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CHAIR'S LETTER - APRIL 2026

A very good morning to you all. Our membership continues to grow, and I am very grateful to the trustees of Palace Avenue Methodist Church for allowing us to use their hall for our meetings. The move back to Paignton was the right decision and I thank you all for your continued support.

It has been an interesting year with interesting speakers, quizzes which have tested our general knowledge and answers we really didn't know, plus learning about the activities of our varied groups which meet regularly, mostly within members' homes. A sincere thank you to all the group leaders for everything they do to encourage our members to learn new skills or continue with long-standing hobbies.

This is your branch and if you have any suggestions which could be of interest to our members, please let us know.

I would like to thank my committee, Simon, Sue, Joan,

Janet, Jan, and Lee for their support and hard work throughout the past year making our u3a group a welcoming and friendly group, which is very much appreciated.

To all our members, thank you for your continued interest and support. Without you there is no u3a in Paignton.

It has been a privilege and honor to be your Chair and I am happy to stand again for the coming year if it is your wish.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

June
Chair

COFFEE MORNING

From 11am every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Paignton Club/Paignton Vista, The Esplanade, TQ4 6ED. I look forward to seeing you there on 16th April.

Group Leader - Sue Lewton

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meeting 7th April @ 14:00 at Janet's Home
Group Leader: Janet Hobbs

CANASTA GROUP

Our next Canasta group will be held on Monday 27th April at Albany Court, Paignton.

Group Leader: Sue Hoggett

MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 8th at 10.30am at Janet's Home

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

KNIT & NATTER GROUP.

The next Knit and natter group will be held on Wednesday 8th April.

Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

DINING OUT GROUP

Our April dining out is at The Hare and Hounds on 23rd April 6.30 for 7pm. Please contact Janet Hobbs. The menu is on the website and will be at the monthly meeting. 28th May will see us at the Harbour Lights, Paignton.

I have prepared the calendar for our 2027 dining out. Please note that our March 2027 meal will be on the 3rd Thursday, 18th March. The 4th Thursday is Maundy Thursday, and our local eateries could be very busy.
Janet Hobbs

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SCRABBLE

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd April @ 10.30 am at Jasmyn House.

Group Leader - Connie Powell

TORBAY LITERARY FESTIVAL

Torbay Literary Festival takes place at The Palace Theatre, Paignton, between 10-15th August 2026.

Tickets have been reserved as follows:-

Wednesday 12th August. 11.00-13.00 in the company of Ann Widdecombe. Cost is £28 per ticket.

Thursday 13th August. 11.00-13.00 in the company of Lady Anne Glenconner. She was Princess Margaret's lady-in-waiting. She will be offering tips on 'Manners and Mischief'. Cost is £28 per ticket.

Booking forms will be available at the monthly meetings and on our website page.

Look forward to seeing you.

Janet Hobbs

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

PLEASE NOTE

Doors open at 10.30am

Due to H&S regulations members are unable to gain access to the Hall until the committee have arranged furniture accordingly.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 9th April at the Palace Avenue Methodist Church Hall, Paignton. Tea, coffee and biscuits served from 10.30 at the bargain price of £1!

Any help after the meeting to stack chairs away would be much appreciated.

SPEAKERS FOR 2026, so far

May. Ability Net
June open meeting

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED

If any member has an electrician in the family who would be willing to Pat Test the u3a electrical equipment please let one of the committee know. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

It's that time of year again when the Paignton u3a is looking for new members to join our club. If you are a new member or an

existing member you will need to complete a membership form for 26/27 that you will find in your brown envelope handed to you by your committee at the general meeting. If you have not received one at the meeting, you will receive one in the post. You can request a form from your membership secretary, Jan Hodges u3acharity@outlook.com

Could you please complete all questions on the form including contact number/s in case of emergencies and could you also sign the data protection declaration on the back of the form and return with payment to Jan or to one of the committee. Please also fill in the Giftaid form to assist us in reclaim from HMRC

Thank you

AGM SIGNING IN LIST

On the 9th April there will be a 'signing in list' available at the front desk for members to sign to register their attendance at the AGM. There will be NO charge for attending.

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

If anyone has anything that needs to be advertised in the next Newsletter it will need to be with Sue by Monday 20th April..

Thank you.

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FUN PAGE

ANSWERS TO THE MARCH QUIZ

- 1) Which country has the highest life expectancy
- 2) What is the most common surname in the U.S.A.
- 3) Who was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun
- 4) How many minutes in a full week
- 5) Aureolin is a shade of what colour
- 6) How many faces does a Dodecahedron have
- 7) What is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 8) Which company was initially known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"
- 9) What art form is described "decorative handwriting"
- 10) What software company is headquartered in Redmond Washington

ANSWERS

- 1 - Hong Kong
- 2 - Smith
- 3 - Apollo
- 4 - 10,080
- 5 - Yellow
- 6 - 12
- 7 - Delta

- 8 - Nike
- 9 - Calligraphy
- 10 - Microsoft.

APRIL QUIZ

Easter Quiz

- 1) What colour were the first Easter eggs?
- 2) What is traditional flower for Easter?
- 3) What do we traditionally make on Shrove Tuesday?
- 4) On which day is Easter celebrated?
- 5) Is Easter on the same date each year?
- 6) What is the Sunday before Easter called?
- 7) Traditionally what is worn during Easter?
- 8) Name the 40 days before Easter?
- 9) Which meat is traditionally eaten at Easter?
- 10) Why do we celebrate Good Friday?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

FUN FACTS ABOUT APRIL

April is the fourth month of the year signalling spring and is derived from

Latin aperire ("to open"), it celebrates blooming.

The birthstone for April is the Diamond, and the birth flowers re the Daisy and the Sweet Pea.

The month kicks off with April Fools day on April 1st, a tradition for pranks and jokes.

The Titanic sunk on the 15th April 1912

The first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens on April 6th 1896.

April 3 - National find a Rainbow day

April 11 - National Pet Day

April 12 - National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

Star signs:

Aries (until 19 April) and Taurus (from 20 April)