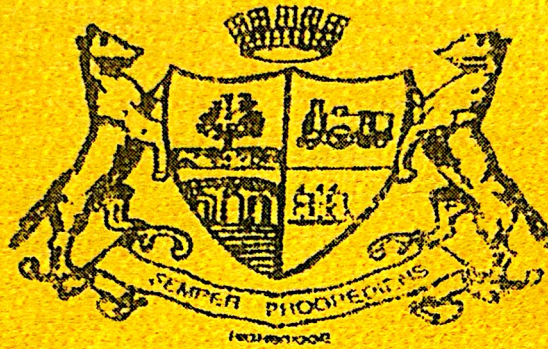




of

HIGHBRIDGE

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JULY--AUGUST

2005

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 23

WHO'S WHO 2003/2004

Members of the Committee

Chairman	Phil Lyes	01278 784629
Vice- Chair	Fay Burston	01278 782529
Secretary	Ken Burston	01278 782529
Treasurer	Pauline Chapman	01278 785163
Membership Secretary	Beryl Bryant	01278 783780
Committee Members	Roy Bryant	01278 783780
	Jack Foster	01278 787611
	Ethel Titford	01278 788811
	Violet Chick	01278 784033
	Ray Reddish	01278 785411
Co-opted Members	Joyce Curtis	01278 782716
	Margaret Wall	01278 786742

Co-ordinators

Art I	Jean Berry (Tutor)	01278 785840
Art II	Phil Lyes (Tutor)	01278 784629
Calligraphy	Ken Burston	01278 782529
Cycling	Barbara Palin	01278 784187
Family History	Roger Ouston	01278 795007
Keep Fit	Joyce Beard	01278 783913
Luncheon Club	Pam Scales	01278 788086
	Julie Lovern	01278 722488
Play Reading	Tony Webb	01278 787483
Scrabble/Board Games	Betty Worthy	01278 795823
Skittles	Ray Reddish	01278 785411
Speakers Corner	Jack Foster	01278 787611
Strollers	Fay Burston	01278 782529
“ “	Ray Reddish	01278 785411
Swimming	Phyllis Walsh	01278 786486
Social Group	Roy Bryant	01278 783780
	Vi Chick	01278 784033
Writing for Pleasure	Doreen Reddish	01278 785411

Editorial

This copy of your magazine is the first **bi-monthly** issue; it is for **July and August**. The Committee has suggested that although we list our Social Events every quarter some of you tend to forget to make a note and miss out. So, we are trying a new format and will be issuing the magazine every TWO months. The details of all our usual activities will be presented as will information that may be of interest.

The **Annual General Meeting** for 2004/5 was held during the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 25th May, all matters were dealt with smoothly and the meeting was completed very quickly. So quickly that we omitted to set/confirm the Membership Fee for 2005/6. It will remain unchanged at £6.00 but it was on the Agenda and was missed. Sorry!

Following a request in the magazine for nominations to the Committee we did receive two, namely Joyce Curtis and Margaret Wall. The Officers on the 2004/5 Committee had all shown an interest in continuing to serve the Club, so the Constitution was examined to see if we could find a 'loop hole' and found that we could include '2-Co-opted members who would have full voting rights until the next A.G.M.' Joyce and Margaret are now therefore welcomed onto the Committee and we look forward to some fresh ideas and lively discussions.

Fay Burston, our Chairperson for the past three years has come to the end of her term and is required by the rules to step down. Fay has always kept the Club on its toes and has tried to ensure everyone felt involved in what we were doing. I have a feeling that her presence will continue to be felt when the need arises.

On behalf of all members a very big thank you Fay.

The first Committee Meeting was held on Monday 13th June and your new Chairman is Phil Lyes, I am sure he will get your full support. Phil has been a member for most of the Club's life and is well known in Highbridge, being involved with his wife Pam in the running of Southwell House, plus many other projects. Your Vice-Chairperson is Fay Burston,

NOTE! NO COFFEE MORNING ON 10th AUGUST

Editorial (continued)**NOTE! NO COFFEE MORNING ON THE 10th AUGUST**

The Blood Transfusion Service has a regular booking for the Community Hall and obviously has priority over us. So please make a note and remember that on the 10th August there will not be a meeting.

Please let other members know this, if you think they may not have seen the notice, we would not like anyone to turn up and have a lost journey.

General News! Many of you will know by now that Jack Foster is having chemotherapy treatment and we all offer Jack our very best wishes.

Another of our very active members has been suffering lately, namely Doreen Reddish. She was diagnosed with having shingles some time ago and it has not responded to treatment. Doreen is a lady who loved walking so much so that she (with Ray) became members of the Cinnamon Trust, an organisation that undertakes to walk the dogs of people who may be elderly, disabled or for some reason are not now able to walk their pets. We send you our best wishes Doreen and hope you are soon able to resume your usual activities.

It is because both Jack and Doreen are indisposed that 'Speakers Corner' and 'Writing for Pleasure' are temporarily suspended. As soon as they feel able to make arrangements for these activities to begin again we will let you know.

It is of course appreciated that members are ill or under the weather from time to time and because we are not informed we omit to get in touch. For this we apologise and can only ask members who do know if they would tell us. We may not be able to affect a cure for your ills, but we do care about your well being, it is possible, we may, in some small way, be able to bring a little light into your life

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

Group News

On Sunday 28th August there is to be an "Apex Park Open Day" to promote this local asset. Local people, sadly, often ignore this open area. Although new signs are being provided for the Esplanade in Burnham we are not aware of signs being provided to point the way to Apex Park.

The "Open Day" is an attempt to make people more aware of this lovely area and it has been suggested we could perhaps help. Members of the two **Art Classes** are, hopefully, going to produce paintings of the lakes and nature areas; on the day these will be displayed together with photographs and other exhibits. Events booked for the day include:-

Model Boat Display. Dog-Training Display. Bouncy Castle.

Bay Club--Face Painting. Burnham & Highbridge Town Band.

B.A.R.B. Hovercraft. Recycling Road Show.

Police Crime Reduction Road Show. Displays by S.D.C. Environment Agency, Bay Club and Secret World. Plus more.!

-----A FREE EVENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY.-----

Keep Fit and Board Games

The combined Tuesday afternoon activities are very well supported; they have the advantage of both using the same venue and the one following the other. Both give the members the opportunity to enjoy a little physical exercise that is then followed by games that stimulate the 'little grey cells'.

Writing for Pleasure

With Doreen indisposed this Group is suspended for a while; we look forward to her being up and about again soon and able to restart the literary activities.

Calligraphy

Is on a sabbatical until the autumn and may be starting again on October.

Speakers Corner

You know the reason for this being on hold, we will try to organise something for the winter months.

Never argue with a fool, people may not know the difference

Group News (continued)

Skittles

Ray Reddish and Betty Worthy keep this twice-monthly event running at the Royal Artillery Inn. Still the exuberant activity it has always been, it gives one the opportunity to get some exercise and make a 'little noise' doing it. Attendances vary from ten to twenty plus on occasions, come along and have a go—no one is an expert, not at this game we are not.

Strollers

Fay has been leading the strollers lately with Ray otherwise engaged. Recent walks have included one from Berrow Triangle through to the beach and back via St Christopher's Way where an examination of the £350,000 houses took place. None of the group took a fancy to what was being built.

A walk in West Huntspill through Maundrels Farm, again good weather was the next effort. Starting by the Cattle Market the intrepid walkers tried the recently re-opened footpath, courtesy of the boatyard, running from Tyler's Way through to the Clyce, rough undergrowth but passable. Then across the fields taking in the Animal Farm and long grass and then back up the A38 where a stop was made at Vour Orchards' home for coffee.

Uphill Beach was next when a number of the strollers were surprised to find there was a beach, which at that time was very quite, an enjoyable walk.

Eleven strollers enjoyed Brean Down on a glorious day, some went up the steps, and others took the gradual slope up the road. Walking along the top the views across to Wales and over Weston and back to Burnham were clear. Reminiscing some felt that they had not been up on Brean Downs for about twenty years when their children had been young little had changed. The weather had been kind for all the strolls.

On Friday 8th July the stroll will include an American Picnic in Apex Park so strollers please bring along your delights for this open-air feast, see Fay about arrangements. Bring knives, forks and plates

More Group News

I felt that the Groups should have a mention in this issue, they do, after all make the Club what it is, a very socially orientated gathering. We all enjoy whatever activity we choose to attend, whether it is one I have mentioned or a theatre trip or a day out. At the end of the day, as they say, enjoying what you do makes all the difference.

Recently I have noticed and been made aware of organisations where people join and then sit back; waiting for someone else to do all the work. They don't intend doing any either, they think that because they have paid their membership fee it is up to the Committee to put on the events.

You reap only what you sow, if you don't put anything in you cannot expect anything out

Well! That leaves only three activities (I think).

Play Reading organised by Tony and Joan Webb jogs steadily along. We do not hear a lot about what goes on, I think we should have a word with Tony and find out.

Cycling

Because the weather was unkind earlier in the year cycling was put on hold for a while; Barbara has not been in a position to get pedalling lately, although the conditions have been better, no doubt in due course the bikes will be out again.

Family History

Genealogy requires one to sit quietly in front of a computer studying the Internet and the censuses. Roger Ouston has set the group going and we have some very interesting results have emerged. With the holiday season upon us Roger feels we should have a rest until Friday 14th October when we can start on the family trees again to discover more hidden secrets or family members we did not know we had.

Your friends you can choose, relations you are stuck with.

Picture Gallery

The Club has been very active since the Spring issue of the magazine; there was the holiday in Northern Spain plus trips to the Willow and Wetland Centre, Morwellham Quay and theatre trips to see "Chicago", and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Bristol Hippodrome. Many photographs were taken in Spain, sufficient to produce our own travel film if necessary, and at Morwellham, a few are reproduced here to illustrate the results of the excellent organisation and hard work carried out by our Social Group.

The Spanish Holiday



Twenty members had assembled outside the gates at the Highbridge Cemetery on the sunny Wednesday morning. We were joined by two members from Burnham U3A and later by three members of the U3A from Wellington. (not pre-arranged)

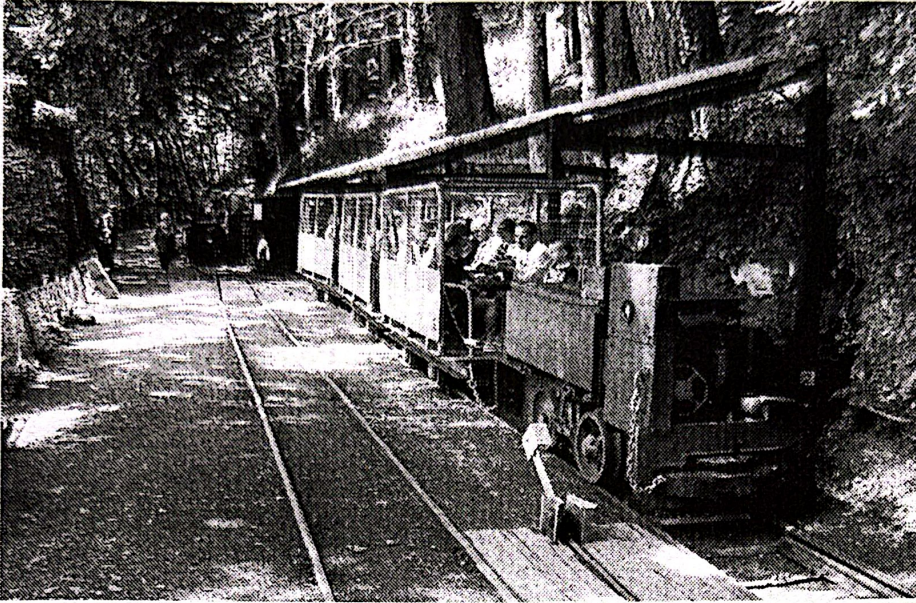
We visited the mountain range called the Picos De Europe; some went up in the cable car to see the views? Unfortunately it was snowing –no views—but lots of snow.

Grace Galton, Julie Lovern and Inge Thomas obviously enjoyed the experience.

The holiday, enjoyed by all, was a great success and we look forward to another in 2006.



Trip to Morwellham Quay



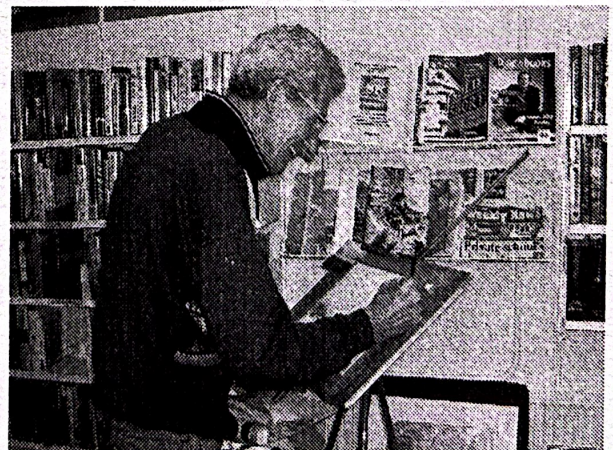
This is the little train that took us into the copper mine on a 30-minute tour. Men and boys spent very cold and wet days in total darkness for just a few pence.

You may, or perhaps may not, remember that May 21st –27th was “Adult Learners Week” and at the request of the local Library we arranged for the Club to show the public some of our activities. A number of members volunteered to attend the library, these included Helga and Derek Hand and John Grigsby they found that the public was not really interested in learning. Although no one showed an iota of interest two groups that did, at least, have a good time were those shown.



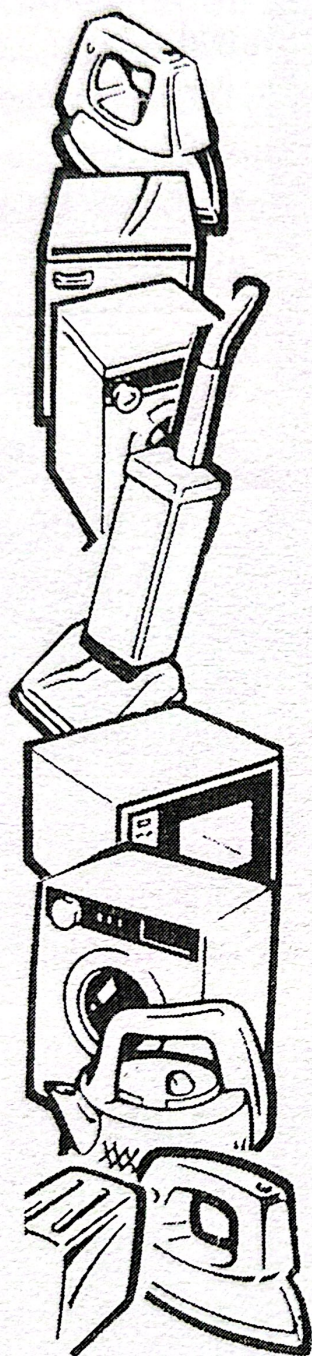
The Board Games Group had two tables playing a variety of games, Scrabble and Rumicub etc.

Warwick Williams from the Art Group also attempted to drum up some interest.



Dople's

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This Magazine

I felt when I took on the job of producing the Club's magazine that each issue should have something within it that would interest some of you. Normally when the one issue has been printed and you have all received your copy I start on the next.

This issue was to be for "July—August—September" and what happens? The Committee decides to now have a magazine every two months; luckily the 'copy' was well under way so I was able to make adjustments. You will note that the magazine now contains 20 pages and not the usual 24. Because of the time involved in typing, printing etc I feel that future copies will contain 20 pages, but you never know; if there is a rush of information (write-ups from members?) and I have the time----We will see. The following is 'lifesaver and has helped me meet the dead line.

"A letter to the family"

Just a line to say I'm living.
That I'm not amongst the dead.
Though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in the head.
I've got used to my arthritis,
to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can cope with my bifocals,
but-ye Gods-I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember
when I'm standing by the stairs
if I'm going up for something,
or just come down from there.
And before the fridge so often
my mind is full of doubt;
now did I put some food away
or come to take some out.

If it's not my turn to write dear
I hope you wont get sore.
I think I might have written
and don't wont to be a bore.
But remember I do love you
and wish that you lived near.
But now its time to mail this
and say "Goodbye my dear".

I'm standing beside the mailbox and my face—I'm sure it is red
Instead of posting this to you, I've opened it instead.!!

Willows and Wetlands Centre

On Wednesday 25th May a group of seven members of the Club visited the Willows and Wetlands Centre, near Taunton.

We saw the willows right from their growing through to the finished products, which ranged from the smallest baskets to furniture and even a coffin? The three workers sit on the ground to do their work, Mary the only woman worker, said it was the most comfortable position

It was a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon; another successful arrangement by our Social group.

Ethel Titford

Ageism?

The other day I receive a letter addressed to:

“Youth 3 A” of Highbridge.

Who said be were a Club for pensioners and ‘old’ people? You are as young as you feel, seeing the way some our members perform at various activities we cannot be that old.

ooooOoooo

U3A Regions

These are groups of U3As, within boundaries of their own choosing, that agree to meet for the purpose of mutual support and the sharing of ideas. I will not bore you with all the ins and outs of what goes on except to say the Committee wishes to thank Betty and Pete Worthy for standing in for us at a recent meeting.

When we, the Committee, were enjoying ourselves in Spain, Betty and Pete attended a meeting called by Taunton U3A to discuss the possibility of forming a “West Somerset Group”. They had not previously been to one of these ‘gatherings’ and were, to some extent thrown in at the deep end. But Betty says they quiet enjoyed themselves finding out how ‘the other half live’. The outcome of the meeting has yet to be decided.

Education not only informs---it transforms.

Frank Foley Day

On 8th May 2005 the town of Highbridge celebrated the memory of Major Frank Foley with the unveiling of a statue erected in his honour. The Right Honourable Mr Des. Brown M.P. (Secretary to the Treasury in the new Government) unveiled the statue on the Town Green. Market Street.

Many Highbridge residents came to take part in the celebrations, all probably feeling that at the town had, at last, got something of which it could be proud. The Frank Foley Memorial Trust had fought for a long time to achieve this day and did it by their own efforts. It was our day, our statue; we were going to make the most of it.

We in the U3A of Highbridge are proud of the fact that a number of Club members are also members of the Frank Foley Memorial Trust. To them we offer, on behalf of Highbridge, a sincere "thank you" for all your efforts to ensure that future generations will now know that we have a local hero and will be able to acknowledge the achievements this "Hero amongst Nations".

Sandra

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Inheritance Tax

This subject, I feel the majority of us will not be bothered with but an article in a national (Saga) magazine has been brought to my attention. I will give you the gist of what I think it is about: but please check with your solicitor.

House prices have been steadily rising and, I suppose there could come a time when some of you may be living in a gold mine? Apparently you need to subtract from your total 'wealth' any debts plus any equity on your home and, if the total remaining is less than £263,000 # your heirs will not have to pay Inheritance Tax after your death. If the remainder is more than this your descendants will be taxed at 40% i.e. if you leave, say, £370,000 your heirs will pay £40,000 in tax.

However, with some forward planning you can reduce this, especially married couples. With married couples, husbands and wives do not have to pay any Inheritance Tax when their spouse dies. This does not mean you can forget about it; for instance, an example: 'Jack and Jill' bought their house many years ago for £100,00 it is now worth, say, £500,000. They both made wills leaving everything to each other, 'Jack' dies first and the house with all his possessions, valued at about £10,000 goes to 'Jill'. Inheritance Tax is not payable. But 'Jill' then dies, leaving everything to their son/daughter who had hoped to give up their own house and move into the family home.

The total estate however, is valued at £512,000 and the son/daughter is now liable to a tax bill of over £99,000. They have to sell the family home to pay the bill.

The way around this problem is to change the way the parent's own their home. Most couples are "joint tenants" of their home that means that when one dies the other automatically becomes the sole owner. A couple can also own their property by what is called "tenants in common"; where each of them owns a defined share of the home, usually half. By doing this dependents would not be liable to Inheritance Tax. To change the way you own a home you write to each other and simply cancel the joint tenancy and say that in future the property will be owned as tenants in common with equal shares. You should also contact the Land Registry office and ask for form RX1 "Application to enter a restriction". There is no fee.

There are problems of which you should be aware; it is said you can chose your friends, but not your relations. So 'Beware'!

If, after a spouse dies, the other half of the property were willed to a son/daughter they would become joint owners and could, if forced to by 'family problems', force the sale of the property, leaving mum or dad homeless. You cannot give them the home on condition they do not kick you out because the Inland Revenue will count the home as entirely yours. Also owning half a house could prevent them getting some benefits, job seekers allowance, pension credit or council tax benefit.

A way around this problem is to leave the value of the house to a discretionary trust with the children as beneficiaries. Upon the first death the trust accepts a debt equal to half the house value from the surviving spouse; the debt is payable on the death of the second spouse. Most solicitors will have it in their precedents book. So, because it is sensible to review your will every few years, ask your solicitor about this scheme when doing so. # This may change with a change of Government.

ContoC Christmas Concerts

For the Elderly, Handicapped, Blind and Visually Impaired

"My Words Versified"

A Collection of Poems

by

H.Sydney Cox F.M.A.

This booklet, containing twenty-one poems, has been published for the purpose of
Raising funds for ContoC. The cost is £2.50 plus 30p Postage.

Crossed postal orders or cheques should be made out to ContoC Christmas
Concerts and sent to the publishers. BM/Inkwell. London WC1N 3XX

H.Sydney Cox, who produces the ContoC Christmas Concerts for the blind and visually impaired people also, writes poetry and as a means of raising funds has had some published. Should you wish to receive a copy then apply to the printer as above?

Passports

A "tit- bit" picked up the other day. Did you know that those of us born on or before 2nd September 1929 could now obtain a UK passport free of charge? Eligible individuals who purchased a passport between 19th May 2004 and 18th October 2004 will be able to apply for a refund by contacting the Passport Adviceline on 0870 521 0410(national call rate).

Home Office Statement 13th

October 2004

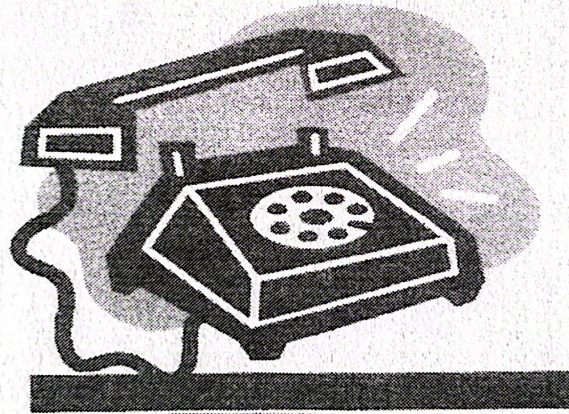
Those of us who may have bought one before 18th October 2004.....Tough!

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Luncheon Club

Last, but not least, the Luncheon Club, Pam Scales and Julie Lovern revived this activity earlier in the year. First there was a visit to the White Horse Inn at Mark, followed by visits to Sanders Garden World, The Goat House and the Watchfield Inn. The final venue for this summer is to be the Scarlet Pimpernel---after that? Pam and Julie are going to have a rethink on whether they continue with this activity or if it is to be completely revamped.

We hope it is, it brings together the members for a social lunch in convivial surroundings and enables everyone to make new and additional friendships. The venues have all provided good meals and the service received has always been up to the standard expected from local hostelryes. Let us hope we can persuade them to continue.

West Huntspill Annual Flower Show.

To be held on Saturday 20th August at Balliol Hall, West Huntspill. Starting at 2.00pm. The Art Class members are being encouraged to again enter their paintings in the Art Competition and, who knows, we may pick some awards, we usually manage to get a prize or two, I know there are some paintings worth entering, they could be lucky this year.

Monthly Draw

Mar	Pauline Chapman	and	Janet Holderness	No 36
Apr	Ray Reddish	and	Pam Gass	No 42
May	Maureen McLaren	and	Betty Worthy	No 35
All receive £20.00				

Editor:	Ken Burston
Production:	Fay and Ken Burston
Distribution:	Ann Smith (West Huntspill)
	Mary Akers, Jack Foster, Pat Gray, John Grigsby, Pam Hedgecock, Sallie Park, Betty Pocock, Phyllis Walsh, Heather Swift, Betty Worthy and Marion Wright.

18

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Writing for Pleasure Monday--Monthly

At: 23b Walrow

Time: 2.00pm Please see Page 5

Group Leader: Doreen Reddish (785411)

Speaker's Corner Meetings to be arranged—Please see Page 5

At: Southwell House

Time: 2.00 pm

Admission: £1.00 includes tea and biscuits

Arranged by: Jack Foster (787611)

Art Every Tuesday

At: Southwell House

Time: 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Cost: £1.70 Group Leader: Phil Lyes (784629)

Keep Fit Every Tuesday

At: Gospel Hall, Old Burnham Road

Time: 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm

Group Leader: Joyce Beard (783913) All Welcome.

Board Games Every Tuesday

At: Gospel Hall, Old Burnham Road.

Time: 3.15 After Keep Fit.

Group Leader: Betty Worthy (795823)

Coffee Morning Every Wednesday

At: Highbridge Community Hall

Time: 10.00am to 12.00am

All are welcome, come along, meet up with friends, and see what we have to offer.

NOT ON WEDNESDAY

10th AUGUST

Luncheon Club

At: Please see Club Notice Board

Time: “ “ “ “

The venues are selected by the Group Leaders so please refer to Pam Scales (788086) or Julie Lovern(722488) for further details

Cost: £1.70 Tutor: Jean Berry (785840)

Group Leader: Ray Reddish (785411) Lunches available

'Producer': Tony Webb (787483) New members welcome-especially men

Facilitator: Roger Ouston (795007) Please see Page 7

Group Leader: Fay Burston (782529) or Ray Reddish (785411)

Special Note: On Friday 8th July there will be a Strollers American Picnic in Apex Park. See Fay Burston for details re food/drink/plates/knives/forks etc.

Note: - It has been agreed that the Strollers will also meet on the fourth Friday when there no Cycling.

Group Leader: Barbara Palin (784187)

At;	Start -Bank Street Car Park	} See note above
Time: 11.30pm		
Group Leader:	Barbara Palin (784187)	

With all of the foregoing it is advisable to check with the Club Notice Board or with the Group Leader to ensure the activity is being held, especially with outdoor events

Social Events

JULY 25th "PAIGNTON ZOO"

Meet : At Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 9.15 am

Price : Adults :£17.50 Children : £15.75

JULY 27th "KING AND I"

At: Bristol Hippodrome (Matinee Performance)

Meet: At Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 12.30 pm

Price: £23.50

Note: 4 tickets available

AUGUST 25th "BOWOOD PARK"

Meet : At Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 9.15 am

Price : Adults :£15.00 Children : £14.00

Payment by 28th July

SEPTEMBER 27th " THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE" **Tuesday Evening !**

Meet : At Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 5.30 pm

Price : £27.50 **Payment by 27th July**

DECEMBER 8th " SCROOGE" Thursday Evening !

Meet : At Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 5.30 pm

Price : £32.00 **Payment by 7th October**

Note! KING AND I is a MATINEE

MILLIE and SCROOGE are EVENING SHOWS!!

Payment for shows is needed EIGHT weeks before the show date.

This a requirement by the theatre

Note! Bookings can only be accepted with the payment of a £5.00 non-returnable deposit.

Vi Chick (784033) will provide details, or you may make your booking with Roy Bryant (783780) or at Coffee Morning.