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CHAIR'S LETTER - DECEMBER 2025

Hello everyone

I do hope you are all keeping well and warm in this very changeable weather. Don't forget there are various organisations in Torbay who can give you advice if you need help in doing so.

We had an extremely interesting talk about Paignton in November, and this will be concluded at our March meeting.

Fascinating to hear about our buildings and those people who did so much to create this town and surrounding areas. I'm sure we all learned something.

Simon, our Vice Chair, is working hard to produce a varied and interesting program for the coming year with something for everyone we hope. Please let us know if you have a special interest or if you know of a speaker.

Enjoy this special Christmas time and may I wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you all in 2026 fully replete after all the

special lunches and dinners we will have consumed!!

June
Chair

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we have to advise of the death of Eugene Cox, a long-standing member of u3a. His funeral took place on Monday 24th November followed by a wake at Paignton Bowls Club.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with Norma and their family. A true gentleman who will be missed by many.

Rest in peace Eugene

June

COFFEE MORNING

From 11am every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Paignton Club/Paignton Vista, The Esplanade, TQ4 6ED.

Please note there will be **NO** Coffee morning in December but will resume again on January 15th 2026.

All members old and new, also prospective members, are welcome. Come and make new friends, enjoy good company, look at the lovely view across the bay.

There is a choice of hot and cold drinks, and you may like to partake of a light lunch afterwards. Meet members of the committee who work hard on our behalf.

There are plenty of free car parking spaces at the front of the club and spaces for Blue Badge holders, with easy access, at the rear.

I look forward to seeing you there on the 15th January 2026.

Sue Lewton

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meetings 2nd December and then 6th January 2026 at 14:00 Janet's Home

CANASTA GROUP

Our Canasta group will be held on Monday 1st and 22nd December at Albany Court, Paignton.

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 10 December at 10.30am at Janet's Home

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

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KNIT & NATTER GROUP.

The following have been donated to BLISS (premature babies).

9 blankets
16 Christmas hats
10 traffic light hats
3 pairs of triangles
15 jackets
6 Levis, the super easy lovie.

A donation of 72 lots of yarn has recently been passed to the u3a. If you would like to knit at home but don't have patterns, ideas or yarn please contact Janet Hobbs

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10 December @ 1.30 at Janet's Home

DINING OUT GROUP

A big thankyou to all u3a members who have organised our dining out in 2025.

Dates for 2026 have now been organised so please keep the following dates free:

22nd January
26th February
26th March
23rd April
28th May
25th June
23rd July
24th September
22nd October
25th November

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

26 of us will be enjoying Christmas Lunch on 11 December at The Paignton Club. Time 12pm for 12.30pm.

Janet Hobbs will contact those attending with an update on road closures on 10th December.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 10 December. Paignton u3a Christmas Lunch 2026

Janet

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.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General meeting will be held on Thursday 8th January at the Palace Avenue Methodist Church Hall, Paignton. Tea, coffee and biscuits served from 10.30 at the bargain price of £1!

SPEAKERS FOR 2026, so far January

Alan Pewsey from Dartmoor search and rescue

February

Andrew Medley Coxswain RNLI Brixham

MARCH

Lee Hayward and Karen Chapman

'Paignton - Our Home Town' based on a book from Paignton Heritage Society.

QUIZ GROUP

There will be **NO** quiz group in December. From the beginning of next year, the Quiz group will be held on the 2nd Friday of every month.

Jan Hodges

TABLE TENNIS

Please note there will be **NO** Table Tennis on 23rd December.

Jan Hodges

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FUN PAGE

ANSWERS TO THE NOVEMBER QUIZ

- 1 Name one of the Birthstones of November
- 2 The full moon in November is traditionally called what.
- 3 How many hearts does an octopus have
- 4 When is ALL SOULS DAY
- 5 Who discovered Radium and Polonium and was born in November
- 6 Which of Queen Elizabeth second's children was born in November
- 7 What do Americans celebrate in November
- 8 How many people were involved in the Gun Powder Plot
- 9 Who wrote the music for the Royal Fireworks
- 10 In which East Sussex town are political effigies burnt every Bonfire Night

Answers

- 1 Topaz and Citrine
- 2 Beaver Moon
- 3 3
- 4 2nd November
- 5 Marie .curie
- 6 Charles now King
- 7 Thanks Giving

- 8 13
- 9 Handel
- 10 Lewes

DECEMBER QUIZ

- 1 The song 'White Christmas featured in which of these films?
a) Singing in the rain b) The Wizard of Oz c) Holiday Inn or d) The Sound of music.
- 2 A tree from Norway has been placed in Trafalgar Square at Christmas for how many years?
A) 58 years b) 68 years7 c) 8 years or d) 88 years
- 3 Who was crowned King of England on a Christmas Day, later commissioned the Domesday Book?
a) William the Conqueror
b) Richard the Lionheart
c) Edward the Confe
D) Thomas a' Becket
- 4 Which famous film star died on Christmas Day 1977?
A) Charlie Chaplin
B) Fred Astaire
C) Bing Crosby
D) Alastair Sim

- 5 This well-known drink popularised Santa in it's advertisements in 1931?
A) Sandeman's Port
B) Tetley's Tea-
C) Coca-Cola-
D) Robinson's Orange squash
- 6 What was the first name of Scrooge in the Christmas Carol?
A) Benjamin
B) Ezekial
C) Nicholas
D) Ebenezer
- 7 In which pantomime does a pumpkin feature?
A) Dick Wittington
B) Sleeping Beauty
C) Cinderella
D) Ali Baba
- 8 Which historical article was removed from a building in London on Christmas Day 1950?
A) Painting by Rembrandt
B) The Stone of Scone
C) The Mace
D) The Royal Sceptre

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9 Which people started the tradition of exchanging gifts at Christmas?

- A) The Americans
- B) The Spanish
- C) The Romans
- D) The Swiss

In 1647 Oliver Cromwell, an English Puritan leader, banned the festivities of Christmas for being seem as immoral on such a holy day. The ban was lifted in 1660.

10 For a while Christmas was made illegal in the country. By whose order?

- A) William Pitt the Elder
- B) Oliver Cromwell
- C) Henry v111
- D) Thomas a' Becket

An ancient legend states that forest animals can speak on Christmas Eve!

An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny.

December 6th is Saint Nicholas Day. St Nicholas, the patron saint of children, inspires traditions around the world from hunts for presents to stockings or shoes filled with sweets.

The first day of winter is either December 21st or 22nd. This is the shortest day of the year and the longest night. It is called the winter or Southern solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.

FUN FACTS ABOUT DECEMBER

The name December comes from the Latin decem for "ten" as it was the tenth month in the Roman calendar.

December's flowers are the Narcissus and Holly.

December's birthstones are turquoise, lapis lazuli, zircon, topaz (blue), or tanzanite.

"Jingle bells" was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas - it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW
YEAR**