



CHAIR'S LETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

Hello Everyone!

Remember the rhyme we learnt in Primary School about the months of the year? February brings the rain? Well, it certainly has this February! Trying to get outdoor jobs done has been impossible.

There will be a mad rush to weed and mow lawns when the sun does come out.

Our meeting this month is on Pancake Day, (Shrove Tuesday) and I must admit, I now buy ready made ones. I know! but I well remember the days of standing at the cooker frying away, only for the rest of the family to eat them whilst I ended up with scraping round the bowl to get the last one!

Let us hope that the weather improves for half

term so that visiting family can get out and about. I know there are lots of activities going on around the Bay.

Carole Giffen

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE

At our April AGM, we have to elect a new Committee. As Chair. I have to step down due to Charity rules. We also only have six Committee members in total, and that is the minimum we can have to keep going as a Branch. We also cannot continue without a Chairperson. We have two options: To join another neighbouring U3A, either Livermead and Preston or Torbay for a few more years yet, so please consider joining the Committee.

The only other option is for any Group Leaders who are willing, to run their group independently of any organisation, but

this has insurance implications.

Carole Giffen

VENUES FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

We are losing money on our monthly meetings.

The number of people attending are not covering the cost. Other venues are either too expensive, or have limited free parking. We will therefore have to make a compromise with either the venue, or increasing the entrance fee. Other venues include The Palace Theatre, or Hookhills Community Centre, if they have the room. We only meet once a month, and many venues have weekly meetings where they reap more benefits.

We are unable to return to The Redcliffe Hotel, as they are converting the ballroom/ gym area into extra bedrooms as they only had two dance coach parties for the whole of last year. All the new

hotels do not have meeting rooms. Any suggestions from our membership are welcome.

Carole Giffen

ARM CHAIR TRAVEL GROUP

A small Group met on Thursday 25th. We had a Slide Show on Turkey, Asia Minor, and the Caribbean. There are still a few places available for the next meeting on the 22nd. February when we will see a Slide Show on Madagascar. Please contact if you are interested.

Barbara Mudd

DINING OUT GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

I have offered to be the co-ordinator for the Dining Out group. Please contact me via the Groups page on this website.

Please contact me if you would like to join our group on the 4th Thursday of the month at the various restaurants in the area.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Hobbs

DINING OUT:

The next venue will be the Harbour Lights

Restaurant, North Quay, Paignton TQ4 6DU on

Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 6-30pm. The

restaurant require pre-ordered meals!

If you wish to join the regulars, please let this month's organiser know

by Monday 19th February 2024 (Cindy Ball). Menu

details will be available at the next monthly meeting on the 13th February or by request from Cindy.

I look forward to you joining us. Take care, Cindy

CANASTA GROUP

The next Canasta Group will be held at Albany Court on Monday 26 February at 11.00m.

Contact Sue Hoggett.

MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 14 February at the Paignton Club.

Sue Hoggett

QUIZ GROUP

The next Quiz Group will be held on 19th January at the Preston Conservative Club.

Jan Spry

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Baptist Church Hall, Winner Street between 2 and 4pm. The next group will be held on 9th. January.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

'The History of Totnes' at our February meeting gave a fascinating insight to the town's past as we explored the chequered history of some of its famous residents, events and Elizabethan buildings. Not many knew that a branch line railway once extended to "The Plains" finishing at the Steam Packet Inn or that an offer to sell a bridge over the Dart, built by the Americans during the war, was turned down so the Yanks blew it up!

There is much more still to explore for our next meeting, for example Bogan House, what made the town so prosperous and each of the 26 plaques around the town holds it's own story. See you 4th March 10.30 am at the group leader's home.

Ken Faulkner

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Chris Coote will be talking about Concorde - Lady of Speed. Reminiscences of a Lady.