



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

April 2020 Issue 1

Editor's note

I do hope you are keeping well and are self isolating successfully.

We've been finding it a bit of a challenge. Steve and I are really missing our badminton and our badminton 'mates'.

Although we've all been told to self isolate, for how long? Three months? Trouble is that we are finding we cannot self isolate and hunt for food. We have spent hours ordering our groceries on the internet only to find we cannot get it delivered, or have to wait at least three weeks for delivery. How are you expected to stay at home AND eat?

We did have a delivery at midnight last night. We'd given up on them coming as they were hours late, went to bed and then the telephone rang and it was the delivery driver wanting to know if we still wanted the delivery that night. With the clock going forward as well! I'm typing this with matchsticks keeping my eyelids up. (By the way, this wasn't Sainsburys. Apparently after spending most of last week trying to register as vulnerable, we find that the Government doesn't think we are vulnerable enough by just being over 70.)

Please do send me your thoughts and experiences about this current situation. Let's do some sharing.

Thank you to all those who have contributed this week.

www.u3a.dawlish.info

April News - Week 1

Here, There and Everywhere

Hello everyone, I hope you are keeping well.

In keeping with the spirit of HTE, I have devised something which may help to occupy yourselves during the current situation:

Explore the South West (and beyond)

- 1) Starting in Cornwall, choose a city or town and do a virtual tour of the local area.
- 2) Move on to Devon and repeat the process.
- 3) Continue in the same way for each county until you wither get bored or finish back where you started.

Happy Hunting. Take Care - Andrew

Tree Planting

The Dawlish and District U3A committee agreed that as part of the U3A Day now on 1st October, that we should all get together and plant trees as our commitment to the future. At the moment a place to plant the trees is being sourced. Hopefully more news soon.

Literature Group

February's book was H is for Hawks by Helen McDonald. A challenging and quite difficult read. Interesting if you like stories about training falcons but not to everyone's taste in the group.

The book for March is The Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng. A story set in the highlands of Malaya where a woman becomes the apprentice of Aritomo, who was once the gardener of the Emperor of Japan. According to the reviews this is a "beautiful and affecting novel, elegant and atmospheric". We are looking forward to reading it.

As there are no more meetings to be held from now on, we hope to discuss the book over the telephone/e.mail/texts. Should be interesting!

Wine Group

Although the group is in suspension at present we are not inactive. We are sharing information amongst us regarding wine that we have enjoyed or wines that might be worth trying. In this weekend's Times there are some organic wines that Jane Macquitty has recommended. It may not be easy to attain these in the current climate however it might be worth a try. One of the recommendations is a wine from the Co-op retailing at £6.50. Its name is Terra Madre Catarrato. A second wine is from Waitrose, a Riesling from Australia at the somewhat higher price of £12.99

I have not tried any of these but I will try the one from the Co-op if they are available.

Organic wines are made without the use of herbicides and also use less sulphur. If you manage to beat me to it I would like to know what you think of it.

Letters

What a good idea to have a weekly newsletter. I wondered if we could have a space where members could tell us how they are passing the time - new hobbies taken up etc. Spring cleaning and gardening (I only have a small courtyard) don't inspire me but I have thought of a couple of things to occupy my time which I have been talking about doing for months - or is it years!

I have a stack of Victorian letters dating from the mid 1870s which I bought from a charity shop. They are all addressed to an Annie McKay from friends who were servants and nurses (two in "lunatic asylums") in the London area. How they arrived in Teignmouth goodness knows. I have already transcribed them - not an easy task given that the women would write one way on a sheet then turn it round and write over it the other way. Now I'm researching all their histories as far as possible - all very fascinating.

My other pastime will be (I admit I've hardly started yet) to learn Arabic. I don't want to be able to speak it but read and write. I love the writing - it's very phonetic like learning shorthand and looks good. I've had a couple of "Teach Yourself" books for ages - now there's no excuse not to start.
Best wishes. Keep safe
Jill (Maynard)

Please send in your thoughts, ideas, stories, suggestions. We are all in this together and can share our experiences and our knowledge.

Many thanks you the group convenors who have been in touch and to Jill and Liz for their letter-type emails.

Painting via Skype!

My two granddaughters live 30 miles away in Lapford – mind you, at the moment they could be 3,000 miles away! – and their mum, my daughter, is fortunately able to work from home so the girls are getting busy with their school work at home, which at the moment they seem to be enjoying. The younger one, who is 10, is very keen on art so I suggested we do a painting exercise together via Skype. When we had all our painting things together, Maya-Rose at the dining table in her house and me in my Paint Shed in my garden, I contacted her on Skype, set us a start and finish time and off we went. 40 minutes later, I got back to her on Skype and we compared our resulting paintings, holding them up to our laptops so we could see them properly. She had done hers in acrylics and I did mine in watercolours so they were a bit different, but she had actually finished hers while mine needs quite a bit more work! And I have to say I told her I thought hers was better than mine! - Liz



Staying in Touch – the Third Age Trust

These are extraordinary times and national office staff and trustees have been working hard to make sure it's business as usual with some changes in how we provide services and a number of additions.

National Office

Staff are now working from home. The phone lines have been diverted so the national office number 0208 466 6139 will continue to be answered by staff, as will email enquiries.

Learning

Members are being encouraged to take part in a UK wide living history shared learning project to document their experience during this unprecedented time. You can read more and learn how to get involved in this on the website.

More ideas and thoughts about remote learning opportunities will be added to this page in the coming days/weeks. Thank you to all U3As for sharing their ideas.

Currently the team are working on advice for interest groups on how to use platforms such as Skype, closed Facebook and the conference call facility Whypay to offer remote interest group opportunities for members.

Events

U3A Day on June 3 is postponed until October 1. You can see more details on the [U3A Day Facebook page](#)

Communications

We hope to put regular bulletins on the national website with the latest advice and guidance surrounding coronavirus – and specific advice and ideas for U3As.

Sources Online – our learning blog will host creative ideas about how interest groups and U3A members are continuing to stay healthy, active and engaged during this time. Please send all your ideas and stories to the communications officer – elizabeth.drury@u3a.org.uk

The national newsletter is a great way for the U3A movement to stay in touch with each other – please encourage all your colleagues and members to [sign up](#)

Elsewhere - a new **Keeping In Touch** closed Facebook page will be completed in the next few days. This will help us all share thoughts and ideas.

These are unprecedented times and so there will be other changes that we will need to make in the coming days and weeks ahead. We will keep in touch via all appropriate communication channels to keep everyone informed.

The strength and resilience of this U3A community is exceptional. Thank you so much for your continued support and commitment.