



## DAWLISH U3A August 2017

### **New Groups ... and how they start**

Since our inception as Dawlish U3A the number of interest groups has increased substantially, but there's always room for more! Have you ever thought about a particular subject that you would be interested in which is currently not covered?

Well, there is always scope for new groups and there may be other members who have similar thoughts and interests. You are always free to suggest new ideas, so why not ask around to see if there are other members who share your interest. You could also include a note in this newsletter, which goes out to every member.

It's possible that the interest is there but that members are reluctant to take on the role of convener, so I want to reassure you that the role is not onerous. It's really important to stress that the convenor is not a Leader and definitely should not do all the work! It is important that this is shared out among the members so that there is active involvement and participation.

The convenor acts as a contact point, arranging venues and keeping members informed of meeting dates and topics. It's important that the group sets out some basic ideas about what they want to learn and which methods of learning they would like to use.

Some members may prefer a fairly light approach whilst others may like a more academic slant, and the group needs to agree how this might be managed. It may be helpful to have a trial run of three or four meetings and then discuss the approach to determine what is going well and what could be improved.

Remember that help is available. The Third Age Trust has a range of learning resources and subject advisors who, in my experience, have been extremely helpful. You also have the support of committee in helping you to get things up and running. So let us have your ideas and remember: the pleasure of learning never ends.

**Steve Thomson, Link Representative**

***PS from Ed:** I think it's important to emphasise that the Convenor can go on holiday, honestly, as there will be willing people to take over. Just thought I'd say...*

### **Presenters for 2018**

We need to arrange presenters for 2018, so if you can recommend anyone please let me know. I have received some suggestions but I would like to draw up a full programme for next year asap. It would be good if we could include presentations from our members, so if you would like to do something that you think would be interesting to others please contact me at [stevethomson3@talktalk.net](mailto:stevethomson3@talktalk.net)

**Steve Thomson, Speaker Organiser**

## **Playreading Group - No Experience Needed!**

Have you ever thought of joining a playreading group? Come along and have fun – all you need is to be prepared to try out the hidden acting ability that is in everyone!

We each assume a role and take it from there, and we choose plays from a variety of genres: comedy, thriller, drama, tragedy, sometimes taking on a role of the opposite sex. There are on average about 5 or 6 of us who meet, but we'd welcome others who would like to try out.

We meet in Teignmouth every third Tuesday of the month, from 1.30 – 3.30pm. Please do contact me at [playreading@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:playreading@u3a.dawlish.info) if you are able to come, and I will give you details of the dates and venues.

**Jan Ravens**

## **Speakers and Topics for 2017**

At our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September Ian Handford will be talking about "Blue Plaques". I'm always fascinated by the range of people they commemorate and look forward to learning more about them.

Quick preview: in October we'll be hearing about the Natural History of Teign Estuary, November will inform us about Pebblebed Heaths and then in December we've got the Christmas festivities. For those of you who remember last year's "Do", I can only say ..... don't miss this one!

**Ed**

## **New Poetry Appreciation Group**

In May we had a wonderful session, ably led by John Moorhouse, who has now left Dawlish U3A. I hope that we can resume meeting to enjoy reading and sharing our thoughts on poets and poetry and appreciating the things that poems can offer. They can be miniature novels, telling tales and miraculously giving us a beginning middle and end in a very short form. They can be funny (think Pam Ayres, Edward Lear, T S Eliot), or sad, commemorative, celebratory, sarcastic ... they reflect all of human life (and sometimes that of animals).

I said at the last meeting that it would be good to get away from the idea that poetry is posh or unrelentingly highbrow, and I'd love you to take a chance and enjoy trying something out of your comfort zone! Remember, you don't need to come back if it really isn't for you.....

**Anne Harris**

**I am interested in forming a wine appreciation group. If any members are interested please let me know by emailing me at [stevethomson3@talktalk.net](mailto:stevethomson3@talktalk.net) Wow, Steve has been busy this month! Practising what he preaches.....Ed**