

Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

July 2020

Chair's Chatter

Dear fellow members,

Before the announcement by the PM on Tuesday, I was wondering how many of our membership had missed out on a holiday since the middle of March. It would be interesting to list all the locations that our members were intending travelling to; from the Caribbean to Bognor 😊 Do you remember the distant days when you had a stamp in your passport for every overseas visit, including mainland Europe? When the passport was not a biometric one.

So here's a question. When was the earliest passport issued? Well one of the earliest known references to paperwork that served in a role similar to that of a passport is found in the Hebrew Bible dating from approximately 450 BC. It states that Nehemiah, an official serving King Artaxerxes I of Persia asked permission to travel to Judea; the king granted leave and gave him a letter "to the governors beyond the river" requesting safe passage for him as he travelled through their lands. Arthashastra mentions the first passport and passbooks in world history. According to the text, the superintendent of passports must issue sealed passes before one could enter or leave the countryside. Passports were also an important part of the Chinese bureaucracy as early as the Western Han if not in the Qin dynasty.

How about us Brits? Well, King Henry V is credited with having invented what

some consider the first passport in the modern sense, as a means of helping his subjects prove who they were in foreign lands. The earliest reference to these documents is found in a 1414 Act of Parliament.

So now the history lesson is over, which journey will you be using your passport on next? We do not have a U3A passport, rather a membership card. This entitles us to cross new frontiers and further our living, learning and laughing. Hopefully once we are back to fully running our groups and monthly meetings we can get others to join in the fun and fellowship.

I mentioned at the beginning (hope you are still awake) about not being able to use our passport in recent days but I may be wrong! Look at the attached 2020 passport stamps and I reckon a lot of us have been to the places mentioned 😊

All the best for your next cruise - Graham

My 2020 passport stamps



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Book Worms

This month Bookworms discussed Patrick Gale's 'A Place Called Winter'. It scored very highly, meriting 4.5 out of 5.

His books never follow a defined pattern or theme; they all differ from one another and that is a particular strength of his writing. The characters in this book are well crafted and the text is engrossing. It is not an easy read at times, covering the subject of homosexuality at a time when it was socially and legally unacceptable. Thank goodness we live in more enlightened times. It is an engrossing story and well worth the read.

Barbara Warburton

Wine Appreciation Group

Had a very enjoyable zoom get together along with some very interesting wines that people in the group were drinking.

The next zoom get together is on Friday 7th August where we will be drinking and discussing Pinot Noir wines.

To join in please contact Steve Thomson

U3A Chat Room

Please contact Richard before next Sunday if you would like to take part in our new Chat Room. This came out of the idea that when on zoom we never get the chance to have a proper natter, we are always too busy with the 'business'. A time and date for the first Chat Room will be organised by Richard once everyone who is interested has let him know. A chance to make a cuppa, sit down and enjoy seeing and talking to friends old and new. Please contact Richard at 87warburton@gmail.com

Change of Contact Details

Please notify Barbara, our membership secretary of any changes to your email, telephone and postal address at: agarbird@gmail.com

Dawlish & District U3A Limerick competition

We've received some pretty good limericks, if you've a favourite one, (don't forget the one last week from Richard W,) let me know and I'll pass on your comments.

My name has always been Carey
 Although my nickname was Fairy
 Not for the manner I walked
 Or the way that I talked
 I was just so nimble not scary

Graham

There was a young fellow from Devon
 Who hoped his blind date was from Heaven
 But to his surprise
 When he opened his eyes
 She had a beard, and weighed fourteen stone seven

Richard H

Although we all Pay our taxes,
 In Dawlish, the seawall collapses,
 When storms are around,
 The cliffs are unsound,
 And the timetable duly relapses.

Richard W

In D & D U 3 A
 There's lots to do every day
 When this lockdown is ended
 And we're once more befriended
 We can really get things on their way

Richard H

U3A on You Tube

Here is a short U3A film about what different people and groups are doing whilst in lock down in the U3A nationally.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBSfUGiszz0&t=6s>

Answers to last week's quiz

ANAGRAMS:

Here are the names of British actors and actresses. Can you identify them?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Basil Ride | IDRIS ELBA |
| 2. Lardy Mango | GARY OLDMAN |
| 3. Jaunty Regent | JENNY AGUTTER |
| 4. Ritual Jewels | JULIE WALTERS |
| 5. Screen Annoy | SEAN CONNERY |
| 6. Shrapnel Fine | RAPLH FIENNES |
| 7. Blander by Then | BRENDA BLETHYN |
| 8. Monaco Swill | SIMON CALLOW |
| 9. Gammon Retreat | GEMMA ARTERTON |
| 10. Gnome Pigs | SIMON PEGG |

The following are all TV sitcoms

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Menu Doubt | OUTNUMBERED |
| 2. Enter the Newbies | THE INBETWEENERS |
| 3. The Bored Affairs | BIRDS OF A FEATHER |
| 4. Advancing Yeast | GAVIN AND STACEY |
| 5. Touting Goon | NOT GOING OUT |
| 6. Torched Wit | THE IT CROWD |
| 7. Coffee Hit | THE OFFICE |
| 8. Theft Dare | FATHER TED |
| 9. Drained Lines | DINNER LADIES |
| 10. Botched Evil Fairy | THE VICAR OF DIBLEY |

Covid Scam

In case you receive one of these phone calls. 'Good morning, I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test.' 'OK. Can you tell me who that person was?'

'I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information, but you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. Can I have your mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?'

'Ok (gives address)'

'Thank you - and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you.'

'Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?'

'No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit, and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready.'

'No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge.'

'I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying.'

Now put the phone down. This is how scammers work. Don't fall for it...!

This week's quiz

A 'Par' Quiz - Each answer commences with PAR

1. A mother or father
2. Early release of a prisoner
3. A plump game bird native to Europe and Africa
4. Very drunk with alcohol
5. An old fashioned living room
6. Experiencing intense anxiety
7. A representative body having supreme legislative powers in a country
8. An alkane called kerosene in the USA
9. A member of the clergy
10. A hooded outer garment originating from the Inuit people
11. A set of brackets or the information within them
12. A short story that uses familiar events to illustrate an ethical point
13. An Italian hard dry cheese
14. Of chief concern or importance
15. To become very dry

16. A unit of length equal to 3.26 light years
17. Human conception without fertilisation by a male
18. A group of sentences that supports one unified idea
19. Being an equal distance apart everywhere
20. A state of delight or happiness
21. Biased in support of a party, group or cause
22. A statement that seems to contradict itself but which may be true
23. A model of excellence or perfection of a kind
24. To analyse or separate into easily processed units
25. A small umbrella carried as a protection from the Sun

Some Funnies

AT AN OPTICIAN'S OFFICE :

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place"

ON A PLUMBER'S VAN:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

ON ANOTHER PLUMBER'S VAN:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP:

"The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment."

OUTSIDE AN EXHAUST CENTRE:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

ON A VET'S SURGERY DOOR:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit... Stay.."

IN FRONT OF AN UNDERTAKER'S OFFICE:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait"

AT AN ELECTRICITY OFFICE :

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

IN A RADIATOR SHOP:

"Best place in town to take a leak."

We've just had a decorator in to do some work. I got chatting to him and it turns out he is a British Airways pilot who has been furloughed and earning a bit of extra cash. He made a lovely job of the landing..



DO YOU EVER LOOK AT STUFF AND WONDER HOW IT GOT THERE?