



February 2016

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A Message from your Chairman

Dear Members

Welcome to February's newsletter. Now that February has arrived let us hope the rain will go away, although according to the old saying February fill Dyke. It is lovely to see the spring flowers in bloom; I love the snowdrops and crocuses. So many of the summer flowers are still in flower; I have geraniums and some fuchsias still in bloom in the garden.

I expect many of you heard the sad news that Tony Beard pass away last Saturday after a battle with cancer. He was a firm favourite with many of you when he entertained us at our monthly meetings. He was a true Gentleman; his warmth and humour will be sadly missed. Farewell to a Gentle Man.

Our AGM will be held in April at the Redcliffe Hotel. Cindy Ball will have the new membership forms available at the February meeting for everyone to collect and again in March. The ones not collected will be posted to our members in time for the AGM. This year once the AGM has closed, we will have a speaker, namely Robbie Robinson talking about Exercise Tiger the story of the tragic events at Slapton Sands during WWII.

The AGM is the time for the committee to stand down and a new one elected. It would be good to have some new blood on the committee with perhaps new ideas for our U3A. If anyone is interested please don't be shy put your name forward and come along to a committee meeting!

Marine Drive will be closed on Tuesday for essential road works with access to the Redcliffe Hotel from the Paignton side.

I have spoken to the hotel about the coffee being cold and not very good and the lack of biscuits; hopefully this will improve being the eternal optimist. I hope so!

See you all on Tuesday

Barbara

Barbara Collins

Trips & Outings & Events

Thank you to Colin Porter, our new Trips & Outings Co-ordinator for organising a lovely trip to EXETER CATHEDRAL. It was enjoyed by some 25 U3A members.

Sidmouth 23rd-27th February

The hotel will have our rooms available from 3.00pm. You are welcome to arrive earlier and have some lunch. The hotel will allocate parking places. The hotel has suggested you park outside briefly to register and obtain your parking spot place which you will have for the duration of your stay. All accounts to be settled on day of departure.

Vue Cinema

Some of our members have asked if the dates for the operas, ballet and National Theatre dates could be in the newsletter. Here are some dates for February and March. You can either book on-line or at Vue. If this is difficult for anyone, I can pick up the tickets for you. The prices vary from £12.50 to £17.50 depending where the performance is coming from. Barbara

ROH. Live La Traviata 23/2/2016

NT Live As you Like it. 5/3/2016

MET Opera Manon Lescaut Puccini 9/3/2016

ENO Live The Magic Flute. 21/3/2016

Friday 18th March Visit **KENT'S CAVERN TORQUAY** Special Price £9.50 for conducted tour and Cream Tea Meet at Cavern 2pm. Please add your name to list. N.B. It is important to advise if you wish to cancel. Final places have to be booked and paid for in advance. Please pay at 8th March monthly meeting. Contact Colin.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is staging **Billy Elliot** from Wednesday 24th February-2nd April. It has been suggested that a group might be interested in going to the matinee which is on **Thursday 24th March or on Saturday 27th March** going on the Gold Bus. There are tickets available but they are spread over the entire theatre a few here and there. I suggest you look on line to see where the seats are available. The ticket prices range mid-week from £25.00 which are most probably up in the gods to £58.00 in the stalls. Barbara Collins 669238.

SATURDAY 2nd April Visit to the **MET OFFICE , EXETER** for the 3pm tour. Travel by bus. IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE..... We have secured 25 places, but there are 32 names on the list. If you have signed up and you are now not able to attend PLEASE cross your name off. Only the first 25 booked will be able to attend Tel. 01803 698377 to cancel. Sorry, no more places are available. We will try to book another visit later in the year. Contact Colin.

ISLE OF MAN HOLIDAY May 2016. The balance is payable by the 30th March. I will let everyone who is going on the holiday how much they need to pay in the next few days. The cheques should be made out to Hemmings Coaches. The luggage labels and time of the pick-up will be notified two weeks before departure. Barbara

ANYONE FOR HORSE RACING? If you would like to join a party and book a place in the Paddock Enclosure at Newton Abbot Race Meeting on **Friday 10th June or Friday 1st July** at HALF PRICE £9 [instead of £18] Phone Sarah Malcolm 01803 698544 for details.

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR at ROYAL ALBERT HALL. Sunday 20th November and Monday 21st for shopping or sightseeing in the West End [Christmas lights included]. Please reserve your place Now. Cost £150 including night at a 4* hotel with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Single Supplement £30. Deposit £50 due in April.

If enough support we could have our own coach and we could include something extra. Please sign list if interested. ASAP. Highly recommended. It is a really fantastic and exciting concert. Colin Porter colintippy@onetel.com. 01803 698377

Sorry all places to visit the **Houses of Parliament** now taken.

Forthcoming General Meetings

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

9 February Janet Downer More Dark Deeds

8 March Ralph Jerram The Pun is Mightier than the Sword
In describing the History of the Pun, Ralph Jerram offers 40 minutes of excruciating Puns, shamelessly and outrageously taking liberties with the English language, leaving you helpless with laughter or perhaps wishing the invitation to talk on the subject had never been offered.

Groups' News

BREAKFAST CLUB

A very successful first visit to Four Seasons Cafe at Preston was enjoyed by all. An excellent hot, freshly cooked breakfast, with a very good price. Next breakfast is on Friday 4th March 2016 at 10am at Chandlers Torbay Road, Paignton. If you wish to join us please give me a call on 01803 411046 so I can book the places. Come and join us, have a chat and a laugh with good company. 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 BEGINNERS' COOKERY

We are thinking of starting a beginners' cookery class which will be held at Jasmyn House, Midvale Road. We will try and keep classes to 4 or 5 people at a time and run for 6 weeks. If you are interested in cooking or helping, please contact: Barbara Collins: 01803 669239 or Carole Giffen: 01803 391614

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group are having a two course lunch at the Park Hotel after their meeting on Thursday 17th March to cheer ourselves up after the long dark winter. It is very reasonably priced at £6.50 and booked for 12.15pm. Any member who wishes to attend please sign the list and pay on the day. There will not be an opportunity to cancel after the final day to book of 14th March.

On 18th February, we will be exploring the workings of the £150,000 recently restored organ at St Matthias Church with a guide to explain how it works starting at 10.30am. Colin

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The theme this month was "Festive". Fewer entries than normal this time with Rose Robbins taking first and second places and James Cairne making the 3rd spot, I have put the 3 winners on my web page, they are also on Paignton U3A web page.

We also saw a couple of video one on the subject of colour and the other on a photographic technique called light drawing/light painting which can be done indoors with just a torch and in a dark room.

The theme for February is an open one so put in your best photos and for March is "Pictures Taken Indoors."

Keep snapping, Ron

QUIZ GROUP

It was nice to see a few new people again at last month's quiz and we hope the numbers will continue to grow. Sue Allen will be our guest quizmaster for February 19th at 2pm, Paignton Library, room 12.

Carol Owens

SKITTLES

15th February at 5.30pm at Parker's Arms, Totnes Road. Everyone welcome come along and have some fun. Contact Barbara 01803 669238

TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

The next meeting is on Friday 19th February. All change now, due to some activities not operating on the day, also some new members would not have had a chance to join the SDR for 2016 and get a 50% reduction. I have decided we should now meet up at SDR Buckfastleigh Station Cafe for 11.am to confirm trips for 2016. For any SDR members who might be travelling via Totnes, the Gold Bus leaves Paignton at 09.35, arriving at Totnes Station at 10.05. Walk through to Littlehempston (15-20 mins). The first steam train leaves Totnes (Littlehempston) at 10.37. It arrives at Buckfastleigh at 11.10 to join the meeting. After the meeting, members can decide what they wish to do. Several activities will still be taking place at Buckfastleigh throughout the day, including the Panniers and Pints Beer Festival at Staverton. Would members please let me know if they would be interested in a coach trip to Bishops Lydeard, that includes a trip on the West Somerset Railway to Minehead, on Sunday 24th April? The coach leaves Paignton at 09.00 am and returns from Minehead at 15.00. Tickets are £26.50 each and includes the train fare. Due to health reasons I am still looking for a new leader to take charge of the Train Group. David tel: 666293.

WALKING GROUP

The Group have now finalised a varied and interesting Programme of Walks for 2016. Please see the Notice Board or speak to the Group Leader, Norma Ellis, if you would like a copy of the Programme.

“Snowdrop Walk” Shidders Bridge to Staverton

The first walk of 2016 will take place on Wednesday, 17th February, starting from the Cider Press at Shidders Bridge through relatively easy road and woodland areas to Staverton village.... a distance of around 3 miles. It may be a bit muddy so wear boots or shoes with a good grip. A stick is always useful. As we will set off from outside ‘Crank’s Kitchen’ at 11 00 am, you can either meet at Paignton Bus Station for the 10 00 am X80 Plymouth service or park & pay at the Cider Press.

You can either bring along picnic sandwiches or treat yourself to a snack from the Sea Trout Inn at Staverton. The Leader on this walk will be Sue Allen and we would ask you to call Sue on 556522 before 9 00 am on the day if you would like to take part. All are welcome to come and see the Snowdrops”hopefully!

Jim Cairns

Contributions from our members

Two elderly gentlemen from a care home were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: “Bill I’m 83 years old now and I’m just full of aches and pains. I know you’re about my age. How do you feel?” Bill says, “Oh, I feel just like a new born baby.” “Really! Like a new born baby!?” “Yep. No hair, no teeth and I think I just wet my pants.” **Ken Faulkner**

WE ARE SURVIVORS . . . those of us born before 1940!

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frizbees and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, laser beams and the ball point pen; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioning, drip-dry clothes . . . and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought ‘fast food’ was what you ate in Lent, a Big Mac was an oversized raincoat and that ‘crumpet’ was what we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers, when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with a cousin and when ‘sheltered accommodation’ was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We'd never heard of FM radio, disc-jockeys, MP3 music, artificial hearts, word processors or yoghurt nor of young men wearing earrings. For us 'time-sharing' meant togetherness; before computers when a chip was a piece of wood or fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts, when the net was something that caught fish – or kept your hair in place, and software wasn't even a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how well you did in your exams, a stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker as far as the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandmother's lullaby. Eldorado was an ice-cream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or something to help those in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 are a hardy bunch. Just think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we've had to make. No wonder we sometimes get confused and that there is a generation gap! But . . . by the grace of God WE HAVE SURVIVED.
HALLELUJAH ! John Battison

Your Committee for 2015 to 2016

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The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1st March 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 (WAG) | 2nd | | | | | X | 1pm/3pm | Various | Sue Lewton | 557040 |

(Subject to change -please check with group leader)