



DAWLISH U3A MAY 2017

ARE YOU A GROUP CONVENOR?

We're always keen to encourage new groups and support existing ones, so we'd like to remind you that the U3A has specialist subject advisors who can offer some help. If you are stuck for ideas about activities for your group or starting a new group, go to page 9 of the latest edition of "Third Age Matters" or go to the national website and click on ""subject advice". Happy browsing (and let us know if you found it helpful).

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Of course you already have our monthly meeting on Monday 19th June in your diary, but here's the reason why you should also attend: Brenda Loosemore will be talking about Murder Mystery and Mayhem. No, it's not a review of the AGM, or even the Christmas meeting.

Many of you will remember Brenda gave a very amusing presentation last year entitled "Trust me, I'm a Volunteer". Now she's back!!! Sounds intriguing..... a tale of dark deeds perhaps? Best bring a friend.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL LINK

What is it? How does it benefit us?

The Regional Link is an association of U3As in the South West and has been established for 11 years. Extending from the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands in the west to Dorset in the east, there are 124 U3A's within its remit, which allows plenty of scope for a variety of networking activities.

The Link's purpose is to share information and knowledge and to help generate new ideas. It also provides a conduit to the Third Age Trust Executive through our Regional Trustee. The Link meets every 6 months and as your Dawlish representative I have always found these meetings very interactive and informative. One learns a lot by sharing experiences and discussing problems which are often common to other U3As.

The Link has organised a stand at the Devon County Show which takes place on the 18th, 19th and 20th May so if you are planning to go, do try to find some time to visit the stand. I am sure the representatives will be pleased to talk with you and help you learn more about U3A in general.

If you want to learn a bit more, you will find the website by searching U3A sites.org.uk or simply google South West U3A.

Steve Thomson, Devon U3A link co-ordinator

NEWS FROM THE LITERATURE GROUP

The group meets on the third Friday of each month. We opted from our inception to use the Devon Library Service, and each summer we choose 24 books from a long list, which is revised annually. From this 24 the library selects a book for each month.

In the past year we have read novels on subjects such as the struggles of single parenthood in London, the untimely loss of a husband and the slow recovery of his bereaved wife and children in a small Irish community and sexual prejudice and abandonment of a man by his family, when it was discovered he was homosexual in early twentieth century England.

We also strayed far from these shores on a number of occasions. We read about the impact of colonial rule in part of nineteenth century Africa, in a novel written from an African perspective. We found out about the brutality of the conquistadors and how Pedro de Valdivia, accompanied by a remarkable woman, Inez Suarez and 150 soldiers conquered Chile in 1540. From a novel set in more recent times we learnt about the last leper colony in Europe, situated off the coast of Crete, and which to our surprise did not close until 1957. Back to the present, we were confronted with the issues of global warming in a novel which gave details of the amazing migration patterns of the beautiful monarch butterflies in the North American continent.

These are just a selection from last year. Such an array of subjects have stimulated thought provoking discussions and given us an opportunity to express and understand diverse viewpoints.

Janet Feltham

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

Unfortunately, the Music Appreciation Group has folded due to the lack of venue and convenor. Would anyone like to discuss taking this on? George Lipscomb will be able to give further information on the group, without you needing to commit to anything.

LOOK OUT FOR:

Diane Coulson of the Literature Group will be doing regular reviews of the books they discuss, so if you're stuck for your next good read, log onto the Dawlish u3a website to see what they've been up to.

17th July 2017 monthly meeting: Stewart Henchie will be talking about Kew Gardens. Possibly the next best thing to visiting them.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE

Barbara Roberts has moved from Minutes to Membership Secretary; Lynne Foote has volunteered for the vacant post of Minutes Secretary and it is anticipated that her co-option will be thankfully endorsed by the committee.