



December 2015

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A Message from your Chairman

Dear Members

Christmas is nearly upon us and another year has simply flown by. The months just come round so quickly. This time of year is usually so busy for everyone, so many Christmas lunches and dinners all crowded into just a few weeks. Presents to buy, Christmas cards to write, and carol services to attend whether it is grandchildren at school carols or church carols with family and friends. I still find it a magical time of year.

This year there seems to be so many unscrupulous people around either on the telephone or on email who are fraudulent trying to get people to part with their money. With this in mind I suggested to Frank Wye who you all know and respect to write a piece on staying safe and secure, either by email or con people coming to your doors. Frank has written a very informative piece. It is too long for the newsletter so I have printed some copies for those of you who would like this information; it will be available at our next meeting. If you cannot come to the meeting just let me know and I will email it to you.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

See you all on Tuesday

Barbara

Barbara Collins

Singing for Pleasure (not a U3A Group)

If anyone is interested in singing, Audrey Strachan has started a choir at the Park Hotel on Friday afternoon at 1.30pm. If anyone is interested telephone 01803 556347

New Year Johann Strauss Gala on Friday 8th January at 7.30p.m. at the Riviera International Centre. This is a fantastic evening of music if anyone is interested. Tel: 01803 206333.

Torquay Museum is having a fund raising event at Coleton Fishacre of Christmas Music on Thursday 17th December at 2.30 £12 please contact Torquay Museum 01803-293975.

Poster on the notice board at General Meeting

Trips & Outings & Events

There will be a **BRIDGE LUNCH** at the Redcliffe Hotel on Monday 14th December. If any members of the bridge group would like to come and play bridge after the lunch please let me know. Contact Barbara on 01803 669238.

The **GROUP LEADERS MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at Jasmyn House. There will be a Question & Answer session. More details later. Contact Carole Giffen 01803 391614

SIDMOUTH FOR 2016 23rd-27th February 24 people have booked. Contact Barbara Collins 01803 669238.

ISLE OF MAN HOLIDAY Wednesday 11th -Tuesday 17th May 2016 Hemmings Coaches have a holiday to the Isle of Man, sailing from Heysham and staying in Douglas at the Rutland Hotel. If anyone would like to join Ron and myself on the holiday that would be lovely. Cost is £485.00 per person with a single supplement of £65.00 per person. I will leave Hemmings brochure on the travel and trips table. Deposits of £50.00 now required; cheques made payable to Hemmings Coaches. **Barbara**

Is anyone interested in a short break with Dunwood Travel in September 2016, staying at **ALVASTON HALL HOTEL NEAR NANTWICH, CHESHIRE** for four nights? This is a Warners Hotel so includes entertainment, all coach travel to/from Paignton and also two excursions to Liverpool and Chester. There are 4 twins and 7 doubles available but all singles have been taken. We are opening this to non-U3A members so people can holiday with friends too. Deposit of £50 payable to Dunwood Travel to be paid by General meeting on 12th January. List on the Trips/Excursions table as usual at the monthly meeting or contact Cindy Ball on 01803 411046

Forthcoming General Meetings

General Meetings 2nd Tuesday monthly 11.00 a.m. with coffee from 10.15a.m at the Redcliffe Hotel, Marine Drive

8th December Coffee and Mince Pies and special guest Tank Sherman entertaining us with his Life & Times.

10th December 12.30pm for 1pm Christmas Lunch At The Livermead Cliff Hotel

Help needed

We would like more members to volunteer as "meeters & greeters" at our monthly meetings. If you are able to get to the Redcliffe Hotel by 10am and are willing to chat to any prospective/new members about Paignton U3A, please contact Barbara on 01803 669238.

Paignton Timebank

Have you ever thought about how you would love to help your neighbour with an unruly garden or how you would love someone to teach you how to mend that zip in your favourite dress or have someone to cook for again?

Then join Paignton Timebank and exchange your skills for someone else's.

The Torbay Timebanks are overseen by the Torbay Community Development Trust and linked to the Ageing Well Project. Contact Paignton Community Builder Katherine Fallon by e-mail: katherinefallon@torbaycdt.org.uk or 07796 173 048 or ring TCDT on 01803 212638.

Groups' News

ART GROUP

There will be no art group in December as it coincides with the main Christmas lunch. We have decided that from January 2016 we will be changing our group meetings to the morning. We have arranged with Jasmyn House to change to the 3rd Thursday from 10.00 - 12.00. We hope this will suit our members. The first date will be 21st January 2016 and we look forward to seeing you then. I will have a list of the new dates for 2016 at the meeting on Tuesday 8th December. Please call me if you have any queries on 522407. Wendy Leishman.

BOOK CLUB

At this morning's meeting we discussed the novel "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson. Although some members of the group found the way the book is constructed confusing, most enjoyed reading the well written and thought provoking work. One of the book's best attributes is the way the main characters are described and allowed to experience a variety of lives. It scored 7.5 /10.

In January we will discuss "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler. This book was short listed for the Booker Prize. Please contact Marian Whiter 403323 if you would like to join the group.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Numbers were a little down this month but those who attended Chandlers Torbay Road, Paignton enjoyed another freshly cooked breakfast, with plenty of chatter. January 2016 we will meet on the second Friday as the first in New Year's Day, so that will be Friday 8th January 2016 at 9-30am at Hyde Park Cafe, Hyde Road, Paignton. Give me a call if you wish to join us on 01803 411046. Looking forward to seeing our regular attenders and anyone else wishing to enjoy a 'Hearty Breakfast' freshly cooked. John Ball

BUS PASS GROUP

There will be no Bus Pass Group until the Spring. It is getting cold and damp and the dark afternoons make going anywhere not much fun. See you in March. Barbara and Ron.

New LUNCH CLUB

Cindy will be starting a Paignton U3A Lunch Club which will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month commencing 13th January 2016. The first venue will be the Palace Hotel, The Esplanade, Paignton, meeting at 12 noon for 12.30pm. Depending on numbers, we will meet either in the Sun Lounge or the Restaurant. Please let Cindy know by Wed 6th January if you would like to join us. Cindy 01803 411046

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

We started as usual with the judging of this month's competition entries with Brian Tucker's photo of a Red Admiral butterfly voted into first place. Mary Ward took the next 2 spots with a picture of a field mouse and a rather smug looking cat.

After sampling Barbara's exceedingly excellent cakes and scones there was a demonstration of enhancing a photograph using a HDR (high dynamic range) software program Photomatix Essentials from hdrsoft.com: a trial version can be obtained by going to hdrsoft.com, clicking on downloads and downloading a free version of Photomatix Essentials. This free version will leave a watermark on the final version. There is also a video clip on the program showing how to use it. Do try it out as it can dramatically improve some photographs. There are other HDR programs available.

Next month's competition will be "Autumn" and January's will be "The Festive Season". As usual I have put the winning photos on my web page and they are also on Paignton U3A's web page. Keep snapping, Ron

New SPANISH

I will be starting in the New Year a short course of 6 to 8 weeks in Beginners' Spanish. It will take place on Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm. You will need to bring a Tablet or Laptop and personal headphones to connect to wi-fi. Carole Giffen 01803 391614

TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Thank you to all those members who were able to come to our end-of-year meeting, the largest attendance to-date, and special thanks to Sue, Bernie, Martyn and Mo, who kindly helped out during the morning. There was a 90% response to the group trips on-line voting survey, and the results were distributed showing five clear selected trips for 2016. There will not be a meeting in December due to seasonal track maintenance.

Our next group meeting will be at the Shoreline Restaurant, 10am on Friday 15th January, there will be a complimentary tea or coffee, for any new member joining on the day. This will be an important meeting, as the new Group Leader will be appointed, together with a minimum of one Shadow Leader. All applications should reach me by 10.15 on the morning, from both gentlemen and ladies. This would be an exciting time for the successful candidate, as they will be able to help design and lead the group for the future. Only a basic interest in railways would be required, as they will be given full support by members of the group. The main task of the Shadow Leader(s) will be to stand-in as a day courier for the group in an emergency, or to cover for holidays. If any U3A member would like to know more about what would be involved for either of the positions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

A Merry Christmas to everyone at Paignton U3A. David 666293.

WALKING GROUP

We had a very pleasant walk in November from Brixham harbour to Berry Head (via the café) and on towards Sharkham Point, finishing off at Rockfish for a good lunch. The rain more or less held off, which was a surprise.

In December we will have our usual Christmas walk from the lichgate in Old Mill Lane, Torquay, through the meadows to Cockington Court for lunch if we want. Meet at the lichgate at 11.00am on Wednesday 16th December. Parking is available in Manscome Road or take the bus to Livermead House Hotel and walk up Cockington Lane (just a few minutes).

Please contact me by 9am on the morning of the walk on 01803 405517 if you will be coming.

Just a word about the January meeting: please look out (and bring) walk books and maps etc to our planning meeting at the Shoreline café on the seafront.

We are struggling to keep numbers up, even 6 counts a good turnout. It would be helpful if you would think about how we could do better and bring your suggestions for discussion. If anybody who has not yet been on one of our walks but would like to join in other kinds of walks they would be welcome to come and put their point of view. Norma Ellis

WAG

What is WAG? It is the title of the new Wine Appreciation Group. The group held its second meeting in November and as we met at 1pm, everyone brought their own packed lunch. Whilst eating and wine tasting we discussed find a name that would differentiate the group from the successful original group. We went round the mulberry bush a few times before we settled on WAG.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 8th January. Jenny Pankhurst has offered to host this at 1pm at 10 Wheatlands Rd, Goodrington, Paignton TQ4 5HU. Please contact Jenny on 07923 674 967 or Sue on 01803 557040 if you would like to join us or for more information.

Contributions from our members

Shades of Whisky Galore.

During the middle of the war, I was about 12 or 13 at the time and living in the seaside resort of Skegness, the rumour went round the school that a ship had been sunk at sea and crates of grapefruit were being washed up on the shore.

As soon as I could get away, I was down to the beach and, sure enough, there were dozens of these crates; I guess they held 30 to 40 grapefruit each and so were much too heavy to carry. It was mid-winter with frozen snow on the ground and I had the idea that my sledge could do the work.

Fifteen minutes later and I was back with my home-made sledge and quickly rolled a crate onto it. I grabbed the rope and pulled for home. But the sledge would hardly move, the weight on it made the runners bite through the snow down to the sand – and sand is not very slippery! With a great deal of huffing and puffing I dragged the sledge off the beach and on to the frozen snow of the roads where it went like a dream.

I proudly showed my Mum what I had brought her. We quickly broke open the crate – only to find that fuel oil from the wreck had got into the crate and each fruit had a thick coating of greasy oil. We spent a few very dirty hours scraping the off the gunge and found that the fruit was fine and very edible.

Mother made loads of grapefruit marmalade and we had slices of the fruit for breakfast for weeks – a rare treat not seen since before the war and much enjoyed

John Battison

Christmas ain't the Same

When I was a boy, Mother would send me down to a corner store with £1, and I'd come back with 5 bags of potatoes, 2 loaves of bread, 3 bottles of milk, a hunk of cheese, a box of tea and 6 eggs.

You can't do that now. Too many security cameras!

Ken Faulkner

Your Committee for 2015 to 2016

President – **Sally Grafton**

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Chairman– **Barbara Collins**

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Email: barbara@bes1.co.uk

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Treasurer – **Colin Gee**

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Publicity Officer – **David Hudson**

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The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 5th January at 10.30am at Jasmyn House, Midvale Rd, Paignton. If members have any issues that they would like brought to the committee's attention, please can they let Barbara know?

PAIGNTON U3A DETAILS OF GROUPS

Activity	When	M	T	W	TH	F	Time	Location	Organiser/s	Phone
Art	3rd				X		10am/noon	Jasmyn House, Midvale Road	Wendy Leishman	522407
Ballet	Weekly					X	10am/11am	Torbay School of Dance, Totnes Road	Sarah Hope	556928
Book Club	1st				X		10-30/noon		Marion Whiter	403323
Breakfast Club	1st					X	9.30am	Various	John Ball	411046
Bridge -Beginners & Improvers	Weekly				X		2-30/4pm	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	Barbara Collins & Mike Jeffs	669238 606053
Bridge -Intermediate	Weekly		X				7-30/9-30	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	Barbara Collins & Mike Jeffs	669238 606053
Bus Pass Group	4th	Restart in Spring				X	Various	Various	Barbara Collins	669238
Coffee Morning	4th	X					10-30/noon	Redcliffe Hotel, Marine Dr	Judy Punshon	843780
Creative Writing	3rd	X					10am/noon	Members Home	Carole Giffen	391614
Dining Out	Last				X			Various	Jeanette Taylor	557450
Discussion Group 1	4th	X					2pm/4pm	Members Home	Audrey Kibby	666321
Discussion Group 2	4th	X					2-15/4-15pm	Members Home	Colin Porter	698377
Dog Walking	Weekly			X			10am/12-30		Sue Lewton	557040
Dress Making	2nd & 4th			X			7pm/9pm	Members Home	Pam Bushby	550229
Gardening	2nd	X					10-15/12-15	Various	Barbara Collins	669238
Genealogy	1st			X			10am/noon		Carole Giffen	391614
Knit & Natter	4th			X			2pm/4pm	Jasmyn House, Midvale Road	Brenda Russell	521544
Local History	1st	X					10-30/noon	Various	Diana Holdsworth	557578
New Luncheon Club	2nd			X				Various	Cindy Ball	411046
Mah Jongg	2nd			X			2.30/4.30	Park Hotel, Esplanade	John Battison	690592
Music Appreciation	3rd				X		10am/noon	Park Hotel, Esplanade	Colin Porter	698377
Patchwork	4th		X				10am/noon	Members Home	Norma Cox	525079
Photography	3rd		X				10am/noon	Members Home	Ron Collins	669238
Pins & Needles	3rd	X					10-30/12-30	Members Home	Jean Turnbull	403569
Play Reading								Temporarily suspended		
Poetry for Fun	3rd					X	2-30/4-30pm	Members Home	Mona Gee	552055
Quiz	3rd					X	2pm/4pm	Paignton Library	Carol Owens	551237
Rummicub 1	3rd			X			7pm/9pm	Members Home	Sheila Biggs	524559
Rummicub 2	3rd			X			7pm/9pm	Members Home	Pam Bushby	550229
Rummicub 3 & 4	2nd & 3rd	X					2-00/4pm	Members Home	Gill Bowie	845116
Scrabble	2nd			X			2pm/4-30	Members Home	Elizabeth Mills	557215
Shakespeare	4th				X		10am	Members Home	Diana Holdsworth	557578
Skittles	3rd	X					5.30pm	Parkers Arms	Barbara Collins	669238
New Spanish Conversation	Ad Hoc						6-8 wk-crse	Members Home	Carole Giffen	391614
Table Tennis	1st & 3rd		X				2pm/4pm	Preston Con Club	Eugene Cox	525079
Train Enthusiasts	3rd					X	10am/noon	Various	David Hudson	666293
Walking Group	3rd			X			am	Various	Norma Ellis	405517
Walking with L&P U3A	1st					X			Stan	550740
Wine Tasting 1	1st					X	8-10pm	Various	Marie Handyside	845336
New Wine Tasting 2	2nd					X	1pm/3pm	Various	Sue Lewton	557040

(Subject to change -please check with group leader)