



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

February 2021 Issue 2

Can we continue to Learn, Live and Laugh during these strange times?

Listening to the radio one morning I heard the Presenter talking to a lady who was soon to turn 99. She sounded so positive, he asked her what kept her going. "I listen to the radio every morning and make sure I learn something new everyday" was her response. This made me question whether I was continuing to learn since I retired.

Moving to Dawlish from Leeds, in the summer of 2018, friends and family had joked that I would soon question how I ever found the time to work such were the delights of being retired and able to do whatever I liked. I busied myself with renovations to my cottage, helping my son settle, walking my little dog, and catching up with friends and family. The days flew by in a haze of juggling workmen and family who wanted to come down and stay. My daughter and son in law lived locally and it was lovely to see so much more of my grandchildren.

Despite the above, there were times I experienced a vague feeling of no longer having a purpose and not using my brain which someone once described as a muscle; "use it or lose it".

A chance conversation in the library in Dawlish with one of the librarians drew me to D&D U3A. I immediately enrolled and joined a lovely group of people who soon became my very good friends.

Life was just settling down to a pace I was becoming used to when Covid struck causing the first lockdown in March 2020.

I took up the piano again, did jigsaws and baked bread when I could get hold of the ingredients. I started sketching and picked up my knitting I had started many years ago. I found exercise classes on You Tube.

The weather warmed up and I became an avid fan of Gardeners World and planned the layout of my small garden. When we went out for our daily walks I began to loiter by garden walls trying to identify plants and steal ideas for my own garden. I bought plants off peoples walls with contributions made to named charities. One of my walks took me past a beautiful garden maintained by a couple who were always working away regardless of the weather. I was intrigued by what they were doing and how they had planned the layout. Being typically British I held back in actually approaching them, but imagine my delight when I met them at one of our U3A meetings on the lawn.

During all this our U3A continued to maintain contact with us all. The group I joined kept in touch through whatever means we could manage. We have updated each other with books we are reading, plays on the radio and on Youtube. We have supported each other through ups and downs of our families and health scares, those of our own or of loved ones. Together we mourned the loss of one of our members who I had the honour to consider a friend and who was the first person to befriend me when I first moved to Dawlish. We have had lively discussions on the current state of affairs across the world or even just what is on our minds. We don't always agree with each other, but forced to question our own theories and that of others keeps us motivated and able to see and understand other peoples points of view.

What a fantastic age of technology we live in and dare I say thanks to Covid, many of us have become more IT confident although that too is partly due to our U3A.

Thanks to our U3A I have become confident in using Zoom and enjoy the monthly Zoom meetings which in some way makes it all seem more personal compared to sitting in a crowded hall. On Christmas Day I organised a Zoom meet up with 32 members of my family scattered across the continents. One brother I hadn't seen in person since he moved to Australia over 40 years ago. None of us said very much we all just gazed at each other. It made us all feel so much closer to each other. We have all promised to do this more often.

Now with this our third lockdown I am wondering if I will have time to return to our new normal once we have all had our vaccines and the world has managed to conquer the new variants that are infiltrating our defences. I am doing online baking courses and learning to chalk paint bits of old furniture. My reading continues and our group still manage to keep in touch on a regular basis with promises of meeting up for lunch hopefully by early summer. I am looking forward to pottering in my garden again.

During all this, what has never let us down is the regular distribution of our weekly U3A newsletter. Not everyone has access to emails but everyone who wants one receives a copy by some means. The funny stories make me laugh and the quiz has me sitting up in bed late at night determined to get the correct answers.

Learning, Living and Laughing. Covid has certainly not stopped me from continuing to uphold the ethos of Dawlish and District U3A.
Kate Mc

Weekly Zoom Quiz

Weekly quiz continuing each Monday on zoom at 7pm. Next one tomorrow 15th February.

Monthly Talk on Zoom

Monday 15th February at 2pm

Devon Air Ambulance Trust is a registered charity. Our aim is:

To relieve sickness and injury in and around the county of Devon through provision of an emergency Air Ambulance Service.

The Devon Air Ambulance is very fortunate to have a family of 650 volunteers, all willing to give up their time to help keep our helicopters flying. Covid has meant they have had to stand down the majority of their volunteers from any fundraising tasks but for the talk on Monday we have one of the Devon Air Ambulance's long serving volunteers Tony Cannon who has embraced the digital world and is presenting to you. Alongside Tony is Cara Jones, the Volunteer Manager for the Devon Air Ambulance who will be offering technical support. We very much look forward to meeting you all.

Zoom link for the talk (sent out yesterday) is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215755641?>

[pwd=YiILQ0V6NFRJWDJySGNrVEhFM1dmZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215755641?pwd=YiILQ0V6NFRJWDJySGNrVEhFM1dmZz09)

Meeting ID: 852 1575 5641

Passcode: 420807

French Conversation Group

The next group meeting will be on **18th February** when we will be talking about films we would watch over and over again.

Graham C

Wine Appreciation Group (WAG)

Our next zoom evening will be held on **Friday March 5th at 7.30pm** when we'll be exploring wines from German stores. (Apologies for last week's error) Please contact **Graham P** for more info.

Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - WHICH DOES EACH SET OF THREE HAVE IN COMMON

1. HEAD – TAIL – CROSS : **ALL WIND DIRECTIONS/TYPES**
2. BICYCLE TYRE – TOOTHPASTE – CHEMISTRY LAB : **ALL HAVE TUBES**
3. RADIO – CAR ENGINE – PIANO : **ALL ARE TUNED**
4. ELECTRONIC – JUNK – FAN : **ALL TYPES OF MAIL**
5. RAIN – WIND – CARBON : **ALL ARE ELEMENTS**
6. AFRICA – LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD – MATADOR : **ALL HAVE CAPES**
7. FLORIST – FURNITURE STORE – OBSTETRICIAN : **ALL MAKE DELIVERIES**
8. BASEBALL GLOVE – JEANS – SNOOKER TABLE : **ALL HAVE POCKETS**
9. PUMPKINS – TURKEYS – INITIALS : **ALL ARE CARVED**
10. PALM – CHRISTMAS – LEMON : **ALL ARE TREES**
11. FLAG – TENT – MAGNET : **ALL HAVE POLES**
12. FRENCH – CAR – UNICORN : **ALL TYPES OF HORNS**
13. MAP – WALLET – LAUNDRY : **ALL GET FOLDED**
14. SURPRISE – BEACH – BIRTHDAY : **ALL TYPES OF PARTIES**
15. FORTUNE – BANK – STORY : **ALL HAVE TELLERS**
16. DAYS – CONTINENTS – SEAS : **THERE ARE SEVEN OF EACH**
17. LUNGS – BRAIN – EARS : **ALL HAVE LOBES**
18. EGG – SAFE – WHIP : **ALL ARE CRACKED**
19. FISHING POLE - WEST END PLAY – BROKEN LEG : **ALL ARE CAST**
20. SCHOOL – SKATE – DART : **ALL TYPES OF BOARDS**

Fascinating Fact

Spider webs were used as bandages in ancient times.

Wind Chill - A Doggerel Walk

The birdbath is frozen
 The pond is all ice
 The wind is a-howling
 And the prospect's not nice

As I slog up this hill
 With nose cold and snotty
 Hair blown to thatch
 I'm looking - well - grotty

The dog doesn't care
 If it 'feels like' minus five
 She still needs the mileage
 If she's going to thrive

But there's joy in this dog walk
 As the mornings get brighter
 The snowdrops push through
 And the evenings are lighter

Spring's not far off now
 Optimism I've mastered
 But when all's said and done
 This wind chill's a b*#@#%*d!!

Kerry S

Some funnies

Sales of advent calendars last year were sharply down. Which made me think ... Are the days of advent calendars numbered?

I asked my solicitor "How much do you charge?" He said "£100 for three questions." "Isn't that a bit steep?" I asked. "Yes, so what is your third question?"

Why was six scared of seven? Because seven ate nine.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? It's Ok. He woke up.

A lumberjack once told me he'd cut down 25,752 trees. "How do you know exactly how many?" I asked. "Easy. I keep a log!"

This Weeks Quiz - FOOD

ANAGRAMS

1. A TINT TREAT
2. A MACK DEARIE
3. TO RITUAL ALE
4. DRAB GLACIER
5. TOOT HER CHAPLAINS
6. HOT TOE INHALED
7. OPEN AT TEN
8. APE SNACK
9. PINCH HIS FADS
10. ELM LIE FLU LIE
11. FLEECES SO BARE
12. SEEMS NOT
13. SEE ACE HECK
14. A LEGAL TITLE
15. SUGARED AMBULANCES
16. HE TACKLE COCOA
17. PRESS OUTFIT
18. MA SOAK US
19. NEEDLESSLY EACH WEE
20. T IS A RUM

Answers Next Week

Grand pa is still looking for his teeth.



More Fascinating Facts

One-quarter of all your bones are located in your feet.

Candy floss was invented by a dentist.

Another funny

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for sweetness and kindness to all. One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old pump organ, the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water. In the water floated, of all things, a condom! When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better

of him and he could no longer resist. "Miss Beatrice", he said, "I wonder if you would tell me about this?" pointing to the bowl. "Oh, yes" she replied, "isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter!" The pastor fainted.