



# Dawlish

and District U3A

## Newsletter

August 2020

### Chair's Chatter

Walking through Teignmouth the other day I noticed the sign above the Ice Factory Studio Theatre, home to the Teignmouth players. The sign said 'The show must go on..'. How that reminded me of some of the lyrics of the Queen song:

'I guess I'm learning (were Freddy, John, Brian and Roger budding U3A members?)

I must be warmer now  
I'll soon be turning, round the corner now  
Outside the dawn is breaking  
But inside in the dark I'm aching to be free

The show must go on  
The show must go on  
I'll face it with a grin  
I'm never giving in  
On with the show'

What words of determination and perseverance that we as U3A members can take to heart. Some of our groups have been continuing via zoom, others hoping to re-commence and of course many of us will hopefully be meeting on the lawn tomorrow at 2pm (social distancing of course 😎). Yes the show must and will go on! Normally this month is one where we take a rest from our activities. However this year we are determined to step things up a gear and thanks for all of your input, support and enthusiasm.

Natalie Babbitt wrote 'The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns, glaring noons and sunsets smeared with too much colour. Often at night there is lightning, but it quivers all alone.'

Please take note Dawlish!

Let's return to Queen:  
'My soul is painted like the wings of butterflies  
Fairy tales of yesterday, grow but never die  
I can fly, my friends'

May our U3A not just fly but soar to greater heights as it develops in the months that lie ahead.

Graham

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Please don't forget about our AGM on 21st September. Come and join us on the Committee. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the web site or from the Secretary at [enquiries@U3A.dawlish.info](mailto:enquiries@U3A.dawlish.info)

## Literature Group

We were fortunate to receive our reading book from the library before they closed for the lockdown. A really lovely book called "The Garden of Evening Mists " by Tan Twan Eng. A story set in Malaya where a woman sets out to build a memorial to her sister who was killed at the hands of the Japanese during the brutal Occupation of their country. She becomes an apprentice to a famous gardener who is a man of extraordinary skills and was once the gardener to the Emperor of Japan. The story is evocative, atmospheric, haunting and a wonderful read which we all enjoyed, almost to the point of not wishing it to end.

Now the libraries have opened to a certain extent, they have sent us our next book called "Wake" by Anna Hope. The story concerns five days in November 1920 when the people of London await the arrival of the Unknown Soldier from France and how three women deal with loss in their own way and a wartime mystery begins which will bind these women together. We have yet to have a meeting to discuss this book but hope to do so soon,

Diana Coulson

## Wine Appreciation Group

I hope you are all safe and well, and if you are free, and the weather is kind, it would be lovely to see you all around the bandstand on The Lawn, [at 2pm on Monday August 3rd](#). This will be a great opportunity to meet and interact with U3A friends you may not have seen for months, apart from on Zoom. Fuller information is on this week's U3A bulletin.

The other date for your diary is our regular monthly WAG's evening, starting [at 6.30pm](#) (note the slightly later time please) [on Friday August 7th](#). Steve

chose the challenge of sampling a Pinot Noir of your choice, and (or) an unoaked Chardonnay. Personally I don't mind a subtle amount of oak, at best, I think it gives the wine a lovely 'buttery' taste.

I am sure that I speak for the whole group in wanting to thank Steve for his past leadership. I doubt I will ever get close to his wine knowledge, but the group's wisdom, plus the Oz Clarke books I have obtained off eBay, should help.

Hope to see you physically on the 3rd, and electronically on the 7th.

Cheers - Graham   
WAG Convener

## Swimming Group

Cofton are open, but only for residents on the site and members of Ashburn Springs. That is, people who pay a membership fee. It is not possible at the moment to begin our swimming sessions, but I will keep you informed. Once we do start it will be essential for each individual to book in for the session. This cannot be done for you, it is very simple, but essential.

Barbara Warburton

## Watercolour Painting

Open air meetings will be organised as soon as Risk Assessment form is completed.

Barbara Warburton

## Discussion Group

Meeting proposed for 10 Aug 2020.

Barbara Lindley

## URGENT - Phishing email

We are aware of a phishing email which appears to have been distributed among U3A contacts.

The email will appear to have been sent by someone in your email address list, so someone you probably know.

The email contains a blue box with the word '**Preview**' in it and wants you to click on it. **Do not open or click on it.**

If you have tried to open it or clicked on it then please let us know so we can help you sort this out. Please email [national.office@u3a.org.uk](mailto:national.office@u3a.org.uk) or call one of our team on 0208 466 6139. Our staff team will note your details and help you accordingly.

The email should be deleted from your inbox and from your deleted folder and you should change your password.

Thank you - Third Age Trust

## Art Appreciation Group

The pictures I have chosen are mainly by Giorgio De Chirico whose early works painted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, strongly influenced the surrealists such as Magritte and Dali. I was reminded of his art during the strictest period of lockdown, when I saw film of Exeter and other usually bustling city centres totally deserted. De Chirico's early pictures show classical city architecture such as piazzas and arcades, sometimes with statues. The landscape is inhabited by anonymous and mysterious human figures. The effect is eerie and disquieting. The woman on the right in *Piazza with Apollo and Ariadne*, with her head and hands projecting out of the windows, seems to me to convey the isolation felt by many people effectively imprisoned in their homes. *The Enigma of the Hour* has the same uneasy feeling. The solitary figure and the clock give an idea of time hanging heavy and

the anxious waiting for something to happen. The third picture has the sad image of a child playing alone and the disturbing shadow suggests something vaguely sinister lurking round the corner.

In these pictures, which De Chirico described as Metaphysical art, we see the faces of the classical statues, but the human figures are all pretty anonymous with no facial details. Most are just silhouettes dwarfed by the scale of the buildings. In a similar way, Magritte shows his Lovers with their faces completely covered by cloth veils. It may be a comment on love being blind, but it chimes in with the recent pandemic rulings which have separated loved ones and forced us to hide our identities behind masks.

De Chirico was born in Greece to Italian parents, which accounts for the classical style architecture in his Metaphysical paintings. His father was a railway engineer and in many of his pictures you will spot a tiny steam train somewhere in the background! In the late 1920s his relationship with his Surrealist followers deteriorated and he disassociated himself from them and condemned modern art in general. In 1939 he changed his style of painting to one which was influenced by Rubens and is described as neo-Baroque. It was a cause of much resentment to him that these later works did not meet with the critical acclaim as those of his Metaphysical period.

I hope you find these pictures interesting, and I will be interested in hearing your thoughts about them.

Best wishes - Lynne Vick

**Editor's note:** See covering email for an attachment showing some very interesting paintings by Chirico and Magritte

## Answers to Last Week's quiz - Number Phrases

1. 9 P in the SS - **9 Planets in the Solar System**
2. 88 K on a P - **88 Keys on a Piano**
3. 6 B to an O in C - **6 Balls to an Over in Cricket**
4. 2 S to an A - **2 Sides to an Argument**
5. 64 S on a C B - **64 Squares on a Chess Board**
6. 18 H on a G C - **18 Holes on a Golf Course**
7. 8 P in a G - **8 Pints in a Gallon**
8. 24 W on an A C - **24 Windows on an Advent Calendar**
9. 3 W on a T - **3 Wheels on a Tricycle**
10. 39 B of the O T - **39 Books of the Old Testament**

### Some funnies

I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that, 2:30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in their back in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it!

19 mates go to the cinema, the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?" One replies, "The film said 18 or over."

## This Week's Quiz

### Music

1. Who holds a trumpet on the Beatle's Sgt. Pepper album?
2. In which Puccini opera do friends ply their landlord with drinks to avoid paying the rent?
3. Which group backed Martha Reeves?
4. Who composed the symphonic sketches known as 'La Mer'?
5. Who wrote the song 'White Christmas' (Made famous by Bing Crosby)?
6. Who recorded the 70's disco song "You're My First, My Last, My Everything"?
7. A cappella is vocal music without instrumental accompaniment, but what does it mean?
8. Who skipped the light fandango with sixteen vestal virgins?
9. What kind of musical instrument is a bodhrán?
10. What are bow strings made of?
11. How many strings has a balalaika?
12. Which musical instrument did Karen Carpenter play?
13. Who is Vincent Furnier better known as?
14. Against the advice of her friends, Carmen (in Bizet's opera) leaves the bullring to see Don José outside. What is the result of the meeting?
15. Chuck Berry wrote the first song that The Rolling Stones recorded. Which was it?
16. Elvis Presley had a hit with a Carl Perkins song. Which one?
17. Haydn's catalogue contains 104 symphonies, Mozart's 41. How many did Beethoven and Schubert write each? (They wrote the same number)?
18. How many hours from Tulsa was Gene Pitney in 1963?
19. In which opera do you find Lieutenant Pinkerton?
20. The Who had an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. What for?