



# Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

April 2020

## Chair's Chatter

Dear fellow U3A members,

Like the rest of the world, we are facing rapidly developing changes due to the spread of the coronavirus. We realise that this is the worst public health crisis in our lifetime. As governments around the world adjust their approach to the virus so on a local level our U3A group has needed to make adjustments. Thank you for your understanding regarding the cancelling of our March meeting; John Polley will be happy to come to us some time next year. The committee has also decided to cancel April's meeting and I have already informed the speaker. We realise as well that our AGM might not go ahead as scheduled and so we will keep you informed of further developments. Indeed, things will continue to move quite quickly.

Let me reassure you that our National Office is taking this outbreak very seriously and your safety and well being and our duty of care is of paramount importance to us. It goes without saying that our actions will now and in the future comply with National and Local Authority Government and Health Agencies. At the time of writing the current advice from our National Office is to stop non-essential contact with others and adopt social distancing. Those in 'at risk' groups are to be shielded from social contact for 12 weeks. People who should take particular care to minimise social contact are, among others, people over the age of 70.

This said, the committee has asked that all groups should cease meeting forthwith and until further notice. If groups wish to continue to meet they do so at their own volition and risk but cannot do so under the banner of Dawlish & District U3A. There would be no insurance cover either.

Please keep safe and keep smiling; together we will get through this and come out stronger.

With kind regards - Graham

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

A reminder that membership is due for renewal in April. It remains at £15.00 (or £10.00 for Associate members) and may be paid by sending it to the Membership Secretary, **10 Underwood Close, Dawlish EX7 9RY**. Cheques should be made payable to Dawlish and District U3A. Alternatively you may pay by direct bank transfer using the details below.

Name of bank: **NatWest**

Name of Account: **Dawlish and District U3A**

Sort code: **52-30-22**

Account No: **34078967**

Reference: Your name

Thank you - Barbara Roberts,  
Membership Secretary

# April News

## As you may be aware

All Dawlish and District U3A meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Things are still happening though, for instance:

## Watercolour Painting

Painting will still continue using work sheets kindly emailed to the group from Richard and Barbara. Group members will then photograph their work and share their efforts with each other via the internet.

## Wine Group

Are sampling wines from the safety of their homes and circulating reviews of the wines they have sampled to other members of the group via emails.

## Natural History

George has suggested a link to a programme we might find of interest. <https://www.my5.tv/wild-britain/season-1/wild-britain-cities>

## Art Appreciation

If you are self-isolating, and searching for something to occupy your mind, this would be a good opportunity to research a topic of your choice for a future Art App meeting, thereby ensuring that we have a good programme for the Art Appreciation Group to look forward to. The internet has endless resources, and if libraries remain open, so we have access to a great deal of valuable material. If you are pursuing a particular topic, you might like to share that information with the rest of the group.

## WEEKLY Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

I am thinking that whilst so many of us are having to self-isolate that having a weekly newsletter might relieve our circumstances and add a little something to our quality of life for the time being.

I think this could be a newsletter created by members for members and I am happy to act as the editor, put it together and send it out to the membership on a weekly basis.

I thought that perhaps the **Creative Writing Group** might send in a short story or two for us all to enjoy, or the **BookWorms group** send in a review or two of recent books they have read and recommend. The **History group** to send in interesting snippets of history or recommend any reading. I also thought we could swap stories of our own life or our life at the moment with so much happening that is unprecedented.

How about recommending some keep fit tips, or recipes, or anything that you feel might be helpful to others at this time. Any letters or emails you are happy to have published can be sent to me.

We can keep in touch and support each other during this time. It doesn't take much effort to send in something that just might help another.

You can email me directly or go through the [enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info) email address.

Looking forward to hearing from you -  
Patricia Angove

# Important Information - April 2020

## Devon & Cornwall Police Alert - Coronavirus (COVID-19) related Scams

Please pass this information on to relatives, friends and neighbours who may be vulnerable but who may not see this warning and advice on social media. Fraudsters are exploiting the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus to facilitate various types of fraud and cyber crime.

Since February 2020 the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800,000. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers.

Fraudsters are also sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails in an attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing personal and financial details.

Some of the other tactics that NFIB had identified from victim reports include:

\* Fraudsters purporting to be from research organisations affiliated with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) contact potential victims over email. They claim to be able to provide the recipient with a list of coronavirus infected people in their area. In order to access this information, the victim needs to click on a link, which leads to a malicious website, or is asked to make a payment in Bitcoin.

Watch out for scam messages:

\* Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Shopping online:

\* If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>

Protect your devices from the latest threats:

Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats. For information on how to update your devices, please visit: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/securing-your-devices>

# SPOTLIGHT ON - THE COMMITTEE

When I retired I found membership of the U3A provided me with an interesting and enjoyable social life, so I was pleased to be able to contribute to its work by joining the Committee. If the U3A is to continue to flourish, members need to contribute in all sorts of ways, and I am pleased to be able to help. My role as Publicity Officer allows me to share some of the experience I gained in my career, and I have particularly enjoyed leading the group which has overhauled our marketing and communications. Meetings are just once a month, are never too long - and are punctuated with plenty of laughter! JOHN VICK

Membership Secretary - Processing new applications and renewals and keeping the membership records up to date are the basic functions of the job. It is not particularly taxing and I've enjoyed doing it. But it is now time for someone else to have a go as I will probably be moving away from the area.

BARBARA ROBERTS

As secretary I capture the committee's time in minutes; keep in touch with



members and National Office as the point of contact; and check we proceed as set out in our procedures. A fun job for any bureaucrat, but someone has to do it! STEVE ANGOVE

Having been co-opted to the position in September, I am enjoying the role of Chairman. It is a privilege to guide the committee discussions and the monthly meeting. We have a great committee which is working together to make sure

that Dawlish and District U3A are a vibrant and growing organisation. I have very much enjoyed the last few months helping to create our new image, and look forward to the future with the U3A. GRAHAM CAREY

I have enjoyed being your Treasurer for the last four years but our plans now probably mean that we will be leaving the area. Whilst the general meeting once a month can be a busy day, the job is otherwise not particularly demanding or time consuming. The record keeping is quite straightforward. PHIL ROBERTS

I love being the Newsletter co-ordinator and being in touch with members and group convenors as well as messing about on the computer trying to fit everything in. The Committee are a great group and I enjoy the monthly meetings we hold. PATRICIA ANGOVE