

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 134

Jan/Feb 2025

## Your Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Adele Stevens	07486 909687
Deputy Chairman	Allen Owen	01278 784500
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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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Next Magazine Deadline:	<b><u>Sunday February 23rd 2025</u></b>

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## Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

I'm looking forward to a fun filled 2025.

We have lots planned. Please come along and support us.



Bring along your friends to join our friendly U3A.

Bye for now

Adele



# Club and Group News

## Christmas Party 2024

Fantastic Christmas Party.

Thank you all so much for coming along and supporting.

We had a fun filled day.

The Hamper Raffle Raised over £270.

Many Thanks

Adele









## **Lunch Group Christmas Lunch at The Windmill**

70 of us had a wonderful Christmas lunch club in December.

The food was fantastic.

Everyone had a great time.

Thanks everyone for coming along.

Adele



## Churches 30

### St. Michael and All Angels, Puriton

The present church can be traced back to the 13th century but there has been a church on the site since the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) and twenty years after the Norman Conquest Puriton church belonged to Eadgyth, the Confessor's Queen, it was given away by King William the Conquer to St. Peter's in Rome.

Puriton is stated to have been the only Church and Manor which William bestowed as a thanks offering to the Pope for his blessing on his enterprise. Puriton lapsed from the possession of St. Peter's after the death of Pope Gregory V11 on May 25<sup>th</sup> 1085. It is thought by some that the village was a place of worship in Roman times, as a number of Roman buildings have been found nearby when the village was a port on the River Parrett.

The Polden Ridge which leads inland from the village is said to have been part of the pilgrim route to Glastonbury for pilgrims from Devon, Cornwall and Wales.

### The Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Woolavington

The church of St. Mary in Woolavington has 11th century origins. There may have been a church on the site prior to the Norman Conquest, but the present building could have been started around 1154 by Maud and Philip Columber, the Lords of the Manor at that time, no one is quite sure, but the building by its architecture must have been there before 1200.

Except for the parapets on the tower, by the end of the 15th century the outside of the church (except the north side) would seem very much as it does today, despite the revolutionary changes of the Reformation which saw a much plainer interior.

In 1791 John Collinson toured Somerset and wrote a description of the villages he passed through; this included a description of our church. "The



church is a neat well built Gothic edifice consisting of a nave, chancel, vestry room, a small aisle, porch and belfry, at the west end is a handsome square tower with pinnacles".

The tower has a fine peal of eight bells the earliest dated from 1400. The church was fully restored in 1872 when the box style pews were removed and conventional pews substituted.

Bernie.....

### **Why I do not like Fireworks**

I was 9 years old when the second world war started.

I lived in a cottage next to my village school with my two older sisters, my brother, my mother and my father, who joined the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) having served in the first world war in the trenches of France.

We lived in a small village 30 miles from London, so when the Germans had any bombs left after flying over London, they would release them over surrounding villages before flying home.

I would sleep under our strong kitchen table with my mother and my little dog, Peggy. My father was out on duty one night and the bombing was very bad. I was trying to sleep when I heard an almighty whistle and bang, then the house came down on top of us.

A bomb had fallen on the village school a few yards from us. We were all very lucky to escape. I crawled out with Peggy in my arms, we were both shaken and covered in soot from the fire and jam out of the cupboard.

We had to live through nights of hearing the whistles of bombs falling. That is why when I hear the whistle of fireworks, after all these years, it makes me very nervous.

*Daphne Lyon*



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## Monthly Draw

16 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	No. 41	Denise Wise
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	No. 3	Neil Scott & Stella Ashton

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

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.**



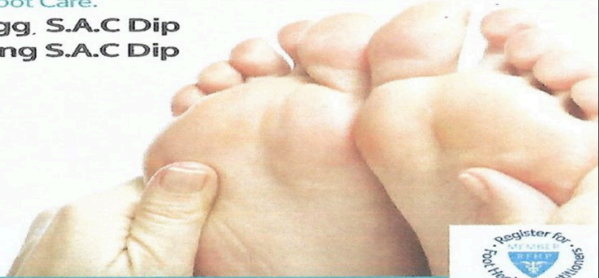
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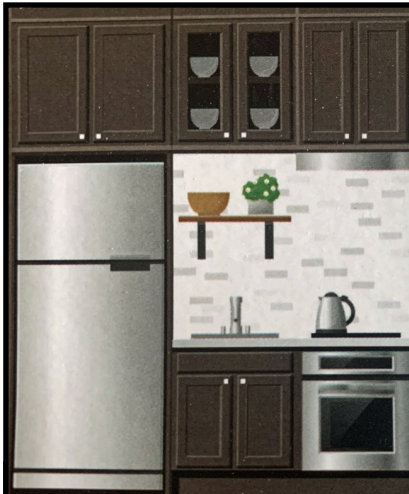


Contact Lydia on

**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 22)

<b>1</b>	<b>Which was the first of the Carry On films?</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Which flower is named after the French for lion's tooth?</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>What sport takes place in a velodrome?</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>What is mal de mer?</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>What is a natatorium?</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Name the Parisienne district famous for Sacre Coeur and artists</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>What name is given to the soft tissue in bones?</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Whose third wife was Calpurnia?</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>What is the most common two letter ending for English adverbs?</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>In mythology which creature was half lion, half eagle?</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Which great Australian soprano retired in 1990?</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Who was the usual script writing partner of Ian La Frenais?</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Which was the first British National Park?</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Who won the best actress Oscar in 1945 in Gaslight?</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Which war took place between 1950 and 1953?</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Name James Dean's last film</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>For how long is a French President elected?</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>What was the first hit record for the Beatles?</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>What does 'chop suey' literally mean?</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>What are the ridges or bars on a guitar called?</b>

## CV

No!! ....do not be alarmed committee members!, the following is *not* my Curriculum Vitae, I am not after anyone's job here! *This CV*, refers to the Corona Virus pandemic from a couple of years back.

I'm sure that we all remember and indeed, will never forget that time, it was a strange experience for all of us! Everyone will have their own stories of course, some good and some bad, your own personal memories. I recall during the lock downs, having to stand 6 feet away from everyone, wherever I went, which meant that every morning on my walk, I had to cross to the other side of the road, if I saw someone approaching me on the same side that I was on!

Queuing up outside supermarkets, waiting for someone to leave before *you* were allowed in. I recall Boris standing at the podium and telling us that all we needed to visit our favourite supermarket, was to wear masks and gloves! But he lied to us, for when *I* got there, everyone else had clothes on!

Some companies made a fortune out of the Corona Virus. Those that manufactured sanitising gel, were constantly rubbing their hands together.

I recall visiting Asda at the height of the pandemic, I asked, through my mask, to a lady in green near the checkout tills, "What kills the corona virus on work surfaces?" She replied "Amonia cleaner" I said, "Oh, I'm terribly sorry love, I thought you worked here!"

I remember, while being out of the house, trying to suppress every cough and sneeze, otherwise people would just glare at you and mumble something which was totally unintelligible behind their face mask, but their overall demeanor told you everything.

It was during one of the lock downs, that I said to myself, "I'm giving

up drinking for a month!" . . . (whoops, a punctuation error!!) . . .  
 "I'm giving up! Drinking for a month!"

It was also during this time, that I added the following to my ongoing series of "song stories".

### A Tribute to David Bowie

(in 16 songs)

Today, '**As The World Falls Down**' around us due to the Corona virus, there will have to be '**Changes**' made once we eventually come out on the other side of it. On that day, then I'm sure we will all be '**Dancing In The Street**' and we will no longer be living "**Under Pressure**"

There have been many theories about the origins of this virus, some people say it came from a '**Starman**' returning from space, but we all know that there is no '**Life On Mars**' so I feel that this idea is a bit of a '**Space Oddity**' don't you think?

'**Jean Genie**' called me and asked me where I thought it originated. "Hey man, did it come from '**Across The Universe**' she asked. 'No' I replied, "I believe it came from '**China, Girl**'.

While living through this 'lock-down' we have to look forward to a brighter future beyond, '**A Perfect Day**' would be the day when we get the '**all clear**' message. Until then the '**Heroes**' of the day, have to be all those front line workers. The nurses working in the NHS, ('**Oh You Pretty Things**') and the Doctors ('**The Young Dudes**') we all owe them so much!

From '**Ashes to Ashes**' we will survive this epidemic, and hopefully, mankind can then look forward to '**A Better Future**' for each and every one of us.

Barry

## The Strollers

I expect some of you may be wondering what the story is behind the certificate, which has recently appeared on our notice board.

It's in relation to our 'Strollers' group, which has around a dozen members, and who meet up regularly every Friday morning, just to stroll, stop for a coffee and have the occasional lunch together, and who have now contributed towards the replacement of the 'grab rail' leading to the belfry at the church in West Huntspill.



This currently consists of a flimsy rope which the bell ringers have to grab onto, in order to climb the 97 steps up the circular stone staircase, to gain access to the bells ropes. These campanologists are intent .. "*in tent*" .. CAMPanologists??? .. oh, never mind!! . . . . intent on making their life easier and so much safer.



Because the rope is attached to the central pillar, it draws, whoever is walking up or down, towards to narrowest part of the steps, so the idea is to replace this rope with a fixed metal handrail onto the wall opposite the central column, making it far safer for them, as they will then be walking on the widest part of each step. To have to walk up and down these steps every week, must surely be a towering experience for them!

The initial hand rail cost very little to install, money for old rope I heard you say!

The cost of supplying and fitting a fixed handrail is in the order of £5,000. "*The Friends of St. Peter & All Hallows Church*" therefore decided to give members of the public the opportunity to "Sponsor a Step" in order to raise £2,500 towards it, and this is where the Strollers group stepped in to help out, (and I got "roped" into writing this).

Once this figure has been achieved, then the Parochial Church Council will step in and match it £ for £ so creating the overall fund of £5,000, needed to complete the project. It is generally accepted that "step by step" this figure *is* achievable.

Initially, the Strollers thought they would sponsor step 97 which, as you can imagine is a long way up, you could almost call it a "*Stairway to Heaven*" (mmmm, but I don't think any of us would want to go all the way up there, well not just yet anyway!)

Our second choice was to sponsor step 39, only to find out that a chap called John Buchan had already made a claim to this one. So, after much deliberation, the next suggestion was step 35, for no reason, other than that it had not already been sponsored, but after climbing and reaching number 34, it was felt that 35 was just one step too far, so, step 34 was then agreed and which now '*belongs*' to

the Highbridge u3a Strollers!

As we are now responsible for “our” step, and as ‘Stroller’ Keith was once in this line of work as caretaker, the group decided that he might like to be responsible for the upkeep of it.

It would not be a difficult or onerous task, but the step would just need to be cleaned on a fairly regular basis. The good news for Keith is that he would not need to climb the 34 steps each month. No, not at all! he need only climb to step 32, then kneel down on step 33 followed by a light scrub on step number 34. Easy! If you happen to see Keith on your travels, please don’t mention this to him, for the rest of us made this decision while he was away on his holiday, and, as yet, we have not had the chance to inform him of what we decided, but we feel confident that it will be okay with him, for he’s such a dependable chap!

There maybe those that are now wondering why we have taken this step and sponsor in the first place! The answer is quite simple really. As we tend to stroll around the beautiful West Huntspill area on a *fairly* regular basis, we always end up in the church to relax and make our own coffee in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The coffee is the instant variety, unlike that of Joesph, . as Hebrewed his own!

“Aisle put the cups back” I heard Audrey announce on our last visit to the church. “I know how they were stacked, we don’t want to *alter* anything do we?” With the church’s high ceiling and acoustics and Audrey’s sore throat, she sounded a bit like Gladys *Pugh* from “Heidi Hi”

We wish the campanologists well for the future, and hope the hand rail will help them climb the steps in relative safety for years to come. They join a select few. A couple of well known bell ringers from the past, include Alexander Graham BELL and the fictional character

Emma PEEL (from the Avengers).

The whole idea was to give something back, for allowing us the use of the church for our coffee breaks.

If other u3agroups or indeed the u3a of Highbridge wish to take a step in the right direction and sponsor one of the 33 steps which are still available, then all that is required, is to email:-  
hello@friendsofspaahc.org



Each step requires a donation of just £25

Barry



The word “step, steps, stepped” appears in this article a total of 30 times - Contact the “Step Competition Organiser” to claim your prize once you can find them all!

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## Quiz Answers

1	Sergeant	2	Dandelion
3	Cycling	4	Sea Sickness
5	Swimming Pool	6	Montmartre
7	Marrow	8	Julius Caesar
9	LY	10	Griffin
11	Dame Joan Sutherland	12	Dick Clement
13	Peak District	14	Ingrid Bergman
15	Korean	16	Giant
17	7 years	18	Love Me Do
19	Bits and Pieces	20	Frets

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## Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2025		



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.