



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

June 2020 Issue 1

Editor's Note

Some of our Dawlish and District U3A members have been busy. Many have been wine appreciating, reading for Book Worms, playing scrabble and testing our memory every Monday evening. More news later.

I am sure that many of our members have also been gardening, sewing, painting, baking, writing and zooming as well as doing all those jobs that we'd not had time to do before.

At our house we had an enormous landscaping job to do in the garden and we reckon we've done a whole summers work during the lock down period. Not finished yet, it was a three year project.

Hope you enjoy this issue. Thank you to everybody who has contributed, please keep the contributions coming in, it's what helps keep us in touch with one another.

Lock Down relax

I feel sure that nearly all members would like to return to life as it was before the lock-down. And as you are only too aware our U3A has been on a very reduced programme for what seems to be ages. With the Government beginning to relax rules of meeting, your committee has been asked about resuming some face to face Groups, albeit with social distancing and meeting in gardens.

It is our view that we should not hold Group meetings, except on-line, for the time being. We recognise that our

membership are among the most vulnerable in the community and are concerned that there appears to be a growing gap between Government and scientific advice. In particular we noted that the Association of Directors of Public Health said only last week that the new rules of allowing groups of six people to meet outdoors and in private gardens was "not supported by science". Further concerns have emerged in the last few days with the increase of the R number in the South West and fears of a second spike in infections.

We have therefore decided to be prudent and advise that we do not support any of our Groups meeting face to face at present. We will continue to review the risks and hope you will agree that this is the only course at present.

Thank you for your continuing support of the U3A at this difficult time and we look forward to resumption of normal service as soon as possible

Steve Angove, Secretary

Monday Evening Quiz

Still going strong and great fun. Nice to see everyone each week. Graham has said he will continue on a weekly basis for June. If you wish to join in, please contact Graham. Scores are not shared, Graham keeps them to himself. You don't have to download zoom to take part, you can zoom without actually having the programme on your computer.

Bookworms

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

This is the story of Nuri, a beekeeper and Afra, his artist wife. They live in the city of Aleppo, Syria. It is a simple life, but rich with family and friends. Then the Syrian Civil War begins. When their home is destroyed and their son killed they begin the dangerous journey to safety, with the dream of keeping bees in England. It is a book that reminds us that the over-flowing refugee camps are made up of individual stories. In some ways a harrowing read, it is nevertheless a story of hope.

There were no negative responses and the score given was 4 out of 5. We have kept together as a group. Some choosing not to review the monthly choice but the majority regularly responding. Only one member of the group chose to opt out and not receive information for the duration of the lockdown, so well done everyone, we may not have seen each other for some months, but we are still an active group.

Barbara Warburton

French Conversation Group via Zoom

The next group meeting is on Thursday 18th June. The topic: 'What is your favourite and least liked smells.'

Life gets.....

How about this old ballad from 1948, which has some relevance to life now (under lockdown) as it did then.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkLQsO3kXpU>

George

NHS Test and Trace

Contact Tracers will NEVER:

- * Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example those starting with 09 or 087)
- * Ask you to make any form of payment
- * Ask for any details about your bank account
- * Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- * Ask you for any passwords or PINS, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINS over the phone
- * Ask you to purchase a product
- * Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
- * Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS.

The ONLY website the service will ask you to visit it: <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>

Wine Appreciation Group

We had a jolly zoom meeting. Much wine was drunk in the safety of everyone's home. We took it in turns to talk about the wine we were drinking, so lots of information was shared even if we couldn't taste everyone else's wine. We all enjoyed it and hope to do another one soon.

Answers to Last week's Quiz

WHO DIED HERE?

1. 22nd November 1963 in DALLAS – **John F Kennedy.**
2. 30th April 1945 in BERLIN - **Adolf Hitler**
3. 14th October 1066 in HASTINGS – **King Harold.**
4. 28th June 1914 in SARAJEVO – **Franz Ferdinand.**
5. 22nd August 1485 in BOSWORTH FIELD - **King Richard III.**
6. 2nd May 2011 in ABBOTTABAD - **Osama Bin Laden.**
7. 11th May 1812 in WESTMINSTER - **Spencer Perceval.**
8. 15th April 1865 in WASHINGTON DC - **Abraham Lincoln.**
9. 16th August 1977 in MEMPHIS - **Elvis Presley**
10. 6th June 1968 in LOS ANGELES - **Robert F Kennedy.**
11. 31st August 1997 in PARIS - **Princess Diana.**
12. 15th March 44BC in ROME - **Julius Caesar.**
13. 22nd January 1901 on the ISLE OF WIGHT - **Queen Victoria.**
14. 8th December 1980 in NEW YORK CITY - **John Lennon.**
15. 25 December 1977 in CORSIER-SUR-VEVEY, SWITZERLAND – **Charlie Chaplin**

Some funnies

Before my op, the anaesthetist asked me if I wanted to be knocked out by gas or a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation.

My wife said she's leaving me cos I'm too old and obsessed with tennis. I said I'm only 40, love.

Albert Einstein was a genius, but his brother Frank was a monster.

This week's quiz

BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS

1. Who was the first British Prime Minister to serve under Queen Victoria?
2. How many Prime Ministers have served under Queen Elizabeth II?
3. Who was the last British Prime Minister to die when in office?
4. Who is the longest serving British Prime Minister to date?
5. Which British Prime Minister led Britain in the American Revolution and was forced to resign in 1782?
6. Which Prime Minister took Britain into the EU?
7. Which British Prime Minister oversaw the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire?
8. Which British Prime Minister made Jeffrey Archer a life peer?
9. Tony Blair was the longest serving Labour Prime Minister. How many years was he in office?
10. There are currently how many living British prime ministers?

More funnies

I went to the best place in America to buy a football shirt. New Jersey.

I asked an athlete 'Are you a pole vaulter'. He said 'No, I'm German, and how did you know my name is Walter?'

A lorry load of Vick's Vaporub crashed on the motorway. Amazingly there was no congestion for eight hours

My wife says I'm getting fat, but in my defence, I've had a lot on my plate.

I tripped up in Paris. In fact Eiffel over.

Natural History

As we enter yet another month of lockdown nothing adds to my depression more than others telling me of the wonderful things they are seeing and places they are going. In self isolation my opportunities are severely limited — but not non-existent.

As in the national press, today (5th June,) “Wildflower explosion as Brits stop mowing the lawn”. This is the view from my window:

Teignbridge D.C has stopped cutting the grass around the Assisted Living houses opposite, the wild meadow is now up to 50cm high. Another U3A member, taking their first walk since lockdown was eased, tells me of the delight of the uncut churchyard at St. Gregory’s Church.

Yet another member recently reported in this Newsletter on the absence of Seagulls. I endorse that; but there are no bird scarers here, and I think he was correct in that there is an absence of food waste in the town. Certainly, predatory Herring Gulls normally dominate the skies in Church Street. Now I very occasionally see one bird transiting. By contrast, smaller birds have been returning. Small passerines (probably House Sparrows), which have not in 4 years approached my bird feeders, are now devouring suet coated peanuts that I have concealed in my Kasura tree. Two pairs of Blackbirds are nesting in my neighbours garden. Unusually the two males are not antagonistic to each other; and the bolder of the males comes to drink from saucers under my container plants, just 2 m from me. I talk to him and he replies in a rich burst of song — behaviour more like a Robin.



As I lie in my hot tub in the early morning, a pair of Wood Pigeons are clumsily building their ramshackle nest (2 sticks across, and a little bit of moss). They’re just 3m above me in my neighbour’s cherry tree.

Finally, where have all the Goldfinches gone. They have never visited my feeders, but typically sing on the overhead wires. Another ex U3A member tells me that the charms of Goldfinches that usually visit his feeder have also disappeared. Could it be that the species has just got bored with Niger Seed in favour of the rich new meadows around us?

George Lipscomb

**YOU THOUGHT DOGS
WERE HARD TO TRAIN?**

**LOOK AT ALL THE HUMANS
THAT CAN'T SIT AND STAY**