

Dawlish & District U3A



Monthly Newsletter –December 2019

Chairman's Chatter

Dear Friends,

Already December and this year seem to have flown by. The Christmas lights are shining, the adverts bombarding us, the presents being purchased and the cards written, the Christmas films in the cinema and on TV. 'Have yourselves a very merry Christmas' or for some is it 'Have yourselves a very stressful Christmas'?

A recent poll surveyed 2,000 people about which occasions are causing the most stress. The top of the pops was Christmas giving 55% the most stress. The others included Secret Santa 38%, a wedding and birthday at 46%. The survey revealed that 74% of people say giving a gift makes them feel happy, 1 in 4 don't know their partner's birthday, 13% of women are guilty of re-gifting an item but only 8% of men would. Interesting facts and I wonder what you would have said if you had been asked

Whatever our personal feelings about Christmas, as members of our U3A I trust we would want to send each other season's greetings. Someone said 'Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day'. Charles Dickens wrote 'Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fireside and quiet home!'

Thank you for all your input into the life of the Dawlish and District U3A during 2019 and may we continue to develop in 2020. Here's to more fun, learning and fellowship.

I'll leave the final words to Ronald Reagan: 'Christmas is a holiday that we celebrate not as individuals nor as a nation, but as a human family'.

With kind regards and hoping to see you at our Christmas get together on the 16th December.

Graham

*Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 16th December 2019** at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Brunswick Place, Dawlish. We are being entertained and quizzed along with mince pies and copious cups of tea. We will also be holding a raffle, please could you donate something for the raffle, not alcohol, but sweeties, biscuits, nice smelly stuff or unwanted gifts which will be gratefully received.*

STOP PRESS - WEBMASTER

George has recently relinquished his role as our Webmaster and we would like to thank him for his input. This obviously leaves a vacancy and to continue developing our U3a we will need someone to step into the breach. Hope one of you will be willing to undertake this role and specific training will be available.

To contact any of the group convenors or members of the committee please contact our secretary Steve Angove who will forward your email to the appropriate person. His email address is steve.angove@btinternet.com or telephone 01626 862486

News from Interest Groups

Bookworms



There is not a meeting of Bookworms in December as the date clashes with the Christmas holiday. We have had a good year, "Where the Crawdads Sing" Delia Owens, being the highest rated book. Members will receive a list of the books read this year before the Christmas break. A Happy Christmas to all readers.

For more information, contact Barbara

Lunch Club



The next one will be on **Friday December 6th**. I'm hoping to book The Ship at Cockwood.

To book your place or for further information, contact Tracey

French Conversation

Thursday 5th December at 10.30am

Our next meeting will be hosted by our new member, Annie who lives at 1 Swallow's Acre, Dawlish EX7 0RU. For those of us who have Facon de Parler 2 we will cast our eye over Le Deuxieme Unite pp21-29 and use it as preparation for conversation on related themes. We hope this will help those of us who are less sure of our grammar and encourage us to speak more confidently 'off the cuff'.

Thursday 19th December at 10.30am

We will meet at the Smugglers for an informal get together, speaking in French, of course.

Please Contact Lynne

Great Lives



For more details, please contact George

Here, There and Everywhere



Thursday December 19th Coffee/tea morning "Open Daw" 10.30-11am when bookings can be taken for the Dartmoor Whisky Distillery visit which I am hoping will take place on **Friday 24th January 2020**

For more information contact Andy on 01626 865765 or email the secretary

Art Appreciation



Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Monday 9th December at 8 High House Close, Dawlish. Each member of the group has been asked to bring an image of either a 'Nativity' or a 'Mother and Child', and speak about it for about five to ten minutes.

For information, contact Lynne

Badminton



Numbers are growing in the badminton group and we often have to book an extra court, which gives us loads of opportunity to play lots of games with lots of different partners. We meet **every Monday 5pm** at the Dawlish Leisure Centre where we play for an hour, with rests between games. We welcome anyone willing to have a go.

For further information, contact Patricia

History



Our academic years finished with Peterloo. On **December 19th** fun, jollity and the Christmas spirit arrive. Mulled wine, mince pies and a mystery fun quiz, and the end of which we will sing our answers, work that one out.

Contact Richard

Creative Writing



Contact Janette

Spanish



Spanish Beginners Year 2 will next meet on **26th November**. And will not meet thereafter until January 2020.

For further information contact Ray

Art – Watercolour

A new group this year, we are now well established and have enjoyed some lively sessions. This month we meet on **Tuesday 10th December** (11-1) and **Tuesday 17th December** (11-1), both meetings are at 1 Kestrel Way EX7 0FY.

After the meeting on 17th we will have a bring a dish lunch. This will give the opportunity to plan the year ahead. Well done everyone for grasping the paintbrush.

For further details contact Richard

Swimming

For more information contact Barbara

Strollers



December 12th 2019 From Dawlish 1pm number 2 Newton bus or catch same bus from Teignmouth Sea View Diner at 1.15pm-alight B&Q stop-walk part of Templar Way via Jetty Marsh-refreshments MT Tums café-return buses leave Newton on

hour and half hour

New members to our group are always welcome. For further information, contact Jean on 01626 779140 or email the secretary

Psychology



Our next topic is parapsychology. What does psychology say about telepathy; near death experiences, ghosts and many other paranormal experiences?

Join us (in body preferably) on **Wednesday 27 November at 2pm**. We are happy for people to come to one off sessions so if new to the Group please let me know so that we can organise space (sorry, but I am not psychic!) There will not be a meeting in December.

For further information, contact Steve

Literature

For more information email our secretary

Wine Appreciation



The wine group is very active. At present we have 15 members which is the maximum we can take. However if you are interested in joining the group please contact me and we can discuss options. Our next meeting will be on the **6th December** and the topic will be "wines recommended by newspaper wine critics"

For information contact Steve on 01626 866439 or email the secretary

Discussion



The discussion group are getting together to discuss Christmas on **Monday 9th December** at Anne's house in Dawlish at 10.30.

For further information contact Barbara

Beer and Skittles

Tuesday 10th December is our first evening. If you want to join us, please contact, Richard

Coffee and Chat

Contact Tracy

Scrabble



For more details please contact George

Natural History

28th January, 2020 The group will meet at 6, Town Mills, Church Street, Dawlish., EX7 9QP. Although the principle focus will be on the migration of birds in relation to the UK and Europe, consideration may also be given to some of the great animal migrations in the polar regions, Africa, etc.

For more information contact George

Simple Science



Please contact Jack Whitehead