



# Dawlish

and District U3A

## Newsletter

April 2020 Issue 4

### Editor's note

Hope all is well and you are keeping yourselves as fit as you can.

Not a large Editor's note this week as we have had many contributions which is great, please keep them coming in. If you don't see your contribution here, don't worry, I will try to include it another week.

An Irish friend told me that what they are calling the lock down over there is - cocooning, I thought it much nicer than 'lock down'. I love the concept of being cocooned.

### Literature Group

The book we have read during April is *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng. This is a remarkable book. Situated in the highlands of Malaya, a woman, Theo Yun Ling, sets out to build a memorial to her sister, killed at the hands of the Japanese during the brutal occupation of their country. She becomes the apprentice of Aritomo, once the gardener of the Emperor of Japan, who designed the garden, Yugiri, the "Garden of Evening Mists". It is a beautifully written book, a fascinating story full of history and a haunting novel about memory. However, it is complicated and often repetitive, so the story unfolds very slowly. A story not for everyone but superbly written with breath-taking prose and full of grace.

Diana Coulson

### April News - Week 4

#### Recommendation received

Very happy to recommend Gerald's Supermarket in Dawlish Warren. As you have found, home delivery with anyone else is impossible. We have used them for 3 weeks now for 80% of our food needs (our daughter in law helps with the rest). Some things are a little more expensive than the major supermarkets, but the milk (local) and meat are both great, and wine and beer are plentiful. We have only defeated them with a request for real porridge oats!

However, where are you going to find a small supermarket where you phone them and read out your list of needs at 10am, and it's delivered (free) to your door THE SAME DAY! It reminds us of how our parents used to shop in the 50's. Without the support of people around Dawlish, this supermarket may not survive the loss of the custom from thousands of holiday makers in the caravans and chalets of Dawlish Warren, which will probably be empty for most of this year. Support Gerald's, because they are committed to supporting the 'locked in' seniors of Dawlish!!

Best wishes and keep safe,

Graham & Jenny Pestrige.

## Pam Ayers Poem

I'm normally a social girl,

I love to meet my mates.  
But lately with the virus here,  
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now,  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while,  
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old.  
There wasn't any Facebook,  
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies,  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll,  
The pill and miniskirts.  
We smoked, we drank, we partied,  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana.  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full,  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me,  
I'd while away the hour,  
I'd bake for all the family,  
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful,  
I like a gutsy thriller.  
I'm swooning over Idris,  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle,  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown,  
To recovery and health,  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis,  
And be back to join our mates.  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

**Sent in by Carole**

## French Conversation

Following the first meeting this morning  
there will be another French conversation  
group via zoom two weeks time,  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

## Getting work done in the home during Covid-19.

### Buy with Confidence

Sent by Janet Quinn -Trading Standards  
Officer, Devon, Somerset and Torbay  
Trading Standards Service

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For Approved Local Traders, or to  
recommend a business for the scheme,  
or to apply to join Buy with Confidence  
visit [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

This scheme is designed to help older  
and more vulnerable people access  
trusted tradesmen on the Trading  
Standards list and gives advice on their  
web site about how to keep safe when  
tradesmen are working in their home.  
Some very useful tips.

## Puzzle Time



### Answers to last weeks picture quiz:

1. Penny Lane
2. Hard Day's Night
3. Blackbird
4. Eleanor Rigby
5. Strawberry Fields Forever
6. Roll Over Beethoven
7. Help !
8. Paperback Writer

## Ancestry

I read your latest newsletter with interest and the suggestion to research your family history as a coronavirus distraction. I can recommend such an 'interest' having spent several years when I first retired doing just that. I had joined an Adult Education history class, as having been educated in Scotland, I knew very little English history but knew that my ancestry, both maternal and paternal, was English. I have researched both sides extensively.

The tutor was talking about Magna Carta and Robert FitzWalter when I volunteered that my maiden name was FitzWalter. I knew that it was an unusual name as we were the only FitzWalters in the Scottish records from 1525 until the 1911 census and there has only been one other since sent up there temporarily on work.

My grandfather, an army officer, was sent to Scotland in 1903 to set up an army training camp, married there, had a son who was my father and they then appear in the birth and marriage records.

Incidentally I inherited a postcard/photograph of my grandfather who led an army supply chain down through Holcombe Feb 26th 1915 to the port of Teignmouth and on to northern France where he spent Ww1 based in Bethune on the Somme. He was an officer in the Army Service Corps.

As surnames only began to be used from early 13th century it transpired that all



FitzWalters were descended from Robert FitzWalter of Magna Carta fame. I traced my line back to him and from him back through the Norman dukes, in particular the Comte de Brionne... illegitimate brother of the illegitimate William the Conqueror, through to Rollo, Viking Conqueror of the Normans and back through the Vikings and Norse mythology to the Kings of Kneveland 165AD. Can anyone beat that?

You never know what you will find...some good and some bad. In the latter category I came across an ancestor on my mothers side when visiting Melbourne Gaol with 3 young grandsons while the others went shopping! He was hung there in 1868 !...not something to boast about but I researched him and wrote it all up.

Back in the 1990s I used to give talks on family history so have a wealth of stories. Good luck to all members starting out ...you never know what you will find, but beware, it is addictive.

Anne Golden nee FitzWalter