



December 2017

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

*I have received a few 2018 U3A pocket diaries left. I will be selling these before the December monthly meeting for £2.50. When they are gone, they're gone! Kate*

**URGENT** *The committee is still looking to co-opt someone who will be able to take over the Treasurer's role in April 2018 when Colin Gee must retire as he has been Treasurer for the maximum term of six years. Ideally this person should "shadow" Colin prior to taking over and start their own system of book-keeping etc from February 2018. If you feel able to help please contact Colin or Rodger for an informal chat.*

***CAR PARKING at the REDCLIFFE HOTEL***

*We have been reminded that there is NO PARKING ON THE GRASS ANYWHERE IN THE HOTEL GROUNDS. I have been seen by the Management, and shown photos of vehicles restricting the use of their small golf pitches. As this is an insurance problem, as well as a 'H&S' problem, WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO STOP USING THE GRASS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. At present this is an informal plea, but, I have been advised action may be taken if we continue to break this rule.*

***SO NO PARKING ON THE GRASS only on the main car park or on the sea front, Colin Road Car Park or maybe along one of the nearby roads.***

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL LETTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE JANUARY MEETING. PLEASE COLLECT YOURS THEN**

## A Message from your Chairman, Rodger

*From the chair - so to speak!!!*

*What a month this is going to be! Another busy month of festive events, festive food and floundering in the stores for whatever is on 'my want list', which we all seem to get early!!!*

*Most of the groups will be meeting, some for 'special events', others for extra events, and some groups have opened their meetings for ALL members - so do find out what and where and GET INVOLVED.*

*We have had a good response to the Antiques Day at SDC, with good food afterwards; thanks to Colin Porter for arranging.*

*We have had an enjoyable afternoon of Words and Music at the Redcliffe, enjoyed by over 80 members, with a cream tea; thanks to Barbara Collins for organising that event. We are so sorry that you had to miss the afternoon Barbara.*

*We have had three trips to CHRISTMAS IS MAGICAL SHOW at Babbacombe Theatre, and one has received good reports and appreciation from a number who have been. A letter of thanks will be sent to Steve Laister and all the cast and staff for a wonderful performance. Wait for next year!!*

*Even though we are busy and preparing for all our events, there are some of our number who are unwell, with bugs and blisters and 'belly aches' (sorry); but, some are incapacitated LONG TERM, find out who they are, let the committee know and we can assure them that they are not forgotten as such a time of year.*

*NOW PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!!!! The social group have invited ALL members to join them at their NEW YEAR CELEBRATION BUFFET on FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY at the BABBACOMBE INN, food is served at 14.30. 35 members have shown an interest, and more can come, BUT FULL PAYMENT OF £10.00 IS REQUIRED AT OUR MEETING THIS MONTH - IN CASH preferably and I will issue receipts. But if more book and pay, then hopefully the price will come down - MORE MEANS CHEAPER!!!!*

*I am sorry about the confusion regarding the menus for the CHRISTMAS LUNCH which we had last week at the Churston Golf Club. I am especially sorry to those that had to cancel and missed an enjoyable time together. The matter was only raised when I sent the table plan and menus on Monday 27th November, and I went to try and sort it out on the following day, but cancelling the 'buffet' was the only option in the circumstances. I AM PERSONALLY SORRY FOLKS.*

*Before you leave today, check the tables for planned events!! However, we look forward to having very soon, let's encourage each other to make contact with somebody new this month, and create a new friendship. NO ONE SHOULD BE ALONE AT CHRISTMAS. SO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND HOPEFULLY A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!!*

*Plans are already being made for events NEXT Christmas, so watch out and keep in touch folks!!*

*Rodger*

## **Where was the first Christmas card created? Answer Torquay**

It was at the Orestone Manor Hotel, nestling in lush countryside off the coastal road between Torquay and Teignmouth, that the first-ever Christmas card was created.

In 1843 a batch of 1,000 Christmas cards were designed by Sir John Callcott Horsley, founder of the Manor and brother-in-law of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Sir John also produced Brunel's National Portrait Gallery painting on the Orestone Manor lawn.

Nowadays fewer than 20 of Sir Horsley's precious Christmas cards remain in existence. One sold at auction in 2001 for £22,500, while the V&A's mint condition version is worth £25k.

In the 1850s many Brunel/Horsley family gatherings took place at the venue, and neighbours included Rudyard Kipling, who lived next door.

## ***Events, Trips, Holidays and Outings***

**As a matter of courtesy, please will anyone who has booked a day trip or holiday let the organiser know if you are unable to come as soon as possible.**

Our new **SOCIAL GROUP** are inviting any members from the Paignton U3A to join them for a **NEW YEAR CELEBRATION at BABBACOMBE INN on FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2018**. A buffet menu is available to view on the table in the bar area before and after our November general meeting at the Redcliffe. A **MAXIMUM** number has been set at 70 persons. However, if we can get over 50 to attend the cost will be £8.00 per head. Place your name(s) on the list on the table and **FULL PAYMENT** up front at December or January meetings. If further details are needed, check with Rodger.

We have been offered a free **DRIVING SAFER FOR LONGER WORKSHOP** which is aimed at keeping older drivers on the road safely for as long as possible. Driving is one of the most risky activities we are likely to do in our lives, and yet once we pass our driving test many of us have no further training. Driving techniques have changed over the years.

The workshop is free and lasts 1 to 2 hours in duration. The presentation is informal, interactive, fun and very informative. Topics covered include health, eyesight, medical conditions, Highway Code, the challenges facing drivers today, advice on aids to driving and some speed and hazard awareness.

If you are interested, please sign the form at the General Meeting or contact me. Once numbers are known, we will arrange a venue and date in the Spring. Kate Parsons 01803 267527.

**Coach trip to THE CORNWALL GARDEN SOCIETY SPRING FLOWER SHOW at BOCONNOC and LOOE.** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018. We will have approximately 3 hours at the flower show.

Following this visit we will travel the short distance to Looe for a meal (good location for 'Fish & Chips' – not included). Price includes admission to Boconnoc Gardens, Lostwithiel and coach for members of Paignton U3A as the coach only has 48 seats and 26 have already been reserved! Tickets will be available from early January for £20 but you can express your interest now. Contact Cindy Ball on Tel: 01803 411046 Email: cindy1945@hotmail.co.uk

Cindy and John Ball are organising another **SKITTLES** evening at Paignton Bowling Club, just before Easter on **Thursday 29 March**. More details later.

Colin Porter is planning to organise a day trip to **BATH** in **early summer** and Carol Haggett may organise a coach holiday in **September/October**, once the new brochures are out.

## ***Forthcoming General Meetings***

General Meetings usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly 11.00 a.m.

Coffee from 10.15a.m at the Redcliffe Hotel, Marine Drive, Paignton

### ***Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December***

Brian Freeland

**A View from the Wings**

*Brian's theatre career started direct from National Service, in 1959, as Trainee Manager at the London Palladium, and has taken him to forty-three different countries including three residencies in the Middle East; eight tours of the Indian sub-continent and two circumnavigations of the globe. He has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Sadler's Wells and London Festival Ballet Companies, Scottish Opera, Nottingham Playhouse and Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop Company.*

### ***Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January***

Peter Lewis, Deputy Governor of Dartmoor Prison

**At Her Majesty's Pleasure**

Peter has been in the Prison Service for 26 years and Dartmoor for 3 years. He has served time in many Borstals and Prisons and is willing to answer questions.

### ***Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February***

Cllr Frank Letch MBE Mayor of Crediton

**Overcoming Challenges and Adversity**

A former North Wales language teacher, born without arms, Frank tells how he has found happiness again after losing his wife to cancer. Frank is a truly inspiring person who has overcome physical and emotional battles. He says "I believe in paradise. Having lost Helen, I lost paradise, but I feel I've found it once again. I feel happy every morning and look forward to the day ahead."

### ***Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March***

Alan Tanner

**My Life as a TOAD**

## ***Groups' News***

The next **copy deadline for the newsletter** is Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 5pm.

Our Devon Link Co-ordinator has been asked to try and put group leaders from different local U3As in touch with each other with a view to mutual support, exchange of ideas and maybe friendship since you will have a mutual interest. If you would like to link up, please let Frances Berry have your name, subject interest, email and say you are Paignton U3A. Contact by email: [frances293@btinterest.com](mailto:frances293@btinterest.com)

Rosemary Shuffell, Groups' Co-ordinator is arranging the next **Group Convenors' meeting** and buffet lunch for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at Jasmyn House, Midvale Rd Paignton from 10.30am. Please can you let Rosemary know whether you are able to come and also any items you wish to be put on the agenda.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

We always meet on the first Friday of the month 9-30 for 10am breakfast and light hearted chat.

Friday 5th January 2018 will be at Torbay Area Indoor Bowling Club, Bowlers Way, Paignton (situated on the right hand side on the way up to Oldway Mansion).

Should you wish to join our friendly breakfast club please contact the organiser John Ball on 01803 411046.

#### **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Diana Holdsworth is stepping down as organiser after ten years of sterling service. Chris Blake is our new organiser. Next meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 10.30am in Paignton Library. All welcome. **Chris**

#### **KNIT AND NATTER GROUP**

With very full programmes in our diaries, there will be NO Knit and Natter group meeting until January 2018. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at U3A. I thank all group members for their support and help during the last year. **Janette.**

#### **LUNCHEON CLUB**

We always meet on the second Wednesday of the month at venues throughout the area, so do join us for a relaxed gathering of friends and a nice meal of your selection.

Wednesday 13th December 2017 at Churston Golf Club, Brixham Road, Churston.

Wednesday 10th January 2018 at The Hare & Hounds, Newton Road, Kingskerswell.

Wednesday 14th February 2018 at The Beefeater, Whiterock, Paignton.

Wednesday 14th March 2018 at The Old Smokey Inn, Marldon.

Should you wish to join our friendly lunch group please contact the organiser Cindy Ball on 01803 411046.

#### **MAH JONGG Group welcomes new members**

Owing to the reorganisation of rooms, the Mah Jongg group will now be able to accept new members.

Mah Jongg is an ancient Chinese game, said to be about the only game in the world where cheating is impossible! You don't need to know the game, we'll teach you. So, if you would like to have a go – or even just come along and see what you think of it – give me a call, John Battison on 01803 690592.

We meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of every month, from 2.30 to 4.30. Our new venue is the Garden Room in Paignton Club, at the South end of the Promenade

**MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP** meets in its new venue, the Palace Hotel Paignton at 2.30 on Thursday 21st December to watch as a DVD “ A CHRISTMAS CAROL” performed by the Northern Ballet Company. This is quite spectacular and features much seasonal music. Fee £2.50 New members very welcome.

**Colin Porter**

**QUIZ** There is no quiz in December, we will meet again on January 19th.

Season's Greetings to you all Carol

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

November's meeting will be the last for this year as our December meetings normal date is getting a little bit close to the festive season so it will be time for my BAH HUMBUG hat to come out of hibernation.

We had a good selection of photographs entered for this month's competition on theme of “Food and Drink” with Richard Havery's photo of Wine Glass and Bottles voted into the top spot, Bob Tame's Fruit Bowl study getting into second place and into the third position was Stephen Benkel's Fruit portrait, the winners photos can be seen in the U3A section of my Web Page at “ronaldcollins.co.uk”

After a short break for some mince pies we had a discussion about how various ways of focusing and sharpening can alter the appearance of photographs.

January's competition theme will be "Village Life" and February's will be "Silhouettes"

Keep snapping, **Ron**

**POETRY GROUP** has started off by researching Poets Laureate. We have room for a few more people if members would be interested in joining us, and from November onwards we will be meeting on the 4th Friday morning at 10.30 instead of the afternoon. Marie Handyside

### **SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Open meeting and NEW YEAR CELEBRATION at BABBACOMBE INN on FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2018. Rodger 391966 or drodgersmith @outlook.com

### **SKITTLES**

Skittles will be on Monday 18th December at Preston Conservative Club at 5.30 p.m. All welcome. Come along and have some fun. If you are non-members of the Conservative Club there is a fee of £1.00 per person. Contact **Barbara Collins** on 01803 669238 or email barbara@bes1.co.uk

### **WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP**

We had a decent day for our November walk along Exeter Canal and stopped off at one of the pubs for lunch.

Our next walk will be from the Cider Press Centre at Dartington to Totnes.. The Gold bus leaves Paignton bus station every half hour but I suggest catching the 10.05 bus, meeting to start the walk at 10.30am, or go by car.

Jim and I will be away for the whole of January and February so we will need to decide on the walks for the first 3 months of 2018. I suggest that we have a coffee stop in Totnes or bus back to Dartington and use the cafe there, which might be quieter, and discuss the programme for next year. Please bring along maps or guide books for ideas. The walk is level and takes about an hour.

I will be leading the walk on 20th December so please contact me on the morning of the walk by 9am. Tel. 01803 405517, mob. 07453 396538. **Norma Ellis**

## ***Your Committee for 2017 to 2018***

Chairman— <b>Rodger Smith</b>	Tel: 01803 391966	Email:drodgersmith@outlook.com
Vice Chair - <b>Carol Owens</b>	Tel: 01803 551237	Email: nanadance19@yahoo.com
Treasurer – <b>Colin Gee</b>	Tel: 01803 552055	Email: colandmo@btinternet.com
Secretary – <b>Kate Parsons</b>	Tel: 01803 267527	Email: kate@computerhotline.co.uk
Membership Secretary – <b>Cindy Ball</b>	Tel: 01803 411046	Email: cindy1945@hotmail.co.uk
Groups' Co-ordinator – <b>Rosemary Shuffell</b>	Tel: 01803 842601	Email: rose.shuffell@gmail.com
Speakers Secretary – <b>Colin Porter</b>	Tel: 01803 698377	Email: colintippy@onetel.com
Trips /Holidays Co-ordinator— <b>Colin Porter</b>	Tel: 01803 698377	Email: colintippy@onetel.com
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Committee member- <b>Sheila Wenman</b>	Tel: 01803 844162	Email: sheilawen@btinternet.com
Newsletter Editor – <b>Kate Parsons</b>	Tel: 01803 267527	Email: kate@computerhotline.co.uk

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10.30am. Venue: Redcliffe Hotel. If members have any issues that they would like brought to the committee's attention, please can they let a committee member 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>
Armchair Explorers	Saturdays						10.30/12.30	Variable	Kate Parsons	267527
Art	3rd				X		10am/noon	Jasmyn House, Midvale Road	Wendy Leishman	522407
Book Club	1st				X		10-30/noon		Marian Whiter	403323
Breakfast Club	1st					X	9.30am	Various	John Ball	411046
Bridge -Beginners & Improvers	Weekly				X		2-15/4.30pm	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	Barbara Collins & Mike Jeffs	669238 606053
Bridge -Intermediate	Weekly		X				7-15/9-30	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	Barbara Collins & Mike Jeffs	669238 606053
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
Gardening	2nd	X					10-15/12 noon	Various	Kate Parsons	267527
Genealogy	1st			X			10am/noon		Carole Giffen	391614
Knit & Natter	4th			X			2pm/4pm	Jasmyn House, Midvale Road	Janette Smith	391966
Local History	1st	X					10-30/noon	Paignton Library	Chris Blake	07835 192228
Luncheon Club	2nd			X				Various	Cindy Ball	411046
Mah Jongg (afternoon)	2nd			X			2.30/4.30	Paignton Club	John Battison	690592
Mah Jongg (evening)	3rd		X				7pm/9pm	Members Home	Pam Bushby	550229
Music Appreciation	3rd				X		2.30/4.30pm	Palace Hotel	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
Poetry	4th					X	10.30/12.00	Members home	Marie Handyside	845336
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
Skittles	3rd	X					5.30pm	Preston Conservative Club	Barbara Collins	669238
Social afternoon	2 <sup>nd</sup>					X	2.30pm/4pm	TBA	Rodger Smith	391966
Table Tennis	1st & 3rd		X				2pm/4pm	Preston Con Club	Eugene Cox	525079
Walking Group (Wed)	3rd			X			am	Various	Norma Ellis	405517
Walking Group (Fri)	1st					X	am	Various	'Stan' Stanislaus	07732015457
Writing My Life story	3rd			X			10.30/12.30	Bright Bean Coffee Lounge	'Stan' Stanislaus	07732015457
Wine Tasting 1	1st					X	8-10pm	Various	Marie Handyside	845336

(Subject to change -please check with group leader)