



APRIL 2013

www.paignton-u3a.co.uk

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President **Sally Grafton**

A Message from our Chairman

The North Wind doth blow and we shall have snow but it didn't stop 114 members from coming to the A.G.M. Thanks to all of you for braving the elements and supporting the committee.

The new committee have had their first meeting and are planning to continue with developing Paignton U3A.

The new face on the committee is Cindy Ball who has taken over from Wendy as Membership Secretary. Wendy has done sterling work over many years and we thank her for all she has done but I don't think she is hanging up her voluntary boots just yet.

The committee also re-elected Barbara Collins as vice-chairman in a unanimous show of hands.

It is great to hear that six people are taking advantage of the trip to Chester in July. If anyone is interested in joining them there maybe places still available. I am sure Hemmings Holidays wish to fill their coach but speak to Barbara first.

I am pleased that the Art Group will be up and running with the first meeting 2pm-4pm at St Andrews Community Centre Sands Road. (2nd Thursday of the month)

The Bird Watching Group had a short initial meeting and decided to extend its remit to take in Wild Life because there is so much to offer in the bay. The next meeting will be 2pm Wednesday 24th April at The Commodore Hotel 14 Esplanade Road. The topic is bird song. Everyone has gone away to look for information about suitable wild life trips/events in Devon.

The committee have agreed to buy the equipment for Badminton so if you would please confirm with me that you are still interested we can go ahead and make the purchase. I have booked St. Andrew's Community Centre for the 4th Thursday of the month with the first session being held on 23rd May 2pm-4pm.

The Singing Group will have their initial meeting at The Shoreline Restaurant on the Sea Front 2pm Tuesday 16th April. Angela and David Godfrey have agreed to lead this group but it will be over to you to decide how the group will develop.

The Social Group's next meeting is at 2pm Tuesday 6th May at St Andrew's Community Centre. This is May Day so to make it a celebration we are inviting you to Afternoon Tea. Please bring along some dainty sandwiches, nibbles or a portion of cake. (Enough for one only) to add to the Tea Table.

The icing on the cake will be when our speaker roars up on a large motorbike and then tells us all about the vital role the N.H.S. Devon Freewheelers Emergency Response Volunteers play in delivering out of hours services for the N.H.S.

After a years' experience of holding our meetings at The Palace Hotel we had a talk with the new manager and have a new agreement.

This means that we will pay more for the use of the room, so to cover this, the entrance fee will be raised to £1.50 per member. That is the down side but the up side is that coffee will be reduced to £1.50 per cup. So in effect if you take advantage of both services it will make a difference of 10p each.

From this Tuesday coffee will also be served on the left hand side of the conservatory which will give more space at the meeting room entrance. However the increase in payment for the meeting will start in May.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday

Sue

Come and join me forthis is the opening for any of our members to invite others to link in for a

A day out, a short break, a longer holiday, a theatre visit, a shopping trip or anything else you can suggest. Send your suggestion to me or directly to our Newsletter Editor where we will put your idea to our members.

This month I will be going to the Apollo Cinema where they will be projecting the live Opera Nabucco from the Royal Opera House , Covent Garden. Sung in Italian it features Placido Domingo and the performance is on 29th April.

Sue.

DIARY DATES

General Meetings 2nd Tuesday monthly 11.00 am at the Palace Hotel, Esplanade Road.

This Tuesday the 9th April is our first meeting of the new U3A year when we will have Christine Chadwick promoting her book "Yon Green Garden" which was first published a year ago. Set in 'Last of the Summer Wine' country it tells about the world of a little girl during the years following the Second World War.

Christine will be signing copies in the room behind the piano for anyone interested.

At our meeting on 14th May, John Risdon returns to give us the 2nd instalment of 'The Tidal Dart, a thousand years of the Dart estuary'.

Social Meetings 2.00 pm at St. Andrews Community Centre, Esplanade Road.

The next meeting due on 6th May will feature a visit by the NHS Emergency Bikers. See Sue Lewton's message above.

PALACE HOTEL

At a recent meeting with the hotel the Management advised us that they were very pleased with the numbers of members who stayed for lunch after our meetings but they felt they were not giving as speedy a service as they would like to give. It would be helpful to them and us if members could book lunch tables in advance so that the staff could be adjusted accordingly. It has also been suggested that if several U3A tables are booked then these could all be grouped together in the dining room enabling a greater opportunity for socialising.

RELIABLE TRADESMEN/WOMEN

Steve Ward is planning to resurrect the Trade Register of trusted and recommended small tradesmen/women in this area, anything from fixing a tap washer to laying a carpet etc. He would be grateful if you could forward the name of anyone you have found who you could recommend so that a list can be formulated and circulated to U3A members, which we hope people will find useful.

GROUPS

QUIZ GROUP

The next Quiz Group meeting is on **Friday April 19th** at 2.00pm in room 12 Paignton Library .
Any queries to Sue Allen.

DINING OUT GROUP

The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 25th April at the Orestone Manor Hotel at 7.00pm when Ann Berrow and Ann Bates will be your hosts for the evening.

WALKING GROUP

We now have the new walking schedule for this year. Here are the dates for you and more details of the walks will be prepared in a hand-out, for those who require them, and will be available at the next Members meeting.

The walk this month will be Cockington. We thought (hopefully!!) that Spring might have sprung by then and there may be a few flowers for us to see!!! All other detail for this walk will be on the info sheet or from myself, Lin Carus or Linda Nuttall who will be hosting the walk.

April 17 th	Cockington
May 15 th	Exeter canal
June 19 th	Occombe
July 17 th	Haytor
August	No walk
Sept 18 th	Cider Press Centre/Totnes
Oct 16 th	Stover/Sampsons farm
Nov 20 th	To be investigated!
Dec 18 th	Cockington (to have Christmas lunch(ette) if desired!!)

ART GROUP(new group)

The first meeting of the new art group will be on the 11th April at St Andrew's Hall, Sands road, from 2 - 4pm. We will then meet on the second Thursday afternoon in the month.

Anyone who was unable to attend the preliminary meeting on 25th March can contact me after the next general meeting at the Palace hotel on the 9th April, or contact me for details of materials you will need to bring.

Wendy Leishman

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Next meeting on Monday April 15th.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Next meeting on Wednesday May 1st..

SPANISH GROUP

Next lesson will be on 10th April.
Carole Giffin

WILDLIFE GROUP(new group)

Every 4th Wednesday.
Next meeting 24 April 2pm at The Commodore Hotel. See Sue Lewton's message above.

BADMINTON GROUP(new group)

Every 4th Thursday at St. Andrews Community Centre. See Sue Lewton's message above.

CYCLING GROUP

Next meets at 10am at the Cider Press on Tuesday 23rd April to do the Dartington to Totnes ride.
Any queries contact Connie Powell on 551369.

TRAINS GROUP (new group)

Every 3rd Friday at different venues.

We met in the Paignton café of the Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway on 15th March to start thinking about a programme to get this group off the ground. After discussion we decided on the next four meetings which are:-

19th April Meet at 10.15 at the Buckfastleigh Café of the South Devon Railway when we will ride the rails to Totnes and back. Also we hope to get a guided tour of the Buckfastleigh Engine sheds. Own transport or car share.

17th May. Visit to the garden model railway of Brian Pinches. Meet 10.30 at 59 Lower Polsham Road.

21st June. We are going to do the 'Round Robin' of the Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway. We need someone to lead this day out because I will not be available.

19th July. Day out to Beer to visit the Pecorama Model Trains layouts and have a ride on the Beer Heights Light Railway.

Any queries to Brian Tucker Tel. 845933

CARDS/BOARD GAMES

Next session is on 18th April 7.00 – 9.00 pm at Pebble Court.

COFFEE MORNING

At the Redcliffe Hotel on 22nd April 10.30 to noon. Judy Punshon arranges both of these meetings.

MUSIC GROUP

The next meeting of this Group at the Park Hotel will be on 18th April 10.00 to 12.00 when the subject is "My Favourite Composer and Why?". Bring a CD. Queries to Jo Innes-Lumsden.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

I don't know if it's a sign of maturity (I'm trying my best to refuse to grow old) but time seems to fly by, so once again it's time for the photographic group to meet in Barbara's and my little house. This month's theme was "Devon". It was quite surprising as several members had some excellent photos and it proved difficult to select three on this theme. This is probably because we are fortunate to live in such a diverse part of the country, with Dartmoor, quaint villages, grand vistas, country houses and so much more. However, there were no such problems for the group to select their favourite pictures with Rose Robbins shot of the river Dart looking towards Bayards Cove taking first place, Brian Tucker's lovely shot at Prawle Point voted second, and his study of Beer Beach making it to number three. We discussed the merits of the entries and there was a demonstration of how to recover an underexposed photograph using Adobe Elements.

The theme for the April contest is Liquid and for the May it is Travel. We meet at Barbara and Ron's house at 10.30 am on the third Tuesday of the month.

Ron Collins



1st Rose Robbins



2nd Brian Tucker



3rd Brian Tucker

MAH JONGG GROUP

We have had a couple of members drop out of the group so anyone interested in learning a new game would be very welcome. We meet on the third Tuesday in the month at 7.30 at 21 Southfield Avenue, Preston.

If you would like to know more, contact me, John Battison, at a meeting.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Monday May 20th. *Inside the Museum of Torbay.*

Guided visit to the store rooms. Meet at Museum at 10.30 am Cost £4.00.

Tuesday June 4th. Local archives at Paignton Library. Meet at the library at 2.00 pm

Wednesday July 3rd. Local history at Paignton Library 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

Any queries to Diana Holdsworth

ANODE FOOD BANK

If you listen to local radio you will have heard that in Devon & Cornwall there are now many thousands of local people who are in poverty and reliant upon Charity food banks.

Unfortunately we had a half empty box to take to Anode last month- most usual donators didn't realise my box would be at the AGM.

Please remember to bring along your tins and packets again to future meetings. Let's keep up the good work.

John Battison.

TRIPS and OUTINGS

From Barbara. If anyone wishes to see Swan Lake on Ice at the Princess Theatre, I have tickets for the matinee performance on Wednesday 15th May in the stalls for £17.50. I will need these cheques ASAP.

Details of a Day Trip to Weston Super Mare are on the notice board

I know that Winter is holding on for longer than expected but I am disappointed that I am not overwhelmed by members putting forward their ideas, suggestions and proposals for future activities. However I have been given a suggested trip to the **Gower Coast courtesy of Majestic Tours.**

The holiday includes Excursions to Cardiff, Swansea, Laugharne with entrance to the famous Boathouse, Carmarthen, Mumbles and a tour of the Gower Peninsular taking in Oxwich Bay, Rhossilli & Worms Head.

Staying at the 3 star Mercure Swansea Hotel with its leisure facilities. This 4 day tour is priced at £179.99/person.

Suggested departure dates are Friday June 14 or Friday July 12 with other dates in August & September.

Any questions please contact me, Barbara Collins, then perhaps I can co-ordinate a party together on an agreed date.

Coach trip to Chester by Hemmings Holidays based in Holsworthy Devon, from Sunday 21st to Thursday 25th July
With 6 people already signed up for this trip I thought I would repeat the details in case others may want to join in.

If you are interested please contact Barbara Collins as soon as possible please, with a cheque for £50.00 deposit made payable to "Hemmings Holidays" see details below.



CHESTER, NORTH WALES AND THE CANAL IN THE SKY

Single supplement £80 Holiday insurance £14

Cheshire offers a fabulous opportunity to enjoy shopping, culture, gardens and heritage. High street names and designer labels sit next to unique traditional produce and crafts, working museums and preserved sites narrate the development of industries and the communities they shaped. The walled city of Chester is justifiably proud of its Roman and Medieval heritage as well as its modern and upmarket shopping with well over 750 different shops.

SUNDAY: We travel north today to our hotel the Queens Hotel in the heart of Chester.

MONDAY: This morning we enjoy some free time in Llangollen with its famous canal, see the spectacular views from the horseshoe pass and enjoy a canal boat trip over the awe-inspiring aqueduct, now a world heritage site. Then take a journey on the Llangollen Railway, it runs for 7 1/2 miles along the banks of the River Dee from Llangollen to Carrog through some of the most beautiful scenery in the UK.

TUESDAY: A tour of the North Wales Coast visiting Conwy with its Edwardian Castle and quaint medieval streets. Free time in Llandudno perhaps take the cable car up to the summit of Great Orme. Return via Betws-Y-Coed a pretty village in the Snowdonia National Park with cascading rivers and deep forests.

WEDNESDAY: A free day in Chester

THURSDAY: We depart our hotel and travel south to arrive home late afternoon/early evening.

The Queens is a glorious 4 star hotel set in the heart of Chester. It is minutes' walk from the shops and attractions of Chester. The hotel has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment. All 131 ensuite bedrooms enjoy the very best of modern comforts. They are equipped with telephone, satellite television, trouser press, tea and coffee making facilities hairdryer and writing; desk, There is wireless internet connection throughout the hotel, concierge service and a lift.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Executive coach travel, 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast and excursion programme (not entrances).

U3A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2013

As usual the 12 winning photographs will feature in the 2014 U3A Calendar. The theme is "What Makes Britain Great".

The closing date is May 10th and full details are on the notice board.

A PHILOSOPHY FOR LIFE. Sent in by John Battison

Do not complain about your life

Do not blame others for things you have brought upon yourself

Be content with who you are and where you are

Do whatever you can to bring to others such contentment, joy and understanding

That you have managed to find for yourself.

With thanks to Alexander McCall Smith.

EDITORS NOTE

Please send all contributions to Brian Tucker, 8 Galmpton Farm Close, Galmpton, TQ5 0NP or email to btucker64@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone on 01803 845933. Copy should reach me by the Thursday before the next General Meeting