



## CHAIR'S LETTER - MAY 2025

Well, who can believe it? It is May next week with two bank holidays and a very special commemoration, the 80 year anniversary of VE Day. Don't forget to wear something red, white or blue, or all three!! Let's give thanks and celebrate a very special anniversary. Our AGM was well attended. Thank you for supporting myself, our trustees and committee for another year. Hopefully you will find the planned programme interesting. Some groups are struggling for numbers and suggestions for starting new ones have been received, but we need you to come forward to run them. Can you help? Support is there for you, so think about it. Having had a great two weeks in northern Norway chasing the northern lights, I am off to Lourdes to volunteer with the Order of Malta Ireland for a week so

that won't be so restful!. Always a great experience no matter how many times you go, and many new memories to make.  
June  
Chair.

## CANASTA GROUP

There will be **NO** Canasta groups in May as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays are both bank holidays so we'll see you in June.

Sue Hoggett

## MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 14 May at Janet Hobbs' home in Paignton.

Sue Hoggett

## KNIT & NATTER/CRAFT GROUP.

The next meeting will be on the second Wednesday of the month which will be held on 14 May @ 1.30 Janet Hobbs' home in Paignton.  
Janet Hobbs

## DINING OUT GROUP

The venue for this month's Dining Out is Bistro Pierres, Abbey Crescent, Torbay Road, Torquay, TQ2 5HB on Thursday 22 May. Menus will be available at the next general meeting on 8 May. If anyone is interested in joining the group at Pierres please contact Sue Hoggett. As meals have to be pre-booked choices should be with me by Monday 12 May please.

## CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Please note there will be **NO** Crib/ Backgammon group this month.

## QUIZ GROUP

There will be **NO** quiz Group on Friday 16 May.

## MAY SPEAKERS

Sue Saunders will be talking to us on the volunteers at Oldway Mansion gardens and Lionel Hawke will come along with a fellow RBL member and speak for a short time.

**REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS**

When attending any Group you will need to show the group leader your u3a membership card as this shows you are a current member and therefore covered by the u3a insurance in case of accidents.

**FUTURE DINING OUT DATES/VENUES:**

26 June

Venue: The Oriental Touch

Organiser: Janet Hobbs

24 July

Venue: The Kent

Organiser: Jan & Barry

Hodges

25 September

Venue: The Paignton Club

Organiser: Joan Cooper

23 October

Venue: Cattlemans@

Parkers Arms

Organiser: Cindy & John Ball

27 November

Venue: The Linney

Organiser: Janet Hobbs

**SAVE THE DATE**

11 December

Venue: The Paignton Club

Organiser: Janet Hobbs

**GENERAL MEETING**

The next General meeting will be held on Thursday 8 May at the Palace Avenue Methodist Church Hall, Paignton.

**FUN PAGE****APRIL'S QUIZ**

1. What language was Jesus of Nazareth brought up with?
2. Where is the Campi Flegrei Super volcano?
3. Who was Rosalind Franklin?
4. What is a maelstrom?
5. What was the old English name for a Lime Tree. (Hint: The same name is used today in German and Dutch).
6. What is the Botanical name for red cabbage?

**ANSWERS TO APRIL'S QUIZ**

- Aramaic. There is no doubt that he learnt to speak Hebrew also, and possibly Greek
2. Under the ground in the Italian city of Naples.

3. She was part of a team at Kings College London that discovered the double helix of DNA. The other members of the team, Watson, Crick and Wilkins received a Nobel Prize for the team's work. Franklin was left out.
4. A large whirlpool.
5. A Linden
6. Brassica oleracea

**MAY'S QUIZ**

1. What were Barbary Pirates?
2. In the constellation of Orion in the night sky if you look at Orion's 'belt', a line of three stars, then look up and to the left, you will see a red star called 'Betelgeuse'. It is a massive red star. What are

astronomers predicting for it?

3. The German city of Cologne – Köln was established by the Romans. What did the name come from?
4. Who was Rosa Parks?
5. If you have watched the film 'Sense and Sensibility' you would have heard a romantic music background. Who was the composer?
6. What were the colour of Alexander The Great's hair and eyes?

**ANSWERS NEXT MONTH****FACTS ON MAY**

Birth flowers of May are the Lily of the Valley and the common Hawthorn.

The Anglo-Saxon name of May was Tri-Milchi, in recognition of the fact that with the lush new grass cows could be milked 3 times a day. It was first

called May in about 1430.  
Before then, it was called  
Maius, Mayes or Mai.

May's birthstone is the  
Emerald associated with  
love and success.

May Day traditions often  
involve celebrating the  
arrival of spring with  
dancing around maypoles,  
gathering and decorating  
flowers, and crowning a May  
Queen. Some communities  
also light bonfires, have May  
Day parades and engage in  
Morris dancing.

May is also celebrated as  
National Barbecue month  
and National Hamburger  
Month.