

Of Highbridge  
**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



# **U3A of Highbridge Magazine**

Registered Charity No: 1184925

[Website: www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk](http://www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk)

Issue 130

May/June 2024

## Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Adele Stevens	07486 909687
Deputy Chairman	Allen Owen	01278 784500
Secretary	Janet Preddy	01278 783743
Treasurer	Carol Marriott	01278 795773
Membership Secretary	Neil Scott	07702 290471
Assistant Membership Secretary	John Ellis	01278 685483
Group & Events Co-ordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Committee Member	Diane Scott	07484 869011
Committee Member	Peter Manning	01278 780203
Committee Member	Audrey Downing	07467 029154

## Other non-committee roles

Webmaster	Darryl Knight-Rees	07751 565705
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Next Magazine Deadline:	<u>Sunday June 23rd 2024</u>

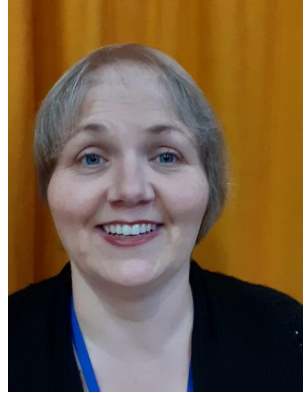
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Note: In accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, information relating to all of the U3A of Highbridge's members will be held on a computerised database and will be used solely for the U3A of Highbridge's business and communications.

## Chairman's Message

### Hi Everyone!

Firstly I'd like to say a warm welcome to all our New members, I hope you will enjoy our U3A as much as I do.



I can't quite believe that we are in May already. Fingers crossed for Warmer weather.

A huge huge THANK YOU to our Committee who keep Our U3A running smoothly! We have a Fantastic team of helpers who work hard behind the scenes to make it all happen.

There's a few you don't see working hard to bring our fab magazine and running the website so thanks to them also.

Bye for Now

Adele

## Club and Group News

### Days Out

Our next day out of the year will be to Poole on Monday 20th May. Cost £19.00 per person.



Our June trip is to Dewstow Gardens and Chepstow. This will be on Monday 17th June. Cost will be £27.00 per person which includes entry to gardens.



HIGHBRIDGE U3A  
FREE EVENT

# AFTERNOON TEA

## & LIVE MUSIC

### SUNDAY 7TH JULY

HIGHBRIDGE COMMUNITY  
HALL

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

3PM - 6.30PM

LET ADELE KNOW IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO COME  
ALONG...

@reallygreatsite

## Churches 27

The Anglican Church of St. George's was founded in the 13th century in the village of Wembdon. The current building dates from the 14th and 15th century but was largely rebuilt in 1868 after a large fire. Unfortunately the certificate for fire insurance had expired, so had to be rebuilt with significant local aid.

The church was granted by William Testard, lord of Wembdon Manor to St. John's Hospital Bridgwater in 1284.

Wembdon is first mentioned in the Domesday Book, although there is considerable evidence of Roman and Saxon habitation. Before the fire of 1867 the building was originally rendered in white plaster as were many churches in the area (see Stogursey). The tower survives today complete; the rest of the building was heavily altered in its restoration minus the white plaster.

St. Mary's Church Cannington - the village itself sits astride Cannington Brook, a tributary of the River Parret. The manor of Cannington was held by the crown at the time of King Alfred the Great, and it was still a royal manor at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. We know there was a church in Cannington at the time of the Domesday Book. We know almost nothing of the Saxon church, but we do know that in 1138 the church was given by Robert de Curci of Stogursey as part of his endowment of Cannington Priory.

The oldest part of the present church is the west tower, built in the 14th century. It contains 6 bells - the earliest two were cast by George Purdue of Taunton in 1619. The third cast in 1766 by Thomas Bayley of Bridgwater. The other three were cast in 1893 by Llewellyns and James of Bristol. The last restoration of the bells took place in 1900, by Taylor and Co, of Loughborough.

During the church restoration it was done in the Perpendicular Gothic style. Perhaps the best historical highlight is the wagon roof decorated with original medieval carved and painted bosses. There are 131 bosses in the nave and chancel combined.

At the base of the pulpit steps is the grave of the Child of Cannington, the "child" was apparently a young woman thought to be a princess or perhaps an early Christian saint. In 1975 the child was reinterred in the church and a wooden statue carved by a local sculptor; she was thought to be about 16 years of age when she died.

Over the South door is a gilded and painted royal coat of arms to King Charles 2nd. On the wall is a plaque commemorating the Officers and Men of the 535th Anti-aircraft Battalion of the US Army who were stationed at Cannington prior to the D-Day landings at Utah Beach in Normandy.

St. Mary's is a beautiful historical building full of interest, well worth a visit.

Stogursey is a picturesque village on the fringe of the Quantock Hills. The village really began to develop after the Norman Conquest, and several decades after the coming of the Normans, the church of St. Andrew was built; it was certainly in existence before 1100AD. In the first few years of the 12th century the church was given by William de Falaise to the Priory at Lonlay in Normandy. The Norman priory sent monks to Somerset and by 1120 a small monastic community had been established. The Priory shared the use of the church with the villagers; it became known as Stoke Courci Priory after William de Courci. Over time the Somerset dialect changed Stoke Courci to Stogursey. Nothing remains of it today it suffered at the hands of King Henry V who in 1414 seized all alien priories. The priory was dissolved

around 1440 and it became a parish church.

It was further altered in the 15th century and the nave was extensively restored in 1824. At floor level in the South arch is a Sanctuary Ring installed in the 13th century. In medieval England criminals could find a Place of Refuge in a church for up to forty days and then admit their crime or stand trial. If they admitted their felony they would forfeit their possessions and go into exile. The sanctuary ring was installed in 1243 after a murderer John de Rechich was granted sanctuary and then absconded before his trial which meant that the priory was liable for his fine.

St. Andrew's is a delightful church full of historical interest.

Bernie.....



Keith giving a potted history of Cannington





Lunch following the three church visits



Keith reflecting, or just resting



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## Monthly Draw

9th March 2024	No. 43	Stan Vousden-White
6th April 2024	No. 33	Hugh Griffith

**Winners each received £20.00**

**IN NEED OF  
ADMIN  
SUPPORT?**

Typing correspondence, completing forms, organising appointments, general filing, proofreading, cross-checking information.

**Phone Elaine  
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## Group Activities

### Monday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> (excluding bank holidays)	2.00 to 4.00	Board Games	S.H.	Pete Manning  Chris Murphy	07976 408843  07947 203046
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> (excluding bank holidays)	2.00 to 3.30	Kurling	C.H.	Pete Manning  Lynne Hembrow	07976 408843  07562 919566

### Tuesday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
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### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Table Tennis	C.H.	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	07467 029154
Last		Classic Car Appreciation		Malcolm Manser	07932 734423

## Group Activities

### Friday

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	238526
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 onwards	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	238526
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 onwards	Somerset Churches	Varies	Bernard Martin	787230

### Occasional

Weekdays	Activity	Contact	Tel
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen Diane Scott	784500 07484 869011
Varies	Walking	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	256895 or 07467 029154

Changes since last issue are highlighted in yellow.

### Legends

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

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





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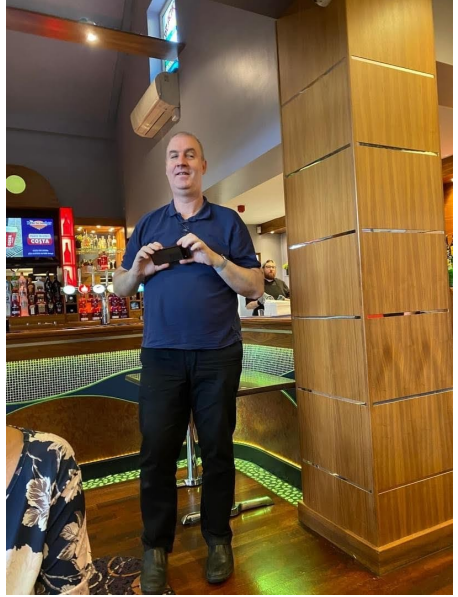
**Burnham-on-Sea 01278 788632**

## U3A of Highbridge Annual Lunch 18th April 2024 at The Beachcomber

This year's Annual Lunch was back at The Beachcomber in Brea for the first time since March 2020.

Thanks go to the organisers for a lovely meal and to Pete Manning for the first 5 of the photos.









### **Wednesday Club Outing to Mei's**

On the 13 March there was no u3a coffee morning as the Community Hall was being used for the annual Festival of Arts, so Denise had a brainwave and organised a bus trip to Taunton with a buffet lunch at Mei's.

We arranged to catch the 10.15 bus from Burnham, collecting members as we went along – ie Highbridge and West Huntspill.

We all went upstairs on the bus and the ones who got on in Burnham were the lucky ones who got the front seats! It could be described as being like a school outing, except maybe a slight discrepancy in age.

As we went along we realised a few members were missing and discovered that Paul had caught an earlier bus, Chris and Peter caught a later one and Anton and Sue had driven to Taunton but, as with all good u3a outings, we all met up in good time for our delicious Chinese buffet lunch.

Thank you Denise and here's to the next one!



## Strolling in Early Spring 2024

First day of March and I was unable to join the group. The man on TV said it is metrological Spring, someone should tell the weather! I learnt there was a short stroll around Mark with a visit to the church where a mosaic done by local children was displayed. They also found a dramatic mural of starling murmuration along a wall in the village.

Both photos by Audrey.







The stroll at Winscombe along the Strawberry line to Sandford on Friday 8th March was recorded by Audrey who took a group photo of the trip.



Last week was the postponed churches visits so on Friday the 19th April (is the month really half gone!) at long last, I managed to join the strollers for a bracing walk. There was a stiff breeze blasting up from the west, along the Cut or Huntspill River as it is now called. We started from

Withy Grove this time, by way of a change. I gave in after a short distance but the stalwart six kept going nearly to Woolavington Level when they were thwarted



by a very muddy patch. We had hoped to get a hot drink at Country Bumpkins Bistro but they were closed so we returned to Sopha, for sustenance.

Paula.

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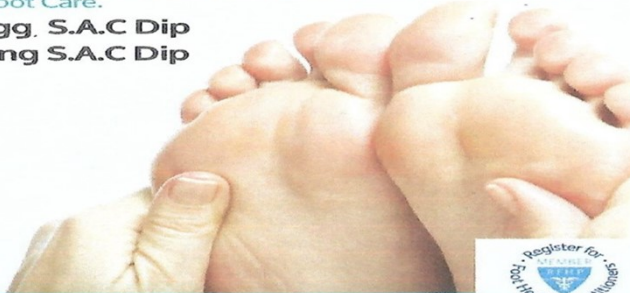
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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2024		
May 8th @ 10.30am	U3A of Highbridge AGM Highbridge Community Hall	NA
May 20th	Day Out to Poole	£19
June 17th	Dewstow Gardens & Chepstow	£27
July 7th @ 3pm—6.30pm	Afternoon Tea & Live Music Highbridge Community Hall	Free



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

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.