



# Dawlish

and District U3A

## Newsletter

November 2020 Issue 3

### Chair's Chatter

Well 'Strictly Come Dancing' is back on our screen and whilst I do not watch the programme one of my granddaughters is a fan and was pleased to get the 'Official Strictly Come Dancing Annual' last year as one of her Christmas presents. I know that some of our members have been avid dancers in the past and perhaps still are. I hear of those who regularly did ballroom dancing, folk dancing. So what sort of dance do you prefer? Ballet, Ballroom, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Folk, Irish or? For me it was a case of putting into practice the words of Chris Montez's song from 1962:

'Hey baby won't you take a chance? Say that you'll let me have this dance,  
Well, let's dance, well, let's dance, We'll do the twist, the stomp, the mashed potato too,  
Any old dance that you wanna do, But let's dance, well let's dance'. My dancing was that type and I still enjoy going to a 60s retro evening; these days I don't let my hair down though!

Included in dances we have dance steps such as Ball Change. The ball change is apparently found in most dance disciplines including jazz, tap, lyrical, and hip hop. Then there is the Box Step. This one will get you through any wedding; it's your basic tool from foxtrot to rumba. I also read of Chaîné Turns, Dos-ido, Grapevine, Heel Turn, Moonwalk, Rond. These steps are Ok as long as you do

not have two left feet! The Hokey-Cokey may be simpler 😊

Steps.. we remember the American astronaut Neil Armstrong put his left foot on the lunar surface and famously declared, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Then there is the phrase 'one step forward, two steps back'. How many times we may have said that and certainly during these days. It is the same for our U3A. We had a re-launch in February and then... Someone said 'If you are not moving forward you are stepping back!'. Another said 'If you do not step forward you are always in the same place.' Let's all help our U3A to continue moving forward in spite of difficulties.

Back to the dance floor and a couple of one liners:

'What do tin openers do? The Can-Can'  
'Which of Santa's reindeer has the best moves? Dancer

Take care and 'KEEP DANCING!'.  
**Graham**

### Monthly Talk

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – 2pm**

Zoom meeting with Hugh Scudder talking about the Christmas appeal for Moldova (Zoom invites already sent)

## Walk Companions

Linda Studley would like to thank those who contacted her about one to one socially distanced walking, she will be in touch as soon as possible'.

## Bookworms

The Bookworms Bookclub has continued to 'meet' monthly via emails, which has been the preferred method of communication since lockdown. The membership of the group has changed, as several people left when Barbara Warburton's excellent leadership came to an end.

We exchange our views on the last Thursday of every month, and we would warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. The books are chosen by a different member each month. Our Autumn reading consists of 3 titles, 'The Reader on the 6.27' by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent; a beautifully written story, concerning the impact literature can make on our lives, touching on themes of isolation, inferiority and love; 'On Chapel Sands' by Laura Cumming, an excellent portrait of the author's family, with all its secrets, joys and sadnesses, and 'A Month in the Country' by J.L.Carr; a sensitive study of 2 men, recovering from the war in 1920s England, set in a quieter time, capturing memories of summer, solitude and restoration.

Members are encouraged to recommend other books in addition to their reviews, and three of us thoroughly enjoyed 'A Gentleman in Moscow ' by Amor Towles, a lengthy description of the incarceration of Count Rostov, in a Moscow hotel, The Metropol. It is 1922. His strength of character, including his ability to maintain a sense of perspective; his friends and an unexpected relationship, all combine to encourage us in our present lockdown. Well worth reading.

**Jenny Pestridge**

## Christmas Lunch

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.30pm** at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Dawlish Warren

So far we have 14 people who have indicated that they will be participating. Please let **Graham Carey** know if you would like to join the event.

## Coffee & Chat

**Tuesday Dec 8th, Tuesday Dec 15th, Tuesday Dec 22nd**

Hope to see you there especially on the 22nd as it's near Christmas. All will be held at Reflections at 10am.

**Tracy Penfound**

## French Conversation Group

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November** - 'Which job would you never want to do?'

Contact **Graham Carey**

## Weekly Zoom Quiz

**Monday 16th November** at 7.00pm

Contact **Graham Carey** for information.

## Another Scam

Just heard from my niece with contacts to a major bank of a highly sophisticated scam. A message arrives as a text or email informing you of an unpaid bill or direct debit not paid to the recipient. By clicking the link or answering the scammers can access your account and take all your money! Do not open anything. Phone your bank on a landline or visit personally if worried. Please pass this on. **Mike Brandon**

## A funny

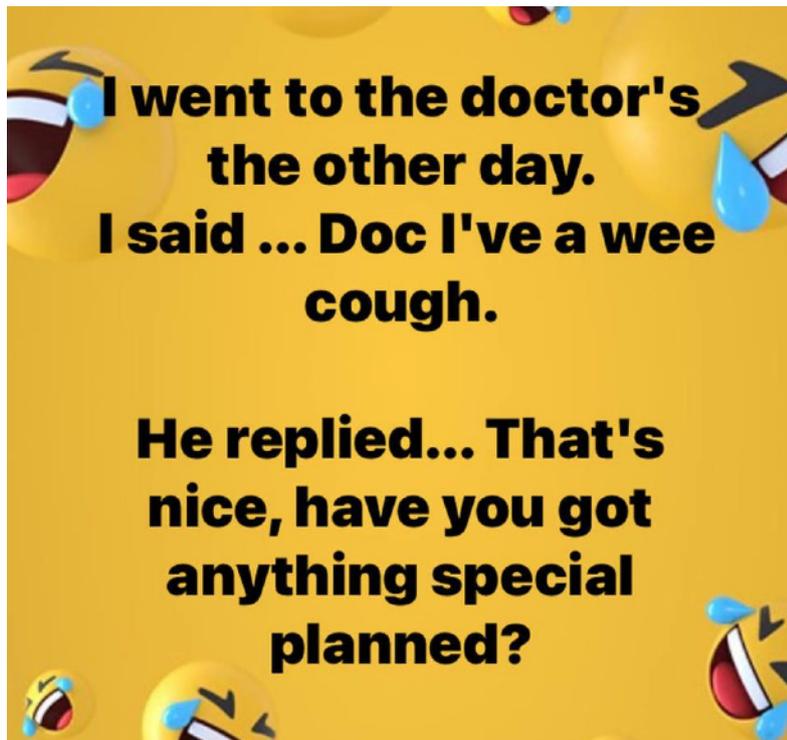
Why did the coffee file a police report? It got mugged

## Answers to Last Week's quiz - WHAT ARE THE CAPITAL CITIES

1. ORPLITI - TRIPOLI
2. BILNDU - DUBLIN
3. JNLBUA - BANJUL
4. HSBNEDUA - DUSHANBE
5. MAODDO - DODOMA
6. SIKNWGONT - KINGSTOWN
7. EVIK - KIEV
8. OUAMJR - MAJURO
9. IRABNIO - NAIROBI
10. KPJEOS - SKOPJE
11. VMTIEONEOD - MONTEVIDEO
12. HMTOCKOSL - STOCKHOLM
13. ERFTONEW - FREETOWN
14. AOHNIRA - HONIARA
15. NYAOUNDE - YAOUNDE
16. KARAAAN - ANKARA
17. SNKOYGIN - KINGSTON
18. NKSMI - MINSK
19. UHAKMRTO - KHARTOUM
20. SCERU - SUCRE

## This Week's Quiz - WHAT ARE THE FOLLOWING?

1. GARFIELD
2. PINGU
3. KOKO
4. SHADOWFAX
5. SHAMU
6. MUFASA
7. MARCEL
8. BULLWINKLE
9. DAFFY
10. YERTLE
11. EEYORE
12. CHARLOTTE
13. SPLINTER
14. HEDWIG
15. ALVIN
16. LASSIE
17. NEMO
18. PEPE LE PEW
19. FLIPPER
20. KERMIT



### Answers Next Week

#### More Funnies

My brother got a vacuum cleaner stuck in a very awkward place yesterday. I called the hospital to see how he was today and the nurse said "He is picking up nicely!"

Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it.

I built an electric fence around my garden and my neighbour is dead against it.

#### Interesting Fact

World War One pilots often had to turn off their planes' engines to stop stalling when turning quickly in air. Restarting the engine mid air sounded like a dog barking, hence the term 'dogfight'.

My friend told me he's thinking about leaving his wife because she hasn't talked to him for the last two months. I replied "Don't be too hasty as women like that are hard to find!"

## Book Review - Simon Schama: Rough Crossings

In the light of Black Lives Matter and the discussions on matters relating to race within our society, I decided to re-read a book I enjoyed some years ago.

In *Rough Crossings*, Schama explores what for many people is a relatively unknown dimension to the American War of Independence. By chance, I have also recently watched a US TV biography on George Washington. The contrast was both fascinating and disturbing. Much of the narrative was about his leadership of the military struggle against Britain, and the campaign itself. In all of this, there was hardly a mention of one of the major military considerations of the conflict: slavery. The TV account did deal briefly with the fact that Washington (and most of the other leaders of the cause of 'Liberty') were slave owners. What was ignored was one of the major themes of *Rough Crossings*, the fact that tens of thousands of slaves made the decision to escape from servitude to join the British forces. The British authorities actively encouraged this mass movement with promises of freedom and other inducements. The loss of slaves threatened to undermine the American cause and might have proved decisive had the British war effort been better managed.

The book explores the anti-slavery movements in Britain and America, as well as their opponents. I was brought up on an account of the Abolitionist movement as being a white led campaign, with slaves themselves having little active role in their own liberation. Amongst many other things, in this book Schama shows that this is a distorted view of what took place in this period and later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, there was major resistance to slavery from the slaves themselves, and the fear and reality of slave rebellion was a constant one in the slave owning communities of the American colonies and the Caribbean.

Of course, history is a very messy business with very few true heroes or villains. The record of the British regarding slavery was mixed to say the least. It would be misleading to think that the British as a whole were opposed to slavery. There were some celebrated legal victories for abolitionists in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, which encouraged some to believe that the English Common Law might extend to the Americas and fatally undermine the basis of slavery across the Atlantic. Policy during the war was less than altruistic being significantly influenced by the knowledge that the flight of slaves would weaken the colonialists' cause. And there were abolitionists on both sides in the War of Independence. But lurking beneath the great rhetoric and resounding assertions of the Declaration of Independence and the words of the Founding Fathers, the issue of slavery was a major factor in the politics of the American Revolution.

Schama's account of the abolitionists in Britain such as Granville Sharp and John Clarkson is fascinating. Especially interesting was his coverage of the fate of the tens of thousands who fled slavery. Many were taken by the British to Nova Scotia and were promised freedom, land and a future. Unsurprisingly, life did not work out as they hoped, and most felt let down and cheated. As new lives of freedom did not materialize, bold schemes were enacted to enable these former slaves who wished to do so, to return to West Africa to form free communities in Sierra Leone.

Schama's account is full of extraordinary and moving details. The individuals involved black and white, British and American, are often quite remarkable although there is a depressing record of greed, abuse and neglect alongside high ideals and courage.

**John Vick**