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CHAIR'S LETTER - MARCH 2026

Hello everyone.

I do hope you are all surviving this incessant rain. What a joy when the sun does come out, albeit very briefly, and to see the daffodils and snowdrops showing themselves. Spring is definitely on the way (just don't mention spring cleaning!).

It was so good to see so many of you at our last meeting to listen to the RNLI deputy Coxswain, Andrew Medley. What an interesting talk and I'm sure we will ask him to return next year. March's talk will be part 2 of the Paignton Heritage so hope to see you all then.

Simon and I have met with other u3a's in South Devon and there is talk about meeting informally for a coffee morning or similar. I will keep you posted when further details are confirmed. It will be interesting to discover what groups these other branches have which may appeal to you. Opportunity is always out there to Laugh, Live and Learn! Don't forget to complete your AGM nomination forms for trustees and committee and hand

them in at the next meeting, duly completed. If you are interested in getting involved in anyway then please speak to one of your officers. It's your Branch so come and join in its operation. No experience needed! During the next year we will need to find a new Treasurer to join the committee as unfortunately Joan's term as Treasurer will come to an end.

See you at the next meeting or at one of the groups.

Stay safe and try to avoid this nasty virus currently making the rounds.

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 19th March.

Group Leader - Sue Lewton

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meeting 3rd March at Janet's House.

Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

CANASTA GROUP

Our Canasta group will be held on Monday 2nd and 23rd March at Albany Court, Paignton.

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 11th March at 10.30am at Janet's House

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

KNIT & NATTER GROUP.

There will be **NO** Knit and natter this month.

Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

DINING OUT GROUP

The Old Vienna, 7 Lisburne Square, Torquay TQ1 2PT will be the venue for this month's dining out. It will be held on Thursday 26th March, 6.30pm for 6.45pm. You can view the menu online. There will be updated menus available at the next general meeting on Thursday 12th March. If you would like to join us please confirm your attendance by 19th March to Sue Hoggett

SCRABBLE

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 February @ 10.30 am at Jasmyn House.

Group Leader - Connie Powell

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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 next General meeting will be held on Thursday 12 March 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 March

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

April - AGM

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. Also please complete the Giftaid form.

Thank you

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FUN PAGE

ANSWERS TO THE 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

- 1) Canterbury bells
- 2) Scarlet pimpernel
- 3) Dandy lion
- 4) Butter Cup
- 5) Marry Gold
- 6) Violet
- 7) Busy Lizzi
- 8) Phlox
- 9) Jonquil
- 10) Cow slip

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 NEXT MONTH

FUN FACTS ABOUT MARCH

March, named after the Roman God of war, Mars, was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and marks the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere.

March 8 is not only International Women's Day but also the start of Daylight Saving Time.

March is National Umbrella Month.

The primary birthstone for March is the Aquamarine a light blue to greenish-blue gemstone known for symbolizing youth, health and fidelity. A secondary, traditional birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark green stone with red, kiron-oxidde inclusions.

March has two birth flowers one being the daffodil (Narccissus) and the other flower is the fragrant Jonquil. Both are known for their bright yellow trumpets.

March 17 is St. Patricks day.

According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patricks Day because the saint used its 3 leaves to explain the Trinity.

March 15 is the Ides of March! Legend surrounds this ill fated day. Beware the Ides of March.