



# Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

December 2020 Issue 2

## Chair's Chatter

Who is the star of the TV Christmas adverts this year? Perhaps we should take a U3A survey on which one is top of the tops. Will it be Kevin the Carrot? The nation first fell in love with Kevin back in 2016 when he graced TV screens as part of Aldi's Christmas campaign and there's been an incredible response to Kevin since. This year's ad ends with a heart warming scene, showing Kevin and his young children surrounded by a laid Christmas table and delicious Aldi food.. The Asda [Christmas advert](#) for 2020 is centred around giving customers 'the Christmas they need, at the prices they want'. Or how about the joint Waitrose and John Lewis [Christmas advert](#) encouraging viewers to give a little love to others. The Co- op [Christmas advert](#) which features two young real-life brothers from Leeds, serves as a reminder that no matter how Christmas may look this year, community spirit can make all the difference. The list of adverts goes on but does it really make any difference to how or where we shop?

From subliminal messaging to organised flash mobs, UK television advertising has come a long way since the 1950s. TV advertising in the UK began on 22 September 1955. The first commercial was for Gibbs SR toothpaste. All it featured was a block of ice, a tube of toothpaste and a commentary about its "tingling fresh" qualities. Only 100.000 homes could receive the ad on special TV sets. Gibbs SR won the rights to go

first in a lottery which pitched it against brands including Guinness and Surf. Then in 1961 the Committee of Advertising Practice was formed. In 1969 on the 15th November, the UK's first TV colour ad made its debut. It was for Birds Eye to promote peas. Unilever – who at the time owned Birds Eye – was reported to have bought the slot for £23. How much would it be today I wonder?

Adverts come in all shapes and sizes and not just on the TV. This said, for me the best sort of advertising comes by word and mouth. A friend of ours is presently having a kitchen refurbished and he heard about the kitchen fitter by someone three doors down who recommended him. A lot of us have had experiences like that. Our U3A effectively re-branded last February and has undertaken a lot of advertising in the local paper, on social media sites and in publications. We have leaflets and banners and before COVID-19 struck John, our Publicity officer, produced posters advertising our monthly meeting. Next year we will be holding an open day to let people know what we are doing as a U3A. All these things are good but nothing can beat a one to one recommendation and I think the best advertising for our Dawlish and District U3A is the people who are reading this newsletter.

Talking of advertising. a man passes a record store that's advertising a sale. The sign says "45 RPM Vinyl First Editions, European Wasps and The Sounds They

Make." He's intrigued and goes in and says to the record man "Excuse me, but I am the world's leading expert on European Wasps and the sounds they make and I'd love to hear this record!" So the record man puts the record on and they listen. After a few minutes, the expert says "Sir, I'm the world leading expert on European wasps and the sounds they make, and these are not wasps." The record man looks puzzled and says "you sure?" So they listen some more. Again the expert says "Sir, I'm telling you that I'm the world's leading expert on European wasps and the sounds they make, and these are not wasps." The record man says, "I don't know, they sound like wasps to me." So they listen some more. Finally, the expert runs out of patience and says "Sir, I'm the world's foremost expert on European wasps and the sounds they make, and the sounds on this record ARE NOT WASPS!" The record man looks down and says "My fault, I was playing the B side!"

Take care and as this is my last Chair's Chatter before Christmas I wish you all a peaceful celebration.

**Graham**

### **Dawlish & District U3A Zoom Talk Tomorrow - Monday 14th December at 2.00pm**

#### **Life Between the Tides at Dawlish by Toby Sherwin**

In his talk Toby will give you a brief introduction of some of the most iconic examples of Devon's marine life (from static barnacles to the aggressive Velvet Swimming Crab) that live on the rocks facing the Coryton Cove beach huts at Dawlish.

Zoom invites were sent to members on Friday so be sure to zoom in.

### **Sad News**

Janet Feltham, convenor of the Literature Group until April this year has passed away after a short illness. Those who knew her will remember she always had a smile on her face. At this time of the year she was easy to spot in Dawlish as she had a beautiful red coat topped off with a black furry hat!

Our sympathy and thoughts are with her husband, her family and all her many friends.

### **Discussion Group**

Anne Whitehead led the first, rather experimental, meeting for the group on zoom. Four had been decided on as the ideal number for the format, but one had a problem on the day leaving Margaret Cunningham and myself to make up the numbers.

We discussed the current controversy surround the campaigns for the removal statues, touching on what should be done with those now deemed unworthy to be commemorated in such a way. The slavery connections were discussed, among other issues.

We did achieve some consensus; forcible removal by small groups was wrong, but the influence and importance of some historical figures could not be ignored even if their activities may be repugnant today. More explanatory notices regarding such figures and their context and history was felt to be an appropriate, the past must be accepted and explained rather than hidden.

We felt four to be the optimum number for a group discussion on zoom and would in future try to have two or more groups running at the same time until we can meet again in person.

**Michael Heyden**

**French Conversation Group - via zoom**  
**Thursday 17th 10.30am**  
'My Favourite Carol or Christmas Song'.

### **Coffee and Chat**

Coffee & Chat is suspended until restrictions are lifted. Although confusing at the moment I think it best to err on the side of caution. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can join up for Coffee again.

**Tracy**

### **Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - CHRISTMAS SONGS AND CAROLS. WHAT ARE THEY?**

1. FTS - **FROSTY THE SNOWMAN**
2. RATCT - **ROCKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**
3. WSW - **WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED**
4. TFN - **THE FIRST NOEL**
5. WW - **WINTER WONDERLAND**
6. TLDB - **THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY**
7. SR - **SLEIGH RIDE**
8. RTRNR - **RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER**
9. OCAYF - **OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**
10. MAW - **MISTLETOE AND WINE**
11. MBC - **MARY'S BOY CHILD**
12. JTTW - **JOY TO THE WORLD**
13. IWICBCED - **I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY**
14. TTDOC - **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**
15. MCE - **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE**
16. ICUTMN - **IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**
17. DDMOH - **DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH**
18. HTHAS - **HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING**
19. ISTS - **I SAW THREE SHIPS**
20. OHN - **OH HOLY NIGHT**

### **Zoom Quiz**

Monday 14th at 7.00pm

### **Christmas Day Activities**

WEA staff will be providing **FREE** online activities on Christmas Day for everyone.

Short activities will run throughout the day, providing fun and a chance to chat.

So whether you are feeling lonely or needing a moment away from the busy family, the WEA will be here for you this Christmas.

We'll send a reminder on Christmas Eve by email, and our website and social media will be updated throughout the day. If you know someone else who might like some friendly faces on Christmas Day, please share this with them.

For more information: [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)

### **Some Funnies**

I fell asleep at a party last night and somebody went and put a tea bag in my mouth. I went absolutely mental; nobody treats me like a mug!

You can say what you like about waiters but they do bring a lot to the table!

I used to have a job collecting leaves. I was raking it in!

My landlord texted saying we needed to meet up and talk about how high my heating bill is. I replied back: Sure, my door is always open".

I told the waitress my coffee tasted like mud. "It should, it was fresh ground this morning".

An armed man has just run into an estate agents and shouted "Nobody move!"

## This Weeks Quiz - UK TOWNS BY CRYPTIC CLUES

1. A Dirty Place to Swim
2. Modern Fortress
3. Neither Poor
4. Offal Snooker
5. Cattle
6. Journey's End for Dr Foster
7. Spielberg Shows His Years
8. Part of a Ship
9. Ship's Company
10. Tumbler Departs
11. Colourful Vehicle
12. Cook's Meadow
13. Ding Dong Quickly
14. Escort for Mr Pitt?
15. If North is Starboard
16. Bing's Town
17. Eric at the Seaside
18. Noah's Home Rebuilt
19. Old Car
20. Detectives Need These

## Answers Next Week

The amount of jokes about coronavirus virus has reached worrying numbers. Scientists claim we are in the middle of a pundemic

## H.M. Government - Christmas

### Bubble

Between 23rd and 27th December you can form an 'exclusive Christmas Bubble' of up to three households.

You can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households

You can only be in one Christmas bubble

You cannot change your Christmas bubble

You can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting up in your Christmas bubble

You can only meet people in your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces

You can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules in the tier where you are staying

You cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble

You should travel to meet those in your Christmas bubble and return home between 23 and 27 December

Anyone travelling to or from Northern Ireland may travel on 22 and 28 December

Find out more: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### Fascinating Fact

By an astonishing coincidence, the sun and moon appear to be of the same size -the moon is 400 times smaller, but 400 times closer. This is what makes eclipses possible.