



March 2013

www.paignton-u3a.co.uk

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President **Sally Grafton**

A Message from our Chairman

March certainly came in like a lion, let us hope it goes out like a lamb!

Going back to February, with Barbara's support 19 of us booked ourselves into the Kingswood and Devoran Hotel, Sidmouth and we enjoyed a very relaxed 5 days. The system worked well and took the pressure off the organiser' so I am sure that in future we can continue with more short breaks of your choice.

Three new groups have been started or re-established i.e. Sign Language with Martyn Powell as leader. Cycling with Connie Powell and Steam Trains with Brian Tucker as the co-ordinators. Members of the last two groups will take it in turn to organise/host events/meetings.

Watch this space for Singing; hopefully we will have a couple of members to lead this group. Wendy and Dennis Leishman have agreed to lead the Art group so we are now in the process of negotiating a suitable afternoon with St. Andrews Community Centre. Badminton is also on the cards at St Andrews C.C. I hope to be able to announce the dates for the initial meetings of these groups at the A.G.M.

Come and join me for an evening of 'Live' Opera was the note I put in the last Newsletter and three of us braved the cold wind and rain and enjoyed an evening at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Eugene Onegin was relayed live to the Apollo Cinema Paignton and proved the advantage modern technology has in bringing great productions to our local venue.

The next Opera is on Monday 29th April and Placida Domingo will be making his role debut in Daniele Abbado's new production of Verdi's Nabucco.

Rita and I will be going so why not join us?

I am looking forward to seeing you at the A.G.M on Tuesday. Bring your papers along and be ready to join in the Open Forum after the business meeting.

Sue.

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

MEMBERSHIP OF PAIGNTON U3A

Our Membership Secretary, Wendy, reports that there appears to be a considerable number of Forms that have not been returned. Wendy will have forms with her at the AGM for anyone who has lost their form. Also if you are not re-joining this year please let Wendy or any member of the committee know because we have new people waiting.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

So that Members can study our accounts before the AGM they are attached to this newsletter. If you have any queries please contact our Treasurer Colin Gee on 552055.

DIARY DATES

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.

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

Our first meeting of the new U3A year on 9th April 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.

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 Hall, Esplanade Road.

The next meeting due on 1st April is cancelled because this is Easter Monday and it is assumed that many members will be enjoying the Bank Holiday.

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.

GROUPS

QUIZ GROUP

The next Quiz Group meeting is on **Friday March 15th** at 2.00pm in room 12 Paignton Library. Although this may seem early it is the 3rd Friday as normal. Several members were caught out by this for our February meeting. Any queries to Sue Allen.

DINING OUT GROUP

The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 28th March at 7.00pm when Wendy Penning Tel. 524181 and Pauline Ryley host a Thai evening at the Thai Garden in Palace Avenue.

WALKING GROUP

Apologies to all those who put their names on my list for walking, and have wondered why I have not contacted you. Unfortunately I have had a hideous virus for a month and it doesn't seem to want to leave me!! I seem to have mislaid a whole month!!

There will be no walking this month but I suggest that we might meet up at the Shoreline Restaurant at 10.30 on Wednesday 20th March to discuss the format walking is going to follow. We can talk about the type, length, areas we wish to walk. And have a cup of coffee too!!! I will attempt to phone you all before then.

All are welcome to come along. Lin Carus

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).

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

There will be no Creative Writing on Monday March 18th.

GENEALOGY GROUP

No Genealogy on Wednesday April 3rd.

SPANISH GROUP

No Spanish for 3 weeks, next lesson after 13th March will be on 10th April.

Carole Giffin

CARDS/BOARD GAMES

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

COFFEE MORNING

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

CYCLING GROUP (reformed group)

Our first cycle ride will commence on Tuesday 26 March at 10.00am from the Cider Press at Dartington.

Everyone interested please contact Connie Powell on 551369.

MUSIC GROUP

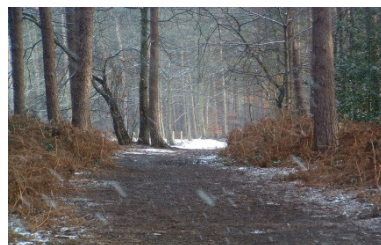
The next meeting of this Group at the Park Hotel will be on 21st March when Peter Grafton will repeat a talk he gave many years ago on Edward Elgar.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Another rather splendid batch of photographs for our February competition on a winter theme, with Brian Tucker's chilly shot of a snow covered lane voted into first place, Bob Tame's woodland scene making second place followed by Norma Hasham's landscape photograph in third place. After a discussion on the competition entries a short video on compact cameras was shown. In the software part of the morning after a short coffee and cake break a short session on Adobe Photoshop Highlight and Shadows Tool.



1st Brian Tucker



2nd Bob Tame



3rd Norma Hasham

The Theme for the March contest is Devon and April's Theme is Liquid.

Ron Collins Tel. 669238

TRAINS GROUP (new group)

Members interested in forming a Steam Train Group met at The Shoreline Restaurant on Paignton sea front on Friday 15th February 2013.

Sue explained why that date was chosen as there was a rare opportunity to see the Steam Railmotor which was coming to the South Devon Railway the following day at Buckfastleigh.

Martyn explained further and invited anyone to join him on Saturday at Buckfastleigh.

Other railway lines were discussed and ideas shared for outings both local and further afield.

These trips could be organised by members of the group and invitations given to other U3A members.

The interest ranged from narrow gauge railways to model railway and to main line trains.

Some of these are as follows. The Tarka Line, The Avocet Line, Dartmouth Kingswear and South Devon Line.

Model railways were The Model Village Babbacombe and Peccorama at Beer which has beautiful views and gardens as well plus a nature walk.

Brian Pinches has a model railway in his garden and has offered to host a meeting in the Spring.

Holidays on steam trains were mentioned and the Swiss Railway .

The meetings will develop as needed and in a variety of venues starting with the 3rd Friday of the month. The next being 15th March at 10.15am in the café of the Dartmouth Steam Train Station. Timed to see the 10.30am. train leave the station.

Brian Tucker has kindly offered to be the co-ordinator for the group. Tel. 845933

With such a wide range of interest I hope there will be many more people at the meeting on 15th.

Sue Lewton.

TRIPS and OUTINGS

Short break to Sidmouth 24th to 28th February.

On Sunday 24th February 19 of us gathered at the Kingswood and Devoran Hotel on Sidmouth seafront for 4 nights of relaxation. The hotel staff pandered to our every whim so we were well spoilt. Each day we met up for breakfast and dinner at 3 large tables so were able to socialise easily. During the daytime some of us went off in our cars while others enjoyed the good quality local small shops or walked along the beach beside the roaring waves well wrapped up from the cold dry wind.

The hotel offered coffee with biscuits in the morning and afternoon tea with cakes on the house in the afternoon and the evening menu was extensive, unusual and delicious with coffee and mints to follow in the lounge where we usually gathered for chats or games on an informal basis.

We have to thank Barbara Collins for organising the bookings and for making our holiday so friendly, relaxing and informal. **Maureen Dobbs.**

From Barbara. Can I remind everyone who has not paid to see Priscilla Queen Of The Desert that cheques for £24.50 should be made payable to Paignton U3A and must be given to me by Tuesday 12th March. Also 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 by the end of March.

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.

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

Suggested coach trip to Chester by Hemmings Holidays based in Holsworthy Devon, from Sunday 21st to Thursday 25th July. If you are interested please contact Barbara on 01803 669238 or Barbara@bes1.co.uk as soon as possible please, 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 minute's 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 ALLOTMENT – HOLLICOMBE ALLOTMENTS

We need volunteers to help us maintain the allotment. We understand that many people cannot cope with heavy digging, but at the moment, just 3 people are having to do the work. If you are interested in joining the Allotment Group, then contact Ashley Giffen or Barbara Collins on 669238. We are also planning an on-site meeting on Saturday 16th March at 10am.

The Allotment site is off Tarroway Road in Preston. The easiest way to get there is to park on the main road at Hollicombe, outside the old gasworks and walk up the lane next to the used car lot. The area is on the right hand side.

For those that are interested we look forward to seeing you.

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.

HOW TO LOCK YOUR CAR AND WHY

"I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I could hear it unlock again!! Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two men sitting in a car next to the Store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there seemed no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly abandoned my errand, jumped into my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into parked cars.

Two weeks later my friend's son had a similar experience....While travelling, he stopped at a motorway service area to use the toilet. When he came out to his car less than 5 minutes later, someone had managed to get into his car and had stolen his mobile phone, laptop computer, sat-nav, briefcase and other belongings. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car having been broken into, the police told him he had probably been a victim of the latest robbery tactic. There is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your remote locking device. They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside the Store, restaurant, or whatever and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run.

The police officer said always to lock your car manually with the key when parking in a public area. That way if there is someone sitting in a car nearby watching for their next victim, it will not be you. When you lock up with the key upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the remote button, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be easily intercepted by the device.

This is very real. Be aware of what you just read and please pass this information on. Look how many times we all lock our doors with our remote just to be sure we remembered to lock them -- and bingo, someone has our code...and potentially whatever is in our car."

Please share with everyone you know in the hope that we can frustrate this form of thieving..

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