



November 2015

www.paignton-u3a.co.uk

Thought for the Month

A man may smile and bid you hail
Yet wish you to the devil;
But when a good dog wags his tail,
You know it's on the level.

Mary Ward

A Message from your Chairman

Dear Members

This year is flying by, I don't whether it is because I crowd a lot into a day or I just take longer doing things. I am in London at the moment visiting my Uncle Ernie for a few days. It has been quite eventful. Tuesday it took one and a half hours to travel five miles. The Docklands Light Railway was on strike so it was almost gridlock getting to Greenwich were my uncle lives. Wednesday was just as bad in Central London as the students were protesting about student loans. I have never seen so many policemen in one place and two helicopters overhead. The noise was deafening coming off the buildings. The trains and buses were so crowded because of the strike we decided to use the river bus from Greenwich to Central London it was so much more comfortable.

As we were walking along Whitehall I mentioned to Ron that as a small child in the early fifties I was taken to London in the afternoon of the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph by my grandpa and my mother. My grandpa would make his own private homage in front of the Cenotaph for all who died in WW1. He would blow his nose and wipe his eyes, then take Mum and me for tea at Lyons Corner House in the Strand. It's very odd how you remember something that you haven't thought about for years. I am sure you all have memories at this time of year.

See you all on Tuesday

Barbara

Barbara Collins

We are looking for a couple of members to join our committee, ideally someone who could take on the Publicity brief ensuring that Paignton U3A is noted in the local press and in the U3A magazine.

Trips & Outings & Events

FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM at Yeovilton There has been a great deal of on/off with the trip to Yeovilton. It does not appear to be viable at the present time. I have decided therefore to postpone it until the Spring [probably March or April]. Colin Porter on 698377

On Saturday 21st November at 6pm, Sarah invites you to “dress up” for the **COCKTAIL HOUR** and meet friends for a pre-Christmas drink and food at Merlin House, 18 St Andrew’s Road. Please phone Sarah to let her know if you will be coming on 01803 698554. There is no fixed charge but a contribution to her pet charity would be welcome.

The **U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be held at the Livermead Cliff Hotel on Thursday 10th December Please put your name on the seating plan and give/send your cheque and menu choice to Brenda. Cheques payable to Paignton U3A for £19.50 by **10th November general meeting**. Choices include melon/ tomato soup/ chicken liver parfait followed by turkey/salmon/pork and Christmas pudding/profiteroles or cheesecake. There is a vegetarian option too. Brenda Russell.

There will be a **BRIDGE LUNCH** at the Redcliffe Hotel on Monday 14th December. Contact Barbara

The **GROUP LEADERS MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at Jasmyn House. More details later. Contact Carole.

SIDMOUTH FOR 2016 23rd-27th February £195 per person half board. Please make cheques payable to the Kingswood and Devorian Hotel for £50.00; this is non-refundable. I would like these cheques by the November meeting. 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 twins and doubles available but all singles have been taken. Deposit of £50 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

10th November The Sequel David Snelling

8th December Coffee and Mince Pies and special guest Tank Sherman!

10th December 12.30pm for 1pm Christmas Lunch At The Livermead Cliff Hotel £19.50pp

Groups' News

ART GROUP

The art group has been running now for nearly 3 years. Our venue at Jasmyn House allows us to offer some more places. We would welcome any members who would like to join us. Why not come along for a taster, we can supply the materials to get you started and help you develop your skills? We meet on the 2nd Thursday afternoon in the month from 2-4pm. If you are interested please call me on 522407 for more details. Wendy Leishman.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Despite the terrible weather twelve members gathered at Hyde Park Cafe for another excellent chatter period with the added enjoyment of 'Breakfast'. The next meeting will be on Friday 4th December 2015 at Chandlers, Torbay Road, Paignton commencing at 10am (it's winter and you can have as lie in!!). Please let me know if you are going to attend so that I can reserve the tables on 01803 411046. Thanks John Ball and look forward to seeing you there.

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.

GENEALOGY

Frank Wye is discontinuing the group membership of Find My Past which will end on 7 November. Will any members of the group who wish to continue with this site, please let me know? "Ancestry" is still ongoing until June. Carole Giffen 01803 391614

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

A smaller group met in October partly due to a bridge meeting and lunch with Dartmouth U3A Bridge Group, but nevertheless we had a splendid batch of photographs for our October contest on the theme of photographs taken with half mile of the members' homes, with Brian Tucker's cooperative robin posing for his making the first place with Chris Merry's misty landscape tying for the second place with a lovely view of the River at Totnes, the photos can be viewed on Paignton U3A's website, also on my website along with the entries. I will be posting the photographs for the Close Up Nature photographs as and when I receive them from the group members. Kate has attached a PDF file with the newsletter so anyone interested can see the winning photographs, and of course they will be displayed on the notice board at the November meeting.

Alter the voting for the winning photographs we had the usual discussion about the entries, and after the tea and sticky buns break we had a little class on how to cheat and put some light rays into a photograph using Photoshop Elements software to enhance the picture.

Next month's contest theme is Close Up Nature, with autumn being the theme for December
Keep snapping, Ron

QUIZ GROUP

I hope to see all of our regular attendees and hopefully a few new ones this month. It is the last meeting before Christmas and we will have a few festive treats. Sue Allen will be our guest quizmaster. Friday 20 November, 2pm at Paignton library. Carol

SKITTLES

The next meeting will be at the Parker Arms on Monday 16th November at 5.30p.m. All welcome. Torbay U3A has invited us to play Skittles at Boots and Laces, Plainmoor, Torquay with Livermead and Preston, date to be arranged. This could be fun. Please contact Barbara Collins 01803 669238

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

The Brief Encounter meeting at The Head-of-Steam was productive, with some fresh ideas for trips put forward by members. The on-line voting system is going well, but we are still waiting for a few remaining members to cast their votes. The updated results of that survey will be available by our next meeting on the 20th November. Invitations have been sent out to all members, and it would be appreciated if you could let me know if you will be joining us on the day, so that I know how many to cater for. And for any members who may be interested, there is an optional event on Saturday 21st November, between 10.am and 3.pm, the Model Railway Fair Swapmeet, at the Matford Centre, Exeter, admission will be £2.00 and there will be around 200 tables of layouts. David 666293.

New 2nd WINE TASTING GROUP

The first meeting of the New Wine Tasting Group met in October and members came up with the following format which is probably completely different from the more traditional ideas.

It was agreed to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month from 1pm to 3pm. The hosts would purchase the wine but everyone would bring their own lunch box as some of us had special dietary s needs.

To cover the cost of the wine a small payment will be made at each meeting, this to be agreed at the next meeting.

Ideas were thrown in the pot about a variety of venues particularly in the summer , for example garden parties, picnics or pub lunches.

The next meeting will be at The Commodore 14, Esplanade Road. (opposite the Pirates Golf on the sea front) don't forget to bring your own lunch. Your contact for this meeting will be Sue Lewton. Tel. No. 557040. New members will be welcome.

Contributions from our members

WWII reminiscences

I am reminded of an amazing few evenings that few alive today will have experienced.

As a teenager in 1943, I lived in Skegness, the town on the tip of the Lincolnshire coast sticking out into the North Sea. That is probably why it was chosen as the rendezvous for the planes taking part in what were popularly known as the 'thousand bomber raids'. This phenomenon happened maybe half a dozen times.

The drone of a bomber was not unknown as most of the squadrons were based in Lincolnshire airfields, but to hear one circling above the town was a little unusual. The arrival of a second still was hardly noticed, but when they were joined by the third, fourth, fifth we began to look up. Within ten minutes there fifty or more were circling above us and that really got our interest. By the time there were a couple hundred most of the town was out to see what was going on. The sound was thunderous and it continued to get louder and louder. By this time everyone in the town was aware and came out of their houses, necks craned, heads tilted back, looking up at the sky to see a sight barely imaginable.

Still more planes arrived. The number was quite uncountable; we now know there were many hundreds of bombers collecting at the rendezvous point and flying round in that enormous cartwheel, much bigger than the town itself. Mostly they were Lancasters; the sound of some three thousand Merlin engines over our heads was quite indescribable. The only comparable description I can think of is a large swarm of very angry bees – and then imagine that you're in the middle of a dozen such swarms!

The build-up took maybe an hour and then one of the planes peeled off, flying Eastwards towards Germany; and the rest followed. Then the sky was peaceful once more.

With hindsight, I think about how terrible it must have been for those on the receiving end.

John Battison

Handyman Husband

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."

Your Committee for 2015 to 2016

President – **Sally Grafton**

Tel: 01752 893503

Chairman – **Barbara Collins**

Tel: 01803 669238

Email: barbara@bes1.co.uk

Vice Chair & Groups Co-ordinator – **Carole Giffen**

Tel: 01803 391614

Email: carolegif@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer – **Colin Gee**

Tel: 01803 552055

Email: colandmo@btinternet.com

Secretary – **Jackie Martin**

Tel: 01803 607314

Email: 1martin@talktalk.net

Membership Secretary – **Cindy Ball**

Tel: 01803 411046

Email: cindy1945@hotmail.co.uk

Programme Secretary – **Judy Punshon**

Tel: 01803 843780

E-mail: jj.punshon@gmail.com

Audio Visual – **Steve Ward**

Tel: 01803 403484

E-mail: mands_dolphin@hotmail.com

Committee member – **Brenda Russell**

Tel: 01803 521544

Newsletter Editor – **Kate Parsons**

Tel: 01803 267527

Email: kate@computerhotline.co.uk

Trips & Outings Organiser – **Colin Porter**

Tel: 01803 698377

Email: colintippy@onetel.com

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1st December 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	2nd				X		2pm/4pm	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		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)