



Dawlish U3A

January 2018

By the time you get this the new year will be underway – hope it's going well for you all!

Venue for Monthly Meetings

By the middle of 2017 we were beginning to feel cramped in the Methodist Church Hall; and we gratefully accepted the Dawlish Methodist Church's offer to use the church itself for our monthly meetings. There have been some minor issues over security, access and the use of their AV equipment, but they were resolved.

However, in the last 6 months attendance at the monthly meeting has declined significantly. A minority of members preferred the church to the hall; but, apart from the discomfort of the pews, a majority felt that sitting in pews, though undoubtedly providing more accommodation, lacks social cohesion. We attend monthly meetings as much for the chance to interact with our fellow members as the quality of the guest speaker, and this is not best served by looking at the backs of members' heads!

At least until our AGM in May we have made the decision to move back to the hall. Meanwhile we will re-examine alternative venues; but, and we have been here before, nowhere else can offer us the same time/date. Your committee welcomes any constructive proposals.

George Lipscomb

The year ahead

As you will be aware from recent newsletters, we are keen to raise attendance at the existing groups and start some new ones.

Information on new groups and ideas for even more are included here – let us know what you think and if you have any further ideas for activities and groups please let us know.

We'd also like to hear from you if you find attending the monthly meetings enough, or if you would like to get more involved if any barriers were removed, such as transport or difficulty in accessing venues. We will certainly work to help you if this is the case. Please contact George or myself or speak to us at the meeting.

Anne Harris

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group (second Monday morning of the month) has now met for 3 sessions and they have all been interesting and enlivening. Engaging in a lively debate and hearing different points of view is also a good way to get to know people. We've looked at assisted dying, Brexit, artificial intelligence and the next topic is "Capitalism". We are fearless in choice of subject (!) and welcome all views.

Barbara Lindley will be hosting the next meeting on 12th February – please contact her for further information.

Coffee and Chat Group Thursday 25 January, Sea Light Cafe

We hope that more of you will join us in January. We meet at 10.30 and usually stay for about an hour and a half. In December it was good to take time out from the festivities in the days between Christmas and New Year, and it's proving to be an excellent way to get better acquainted with people you may not meet otherwise.

Gentlemen please note – we actually had two men at the last meet up! We were concerned that the image of this group may be predominantly female, but it's getting more varied. Would it help in getting you through the door if we called it "An Opportunity for the Scientific Study of Coffee Cups"?

Barbara Lindley and Anne Harris

The Sea and Seashore (proposed group)

The Seashore, washed by the tides twice every day, has an abundance of life, and it's right on our doorstep: from Dawlish Warren to the rocks between the relative deserts of Dawlish beach and Coryton Cove lie the Cow Rocks.

Time and dates will be determined by weather and tide as much as the wishes of the Group. Does the challenge of some field work appeal to you?

Contact: George Lipscomb

Wild Life (proposed group)

60 years ago I would drive from Plymouth to study birds at Dawlish Warren. Dawlish Warren is still there, but so too is Dartmoor and Haldon Forest. Few places in the world can rival South Devon for the quality and diversity of wildlife on our doorstep. The seasons, weather and the interests of Group members will all determine the best occasions for a Wildlife Group to indulge in some field work.

Contact: George Lipscomb

More information next time on Skittles, Table Tennis, Football, Crafts....