

Dawlish U3A



Monthly Newsletter – December 2018

From the Chairman, Barrie Hamill

As is usually the case at this time of the year, we all reflect on how quickly the year has passed. It is incredible to think that we will be celebrating Christmas in a few weeks, and in just a week after that, 2019 will have arrived. I think it is fair to say 2018 has been a challenging year globally. It has also been a year that has seen plenty of hard work undertaken which of course makes us all look forward to enjoying the holiday season. Where did this year go? Each year that passes seems to have its own character – there are always challenges, and maybe a low point here and there but, more often than not, they are liberally sprinkled with many highlights which bring joy and gladness.

Christmas is a time for reflection and a rejuvenation of hope. I am particularly aware that the success of the Dawlish U3A rests upon the valuable support of our members, group convenors and the hard work of the committee who give of their time so generously. So, let me take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your wonderful support and dedication. Regardless of your current level of involvement, I challenge you to become more engaged with the Dawlish U3A in the next year. So, a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of our U3A in 2018 and let us all look forward to 2019 when, hopefully, I will still be standing before you.

I wish you a safe and very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Barrie

Our next monthly meeting, 2pm on Monday 17th December, Methodist Church Hall

It was a real pleasure to have such a good turnout for the November meeting when ‘one of our own’, Graham Carey, gave a fascinating talk on the three years he spent living in Moldova. I hope we will continue to have such good attendances at future meetings, including our ‘Christmas Party’ on 17th December. We will enjoy some music, poetry, monologues, a quiz and, of course, mince pies, stollen and other seasonal delights. I hope you will all be able to join us.

News from Interest Groups

Bookworms



Bookworms meet at 2 o'clock on the 4th Thursday of the month. The meetings are at 8 Honeysuckle Drive, Dawlish. In November we read *Three Things About Elsie* by Joanna Cannon. There will not be a December meeting. The choice for our next meeting on 24th January is *The Gospel of Judas* by Simon Mawer. For more information, contact Barbara at bookclub@u3a.dawlish.info

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John Vick, Editor Dawlish U3A Newsletter

Lunch Club



For further information, contact Tracey at luncheon@u3a.dawlish.info

Here, There and Everywhere



Our next outing will be to the Exeter Christmas Market on Friday 14th December. Please meet at 9.45am at Dawlish Railway Station. For more information contact Andy on 01626 865765 or hte@u3a.dawlish.info.

Art Appreciation



Thanks to Barrie for leading a very interesting session on Edward Hopper last month. We will always look differently at light and shadows, and solitary women gazing out of windows. For our next meeting on Monday 10th December at 8 High House Close, Chris Foote talk about the photography of Henri Cartier-Bresson. For further information, contact Lynne at art@u3a.dawlish.info

Great Lives



There has never been a shortage of contributors wishing to recommend from an eclectic list of names for our consideration; but we would welcome new members, and new Great Lives, to the group. For more details, please contact George at great_lives@U3A.dawlish.info

Badminton



The badminton group goes from strength to strength. We meet every Monday 5pm at the Dawlish Leisure Centre where we play for an hour, with rests between games. We are of mixed ability: some have never played badminton before, some haven't played for at least thirty years and some have been amateur players off and on for many years. The main point is that we all enjoy it. We are all certainly getting fitter, getting quicker with the banter and even hitting a few shuttlecocks too. Come and join us. We welcome anyone willing to have a go. For further information, contact Patricia at badminton@u3a.dawlish.info

Spanish



This new Group has had two meetings so far. There will be no meetings in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday January 15th when we hope to meet twice a month. For further information contact Steve on spanish@u3a.dawlish.info

History



Remember this logo? Last meeting, Chris had us all wallowing in nostalgia as he took us on a tour of the 1951 Festival of Britain. At our next meeting, we meet the harsh realities of adult life when we learn the truth behind some of our traditional nursery rhymes. Eat your heart out Old King Cole. For further details, contact Richard at history@u3a.dawlish.info

Strollers



Dawlish U3A Strollers group meet on the afternoon of the second Thursday of each month for a gentle social stroll. We generally explore the Teignmouth/Shaldon area one month, and the Dawlish/Cockwood/Powderham area the following month. In November we met in Dawlish and enjoyed a stroll along the seafront to Dawlish Warren, and after refreshments at the Boathouse we caught the bus home. Our next walk is on Thursday 13th December when we will stroll along the Teignmouth seafront and Back Beach, as well as the town centre, ending at a café. New members to our group are always welcome. For further information, contact Jean on 01626 779140 or strollers@u3a.dawlish.info

Discussion



The Discussion Group has grown very quickly and we now have plenty of people discussing such topics as the state of our high streets, body art and assisted dying. Our next meeting is at 10.30am on 10th December when we will discuss Migration. The venue rotates round members' houses. For further information contact Barbara on discussion@u3a.dawlish.info

Singing for fun



The membership of this group is growing. This is camp fire singing, we don't bother with timing or pitch and have no music! We each choose a song then download the lyrics and practise by singing along to YouTube before we meet. The venue rotates round members' houses. For further information, contact Barbara on singingforfun@u3a.dawlish.info

Play Reading



We have had fun reading Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward for the last couple of months – especially when there was a knock on the door just as Madame Arcati was settling into her trance. Most of our plays have been comedies but the group decides - within the confines of what Exeter Library can supply. There will be no meeting in December but in January we meet on at 1.30pm Tuesday 15th January at Edens Court in Teignmouth. New members welcome. Contact Janette on playreading@u3a.dawlish.info

Scrabble



This small group meets in friendly competition but would welcome newcomers to join us. For more details please contact George at scrabble@U3A.dawlish.info

Creative Writing



We exercise our little grey cells putting thoughts to paper over many subjects with as many different interpretations as members. There will be no meeting in December when most people have other commitments, so we next meet on Monday 28th January at 10.30am at Edens Court in Teignmouth. New members welcome. Contact Janette on creativewriting@u3a.dawlish.info

Wine Appreciation



Ray will be sharing his enthusiasm for the wines of the Spanish region of Galicia at 6pm on 7th December. This session had to be postponed last month because of severe weather so let's hope the weather is kinder to us this time! For further information contact Steve on wine@u3a.dawlish.info

Psychology



We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Last month we had a presentation on the 'unconscious mind' and how it effects how we function in our lives. There was, as always, a good attendance with stimulating discussion. However, there is room for more people to come along. No prior knowledge is needed; just an open and enquiring mind. Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday 23rd January when we are going to discuss the creation myths of various cultures. For further information, contact Steve on psychology@u3a.dawlish.info

Gadgets and Gizmos



The next meeting will be on Thursday 13th December at 13 Coryton Close, Dawlish. The presentations will be 'How guitars have developed' and 'An explanation of how sound effects pedals work'. This is not intended to be a musical session but a serious look at the subjects. Being near Christmas, there will be mince pies etc. If anyone would like to come along, please contact Jack Whitehead at gadgetsandgizmos@u3a.dawlish.info