

DAWLISH U3A

Newsletter No 15
March 2017



REMINDER

Please note that 10 April 2017 is the date for our Annual General Meeting. We hope as many of you as possible can attend and contribute to the meeting.

THE NEWSLETTER

Pauline Dean has resigned as newsletter editor and we would like to thank her for all her hard work in keeping us well-informed! In future the newsletter will be a monthly newssheet, which will give details of changes and other need-to-know items, and we hope to feature one or two groups each month. If you would like your group to feature please send your copy to Barrie Hamill or Anne Harris.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new members - we now have a membership of 100! In reply to the lady who asked if she got a prize for being the 100th member, sadly we have to say no, but hope that joining us will be sufficient reward....

We are definitely growing, but there's no such thing as too many members, so do encourage people to join us, or suggest they look at the website <http://u3a.dawlish.info/> Remind them that they can attend a couple of meetings without commitment, and it would be great if we could all look out for new faces and do our best to make them feel welcome.

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

Please get in touch with the relevant convener. Contact details are given on the Website, or Listings sheet.

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.

THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in contributions for inclusion in the next edition by xxx to Barrie Hamill, Newsletter Editor *email address* or Anne Harris *email address*

NO E-MAIL ADDRESS?

You can collect a copy of the Newsletter at the monthly meeting. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy it can be posted to you. Please request a copy, verbally or in writing, through a committee member or convenor. Alternatively, and to save postage, please ask your group convenor to let you have a copy.

NEWS FROM THE FRENCH LANGUAGE GROUP

There is no doubt that learning a language is good for the brain – according to a study carried out by the University of Edinburgh, people who can speak more than one language develop better cognitive abilities which can help slow the process of mental aging. We are fortunate to have two language groups in Dawlish U3A: German and French. If anyone would like to start another language group please let us know and we will see if others would be interested in joining.

You can of course join our current groups. You don't need to be fluent, our French conversation group members have a wide range of knowledge and skills. If you have a basic grounding and can get by, then you should find the group beneficial. Activities have included DVD films, Audio CD's, Playlets, group discussions and French scrabble.

Regardless of Brexit, language skills are still important so if you want to improve your linguistic abilities why not join a current language group or perhaps start a new one.

Steve Thomson

NEW MUSIC MAKERS GROUP

Since the last newsletter we have a new music group up and running (or perhaps that should say strumming).

The group started in the New Year and already has ten members. Our aim is to make recognisable music in a relaxed atmosphere. We have acquired some second hand speakers and an amp / mixer unit to be able to mike up the singing through a simple PA system.

We meet every other Friday in the back room at The Brunswick, courtesy of the Landlord, from 2 til 4 pm. We have players of acoustic guitar, 12 string guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, accordion, ukulele and banjo. We would welcome other instrumentalists, at whatever level, particularly of drums, violin or keyboard.

All members are welcome to sing and we are working on numbers which have part voice options to get a good rounded vocal feel (think 'California Dreamin'), and some tunes will be entirely instrumental. We aim to cover a wide range of musical tastes from traditional to pop and from jazz to folk. When we have a core repertoire, we may contemplate playing in the pub proper to return the favour or even, dare I say, for an U3A get-together..... If you are interested in joining, please contact me. My details are in the listings.

Howard Lunn