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CHAIR'S LETTER - MAY 2026

Hello everyone.

Well Spring has arrived and although the wind is cold what a joy to see the flowers and blossom in the sunshine. Trouble is the weeds grow just as quickly as the grass.

At our AGM, as a result of the time limit on roles, Sue has had to stand down as Secretary. Sue has worked so hard over the years on our behalf so a big thank you to her.

Fortunately she will now support Janet as she takes up those reins as well as continuing as group coordinator. Busy times ahead Janet but we know Sue will help in any way she can, and stepping in when you go off on your travels!!

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM. An important meeting when the business of our branch has to be dealt with so your attendance and support is appreciated.

Our finances are healthy and well looked after by Joan. Thank you Joan. An important job.

A reminder that she will have to step down next year so if anyone is interested in finding out what is involved in the role

then please speak to her.

Our membership secretary Jan also works hard ensuring details of full and associate members are maintained and up to date. Thank you also Jan.

The quiz she organised to round off the meeting certainly caused some frowns and discussion and yes, we even disagreed with one of the published answers! Jan assured us the book was right but we still know otherwise.

Look forward to the next one. Sarah continues as our 'meet and greet' welcoming newcomers and visitors alike, as well as

sending cards to those who are unwell or have regrettably suffered a bereavement. To know you are being thought about during difficult times is so special. Thank you Sarah.

There are some interesting speakers already booked for the coming months organised by Simon, our Vice Chair. Thanks Simon. Takes a lot of coordination.

If you know someone or an organisation you feel would be of interest please let Simon know. The 2027 calendar is filling up!

I am fortunate to remain your Chair for another year. A big Thank you to you all for your continued support.

We can look forward to the coming year with confidence. Our group leaders do sterling work in organising such varied

activities from table tennis to canasta to dining out to coffee mornings and many others, which ensure we live up to our u3a motto ...

Learn, Laugh, Live.

Long may that continue.

Thank you to all my Trustees and committee for your help in so many ways. Welcome to our three new appointments to our committee, and to you all for belonging to our branch.

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 21st May.

Group Leader:- Sue Lewton

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

Next meeting 5 May at Janets House at 14:00.

Group Leader:- Janet Hobbs

CANASTA GROUP

Unfortunately, there will be **NO** Canasta meetings this month as both Mondays will be bank holidays! See you in June.

Group Leader:- Sue Hoggett

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MAH JONG

Our next Mah Jong meeting will be on Wednesday 13 May 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 13 May.
Group Leader:- Janet Hobbs

DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion Group every 4th Monday morning at 10.30
New members welcome.
Group Leader:- Martyn Powell

AMBLING GROUP

We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1.30. Venues will be varied, emails are sent out by myself advising where to meet.
New members please contact via the website.

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.


Our next Monthly Meeting is on 14th May where the Speaker will be Neil Winter from AbilityNet relating to Free Digital Skills Training for Older people.
Neil is the Digital Skills Inclusion Trainer in South Devon for AbilityNet, In partnership with BT Group, they offer a free initiative

to support disabled adults and people aged 55+ in Devon with digital skills covering everything from using smartphones and laptops to staying safe online and accessing essential services.
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

June - open meeting

July – Cathie Burgess of  who is the Volunteer Co-ordinator, will give a presentation talk about the work of Life Chance Trust and other ways that people can support what they do.

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

If anyone has anything that needs to be advertised in the next Newsletter it will need to be with Sue by Friday 22 June please.
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LUNCH CLUB

The committee discussed the request from the AGM to start a lunch club.

It has been decided to trial the 2nd Friday of the month.

The inaugural lunch will take place on:

Date: Friday 12th June

Venue: The Ship, Manor Road, TQ3 2HR

Time: 12 for 12.30

No pre-ordering required.

If attending, please let Janet Hobbs know by Friday 5th June.

The dates for the rest of 2026 will be:

10th July, 11th September,

9th October, & 13th November.

Whilst Janet has agreed to organise the initial lunch it is hoped that other u3a members will offer to organise the venue and ordering food in the future.

Look forward to seeing you on the 12th June.

DINING OUT GROUP

Venue: Harbour Light

Date: Thursday 28 May

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm

Menu choices to Joan Cooper, by Thursday 21 May. Menus will be available at the next general meeting and will also be attached to this Newsletter/ on Website

LISTENING EAR

If you are experiencing a bereavement, ill health, anxiety, mental health or any other issues and would like to talk to someone in confidence please contact Sarah Malcolm, our listening ear committee member

SOS

Paignton u3a are in need of prizes for the raffles that are now held every few months. Please could you donate a prize in readiness for the next raffle in June. Janet Hobbs is more than happy to receive gifts at any monthly meeting or group.

Thank you.

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FUN PAGE

ANSWERS TO THE 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?

- 1 Red
- 2 Daffodils
- 3 Pancakes
- 4 Sunday
- 5 No
- 6 Palm Sunday
- 7 Easter Bonnet
- 8 Lent
- 9 Lamb

10 Jesus died on the cross

MAY QUIZ

- 1 What does a herpetologist study?
- 2 In the U.S.A. how many nickels would you get for a dime?
- 3 What is a John Dory?
- 4 Which Scottish school did both the Duke of Edinburgh and his son King Charles go to?
- 5 What does a dermatologist study?
- 6 Which is the least used letter in the English language?
- 7 Which mythological character was sentenced to fall in love with his own reflection as a punishment?
- 8 What was the above being punished for?
- 9 Sometimes called a Gnu, what is it's other name?
- 10 An English bank clerk called Kenneth Graham in 1908 wrote a children's classic, name it.

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

FUN FACTS ABOUT MAY

May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, who oversaw plant growth, and it is known for the return of spring.

“Tri-Milchi” month. Anglo-Saxons called May “Three milkings” because the lush grass allowed cows to be milked three times daily.

The birthstone for May is the Emerald (symbolising rebirth and love). The birth flowers are the Lily-of-the-valley and the Hawthorn.

Traditionally it was believed that washing your face in the dew on May 1st would beautify the skin.

In the Southern Hemisphere May is the start of Autumn while in the Northern Hemisphere , it is a peak spring month.