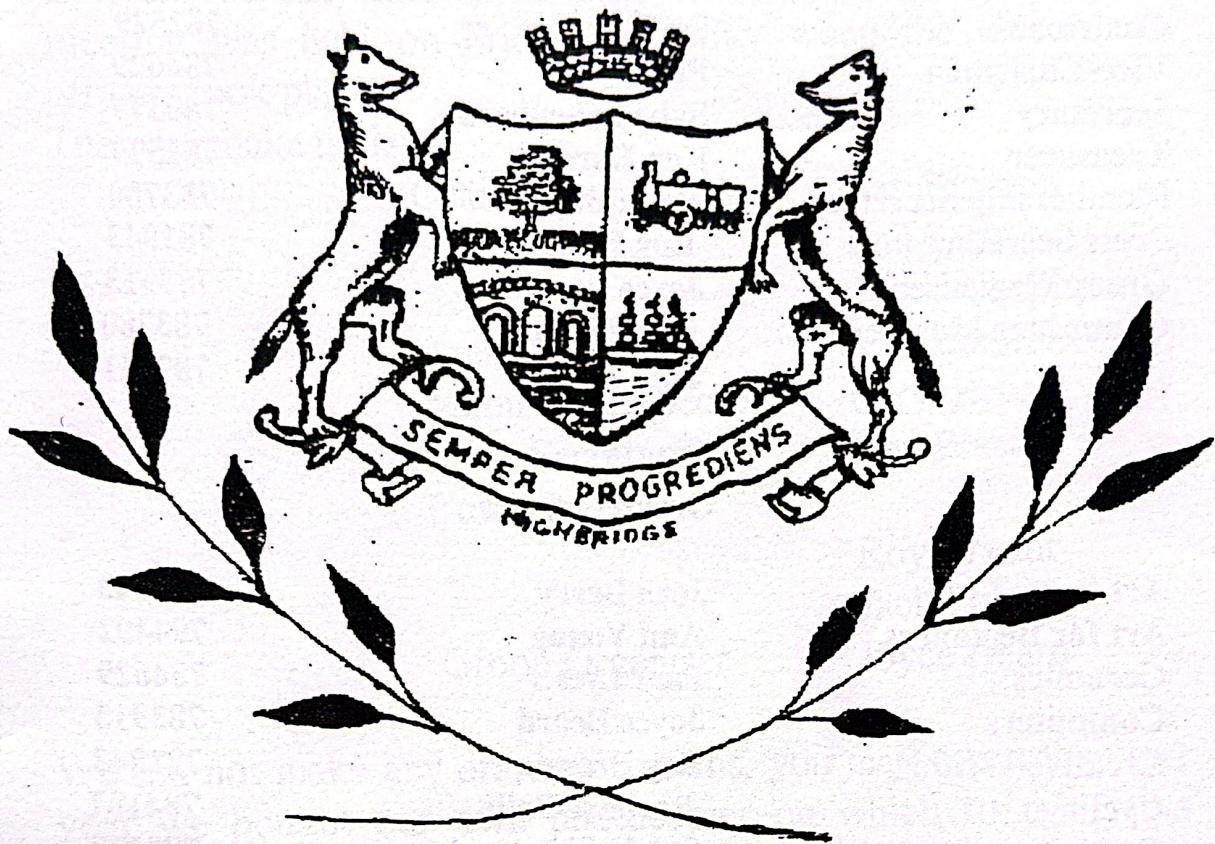


U3A



of

HIGHBRIDGE

SUMMER

2002

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 11

WHO'S WHO

In the U.3.A. of Highbridge

Members of the Committee

Chairman	Fay Burston	782529
Vice-Chairman	Phil Lyes	784629
Secretary	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Treasurer	Ken Burston	782529
Membership Secretary	Beryl Bryant	783780
Press Secretary	Roy Preston	781843
Group Organiser	Joyce Beard	783913
Committee Members	Roy Bryant	783780
	Jack Foster	787611

Group Leaders

Art	Jean Berry	785840
Art for Beginners	Ann Young	794492
Ceramics	Pam Lyes	784629
Computers	Joyce Beard	783913
Creative Writing	Roy Preston	781843
Cycling	Barbara Palin	784187
Gardening	Sylvia Shepherd	780377
Keep Fit	Joyce Beard	783913
Local History	Joyce Beard/Phyllis Walsh	
Luncheon Club	Fay Burston	782529
Play Reading	Tony Webb	787483
Quiz	Joyce Beard	783913
Scrabble/Board Games	Betty Worthy	785106
Skittles	Ray Reddish	785411
Strollers	Fay Burston	782529
Swimming	Phyllis Walsh	786486
Social	Roy Preston	781843
Welfare	Fay Burston	782529

Group Leaders hold a meeting on the FIFTH Wednesday of the Month. These are January 30th/May 29th/July 31st and October 30th.

Should you wish to join a Group please contact the Group Leader to first ensure that there is a space for you, also check the times and venue.

Most Groups are able to take new members, but please check first.

Details of Activities their Timetables and Venues are given at the end of the magazine. ENJOY!!

EDITORIAL

Since the Spring issue of the Magazine we have had our A.G.M. and, as you may know, we have a new Committee, the first meeting was held on Friday 17th May when the election of officers took place.

The new make up is:

Chairperson	Fay Burston
Vice Chairman	Phil Lyes
Secretary	Sylvia Shepherd
Treasurer	Ken Burston
Membership Secretary	Beryl Bryant
Press Secretary	Roy Preston
Committee	
	Roy Bryant
	Jack Foster
Group Organiser	Joyce Beard

We did not make any drastic decisions, you may remember last year we bought our own photocopier on which to print this Magazine and the monthly Diary. This has saved the Club making payments to others for the production of these items and we feel that by the end of this financial year we should have recovered our initial outlay.

Membership is slowly rising, we now have 70 members with a few interested persons hovering round about. The bank balance is healthy and all Groups are running successfully, each is self-financing and, in the main at least breaking even, with some holding a little profit.

The new Groups-Speakers Corner and Social Groups appear to be off to a good start. The former could do with more support as the attendance is low: our Social Group is making a flying start as I understand the Canal Trip is nearly sold out.

So all in all we are doing very nicely and we can be pleased with the support we are getting, a little more would not go amiss but we are happy the way things are. Thank you one and all.

Mr Chairman

The members of U.3.A. of Highbridge wish to thank you for all the work you have put into our club over the last two and a half years, a sterling effort and much appreciated. We are pleased to hear you have now taken on the post of press officer, with your talents as a creative writer we look forward to seeing your write ups in the local paper promoting our club.

As the first Chairman of the club it fell to you to make sure the club got off to a good start that the committees carried out their duties for the benefit of the members. With membership gradually increasing it is obvious that everyone had a good grounding.

ODE TO A COMMITTEE

Oh! Give me your pity, I'm on a committee,
Which means that from morning to night
We attend and amend, contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And reiterate all of our thoughts,
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we support and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun,
But though various motions are brought up as motions
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve,
Since it's out of the question for us.
What a shattering pity to end our committee,
Where else could we make such a fuss.

Anon

THE U.3.A. OF HIGHBRIDGE

This Club offers a programme of activities to local people, the majority having retired from full time employment, this, however, is not a condition of membership. We welcome all who may be interested in joining in our activities

These are, in the main, social pastimes; but we do have groups that cater for people who may be interested in Art, Ceramics and Creative Writing etc. These are also social gatherings.

Groups meet during the day, mainly weekly, some monthly, some fortnightly and one or two monthly. The meetings are usually held in and around Highbridge, (in halls); but can also be held in more suitable venues, eg perhaps a home or a public house.

Educational qualifications are not a requirement for admission, nor are they rewarded. Your reward is knowing that you have, not only achieved something (painted a picture or written a story/poem) but you have spent an enjoyable time with friends.

All we ask is that members contribute their own experiences, interests and enthusiasms actively, so that others may gain from their experiences.

Remember, there is no distinction between those who learn and those who teach; you may be a leader in one group but equally could be learner in another.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Line Dancing

I believe moves are afoot to set up a Line Dancing Group I don't know where it will be held but basically it will be for beginners. So if you don't know all about "grapevines", "sailors step", "kickball change", etc. you soon will.

Since writing the above, I am informed that there is a Group in the making. This will meet at Southwell House on a Tuesday from 12.00am until 1.30pm and will teach you the basic steps so that should you wish to have a go at any time you will know what everyone is talking about.

The first line-up is on Tuesday 23rd July at Southwell House the instructor is Ann Smith, who has kindly volunteered to put you through your paces.

Please see the notice board for current details.



Ceramics

The Ceramics Group now has a new venue, it is:-

THE GOSPEL HALL, HIGHBRIDGE. 12.30 to 2.30

£1.50 each first meeting 10th June then every 2 weeks

Phone Pam Lyes on 784629 if you require further details

Art

The Art Groups are preparing their work for this year's West Huntspill Horticultural Show,
It is to be held on Saturday 17th August at the Balliol Hall and in a Field provided by kind permission of Mr F.W.House.

You may remember that last year the Group walked off with most of the awards in the Special Classes (Open to all) these include Art.

Each entrant is able to submit 2 -pictures only, these can cover all medium- oil, water colour, acrylic, pastel or any other method. Some of the pictures have already been earmarked; Jean has made sure the pictures are suitable and she will see to it that they are properly mounted in frames.

There are a good selection so far and it is felt that before the big day there will be much discussion over which is the best to enter, because I am sure each artist will find it difficult to select which is considered to be their 'best' effort.

Make a note of the date-----17th August

The Show also has classes for Photographs, 4 in all. I know we have some good photographers in this Club—Mary Draper and Collin Moore--- we would also like to see some entries in these classes too. They are:-

- Class 142 Photo View or Landscape, coloured.
- 143 Photo of animal/s or bird/s, coloured.
- 144 Photo of a Celebration.
- 145 Photo of plants or garden.

All photo's to be un-mounted and developed since September 1st 2001. Size up to 7" x 5" (18cm x 12.5cm).

Prize Money:- 1st prize 70p ; 2nd prize 50p ; 3rd prize 30p.

As above the entry fee is 10p

Speakers Corner

This new venture has been set up by Yvonne Preston and with Roy's knowledge of speakers, they have produced two interesting meetings on very diverse subjects. Attendance could have been better but it is early days yet and we trust interest will increase. The first meeting was on Monday 15th April.

The first speaker was Cyril Brown; Cyril had started his working life in the film industry and had some interesting tales to tell. Filmmaking was in its infancy when Cyril got his first job, starting at the bottom by being a "goffer"; go for this -go for that. He had got the start by walking into the company's office and asking for a job and became a tea-boy and found that by supplying his own produce was able to make a profit. Also, the staff found that his tea, biscuits and cake were better than those supplied by the canteen. He built up a profitable business.

He worked his way up and got into sound recording eventually became a manager. Along the way he moved to other studios, including Hollywood, and had some interesting tales to tell, sound recording techniques have changed a lot over the years and Cyril was able to tell us about some of the tricks of the trade.

This first talk of Cyril's should be labelled "Scene 1" and we must ask Yvonne to arrange another visit "Scene 2" so that we can learn more about the film world.

Our second speaker was Joyce Dunbavan who came along on Monday 15th April. This lady is the Chairperson of the local Burnham and Highbridge Group, for uninitiated the group records local news, taken from newspapers, etc for blind and partially sighted people. The recordings are then posted to the members who play the tapes and when they have finished with them post it back to the group for wiping and re-use.

This service is free of charge to those who have signed up to receive tapes. Those supplied in the early days were rather "primitive" and required a lot of complicated technology to provide a suitable recording; however the system is now much more 20th century. Strangely, it was Hitler who helped to improve the reproduction of the spoken voice

During the war he wanted to fool the allies by pre-recording his speeches and broadcasting them from somewhere miles away from where he really was. In order to do so he instructed his boffins to come up with a voice recorder, they invented an instrument which would record his voice on tape and, as with a lot of wartime inventions, it was developed to its present day status.

The "talking newspaper" was founded and blind persons were supplied with their own tape deck so that they could receive local and national news "broadcasts," thus those persons who are not able to watch the television had the facility to keep up-to-date with the world news.

The local club now records every two weeks; side one covers general news and side two carries local items. Volunteer speakers read the news and then the required number of tapes are run off that master. The items are packed and despatched by a team (including Roy and Yvonne) in bright yellow envelopes to those persons who need this service.

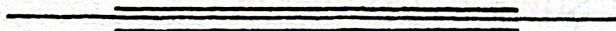
A very interesting talk about a local service supplied by volunteers.

On Monday 17th June we received a visit from Liz Wheatley, who, as you know, runs The Wheatley Clinic in Church St.

Liz started her talk by explaining what therapies were available, ie Acupuncture, this was used by the Chinese in the 5th century BC and is now widely used for the treatment of a number of aches and pains. Apparently our nervous systems can be represented as a canal system running from our brains down to the base of the spine; at intervals there are "lock gates " which are the pressure points and these are the places where the Acupuncturist sticks his needle/s. These can then be used to fine "tune" the nerves so that pain is relieved and if successful will remove it altogether.

Reflexology is another means of detecting what is wrong with our bodies, Liz demonstrated to us that our feet and hands contain pressure points for all the working parts of our bodies, the various organs, our spines(all of us could associate this area with the aches and pains we get after gardening) and the glands which enable our bodies to function.

There were many more "ologies", all associated with Complimentary Therapies but it would take up a lot of space in this issue and I feel we should ask Liz to come back at some future date to give us another talk on the vagaries of the Homeopathic medicines and similar information.



The July speaker has an interesting title for his talk "It looked a good idea at the time". What this is about I would not hazard a guess – but turn up on Monday 15th July at 2.15pm. and you will find out. It's at Southwell House and includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



Social Group

A Canal Cruise has been organised for Saturday 20th July 2002

It will be on the Bridgwater – Taunton Canal 12am to 3pm

Bring your own picnic lunch, drinks are available on board.

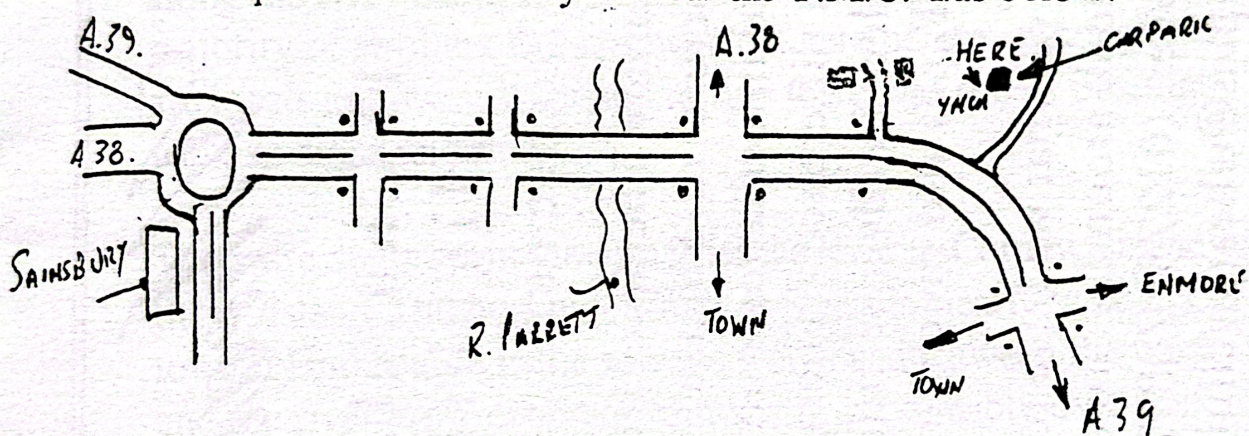
There is wheelchair access if you know of anyone who would need this facility.

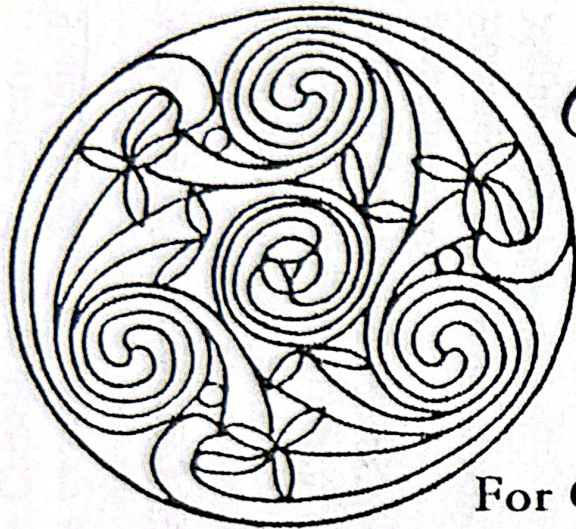
Bookings are being taken now – details available on the Coffee Morning Notice Board.

The boat is 48ft long and takes 40 passengers

Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the canal.

The trip starts from boatyard near the Y.M.C.A. as below:-





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Strollers

The Strollers Leader was rather astute in May-she arranged for the strollers to take their walk along the bank of the River Parrett at West Huntspill. So, at 11 o'clock on Friday 11th May 10 members met on the Bank St Car Park and set off (3 cars) down to West Huntspill, then we took the road out to the river.

There are notices stating that it is a private road and that there is a Nature Reserve, but we assumed (as many do) that being a group of harmless senior citizens it would be all right.

We parked out by the river and set off toward Burnham, which is away in the distance; there were a few hundred sheep out along the river bank, so you had to watch your step. The majority of strollers had not been out here before, although they are locals and were surprised to find there was such a pleasant walk so close to home.

There are some great views across the river to Comwich and to Steart Island-The bird hide tower at Steart is clearly visible. Off toward Highbridge is the sewage works and between the works and the river are 2 concrete vent shafts, presumably over the outlet pipe which takes the filtered water out to the centre of the river. There is also a concrete road along the river bank, plus a prefabricated concrete block "road", the blocks being interlocked to provide a sealed surface. It is assumed the "roads" were put there during W.W.2.

We retraced our steps from about 11.45 aiming to get back to the cars at 12.15 in time to arrive at the White Cottage by 12.30. This is where the crafty bit can about because Fay had arranged for this month's Luncheon Club's visit to be at the White Cottage. A further 10 members joined the strollers for lunch.

It had been an exhilarating walk in the fresh air on a dry, sunny day and it had produced a suitable appetite for our lunch, this was also enjoyed.

Flving the Flag for the Jubilee

A street party was planned for the children of Clyce Road on Monday June 3rd 2002. As the widest part of the road is in front of our house I felt I ought to make a patriotic effort and planned to make a large flag. However, as I knew there were problems about getting the correct width of the various crosses I decided, as my husband was Scottish, I should make the flag of St Andrew which would mean just one cross.

I could not find any information about its composition but had in mind it was a blue diagonal cross on a white background. The white background was easy, -a White sheet- but I had nothing blue, so I visited local charity shops etc. I still had no definite information about the St. Andrew's Cross, despite looking through encyclopaedia's and delving into the depths of distant memory of being a Girl Guide and one proficiency test being to identify how the Union Jack (as it was known) was made up.

Eventually, the information I needed was found by my daughter on the internet and I discovered that I was completely wrong with the colours and had to start again. I turned my attention to tidying up the front garden, which would be on view for the street party. A high hedge which protects the garden from the strong west winds was trimmed, the grass cut and then I looked and saw growing—Red Geraniums--White Stocks—Alyssum, Foxgloves--Lilies--Blue Sage—Campanula—Lavender.

My patriotic colours were provided by nature (although not flag shaped) so I abandoned my efforts to make a flag, let nature do it for me and applied myself to making goodies for the street party.

Phyllis Walsh

Table Tennis

Some members may remember Bob Ramsey, he was our first Treasurer, he also lead the Table Tennis group, which used to meet on a Monday at the Gospel Centre.

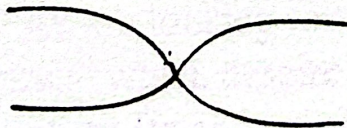
Unfortunately, when Bob left the area, the group closed down. I have recently acquired a full-size tennis table top which is being stored at Morland Hall. Betty Worthy has agreed that if anyone is interested in taking up the sport we could accommodate up to 4 players on the table during the Board Games sessions on Tuesdays between 3.30 and 5.00 at Morland Hall.

It would be a great help to know if any of you are interested so that the Table Tennis table and games tables could be positioned so that there was space for everyone and give the 'more active' players sufficient room to play.

We also now have a set of Petanque Balls should any member be interested in playing outside; that is if the weather improves.

Joyce Beard

Unfortunately there are no reports from some of the groups i.e. Skittles, Keep fit and Creative Writing.



On the 19th June the Luncheon Club held an American Picnic at Winscombe on the old railway platform, the weather was beautiful and the menu surpassed all expectations. There was so much food available(savoury and sweet) that after taking walks along the old railway line most of the group returned for another snack. No one was too anxious to leave, it was well into the afternoon before we arrived home.

A SURVEY TO ESTABLISH IF YOU'RE GETTING OLD

Everything hurts, what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
 The gleam in your eye is the sun shining on your glasses.
 You feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere.
 Your black book contains only names ending in M.D.
 Your children begin to look middle aged
 You join a health club but don't go.
 A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
 You have all the answers but no one asks you the questions.
 You look forward to a dull evening.
 You need glasses to find your glasses.
 You turn out the light for economy not for romance.
 Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
 Your back goes out more than you do.
 You put on your bra back to front and it fits better.
 Your house is too big and your medicine cupboard too small.
 You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
 The floor is farther away than it used to be.
 Printing has got closer to the paper.
 Your birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles.
 When offered super sex, you'd go for the soup.

Sylvia Shepherd

Gardening



The proposed visit to Hestercombe last month was postponed and will be re-arranged for later in the year, Sylvia felt that there was insufficient interest to make the visit worthwhile so we will have another go in the Autumn.

PLAY READING

Having recently joined the U3A- Ralph and I went along to the Play Reading at Tony Webb's house.

Ralph has had some experience of Amateur Dramatics, but I could never have got up onto a stage, -this on the other-hand sounded like something we could both enjoy.

The play under way was "Miranda". For those who are not familiar with the work, it is a farce about a mermaid picked by a doctor under somewhat dubious circumstances on a recent sojourn in Cornwall, where she had, presumably saved his life. I think a little hanky panky had taken place before but since we missed the first Act that is only my conjecture.

The play is a delightful farce, wherein all the men fall in love with Miranda, although two of the men and most of the cast have no idea she is in fact a mermaid- believing only what the doctor has told them, that she is an invalid. Chaos reigns, two engagements are broken before harmony is restored and all ends fairly well.

The highlight of the reading (for which he was given a well deserved round of applause) was Tony's rendition of the heartbroken Betty, the maid whose fiance had been so cruelly swiped by Miranda. If I had closed my eyes I would have been totally convinced that Tony was indeed a woman!

It was all good fun and we are looking forward to Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" which despite its fifty odd years on stage is still a 'whodunnit' as far as I am concerned, never having read the story or heard the denouncement.

Grace Galton

UP IN SMOKE

Insurance Companies or Lawyers—Which is worse ?

A Charlotte North Carolina Lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against fire, amongst other things. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the Insurance Company. In his claim the lawyer stated that the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires".

The Insurance Company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and WON !!!

In delivering the ruling the judge agreed with the Insurance Company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the Company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what it considered to be unacceptable fire and was obliged to pay the claim. Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process, the Insurance Company accepted the decision and paid \$15000 to the lawyer.

NOW COMES THE BEST BIT

After the lawyer had cashed the cheque, the Insurance Company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson !!

With his own insurance claim and testimony from the earlier case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and sentenced him to 24 months in jail and a \$24000 fine.

This a true account and was placed winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

This story was e-mailed to us from Australia by a friend, an expatriate from Somerset.

SECURITY

I have no wish to be a scaremonger but this is the time of year to remember to shut all your windows before going out. We have not had much of a summer this year so far and the forecast does not look that good for the rest of the time usually looked upon as the period set aside for holidays. However, it does pay to keep a wary eye open for suspicious looking characters.

I was told the other day that a fellow was cutting his lawn in one of those open plan estates and his wife called him in for a drink. When he went out again a few minutes later his mower had gone. Obviously not an electric model, unless he had switched off the power.

Frequently we hear of similar occurrences and can only hope that we are not one of the unfortunate persons. Another point which was drawn to my attention the other day was that if you go out you should always close all windows, no matter how hot it may be. If you do not and your premises are entered unlawfully your insurance could be invalidated because you had left a window open, whether it was used or not to gain entry.

Worth remembering



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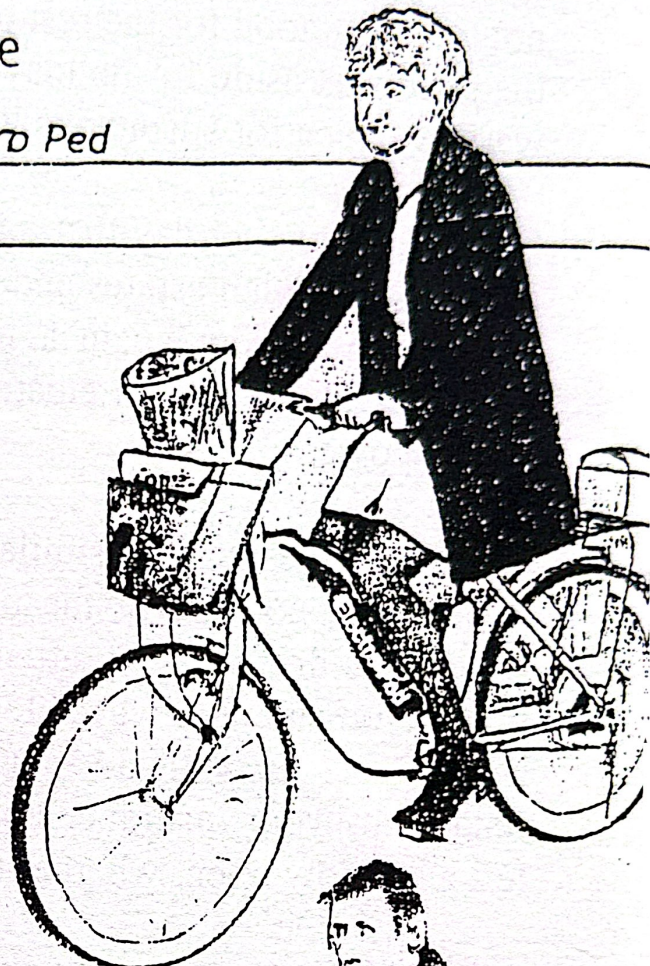
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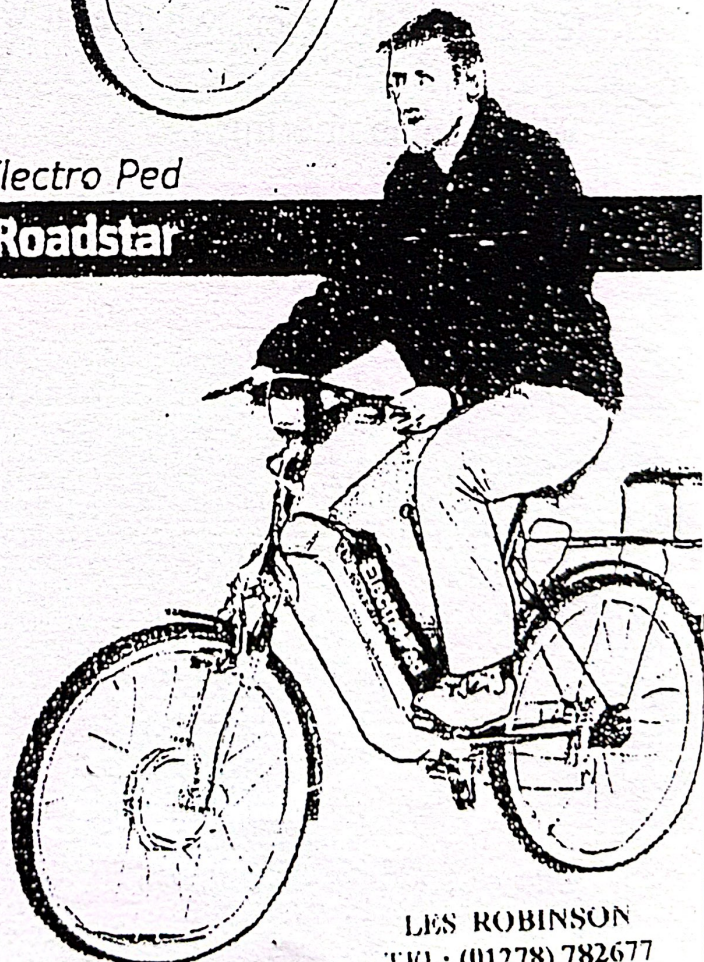
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Luncheon Club

The U3A of Highbridge lunch group met on 17th April and enjoyed their meal at the Royal Artillery Inn. another change of venue. We all arrived at about 12.15 and were surprised to find we would be seated in the Skittle alley, it had been carpeted all very comfortable.

All the meals arrived quickly except the 2 mixed grills, the reason being that there was so much on the huge plates, it had taken longer to cook it. The diners soon devoured all before them.

The group was well satisfied, all the food had been served quickly, it was well cooked and perfectly presented. The prices were good too.

Doreen Reddish

Sandra

Hairdressers

We welcome O.A.P.'s

106 Church Street

Highbridge, Somerset

TA9 3HW

Tel: 01278 783091



A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

I live in 'The Clyce' which is a most attractive area in the front, facing the river
However, the back is another story.

A few years ago an estate was built on wasteland; since then we have been plagued by rubbish being thrown over the fences into the bridle way which borders the estate. Sometimes the council clears it.

Recently there was an excessive amount of broken toys, swings, see saw, etc thrown over at a certain point. There has always been broken crockery, old tins etc. items which should have been in the dustbin. Indeed the track was known as 'the rubbish road'; by local children.

At one particular spot there was a huge amount of rubbish and litter and the house over the fence appeared to be empty. After much difficulty, a neighbour struggled, with many journeys using a wheelbarrow to collect the rubbish, load it into a trailer and take it to the Bridgwater dump.

Truly a "good neighbour" Now the area is clear, the house is empty and we are hoping for more civilised new occupants.

Phyllis Walsh

QUIZ

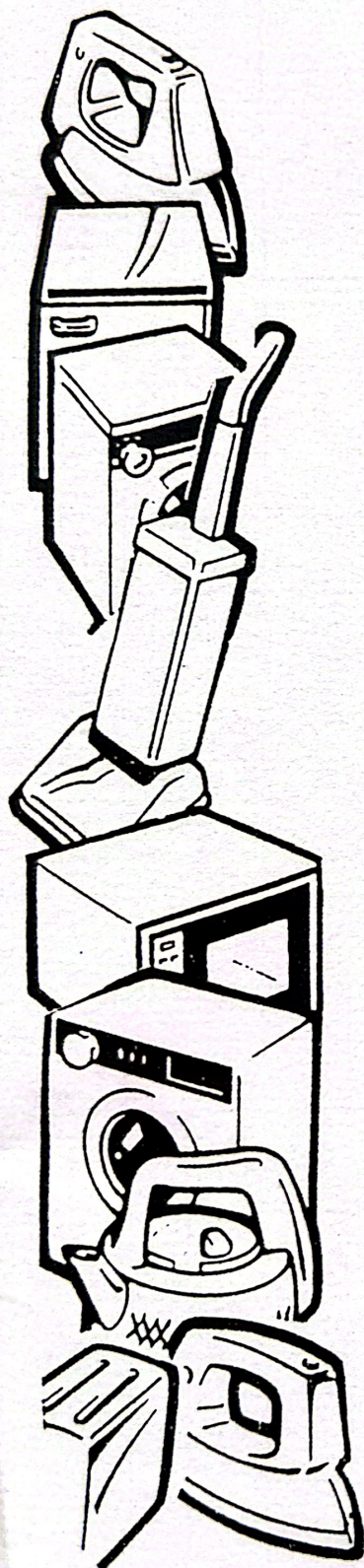
James Herriot was a vet, in which part of the country ?

Can you name the second famous gorge on the Mendips near the village of Easton?

What was the earlier name of Bank Street, Highbridge, before Lloyds Bank was constructed ?

Dople's

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GROUP ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

DAY	MORNING	WEEK	AFTERNOON	WEEK	Venue
Mon			Speakers Corner Creative Writing	3rd 4th	Southwell House Details in Diary
Tues			Keep Fit Scrabble Art II	Weekly Weekly Weekly	Morlands Hall Morlands Hall Southwell House
Wed	Coffee Morning	Weekly	Ceramics Quiz	F/nightly T.B.A.	Southwell House Gospel Hall Gospel Hall
Thur			Art I Computer	Weekly Weekly	Southwell House On-Line Centre
Fri	Skittles Strollers Cycling Play Reading	1st/3rd 2nd 4th 4th			Royal Artillery Inn Wilds of Somerset Local Area 4 Brue Crescent

History This Group is temporarily at rest-details to t.b.a.
Luncheon Club This Group meets on various days--See notice
 board for details of days , dates and venues.

Committee Meetings Now held on 3rd Friday bi-monthly

If you are a member of a Group and perhaps unable to attend a meeting PLEASE contact the Group Leader. This is very important and avoids problems when finalising arrangements.