

Dawlish & District U3A



Monthly Newsletter – January 2020

Chairman's Chatter

Dear Friends,

2020 – a New Year, a New Decade. Someone said 'The first month of the year, a perfect time to start all over again, changing energies and deserting old moods, new beginnings new attitudes'. Well this year will certainly mark new opportunities for the Dawlish and District U3A to evolve.

Last month I thanked George Lipscomb for having undertaken the role of webmaster and I am pleased to report that David and Miggie Pickton have kindly agreed to take over.

Our committee is presently formed of Patricia Angove (Newsletter Editor), Steve Angove (Secretary), Tracy Penfound, Barbara Roberts (Membership Secretary), Phil Roberts (Treasurer), John Vick (Vice Chair and Publicity), Richard Warburton (Groups Coordinator) and yours truly as Chair and Speaker finder. I feel it appropriate to state now that at the AGM in May, both Barbara and Phil will be relinquishing their specific posts. Also, the committee could do with strengthening its numbers. Added to this an independent examiner needs to be found.

Every U3A has to have a reliable group of members to run, maintain and develop the activities that we all find so positive and interesting. No one is paid a salary, yet everyone has access to the interest groups and monthly meetings. We have a great team of convenors with some convening more than one group. If we do not volunteer to help in some way then our U3A may slowly lose its impact on our valuable learning (and friendly) activities. Our few volunteers will become over-burdened if there are not others ready to take on the next step.

I am far from being a prophet of doom but we have to be realistic as to how we want our U3A to continue to flourish. Earlier this year I heard of a U3A group that was unable to form a committee and was obligated to call an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the sole item on the agenda was the imminent closure. Our U3A is thankfully not at that stage but let us all make sure that our U3A remains open, busy and growing. In what way could you help?

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our monthly meeting on 20th January.

With kind regards.

Graham

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 20th January 2020** at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Brunswick Place, Dawlish. The talk this month is called '**Mercy Ships**' given by Mike Temple who served on the world's largest charity hospital ship "Africa Mercy"

Burns Night Get-Together

The 'Jolie Brise' in Teignmouth is doing a Burns Week from Friday 17th Jan to Sunday 26th Jan.

A U3A group to go is being organised by Anne Harris for Monday 20th January 2020, at 7pm. Can you let her know as quickly as possible if you would like to attend. Costs aren't known yet, but Weatherspoons is reasonable with its pricing.

To contact Anne - phone number is 01626 867 001.

To contact any of the group convenors or members of the committee please contact our secretary Steve Angove who will forward your email to the appropriate person. His email address is steve.angove@btinternet.com or telephone 01626 862486

News from Interest Groups

Bookworms



Our choice for January is 'The Librarian' - by Salley Vickers. We will meet at 2 o'clock, **Thursday 23rd January**, at 1 Kestrel Way, Dawlish.

For more information, contact Barbara Warburton

French Conversation

The French Conversation Group decided that a meeting on 2nd January will be rather soon for members to emerge from the festive period so we will next meet on **9th and 23rd January**.

Please contact Lynne Vick

Here, There and Everywhere



Thursday January 23rd Coffee/tea morning "Open Daw" 10.30-11am
Friday 31st January 2020 Dartmoor Whisky Distillery visit.

For more information contact Andy Pluck on 01626 865765 or email the secretary

Spanish



Next Spanish **Tuesday 14th** January 2020

For further information contact Ray Wood

Great Lives



For more details, please contact George Lipscomb

Art Appreciation



The Art Appreciation Group will not be meeting in January as there are a number of clashes in members' diaries. The programme will resume as normal when Barbara Warburton will lead a discussion on Stanley Spencer, who is probably best known for painting Biblical scenes occurring as if in Cookham, the small village beside the River Thames where he was born and spent much of his life.

For information, contact Lynne Vick

Badminton



Numbers are growing in the badminton group and we often have to book an extra court, which gives us loads of opportunity to play lots of games with lots of different partners. We meet **every Monday 5pm** at the Dawlish Leisure Centre where we play for an hour, with rests/chats between games. All members welcome.

For further information, contact Patricia Angove

History



We enjoyed a fun Christmas quiz enhanced by glasses of mulled wine. We start again on **January 16th** at 2.00pm at George's house. His subject will be "Henrietta Maria of France (Consort of Charles 1st) and her daughter Henrietta of England." More lively women, with stories to tell.

Contact Richard Warburton

Creative Writing



The U3A Creative Writing group will meet on **Monday January 27th** 2020 at 10.30am at Edens Court in Teignmouth, when we will be reading our pieces on 'I always find January a bleak month'. We hope this will not make us all too downbeat!

Contact Janette Wood

Psychology



Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd January at 2.00 to 4.00pm. The topic will be 'Consciousness'. Are we just a complex biological machine? All members welcome to come along.

For further information, contact Steve Angove

Lunch Club



For further information, please contact Tracy Penfound

Art – Watercolour

This group meets on the second and third Tuesday morning (**14th and 21st**), 10-12 o'clock, at 1 Kestrel Way, Dawlish. For the next few months we will be consolidating the techniques we explored last year and we have a set of worksheets, which we will be working through. Please note the earlier time. New members, especially beginners would be very welcome.

For further details contact Richard Warburton

Swimming

This is a new group, beginning in January. It is an open weekly meeting, starting on **Tuesday 7th January**. We will meet at Cofton Leisure Centre, every Tuesday afternoon between 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock, during school term time. The concession price of a ticket is £3.50, including use of the steam room and sauna. Just turn up and enjoy a swim with friends.

For more information contact Barbara Warburton

Strollers



Dawlish U3A Strollers group will in 2020 continue to walk on the second Thursday each month i.e. in the afternoon ...our Jan, Feb and March 2020 walk details are already on the Dawlish U3A website ...hopefully during our next walk we'll plan our April to Dec walks...alas our last 2 walks in 2019 were cancelled due to wet and windy weather conditions! New members to our group are always welcome.

For further information, contact Jean Gitsham on 01626 779140 or email the secretary

Discussion



We are meeting at the Clifford Hotel in Teignmouth (just up from Eastcliffe car park) at 10.30 on **Monday 13th January** to discuss Do we believe in Ghosts?

For further information contact Barbara

Natural History

28th January, 2020 The group will meet at 6, Town Mills, Church Street, Dawlish., EX7 9QP. Although the principle focus will be on the migration of birds in relation to the UK and Europe, consideration may also be given to some of the great animal migrations in the polar regions, Africa, etc.

For more information contact George Lipscomb

Scrabble



For more details please contact George Lipscomb

Literature

We concluded our meetings for 2019 a few days before Christmas. We began with a lively discussion on the well received novel “The Muse” by Jessie Burton. This was followed by a reading and selection of short poems chosen by members, including several by the inimitable Spike Milligan. We concluded our festivities with an excellent Christmas lunch on the Strand. We look forward to becoming acquainted with new authors and perhaps reading new works by old friends.

On **17th January** Kate McCarthy will lead our discussion on a seasonal haunting tale “Winter Ghosts” by Kate Moss.

For more information contact Janet Feltham

Beer and Skittles

There will be another one taking place in the new year. Watch out for news.

Coffee and Chat

Contact Tracy Penfound

Wine Appreciation



The wine group is very active. At present we have 15 members which is the maximum we can take. However if you are interested in joining the group please contact me and we can discuss options.

For information contact Steve Thomson on 01626 866439 or email the secretary

Simple Science



Please contact Jack Whitehead

Rummikub

The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th January 2020**.

Contact Graham Carey