



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

February 2021 Issue 3

Chair's Chatter

Living in Edmonton, North London, as a child, my schooling was spent at first the Junior and then the Higher Latymer school. I have happy memories of my times spent at these schools but especially of my Junior school. You also must have vivid memories of your younger years.

Of course it was not all hard graft; work and no play. Remember the breaks and playground games, with more simple things to keep us amused? Footballs, hula hoops, skipping ropes, exchanging cigarette cards, British bull dog, hopscotch, yo-yo's, marbles, conkers, jacks, sardines. I am sure you can add to that list. It was my privilege to be in our school football team and also in plays.

Then there was the sports day. The three legged race, egg and spoon race, sack race as well as the more athletic events such as the 100 yards sprint and other field or track events. On your marks, get set.. go!

During the pandemic, we realise that our u3a has not been able to get together as much as we would have liked but my thanks to everyone who kept the groups that we could going. It felt and still does like two steps forward and one back. However, no one has been resting on their laurels but rather thinking ahead of what our u3a could be like post covid. Your committee has been active in

suggesting a sort of road map, even before Boris does tomorrow!

Included in this is the open day later this year and a planning group, ably led by Miggie Pickton who are working on the plans. All will be revealed in due course. We also hope to commence new groups as well as maintaining those that are still attracting members. Have you any suggestions about what groups might interest the new members that we will be welcoming in due course? If so, please contact our Groups Co-ordinator Anne Whitehead. She already has commenced an ideas box but there is always room for more suggestions. We presently have 102 members but would like to have double that number. It's all hands to the plough as they say and your input is so vital and appreciated. Have you any friends who could become members or know of any people who have just moved into the area who might be interested to join our u3a?

Whilst realising that our growth has been stunted because of the present situation, I believe that our best is yet to be, in reaching out to our area with what we have to offer. We are all in this together and so thanks for renewing your membership in April and helping to ensure that our u3a is always learning, laughing and living.

So back to the sports day. I hope we are all warming up for the u3a year ahead.

www.u3a.dawlish.info

Learning • Laughing • Living

So ' Ready, Steady or on your marks get set go..! Go forward with new u3a adventures and helping to increase our effectiveness. By the way don't drop the egg..😂 **Graham**

Weekly Zoom Quiz

Weekly quiz continuing each Monday on zoom at 7pm. Next one, tomorrow **22nd February at 7.00pm**. To join please contact **Graham C**

French Conversation Group

The group met on Thursday with the members sharing what films they would be happy to watch over and over again. The results of the Oscar jury resulted in the following:-

Jungle Book, Gone with the wind, Ice Age, Forrest Gump, Les Miserables, Chicago, The wizard of Oz, West side story, The great escape, The dirty dozen, Legends of the Fall, Of mice and men and the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. I wonder if one of your favourite films is in the list.

The next French conversation group will be in two weeks time, **Thursday 4th March** when the members will be talking about 'If you could have dinner with anyone living or not, who would it be and why?'

Graham C

A Fascinating Fact

Today, sunglasses serve as protective eyewear, effectively preventing bright sunlight from causing discomfort or damage to our eyes. Of course, they're also a fashion accessory. However sunglasses were originally made out of smoky quartz in 12th century China, where they were used by judges to mask their emotions when they were questioning witnesses.

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.

Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - FOOD ANAGRAMS

1. A TINT TREAT - **TARTE TATIN**
2. A MACK DEARIE - **MADEIRA CAKE**
3. TO RITUAL ALE - **RATATOUILLE**
4. DRAB GLACIER - **GARLIC BREAD**
5. TOOT HER CHAPLAINS -

LANCASHIRE HOTPOT

6. HOT TOE INHALED - **TOAD IN THE HOLE**

7. OPEN AT TEN - **PANETTONE**

8. APE SNACK - **PANCAKES**

9. PINCH HIS FADS - **FISH AND**

CHIPS

10. ELM LIE FLU LIE - **MILLE-FEUILLE**

11. FLEECES SO BARE - **BEEF**

CASSEROLE

12. SEEMS NOT - **ETON MESS**

13. SEE ACE HECK - **CHEESECAKE**

14. A LEGAL TITLE - **TAGLIATELLE**

15. SUGARED AMBULANCES -

CUMBERLAND SAUSAGE

16. HE TACKLE COCOA - **CHOCOLATE CAKE**

17. PRESS OUTFIT - **PETITS FOURS**

18. MA SOAK US - **MOUSSAKA**

19. NEEDLESSLY EACH WEE -

WENSLEYDALE CHEESE

20. T IS A RUM - **TIRAMISU**

Adverse Effects - Covid Jab

If you or anyone you know have or are suffering from adverse effects of the having the Covid vaccine, please report it to your local health authority. Every bit of information will help with the production of future vaccines, which in turn will help us all.



16. Which continent has the most countries?
17. Which country is the only one to not have a rectangular or square flag?
18. Which alcoholic drink is considered the national drink of South Korea?
19. In which country did opera originate?
20. Which Irish county is largest by area?

Answers Next Week

Some funnies

A woman is on trial for beating her partner with a guitar. "First offender?" the judge asked. "No", she replied. "First a Gibson, then a Fender".

Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek? Because he was always spotted.

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the man. "I work for Twins!" A nurse then approaches the the second man, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" "That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3G company!" A nurse goes up to the third man saying, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets." "That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask. "I work for 7 Up!"

Why is Peter Pan always flying? Because he neverlands.

A drunk walks into a bar with jump leads around his neck. The bartender says, "You can stay but don't try to start anything."

This week's Quiz - COUNTRIES

1. Which is the most Easterly town in England?
2. What is the national currency of Peru?
3. Which Russian city was previously known as Stalingrad?
4. What is the Northernmost capital city in Australia?
5. In which country would you find the Lop Desert?
6. In which country would you find the cities of Charleroi and Mons?
7. On which European island would you find the Caves of Drach?
8. Which American state's nickname is the 'Sunflower State'?
9. Which is the longest bridge in Europe?
10. Which is the smallest country in the world?
11. Where is the Burj Khalifa, the tallest structure in the world?
12. Poutine is a dish that originated in which country?
13. Which city is the largest in the world by population?
14. In which country is the Museum of Bad Art found?
15. What is the capital of Mexico?

A Closer Look at a Favourite Picture - by David Gearing (Art Appreciation Group)

This is an invitation to look closely at a picture you will probably recognise: *Hunters In The Snow* by the Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel. It may be familiar because it's a favourite Christmas card image, and one of the best-known winter landscapes of all time. In reality it's quite a large painting (117 × 162cm) and full of interesting details. It isn't reproduced here, partly due to space constraints, and also because I suggest you seek out good quality images of the whole painting and small sections within it – with this picture in particular it's satisfying to discover all that's going on.

In the foreground three weary and dejected figures trudge away from the viewer through heavy snow followed by a group of equally unhappy hunting dogs. The dogs are tired, sniffing the ground, tails down, with no clear sense of direction, having lost the scent of any potential quarry. The hunters are carrying long spears intended for hunting large game, particularly deer. But it's evident that they haven't been successful: one man carries the carcass of a fox and another a small bag likely to contain birds. To add insult to injury, in front of the hunters are the footprints of a rabbit or hare – which has escaped or been missed. The figure closest to us leans forward slightly, as though using his own body to keep his momentum, and his spirits, going. The three men are continuing on to the village below, where they are unlikely to receive an enthusiastic welcome. They are walking past a group in front of the inn who are tending a fire, either to singe a pig carcass to remove its bristles, a traditional January activity, or to roast corn - perhaps both. Similarly faceless, and ignoring the men and their dogs, they don't provide a welcome and the hunters are not drawn to the warmth of the blazing fire. It's significant that the inn sign, depicting the patron saint of hunters, St. Hubert, hangs over their heads precariously by a single hook— snow and wind could easily bring it down, symbolically emphasising the hunters' failure, or lack of belief in their patron saint.

Bruegel's viewpoint is interesting: deliberately raised up, perhaps as if from a high window, or maybe the same perspective as might be enjoyed by the crows in the trees, in order to show the widest view below. He was the first to paint snow in its varying depths and textures. Even the sky is thick with snow, and there is a sense of danger

from an oncoming storm, the chilly pale green, deadening colour reflected in the frozen surfaces.

It was painted more than 450 years ago in 1565, during the so-called Little Ice Age, when falling temperatures created a blanket of snow over Europe for months at a time, and people were terrified the Earth would freeze over. The winter of 1565 was one of the first when everyone could see something had changed.

Hunters in the Snow is in the medieval and early Renaissance tradition of the Labours of the Months: depictions of various rural activities and work understood as representing the different months or times of the year. This painting is one of a series of six commissioned by Antwerp banker Nicolaes Jongelincx to hang in the dining room of his mansion. Considering they were painted on very thin fragile oak panels, it's remarkable that five of the six in this series still survive, three of which are in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

The painting is structured to lead your eyes into the scene - sloping diagonals of roofs and ground on the left meet a series of horizontals - bridges and land and then the diagonals of hills and mountains on the right. Beyond the foreground the landscape drops away sharply. The extensive middle ground and background is rendered in minute detail. In the lower right of the picture a person carries a load of sticks over a bridge, a man takes aim at birds in the trees, a woman pulls another along on a makeshift sled, and a watermill is seen with its wheel frozen stiff. On the two frozen ponds silhouetted figures are ice skating (one skater has fallen inelegantly), curling, sledging, spinning a top and playing hockey. People are making the best of a cold, gloomy late afternoon in winter.

There are snow-covered houses, a distant village, three churches with steeples, a meandering river, innumerable tiny bare trees. In the crisp and clear winter air we see everything so clearly - even way into the distance it's possible to make out individual trees and rooftops. Finally, in the far distance on the right there are jagged peaks of grey and snowy mountains, confirming that this is not a landscape painted from reality. There are no such mountains in Belgium or the Netherlands, they are based on sketches made 12 years earlier during the artist's trip through the Alps on route to Italy. Bruegel has constructed the scene in his imagination to capture humanity's double relationship with a severe winter: we fear and endure it, but we also enjoy surviving it.