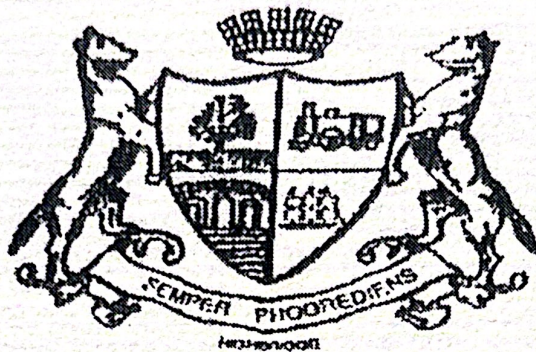


FB

Kenneth Bay Brewster

39 Saxardale Ave



of

**HIGHBRIDGE**

**July-----August**  
**MAGAZINE**  
**2007**

ISSUE NUMBER 35



2  
**WHO'S WHO**  
**2006/2007**

**Members of the Committee**

|                      |                 |                |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Chairman             | Tony Webb       | 01278 787483   |
| 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   |
|                      | Violet Chick    | 01278 784033   |
|                      | Phil Lyes       | 01278 784629   |
|                      | Ray Reddish     | 01278 785411   |
|                      | Joyce Curtis    | 01278 782716   |
|                      | Margaret Wall   | 01278 786742   |

# Pauline Chapman is a co-opted member

**Co-ordinators**

|                      |                    |              |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Art I                | Jean Berry (Tutor) | 01278 785840 |
| Art II               | Phil Lyes (Tutor)  | 01278 784629 |
| Card Making          | Fay Burston        | 01278 782529 |
| Family History       | Roger Ouston       | 01278 795007 |
| Gardening Group      | Carole Loveridge   | 01278 780060 |
| Keep Fit             | Joyce Beard        | 01278 783913 |
| Play Reading         | Tony Webb          | 01278 787483 |
| Scrabble/Board Games | Betty Worthy       | 01278 795823 |
| Skittles             | Ray Reddish        | 01278 785411 |
| Spanish              | Sallie Park        | 01278 788640 |
| Strollers            | Fay Burston        | 01278 782529 |
| " "                  | Ray Reddish        | 01278 785411 |
| Social Group         | Roy Bryant         | 01278 783780 |
| " "                  | Vi Chick           | 01278 784033 |

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Note: In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 information relating to this Club's members will be held on a computerised database and will be used solely for this Club's business and communications.



## Editorial

The A.G.M. was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the Community Hall, we were a little late starting the proceedings because of the low number present at 10.30 a.m. We needed to have a quorum present and were about 15 short. Meetings in the past have been well attended with at least 50% of the members there by start time, unfortunately on this occasion it did not work out. Proceedings did get under way after a few minutes of a 'chat amongst yourselves' session. We did learn a few lessons by experience that morning; firstly always make sure you have a copy of the Club's Constitution handy so that you can refer to it when in doubt. Secondly, start the meeting later in order to have a quorum present and, thirdly, over preceding weeks try to get the members sufficiently interested in what is going on so that they do put in an appearance.

Holidays were, I believe, the reason for the low numbers, obviously something that we have no control over, however, we did make a note for the future and will try to avoid the problem occurring again.

The old problem cropped up again this year —sorting out the Coffee Morning Rota. Last year Pauline Chapman (Treasurer) offered to organise the list of volunteers and hoped to maintain a steady supply of members for this duty. It worked for most of the year but a few months ago it went 'pear shaped' again.

Proposals were put forward, one being that you make your own drinks and that we have a team of washers-up. Apart from the availability of cups/mugs and who would collect and wash them when we ran short, this scheme would probably become unsafe with many bodies in the kitchen and break some Health and Safety Rule. Insurance could also become an issue. It is felt the best action would be to visit the tables at the next Coffee Morning and approach you personally. I am sure that we will be able to come up with a solution. *(This was tried at the first Coffee Morning and we now have a system that, hopefully, will keep us going for a while)*

The Treasurer reported that we made a small profit last year, although we had purchased the Sound Equipment. Each group is self-financing and does not require any help from the Club that is how it should be.

This year the Election of Officers for the Committee was not cut and dried as for the past few years. Two members had put their names forward for election but, regrettably, did not receive sufficient votes to be elected. The Committee remains the same; this means that we do not have any 'new blood' for the future. It is not an onerous task being on the Committee, in fact meetings comprise mainly a 'talking shop' for about half an hour when we confirm everything is still on track and nothing serious has occurred since the last meeting. There are usually 6 meetings a year and, when we finish, we have a cup of tea and a slice of very nice cake from Doreen Reddish, look at their lovely large garden and then pack up.

Getting back to the Election of Officers; we finished up with ten as intended but found that our Treasurer (Pauline Chapman) had not received enough votes for re-election.



### Editorial continued

This presented us with a problem because no one wanted to take up the position of Treasurer, so, in line with the Club's Constitution we co-opted Pauline back onto the Committee. We now have eleven Committee Members.

The Committee met on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and elected the following Officers: -.

**Chairman--- Tony Webb----**Tony may not be known to many of you so I will give you a brief run down on who he is. The Rev. Tony Webb has retired from full time church duties but still officiates on occasions to help out on religious matters. Tony was Chairman of Burnham U3A. With his wife Joan he runs our Play Reading Group and is anxious to get a few more members interested in this group.

**Vice-Chairperson---Fay Burston,** Fay has held this position for the past three years.

**Hon-Treasurer -----Pauline Chapman,** Pauline looks after our accounts and sees to it that we do not spend our funds rashly, not too well known but we will have to make sure she is more prominent in future, a silent but important member of the Committee.

**Hon.Secretary-----Ken Burston,** has been Secretary for about five years and needs no introduction,

**Membership Secretary----Beryl Bryant,** will in future be assisted by Joyce Curtis & Margaret Wall

**Roy Bryant & Vi Chick---Social Group,** Roy and Vi are well known to all who take advantage of the social activities

**Phil Lyes,** Phil had agreed to stand down due to health reasons having had a slight heart problem recently, it was felt that taking it easy for a while would be beneficial. We all trust that taking a rest from duty will help him to return to good health and we wish him all the best. Thank you Phil for your 2 successful years as Chairman.

**Ray Reddish.** Ray runs Skittles (with Betty Worthy) also takes a turn at organising Strollers, and is a great help setting up the hall on Coffee Mornings.

The remainder of the Committee comprises Joyce Curtis and Margaret Wall, they have volunteered to help Beryl with the memberships, that will involve taking your fees and generally give a helping hand when Beryl is on holiday or when there is a rush? to pay at the start of the new membership year.



## Group News

### Strollers

The last three strolls have been over new ground for the majority of members, (rather surprising because most of them are locals 'bred and born')

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May the group met up at Pawlett Pavilion Car Park; it started to rain so six of us decided to have our coffee and bacon 'butties' first and headed for the 'Hill Top Café'. The dog owners (hardy types) decided, in spite of the rain, to start their walk, and set off on an exploratory walk down near the barrage balloon shed where there are some firm suitable tracks.

After our snack six set off, crossing the A38 and taking a path below the church, this took us down to the River Parrett via River Road. Near the river there was once a small brickyard and a dock, from where bricks were shipped out on barges; the brickyard cottages are still there (occupied). After a while it started to drizzle again so we returned to the car park, meeting up with the others who had had a good long walk

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May nine strollers met at Woolavington Bridge and then followed Alan and Chris Winter out over the levels to the South Drain near Edington. Alan then led us on a stroll across Chilton Moors for about 3 miles using the droves, bringing us back eventually to our starting point. Although dry the going was a bit 'rough' having been cut up by tractors and cattle. Again this was a new area for most of us, although cloudy at the start the weather had turned out sunny and warm.

Third time lucky! After two previous attempts, each called off due to rain; we finally made it to "Westhay". Many of the strollers had been looking forward to this trip for some time and on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June sixteen of us made it.

Although Westhay is well known for the starling roosts in winter none of the group knew the way there, admittedly it is a tortuous route out over the levels. We therefore met up outside the "Watchfield" Inn and set off in convoy behind yours truly arriving at about 11.00 a.m. The proposed walk takes in the lakes and is just over 3 miles long; the surface was firm and dry firm on the day. On two of the lakes there were many swans, estimated to be at least 30 on each. The wild life seen comprised a stoat that crossed the path in front of Ray and Alan, we saw many Dragonflies and met a fellow who was attempting to photograph them if only they would settle—we wished him luck. There are a number of 'hides' by the lakes, at ground and high level.

The cuckoo was heard loud and clear throughout the morning. On Daggs Lane Drove there is an old cottage that was once used by Simon King of Springwatch to photograph Barn Owls during his study of the elusive birds. The strollers returned to the cars worn out and having fully enjoyed the morning's exercise, being about 1 o'clock some headed home but eight of us stopped off at Rich's Cider Press for the inevitable bacon buttie and coffee.

If there are any members who like a good walk under very social conditions please join us, you will not regret it, our fortnightly stroll is great exercise and can be recommended.



## **Group News**

### **Art Groups**

The Art classes having been successful at the West Huntspill Spring Show are now preparing for the East Huntspill Show on August 4<sup>th</sup>; followed closely by the Summer West Huntspill Show on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

We await the results of their efforts with interest.

### **Luncheon Club**

The lunch held on 16<sup>th</sup> May at the Crossways, West Huntspill 29 attended. It is not possible to pre-book your meal here because it prefers its customers to order their meal after they have studied the black board in the bar; there are many options giving a wide range of meals. As usual the members enjoy a good natter whilst waiting to be served but then it goes very quiet once the food arrives. Everyone appeared to be well satisfied with their choice and were anxious to learn when and where they would be lunching next time.

It was at The Brent Knoll Inn at East Brent on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Some members, anxious to get settled, arrived soon after 12.00a.m. When all were seated it was found that 28 members had arrived to sample the fare available and they set about making those difficult decisions, 'what shall I have, should I try that'? The menus presented them with a varied selection of grills, fries, salads etc. and eventually all had made up their minds and were enjoying their chosen meals.

Keep an eye on the Notice board for where the next lunch will be and its date.

### **Card Making**

This group keeps going throughout the summer; they must be building up a stock of cards.

The dates for the next three months are: -

2<sup>nd</sup> July Monday 10.00 to 12.00 a.m.; 18<sup>th</sup> July Wednesday 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

30<sup>th</sup> July Monday 10.00 to 12.00 a.m. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. Wednesday 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept Monday 10.00 to 12.00 a.m. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Wednesday 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

### **Spanish Class**

Hola buenos dias. This class will continue throughout the summer at Southwell House on the second and fourth Thursdays at 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. Ocho (8) members attend and are doing well.

### **Family History**

On a sabbatical until 4<sup>th</sup> October, then every first Thursday until June.

### **Play Reading**

Tony and the FIVE stalwarts are pressing in the hope that some brave soul/s will soon drop by and boost their numbers.



**Summer Delights**

Many of you will remember the excellent Cream Tea we had last year out at Wick Farm, Lympsham, the weather that day could not have been better with all of us sitting under that large willow tree to keep cool.

Well you will be pleased to know there is another coming up as below: -

**Cream Tea**

**Wick Farm - Lympsham**

3 p.m. - Monday - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007

£3.95 per head

Sorry! Full up---over subscribed, see below.

For a Special Treat (if you are good) you can have another tea a month later

**Cream Tea**

**Rich's Cider Press --- Watchfield**

3 p.m. - Monday - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007

£3.95 per head

Again if interested, please add your name to the appropriate notice or ring : -  
Vour Orchard (01278 788984) who has organised this one.

For both occasions please indicate if you would require a lift out to Wick Farm and/or Rich's Cider Press.

**A little light relief**

Logic?

Practice makes perfect, but no-one is perfect, so why practice.

If it is true we are here to help others, then what are all the others doing?

The more you learn—the more you know, the more you know the more you forget,  
The more you forget the less you know----So why learn in the first place?

Every man should marry; after all, happiness is not everything.



### Dogs and Children-----on U3A Strolls/Walks

In the last magazine there was a piece about “**CHILDREN and DOGS not being permitted on U3A walks**”.

We are now informed that the Third Age Trust having raised the subject with the insurers and have found that any incident involving dogs belonging to U3A members on a U3A walk WILL be covered by a dog owners own insurance.

Apparently the question of insurance had arisen recently because there had been problems involving badly controlled dogs and it seemed prudent to remind U3As that the insurance would not cover such incidents involving dogs. Some U3As do not and have never permitted dogs on walks/strolls.

As far as this Club is concerned we have never objected to members bringing their dogs on strolls. We know that our dog owners have always been concerned that their dogs behave and do ensure that no inconvenience is caused to others. Also, I am aware that the owners have ascertained that their own ‘Home Insurance Policy’ covers them should their dog in any way ‘cause harm to/or cause a person to be harmed’.

Children were also ‘bracketed’ with dogs as being a cause for concern if permitted to attend walks/strolls. This restriction has also been eased because it is appreciated that during holidays grandchildren are often allowed to accompany their grandparents who would, hopefully, effect suitable control over them.

I think the matter has now been resolved to everyone’s satisfaction.

oooOOOooo

### Telesales! ----- Taking revenge on the Telemarketer

We have heard that there are three little words that work. They are: -

**“HOLD ON, PLEASE”**

You say this whilst putting down your phone and walking away instead of hanging up immediately. This action keeps the line open and makes each telemarketing call so much more time consuming so the offending company.

Some time later when you hear BT’s “ BEEP---BEEP---BEEP” tone you know its time to hang up; you have efficiently completed your task.

Those three little words could help eliminate telephone soliciting.

More tips on Page 9



Highbridge has on the Town Green a statue of a local hero from World War II, namely Frank Foley. The Frank Foley Group that played a large part in organising the statue and its setting up and unveiling comprised a number of our members. In recognition of their efforts they were recently invited to attend a similar ceremony in London. The following is an account of their trip to London.

### **Frank Foley Memorial Plaque**

The Frank Foley Committee was invited to London to attend the unveiling of a plaque to name the people who helped Jews escape from Germany during the war. Eight of the Committee comprising Joyce Curtis, Shirley Adams, Doreen and Ray Reddish (accompanied by Rev. and Mrs Lodge and Mr and Mrs D. Cooper) went to London early on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April and stayed at a fabulous hotel in Buckingham Palace Road. We spent Saturday touring the sights, popping on and off the underground like we did it all the time.

On Sunday we visited the Buckingham Palace Mews before heading to Golders Green to the Jewish Cemetery. We met some lovely people, some of whom were survivors from the war and all were so pleased that we had attended, we felt honoured to be there with them. They hope in the future to also have a statue in London. After the ceremony we had a while before catching our coach home so spent a relaxing time having lunch in a pub, finally arriving home at 10.45.p.m.

Doreen Reddish

### **Telesales**

Your phone rings and there is no one there---annoying isn't it!

This is another telemarketing technique; it is where a machine makes the call and records the time of day when a person answers the phone. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' salesperson to call and find someone at home.

What you do after answering and finding no one there is to immediately start hitting your # button 6 or 7 times as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialled your number and it kicks your number out of the system.

Ah! What a shame your name is no longer on their list.

### **Next issue-----Junk Mail**

The new diaries for 2008 are due in next month. We have ordered 20, so first come--first served.

Last year we had some over and obviously lost money, we wont get caught again!

**Overheard recently:** -My husband and I have decided to start a family whilst my parents are still young enough to look after them.



# People's

## DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE

- REPAIRS TO MOST MAKES OF WASHING MACHINE, VACUUM CLEANER, TUMBLE DRYER, FRIDGE, FRIDGE-FREEZER, TWIN-TUBS, DISHWASHER.

- AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF VACUUM CLEANER BAGS AND SPARES

- A WIDE RANGE OF NEW AND RECONDITIONED WASHING MACHINES

- A RANGE OF KETTLES, IRONS AND TOASTERS.

- REPAIRS TO SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES (KETTLES, IRONS, TOASTERS)

- PANASONIC SERVICE CENTRE

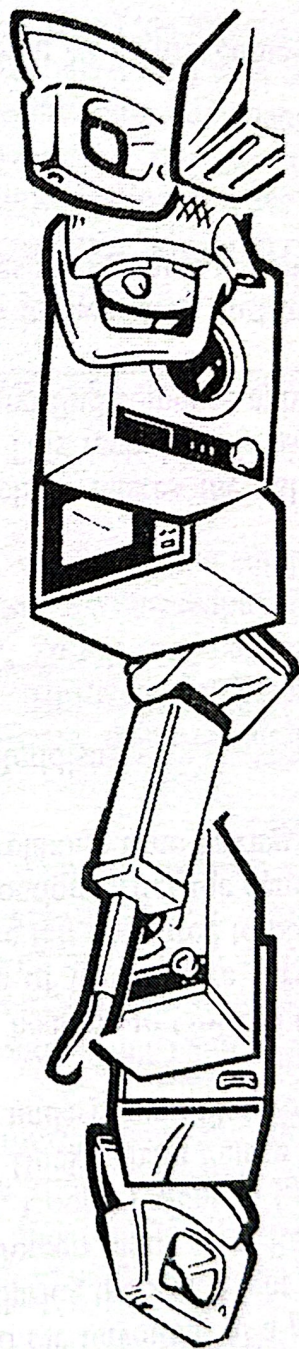
- REPAIRS TO MICROWAVE OVENS

- A RANGE OF NEW MICROWAVE OVENS IN STORE

- SUPPLY COOKERS, HOBBS, FRIDGES, FRIDGE-FREEZERS AND DISHWASHERS.

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Somerset • TA8 1PH  
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You may remember being approached a few weeks ago and asked to sponsor a group of our 'Grannies' whose intention it was to do a walk in aid of the Hospice; well they did it. The following is an account of their efforts.-----

### **Children's Hospice Charlton Farm---Granny Trek**

At 8.45 am on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, Brenda, Carol, Jean and Vour set off to drive to the new Children's Hospice at Wraxall for the "Granny Trek" (a sponsored walk to raise funds for the new Hospice) a circular route of six and a quarter miles. In total 700 people took part walking 1,2 or 6 miles.

Everyone was very friendly and we met several people from other U3A groups, the weather was perfect when we started our walk at 9.00 am, we had been split into groups of 20 and were soon on our way. The scenery was lovely as we walked across fields, alongside streams and through woodland covered in bluebells and celandines, it was a lovely time of the year to be out in the countryside listening to the bird song and watching skylarks high in the sky.

The sun came out as we progressed, the route was well signposted and we stopped frequently to try to guess where the various landmarks were that we could see, at one point we were able to watch the traffic on the M5 going over the River Avon.

As we walked through a field containing sheep they did not look very impressed as Vour and Jean sang all the songs they could think of containing the word 'You' (ewe), and their rendition of "We plough the fields and scatter" as we struggled through a ploughed field left a lot to be desired!!!

We all enjoyed the walk very much, but found the 24 stiles rather challenging and think that next year we will compete in the Grand National instead!! As we approached the 'home straight' we had to walk past two goats--- the one very kindly helping Carol on her way with a butt to her rear end---no damage done to Carol or the goat.

Finally at 1.20 pm we arrived back at Charlton Farm, where we enjoyed a well-deserved drink and a slice of cake.



Thank you to all of our sponsors £130.00 was raised, and the grand total for the walk was £50,000 for a very deserving cause.

Jean Hand



## Gardening Group

Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. A bright pleasantly warm spring morning and the Garden Group are off on to visit Copse Hall in Brent Knoll. Ray Reddish who knows Sue Boss the owner had arranged the visit. A total of eight of us met in Highbridge Car Park at 9.45 a.m. A quick drive to Brent Knoll and we pull into Copse Hall drive at 10.00 a.m. Already we can see the vastness of the garden, large old trees are overhanging the car park area and surround a beautiful stone house. Sue Boss comes from the walled garden to greet us and give us the guided tour.

Our tour takes us through the terraced area at the side of the house that has a fantastic climbing hydrangea and solanum (potato vine) growing against it, as we reach the front of this large old house we have fantastic views down over the side of the Knoll and over the terraced area that fronts the house. The house itself has two beautiful wisterias growing against the walls, one white and one that wonderful pale mauve colour that we all associate with these shrubs. The terraces have full sun and the here have to be pretty tough to cope with the drought, but we are amazed by how well things seem to be. Sue has only a little help with her garden so we are told things do have to just get on with it. Crossing the grassed area and through an arched pathway we drop down even further to a wildlife pond and planting. It is an absolute haven for all types of wildlife; this is obviously something that is very important to Sue.

Walking back up through many shrubs and trees to the car park area we are aware how warm the weather has become, but we haven't finished yet, we are now off to the walled garden where Sue grows a large assortment of fruit, veg. and herbs. She has a nursery for her plants that she is bringing on to either plant out in her own garden or sell to the public. Needless to say this was too much temptation for most, we all ended up carrying away at least one plant, if not two or three. I purchased a seedling from Sue; a Cercis which was a seedling taken from her magnificent tree which was in full bloom and dominated a wooded area. Some of you may know this tree as the Judas tree; Sue's is a mature tree several feet tall. She says I hope you have patience, as mine is only six inches at present. I'll never see it in full maturity but it will give an enormous amount of pleasure watching it try to reach there.

Coffee and biscuits were served in Sue's library and once again we were able to enjoy wonderful views. We made our way back home after some two hours of enjoyment and some plants for our own little patches. Sue's garden is in The National gardens scheme and will be open to the public Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July (2 to 6)—well worth a visit if you can.

Carol Loveridge

Old age is when you know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.

When asked by his grandson how old he was, the man replied 78; the grandson said "And you are still here?"



**Refuse Disposal?**

Have you experienced a problem when attempting to dispose of waste, i.e. cooked meat, bones etc. or other kitchen waste that might pong a little in warm weather? A tip that was received the other day might be of help.

Wrap the offending item/s in cling film, place in a freezer type bag and put it in your deep freeze until dustbin day. Then put it in your dustbin for the refuse disposal team to take away. By doing this (a) you do not have smelly items around the home.

(b) you are not encouraging Seagulls, Jackdaws or Foxes or other scavengers to tear open your bag and deposit you items on the pavement.

During a very warm spell of weather you may have to delay putting it in your bin because it might thaw out too quickly and defeat the whole object of your hygiene. The suggestion has helped us get rid of chicken bones/carcase and other items that were of no use after cleaning meat, or any bits and pieces that do not stay fresh for any length of time.

**Monthly Draw**

April                      Jean Hand                      and      June Salter                      No 23

May                        Ron Fulcher                      and      Pam Gass                      No 35

All received £20.00

Editor:                      Ken Burston

Production:              Fay and Ken Burston

Distribution:            Ann Smith (West Huntspill)

Mary Akers, Pat Gray, Diane King, Anne Lismore,  
Betty Pocock, Thelma Tripp, Betty Worthy  
and Marion Wright.

# Sandra

## Hairdressers

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TA9 3HW

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## **“Fiat Justitia”--(contd)**

**This is the last instalment: -**

### **Sentencing.** “How did he get away with that?”

This is a constant question from the public when someone is given a ‘light’ sentence.

The problem is that the ‘Sentencers’ have sat through the court, heard, read and seen the offender’s record (if any) the public has not. Further more there is often a misunderstanding re the sentence; it depends upon what the defendant has been charged with. e.g. A driver has killed someone but is fined only, say, £200.00.

What was the charge? It may not have been for dangerous driving for which he could get ten years, but for careless driving which carries a lesser sentence. It is the Crown Prosecution Service that decides the charge NOT the court.

Why sentence someone? There are four reasons: -

a) to reduce crime, b) to deter the offender c) punishment/exact retribution d) to assert the supremacy of the law.

Magistrates and the Courts are “Are there to do right—not to do good”

A Court has a number of options open to it when sentencing, not available for every type of offence, because some offences are not punishable by a term in prison, but may attract a community penalty.

There are five types of penalty: -

Discharges -- absolute and conditional; Financial—fines, compensation, costs; Community—supervision/courses, curfew, work-forces; Custody—immediate or (rarely) suspended; Penalty points/disqualification.

Magistrates do not, contrary to appearances; just pluck penalties out of the air. There are many factors to consider, firstly there is the constraints of the law that lays down the type of and maximum penalty available.

Secondly, there are guidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal.

Thirdly, the Magistrates Association gives guidance on range and suggested starting point for an offence and its seriousness etc.

Fourthly, the offender’s record.

Fifthly, suggestions/recommendations from the Probation Service, together with any questions relating to compensation to victim/s.

Finally, any mitigation advanced by or on behalf of the offender.

The actual process of decision making is then undertaken, i.e. assessing the seriousness, consider the offenders past record; this should be enough to enable an initial decision to be made.

Finally, the Bench will assess the impact (beneficial or adverse) of the proposed sentence. How it would affect the livelihood of the offender and whether a hefty sentence will discourage others from offending.



**Fiat Justitia-continued****Conclusion**

The Magistrates Courts are servants of the people, not its masters; they are a strong line of defence not only against crime but also against oppression. Each Bench is autonomous and independent, guided it may be the law and precedent; but it is not dictated to. It is not the tool of Government nor takes orders in individual cases or classes of cases; not even from the Home Secretary, it will however have regard to any guidance that the force of law has.

Magistrates are members of the communities they serve, are chosen and appointed locally. They see people in Court, in whatever capacity they are there, who are known to them; and they are aware of what is happening in the locality and what is of concern to the people in the area.

The final conclusion is however that: - **Fiat Justitia**-"let justice be done"-if they cannot manage that let us at least administer the law sensibly.

Well, this is the last episode. When Mick Brown did his talk at a Speakers Corner it was so interesting that I felt it was a subject we should know more about. Although we may not now be fully knowledgeable on the subject, we are or should be more fully informed of the way our Magistrates Courts work.

## 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



## **To the Gardening Group**

A few years ago our Hon Sec was a Sylvia Shepherd, she was also a keen gardener. Sylvia and Malcolm left the UK for France and set up home in St Paul de Blaye. We (Fay and I) have been in e-mail contact with them and have just received a reply; as you will note they also receive a copy of our magazine. Sylvia congratulates the Art Classes on their triumphs at West Huntspill etc and asks Jean (Berry) "Who would have believed it when we started from such humble beginnings in 1999?"

### **"Letter to a Gardener"**

Reading the latest U3A of Highbridge Magazine I was delighted to see the picture of Ray and Doreen's garden, instantly recognisable, as were most of those assembled; and was transported back to the garden I had in Alstone Lane.

How it flourished, it was so easy to put in plants and with a little TLC to be rewarded with mature growth and bountiful blooms. After a few seasons in France we Brits come to realise that we had learned hitherto was not going to work here. Even though various tender plants can be bought from local nurseries and garden centres it is difficult to create the right conditions here for them to grow satisfactorily. Heat and dryness are of major concern and we found it necessary to create a shade bed that became larger and larger in our attempt to grow them successfully. Wind is also a problem and can damage, not only tender plants but also uproot huge trees and shrubs from time to time. Another problem is mildew during hot, moist weather. Not only do we gardeners have to tackle the problem but also grape vine growers are constantly spraying something or other to combat pests and diseases. Interestingly, roses are grown at the end of some rows of vines to act as an early warning system to tell the growers when it is time to spray.

We did manage to grow a few veggies on a sheltered patch; after getting the plants at the local market; cabbages, cauliflowers and celery. I planted runner beans from seed, they grew but the beans were dry and stringy, in spite of frequent watering. Tomatoes here are normally grown outdoors; it is quite usual to drive past houses with gardens having a full row of tomato plants at various stages of growth.

The main produce grown locally is fruit; we sport a good variety of fruit trees and bushes, apples, apricot and peach, plus various plums, unproductive cherry bushes—not trees (we must be doing something wrong). Best of all are some raspberry canes that are highly productive, as long as it is not too dry. Our neighbour has a huge cherry tree that is productive every other year; we are delighted when he appears with a huge bowl for us, they are due again this year so we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Our time in France will be coming to an end soon, gardening here has certainly been a new experience but I must admit I shall look forward to the more gentle seasons in Britain and again experience the gardening as I have come to know and love. Happy planting!

Regards: - Sylvia Shepherd



# **H.O.P**

## **HIGHBRIDGE FOOD CO-OP**

**Organic Fruit & Vegetables at**

**£3.00 per bag**

**Every TUESDAY at**

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL**

**From 1.00 – 3.30p.m.**

**also**

**THE BAPTIST CHURCH. College St.**

**Burnham-on-Sea**

**From 1.00 – 2.00p.m**

Come and order and pay the first week then collect  
and re-order the following week

**For further information ring Ann on 787607**



## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### **Card Making**

At: Southwell House

Dates: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. 10.00-12.00 See 'Group News' for all dates

Admission: £1.50

Contact Fay Burston (782529)

### **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 until 5.00 a.m.

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.

### **Luncheon Club**

Date and Inn to be advised



**Art** Every Thursday  
 At: Southwell House  
 Time: 1.30pm to 4.00pm  
 Cost: £1.50 Tutor: Jean Berry (785840)

**Spanish** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
 At: Southwell House  
 Time: 10.00 to 11.00 a.m.  
 Cost: £1.00 Tutor: Sallie Park (788640)

**Skittles** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month  
 At: Royal Artillery Inn  
 Time: 11.30am to 1.00pm  
 Group Leader: Ray Reddish (785411) and Betty Worthy (795823) Lunches available

**Play Reading** Fourth Friday of the month.  
 At: 4 Brue Crescent. Burnham-on-Sea.  
 Time: 10.00am  
 Play: To be advised  
 'Producer': Tony Webb (787483) New members welcome-especially men

**Family History** Tutorial Workshop  
 At: Southwell House  
 Next Workshops: Starts again in October (dates are given in Group News)  
 Facilitator: Roger Ouston (795007)

**Strollers** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
 At: Start-Bank Street Car Park  
 Time: 10.30pm  
 Stroll: Local area, stout footwear is recommended.  
 Group Leader: Fay Burston (782529) or Ray Reddish (785411)

**Gardening Group** Day and Date---Please refer to the Notice Board  
 At: - Venue as advised.  
 Facilitator: - Carole Loveridge (780060)

**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**

### **2007**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> Kew Gardens. Thursday.**  
**Meet: Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 7.30 a.m.**  
**Price: £26.00** **NOTE !**

**August 10<sup>th</sup> Blenheim Palace. Friday.**  
**Meet: Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 8.30 a.m.**  
**Price: £21.00**

**December: 19<sup>th</sup> “ MAMMA MIA”**  
**At: Bristol Hippodrome Matinee Performance**  
**Meet: Bank Street Car Park, coach leaves at 12.30 pm**  
**Price: £25.00**

**Please note the NEW booking arrangements**

**Cheques must be made out to “U3A of Highbridge Social Club”**  
**For further details of all trips etc. please contact either Vi Chick (784033) or Roy Bryant (783780) or the Wednesday Coffee Morning.**

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