



*October 2015*

[www.paignton-u3a.co.uk](http://www.paignton-u3a.co.uk)

***A Message from your Chairman***

Dear Members

What a lovely October we are having, slight hiccup with the rain for a couple of days, but nevertheless we still have sunshine, and the trees are turning the most amazing colours.

Our 10th Birthday Tea on Monday at the Redcliffe Hotel, Richard Walsh's piano playing was absolutely wonderful - such a treat. We are so fortunate to have so many talented people in our U3A.

I know it is only October but Christmas is coming and it is that time to think once again of festive lunches. Steve Ward has booked the Livermead Cliff Hotel again for this year. The details will be near the notice board. Brenda Russell has very kindly offered to help organise the lunch this year.

This year is flying by, Nina our granddaughter will be one on the 15th October. It seems only yesterday that they were staying with us; it seems impossible that a year has passed. Ron and I help out looking after Nina on a Wednesday which has found me crawling around the floor of the library to music and rhythm. It's O.K. getting down but after attempting to sit cross-legged for any length of time, getting up is not quite as easy as it used to be.

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***

**ANIMALS IN DISTRESS** tour on FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> October. Meet at the Ipplepen Rescue Centre 10.30am. If you are not certain where this is, or have car space to take passengers, please put details on list. There is no charge, but voluntary donations to the Charity are invited. If you have not so far visited this wonderful place, you will be amazed. Colin Porter on 698377

Last chance to book for the **FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM** at Yeovilton on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> by coach to see the original Concorde, plus the last Delta Wing Bomber, numerous helicopters, enjoy an Aircraft Carrier Experience, and learn about the future of Naval Power in UK. We have enough people interested to fill half a coach but we need at least another 20 names to cover cost of £20 a head. A decision will have to be made this week if it has to be cancelled. PLEASE Add names to list **WITHOUT DELAY** either at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October or by e-mail colintippy@onetel.com. Decision date is Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> Thank you Colin Porter on 698377

The **U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be held at the Livermead Cliff Hotel on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December Cost £19.50 per person. The menu and table plan will be by the notice board at our monthly meeting. Your choices and cheques made payable to Paignton U3A please by 10<sup>th</sup> 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 or Barbara Collins.

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

There will be a **GROUP LEADERS MEETING** in January. Contact Carole.

**SIDMOUTH FOR 2016** The date will be 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February £195 per person half board. I will put details on the table near the notice board. The hotel would like our deposits. 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 11<sup>th</sup> -Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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. List on the Trips/Excursions table as usual at the monthly meeting or contact Cindy Ball on 01803 411046

## ***Forthcoming General Meetings***

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

13<sup>th</sup> October Humorous Verse - Gloria Thorne

10<sup>th</sup> November The Sequel David Snelling

8<sup>th</sup> December Coffee and Mince Pies and special guest!

10<sup>th</sup> December 1 for 1.30pm Christmas Lunch At The Livermead Cliff Hotel £19.50pp

## ***Groups' News***

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Another excellent gathering was held at Chandlers Restaurant, Torbay Road, Paignton with ten members enjoying the atmosphere and idle chatter. The next group get together will return to Hyde Park Cafe, Hyde Road, Paignton on Friday 6th November 2015 (first Friday of the month) at 9-30am. Should you wish to join us please contact the organiser John Ball on 01803 411046 or 07879 492795 so that he can book the tables. Suggestions for other venues are always welcomed. John Ball

### **BUS PASS GROUP**

Our October outing will be on Friday 23rd to Teignmouth taking the scenic route via St. Marychurch followed by a walk along the seafront or take the ferry across to Shaldon. The return journey can be the same route or via Newton Abbot perhaps for some retail therapy. Meet outside Debenham's, Torquay at 10.20.a.m. to catch the 10.35.a.m. bus to Teignmouth. Further details on notice board. Contact Barbara or Ron Collins 669238.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

This group will not meet in October. Carole

### **DINING OUT GROUP**

We will meet be meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October at Churston Court Hotel in the Armoury Room. 2 courses for £15.95 or 3 courses for £17.95. The menu list will be available at the General Meeting. If you would like to come but think you may not be at the Oct GM please ring Avril Leitch on 01803 842889

### **GENEALOGY**

This group will not meet in October. Carole

### **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

We had a very interesting meeting on Monday when Ken Faulkner gave an excellent talk on the scientist Oliver Heaviside, who discovered a reflective layer in the atmosphere, which bends radio waves around the Earth's surface thus making telecommunications possible. This layer was called after him but is now known as the ionosphere. We learnt as much about this eccentric man's private life (he was completely self-taught) as about his scientific accomplishments, of which there were many. Although born in London, he spent a great part of his life in Paignton, Newton Abbot and finally in Torquay, where he died in 1925.

### **MAH JONGG**

**NEW TIME AND VENUE.** This group will now meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30pm at the Park Hotel. John

### **PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

I was quite concerned about September's competition theme thinking perhaps it was a bit restrictive, but I needn't have worried. The group once again sent in a splendid bunch of photographs which can be viewed on my web page ([www.ronaldcollins.co.uk](http://www.ronaldcollins.co.uk)); also the winners are displayed there. I replace them each month when I receive the new entries. October's theme is photographs taken within a half mile of the photographers' home, and I'm looking forward to receiving some hopefully interesting photographs. September's winners are all from one of the various air shows we had in the area during the summer. Getting the highest votes this month is Steve Benkel's magnificent photo of the Red Arrows in mid display; making the joint second spot is Bob Tame's shot of a Vulcan bomber making a slow pass with its air brakes and undercarriage deployed along with Chris Merry's photograph of the Red Arrows trailing coloured smoke.

As autumn is fast approaching a short video on how to make the most of this colourful season was shown, and after our customary break for Barbara's cheese scones and lemon drizzle cake we had a short masterclass on cleaning up unwanted blemishes and distractions from a photograph using some of the tools available in Photoshop Elements Software.

The theme for the November meeting is Close Up Nature and for December it is Autumn. Don't forget to take your camera or smart phone out with you as there is usually some spectacular photo opportunities this time of year.

Keep snapping, Ron

## **PLAYREADING GROUP**

The play reading group is temporarily suspended until further notice. Wendy Penning

## **QUIZ GROUP**

A big thank you to Penny for being our September Quizmaster. I hope to see everyone again on Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Carol Owens

## **SKITTLES**

The skittles will be at the Parkers Arms on Monday 19th October at 5.30p.m. Everyone welcome. It's great fun so do come along. As the pub does not charge for us to use the alley, it would be good if you were to buy a drink, tea, coffee or a soft drink. Contact Barbara 01803 669238

## **TRAIN GROUP**

Friday 16th October: A Brief Encounter meeting at the **Head of Steam Café**, Queens Park Station at 10.00. This is to enrol any new train group members. A full list of past trips and venues, together with copies of our brochure will be available, or can be found on the U3A monthly meeting notice board at The Redcliffe Hotel. Members will also discuss the future of the group.

Saturday 31st October: the Exeter Garden Railway Show at The Matford Centre, Marsh Barton Industrial Estate, Free Parking next to the Park & Ride. Would any members attending this show, please let me know if you will have any spare places for car-share, in case anyone would like a lift?

**SEARCH FOR A NEW LEADER:** I have enjoyed running the Train Group for over two years now, but unfortunately, due to health reasons, I shall be looking for someone else to take over the Paignton Train Group for 2016. I am willing to assist in any way I can, but I will not be able to attend every trip. Therefore, it is only fair to let someone else have the chance to lead the group and keep us all on-track. It would be a shame to lose a rare U3A group, especially as it has proved to be popular, and will shortly be entering its fourth year. This could be a rewarding opportunity, for any member interested in trains and railways. Would any U3A member interested to take over as group leader, or to assist in any way, or would just like to join our train group for trips out, please meet up with us on Friday 16th October for more details. David tel: 666293

## **WALKING GROUP**

We did not manage our September walk as the weather was atrocious. The walk on 21st October is NOT as given in the programme. Instead, we will do a circular walk from The Church House Inn at Torbryan via Broadhempston. As we start and finish at a pub and pass the Coppa Dolla Inn at Broadhempston, you may want to either have a meal there or bring a picnic. Parking is opposite the pub at Torbryan or there is room in the lane. Meet at 10.30 at Clifton Road junction with Colley End Road for car share. Please contact the walk leader, Sue Morgan, on 406116 by 9am on the day if you are going. Norma Ellis

A new Wine Tasting Group

## **WINE TASTING GROUP**

This very successful group has reached its maximum number of members so now is the time to test the water to see if it is viable to start a second group. Some six new members have shown an interest so if you would like to join the Wine Tasting Experience in a relaxed and enjoyable setting please sign the board at the next General Meeting or give your name to Sue Lewton Tel 557040 who will help with setting up the new group.

Jenny Pankhurst has offered to hold the initial meeting in her house 10, Wheatlands, Paignton, TQ4 5HU. on Thursday 22 October 2015 7pm. At this meeting we will decide on a regular date, time, and of course venues, plus the format of the group so nothing is cut and dried it will be entirely up to those attending to make the decisions. It is all yours and we look forward to seeing you with your ideas. Sue.

## ***Contributions from our members***

**WANTED - a couple of pounds of green tomatoes for chutney, please. If you can oblige, Elizabeth Mills on 557215 would be most grateful.**

**WANTED – any spare ball of wool.  
Contact Brenda Russell 01803 521544**

### **Paignton U3A 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Afternoon Tea and Concert**

It's one o'clock on a rather damp Monday at the Redcliffe Hotel. Barbara is as nervous as a kitten as she checks the Paris Singer Restaurant making sure that all is in order for the concert. She needn't have worried as the hotel had everything in hand.

A little after 2.00 pm. Richard Walsh started with a piece by Mozart and interspersed with poetry readings by John Betjeman, Alfred Noyes and William Wordsworth also treated us to Chopin, Schubert and finished off with a piece by Eric Coates of Dambusters fame.

After the excellent entertainment we were all treated to an afternoon tea with sandwiches, fruit cake and scones with clotted cream. The hotel staff looked after us extremely well. I'm sure I saw a few U3A members leaving clutching doggy bags, and all of us were feeling a lot heavier on the way home.

There will be a small display of photographs at the next general meeting and also they are on Paignton U3A web page.

Ron Collins



### **U3A Visit to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth**

It's a lovely September day as we board the Lower Ferry at Kingswear on our way to meet up with other members of Paignton U3A to visit the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. We all queued up at the entrance for a security check and received a pass for our vehicles then we followed our guides in convoy to a car park.

Our guide, an ex Royal Navy Commander who had attended the college as a cadet, along with his wife gave us an excellent tour of the facility while informing us of the history and a great deal of information about the college, and to finish we were treated to a delicious cream tea.

We all had an extremely enjoyable visit and can recommend to fellow Paignton U3A members if they have a chance in the future to visit the college to grab it with both hands. Barbara



### **Train Group Outing September 2015.**

The Train Group enjoyed another sunny day out on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We rode in a South Devon Steam train from Buckfastleigh to Staverton Station, where we alighted and had refreshments, and for some a photo shoot, while we waited for the unusual G.W.R. Autocoach to arrive to take us to Nappers Halt, a short way down the line towards Littlehempston. On arrival some of us discovered there was only a small concrete base on which to alight, hence the special coach. We had to stop in exactly the right spot. Having been lined up exactly, the Guard opened the door and put out the steps. Now came the challenge, these steps were only slightly wider than ladder rung and you had to step out into space. However there was plenty of help available and our feet were guided onto the rungs, down we went then off up the lane to the Sea Trout Inn, where we had a lovely meal. After our meal and a brief visit to St.Paul's church, we walked back down to Nappers Halt and waited again on the postage stamp size base for the Autocoach to return. We could hear the engine coming before it came into view and put our arms out and waved to the driver in the Autocoach, and were relieved when he indicated he was going to stop. It was going to be easier climbing up into the carriage, or so we thought. A couple of us had to admit our arm muscles are not so strong when pulling oneself up. There were adequate helping hands, including the guard, so we made it and off we chugged to Staverton, and later Buckfastleigh. There was a lot of activity going on at Buckfastleigh Station, with Classic Cars and miniature traction engines to study, plus behind the scenes tours, a ride-on miniature railway and model railways. The Autocoach only runs on very limited 'special days' in the year so it was great to take advantage of it and to be linked up with the pre-booked meal at The Sea Trout Inn. Thanks David for sorting it all out.

The Autocoach or Auto-Trailer was used to push/pull branch line trains powered by a steam locomotive. The distinguishing design feature of an Autocoach is the driving cab at one end, allowing the driver to look through the windscreen and control the train without needing to be located in the cab of the steam locomotive with the fireman. This eliminates the need to run the engine round to the other end of the coach at the end of each journey. The big advantage of this coach is that G.W.R. did not have to build expensive sidings.

Unfortunately, David finds he cannot make the commitment to all the trips due to his health, so he is looking for help in keeping the continuity of the group going by having partners who will take on that responsibility. However, he is quite happy to do the homework if required. Please give this some thought, you do not have to be steeped in trains, or become a fanatic, some look at the visiting, or local locomotives etc. while others have a look around the area and shops, or just admire the scenery, or visit a place for the first time. Regards, Sue Lewton.

The Third Age Trust has advised us that contact details have changed for the Legal Helpline.  
Phone 0344 770 1040, quoting "U3A Legal Helpline"

## ***Your Committee for 2015 to 2016***

President – **Sally Grafton**

Tel: 01752 893503

Chairman– **Barbara Collins**

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Email: barbara@bes1.co.uk

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

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Membership Secretary – **Cindy Ball**

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Newsletter Editor – **Kate Parsons**

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Trips & Outings Organiser – **Colin Porter**

Tel: 01803 698377

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The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Organiser/s</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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					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
Luncheon Club								To start in New Year	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
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	1st					X	8-10pm	Various	Marie Handyside	845336

(Subject to change -please check with group leader)