

DAWLISH



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter No. 13 AUG-SEPT 2016

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

When the Committee moved their day for meeting from Thursday to Friday, Karen Flowers, the co-opted Minutes Secretary was no longer able to attend. It was with gratitude that the Committee accepted Barbara Roberts' offer to take on the role, and she was co-opted forthwith.

The U3A Reference File states that, "You may wish to consider having two Vice Chairmen in the hope that one at least, may consider standing for Chairman in the future." Steve Thomson, the Vice Chairman, has of course already been Chairman; and fulfils a valuable continuity role on the Committee together with maintaining links with the U3A South West region. The Chairman therefore invited Barbara Lindley to accept nomination as a second Vice Chairman; and she agreed. Barbara will also continue in her active role of Publicity Manager.

Several of our U3A members are Associate Members by virtue of their belonging to one or more other U3As. In our situation the most common first affiliation has been to Teign U3A. Even at national level there has been a lack of clarity about the status of Associate Members. The only significance is that once you have paid a Capitation Fee for one U3A you are not required to pay again; and therefore Associate Members pay a reduced membership fee. This makes no discernible difference to our finances. Many of our associates play valuable roles both in committee and as group conveners. The Committee have therefore decided that all Associate Members will henceforth be accorded exactly the same rights and privileges as Full Members; and we welcome their status as equals.

George Lipscomb (Chair)

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to all new members who have joined Dawlish U3A since May. We hope to see you at our monthly meetings, when you can find out more about the Interest Groups and meet other members in an informal, social setting.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

These are held in the Hall at the rear of the Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Dawlish, commencing at 2.00 pm. A charge of £1.00 is made to include refreshments. Non-members are also invited to join us for a 'taster session', and will be assured of a warm welcome. There is no meeting in August. Our speakers for the next few months will be:

19 September - Ian Gasper: Ethiopia today. Ian worked there as a volunteer for 2 years.

17 October - Norman Maudsley – one of his trekking adventures – details to be confirmed

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Art Appreciation. Leading up to the summer, the group looked closely at late 19th century artists, using different resources. Now we are experimenting with visiting local exhibitions in the summer months and learning about individual artists through our meetings in the winter months. We have visited RAMM in Exeter to see an exhibition of the International Photographers Gardening entries and also an exhibition on Indian botanical drawings. In August we are going on a day trip to Plymouth museum and art galleries. We resume monthly meetings in our homes in September, and this Autumn will be looking at, for example, Gustav Klimt and Frida Kahlo. New members are very welcome. Contact Liz Edwards (lizedwards14@aol.com)

The newly formed **Book Worms book club** met for an introductory get together on Thursday 21st July, and will be a member led (rather than library led) group who will meet at 2:00 pm, on the fourth Thursday of each month. (Next meeting - 22nd September). We will meet in members' homes, as space allows, and occasionally at outside venues. We are a mixed group of twelve, and we will take turns suggesting three book titles to choose one from. We agreed to be open to all genres, with due consideration given to tastes, age and interests of our members. Randomly chosen, The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe is this month's book choice.

Creative Writing The resurgence of interest in this Group earlier in the year, with three new members joining, leaves space for just one or two more. Contact Barbra Lindley (spindlewithy@gmail.com)

Don't Forget Your Toothbrush Travel Group The original concept of this group was to enable single people to find like minded friends to travel with. However we now are a mixed group of singles and couples. Duration of our trips can be anything from one day to one week.



Members of DFYT Group take time out to enjoy a brief rest during their action-packed 5-day break in Yorkshire.

At the beginning of May we went on a coach trip to **Yorkshire** staying at The Britannia Leeds Hotel where we had lovely en-suite bedrooms and very good food with a 2 for 1 bar. There was a health club for those of us who like a swim.

We spent time wandering around Stratford-Upon-Avon on our journey up country, then every day our group enjoyed very interesting coach trips into the beautiful Yorkshire countryside where TV companies have filmed dramas such as 'Happy Valley' and soaps 'Last of the Summer Wine' and 'Emmerdale Farm'. For anyone who has never ventured on a coach holiday (me for one) I would say 'just try it'. At less than £200 for five days it was wonderful!

On Bank Holiday Monday, seven of us went on a day trip to Lynton and Lynmouth. First we visited Lynton then The Valley of the Rocks where man and goats happily share the rocky trails. Then down the cliff on the Funicular railway to Lynmouth where we saw the amazing recovery made by this quaint little town after being almost demolished by the tragic flood disaster in August 1952 . . . 30 people lost their lives and quite a few were missing believed drowned. So sad.

Because our group is now getting too large to meet at Reflections cafe, we have decided to change both the venue and our meeting day. . . . we will now be meeting at the Inspire Cafe which is located in Dawlish United Reform Church on The Strand. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th August at 12.15 pm. For availability of seats left on our Daytrip to Boscastle and Tintagel (31st August) and also our Daytrip to St Ives (6th September) Contact Linda Studley (01626 888844)

French Conversation Group - Parlez – vous Francais? If so and you would like to further develop your linguistic skills we have spaces for 2 more members to join our active and friendly group. You don't have to be fluent; we are at different skill levels and we all try to help each other. Our next meeting is on 15th September, when we will be having a go at Scrabble, in French. Please contact Steve Thomson (stevethomson3@talktalk.net) If you are interested in joining the group. PS - Has anyone got scrabble tiles with accents?

Gardens & Gateaux Group The Group has enjoyed 7 outings since April to gardens open under the NGS scheme, visiting 17 gardens in all. Our visit to Heathercombe, on Dartmoor in July was particularly memorable as there was a concession for 'seniors' and an interesting sculpture trail, as well as the obligatory afternoon tea. With just a couple more visits planned this month and next, the Group will be having a winter break, before planning next year's visits.

On Friday 12th August we will be visiting High Garden, in Kenton, which should be at its best with herbaceous borders. Their well-stocked nursery will also offer plenty of opportunities to buy unusual plants and shrubs. We will meet in the car park at 10.30 so if you are interested in joining us please contact Pauline Dean (pauline.dean@talk21.com) for car-sharing arrangements.

Great Lives Group In July Chris Marsh gave us a fascinating insight into the life and work of the great social reformer, Nobel prize-winner, poet, writer and educationist Rabindranath Tagore. Chris's book 'Tagore Speaks to the twenty-first century' was published this year. There is no meeting in August. On 23 September we will hear about the Victorian traveller Isabella Bird, and on 28 October the subject will be Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. New members welcome. Contact Angela Morgan (tandadawlish@gmail.com)

History Group - The purpose of this new group will be to explore History in the wider context; but complementary to the work of the Dawlish Local History Group. Our inaugural meeting on May 19th was a presentation on Battleships and Battle cruisers, their evolution and subsequent obsolescence. It focused on the personalities involved in the Battle of Jutland. (Centenary commemorated on May 31st/1st June). Five people attended the meeting and promoted a lively discussion.

The group has since welcomed 4 new members, and there is room for more; so, we are looking forward to a resurgence of interest in the Autumn. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, 15th September; and the topic will be led by Chris Foote on the Life and Times of Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, 5th Marquess of Lansdowne. Members of the group are encouraged to conduct their own researches into any aspects of the career of this remarkable individual. Contact George Lipscomb (lipscomb@gmx.co.uk)

Psychology Interest Group - another new group which will meet monthly to discuss current topics of interest chosen by members from social psychological perspectives. The Convener, Dr Barry Cripps, is a Chartered Psychologist and he will provide research evidence from everyday sources about each topic in order to focus the interactive discussion.

Meetings will last about two hours and, until a suitable venue can be found in Dawlish, meetings will be held in Kenn, car-share lifts from Dawlish will be arranged. The group have chosen the third Thursday of the month for meetings. If these dates clash with other groups we would consider changing from October onwards. Next meeting is Thursday, August 18th at 2 pm

Scrabble Group This is a very informal social group that has room for as many, or few, as choose to turn up. Continuity from one session to the next is not important, but it helps logically if you would let the convener know if you are coming. (That is posh speak for counting the number of tea cups and sticky buns). Contact George Lipscomb (lipscomb@gmx.co.uk)

Strollers Social Walking Group In July four members of this Group met up at Stover Park and enjoyed a leisurely stroll alongside part of the canal and around the lake on a warm and sunny afternoon -we saw lots of wildflowers - meadowsweet, purple loosestrife etc plus dragonflies, damsel flies and numerous ducks!

On Thursday 11th August we will visit Shaldon Botanical Gardens. We plan to catch the 22 Torquay/ Paignton bus leaving at 1.17pm from Dawlish or 1.32pm from Sea View Diner Teignmouth to Shaldon – we're getting off at the stop after Shaldon bridge ie on the Torquay road near the upper entry gate to the Botanical Gardens.

The Gardens, which have lovely planting and stunning views, are undergoing restoration following a successful lottery grant application. After we've explored the gardens we plan a refreshment stop at The Clipper before catching the ferry back to Teignmouth -followed by a walk along Teignmouth seafront and maybe the pier prior to catching our buses home. Contact Jean Gittisham (mjgittisham@hotmail.com)

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

If you are interested in joining any of the Groups please get in touch with the relevant convenor (contact details are given on the Website, if not included above). If the Group is full then your name will be added to the waiting list. There is always the option of starting a second Group with other members who are also on the waiting list, for example there is interest in starting a third book-reading group. The Committee is keen to encourage the formation of new Interest Groups, and welcomes ideas and suggestions from members.

Details of all current Interest Groups, and when they meet, are shown on page 5 of this Newsletter. You may want to print this off for future reference.

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE

Now the new Dawlish U3A Website, (www.u3a.dawlish.info) is fully operational, members can access up-to-date information about all Interest Group activities and social events at the click of a button, and get useful links to regional and national U3A events.

To keep the Website dynamic and relevant for both members and non-members interested in finding out more about the U3A in general, and Dawlish in particular, it needs to be 'fed' regularly with information and pictures. Contributions should be sent by email to Ian Thomson (Webmaster) ianthomson633@btinternet.com.

NOT ON E-MAIL?

A very small number of members do not have Internet Access, and a copy of the Newsletter is available for them to collect at the monthly meeting. However, the Committee have agreed that on receipt of a Stamped Addressed Envelope the Newsletter will be posted out to those members who do not have an e-mail address, and who are not able to attend the monthly meetings. Please contact the Membership Secretary if you would like to have your Newsletter posted to you.

DAWLISH U3A MONTHLY DIARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	AM	PM	INTEREST GROUP	CONVENER
1ST MONDAY		2.00 START	SCRABBLE	GEORGE LIPSCOMB
2ND MONDAY		2.00 - 4.00	ART APPRECIATION	LIZ EDWARDS
3RD MONDAY		2.00 - 4.00	MONTHLY MEETING	
4TH MONDAY	10.30 - 12.30		CREATIVE WRITING	BARBARA LINDLEY
3RD TUESDAY		1.30 – 3.30	PLAY READING	JAN RAVENS
3RD TUESDAY		12.00 - 1.30	DON'T FORGET YOUR TOOTHBRUSH	LINDA STUDLEY
3RD WED.	10.30 AM		MUSIC APPRECIATION	IAN THOMSON
2ND THURS		1.30 START	STROLLERS - SOCIAL WALKING	JEAN GITTISHAM
3RD THURS	10.30 - 12.30		FRENCH CONVERSATION	STEVE THOMSON
3RD THURS		2.00 - 4.00	HISTORY	GEORGE LIPSCOMB
3RD THURS		2.00 - 4.00	PYSCHOLOGY	BARRY CRIBBS
4TH THURS		2.00 - 4.00	BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB	JANET DAVIES
3RD FRIDAY	10.30 - 12.30		LITERATURE/BOOK READING	JANET FELTHAM
4TH FRIDAY		2.00 - 4.00	GREAT LIVES	ANGELA MORGAN
2ND/4TH SUNDAY		3.00 - 5.00	GERMAN CONVERSATION	IAN THOMSON
VARIABLE (April-Sept.)			GARDENS & GATEAUX	PAULINE DEAN

ITEMS FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send in contributions for inclusion in the next edition by **28th OCTOBER 2016**.

Pauline Dean - Newsletter Editor (e-mail pauline.dean@talk21.com)