



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

December 2020 Issue 4

Chair's Chatter

I am sure that the majority of us remember **That Was the Week That Was**, a satirical television comedy programme on BBC Television in 1962 and 1963. It was devised, produced, and directed by Ned Sherrin and presented by David Frost.

The programme was considered a significant element of the satire boom in the UK in the early 1960s, as it broke ground in comedy by lampooning political figures; before the days of Spitting Image! Its broadcast coincided with coverage of the politically charged Profumo affair and John Profumo became a figure of derision.

You may remember that the programme opened with a song "That was the week that was, It's over, let it go" sung by Millicent Martin, referring to news of the week just gone. Lance Percival sang a topical calypso each week. Satirical targets, such as Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and Home Secretary Henry Brooke were mocked in sketches, debates and monologues. Some other targets included the monarchy, the British Empire, nuclear deterrence, advertising, public relations and propaganda, capital punishment, sexual and social hypocrisy, the class system, and the BBC itself.

As we approach the final days of 2020 we can certainly say 'That was the year that was' and echo the 'It's over let it go!'.

Let's hope that 2021 will be a brighter one.

This Christmas day was celebrated in such a different manner and it will be the same on New Year's Eve. Perhaps no holding of hands as we usually do for the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'. The beautiful poem written by Robbie Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song Roud is perhaps more poignant this year as we bid farewell to the old year. As we are aware the poem's Scots title may be translated into standard English as "old long since" or, less literally, "long long ago", "days gone by", or "old times". Consequently, "For auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times". How that rings true at the end of 2020 and our longing is echoed in the 1969 lyrics sung by 'Love Affair':

'Bringing on back the good times,
Taking away the pain.
You're bringing on back the good times
And I'm living on air,
So glad that you're there,
Sweeping away the sad times,
Making me laugh again.'

Yes, 2020 was a most challenging year but let us be thankful that we are happy and safe and set to enter into 2021. A very Happy New Year to you and yours and here's to meeting up again in our groups and monthly meeting in ???
Thanks for your input into the life of our U3A.

Graham

www.u3a.dawlish.info

Message from Ian McCannah, Chair of the Third Age Trust

“This has been a challenging year for all of us and yet for me it has also been an inspiring one.

Pre-covid we all connected with each other face to face through our interest groups - an estimated 40,000 of which met every week meeting regularly. This model was taken away from us by the pandemic and yet, with typical energy and imagination, you rose to the challenge with a variety of initiatives to stay connected and keep learning.

By using a combination of zoom interest group meetings and buddy systems, that keep those without access to the internet in touch and involved, the movement is well placed to pick up activity once lockdown is a matter of historical record.

Our U3A has stayed strong throughout and your commitment and energy will help it to remain robust over the years ahead.”

Zoom Quiz

The last Quiz of 2020 is taking place this Monday (28th) at 7pm. The group is open to any U3A member who would like to take part, and any one who would like to join in 2021 can just let me know.

Graham

Dawlish Nub News

Hi John,

Thank you very much for helping to spread the word! I'm glad you like the site and its content.

It would be great to get more contributions from people in the community, so if any of your members wanted to send in articles, I'd welcome that. Everything is checked and edited by me before going live, so no-one needs to worry if they don't feel confident about their writing skills.

The other thing I need is more interest from local businesses. I write free features about local businesses, helping them promote what they do - but very few have taken up the offer - I don't know why. So if you know anyone running an independent local business who'd like to be featured on the site, please ask them to get in touch.

All the best for 2021 - Philippa

Philippa Davies

Regional Editor

Dawlish Nub News

07949 388 722

Don't Mess with Mother Nature

We have received the following from our member Malcom G raising concern about the treatment of our environment and members may wish to comment through this newsletter.

“We live in changing times, people do not seem to understand if you tread on Mother natures toes she will fight back, when she is ready.

We as the people of this Planet have enjoyed Air, Sea and Land communication beyond peoples wildest dreams. I have enjoyed these benefits first hand.

As a boy in the 50's, Babbacombe Beach was my playground, shellfish of all types. Rockling, Monkfish, Spidercrab, No one wanted these sea animals, which I thought as beautiful. Mackerel in their millions off Babbacombe pier watching the Dolphins fishing for them, keeping them in between the Harbour and the beach and one by one going in for their share.

Not to be seen to day. I cannot show my Grandchildren this wonderful sight.

Mother nature always wins. If we continue to abuse her she will seek revenge.

No one seems to listen but it will happen.”

Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

1. Sretan Božić - **CROATIA**
2. Vrolijk kerstfeest - **HOLLAND**
3. Boldog karácsonyt - **HUNGARY**
4. Feliz Natal - **PORTUGAL**
5. Giáng sinh vui vẻ - **VIETNAM**
6. Gëzuar Krishtlindjet - **ALBANIA**
7. Häid joulle - **ESTONIA**
8. Gleðileg jól - **ICELAND**
9. Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus - **LATVIA**
10. Crăciun fericit - **ROMANIA**
11. Nadolig llawen - **WALES**
12. Весела КолеДа - **BULGARIA**
13. Hyvää Joulua - **FINLAND**
14. Feliz Navidad - **SPAIN**
15. Veselé Vánoce - **CZECH REPUBLIC**
16. Joyeux Noël - **FRANCE**
17. Nollaig Shona - **IRELAND**
18. God jul - **NORWAY**
19. Frohe Weihnachten - **GERMANY**
20. Buon Natale - **ITALY**

Some funnies

An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Year's Eve. One was charged and the other was let off.

A woman took an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamt that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?" He replied, "Aha, you'll know tonight!" At midnight, her husband handed her a small gift. Excited, she opened it quickly, but was even more surprised. In it was a book titled *The Meaning of Dreams*.

What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

Why do you need a jeweller on New Year's Eve? To ring in the new year.

Where can you go to practice maths on New Year's Eve? Times Square.

This Weeks Quiz - REMEMBER 2020 - Answers Next Week

1. What date was the first UK lockdown announced by Boris Johnson?
2. Where did Dominic Cummings drive to in order to test his eyesight?
3. What's the name of Joe Biden's wife, who will become the First Lady in 2021?
4. What's the name of Boris Johnson's baby born in 2020?
5. Which minister did Piers Morgan accuse of laughing at care home deaths in a furious Good Morning Britain row?
6. What's the name of the man who cheated in the scandal that was turned into an ITV drama called Quiz in 2020?
7. What was the name of the BBC telethon organised during lockdown in April?
8. Who said "It's going to disappear one day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear."
9. Whose motto is "Tomorrow will be a good day?"
10. Which TV quiz show returned in 2020 with Gino D'Acampo as presenter?
11. Which island did Harry and Meghan first move to in January?
12. Zara Tindall's husband Mike announced in December she is expecting their third child. What position is Zara in the line of succession?
13. Bobby Ball was part of which legendary comedy double act?
14. Which country was due to host this year's Eurovision Song Contest?
15. Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You finally topped the UK charts in December. What year was it released?
16. Lewis Hamilton won his seventh F1 world championship in 2020. Who does he share the record with?
17. Which country won the inaugural Autumn Nations Cup?
18. Which film became the first non-English language film to win an Oscar for Best picture?
19. Name the James Bond film that's been delayed to 2021
20. How did Joe Wicks raise £1.5million for Children in Need?

Some New Year Traditions

New Year gifts date back to ancient times when the Persians used to gift eggs symbolizing productivity.

In Estonia there is a practice of eating 7, 9 or 12 meals on the eve of New Year. They believe that eating that many meals will give them the strength of that many people in the year that follows.

Finnish people have a weird tradition which goes by the name molybdomancy. This is all about telling fortunes. A small amount of lead is melted in a small pan using a small stove. The melted metal is then thrown into a bowl full of cold water. The liquid metal solidifies and the resulting shape of the solid metal is then analysed in candle light to tell the fortune of a person in the coming year.

People of Denmark practice throwing dishes at the doorsteps of other people. This is believed to bring many new friends to the person on whose doorsteps the dishes are thrown.

Spanish tradition is to eat 12 grapes at midnight of 31st December. While eating these grapes, Spaniards will make wishes. This tradition is believed to bring good luck for those who practice it. This grape eating tradition started back in 1895.

The Dutch people launch fireworks and burn Christmas tree bonfires on streets during the New Year Eve. The reason they do this is that burning Christmas tree bonfires signify purging of the old and launching fireworks refer to welcoming the new.

In Portugal, Hungary, Austria and Cuba, pork is a standard New Year food and it signifies prosperity and progress.

**I'M GOING TO STAY
UP ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
THIS YEAR. NOT TO SEE
THE NEW YEAR IN, BUT
TO MAKE SURE THIS ONE
LEAVES.**

fb / Gotta Love It

In Japan the bells in Buddhist Temples are rung 108 times. They do this to welcome the God of New Year known as Toshigami.

One of the Greek traditions is kremmida or onions hanging on the doors. They hang the onions on their doors on New Year's Eve wishing their children's goodwill.

New Year's Eve has a special name in Belgium. It is known as Sint Sylvester Vooravond. People in this country toast with customary champagne and children write letters to godparents or parents on the day of New Year.

America has a popular New Year tradition, which is known as the Rose Bowl. The tradition started back in 1890 featuring the Rose Parade in California's Pasadena. The parade features floats festooned with eighteen (18) million flowers.