



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter No. 14 DEC 16 TO FEB 17

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Some of you will be acquiring 2017 diaries; so, for a bit of forward thinking, please mark in 10th April, 2017, as the date for our Annual General Meeting. This is the 2nd Monday in April, because our customary 3rd Monday would have coincided with Easter Monday.

At present we are 75 full members and 8 associate, making a total of 83. Numbers have gone up considerably since the summer break; and, looking at our lists, we see that 21 have joined since July and two of these are associates. On the face of it things look very healthy; but, at the same time, we have lost some old friends for one reason or another. Thankfully, after months of trying, enquirers who seek 'Dawlish' on the National U3A website are now re-directed to our own vibrant website. Nevertheless, there are still a number of people who do not know of our existence. Do encourage people you meet to join us; or at the least get them to have a look at the website <http://u3a.dawlish.info/>.

So far as our monthly meetings go, thanks to good publicity, we generally get good attendances. Numbers vary greatly, and much depends on the perceived interest in the speaker's chosen topic; but at a recent meeting we had over 40 present (still only a fraction of our total membership). It made us wonder whether we were outgrowing our present venue, and members have also expressed an interest in alternative venues. The Committee are investigating this, but, currently, there are no easy alternatives. The best options would mean either moving to a Tuesday, or accepting a later start time than the present 2.00 pm. Let us know your views.

Most of us are now retired; and most people I meet seem to lead such busy lives - how did we ever find time to work? It is the main reason people give for not joining (or sometimes re-joining) the U3A. Because we are a small U3A most of our Interest Groups are home based. The obvious benefit is that it saves hiring costs, but it also limits the size of those Interest Groups. Some small groups flourish, but others suffer from sporadic attendances. Since we only meet once a month in most cases, may I put in a plea for commitment? Mark the U3A dates on your calendars; and, barring family/health emergencies, try to commit to them. If you are unable to attend, please out of courtesy, advise the convener accordingly.

Since the last Newsletter we have welcomed two more Interest Groups. Nine people attended the first meeting of Gadgets & Gizmos, and generated a diverse interest. Music Making has also been proposed; but a suitable date and venue have yet to be determined. If you are interested in joining either of these groups, or any of the existing groups, do contact the conveners, whose details can be found later in this edition.

George Lipscomb (Chair)

NEW MEMBERS

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

Our last meeting of 2016 takes place on Monday 19th December and the Committee is aiming to provide a seasonal note by running a Christmas Quiz. Everyone loves a quiz don't they? Well perhaps not everyone, but a quiz can be a lot of fun. It helps to bring people together and introduces a party atmosphere. Steve Thomson will be acting as quizmaster and question setter and is aiming to make the questions interesting and not too difficult.

This will be a team quiz and Steve suggests a team size of between 3 to 6 players. Without giving too much away, the format will be two questionnaire type quizzes, some questions being multiple choice, and two picture quizzes. The quiz will take about an hour and there will be a prize for the winning team. Seasonal refreshments will be provided, as well as patriotic songs, so come along for what promises to be a great social afternoon of fun and festivities.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Art Appreciation The next meeting is on 12th December when we will be looking at a female artist, Frida Kahlo from Mexico. She was a portrait painter, who had a very turbulent life which of course, is reflected in her work. New members welcome. Liz Edwards (lizedwards14@aol.com)

Creative Writing This group would welcome new members to join. They work with a book on Creative Writing as well as peer teaching, as some of the members have attended prior Creative Writing courses. They may have speakers and are considering attending Literary festivals. Contact Barbara Lindley (spindlewithy@gmail.com)

Don't Forget Your Toothbrush Two new outings may be of interest to members –

1 - A 3 or 4 night Warner's Adults Only break, at either Littlecote Manor in Berkshire or Cricket St Thomas in Somerset. Members of the Group went to Cricket St Thomas last November and had a wonderful stay. Well recommended.

2 - A Weekend Break through Majestic Coaches in London by train. Including train fares and B&B at The 4* Tower Hotel in Central London for 2 nights. This hotel is excellent both in location and facilities.

For further details and to register interest please contact Linda Studley (01626 888844).

French Conversation The aim of our group is to develop our skills in conversation as well as vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing. We carry out a range of activities and use a variety of learning media such as CD,s DVD's, books journals and games. We recently indulged ourselves in French scrabble which was both interesting and challenging since the values of certain letters in French scrabble set are quite different to the English version.

We will not be meeting in December but we will restart on Jan 19th January 2107. We are full at present but if you are interested in improving your French please contact me and I will put you on a waiting list. Steve Thomson (stevethomson3@talktalk.net)

Great Lives On Friday 25 November the group heard about the adventures of Isabella Bird – an eccentric Victorian Lady traveller. There will not be a meeting in December. Details for New Year will be available on the Website soon. Contact Angela Morgan (tandadawlish@gmail.com)

History Group - Few can fail to have noticed that we live in momentous times: both at Home and Abroad – truly History in the making. Yet the Dawlish U3A History Group nearly died as soon as it began – from apathy. Thankfully, viability was ensured when no fewer than five new members of the U3A this year joined the group. There is still room for more. We are not looking for experts, just people with enthusiasm and enquiring minds. Come and join us.



The photograph shows members of the History Group enjoying their traditional Thanksgiving Meal – who said History was dull?

On Thursday, 23rd November, one day before Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in the USA, seven of us sat down to a full commemorative Thanksgiving Meal

It was hard to keep focussed on the subject and having strayed into the War of 1812, nearly 200 years after the colonisation, we felt that at some future date we must explore the causes and consequences of the American Civil War!

On December 15th Barrie will have a hard act to follow, but I'm sure he will steer us confidently on the History of Lidos; and in the New Year John will lead us through the Glorious Revolution. We expect to land with William of Orange in Brixham, and it's even been suggested that we might get as far as Culloden in 1745. Who knows? Contact George Lipscomb (lipscomb@gmx.co.uk)

Literature The literature group provides an opportunity to expand members' knowledge of fiction and non fiction. Works are chosen by the group, read at home, and discussed at the monthly meetings in a lively, easy going atmosphere. Individuals can contribute as much or as little as they wish. The group is small, and would welcome more members, with a cap of eight. For further information, contact Barrie Hamill on 07742999537

Music Appreciation The next music appreciation session will appraise 19th and 20th century music by Russian Composers. This will include music from Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Khachaturian and Stravinsky. Contact Ian Thomson ianthomson633@btinternet.com.

Strollers Social Walking Group Our next walk is on Thursday December 8th-we plan to catch the number 2 bus - from Teignmouth 1.11pm and from Dawlish 1.26pm arriving at Starcross station at 1.43pm

We will then walk to the nearby Powderham Castle grounds and on to the café there for our refreshments - other Dawlish U3A members are most welcome to join us on this December stroll when hopefully we can plan our 2017 walks! Contact Jean Gitsham (mjgitsham@hotmail.com)

NEW GROUPS

Gadgets & Gizmos This recently formed Interest Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 1000 to 1200 at 6 Town Mills, Church Street, Dawlish, EX7 9QP. The scope of the subject is immense and members are invited to bring any electronic devices in which they have an interest, or any ideas on any aspect of the subject that they consider might be of collective interest. Since we have decided to divide our time between a general discussion on computing and handheld devices, essentially an airing and resolving operating principles and problems; and an hour devoted to a single technological issue.

For our meeting on 8th December Ian Enderby has offered to lead an investigation into Solar Power: both industrial and domestic.

On 12th January 2017, we anticipate that Jack Whitehead will lead us in a similar investigation of Wind Power.

We really have reached capacity already; so, if you are interested in joining us, please contact me through the website: Chairman@u3a.dawlish.info. If demand increases, we may have to consider either splitting the group, or changing the venue. The latter would almost certainly require a hiring fee to be recovered from the group members.

Music Makers Would we like to have a “Music Makers” group as well as the existing “Music Appreciation” group. This would be as inclusive as possible, with members either singing or playing an instrument, or doing both. Typically, we might include Guitar, Ukulele, Keyboard, Drums, Accordion, etc. The level of ability would be less important than enthusiasm to make music as a group.

Self-help within the group would allow the more musically adept to help, advise and encourage those who are less familiar. There may be scope, for example, for members to start to learn a simple instrument, such as the Ukulele. Please contact Howard on howardmlunn@gmail.com to express an interest.

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

If you are interested in joining any of the Groups please get in touch with the relevant convener (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. 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. .

NO E-MAIL ADDRESS?

You can collect a copy of the Newsletter 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 INTEREST GROUPS MONTHLY DIARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	AM	PM	INTEREST GROUP	CONVENER
2ND MONDAY		2.00 - 4.00	ART APPRECIATION	LIZ EDWARDS
3RD MONDAY		2.00 - 4.00	MONTHLY MEETING	COMMITTEE
4TH MONDAY	10.30 - 12.30		CREATIVE WRITING	BARBARA LINDLEY
4TH MONDAY		2.00 - 4.00	SCRABBLE	GEORGE LIPSCOMB
3RD TUESDAY		12 - 1.30	DON'T FORGET YOUR TOOTHBRUSH	LINDA STUDLEY
3RD TUESDAY		1.30 - 3.30	DRAMA/PLAY READING	JAN RAVENS
3RD WED.	10.30 AM		MUSIC APPRECIATION	IAN THOMSON
1ST THURS		2.00 - 4.00	PSYCHOLOGY	BARRY CRIPPS
2ND THURS	10.00 - 12.00		GADGETS & GIZMOS	GEORGE LIPSCOMB
2ND THURS		1.30 START	STROLLERS - SOCIAL WALKING	JEAN GITSHAM
3RD THURS	10.30 - 12.30		FRENCH CONVERSATION	STEVE THOMSON
3RD THURS		2.00 - 4.00	HISTORY	GEORGE LIPSCOMB
4TH THURS		2.00 - 4.00	BOOKWORM BOOKCLUB	BARRIE HAMILL
3RD FRIDAY	10.30 - 12.30		LITERATURE	JANET FELTHAM
4TH FRIDAY		2.00 - 4.00	GREAT LIVES	ANGELA MORGAN
2ND/4TH SUNDAY		3.00 - 5.00	GERMAN CONVERSATION	IAN THOMSON
VARIABLE	From April to September		GARDENS & GATEAUX	PAULINE DEAN

PLEASE NOTE: There was an unfortunate error in the publicised newsletter, Janet Feltham is the Convenor for Literature, not Barrie Hamill. He is Convenor for the Bookworms group

Please send in contributions for inclusion in the next edition by **28th FEBRUARY 2017**, to:
Pauline Dean - Newsletter Editor (e-mail pauline.dean@talk21.com).