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CHAIR'S LETTER - FEBRUARY 2026

Hello everyone,
I hope you have all managed to stay safe in this spell of very cold, wet and windy weather. At least we did not have snow although I am sure plenty of children will have been very disappointed. When this newsletter is circulated I should be in Scotland, supposedly for a week, but who knows we could be marooned for longer! The scenery will be spectacular I am sure.

We have an interesting programme of speakers in the coming months and hopefully there will be something of interest to everyone.

In February we welcome the RNLI, who will perhaps share details of some of their recent search and rescues. The crew must have nerves of steel going out to sea in such terrible conditions! We are fortunate there are such volunteers who do so.

Don't forget to check out details of our groups and the many activities throughout the month. It's true you will never be bored if you belong to a u3a. Like me you probably question when you had time to

go to work! It's never too late to take up a new interest or hobby. Don't forget to put the date of our AGM in your diary and submit the nomination forms for those whom you wish to represent you in the coming year.

Stay safe in this inclement weather
June, Chair

COFFEE MORNING

From 11am every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Paignton Club/Paignton Vista, The Esplanade, TQ4 6ED look forward to seeing you there on 19th February.

Group Leader: - Sue Lewton

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meeting on 3rd February at Janet's Home

Group Leader: - Janet Hobbs

CANASTA GROUP

Our Canasta group will be held on Monday 2nd and 23rd of February at Albany Court, Paignton. Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

SCRABBLE

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th February @ 10.30 am at Jasmyn House.
Group Leader: - Connie Powell

MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 11th February at 10.30am at Janet's Home.
Group Leader: - Sue Hoggett

KNIT & NATTER GROUP.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th February @ 2pm (to 4.30) at Janet Home
Group Leader: - Janet Hobbs

DINING OUT GROUP – February

This month the dining out group will be meeting at the Local Thai in Paignton TQ4 6AJ. It will be held on Thursday 26th February 6.30 for 7. Meals will need to be pre-booked with Sue Lewton by 18th February. Menus will be available at the February general meeting or is available on the Paignton u3a Website (https://paignton.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/dining-out-february/) .

Those of you who are interested in joining the group please register with Sue Lewton

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MARCH DINING OUT

The Old Vienna restaurant will be the venue for the March dining out on Thursday 26th. Menus are available online however they're subject to a slight change from 1st March. There will be a specimen menu at the February meeting. Anyone interested in the Old Vienna please give your name to Sue Hoggett, by 12th March.

QUIZ GROUP

The next quiz group will be held on Friday 27th February 2pm – 4pm
Albany Court. Paignton.
Group Leader: - Jan Hodges

RUMMICUB

The next Rummicub group will be held on Tuesday 17th February at Albany Court, Paignton

Group Leader: - Jan Hodges

GROUP LIST

Please see the attached Group List for timings of all groups as some of these have changed.

u3a MATTERS

The u3a Matters magazine is now available online via the u3a Head Office website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters>

SPEAKERS FOR 2026, so far

February

Andrew Medley - Coxswain RNLI Brixham

March

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

April

AGM / Raffle

May

Neil Winter of AbilityNet

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 12th February at the Palace Avenue Methodist Church Hall, Paignton. Doors open at 10.30am. Tea, coffee and biscuits served from 10.30 at the bargain price of £1!

FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note the **Christmas lunch** will be held on **Thursday 10th December 2026**.

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FUN PAGE

ANSWERS TO THE 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?

- 1) Ice cream
- 2) An Apple
- 3) Impressionist

- 4) Surf 'n' Turf
 - 5) Grapes
 - 6) Eeyore
 - 7) Matador
 - 8) Origami
 - 9) 6
 - 10) White
- FEBRUARY QUIZ**
Find the flower
- 1) The Archbishop drops a clanger
 - 2) Sir P Blakeney
 - 3) Extremely smart beast
 - 4) Prize for dairy produce
 - 5) Aspiration of a bachelor, to
 - 6) Carson perhaps?
 - 7) Very active Queen
 - 8) Mattress filling
 - 9) Betjeman's pen
 - 10) Bovine error

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

FUN FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

February, the shortest month with 28 or 29 days, originates

from the Roman festival of purification, "Februa", it is the only month that can pass without a full moon. February is known for Valentines Day, celebrating love and romance.

Black history month honouring African American achievements

Groundhog Day (Feb 2) for predicting Spring plus Presidents' Day (US) and often the Lunar New Year.

Februarys birthstone is Amethyst

Februarys' flower is the Primrose.

The Welsh call February "y mis bach" which means "little month".

The Saxon term for the month, Sol-monath, means "cake month". This is because they offered cakes to the gods during this month.

2026 is not a leap year and will consist of 365 days. It does, however, have 53 weeks.

Leap year babies, also known as leaplings or leapers, hold a special place in our hearts with a birthday that only comes once every four years.