



# Dawlish

and District U3A

## Newsletter

May 2021 Issue 2

### French Conversation Group

The group met on Thursday and each member spoke about their favourite French author or poet. Some were well known, others you may not have heard of. So here was the list:

Henri Troyat the Russian-born French author, biographer, historian and novelist. He wrote over 100 novels; the first one in 1935 and his final one in 2010!

Guy du Maupassant, a 19th-century French author, remembered as a master of the short story form.

Françoise Sagan, a playwright, novelist, and screenwriter. Sagan was known for works with strong romantic themes involving wealthy and disillusioned bourgeois characters.

Jacques Prévert, poet and screenwriter. His poems became and remain popular in the French-speaking world, particularly in schools. One of his poems, Déjeuner Du Matin, was read out.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, who was also an aristocrat, journalist and pioneering aviator.

Alexandre Dumas. His works have been translated into many languages, and he is one of the most widely read French authors.

Victor Hugo who is considered to be one of the greatest and best-known French writers. Outside France, his most famous works are the novels Les Misérables and The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, known by his stage name Molière. His extant works include comedies, farces, tragicomedies, comédie-ballets, and more.

The next group meeting will take place on **Thursday 20th May at 10.30am** on zoom, when the subject will be – 'If you could get all your family members to donate to a charity, what would it be and why?'

**Graham Carey**

### Discussion Group

**Monday 10th May at 10.30**, on the Lawn when we shall be discussing the topic 'Is there any possibility of Britain becoming a Republic in the near future?'

**Michael Heyden**

### Weekly Zoom Quiz

Tomorrow evening, **Monday 10th May at 7pm**. This week will be the 50th quiz and all are welcome. For your zoom link please contact: **Graham Carey**

### Scrabble

Under current lockdown rules I hope to recommence Scrabble group meetings on **Monday, 24th May**, with up to 5 members. **George Lipscomb**

### Talk on Zoom

#### A Picture of Waste in Devon

Given by Lucy Mottram and Bobby Hughes. **Monday 17th May at 2.00pm**.

## **Wine Appreciation Group (WAG)**

Our next meeting will take place on **Friday 4th June**. We will be meeting together in several different homes to keep in line with Covid restrictions. We will be sampling and discussing Rosé Wines.

To join us please contact:

**Graham Pestridge**

## **Literature Group**

Our first official meeting is planned for the **21<sup>st</sup> May** at a member's house. This will be limited to 6 people, so for now we have a full complement. Similarly the restricted number will apply in June. However from July we are happy to welcome new members who may be interested. Our last book was *The Comforts of Home* – Susan Hill and our current book is *The Green Road* – Anne Enright, two very contrasting fictional stories. For more information, please contact **Margaret Cunningham**, Literature Group Convenor

## **Strollers**

We will be meeting up on **Thursday May 13th**. We will catch the number 2 Exeter bus which leaves Teignmouth at 1.10pm and Dawlish at 1.25pm.

The plan is to leave the bus at the next stop after Cockwood Harbour then walk along Staplake Lane and back around into Starcross for a coffee at the van in the car park near the railway line before catching the bus home.

Covid restrictions and guidelines will still be in place.

Here's hoping we all continue to keep well and that we have some lovely sunny, warm weather for our first 2021 Strollers walk on May 13th. **Jean Gitsham**

## **Coffee and Chat**

The last Coffee & Chat went well, another sunny day. The next one will be **Tuesday May 25th** at The Bandstand, weather permitting, hopefully by then it will have improved. Look forward to seeing you all.

**Tracy Penfound**

## **Free online Workshops from the National u3a**

**Tuesday 11th May 10.30am - Japanese Culture**

The culture of Japan, both old and new, from wood block prints to anime and maid cafes, is fascinating. This talk will focus on the historical elements looking at how some of them developed and how the long period of isolation ensured they did so with minimal influence from the west.



## **Close Shaves & Lucky Escapes with the National Army Museum - Thursday 13 May, 10.30am**

In this exclusive talk for u3a members, Justin Saddington, curator from the National Army Museum, will use objects once owned by great leaders to consider the possible impact that the death of these figures would have had on history.

**These workshops are free and given by members for members. Places are limited, so if you book make sure you attend. To see more of what is on offer go into the national u3a website [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk), click on Events, then Online Events.**

## Natural History

“If the Oak be out before the Ash, we shall have a splash;

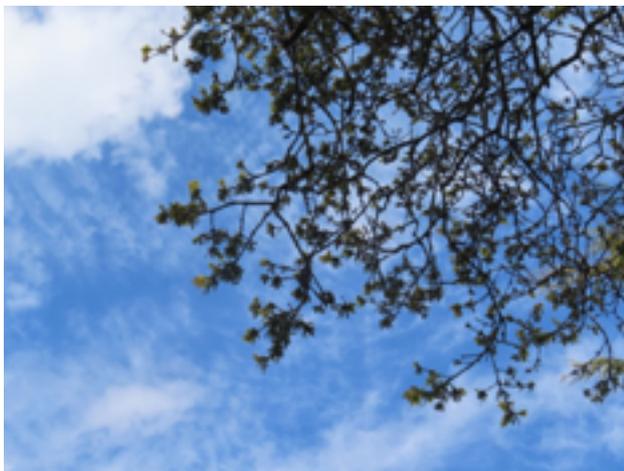
But if the Ash be out before the Oak, we shall have a soak.”

Both species are wind pollinated, and so have a vested interest in delaying leaf formation.

Who Knows, in the era of fast changing climate, whether the old country lore still holds good; but these images suggest that this year, we may expect a dry summer.

### George Lipscomb

Below: The Ash and the Oak



## Some funnies

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.

## Answers to Last Weeks Quiz -

### CRYPTIC TOWNS AND CITIES ALL IN THE UK

1. Tub full of water? - **BATH**
2. Has a letter to spare? - **DOVER**
3. Professor of rollers? - **DONCASTER**
4. A complete bacon? - **FULHAM**
5. A person who is leaving? - **EXETER**
6. Religious skull? - **HOLYHEAD**
7. Tend fire? - **STOKE**
8. Shipsmen? - **CREWE**
9. Tying meat? - **NOTTINGHAM**
10. People's rock? - **FOLKSTONE**
11. Calligraphy with an H? - **PENARTH**
12. Latest fortified wine? - **NEWPORT**
13. Mother's garden entrance? - **MARGATE**
14. Witches attempt to meet? - **COVENTRY**
15. Pushed down heavyweight? - **PRESTON**
16. Arran or Holy in the middle of one's wages? - **PAISLEY**
17. Sounds like a vehicle is followed by a Scottish golfer? - **CARLISLE**
18. Almost speechless in front of the French chips? - **DUMFRIES**
19. Is this Piggott's town? - **LEICESTER**
20. Nearly the Colonel's twelve inches? - **SAUNDERSFOOT**

### Editor's Note: Future Newsletters

Please be aware that this newsletter is the last 'Covid Lockdown' weekly one. We'll have a quiz this week, the answers will be in next weeks, but thereafter there will not be room for any quizzes. Next Sundays' newsletter (**16th May**) will be a monthly one. The newsletter following will be out on **Monday 14th June** so if you have any news, views or group plans or want to advertise your group, please let me have copy this week.

I hope you have enjoyed these weekly newsletters during lockdown, but isn't it good to start going out and about and meeting up again.

## This Week's Quiz

### FISH AND CHIPS

1. Where in the UK was the first fish and chip shop opened?
2. Fish and chips was originally served in what?
3. Which chip shop ubiquity used to have great value in many ancient empires, so much so that Roman soldiers were given a special allowance for this commodity?
4. Owning a fish and chip shop can be a very profitable business. Which British entrepreneur made his fortune by opening a chain of fish and chip shops?
5. The longest running fish and chip shop still in operation is based where?
6. The record number of fish and chip portions sold in one day is how many?
7. What do the Chinese serve fish and chips with?
8. An average portion of fish and chips contains what percentage of a female's recommended daily calorie intake and what percentage for a man?
9. The UK's favourite fish choice is cod, which accounts for six out of 10 portions sold. What comes in second?
10. Chris Verschueren, from Kastel, Belgium holds the world record for the longest chip cooking marathon (83 hours). He served how many portions of chips?

### BEEF / STEAK

1. Highly seasoned and smoked cut of beef usually from the shoulder?
2. The beef equivalent of a chicken breast?
3. A steak made from the diaphragm that is rather flavourful but also rather tough?
4. From the end of a tenderloin; boneless but expensive?
5. This cut contains the tenderloin and the top loin muscle?
6. Usually served for two and named for a French diplomat?
7. A patty from ground beef made with onions and occasionally mushrooms?

8. The name of this cut from the side can also mean the extreme left or right side of an Army.

9. A steak cut from the hip?
10. Finely chopped fillet of raw beef, onion, parsley and capers usually served with a raw egg?

### Answers Next Week

Big thank you to Graham Carey for supplying all the quizzes for this newsletter over the past year.

### Old Dogs

Do you think you are too old to learn new tricks? Then think again!

Our brain retains even into our 90s the ability to learn and achieve new skills. Past myths of our brain cells dying as we age and our ability to lean becoming less and less is now seen as just that - myths.

To learn in older age we need to:

- \* Be motivated - take on learning about things that really interest you.
- \* Keep going - the more you learn the greater your confidence and the more you see the results.
- \* Engage in a group with others - social learning is beneficial in all sorts of ways.
- \* Don't try to take on too much - keep within your comfort zone but be up for a challenge. You can be more ambitious later.
- \* So sign up for our u3a groups. If we don't run what you are looking for then contact us at [enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info) so that we can see if there are other u3a's doing your learning event or we might even start one for you.

**Steve Angove**

### Another funny

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.