



February 2013

www.paignton-u3a.co.uk

Chairman – **Sue Lewton**

Tel: 01803 557040

Email suelew@btconnect.com

Treasurer – **Colin Gee**

Tel: 01803 552055

Email colandmo@btinternet.com

Secretary – **Connie Powell**

Tel: 01803 551369

Email martyn2005@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary – **Wendy Penning**

Tel: 01803 524181

Email wendypenning@hotmail.com

President **Sally Grafton**

A Message from our Chairman

We left the January blues behind at the last General Meeting when Julie Turner had us all laughing at tales behind The Lives and Loves of a Store Detective. We were given an insight into what goes on around us every time we go shopping and I am sure many members had their eyes opened to the antics of others. Shopping will never be the same again. Hold on to your wallets and purses.

I spoke to you last month about the formation of some new groups and I am pleased to say that the Sign Language Group has already had one successful meeting and will meet every two weeks in future to keep the momentum going. See note under Groups.

A number of members have shown an interest in the formation of a Steam Train Group and in order to get this up and running I suggest we meet at The Shoreline Restaurant Paignton Sea Front, at 10.30am Friday 15th February 2013.

I understand that during half term week there will be a special event taking place on the South Devon Railway at Buckfastleigh.

From the 16th – 24th February it will be The Western Branch Line Gala and there will be a special guest, the Unique GWR Rail Motor. (A railway carriage with its own steam engine inside)

Interest has been shown in Badminton. Come to the meeting at St Andrews Community Centre on the 4th March when we are holding an Open Day with displays organised by the Group Leaders

I will also arrange for the smaller rooms at the Centre to be open so that you may look around to see if they are suitable for the use of any group old or new. There is a possibility we could have our own Art Group there.

Following the success of the Musical Extravaganza at Dartmouth last year the South Devon Link Network has agreed to running another event this year. The hosts are Exmouth and District U3A (the latest U3A to be formed in this area). This time the Musical Exe-travaganza will be held on Wednesday 12th June 2013, 2pm.to 5pm. At The Pavilion Theatre Exmouth.

It would be great if we could be represented again by a choir, or as the event is open to any form of music e.g jazz group, singing for pleasure, a folk group, musical instruments and individual performers we should be able to take part. We do need a music Leader/Conductor because Jo Innes-Lumsden is fully committed elsewhere.

The event will be well organised but very informal and for some people taking part it is a very new experience whilst others have been meeting on a regular basis.

Are you prepared to have a go, if so please let me know as soon as possible so that I can guarantee Paignton U3A is in the programme.

Come join me for an evening of 'Live' Opera.

Three of us are going to see Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin at the Apollo Cinema , Wednesday 20th February at 7pm. This is the live performance directly from The Royal Opera House Covent Garden. And tickets must be purchased beforehand.

For more information contact Rita Wood.

Sue.

Anode Food Bank

Someone once wrote "The poor are always with us". Unfortunately the same is true of the hungry. A big thank you, on behalf of the Food Bank we help, to those of you who continue to support us by bringing a tin or two a couple of packets of some staple food. And a plea for those who meant to but forgot – please bring something on to the meeting on Tuesday, it will be greatly appreciated, especially by those it helps to feed.

John Battison

DIARY DATES

General Meetings 11.00 am at the Palace Hotel, Esplanade Road.

At our next General Meeting on 12th February one of our members, Janet Brunt, will be giving a very interesting talk entitled ' One Woman, a Harem and a Thousand Cows'!

March 12th will be our AGM, meeting at the Redcliffe Hotel at 10.30 am for coffee followed by the meeting at 11.00 am. Note. There is no organised lunch following the meeting so it is up to members to make their own arrangements if they want to stay on.

Our first meeting of the new U3A year on 9th April will have Christine Chadwick promoting her book "Your Green Garden" which was first published a year ago.

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

At the meeting on Monday 4th March all our groups have been invited to set up a display to promote their group. This will not only give members their opportunity to look at other groups but to enable members to socialise.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Have you thought of standing for the Committee or do you know anyone who might be interested?

Every year at the AGM the existing committee stand down and have to be voted back on or new members voted in. Nomination forms were sent out in your Membership renewal packs so have you considered putting your name forward??

Don't delay, do it now!!

GROUPS

QUIZ GROUP

The quiz group meeting on Friday February 15th 2013 will be in room 12 Paignton Library 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Any problems or information ring Sue Allen.

DINING OUT GROUP

The first meeting of the New Year was on January 31st when our party of nineteen was welcomed at **Churston Court** to a big log fire and a very enjoyable evening with good food, wine and good company.

The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 28th February at 7.00pm when Jeannette & Denis Taylor invite you to join them at Gemelli's Italian Restaurant in Union Street, Torquay.

For more information and booking contact Jeannette & Denis.

WALKING GROUP

Well what a disaster last year!!! The weather was mostly dreadful for walkers, and together with viruses and holidays we only managed 4 or 5 walks with only a sprinkling of members!!

Having been approached by some of the members enquiring about future walks maybe we should think about concentrating on the Spring/Summer months, hopefully making use of some good weather we might be blessed with!!

At the February meeting there will be a clip board for you to put your names and telephone numbers on if you are interested in carrying on with walking, and of course any new members are welcome to join us. The walk date is, as always, the third Wednesday of every month and the only cost, apart from suitable clothing, will be a packed lunch or light lunch at a cafe or pub!! We try to car share if walking away from the Torbay area and the type of walk will depend on your choice as we usually get together over coffee to decide our routes!!

If unable to attend the February meeting and wish to enquire about the group please contact me.

Lin Carus

CARDS/BOARD GAMES

Next session is on 21st February 7.00 – 9.00 pm at Pebble Court.

COFFEE MORNING

At the Redcliffe Hotel on 25th February 10.30 to noon. Judy Punshon arranges both of these meetings.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE GROUP(new group)

Every 4th Monday morning of the month at 10.00 am. with interim meetings on an ad hoc basis.

Venue....141 Penwill Way

Contact..... Martyn Powell 01803 551369 martyn2005@btinternet.com

All welcome, especially the severely hearing-impaired (deaf).

TRIPS and OUTINGS

It is worth repeating this message which was in our January Newsletter.

Barbara has agreed to be our co-ordinator for all sorts of trips and outings and we are grateful to her for assuming this additional responsibility.

However she can only fully fill this role if members put forward ideas and proposals.

Our Chairman drew attention to this in the November Newsletter particularly referring to the October 'Out and About' meeting. There are many suggestions but we do need people to carry these out. At the moment we would like to see one of our members put forward a suggestion then carry it forward on a 'one off' basis. If half-a-dozen members came forward then we would have a programme. Yippee!!!

Back to the present and an update from Barbara.

Short break to Sidmouth 24th to 28th February.

All the people who are going have their lifts sorted out. The hotel is expecting us mid afternoon

I am looking forward to seeing you all there. If you have any problem please let me know.

I now have the tickets for 9-5 and Warhorse which I will give to everyone who has paid; at the meeting on Tuesday. Coming up at the Princess Theatre Torquay. I have provisionally booked seats in the stalls for Priscilla Queen of the Desert with Jason Donovan which has brilliant reviews. Monday 29th April at 7.30p.m. price £24.50

Swan Lake on Ice which should be spectacular and the music is wonderful. The princess theatre hasn't produced an ice show for a long time. I have reserved seats for the matinee on 15th May at £17.50 in the stalls.

Any questions please contact me Barbara Collins on 669238 or email barbara@bes1.co.uk

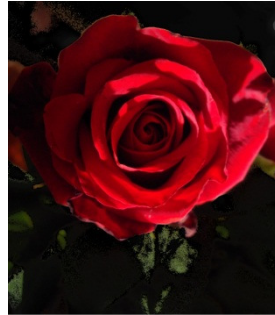
PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Once again we squashed into Barbara and Ron's sitting room. This month's theme of Still Life brought forward a crop of excellent images for the group to judge. Rose Robbins nearly swept the board with an excellent study of two porcelain figures voted into first place and a lovely rose study which came second, with Norma Hasham's close up of a succulent plant showing film like qualities coming third. After the voting we had a discussion on the merits and demerits of the entries, Then we had some of Barbara's excellent cakes and a drink and we were shown a short video on removing distractions from a photograph using various tools available in Photoshop Software.

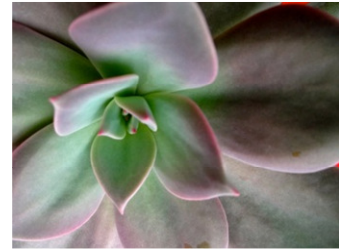
Our Theme for the February Meeting will be Winter, and for the March Meeting the theme will be Devon



1st Rose Robbins



2nd Rose Robbins



3rd Norma Hasham

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Most members are probably not aware that when our U3A was established in 2006 it was agreed that an annual photographic record would be kept of each year's activities.

Somehow 2006 was recorded but nothing since.

The 2006 photo album pictures which depicted all types of U3A activities were selected by a small group, including Sally Grafton, and the album was produced by John Battison. The album is in the care of Sally from where it has surfaced.

Sally spoke with me recently and asked whether it would be possible to re-open the album and compile a record for 2007 onwards. This matter was considered by the Committee at their January meeting and it was agreed to comply with Sally's request.

I have offered to collate any information given to me which could include event programmes as well as pictures. In order to limit individual costs please let me know what you have to offer and possibly just let me have paper photo copies of your material. It is important that any material offered should have your name and contact number and be dated for when it was taken/used.

If you have any pictures or leaflets please send me a note giving me an idea of the material you have. I don't want the actual items at the moment.

Establishment of these records is not expected to be quick or easy but everyone who can come forward with material will be welcomed.

Brian Tucker, 01803 845933 email btucker64@hotmail.co.uk

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.

MEMBERS BUY AND SELL OPPORTUNITY?

It has been suggested that the Newsletter could have Members small advertisements. I would like to get our readers opinions on this before it is considered by the Committee.

Please let me know before the end of February. Editor.

ON THE NOTICEBOARD FROM THIRD AGE TRUST

Third Age Trust's National Conference and AGM.

At the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham, 13th to 16th September 2013.

U3A Spring Concert 'Vivaldi Gloria' at The Queens Chapel of the Savoy, London Wednesday 17th April

Elgar's Life and the Women who influenced him at the Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester Tuesday 21st May 2013

THIS PHONE SCAM HAS STARTED UP AGAIN

I Received a phone call from BT, informing me that he was disconnecting me because of an unpaid bill. He demanded payment immediately of £31.00 or it would be £ 118.00 to re-connect at a later date. The guy wasn't even fazed when I told him I was with Virgin Media, allegedly VM have to pay BT a percentage for line rental! I asked the guy's name and he gave me the very 'English' John Peacock with a ve...ry 'African' accent - & phone number 0800 0800 152. Obviously the fellow realized I didn't believe his story, so offered to demonstrate that he was from BT.

I asked how & he told me to hang up & try phoning someone - he would disconnect my phone to prevent this. AND HE DID !! My phone was dead - no engaged tone, nothing - until he phoned me again. Very pleased with himself, he asked if that was enough proof that he was with BT. I asked how the payment was to be made & he said credit card, there & then. I said that I didn't know how he'd done it, but I had absolutely no intention of paying him, I didn't believe his name or that he worked for BT. He hung up. I dialed 1471 -number withheld I phoned his fictitious 0800 number - not recognized. So I phoned the > police to let them know. I wasn't the first!

It's only just started apparently, but it is escalating. Their advice was to let as many people as possible know of this scam. The fact that the phone does go off would probably convince some people it's real, so please make as many friends & family aware of this.

How is it done? This is good but not that clever. He gave the wrong number - it should have been 0800 800 152 which takes you through to BT Business. The cutting off of the line is very simple, he stays on the line with the mute button on and you can't dial out - but he can hear you trying. (This is because the person who initiates a call is the one to terminate it). When you stop trying he cuts off and immediately calls back. You could almost be convinced! The sad thing is that it is so simple that it will certainly fool many. By the way this is not about getting the cash as this would not get past merchant services - **it is all about getting the credit card details which include the security number, to be used for larger purchases.**

This scam was passed to me from Cindy Ball.

PUNS

After all the serious stuff here is a little light relief sent in by Vera Prescott.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club but, I'd never met herbivore.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.

When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

EDITORS NOTE

Please send all contributions to Brian Tucker, 8 Galampton Farm Close, Galampton, 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