Of Highbridge u3a learn, laugh, live



U3A of Highbridge Magazine

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Issue 145 Nov/Dec 2026

Your Committee

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Committee Member	Dawn Porter	01278 325225
Committee Member	Christine Owen	01278 481681

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Welfare and Greeting New Members	Janet Preddy Dawn Porter	07870 532257 01278 325225

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Next Magazine Deadline:	Monday December 14th 2026 at 3pm

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Chair's Message

Hi Everyone



Well, we're edging ever closer to the end of another year! Where has the time gone?

The leaves are turning, the autumn weather is upon us, and there's definitely a chill in the air. So please remember to wrap up warm and take good care of yourselves as the colder days arrive.

As Christmas approaches, I hope as many of you as possible will join us for our Christmas party. It will be lovely to get together, enjoy some festive cheer, have a good old catch-up and spend time with friends as we head towards the end of the year.

I'm also sending lots of love to anyone who might be finding things a little difficult at the moment. Please know that you are being thought of, and I hope the coming weeks bring you some comfort, warmth and happiness.

Now, I know it's only November, so I promise I haven't completely lost track of the calendar! 😂 But as this is our November/December message, I thought I'd get in early and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. After all, it's never too early to spread a little festive cheer!

May 2027 bring you all good health, happiness, laughter and plenty of lovely moments to look forward to.

Take care, keep warm and sending lots of love to you all.

Your Chair ❤️ 🎄

Club and Group News




We are now collecting
donations
for the
Hamper Raffle
and
Christmas Tombola
Please bring all donations into U3A
Many thanks
TOMBOLA


U3A
Christmas
Day Meal
Highbridge Community Hall
3 course Meal.
£20.00 per head
See Adele for more details

Members Contributions

Lunch Club Update

We had a wonderful time at Alex Thai in Bridgwater for October Lunch club. Adele.







A Little Poem

☔ The Weather, the Wise, and the Tea 🧉 🍰

The old folk sat by the window,
With a cuppa in each hand,
Discussing how the weather
Was the worst in all the land.
“It’s raining!” cried old Arthur.
“It’s always bloody wet!”
“It never rained like this,” said Maude,
“Not in the days I can remember yet!”
They’d seen the clouds on Monday,
The frost on Tuesday too,
By Wednesday they’d decided
The whole forecast was untrue!
“Don’t trust that weather man,” said Fred,
“He hasn’t got a clue!
He said we’d have a heatwave,
I’ve got cold feet and a nose of blue!”
They wrapped themselves in cardigans,
Though sunshine filled the sky,
And wouldn’t dream of going out
In case a storm blew by.
“We’ve always had our tea at three,
And cake at half past four.
We’re not changing our traditions

For a bit of wind and more!”
The drizzle turned to sunshine,
The sunshine turned to sleet,
But nothing could disturb them
From their armchairs and their treat.
A Victoria sponge was sliced,
The kettle gave a scream,
And someone said, “This weather
Is worse than it has ever been!”
Then suddenly the heavens opened,
The rain came down in sheets,
They tutted at the window
And reached for extra treats.
“Oh, bring another cuppa!
And cut that cake in two!
The weather may be dreadful
But there’s nowt that tea can’t do!”
So let the winds howl wildly,
Let the rain come pouring down,
The old folk will be cosy
While the rest of us all drown!
For come rain, snow, or sunshine,
One thing will always stay:
A cup of tea, a slice of cake,
And a good old moan each day! 🧉🍰

By Adele

Quiz (answers on page 21)

1	Which two horses are used in an Olympic male gymnastics event?
2	What price is Park Lane in a game of Monopoly?
3	Where does the Christie character Miss Marple live?
4	How old was Princess Elizabeth when she became Queen?
5	Name the group who had a 1974 Christmas number one with 'Lonely this Christmas'
6	What fish also becomes kippers, bloaters or whitebait?
7	What is a tarn?
8	What name was given to illegal premises which sold liquor during the American Prohibition?
9	What is the area of a circle of 20 inch diameter?
10	Name the liquid in which blood cells 'float'
11	What bird was depicted on the tail side of the farthing?
12	Who wrote down his thoughts in a little red book?
13	Name the TV series in which Geoffery Palmer played the dentist husband of Wendy Craig
14	Who commanded the Nazi Luftwaffe?
15	Where is Nelson buried?
16	Which city was once called Byzantium and Constantinople?
17	Which British Glam-Rock star died in a car crash in 1977?
18	Name the decorative container of water for christenings
19	Which is the largest island in the Balearics?
20	What is the official use of the Taj Mahal in Agra India: Temple, Parliament, School or Mausoleum?

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I live in Burnham and cover from Weston to Bridgwater and to Cheddar area. I have never received anything lower than a 5* review on Google.

Group Activities

Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1st, 3rd & 5th (excluding bank holidays)	2.00 to 4.00	Board Games	S.H.	Peter Manning Chris Murphy	07976 408843 07947 203046

Tuesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel

Wednesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning	C.H.	N/A	N/A
2nd	12.00 onward	Luncheons	Varies	Adele Stevens	07486 909687

Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Social Afternoon	C.H.	Janet Preddy Adele Stevens	07870 532257 07486 909687
Last	Varies	Classic Car Appreciation	Varies	Malcolm Manser	07932 734473

Group Activities

Friday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1st & 3rd	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th	10.00 onward	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
5th	10.00 onward	Somerset Churches	Varies	Keith Kick	07715 676047

Occasional

Weekdays	Activity	Contact	Tel

Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

Legend

S.H. …… Southwell House	C.A. ……. Coopers Arms
P.H. …… Private House	C.H. ……. Community Hall (Room Number)

Should you wish to join a Group please first contact its Leader.

Photographs from Tewkesbury Day Out

Thank you for the photos of the Tewkesbury Day Out on 24th September 2026 supplied by Nina Richards.








OUR LADY
QUEEN
OF PEACE
This statue, by Anthony Robinson, speaks of Mary
in her sorrow and triumph. Mary, who stood at
the foot of the Cross, knew the depth of sorrow.
Mary, whose Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,
can today teach us of grief transformed to joy –
of light after darkness.
The statue faces the site of the pre-Reformation
Lady Chapel, destroyed in 1540. It is placed here
through the generosity of
the Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey.
Who is he that stands perceiving
All the Holy Mother's grieving,
And does not his shame express?
Who could yet, her sadness sharing,
Seeing Mary so despairing
Fail to join in her distress?
(from the Latin hymn Stabat Mater)
Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to him thy prayer, alleluia!
(from the Latin hymn Regina Caeli)




YE74 YGX
VX71 HTJ


6


CROSS HOUSE
This substantial merchant's house is thought to stand on the site of the medieval Court House of the Lords of Tewkesbury. Built in the fifteenth century, initially two storey and at least two separate abodes. Probably the residence of Giles Geast an important Tudor philanthropist (the adjacent Tolsey Lane was once called Geast Lane.) The house was greatly altered in the Tudor and Stuart periods with the addition of a third storey and some especially fine internal panelling and staircases. In the 1860s Thomas Collins a local conservationist restored the building and removed the Georgian pargetting exposing again the timber frame.
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WE ACCEPT

Holiday in Devon

We had a lovely week down in Dawlish Warren in October. The weather was lovely and sunny all week.

We took a day out to Babbacombe and saw this lovely phone box filled with flowers 😊

Dawn Porter



Some light-hearted relief

If you are worried about security install six locks on your door. When you go out only lock three of them. No matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three of them!

You have to stay in shape. An aging relative of a friend of mine started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She is now 74 and they have no idea where she is.

A tip for parents: Never raise your hands to your kids - it leaves your groin unprotected!

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down by court reporters who had the torment of having to keep a straight face while these exchanges took place:-

Q: What is your date of birth?
A: July fifteenth.
Q: What year?
A: Every year.

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?
A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember.
Q: How long has he lived with you?
A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?
A: He said "Where am I, Cathy"?
Q: And why did that upset you?
A: My name is Susan.

Q: Officer when you stopped the Defendant, were your red and blue lights flashing?
A: Yes.
Q: What did she say?
A: What disco am I at?

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK. What school did you go to?
A: Oral.

“Lets separate the men from the boys”. “Yes sir, I’ll fetch the crowbar”.

The parrot had a bad attitude and worse vocabulary; every other word was an expletive.

The new owner tried hard to change its ways and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music anything to set a good example. Nothing worked. He yelled and it yelled back. He shook it and it just got ruder.

Desperate, he put the bird in the freezer. For a few moments it swarked and screamed. Suddenly there was quiet. Concerned, he opened the door.

The parrot calmly stepped out and said: “I believe I may have offended you. I will endeavour at once to correct my behaviour. I am truly sorry."

The owner was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change when the parrot continued warily: “May I ask what the chicken did?

Quiz Answers

1	Pommel and vault	2	£350
3	St Mary Mead	4	Twenty Five
5	Mud	6	Herring
7	Mountain lake	8	Speakeasys
9	314.2 square inches	10	Plasma
11	Wren	12	Chairman Mao Tse Tung
13	Butterflies	14	Herman Goering
15	St Paul's Cathedral	16	Istanbul
17	Marc Bolan	18	Font
19	Majorca	20	Mausoleum

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* **mobile 07974 706195 or 07931 641419 or email at: alycidon1@aol.com**

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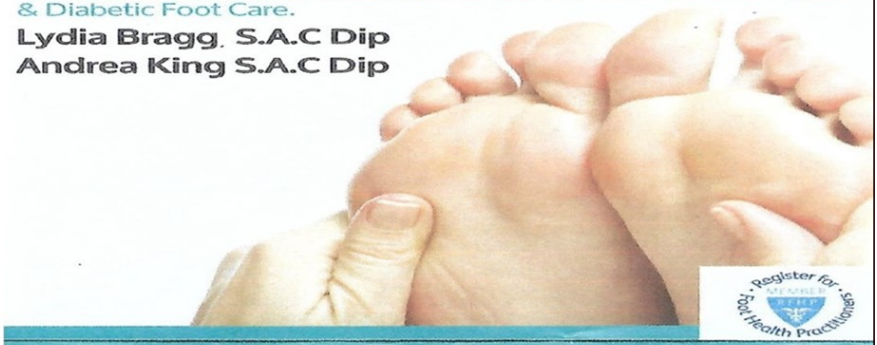
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Calendar

Date(s)	Details	Cost
	2026	
16th Dec	**Christmas Party & Hamper Raffle Highbridge Community Hall 10am to 12 noon. Doors open 9.30**	**Free to regulars / £5 for non-regulars**
25th Dec	**Christmas Day Meal Highbridge Community Hall**	**£20 per head**

u3a Of Highbridge learn, laugh, live

Cheques to cover payments for all "Away Days", Theatre trips and Holidays must be made payable to "U3A of Highbridge"

Please also add your name, address and phone number on the reverse of the cheque, this: -

a) helps to identify you on the passenger list, and

b) If a trip is cancelled you can be notified quickly.