunch was prepared by Ann Young and other members of the Highbridge War Memorial Trust to which Jonathan Sells, the sculptor, was also invited.

The U3A Concert Party from Burnham entertained in Southwell Gardens during the afternoon and there were two stalls of goods for sale manned by members of the U3A of Highbridge at the fair.

The next meeting of the History Group is fixed for Thursday 7th June at 2pm in the Gospel Centre off Burnham Road. The subject will be "Listed Buildings".

On Thursday July 5th a meeting has been fixed at Blake's Museum in Bridgwater and members are invited to meet in Bank Street Car Park at 10am. Cost should be under £5, to include fish and chips in the famous Blake Fish Bar.

Later in the year we have booked a speaker on the "Sedgemoor Rebellion". Watch the notice board for dates.

HIGHBRIDGE HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Four of the U3A members who attended the History Weekend at Dillington House are looking forward to leading new groups there this year. Sixty new learners are sought to take part in these FREE weekends. How about YOU??? The Chairman, Ann Young and Joyce Beard have full details. Don't miss out on this Highbridge opportunity.

COFFEE MORNING

every Wednesday at Southwell House 10am-12 midday

U3A of HIGHBRIDGE REFERENCE LIBRARY

We have recently obtained from the Third Age Trust and other sources, material to form a Reference Library. This comprises an accumulation of information describing numerous activities which may be undertaken by U3A members. As you are aware we already have in operation a few groups as listed on another page of this Newsletter.

Some such groups are easily set up and operate, all they need is a number of like minded members who are prepared to turn up on a designated date, and off you go.

However it is not so easy to set up a group which involves a 'Leader', someone to co-ordinate the activity. Firstly you have to find other interested members who are prepared to help set the group in motion, sort out a suitable venue and obtain appropriate literature etc.

This is where our library comes in useful. It contains all the relevant information, together with references and in some cases videos, to enable the interested parties getting themselves organised.

Some of you may be aware that a few U3As in other areas have a large number of groups, the majority are well supported. We cannot, with our current membership, aspire to great heights but, it would be great to have some 'Educational' groups or perhaps a Comedy Group, yes *Comedy* (watch this space).

It is our intention therefore to try and create some interest by giving brief write ups in future Newsletters of the subjects listed so that you can consider your interests. If, after studying the details provided you feel you would like to be part of a new group, please don't be afraid to say so.

We are all learners at this level of activity and would give every help that we can, the blind leading the blind perhaps, but so what - let's have a go, starting something new can be fun. We have the information. Let us use it.

I am, for the sake of a better name, and perhaps for my sins 'The Librarian'. You will find me, and the library at most coffee mornings.

Fay Burston

SOUTH DOWNS HOLIDAY VILLAGE

SUSSEX

TINSEL & TURKEY EXTRAVAGANZA**29th October to 2nd November**

Several members of Highbridge U3A have booked for the above.

SEE THE NOTICE ON THE NOTICE BOARD, COFFEE MORNINGS.

all members who are interested
please contact:

AXE VALE COACHES 01934 750321

to obtain booking form

Seats are going quickly

---000---

GARDENING GROUP

Our first outing this year was to Sanders Garden World, where we had a special invitation to the Open Day. Members kindly utilised their own transport to include others who were without.

An enjoyable afternoon and everyone was most impressed with the new Garden Centre where we enjoyed a free cuppa, extra refreshments were available.

A programme of free events is being considered for future outings.

Watch the notice board or contact Sylvia Shepherd 780377

A New Group has started

CERAMICS

A new Hobby Ceramics Group has started. The first meeting was held on Wednesday 6th June 2001 from 12.15 to 3 pm. Future meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Classes will be held by a Ceramics Instructor in her own studio in Highbridge, and involve buying your own choice of greenware, which, together with paints and glazes is on sale at the studio. You then learn how to "clean it down" (fettle) for firing, after which it becomes bisque ware, when it will be ready for you to paint or glaze. There are some lovely moulds to choose from.

Space is limited but should you be interested please ring Pam Lyes on 784629.

Scrabble Group

group 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 now we normally have one or two tables playing Scrabble. Rummikub or Triominos being played by others.

We have welcomed a new member who rushed to join us as soon as possible after her fiftieth birthday - there's keenness for you!! Well done Lynne, but we won't always let you win.

New members do not need to be proficient in any of the games. We play for the enjoyment amid friendly banter. We plan to challenge other groups to games during the year - watch the notice board.

this issue of *Leisure Times*

editor Roy Preston

assistant editor Ken Burston

production Joyce Beard

advertising Anne Young

distribution team

Pat Gray Betty Pocock Grace Travis Phyllis Walsh Gwen Williams

DEADLINE for next issue 16th August