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CHAIR'S LETTER - OCTOBER 2026

Hello everyone

I have just come back from an interesting trip to Northumbria, staying near Durham in a 16th century Jacobean mansion. A beautiful building and grounds. Our ancestors certainly knew how to build without the benefit of computers, electrical tools and equipment. Truly amazing. Back to reality and it is time to think about our autumn programme of talks, groups and interesting events within Torbay and further afield.

Nationally u3a have suggested "Regional Peer Group" meetings for officers on line and I joined the first one for Chairs last month. It was interesting to hear the similarities of issues amongst the branches such as recruitment and retention, and the variety of ways of resolution. Finance was another common issue, particularly when there are a number of small groups meeting regularly in rented halls. We are so fortunate most of ours meet in members' homes. Meetings will be instigated for Secretaries and Treasurers and Group Leaders shortly, and we

will keep you all informed of how they progress.

On a point of reference to comply with insurance, please remember to carry your membership card when participating in any u3a meeting, and ensure you complete a "next of kin" form which should be placed in a sealed envelope and retained by each Group leader for use in an emergency.

Have a busy, interesting and enjoyable time with the various groups, hopefully learning new skills, and I look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings.

June
Chair

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 can contact me [anne.adcock](mailto:anne.adcock@paigntonu3a.co.uk)

BRIDGE GROUP

We will be starting a Bridge club from Friday 6th November. It will be held on the first Friday of every month at 2pm and will be held at a members House. Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

CANASTA GROUP

The next Canasta Group will meet on Monday 5th October and then on Monday 26th October. Canasta will be held at 10.30am at Albany Court Paignton. TQ3 2BB.

Group Leader - Sue Hoggett
Also, as a notification that the dates in November will be 2nd and 16th

COFFEE MORNING

The coffee mornings are held at 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 15th October.

New members are encouraged to partake to get to know more about Paignton u3a. Contact Group Leader - Sue Lewton – 0 for more details.

CRIB/BACKGAMMON GROUP

The next meeting will be on 6th October at 2pm at Janets Home. Group Leader - Janet Hobbs

DINING OUT

Thursday 22 October

This month we will be dining out at the Oriental Touch, 21 St Marychurch Road, Torquay TQ1 3JF. Time 18:00 for 18:30

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If you are interested in joining the group please contact Simon Clarke by 18th October.

Thursday 26th November

The Boathouse, Marine Drive, Paignton, TQ3 2NJ.
Time: 18:30 for 19:00
Menu Choices to Janet Hobbs by 12th November Please.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion Group every 4th Monday morning of the month at 10.30.
New members always welcome.
Group Leader - Martyn Powell

GENEALOGY

The next meeting will be on 7th October at 10:00 at Carole's Home.
Group Leader – Carole Giffen

KNIT & NATTER

The next meeting will be on 12th October at 14:00 at Sue Lewtons' Home.
Group leader – Janet Hobbs

LUNCH CLUB

9th October – The Wighton, Orchard Way, Torquay, TQ2 7JA
Menu will be attached to this newsletter and is available on our website. Menu Choices to

Lizzie Doyle by 1st October please.

13th November will be the Old Manor, 10 Old Torquay Rd, Paignton TQ3 2QZ
Menu will be attached to this newsletter and is available on our website. Menu Choices to Lizzie Doyle by 2nd November.

There will be no Lunch Club in December

All lunch club bookings are 12:00 for 12:30

MAH JONG

Please note there will be no MAH JONG group in October
Group Leader - Sue Hoggett

QUIZ

Please note there will be no QUIZ group in October, and the November date will change to 20th November.
Group Leader - Jan Hodges

RUMMIKUB

Please note there will be NO Rummikub in October and November.
Group Leader - Barry Hodges

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

It is time to plan for our Christmas lunch which will be held on 10th December 12:00 for 12:30.
The location of our Christmas Lunch will be the Railway Inn, Dartmouth Road, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, TQ5 0LL
The menu is attached to this newsletter, food choice and payment needs to be made to Janet Hobbs by 30th November 2026.
We will hold a Christmas Raffle at this event.

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.

SPEAKERS FOR 2026

October (8th) – Quiz, Raffle and card sale

November (12th) – Neil Winter discussing Scammers.

December 10 - Christmas Lunch

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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 8th October.

This will be an open meeting with Jan as quiz master and we'll be having a raffle. Penelope will be selling homemade birthday and Christmas cards. Proceeds for Paignton u3a and Paignton Methodist Church.

This will be held 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.

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

GENERAL NOTE

Please note that all menus that have been referenced within this newsletter will also be available at the Monthly Meeting.

WEBSITE

Our website Paignton.u3asite.uk Where you will always find more information.

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

If anyone has anything that needs to be advertised in the next Newsletter it will need to be with Sue by Monday 26th October, please. Thank you.

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FUN PAGE

OCTOBER QUIZ

1 Name the presenter of T.V. quiz show "The Chase"?

2. Melbourne is the capital of which Australian State?

3. What were the first names of the Wright Brothers?

4. In the song 'Copacabana' what was LULA'S Occupation?

5. Which North London entertainment venue is known as Ally Pally?

6. Which French word describes a water bath that cooks food slowly & softly?

7. Which sport might you do a Fosbury Flop?

8 Name the three Musketeers?

9. In which country would you find Mt Kilimanjaro?

10. What is the chemical symbol for Gold?

SEPTEMBER QUIZ & ANSWERS

1 Which British seaside attraction is 158 meters tall?

Blackpool Tower

2 At 1.34 miles where is the longest pleasure pier in the UK?

Southend

3 Which group has a top 10 hit with Summer Sunshine in 2004?

The Corrs

4 What was the name of the ITV holiday show fronted by Judith Chalmers which ran from 1994 – 2003?

Wish you were here

5 Thunderstorms are most likely to hit South East England. True or False?

True

6 When does summer officially start?

21st June

7 The month of July is named after which famous historical person?

Julius Caesar

8 Which British TV show starts every year in August and ends just before Christmas?

X Factor

9 Which month are most babies born in Britain in Summer?

September

10 The First Day of Summer is an annual public holiday celebrated in which European country in April?

Iceland

FUN FACTS ABOUT OCTOBER

October has two birthstones the opal, that symbolizes faithfulness and confidence, while the tourmaline is renowned for its vast number of colours and its ability to inspire artistic expression.

The beautiful and vibrant Calendula also known as the Marigold is the birth flower for October. Its bright orange and yellow colours perfectly echo the changing Autumn foliage.

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

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Two notable holidays in October is Halloween, 31 October, and Columbus Day, 2nd Monday in October, which commemorates Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas.

October is the National Pizza month in the USA.

Walt Disney World in Florida officially opened on 1 October 1971.