



## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative

Welcome to 2016. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas that was full of festive fun. Christmas should be a time of peaceful enjoyment but for many it brings only stress, strife and petty bickering. As we get older do we become more cynical and jaded about the whole process or do we become more open minded and accepting? I must admit that a few years ago I was probably a member of the "bah humbug" camp but in truth I did enjoy Christmas. Now I do look forward to it, even if there are some unsavoury and irritating aspects leading up to it. For example the constant repetition of Slade's "Merry Christmas" drives me to distraction (as do silly perfume ads and TV repeats). I have made serious attempts however at being more accepting and positive about the festive season.

This leads me to an important point. Being positive requires a certain level of empathy and understanding. I think this particularly true of U3A. Apart from the benefits of learning I believe being a member of a group creates an atmosphere of co-operation and support. We all have some strong views about certain things but that does not make us right or wrong. Some of you may remember an article that that was published in Third Age Matters. The author, Frances Beckett, stated how much he disliked dogs. I thought it was largely tongue in cheek but it provoked a torrent of correspondence, some of which, I felt, was quite rude. There then followed a diatribe about cats in a kind of tit for tat manner. Personally I was disappointed by the lack of understanding and acceptance shown by some of the contributors. Some of us like cats, some of us like dogs. Some like both and some dislike both. The problem with written correspondence is that it denies us the opportunity to discuss things and listen to an alternative view.

Being a U3A member and becoming involved with a group not only provides us with valuable learning opportunities it also encourages us to listen and discuss differences. I hope therefore that Dawlish U3A will continue to expand its membership and groups in 2016 and that you continue to enjoy being a member.

Steve Thomson (Chair – Dawlish U3A)

## NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to all new members who have joined Dawlish U3A since November. 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 January	Brian Smith "Storybook Dads"
15 February	Barrie Behenna - Patient Participation Group
21 March	Dr Janet Cutler "Royal Trains"
18 April	Dawlish U3A AGM
16 May	Janet Downer "Dark Deeds in Devon"

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

INTEREST GROUP	DAY/ TIME	INTEREST GROUP	DAY/ TIME
Art Appreciation <b>Margaret Noel</b>	2nd Monday 2.00 to 4.00 pm	German Conversation <b>Ian Thomson</b>	2nd & 4th Sunday 3-5 pm
Calligraphy <b>Wynn Roberts</b>	Wednesday pm	Great Lives <b>Angela Morgan</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 10.30 – 12.30
Creative Writing <b>Barbara Lindley</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 10.30 - 12.30	Literature/Book reading <b>Janet Feltham</b>	3rd Friday 10.30 - 12 noon
DFYT Travel Group <b>Linda Studley</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 12 noon	Music Appreciation <b>Ian Thomson</b>	3rd Wednesday 10.30 onwards
French Conversation <b>Steve Thomson</b>	3rd Thursday 10.30 to 12.30	Play Reading <b>Jan Ravens</b>	3rd Tuesday 1.30 to 3.30
Gardens and Gateaux <b>Pauline Dean</b>	Variable during spring/summer	Strollers (Social Walking 3 – 4 miles) <b>Margaret Cunningham</b>	2nd Thursday From 1.30 PM
		Travel <b>Ann Leigh</b>	variable

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

GREAT LIVES - Great Lives - In December Heather gave us a fascinating insight into the life and work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, with lots of prints and illustrations. On 22nd January we will hear about Richard Arkwright. Contact Angela for details. 01626 865916. [Tandadawlish@gmail.com](mailto:Tandadawlish@gmail.com).

If you are interested in joining any of the Groups please get in touch with the co-ordinator/contact member, or e-mail me and I will pass on your details. 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, and the Committee welcome ideas from members for new Interest Groups.

The ethos of the U3A is to share knowledge, skills and experience, so if you have a suggestion for a new Group please don't feel that by coming forward you will be expected to 'be in charge of the class'. The U3A Trust has a library of resources available and a strong network of regional advisers who can offer support to new groups.

**Pauline Dean (Groups' Co-ordinator )** (01626 437815 – email [pauline.dean@talk21.com](mailto:pauline.dean@talk21.com))

## WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANISED BY THIRD AGE TRUST

Log in to the members' area of [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) and visit the Events page to view all the current events.



### **Birmingham Concert**

12 February / 3 April  
& 2 July

### **MORE2SCREEN**

### **The Importance of Being Earnest**

15 March 2016



### **Vaccination at the Jenner Museum**

9 March 2016

#### **COMING SOON:**

**Science Talk** - 11 April, The School of Science, Birkbeck College. Free event, details available in the new year.

**Ri lectures:** 17 March, £20 per ticket, details available in the new year.

**National Summer Schools**, Royal Agricultural College, 8-11 August and 15-18 August. Details available in December.

## POSTSCRIPT

Please send in contributions for inclusion in the next edition by **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**.

Pauline Dean - Newsletter Editor (e-mail [pauline.dean@talk21.com](mailto:pauline.dean@talk21.com))