



*April 2014*

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

***Thought for the month*** *Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain.*

***A Message from your Chairman***

Hello everyone,

The next time many of us will meet again it will be **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at the Redcliffe Hotel** for the AGM. It will be a time to reflect on the last twelve months, to vote in the new Executive Committee and to look ahead to the year 2014/15

To date we still haven't had a full complement of proposed names put forward for the election of the new committee. There are four vacancies, of which one would bring us up to the minimum of nine required to carry out the work as before and a further three places as per the constitution which you unanimously accepted at the Special General Meeting in September 2013. Please think seriously about putting your name forward as I will be asking again on Tuesday. To maintain the current standards in Paignton U3A a minimum of nine members is necessary and to continue to develop a further three members would be the icing on the cake.

This year you will receive in this Newsletter a few written words from each prospective candidate. It will give everyone a chance to know a little about the candidates' back grounds.

The new annual membership renewal date coming just after the AGM means that members will have eleven months to get to know one another before elections take place.

I think the continual dark wet evenings have caused the numbers to dwindle at the Thursday **Cards and Games Group**, so it has temporarily been put on hold. The free accommodation is still available. Our thanks go to Judy Punshon who coordinated the group and to Lenys Robinson and Iris Booking who negotiated the use of the room at Pebble Court and provided the hot beverages.

There are changes in the **Bridge Group** where Jeanette has handed over the ropes to a team of Bridge players. After years of giving up the equivalent of two days a week to the group, Jeanette will hopefully enjoy more time for herself and be able to go to the Bridge sessions without any responsibility. Thanks a lot for all your support, Jeanette and good luck for the future.

This is the last message you will receive from me as Chairman but I am sure you will enjoy many more from the next one who will offer his or her own style. Thank you for all the support I have received from yourselves in the past three years and I look forward to joining you again as a 'General Member'

Best wishes

*Sue*



## ELECTIONS FOR COMMITTEE

Barbara Collins  
Current Vice-Chairman, Prospective Chairman

I was born in Kent and have gradually moved west over the intervening years. I have two children Simon and Fleur. I have done a great many jobs everything from being a Nanny and then studying law but found it rather dry and discovered hotel and catering which I loved. I was catering manager for a golf club before I moved to Torbay 23 years ago to buy a hotel in St Marychurch and then in Paignton. I retired in 2007 and joined the U3A the following year. Married to Ron, love travelling, food and drink, reading, theatre, needlework and gardening, and Muffin who has taken over our lives.

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Colin Gee  
Prospective Treasurer

Paignton U3A Treasurer for the past two years.  
Spent 35 years in banking then 12 years freelance business mentoring. Retired five years ago to return to Paignton, my wife Mona's home town, where we met and married 41 years ago. Have one daughter, Samantha, who lives and works in London.  
Now settled in Goodrington with our Jack Russell dog "Freddie", and enjoy walking gardening and boating.

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Connie Powell  
Prospective Secretary

Paignton U3A Secretary for the past two years.  
I have been a Secretary/PA all my working life. I retired nine years ago from Hertfordshire and we then moved to Paignton. My husband, Martyn, works for the Citizens' Advice Bureau, and we have one Cocker Spaniel called Flory.  
I enjoy walking, cycling and line dancing.

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Steve Ward  
Current Committee Member

Committee member now for two years.  
I work mainly behind the scenes where my main duty is the responsibility of setting up of the audio and visual equipment as required for the monthly speakers. My main interests in U3A are rummikub, mahjong, discussion group and the railway group. My keen interest outside of U3A is mainly snooker which I play on a regular basis.

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Cindy Ball  
Current Committee Member

I was born in Oxford in 1945 and moved to Torbay in 1963 with my parents and brother. I married my husband John at Paignton Parish Church in 1968. We have two children, Natasha born in 1975 who is now married with two sons Jordan and Liam (our grandsons) and Christopher born in 1982, who is single. I have worked most of my life in offices and have been responsible for finances and wages etc. Also I have been a Secretary for a Church Wives' group and Chairperson for a retired works association. I am currently the Membership Secretary of the U3A.

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Carole Giffen  
Current Committee Member

Prior to coming to Paignton in 2004, I worked at Oxford Brookes University with Japanese students, then in the Development Office of King's College, Cambridge, whilst achieving a BA Hons in English and Spanish. I worked at a computer design company, followed by UCLES (Cambridge University Exam Board). I ran English Language classes for foreign workers at Torquay Grammar School.

On joining the U3A, I started Spanish and Book Groups, later followed by Creative Writing, French/Spanish Conversation and Genealogy Groups. I have been a Committee member for three years, currently being the Groups Coordinator and was also the Chair of the Steering Committee helping to set up Preston and Livermead U3A.

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Sheila Wenman  
Current Committee Member

I was born in London but kept moving around until in 2007 when we moved to Paignton to be near our daughter and family. I was a founder member of South Woodham Ferrers U3A and had no hesitation in joining Paignton as soon as we arrived. The U3A is a great organisation especially when you find yourself alone. I have been on the committee here for 4 years mainly acting as Speaker Secretary.

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Judy Punshon  
Prospective Committee Member

I was born in Birmingham in 1938 and educated in Hopton Wafers, Shopshire during the war & then we returned to Birmingham where I finished my schooling and started working. I married in 1967 & moved to Worcester where our daughter was born. I worked for a local solicitors' practice for many years after being a member of the Community Health Council.

Whilst in Worcester I was elected to the local council on two occasions and resigned when we moved to Paignton in 1988. I became a Magistrate in 1990 and served on the main Bench and in Youth Courts until I retired in 2010 when I reached 70.

I've also been a member of PPI Links, T.V.S and Healthwatch and I joined the U3A in 2010.

## ***Groups' News***

### **Book Group**

At today's meeting we discussed "My Life in France" by Julia Child and Alex Prud'homme, her husband's grandnephew, which is an account of her life during the 50's. Julia Child became famous in America for bringing the delights of French cuisine to the American public and this book concentrates on the joys and difficulties encountered preparing the manuscript of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking". At first the descriptions of all the recipes Julia had to work on seemed a little off-putting, but once her enthusiasm and humour shone through we thought this a very interesting and enjoyable read. We gave it 7/10.

Next month we will discuss "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" by Rachel Joyce and we are also going to read "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Erich Maria Remarque in preparation for the U3A General Meeting about World War 1 in July. Marie Handyside

**Chew & Chat** is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm. Help yourself to Roasts and Casseroles. Anyone on their own very welcome and couples too. £10.50 for a buffet style supper. Book with Sarah on 01803 698554 and she will give you directions to her home in Paignton.

## Dining Out Group

will be meeting at The Linny in Coffinswell on Thursday April 24th. Menus will be available at the AGM or please contact Pauline Ryley on 01803 213109.

## Thoughts on joining the Music Group

I joined the music group a couple of months ago – after much ambivalence about membership. I had been thinking 'what's the point, I have plenty of music at home, why go out to listen?'

Those last two words hold the clue. At home I put on music and then sit and read, or do the crossword or maybe the ironing and so my attention is divided.

Whereas, when I go to the Music Group, apart from the obvious fact that I will probably hear music that is unfamiliar and the pleasure of social interaction with other members, I sit and LISTEN to the music, instead of only part hearing it. I'm glad I made the decision. *John Battison*

## Photography

The meeting of the Photography Group once again was held at Barbara and Ron's house on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am. A little bit more room this month as a few of the group's members had other commitments. This month's competition theme was pre-20<sup>th</sup> century architecture which as usual attracted some extremely good entries. David Hudson's photograph of the ceiling and columns was voted into first place, second place went to Chris Merry's shot of a Medieval House front in Cognac France with Ruth l'Anson's study of a Domo in Florence, Italy making it to the third spot.

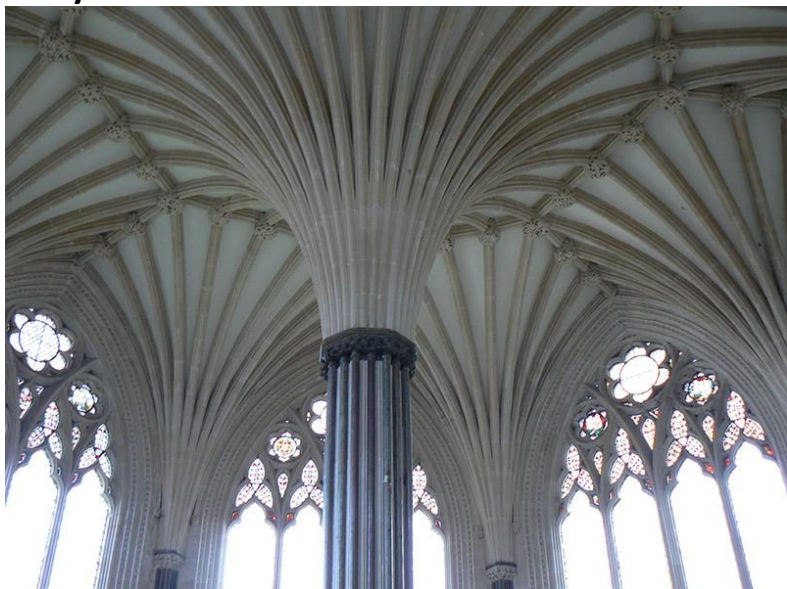
After a discussion of the pro and cons of the entries we had a presentation of 10 rules of composition, there is an excellent web site which will help all photographers explaining these rules on

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/04/12/10-rules-of-photo-composition-and-why-they-work/>

After a short break for refreshments following a member's request, we had a short Photoshop tutorial.

April's competition theme is Nature and for May the theme is composition. The April meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am at Ron and Barbara's house. Keep snapping. Ron Collins

## 1<sup>st</sup> by David Hudson







3<sup>rd</sup> by Ruth l'Anson



**Quiz Group**

There will be no meeting of the Quiz Group this month as it was scheduled for Good Friday and Paignton Library is closed. Back as normal for the 3rd Friday in May. Thank you Sue Allen

**Train Group**

Our next trip is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April to Seaton. A day out to ride on the Trams, with an elevated view of the Exe Estuary and its varied Wildlife, plus a chance to explore Seaton, Colyford, Colyton, or the Bird Hide; you could even have the chance to actually drive a tram, if you pre-book in advance. Please remember that dogs are welcome, but they must ride downstairs at all times. This trip involves Car-sharing.

Next month the group will visit the Exmouth Model Railway prior to its closure, via train and Starcross Ferry. David Hudson 666293

## Walking Group

We had an excellent walk from Marldon to Berry Pomeroy castle on 19th March. There were eight of us, which is the largest group we have had for a long time. The day was bright and sunny and there were lots of snowdrops, violets and daffodils to brighten the banks. The fields had almost dried out, which made the walking easier. As expected the cafe was closed (due to reopen on 1st April) so we had our picnics on the grass under the castle walls, sitting in the sun.

The next walk will be on Wednesday 16th April. It is at Burrator Reservoir so is flat and about 4 miles long. I understand that there is an alternative walk just a little higher up for those who would prefer a challenge but, as we have not done a "recce" yet, I can't say whether that is easy or difficult. We will meet at Occombe Farm at 10.00am and car share. Please bring a picnic lunch.

I have been contacted by Stan of the Livermead and Preston U3A walking group. Their group is also flagging and he has suggested that we join up for the walks. They walk on 1st Friday of the month at 10.30am. His telephone number is 550740, email is [ewartbs@hotmail.com](mailto:ewartbs@hotmail.com), and his address is 16 Cecil Avenue (not Cecil Road). The walk on Friday 4th April will be from Stan's house, parking there, and walking up through Scadson Woods to Cockington - about 4 miles. Hope to see you on 16th April. Norma Ellis tel. 01803 405517

## April humour

Sign on a barbed wire fence: PRAYER is the best way to meet the Lord. Trespassing is faster.

"DIVERSION" – the Welsh point of view

Just booked a table for Valentine's Day for me and the wife. Bound to end in tears though; she's rubbish at snooker.

In the course of her \$6 million palimony suit against a shop-owner's widow, model Vicki le Grange assured the court that during the last 12 years of his life she had devoted herself to him - except for the periods when she had been married to three other men.

Ads in a Johannesburg newspaper:

LOST: Small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered. Like one of the family.

Man required to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel.

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West gas said "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that blew his house to pieces." (**Bangkok Post**)

Perks of reaching, or being over, 60 and heading towards 70 or beyond!

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run -- anywhere.
4. People call at 9pm (or 9am) and ask, 'Did I wake you?'

PAIGNTON U3A DETAILS OF GROUPS Days and times are subject to change so please check with Group Leader.

Day	Activity	Venue	Time	Contact	Tel
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	LOCAL HISTORY	Various	10.30am to 12 noon	Diana Holdsworth	557578
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	NEEDLES & PINS	Jasmyn Ho, Midvale Rd.	10.30am to 12 noon		
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	TABLE TENNIS	Preston Cons Club	2.00 to 4.00pm	Eugene Cox	525079
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Intermediate BRIDGE	Paignton Club	7.30 to 9.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	DOG WALKING		10am to 12.30pm	Sue Lewton	557040
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	GENEALOGY		10am to 12noon	Carole Giffen	391614
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	BOOK CLUB		10.30am to 12 noon	Marion Whiter	403323

1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Beginners & Improvers BRIDGE	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	2.30 to 4.pm	Mary Ward	403484
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	WALKING with L&P U3A			Stan	550740
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	BALLET	Torbay School of Dance Totnes Rd	10am to 11am	Jo Hall	843197
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	KEEP ON SINGING	St Andrews Centre, Sands Rd	2.00pm to 3.30pm	Rita Wood	559793
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	WINE TASTING	Various	8 to 10pm	Marie Handyside	845336
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	GARDENING	Various	10.15am to 12.15pm	Barbara Collins	669238
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	RUMMICUB 3		2.00 to 4.00pm	Gill Bowie	845116
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	GENERAL MEETING	Palace Hotel	11am		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Intermediate BRIDGE	Paignton Club,	7.30 to 9.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	DOG WALKING		10am to 12.30pm	Sue Lewton	557040
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	SCRABBLE		2.00 to 4.30pm	Elizabeth Mills	557215
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	DRESSMAKING	Member's home Preston	7.00 to 9pm	Pam Bushby	550229
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	ART	Jasmyn Ho, Midvale Rd	2.00 to 4.00pm	Wendy Leishman	522407
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Beginners & Improvers BRIDGE	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	2.30 to 4.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	BALLET	Torbay School of Dance Totnes Rd	10am to 11am	Jo Hall	843197
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	CREATIVE WRITING		10am to 12 noon	Carole Giffen	391614
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	NEEDLES & PINS	Jasmyn Ho, Midvale Rd	10.30am to 12.30pm	Pam McLaughlin	393898
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	RUMMICUB 4		2.00 to 4.00pm	Gill Bowie	845116
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	PHOTOGRAPHY	Member's home Paignton	10.am to 12 noon	Ron Collins	669238
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Intermediate BRIDGE	Paignton Club,	7.30 to 9.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	MAH JONGG	Member's home Preston	7.30 to 9.30pm	John Battison	690592
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	DOG WALKING		10am to 12.30pm	Sue Lewton	557040
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	WALKING GROUP	Various	am	Norma Ellis	405517
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	RUMMICUB 1		7.00 to 9.00pm	Sheila Biggs	524559
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	RUMMICUB 2	Member's home Preston	7 to 9pm	Pam Bushby	550229
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	MUSIC	Park Hotel, The Esplanade	10am to 12 noon	Jo Innes-Lumsden	812654
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Beginners & Improvers BRIDGE	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	2.30 to 4.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	CARDS & BOARD GAMES	Temporarily halted			843780
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	BALLET	Torbay School of Dance Totnes Rd	10am to 11am	Jo Hall	843197
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS	Various	10am to 12 noon	David Hudson	666293
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	QUIZ	Paignton Library	2.00 to 4.00pm	Sue Allen	556522
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	SIGNING GROUP		10am to 12 noon	Martyn Powell	551369
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	COFFEE MORNING	Redcliffe Hotel, Marine Drive	10.30 to 12 noon	Judy Punshon	843780
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	DISCUSSION GROUP 1	Member's home	2pm to 4pm	Audrey Kibby	666321
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	DISCUSSION GROUP 2		2.15 to 4.15pm	Colin Porter	698377
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	CYCLING	Various		Connie Powell	551369
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	PATCHWORK		10am to 12 noon	Norma Cox	525079
4 <sup>th</sup> & (5 <sup>th</sup> ) Tuesday	Intermediate BRIDGE	Paignton Club,	7.30 to 9.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
4 <sup>th</sup> (& 5 <sup>th</sup> ) Wednesday	DOG WALKING		10am to 12.30pm	Sue Lewton	57040
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	KNIT & NATTER	Jasmyn Ho, Midvale Rd	2.00 to 4.00pm	Brenda Russell	521544
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	DRESSMAKING	Member's home Preston	7.00 to 9pm	Pam Bushby	550229
4 <sup>th</sup> (& 5 <sup>th</sup> ) Thursday	Beginners & Improvers BRIDGE	Paignton Club, The Esplanade	2.30 to 4.30pm	Mary Ward	403484
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	SHAKESPEARE	Member's home	11am	Diana Holdsworth	557578
Last Thursday	DINING OUT GROUP	Various		Jeanette Taylor	557450
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	PLAYREADING <b>NEW!</b>		2 to 4pm	Wendy Penning	267734
4 <sup>th</sup> (& 5 <sup>th</sup> ) Friday	BALLET	Torbay School of Dance Totnes Rd	10am to 11am	Jo Hall	843197
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	CHEW & CHAT	Member's home	7pm	Sarah Malcolm	698554
Ad hoc	SPANISH CONVERSATION	6/8 WEEK COURSE		Carole Giffen	391614

**If you are a member of a group and cannot attend, will you please let the group leader know?**