

# Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

February 2021 Issue 4

## Dawlish & District u3a Welcomes Back Devon Air Ambulance

Dawlish & District u3a members welcomed back representatives of the Devon Air Ambulance to their monthly meeting after an interval of over six years. Chairman Graham Carey reminded members that at the group's very first meeting after its founding in 2014, the Devon Air Ambulance were their very first guests.

Since then, a great deal has happened, as volunteers Tony Cannon and Cara Jones described.



Devon Air Ambulance is now a familiar presence in our community, perhaps one we take for granted, but Tony reminded everyone how it came into existence. It came substantially from the efforts of the mother of a young boy who died in a tragic accident. She asked the medical team what could have saved her son. The clear answer was Speed. This spurred her into a fundraising effort to create Devon Air Ambulance so that casualties and sick people could be taken to hospital as quickly as possible.

It came into service in 1992, operating with just one helicopter, five days a week and in daylight hours only. By 2005, a second helicopter was purchased, and by 2016, night flights were also possible. A further significant development was in 2019 when Devon Air Ambulance became an independent registered healthcare provider. This means that it can provide a greater range of services, training and support. This includes operating two critical care cars, an important but less well-known part of the service we all benefit from.



The dedicated team of dispatchers at the Call Centre in Exeter, working alongside the other 999 services, decide whether to send a helicopter or car. This will depend on the nature of incident, availability, weather and ensuring that the

most critical cases have priority. Those needing emergency treatment can be sent as far away as Southampton and Bristol as well as to hospitals across the south west.

As we all know, the pandemic has created enormous challenges for charities, but Devon Air Ambulance has had to confront very specific difficulties. Interiors of helicopters are not designed to achieve social distancing, and standard clothing and equipment on board does not easily facilitate screens and PPE. A further problem is that communications equipment for flight crew and medical team does not allow for masks. As a result, flights (but not cars) were suspended for six weeks while intensive work was undertaken to redesign equipment and revise working practices to make them as safe as possible. Everything is now functioning as it should, and the service even has the additional benefit of a new Airbus 145 helicopter.

A very different challenge has been the impact on fund raising. Devon Air Ambulance is completely independent of government support and relies entirely on donations from the community it serves. The pandemic has meant that all the major streams of fund raising, especially from their charity shops and events, have been suspended or disrupted. From an annual budget of over £8.5 million, they have lost £2 million. There has been a great deal of innovation and creativity in attempts to bridge this funding gap, and over 650 dedicated volunteers are determined to do all they can to maintain this vital service. Responses include running their own lottery, virtual events, finding new ways to engage with the community and introducing online sales. But these acute problems remain.

Members participated again in this meeting on Zoom, but that did not mean there was any less interest or engagement with the speakers. Members were clearly keen to understand more about this vital service and were eager to find out how we can all help to keep the show on the road – and in the air! Those who wish to find out more can visit [Devon Air Ambulance Trust \(daat.org\)](http://Devon Air Ambulance Trust (daat.org))

## Weekly Zoom Quiz

Weekly quiz continuing each Monday on zoom at 7pm. Next one, tomorrow **1st March at 7.00pm**. To join in please contact **Graham C**

## French Conversation Group

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am** on zoom. Members will be discussing “ If you could have dinner with anyone living or not, who would it be and why?” Contact **Graham C** to join this group.

## Next Month's u3a Online Talk

will be held on **Monday 15th March at 2.00pm**. The speaker will be Philippa Davies from the Dawlish Nub. Questions and answers about her life in Journalism.

## Wine Appreciation Group

Something for the group to consider: <https://www.facebook.com/100276386686649/posts/3767865463261038/?sfnsn=scwspwa>

## A Fascinating Fact

To encourage more young people to donate blood, Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden sends a text to donors when their blood has been dispensed to someone in need. A common issue with blood donation—along with other types of charitable donations—is that if a donor doesn't know the recipient, it's harder to convince them that donating is beneficial. But with this system, which started in 2012, potential donors in Sweden have proof that their contribution is going to good use.

## Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - COUNTRIES

1. Which is the most Easterly town in England? - **LOWESTOFT**
2. What is the national currency of Peru? - **PERUVIAN SOL**
3. Which Russian city was previously known as Stalingrad? - **VOLGOGRAD**
4. What is the Northernmost capital city in Australia? - **DARWIN**
5. In which country would you find the Lop Desert? - **CHINA**
6. In which country would you find the cities of Charleroi and Mons? - **BELGIUM**
7. On which European island would you find the Caves of Drach? - **MAJORCA**
8. Which American state's nickname is the 'Sunflower State'? - **KANSAS**
9. Which is the longest bridge in Europe? - **VASCO DA GAMA - LISBON**
10. Which is the smallest country in the world? - **VATICAN CITY**
11. Where is the Burj Khalifa, the tallest structure in the world? - **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**
12. Poutine is a dish that originated in which country? - **CANADA (IN QUEBEC)**
13. Which city is the largest in the world by population? - **TOKYO**
14. In which country is the Museum of Bad Art found? - **USA**
15. What is the capital of Mexico? - **MEXICO CITY**
16. Which continent has the most countries? - **AFRICA**
17. Which country is the only one to not have a rectangular or square flag? - **NEPAL**
18. Which alcoholic drink is considered the national drink of South Korea? - **SOJU**
19. In which country did opera originate? - **ITALY**
20. Which Irish county is largest by area? - County **CORK**

## Some Funnies

What do you call two men tied up and stuck in a window? Kurt and Rod.

One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference. On the way there, he tells his driver that looks a bit like him "I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over! "The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place." "That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!"

So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it. However in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So the person stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response.

The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says "Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."

Why are hairdressers never late for work? Because they know all the short cuts!

For a period, Houdini used a trap door in every single show he did...I guess you could say it was a stage he was going through.

## This week's Quiz - SEVEN UP! CAN YOU NAME SEVEN?

1. Wonders of the ancient world
2. Metals known since antiquity
3. Seven summits
4. Harry Potter Books
5. Largest cat species
6. Countries that end in "Stan"
7. European capitals starting with B

## Answers Next Week



## More Scams

We have received reports of residents receiving scam cold calls regarding their National Insurance number.

The person calling informs the resident that their National Insurance number has been compromised or used in some way, or a variation of this, and that a new National Insurance number will need to be issued. Personal details are asked for.

Please be cautious of any unexpected calls. If you have any doubts about what is being asked of you or instructed by a cold caller, hang up the phone. A legitimate company or organisation will not put pressure on you or rush you.

If you have passed on any personal information to a cold caller please phone Action

Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or make a report via the website <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

If you have given out any financial information please phone your bank or building society immediately and then make contact with Action Fraud.

Please inform friends, family and any other community groups you may belong to.

### **Message Sent By**

Linzi Berryman (Police, DC Alert Officer, Devon & Cornwall)

## National u3a support

**Helpline:** u3a has partnered with Independent Age Helpline for confidential guidance on care & support, money, benefits and health. Freephone line on 0800 319 6789

Digital Eagles: Access to Barclays Digital Wings tutorials for 'How to session on digital skills and information. Use code 'U3A'. Visit:

[www.digital.wings.uk.barclays](http://www.digital.wings.uk.barclays)

National u3a: Volunteer to give a talk? Why not volunteer to be a speaker and give a talk? [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk)

You can contact the Third Age Trust with any issues. [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk) Tel: 0208 466 6139