

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 133

Nov/Dec 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 Coordinator	Denise Godby	01278 238526
Committee Member	Diane Scott	07484 869011
Committee Member	Peter Manning	01278 780203
Committee Member	Audrey Downing	07467 029154
Committee Member	Clive Haines	07711 834625
Committee Member	Paul Parkin	07563 164620

## Other non-committee roles

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Welfare and Greeting New Members	Fay Burston Pearl Price	01278 782529 01278 793954

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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

### Blessings to you all this Holiday Season

**Well I can't believe we are almost at the end of the year.**

It's been a fun filled year. Lots of great events, days out, lunches and more.

Thank you all so so much for supporting not only myself but also the U3A.

A personal thank you to all the Committee and helpers for everything they do to help myself and the smooth running of our wonderful U3A here at Highbridge.

Looking forward to 2025.

I will leave you with this:

I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pyjamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first - it wet the bed!

Adele



## Club and Group News

Huge thanks to everyone who came along and supported or helped at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

A huge success as always.



At our Coffee Morning, you helped raise an incredible

**£750.00**

Every cake and every cuppa means that Macmillan are able to help more people with cancer live life as fully as they can.



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# HAMPER RAFFLE & CHRISTMAS PARTY

**WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER**

*10am - 1pm*

*£4.00 each (towards food & fun)*

## OPEN DAY

*Highbridge Community Hall  
November 13th 10-12pm*

**u3a** of Highbridge

EVERYONE WELCOME

**'Come along and see  
what we are all about**

# **Members Contributions**

## **Churches 29**

### **Cheddar**

The Church of St. Andrew's in Cheddar dates from the 14th century has been designated a Grade 1 listed building and probably the fourth church to be built on the site of an early Roman settlement. The earliest reference to a church in Cheddar is made in the will of King Alfred (901AD) who left money to the religious families or monastic community in Cheddar. The church was restored in 1873 by William Butterfield. It contains some 15th century stained glass and an altar table of 1631. The chest tomb in the chancel is believed to be to Sir Thomas de Cheddar a wealthy Bristol merchant and is dated 1442. On the floor is a brass plate of his widow Lady Isabel de Cheddar (d1476) dressed in wimple and widow's weeds.

The tower of the church rises to 100 feet and dates from around 1423 and contains eight bells; the tenor which dates from 1759 was cast by Thomas Bilbie of the Bilbie family, bell founders and clockmakers based in Chew Stoke Somerset and later at Collumpton Devon.

### **Draycott**

St. Peter's Church in Draycott is a Grade 2 listed building, designed by Charles Edmund Giles, and consecrated in 1861. The church is a simple Early English revival style; it was built of stone known as "Draycott Marble" quarried nearby. The church holds a notable font by the celebrated Victorian architect William Burges. It is uncertain how the font came to St. Peter's; its size suggests that the original intended site was the church of St. James in Winscombe. In 2006 the church controversially attempted to sell the font to a private collector for £110,000. The vicar at the time said the sale was essential to meet

a repair and restoration bill of £170,000. Permission was refused in 2009 by the Church of England's highest court.

### Rodney Stoke

St. Leonard's is a Grade 1 small medieval church situated at the western end of the village. The church was first built in the 12th century and has been added to over the centuries. It has many visitors throughout the year, some of whom come from overseas. The church has some remarkable features inside, most notably are the four monuments to the Rodney family in the chapel built in the 15th century. The pews in the nave have beautiful bench ends originally carved by the villagers. One of the stained glass windows, which has been recently restored, commemorates the safe return of the men and women who took part in the First World War and is known as the Thanksgiving Window.

Rodney Stoke is recorded in the Domesday Book as Stoches, and in 1291 as Stokgifford after the Giffard or Gifard Family who were lords of the manor. The Giffards were Saxon nobility at the time of Edward the Confessor with Walter Giffard appointed the Earl of Buckingham.

Bernie.....


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## A Christmas Poem

*Christmas seems so far away with Halloween not yet here,  
and Guy Fawkes night, a month away, will soon feel very near!  
Autumn's arrived, the clocks fell back what, under a week ago?  
(and before we know where we are, we'll probably see some snow)*

*This magazine, our last this year, is now our Christmas edition.  
So, it's on this theme and keeping with tradition  
some memories of a childhood time, so different from yesteryear  
so read, enjoy, while I wish you all good cheer!*

....and so this is Christmas!!

(the spirit of Christmas Past)

Remember when, a Christmas time from many years gone by,  
when bells would ring, children sing as snow fell from the sky?  
Then it was a time of fun, with joy and peace, and oh so happy days!  
Those memories of a Christmas past will stay with us always!

With family close and friends so near, a time for all to share,  
as we welcomed all around us "Come join our Christmas fayre",  
to light our tree, toast the day bringing cheer to one and all,  
with gifts and cards that meant so much, with words you could recall.

On Christmas Eve as kids we slept in dreams of Santa's sleigh,  
we'd stay awake till midnight gone to see him come our way.  
As frost appeared like spiders webs across each window pane,  
we snuggled down, fingers crossed 'till sleep caressed our brain.

We woke at dawn on Christmas Day, our stockings on the bed,  
filled with toys, books and games and soldiers made of lead.  
Snakes and ladders, Meccano sets, dolls and clockwork trains,  
and plastic kits you build yourself of cars and boats and planes.

Carried on the frosty air, the sound of church bells peal,  
 with Mum already hard at work, preparing our Christmas meal.  
 Dad is on his hands and knees, the coal fire will not light,  
 real winters here! as all outside has turned a snowy white.

Those days long gone are memories now, which lie deep inside our  
 heart.

Traditions gone, the Christmas path from which we now depart.  
 Kids seem older, while we get younger, are we so out of touch?  
 What has happened since those days when Christmas meant so much?

Christmas comes but once a year, but now it starts too soon!  
 Shops with Christmas wrappings on sale from early June!  
 Santa's Grotto's everywhere with November just begun,  
 and every store is full of gifts, each not to be outdone!

Late night shopping everywhere, for gifts lest we forget,  
 and to keep us warm, the vendors sell their chestnuts roasting hot!  
 In the streets the kids they see, Father Christmas having fun,  
 he smiles and waves, they seem confused....for there's *another* one!

Carol singers have changed their tune, today they lack panache,  
 A line or two from "Silent Night" and then they want their cash!  
 No longer hear harmonious voice to sing outside our door,  
 as now it's just a group of kids who treat it as a chore.

No sixpence in the Christmas pud (complaints to Mrs. Peek!)  
 and the rising cost of brandy, makes the butter turn out weak.  
 "Fresh" turkeys resting all year round, lie naked in the freezer,  
 "It's Christmas time" so what the heck, let's get it on our Visa!

Boxed mince pies that lack real taste, "*No thank you Mr. Kipling!*"  
 Nuts no longer in their shells, now sold in airtight packing.  
 Tangerines are up for sale dressed in a red string vest,

and dates pre-packed (less their stones) makes them easier to digest!

No needles on the carpet floor, as now its litter free,  
for it's off to Tesco's superstore for a bargain plastic tree!  
The snow upon the window, is sprayed on with a can,  
and because it's ozone friendly, it's unaffected by the ban!

The holly bears no berry, along with mistletoe,  
no longer gathered locally, forget the wild hedgerow,  
in local shops you'll find it now, "going for a song"  
as stamped upon each plastic leaf, it's now "*Made in Hong Kong*"

Let's not forget the crackers! the prize?... a plastic frog!  
and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a chocolate log.  
Decorations adorn the lounge, some ten years old or more,  
including the one that jingles, each time you shut the door.

Weeks ago we wrote our lists of presents to receive,  
wondering if we'll get them all...Hey!... let's not be so naive!  
But every gift will come with love, the thought we know is there,  
whether aftershave, Dior perfume or something new to wear.

The television message is that Christmas will soon be here!  
While advertising everything from toys to cans of beer.  
Repeating shows and films we missed, first shown to us spring,  
while in between nostalgia, we get a message from our King!

At midnight mass the church is bare, the vicar feels the snub,  
his congregation's missing, (they've all gone down the pub)  
He bows his head, kneels in prayer and wonders what's gone wrong,  
and prays that come tomorrow, they'll be back for evening song.

Christmas cards which meant so much were sent to those with love,  
showing Christmas trees, We Three Kings, and angels from above!  
Today they are so paper thin, selling six for the price of five,

but at least we get to know that our neighbours are still alive!

On Christmas Day beneath the tree, our presents waiting there,  
 brightly wrapped in various shapes and some are even square!  
 Shirts too small, socks too loud the nightdress much too pale,  
 so Boxing Day we'll join the queue and change them in the sale!

Bubble and squeak with turkey, once a treat on Boxing day,  
 but as the shops are open, we'll grab a pizza on the way!  
 At M&S the Easter eggs, already on display,  
 they are selling fast, they'll soon be gone - let's buy a few today!

But all too soon it's over with the holiday just begun,  
 and now we're swamped with adverts for holidays in the sun!  
 January sales now six months old, offer bargains by the score!  
 Let's purchase next years presents and keep them in a drawer!

No jingle bells, no sleigh ride fun and fairylands no more,  
 as we ask ourselves each Christmas time "What is it all still for?"  
 True meaning of our Christmas time lies forgotten, lost in time,  
 as we treat it now with less respect than the seasons pantomime!

Let's not forget the children, for them the magic's there!  
 It's *us* that see right through it, but then maybe we don't care!  
 But Christmas time is a time for love, happiness and fun!  
 So let us make the best of it..... "Merry Christmas everyone!!"

Barry



## The Tall and Short of it

Sheila and Elliott trying to decide who's the tallest.



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## Monthly Draw

21 <sup>st</sup> September 2024	No. 56	Helga Hand and Ray Tilley
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	No. 25	Gilian Cottey

Winners each received £20.00



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# Group Activities

## Monday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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

## Tuesday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
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## Wednesday

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

## Thursday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Every	2.00 to 4.00	Table Tennis	C.H.	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	07467 029154
Last	Varies	Classic Car Appreciation	Varies	Malcolm Manser	07932 734473

## Group Activities

### Friday

<u>Week</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Tel</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30 to 3.00	Skittles	C.A.	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 onward	Strollers	Varies	Self-Regulating	01278 238526
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 onward	Somerset Churches	Varies	Bernard Martin	01278 787230

### Occasional

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Varies	Holidays	Christine Owen	01278 784500
		Diane Scott	07484 869011
Varies	Walking	Audrey Downing Rod Downing	01278 256895 or 07467 029154

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.**

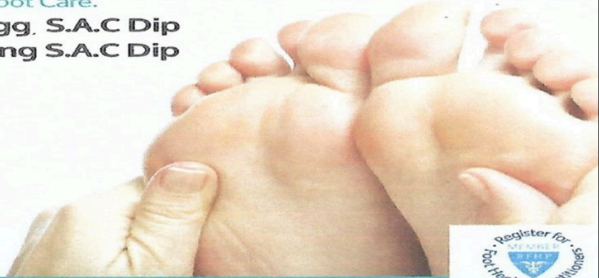
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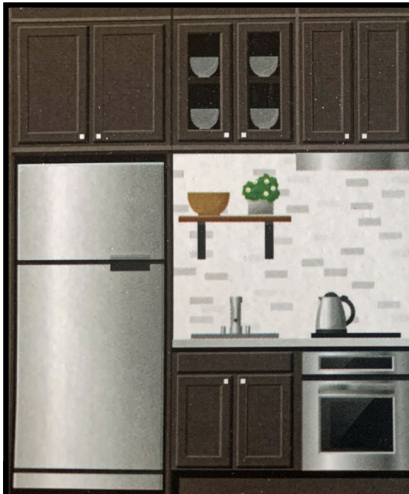


Contact Lydia on

**07720 383 994**

Contact Andrea on

**07729 497 377**



## *Glennys Appliance Repair*

**Jon Glenn**  
Appliance Engineer

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and surrounding areas

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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.**

## Quiz (answers on page 26)

<b>1</b>	<b>What city is home to the statue Manneke Pis?</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Which school did Billy Bunter attend?</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Name the family in the film The Sound of Music?</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Who created Inspector Morse?</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>What does a BACS System transfer?</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Which part of the body is affected by Impetigo?</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Which scandal was uncovered by journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein?</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Between 1946 and 1957 Jackie Milburn scored goals for: Arsenal or Manchester United or Newcastle or Leeds United?</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Which Royal residence was severely damaged by fire in November 1992?</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Which international rugby team are nicknamed The Pumas?</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>What is the date of Burns Night?</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>What is the capital of Portugal?</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Which sport recently replaced linesmen with referees assistants?</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Who fell in love with 'Little White Dove'?</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>What is highest possible darts score from three different trebles?</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Which drug was discovered in 1928 by Professor Alexander Fleming?</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>In which year did England and Scotland begin a united Parliament?</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Who played the lonely bachelor in the film The Apartment?</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>With which song did Sandie Shaw win the 1967 Eurovision song contest?</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>What type of creature is a grouper?</b>

## The Classic Car Club . . . . (jolly boy's outing!)

Question: How long does it take eight classic car club members, to arrange a day out at the Haynes classic car museum near Yeovil?

(No, this is definitely *not* a joke!)

Answer: . . . in *our* case, just over four years!

Now, had we been women, (I've since been reliably informed) then this would have been reduced by *at least* three and a half years, maybe more! . . . but hey, I digress!

I arrived at my pick up point ten minutes early, for I was **RELIANT** on Maurice arriving on time. Sitting in the back of his car for the 75 minute journey, and me not having to drive for a change, I felt that I was living the 'life of **RILEY**'

*As I was in a strange car, I couldn't work out how to fasten the seat belt . . . . but then suddenly it clicked!*

During the drive down to Sparkford, I mulled over the fact, that it would be quite easy to make a small fortune in this classic car hobby, you just need to start with a *large* fortune! Sadly I am not in a position that I can af**FORD** one at the moment.

We arrived at the museum without incident, catching up with the other three members of our club who came in a separate vehicle.

Following us into the reception area, another visitor had decided to bring their dog with them. It was huge, almost as big as a cheetah or **JAGUAR**. it's owners were informed that dogs were definitely not allowed in the exhibition, so, **ROVER** was then taken back outside.

While waiting in the queue to pay our entry fee, one of the male staff, who just happened to be passing by, was heard to say "**COR, TINA** is

looking very attractive this morning!” nodding to the receptionist. She in turn smiled and replied “**ALF A ROMEO** if *ever* I saw one!”

Prior to going into the museum, we decided to have a coffee first in the cafe. Suddenly, our conversation was interrupted by shouting coming from the table behind us. There was a family there, including a young girl about ten years old. The father, to hide his embarrassment, looked over to our table and apologised for his daughter’s outburst saying, “It’s our Jenni**FER RAR**ing to get into the museum she is!” He introduced himself, my name’s Morris, “**MORRIS MINOR**” he said. He saw the grins on our faces. “Yea, I know, I know” he responded “I’ve only got my parents to blame for the name”

*While having our coffee, Geoff asked us why it cost so much these days to put air in our tyres, I replied that it was all due to inflation!*

John was keen to visit the gift shop. I could see a lot of model cars for sale in the window, and knowing that he is an avid collector of such items, I understood his eagerness to get in there. “We don’t have time to fri**VOL VO**iced Anton, “Maybe we can call in there on our way out” he suggested.

As we got up from the table, Annette, another receptionist, pointed out the entrance into the museum.

We heard background music being played, as we passed through the double doors into the museum area. The first song we heard was called ‘*Car Wash*’ (which was very apt I thought) but it was Malcolm who reminded us all, that it was a big hit for **ROLLS ROYCE** back in 1976.

“I can’t believe that this is what I’ve just paid £20 to see?!”

The exhibition itself was stunning. There were some very **SMART CARs** housed there, well over 300 in fact. In the ‘*Red Room*’ (where all the cars

are red sports models) and with the **SUN BEAM**ing in through the windows, it really enhanced the various shades of red.

“**DAT SUN** is certainly making a difference to the colours”, I overheard someone say. Most of the sports cars in there, I noticed, had room for two people in the front, but no back **SEAT**

In the American room next door, where all the vehicles appeared to be twice the size of those from the UK, we had to **DODGE** around all the extras that adorned each one. Massive chrome plated bumpers, huge wing mirrors and door handles etc. Many of the cars in this room had, at one time or another, been owned by well known people. Abraham **LINCOLN** was one. Another, which took my eye, was once owned by the American actor **MORGAN** Freeman, I was very excited when I read that another had originally been owned by Elvis, but no! “Don’t be **DAF**” said Anton, “It’s an **ALVIS**, nothing to do with Elvis” (it went through my mind at that moment, that maybe I should have stopped off at Specsavers on the way here!)

One such car from America (I don’t recall the name of it) was originally built in a town called Me**SA** **AB**out ten miles from Phoenix. Also, in the same room, another had a huge bonnet ornament, standing maybe ten inches high, it was a Gryp**HON DA**ngerously high! **ACCORD**ing to the latest H&S rules I doubt whether this would be allowed today.

There were a lot of ‘special’ models on display, but the majority of vehicles were **STANDARD** - **TEN** different versions of the classic Mini though!

One car of note, had once been used in a TV series which was originally shown on **ANGLIA** television, the name of the series escapes me though!

Another, had been completely restored after it was discovered lying at the bottom of the river Thames, close to **VAUXHALL** Bridge.



On one of the very early vintage models on display, there was a sepia toned photograph of Jane **AUSTIN** sitting in the very same car, the description and history informed us that she had once owned the vehicle.

“Talking of vintage models!”

Halfway round the exhibition we decided to visit the ‘Gents’. I asked a couple of ‘hippies’ whom we had bumped into earlier, if they knew where it was?

“Yea man, thanks man” one of them replied “No! do you know where the gents loos are?” I repeated, because I didn’t think he understood me the first time.”Yea man, real cool man, its just up that **HILL MAN**’ he replied, rather **IMP**ishly, pointing to the gentle carpeted slope up towards the conveniences. (his face reminded me of the actor who had starred in the TV series called The **AVENGER**’s)

An empty space had been made available in the corner of one of the showrooms, to make room for a couple of old classics from Singa**PORE** **SCH**Euled to arrive the following week.

All too soon, our time there was up. Each of us felt that we had gained something from our visit. The cars of ‘yesteryear’ brought back so many memories. Their shapes and styles being so different to those which we see on our roads today. Designers nowadays, rely heavily on e-com**MERCE DES**ign web sites, to ‘come up’ with the ultimate shape.

Suddenly, and without prior warning, Maurice, with his camera slung around his neck, pr**OPEL**led us all towards the picture windows which overlooked the extensive lawns at the front of the building. There, we saw a photo shoot taking place in the afternoon sunshine. Three scantily dressed young ladies in biki**NIS SAN**dwiched between a couple of classic cars. Their shapes were amazing, so beautifully rounded (I am of course,

talking about the cars! !) although, I do have to say, that I did find it a strange coincidence when both John and Malcolm took this opportunity to clean the lenses on their spectacles! (OK, I'll own up, I cleaned mine as well, but unlike the others, I *fully* intended to do mine a half an hour *before* this happened!!)

Also gazing out of the window just beside me, I thought I recognised a face from the past. A chap called Martin that I used to know at Birmingham University, where we both attended. I tapped him on the shoulder and said “Hiya, it’s me, Barry, do you remember me from our time at the University of **ASTON MARTIN?**”

As we were leaving the car park to head home, Annet **TE SLA**mmed on the brakes of her car, (for she was also leaving) to avoid Rover, who had somehow slipped his lead, and was loose in the car park, while waiting for his master to return.

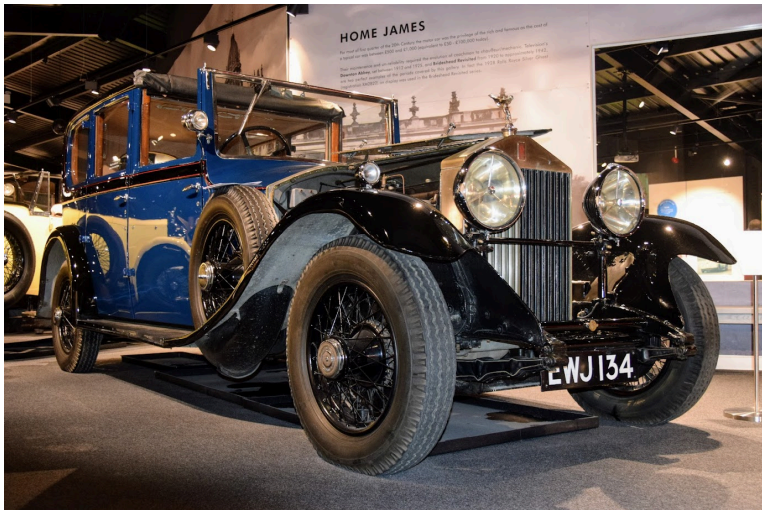
It was a great day out, we all commented on the fact it was a **TRIUMPH**ant visit for all of us.

(Thank you to Maurice for taking the photographs that follow)

Barry









**Carry On .... Strolling** 😊



**Bridge over the River Brue, East Huntspill in the September sunshine**



**A lovely walk around Cheddar Reservoir in October and the sun is still shining on the Strolling Group!**

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## Quiz Answers

1	Brussels	2	Greyfriars
3	Von Trapp	4	Colin Dexter
5	Money	6	Skin
7	Watergate	8	Newcastle
9	Windsor Castle	10	Argentina
11	25 <sup>th</sup> January	12	Lisbon
13	Soccer	14	Running Bear
15	171	16	Penicillin
17	1707	18	Jack Lemmon
19	Puppet on a string	20	Fish

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 domestic clean

Mandy Cavill

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Daily, weekly, monthly or one-off cleans. Contact Mandy for details and a quote.

## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>2024</b>		
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> 10am - noon	U3A of Highbridge Open Day Highbridge Community Hall	N/A
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup>	Tinsel & Turkey Holiday in Torquay	£289 + single supplement
Dec 18th 10am - 1pm	Hamper Raffle & Christmas Party Highbridge Community Hall	£4.00



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.