



Dawlish

and District U3A

Newsletter

November 2020 Issue 4

Dear Convenors

Hope you are all well and coping with Lockdown v2? It's rather more challenging than the first one, isn't it, when spring was just around the corner and we were unaware of the longevity of the situation. Fortunately we have the hope of a couple of vaccines coming on-stream and, of course, another spring will arrive.

Patricia is going great guns with the newsletter and we get loads of really positive feedback about it, but it doesn't write itself. I always enjoy reading about the exploits of our groups and it would be so good if you could think about putting together a short piece about your group.

To practice what I preach, next month I'll do a bit about the latest meeting of the writing group. Barbara Lindley (yes, I'm naming and shaming, Barbara) suggested we do a piece in the style of Barbara Cartland, so we'll see how many bodices get ripped during that exercise.

Many groups are suspended at the moment, but you may be keeping in touch with each other some other way. Whatever it is you're up to, let Patricia know and it may inspire others of us to contact people we haven't been in touch with for a while.

I'm a novice Zoomer but already a convert. Believe me, if I can do it anyone

can - I'm the most non-techie person I know, but it does offer so many possibilities. Even if your group wouldn't be meeting at this time of year anyway, a chat or a zoom or emailing around may help maintain that connection.

Let Patricia know how it goes.....?

Many thanks - **Anne W**

Dawlish & District U3A Monthly Meeting on Zoom

After months without being able to hold our monthly meetings, members were delighted to meet again on Monday. Sadly, it could not be face to face, but gathering on Zoom was a good alternative.

We returned to a country we heard about two years ago when Graham Carey talked about his experiences in Moldova. This time, Hugh Scudder updated us on life in that country, the poorest in Europe, and now further ravaged by the impact of Covid-19.

Hugh is a volunteer for cr2ee (Christian Response in Eastern Europe). For thirty years the organisation has been in the forefront of aid to the people of that neglected country. Member were truly shocked by what he had to show about the grinding poverty experienced by so many people. There is a daily struggle to survive, to provide shelter, to clothe and feed families. Healthcare and education are rudimentary, housing is frequently overcrowded and decrepit, while basic provisions such as running water, heating, lighting, and adequate clothing are not available to so

many Moldovans. This link takes you to the summer newsletter <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FhvHmVslONnltPQTHYhDq-H4ldBoLMPk/view> and gives a glimpse of what is happening there, and how cr2ee are supporting the local communities.



In the thirty years since Moldova broke away from the Soviet Union and became an independent country, cr2ee volunteers have been driving lorries from the UK loaded with supplies of all kinds – clothing, footwear, blankets, disability aids, educational materials, toys, books – anything which children and adults of all ages need, and which we so often take for granted.



At this time of the year, there is a campaign across the area to collect 'shoe boxes' for Moldova, each one filled with presents of all kinds for children who have so little. In the past few days, Graham Carey collected a large number from a local primary school where the children have been eagerly supporting this project.

If you would like to donate a shoe box, the deadline is 7th December. Make sure there is a clear label to indicate the age and sex of the child it is intended for (eg girl aged 5-8 years). Make sure that everything is of good quality as these children deserve the best!

To find out more about how you can support cr2ee, visit their website on <http://www.cr2ee.org.uk> or ring Hugh Scudder on 01626 891945. Alternatively, Graham will be very pleased to help. Cr2ee are based in Exmouth and are generously supported by local businesses and people.

The cr2ee appeal continues throughout the year, not just for Christmas, so please do find out how you can help!

John Vick

Dawlish Nub News

You can see Johns article and more in a brand new online local newspaper. Lots of news and classified ads. <https://dawlish.nub.news/n/how-you-can-help-dawlish-u3a-bring-joy-to-children-in-moldova>

Next Monthly Zoom Talk is on - Monday 14th December at 2pm – Toby Sherwin talking about 'Life between the tides at Dawlish'

Christmas Lunch

Monday 21st December at 12.30pm at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Dawlish Warren

So far we have 15 people who have indicated that they will be participating. Please let **Graham Carey** know if you would like to join the event.

French Conversation Group

The group met Thursday on zoom and discussed 'what job I would never liked to do!' For various reasons the members mentioned professions such as being a funeral director, a refuse collector, a doctor/nurse, a prison warden, a lorry/bus driver, a supermarket cashier, a dentist. Also working in a call centre, a police officer and finally working outside all got the thumbs down.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd December at 10.30am** when we will be talking about 'Which was the best party you have ever attended?'.
Graham Carey

Weekly Zoom Quiz

Monday 23rd November at 7.00pm
Contact **Graham Carey** for information.

Devon County Council

Steve Brown, the Director of Public Health Devon (Designate) made a fresh plea this week. He acknowledges some of the positive things happening right now, but asks that we all keep our wits about us as coronavirus case numbers continue to rise in Devon. He said:

"There's lots to be optimistic about right now, which is great. But we mustn't let it become a distraction from the task in hand - to stop the spread of coronavirus.

"We have Christmas approaching and talk of families being able to come together.

"We have rapid test pilots enabling people to see their loved ones in care homes and to hold hands for the first time in a very long time.

"We've got several vaccines coming fast down the track. And we're approaching the final weeks of our current national

lockdown restrictions, subject to what the government decides.

"We may be feeling like we're in the final chapter of this pandemic.

"But I wouldn't be doing my job as Director of Public Health if I were not to inject a strong measure of caution with a dose of cold facts.

"Case numbers in Devon are still rising, especially in the working age population.

"My plea to you is that we must not let our enthusiasm to return to normal actually set us further back.

"It will be some time yet before we see the impact of these last few weeks of national restrictions. Our rising cases have to stop. To do that, we must focus on the here and the now.

"We must keep our wits about us. Make every effort, in every situation. That's how we beat this virus."

Some funnies

Petrol prices falling during lockdown is like a bald man winning a hairbrush!

A nine year old girl has disappeared after using moisturiser that makes you look ten years younger!

Argentina is surprisingly cold. In fact it's bordering on Chile!

RIP boiled water.. you will be mist!

Someone just messaged me to ask if I had any more jokes about onions for him. I said "No, that's shallot!"

To kill a French vampire, you have to drive a baguette through its heart. Sounds easy but the process is painstaking.

Answers to Last Week's quiz - WHAT ARE THE FOLLOWING?

1. GARFIELD - **CAT**
2. PINGU - **PENGUIN**
3. KOKO - **GORILLA**
4. SHADOWFAX - **HORSE**
5. SHAMU - **WHALE**
6. MUFASA - **LION**
7. MARCEL - **DOG**
8. BULLWINKLE - **MOOSE**
9. DAFFY - **DUCK**
10. YERTLE - **TURTLE**
11. EEYORE - **DONKEY**
12. CHARLOTTE - **SPIDER**
13. SPLINTER - **RAT**
14. HEDWIG - **OWL**
15. ALVIN - **CHIPMUNK**
16. LASSIE - **DOG**
17. NEMO - **FISH**
18. PEPE LE PEW - **SKUNK**
19. FLIPPER - **DOLPHIN**
20. KERMIT - **FROG**

This Week's Quiz - CRYPTIC FILM QUIZ

1. Quiet young sheep
2. Return forward in time
3. The fourth of July
4. Satan likes designer clothing
5. Final Celtic monarch
6. Bruce Wayne
7. Twelve filthy fellows
8. Failed 1970 Lunar mission
9. Better than the B squad
10. Fear of heights
11. Sword sprinter
12. Arachnid lad
13. Made by Boeing or Airbus
14. Primate world
15. God of thunder
16. Imperial retaliation
17. Newscaster
18. Extra-Terrestrial
19. Stationary planet for 24 hours
20. Predator of Antlered Beasts

Answers Next Week

An Online Tour in aid of the Stroke Association

Dear U3A

Something that your members might be interested in, so I hope you will be able to share this information with them.

Following the success of our first two charity talks (each of which raised over £600 for Prostate Cancer UK and for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity), we're pleased to announce another event.

On 8 December we'll be doing a virtual tour of London's Southwark and Southbank - there's no fixed ticket price, attendees donate what they like and all money goes to the Stroke Association. People can [register for the talk on our events page](#).

This area is rich in history and in stories, from the Romans, through Tudor England, the Festival of Britain and right up to modern day Borough Market, so I hope your members can join us.

And if you're looking for virtual talks for your membership, we're more than happy to do anything from our repertoire at a time that suits you. You can see [our full catalogue of talks and virtual tours here](#). Just drop us a line - uktoursonline@gmail.com - for further information.

Best wishes - Don, Tim, Emma, Rachel, Leo

p.s. don't forget, just go to [our events page](#) to register for next month's charity talk.

Fascinating Facts

Denmark's flag was designed in 1219 and is the oldest flag currently in use. From 1815 to 1830 the flag of France was just plain white. The present day flag of Mozambique features an AK-47 and is the only national flag of a UN member state to feature a firearm.