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## CHAIR'S LETTER - JANUARY 2026

Hello everyone.

Well, we are part way through the festive season. I hope you have enjoyed time with family and friends. It is a difficult time for many but that is where our u3a can come in. We build friendships and have some interesting groups where you can take up a new hobby or maybe revisit something you haven't done for a long time. Give it a try. Make it your resolution for the new year!

Simon and I have been meeting up with other u3a groups in South Devon, sharing our newsletters and details of group activities. We all have much in common but as this develops, I am sure it will be of benefit to everyone.

The AGM is fast approaching (9<sup>th</sup> April 2026) so if anyone wants to volunteer to join our hard-working committee then please ensure you have the nomination form completed and handed in. These will be available at the next meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January. See you all then.

A very happy and peaceful new year to you all. Thank you for your continued support.

June, Chair.



### Vice Chair Note

I also hope the Christmas part of the festivities have gone well, I went to a family lunch with 12 people in Bristol, I think my cousin will need some rest after doing a great Lunch (it's ok I did help). Now just the festivities for New Years Eve to go. Happy New Year to all.

It was nice to see so many at the recent Christmas lunch, for which we say a big thank you to Janet Hobbs for the hard work in arranging a very enjoyable event.



Now to start your new 2026 Diaries with a reminder of Paignton u3a Christmas Lunch Celebrations on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2026 (location to follow)

I have also included this month a newsletter that was received from Ian Cassidy who is the u3a CEO on Christmas day.

Simon, Vice Chair

### COFFEE MORNING

From 11am every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Paignton Club/Paignton Vista, The Esplanade, TQ4 6ED. 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 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Group Leader - Sue Lewton

### CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> January at Janet Hobbs Home

Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

### CANASTA GROUP

Our Canasta group will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at Albany Court, Paignton.

Group Leader Sue Hoggett

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**MAH JONG**

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am at Janet Hobbs Home.

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

**KNIT & NATTER GROUP.**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 1.30pm at Janet Hobbs Home  
Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

**DINING OUT GROUP**


The Livermead House Hotel will be the venue for this month's dining out. It will be held on Thursday 22 January 2 for 1 dining experience.  
Please confirm your attendance by 15<sup>th</sup> January to Penelope Avery or via the website.  
Look forward to seeing you there.

**RUMMIKUB GROUP**

The next Rummikub group is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2-4pm at Albany Court, Paignton.

Group Leader - Jan Hodges

**TABLE TENNIS**

The next Table Tennis  is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2-4pm at Baptist Church Winner St

Group Leader - Jan Hodges

**QUIZ GROUP**

From the beginning of the year the Quiz group will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE GOING FORWARD FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY TO 2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY.**

The next group will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Group Leader - Jan Hodges

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Torbay

**March**

Lee Hayward and Karen Chapman - 'Paignton - Our Hometown' based on a book from Paignton Heritage Society. (Part 2)

**April**

AGM

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## **FUN PAGE**

### **ANSWERS TO THE 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 years c) 78 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 Confessor  
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 its 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

9 Which people started the tradition of

exchanging gifts at Christmas?

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

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

#### Answers:-

1	Holiday Inn
2	78 years
3	William the Conqueror
4	Charlie Chaplin
5	Coca-Cola
6	Ebenezer
7	Cinderella
8	The Stone of Scone
9	The Romans
10	Oliver Cromwell

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### JANUARY QUIZ

- 1) What does the company Ben and Jerrys produce ?
- 2) If you are eating a Golden Delicious, what is it.?
- 3) What style of art is associated with Claude Monet.?
- 4) Which food dish combines Seafood and Red Meat.?
- 5) Which dried fruits are raisins.?
- 6) Name the donkey in Winnie the Pooh.?
- 7) What is the Spanish word for Bullfighter.?
- 8) Name the Japanese art of paper folding?
- 9) How many points does the Star of David have?
- 10) What colour is the starting piece in a game of chess?

### ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

### FUN FACTS ABOUT JANUARY

January, the first month, is named for the two-faced Janus, looking to past/future, symbolizes beginnings with it's garnet birthstone and carnation flower, is typically the coldest in the Northern Hemisphere but warmest in the Southern, and holds historical events like the Emancipation Proclamation. Ancient Romans called it "Wolf Month" (Wulfmonath) and it's time of fresh starts, even featuring days like National Chocolate Cake Day January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Birthstone:** Garnet, a Red gem symbolizing safety during travel.

**Birth Flowers:** Carnation and Snowdrop.

**Zodiac:** Capricorn (Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 19<sup>th</sup>) and Aquarius (Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Feb 18<sup>th</sup>)

January is National Clean Up Your Computer Month and National Hot Tea Month.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day.

January 6 – National Bean Day.

January 10 – National Houseplant Appreciation Day.

January 14 – National Dress Up Your Pet Day.

January 20 - National Penguin Day.

January 22 – National Answer your Cat's Questions Day.

January 29 – National Puzzle Day.