



# Dawlish

and District U3A

## Newsletter

January 2021 Issue 1

### At The End Of The Year

from ~ John O'Donohue in "*To Bless The Space Between Us*"

*"As this year draws to its end,  
We give thanks for the gifts it brought  
And how they became inlaid within  
Where neither time nor tide can touch  
them.  
The days when the veil lifted  
And the soul could see delight;  
When a quiver caressed the heart  
In the sheer exuberance of being here.  
Surprises that came awake  
In forgotten corners of old fields  
Where expectation seemed to have  
quenched.  
The slow, brooding times  
When all was awkward  
And the wave in the mind  
Pierced every sore with salt.  
The darkened days that stopped  
The confidence of the dawn.  
Days when beloved faces shone brighter  
With light from beyond themselves;  
And from the granite of some secret  
sorrow  
A stream of buried tears loosened.  
We bless this year for all we learned,  
For all we loved and lost  
And for the quiet way it brought us  
Nearer to our invisible destination."*

### Editor's Note:

I came across this and just wanted to share it with you.

### Zoom Quiz

Tomorrow, **4<sup>th</sup> January** – at 7pm  
To join in, please contact Graham Carey

### French Conversation

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January** – commencing at 10.30am on zoom. The theme will be 'My holiday rollover'.

### Dawlish & District U3A Monthly

#### Talk on Zoom

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – at 2pm.  
Councillor Alison Foden will be talking to us about her role as the Dawlish Town Mayor.

### Swimming

Cotton Leisure Centre has closed following the recent change in Covid restrictions. As with many things at the moment, watch this space and I will let you know when it re-opens. Happy New Year to all our swimmers.

**Barbara Warburton**

### Wine Appreciation

Meeting on zoom **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January**.  
6 lovely small size bottles to sample, 3 red and 3 white. Will be a great evening. Interested in joining? Please contact: **Graham Pestrige**

## Responses to Malcolm's piece

I must write to support Malcom G's comment "Don't mess with mother nature". The changes that we know are taking place to our natural environment are often slow, incremental and invisible, and much of it taking place in the ocean, from plastic pollution, to increasing acidity, to depleted and out of balance populations of marine life. The changes that Malcolm writes about at Babbacombe Beach are being repeated around the country. Take one far afield example: I know from divers that scallop dredging has decimated the scallop population on the west coast of Scotland.

But we mustn't wash our hands in despair. When I came here I knew relatively little about the marine life at Dawlish, but since then I have learnt a huge amount, initially by getting involved in a Citizen Science project. With help from another enthusiast we set up the Shores of South Devon Facebook site and marine life interest group which hosts, at the moment, Zoom talks by guest experts that are free to all. And we collaborate with a similar group in North Devon. As soon as the Covid crisis is on the wane (this Spring?) we want to establish a volunteer led beach hut field station at Coryton (we have tacit support of Teignbridge council) that will have the objective of educating and informing visitors and locals to the great variety of sea life on our doorstep. Whilst this is not a U3A specific enterprise we hope that there will be some local U3A members who will want to help with manning the beach hut at times.

I strongly believe that small community enterprises such as ours, when replicated over the country (even the world), have a vital role to play in making sure, through our enthusiasm, that our grandchildren and their descendants inherit world that is fit to live in.

**Toby Sherwin**

## Nature's Response

The article by Malcolm G. In last weeks edition of the newsletter reminded me of the changes that I have seen since childhood in the 50s. He is right to remind us of the more plentiful nature we had and which is not there to be shown to our grandchildren.

Young people today are rightly fearful of the very different world that awaits them as adults. As older people we should not ignore that by changing the balance of natural processes humankind have set out on a heading towards natural disaster. We can already see portents of what is to come with floods, fires, storms and ill health being the headlines of the past year.

Oscar Wilde said 'With age comes wisdom, but sometimes age comes first'. Sticking our older heads in the sand is not wisdom and I believe we should as elder members of our society have a greater understanding of these issues and look at where the unsustainable material consumerist culture of our generation is taking the next generations.

The U3A nationally has many environmental study groups meeting monthly and has formed a Climate Change Network to promote thinking and debate within U3As about the future of the environment (and subsequently the future of the human species). Is there interest in our local U3A to set up a group to look at what is happening to our planet and what we could be doing for those to come after us?

If you would be interesting in such a group, please let me know.

**Steve Angove**

**([steve.angove@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.angove@btinternet.com))**

## Some Historical Events that happened on 3rd January

### 1870 - Brooklyn Bridge

Construction work begins on the Brooklyn Bridge one of the oldest suspension bridges in the United States connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River.

### 1924 - Pharaoh Tutankhamen Mummy Located

A precious treasure was found located near Luxor, Egypt, where King Tut's tomb was discovered two years prior. This special object was a stone sarcophagus, which contained a mummy inside of Pharaoh Tutankhamen of Egypt.

### 1925 - Benito Mussolini

Following his election as the Italian leader in 1922 Benito Mussolini the leader of the National Fascist Party in 1925 he declares he is taking dictatorial powers over Italy ending elections.

### 1946 - Lord Haw Haw Hung For High Treason

William Joyce, (Lord Haw Haw), was hanged in Britain for high treason. He had broadcast Nazi propaganda telling the British and American soldiers to surrender with the first words of every broadcast beginning with the words "Germany calling, Germany calling, Germany calling".

### 1962 - Pope John XXIII excommunicates Fidel Castro.

### 1965 - Vietnam War

Thousands of anti government demonstrators in Saigon clash with government marines and police over concern that American influence in South Vietnam was increasing.

### 1977 - Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs incorporate Apple Computer, Inc.

### 1988 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the longest serving British Prime Minister in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - REMEMBER 2020?

1. What date was the first UK lockdown announced by Boris Johnson? - **23RD MARCH**
2. Where did Dominic Cummings drive to in order to test his eyesight? - **BARNARD CASTLE**
3. What's the name of Joe Biden's wife, who will become the First Lady in 2021? - **DR JILL BIDEN**
4. What's the name of Boris Johnson's baby born in 2020? - **WILFRED**
5. Which minister did Piers Morgan accuse of laughing at care home deaths in a furious Good Morning Britain row? - **HELEN WHATELEY**
6. What's the name of the man who cheated in the scandal that was turned into an ITV drama called Quiz in 2020? - **CHARLES INGRAM**
7. What was the name of the BBC telethon organised during lockdown in April? - **THE BIG NIGHT IN**
8. Who said "It's going to disappear one day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear." - **DONALD TRUMP**
9. Whose motto is "Tomorrow will be a good day?" - **CAPTAIN TOM MOORE**
10. Which TV quiz show returned in 2020 with Gino D'Acampo as presenter? - **FAMILY FORTUNES**
11. Which island did Harry and Meghan first move to in January? - **VANCOUVER**
12. Zara Tindall's husband Mike announced in December she is expecting their third child. What position is Zara in the line of succession? - **18TH**
13. Bobby Ball was part of which legendary comedy double act? - **CANNON AND BALL**
14. Which country was due to host this year's Eurovision Song Contest? - **THE NETHERLANDS**
15. Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You finally topped the UK charts in December. What year was it released? - **1994**

16. Lewis Hamilton won his seventh F1 world championship in 2020. Who does he share the record with? - **MICHAEL SCHUMACHER**
17. Which country won the inaugural Autumn Nations Cup? - **ENGLAND**
18. Which film became the first non English language film to win an Oscar for Best picture? - **PARASITE**
19. Name the James Bond film that's been delayed to 2021 - **NO TIME TO DIE**
20. How did Joe Wicks raise £1.5million for Children in Need? - **24 HOUR WORKOUT**

## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ - ANAGRAMS AND CONNECTIONS

### ANAGRAMS

1. On any screen? (Actor)
2. Welsh kit at knee? (TV programme)
3. Leg is crisp? (Pop group)
4. Long fridge? (Film)
5. So I'm cutler? (Actor)
6. I like guy on me? (Singer)
7. So not a recent riot? (TV programme)
8. So not a recent riot? (TV programme)
9. That cage is hair? (Author)
10. Con bites male flesh? (Film)

### CONNECTIONS

Can you find the connection that links each of the answers to the first nine questions?

1. Actor Richard Kiel is best known for playing the same character in two different films. What is the name of this character?
2. Which American author created the character Rip Van Winkle?
3. "Pebbles and Bam Bam" was a spin-off of which TV series?
4. In which Formula One team did Damon Hill replace Nigel Mansell?
5. In what year did the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour?
6. What was the name of the character played by Harrison Ford in the films "Clear And Present Danger" and "Patriot Games"?
7. In which American state is there a town called Santa Claus, which receives over half a million letters and requests at Christmas time?
8. What colour in art is said to signify royalty?
9. Who wrote "The Importance Of Being Earnest"?
10. What is the connection?



### Some funnies

I asked the librarian if the library had any books about paranoia. She whispered "They're right behind you.."

What's the opposite of a croissant? A happy Uncle.

A friend of mine went bald years ago but still carries around an old comb. He just can't part with it!

Whoever invented knock knock jokes should get a no bell prize.