



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

March 2021 Issue 2

Philosophy - a question

I have been considering the possibility of running some sessions within our u3a on Philosophy. Quite a common subject area in u3as and often appealing to older people who later in life have the time, experiences and vulnerability to make existential questions more keenly relevant.

I have not formally studied philosophy but relish the thought, that after lock down, we could just get together and exchange views and experiences in a relaxed environment to understand our different perspectives on some of the questions underlying our lives. One of the things I have learnt is that there is no ultimate reality beyond that which we create for ourselves; talking together enriches us.

But in thinking about this I ask whether the u3a a good model for extending such learning among older people? A lot of people living in Dawlish have not had the opportunities of a good formal education and probably wish to run a mile from any suggestion of sitting down to learn in any thing like a conventual environment. I believe it is essential that we do not allow subjects such as philosophy to be seen as irrelevant or inaccessible to the ordinary person. In fact we need the distribution of learning and tolerance of others to be extended if our culture is to survive.

At heart the question raised is whether the u3a is a middle class activity that unconsciously is reinforcing social division in our society? How can we run sessions on subjects such as Philosophy and have a diverse attendance? Do we need to look at influencers such as the image we communicate of our u3a; the venue in which such a group is held; the way in which it is presented?

Do you think that in my thinking I have arrived at a problem for the u3a in running such subjects as Philosophy? If so, what can be done to open out to a wider and more diverse membership? Please share your thoughts through our newsletter.

Steve A

Monday's Talk

Philippa Davies will be speaking to us tomorrow **Monday 15th at 2pm**. The meeting will take the form of a question and answer format. Therefore please get your questions ready in advance

Philippa works for Nub News but has spent many years in the news industry and this Q&A talk session is going to be very interesting.

(Editor's Note: A Zoom link to this talk is included in the covering email)

Discussion Group

From 29 March we will be able to meet outdoors in groups of six and I'm delighted to say that we're proposing to start the discussion group up again on **Monday 12 April** (weather permitting). The group has had a core of regular attendees (and I hope you'll all be back for more) and new members are very welcome. We respect each other's opinions and space is made for everyone to voice their views.

We will meet at 10.30am on the Lawns in Dawlish. You will need to bring your chairs, and hot drinks etc can be bought from the cafes and coffees shops unless you prefer to bring your own.

The suggested topic is "What impact has social media had during the pandemic on dissemination of information, politics, the economy, the take up of vaccines etc." This allows for a wide ranging discussion and a variety of approaches.

It may seem a long way off but I'd be grateful if you'd let me know if you are interested in attending as soon as possible. If more than 6 want to come, we'll divide into two groups.

New members – if you want to come and meet with us for a “taster” session, please feel free. We won't be offended if you then feel it's not for you, but you won't know unless you try. Be bold, the world is opening up again!

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Weekly Zoom Quiz

Weekly quiz continuing each Monday on zoom at 7pm. Next one, tomorrow **15th March at 7.00pm**. To join please contact **Graham C**

French Conversation Group

Meeting on zoom on **Thursday 18th March at 10.30am**.

Coffee and Chat

Hooray, Coffee & Chat will be back on **Tuesday 30th March** on The Lawn, please bring your chairs. All hot drinks can be bought at Ryder's, The Mix or any along The Strand.

Please join me, we've been without company & chat for a long time. Hope to see you there.

Tracy Penfound

Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - GARDENING

1. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek word for star? - **ASTER**
2. Which plant if touched causes a serious chemical reaction which makes skin hypersensitive to ultraviolet light? - **GIANT HOGWEED**
3. What is the common name for salix babylonica? - **WEeping WILLOW**
4. Which flower is also the goddess of the rainbow in Greek Mythology? - **IRIS**
5. Most species of eucalyptus are native to which country? - **AUSTRALIA**
6. Who designed the Blue Peter Garden in 1974? - **PERCY THROWER**
7. The Avenue of the Baobabs is a group of famous trees in which country? - **MADAGASCAR**
8. Which Cotswolds garden is notable for its miles of sculptured hedges? - **HIDCOTE**
9. Were tulips once so valuable in Holland that the bulbs were worth more than gold? - **YES**
10. Which king created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon? - **NEBUCHADNEZZAR II**
11. Who is the patron saint of gardeners and florists? - **SAINT DOROTHY**
12. Which fruit has main varieties slicing, burpless, and pickling? - **CUCUMBER**

13. What is pomology the study of? -

FRUIT

14. What fruit comes in varieties Oro Blanco, Thompson and Pink? -

GRAPEFRUIT

15. Which famous 30 acre sculpture garden is near Dumfries? -

COSMIC SPECULATION

16. What is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines? -

MANGO

17. Apples, pears, plums are members of what family of flowering plants? -

ROSE

18. What were brought to Britain from Germany by Sir Charles Isham in 1847? -

GARDEN GNOMES

19. Can daffodil bulbs can be used in place of onions in many recipes? -

NO – IT'S TULIP BULBS

20. Which flowers were once known as gillyflowers? -

CARNATIONS

Some Funnies

He loved his job. Driving a train had been his dream ever since he was a child. He loved to make the train go as fast as possible. Unfortunately, one day he was a little too reckless and caused a crash. He made it out, but one person died. Well, needless to say, he went to court over this incident. He was found guilty and was sentenced to death by electrocution. When the day of the execution came, he requested a single banana as his last meal. After eating the banana, he was strapped into the electric chair. The switch was thrown, sparks flew and smoke filled the air - but nothing happened. The man was perfectly fine. Well, at the time, there was an old Bulgarian law that said a failed execution was a sign of divine intervention, so the man was allowed to go free. Somehow, he managed to get his old job back driving the train. Having not learned his lesson at all, he went right back to driving the train with reckless abandon. Once again, he caused a train to crash, this time killing two people. The trial went much the same as the first, resulting in a sentence of execution. For his final meal,

the man requested two bananas. After eating the bananas, he was strapped into the electric chair. The switch was thrown, sparks flew, smoke filled the room - and the man was once again unharmed.

Well, this of course meant that he was free to go. And once again, he somehow managed to get his old job back. To what should have been the surprise of no one, he crashed yet another train and killed three people. And so he once again found himself being sentenced to death. On the day of his execution, he requested his final meal: three bananas. "You know what? No," said the executioner. "I've had it with you and your stupid bananas and walking out of here unharmed. I'm not giving you a thing to eat; we're strapping you in and doing this now." Well, it was against protocol, but the man was strapped in to the electric chair without a last meal. The switch was pulled, sparks flew, smoke filled the room - and the man was still unharmed. The executioner was speechless. The man looked at the executioner and said, "Oh, the bananas had nothing to do with it. I'm just a bad conductor."

We're still battling COVID-19 and the next thing is here already ; the *NILE Virus, type C*. It appears to target those who were born between 1940 & 1970. Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same message twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank message
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
5. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished.
6. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND.
7. Causes you to SEND when you should DELETE. It is called the *C-NILE* virus!

If you can't admit to doing the above, you've obviously caught the mutated strain: The *D-NILE* virus.

I would like to go to Holland one day. Wooden shoe?

This week's Quiz - THE 1960s

1. In 60s Britain, what was the significance of the colour sequence yellow, pink, green, blue?

2. Which London landmark was cleaned in 1968 for the first time since 1864?

3. Many companies have made Walnut Whip but who made the originals which were still on sale in the 1960s?

4. What took place on 8th August 1963 at Cheddington, Buckinghamshire?

5. Between which two British cities did the last steam passenger service run in 1968?

6. Which model was voted the face of 1966?

7. Released in October 1962, which was the first single by The Beatles?

8. In what year was Prince Andrew born?

9. Which song gave the United Kingdom their first Eurovision Song Contest win?

10. Which company in 1962 was the first to introduce flavoured crisps in the UK?

11. What was the title of the first Lloyd-Webber/Rice musical to be performed in March 1968?

12. What was banned on British TV screens on August 1st 1965?

13. Which controversial bill, sponsored by MP David Steele, was introduced in 1968?

14. Which two teams competed in the first ever all-London FA Cup Final in 1967?

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16. Who in 1965 first uttered the 'F' word on British television?

17. Who first walked the streets in 1960?

18. Which gamblers institution was legalised in May 1961?

19. Which store chain was founded in 1969 by David Quayle and Richard Block with the opening of their first outlet in Southampton?

20. Where was the first drive through animal park out[1]side Africa opened in April 1966?

Answers Next Week



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French President describes, Mr Kipling Cherry Bakewells Regiment as exceedingly good.