



January 2016

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A Message from your Chairman

Dear Members

I hope you all a lovely Christmas with family and friends. This is rather like the start of a new term at school, two weeks off I don't really have my head in gear just yet.

In December our speaker Tank Sherman regrettably rather let us down. I have since had an e-mail with a grovelling apology. He has offered to come and speak to us on another occasion, I have suggested July 2016. I await to hear if this is possible fingers crossed.

The National Office of the U3A have sent details of the Summer Schools in August at Cirencester. The details will be on the notice board for anyone interested in going. Paignton U3A will make a contribution towards the cost. Anyone interested please contact Barbara Collins.

Okehampton U3A are arranging a Study Day - Devon Social History. This sounds really interesting with some very good speakers. The details are on the notice board for anyone wishing to go.

This year after our AGM has closed, the committee has decided to have a speaker. This will be Robbie Robinson talking on "Operation Tiger".

Wishing you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

See you all on Tuesday

Barbara

Barbara Collins

Several members have volunteered as "meeters & greeters" at our monthly meetings. Thank you.

Trips & Outings & Events

Monday 1st February Conducted tour of **EXETER CATHEDRAL** £7.50 including cup of Tea/Coffee. Revisit free any time for 12 months so less than half normal price of Annual Membership. Travel by bus and meet at West Door 1pm. Please reserve places by signing list available at monthly meeting or contact Colin.

Friday 18th March Visit **KENT'S CAVERN TORQUAY** Special Price £8.50 for conducted tour and Cream Tea Meet at Cavern 2pm. Contact Colin.

SATURDAY 2nd April Visit to the **MET OFFICE , EXETER** for the 3pm tour. There might be a small charge. Places limited to 25 people. Travel by bus. Sign list available at monthly meeting or contact Colin.

SUGGESTION. JUST an early enquiry at this time. **ROYAL ALBERT HALL Classical Spectacular Concert & Houses OF Parliament.** There could be an opportunity for an exciting 2 day trip if there is sufficient interest. To enable me to assess popularity, please sign this list before firm arrangements are made. Likely cost around £150.

Dates for concert are Thursday 17 – Sunday 20 March 2016

Day 1 Monday Travel by coach to London to attend the MUSICAL SPECTACULAR at the Royal Albert Hall with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus [similar to Last Night of the Proms with Canon, Fireworks etc]

Overnight at a 3 or 4 star hotel with breakfast

Day 2 Tour of the Houses of Parliament in the morning, returning by coach late afternoon.

Sign list available at monthly meeting or 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 a matinee which is on Thursday or Saturday going on the Gold Bus. The ticket prices range mid-week from £25.00 which is most probably up in the gods to £58.00 in the stalls. They have seats available at present. March 27th has been mentioned. If interested please let me know. Barbara Collins 669238.

The **GROUP LEADERS MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at Jasmyn House. There will be a Question & Answer session. 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. **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. 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

12 January Paul Rendell Dartmoor Pubs, Past and Present

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

Breakfast Club met this morning with a small number enjoying a freshly cooked breakfast at Hyde Park Cafe. The next meeting will be on Friday 5th February 2016 at a new venue of 'Four Seasons' Torquay Road, Preston, Paignton, which is by the traffic lights at Seaway Cross. We will meet at 10am so that is anyone wishes to bus there, they will be able to use their pass. If interested in joining us please give me a call 01803 411046. Thanks 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 if you would like to join us. Cindy 01803 411046

MAH JONGG GROUP

There will be a slight change to our meetings, starting next meeting on Wednesday 13 January.

We shall now have a short break for a cup of tea and a biscuit. The timing will remain the same – 2.30 to 4.30 and, of course, the venue but the charge will now be £2 to cover the cost of the tea. John.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

it was another grey December day when we gathered at Ron and Barbara's house for our December meeting but we had some rather splendid autumn entries for this month's contest. Bob Tame got the AHHH! Factor with his shot of a squirrel amongst the autumn leaves in 1st place, with Brian Tucker's colourful photograph of some *Acer* trees showing off their splendid autumn colours in 2nd place; in 3rd place was Rose Robbins' study of some blackberries. The entries and winners can be seen on my web page www.ronaldcollins.co.uk, just click on the Paignton U3A picture and it will take you straight to the correct page. Kate will attach the winning photos to the email edition of the newsletter and it will also be available on Paignton U3A's web page at <http://www.paignton-u3a.co.uk>

After the usual discussion on the entries we had a short break when the members were able to sample Barbara's mince pies, yule logs and other goodies. We resumed to watch a short video about adjustment layers and how useful they are for making the most of your photographs.

January's competition is on the theme of the festive season and for February it was decided not have a theme so group members can enter any photograph they like.

Keep snapping, Ron

QUIZ GROUP

Happy New Year quizzers. I hope to see you all, and perhaps a few new faces, at our first meeting of 2016. Friday January 15th, 2pm at Paignton Library. Carol Owens

SKITTLES

Skittles will be starting again on Monday 18th January at the Parkers Arms on the Totnes Road at 5.30p.m. Everyone welcome come along and have some fun. Contact Barbara 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

With no meeting in December, our next group meeting will be at the Shoreline Restaurant, 10am on Friday 15th January, and there will be a complementary tea or coffee, for any new member joining on the day. The group will agree some provisional dates for the top chosen trips, and it would help if members could advise of any pre-booked holidays, to ensure they are able to attend the trips of their voting choices. 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. A Happy and Healthy New Year, to all Paignton U3A members David tel: 666293.

WALKING GROUP- CHANGE OF DATE TO WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY

The annual planning meeting will be at the Shoreline Restaurant on 13th January at 10.30am. Please bring your ideas, maps and walks books with you so that we will have a good selection to choose from.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the walking group is struggling to maintain numbers. If there is anyone who does not currently join us but would like to belong to a different type of walking group, please come along and join in the discussion. Hope to see you at this meeting when we plan the walks for the year.

Norma Ellis

Contributions from our members

Be Careful what you wish for

Two 60 year-olds were celebrating their thirty fifth wedding anniversary. During their party a fairy appeared and granted them each one wish. The wife wanted to travel the world. The fairy waved her wand and zap - the wife had tickets for a world cruise.

Next the fairy asked the husband what he wanted. He said, "I wish I had a wife 30 years younger than me." So, the fairy picked up her wand and zap - the husband was 90. Ken Faulkner

Twelve Days of Christmas

At this time of year we hear a number of versions of the well-known carol where the young lady gradually gets more and more irate as the various gifts of birds, milkmaids and so on gradually accumulate in her garden; she ends up contacting her lawyer.

But they all have it wrong – it is much worse than they tell it! Follow to the words carefully.

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me – a partridge in a pear tree. Fine.

On the second day of Christmas my true sent to me – two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. So now she has two doves and two partridges.

On the third day of Christmas my true sent to me – three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. Great. She now has three French hens, four turtle doves and three partridges!

I won't spell out all the twelve days but by the last day her garden is full to overflowing with 12 partridges, 22 turtle doves, 30 French hens, 36 calling birds (what a racket), 40 gold rings (might just about pay for the lawyer), 42 geese a-laying (that's a lot of eggs), 42 swans, 40 maids a-milking (since they are milking, presumably they each have a cow), 36 ladies dancing, 30 lords a-leaping, 22 pipers piping (God help the poor girl) and 12 drummers drumming (need I say anything?)

I would imagine all this would give the lawyer something to get his teeth into.

Remember, you heard it here first. John Battison

Why Should an Older Person Plan For The Future?

To ensure that their wishes are known

To minimise distress to those that have to deal with their affairs.

To avoid conflict within the family

The only thing that is certain about the future is that one of us will die. It is not a subject that a lot of people want to talk about, but the less the preparation the greater the distress to those left behind. It may not be death, but you or your partner may be disabled and not able to do the things you did previously.

So:

Do you know where all the necessary paperwork is filed? Is it in one place or distributed in many files, drawers or boxes?

Have you both made current wills?

Do you know how to pay bills?

Do you have the legal right to access their money?

Have you both made 'Lasting Powers of Attorney'?

Can you afford to pay the bills?

Can you cook?

Can you drive?

Will you be isolated?

Can you use a computer? Do you know the passwords? More and more transactions are done via computers and the longer you live the more important it will be to know how to use it.

These are just a few of the issues to be resolved, there are many more particular to each individual.

As some people will know, my wife died in July 2015 and even though we had prepared for her death, the bureaucracy and lack of understanding, particularly in companies, caused even more distress. I now have ONE file with all the necessary documentation for when I die or become incapacitated, including my request for treatment, funeral and distribution of property.

Since my wife's death, I have volunteered for a charity called 'Crossroads Care'. They care for carers, not the sick. As a result I went on a short course with Rowcroft Hospice discussing planning for the future.

I have recently spoken to two couples and two individuals, none of whom had properly planned for any eventuality and I am pleased to say they are now reviewing their situations. It is not just couples who should plan for the future. Whosoever deals with you or your affairs, needs to know what you want and where the information can be found.

Talk to each other NOW, questions may not be capable of being answered later.

I am willing to talk to individuals or groups of people about this and help in any way I can. Just contact me either at the monthly meeting or by telephone on 01803 405100.

Frank Wye

Your Committee for 2015 to 2016

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The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd February 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)