



Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

March 2021 Issue 1

Chair's Chatter

Over the years crowds have turned out to see ships leaving and returning to harbour; especially those linked to Portsmouth, Southampton and Plymouth. HMS Invincible, HMS Hermes stem to mind as well as Sir Alec Rose's Lively Lady. People were present to cheer on crews sailing off to or returning from wars or to applaud a human individual feat.

On returning from a walk last Thursday week, I noticed a great number were waving goodbye to the 'Wave Walker' (dubbed Luke by the locals) as it commenced its voyage to Newhaven. Mission accomplished in that stage of rebuilding the sea walls. We realise that Luke is a jack-up platform for use in coastal waters that can move on jack-up legs.

The design comes from the companies Fugro Seacore from Falmouth and Van Oord from Gorinchem. What an engineering masterpiece as we are aware that by changing the desk superstructure the platform can be used flexibly; drilling, dredging and blasting work, the laying of submarine cables or pipelines as well as other work in the installation and maintenance of offshore structures are possible.

Farewells. What a quote from Oscar Wilde 'Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go'. Who can forget the Two Ronnies who always opened and closed at the news desk, reading spoof news items. This gave rise to the famous catchphrase at the end of each show: Corbett: That's all we've got

time for, so it's "Goodnight" from me. Barker: And it's "Goodnight" from him.

One fond farewell we will all be looking forward to is on Summer's day when hopefully all the COVID restrictions will end and we can get back to our u3a raves 🥳

What a joy it will be to recommence our groups again and I must start practising with the badminton racket soon; if I remember how to hold it! Along with our groups, we will be thinking about our monthly meetings. The icing on the cake in time will be the implementation of new groups.

So let's get together on the lawn on 21st June and sing a goodbye to the pandemic. How about using Dudley Moore and Peter Cooke's lyrics:

'Goodbye, goodbye, we're leaving you, skiddlydye.

Goodbye, we wish a fond goodbye, fa-ta-ta-ta, fa-ta-ta-ta Goodbye, we're leaving you, skiddlydum.

Goodbye, we wish a fond goodbye, la- la-ta-ta-ta So please start rehearsing before the big day comes!!

Graham

Weekly Zoom Quiz

Weekly quiz continuing each Monday on zoom at 7pm. Next one, tomorrow **8th March at 7.00pm**. To join please contact **Graham C**

www.u3a.dawlish.info

Living • Laughing • Learning

Dear Member

It is that time of year when your U3A membership renewal for 2021/2022 is now due.

Whilst we appreciate this has not been the best of years with many restrictions in place, many of our Groups have by hook or by crook managed to keep in touch. We do know this has not always been possible for everyone due to Shielding or Self Isolating.

Subscription remains the same at £15 for full membership, or, if you are a member of another u3a, subscription is £10.

Hopefully with this as promised to be our last Lockdown we will be meeting up again in our groups, plus, there are plans for an Open Day later in the year. Don't forget we are also asking for suggestions for new groups and there have already been some exciting discussions.

To renew your subscription please go to our website by adding u3a.dawlish.info to your browser, click on "how to join" and the first paragraph advises what you have to do to renew your membership.

For any new members, the instructions are the same as above.

Any of you that have any queries, or would prefer to have these instructions printed off, please don't hesitate to contact me

Our thanks as always for your continual support as without our members we would not be able to continue.

Hopefully we will be meeting up on the Lawn by midsummer.

Best wishes

Kate McCarthy

Membership Secretary

Our Next Speaker

As you are aware, Philippa Davies will be speaking to us on **Monday 15th at 2pm**. However, the meeting will take the form of a question and answer format. Therefore please get your questions ready in advance.

As a bit of background, Philippa was with the company that publishes the Sidmouth Herald, Exmouth Journal and Midweek Herald for about two and a half years before moving to the Nub News company. Before that, she worked in local radio news for about 20 years, writing and presenting the news bulletins, so you might have some questions about that. Philippa also worked for ITV Westcountry for a year and has also worked for Teletext - remember that?

(Editor's Note: Zoom links will be sent out in the newsletter the day before)



Some Funnies

A guy tried to sell me a mirror but I knew it was a scam, I could see right through it.

You should always knock on the fridge before opening it just in case there's a salad dressing.

I'm going to stand outside, so if anyone asks tell them I'm outstanding.

Literature Group

It is many months since our lovely group was able to gather together to discuss our books. However, this has not deterred us and each month the Devon Libraries have kindly delivered one of our choices to Dawlish in order that I can collect and distribute them to our members. (Observing the lockdown rules). We have, therefore enjoyed some interesting and very diverse reading, and we have shared our reviews and personal impressions with each other either by phone or emails, which has kept us in touch and given us lots of pleasure.

The last 2 books couldn't have been more of a contrast, -

Our December Book was "A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini". The writer is a brilliant storyteller and portrays his characters with powerful credibility. It follows the life of a young girl living in Afghanistan before and after the Taliban rule and her trials and tribulations she faced in a country facing constant unrest, tragedy and struggles. It is perfectly summed up on the book's cover as an "unforgettable portrait of a wounded country and a deeply moving story of family and friendship. It is a beautiful, heart-wrenching story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely bond and indestructible love." Our group's reviews were mixed – half totally entranced, and the others found it disturbing and depressive, but perhaps the lockdown had a detrimental influence on their emotions.

Our January book, - "Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day – Winifred Watson". This author was previously completely unknown to our group, but was chosen by one member who heard a dramatization of the novel on the radio read by Maureen Lipton and found it very entertaining. It is set in London in

1938, and follows Miss Pettigrew, a nondescript middle-aged unmarried lady, through one specific day, which completely changes her life. It could be described as a frothy, humorous and witty romp highlighting life in the metropolis, enjoyed by many of the young upper classes in the '30s, before the impact of WW2. The writer captured the era perfectly, with the style and verbal repartee totally conveyed. One member described it as "joyous, delightful and rather naughty" and another wrote "It was very refreshing to have something so upbeat and light and with a positive message that someone's life can be transformed by chance and with an openness of heart. Miss Pettigrew has in a way nothing to lose but she is willing to go with these new circumstances and for the first time embrace life and totally different experiences in just 24 hours." Perhaps this is a very appropriate message for us all in these unpredictable times. Our February book is "Trespass – Rose Tremain".

Margaret Cunningham – Literature Group Convenor.

French Conversation Group

Eight of us met to discuss who we would like to have dinner with and why. The people who were on the invitation list included Sir David Attenborough, Sir Alan Titchmarsh, Ben Fogle, Dame Judi Dench, John Dunne and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. One of the group mentioned having dinner with her parents and another with her best friend's mother in Normandy.

It was a very stimulating conversation and the next group meeting will be on **Thursday 18th March** with the theme being 'If you could only save one item from a house fire, what would it be?'

Graham Carey

Answers to Last Weeks Quiz - SEVEN UP

1. Wonders of the ancient world -

Great pyramid of Giza, Hanging gardens of Babylon, Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, Lighthouse of Alexandria

2. Metals known since antiquity -

Copper, Gold, Iron, Lead, Mercury, Silver, Tin

3. Seven summits -

Mount Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, Vinson Massif, Mount Wilhelm

4. Harry Potter Books -

Philosopher's Stone, Chamber of Secrets, Prisoner of Azkaban, Goblet of Fire, Order of the Phoenix, Half-Blood Prince, Deathly Hallows

5. Largest cat species -

Cheetah, Cougar, Jaguar, Leopard, Lion, Snow Leopard, Tiger

6. Countries that end in "Stan" -

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

7. European capitals starting with B -

Belgrade, Berlin, Bern, Bratislava, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest

Fascinating Fact

A woman in Sweden lost her wedding ring whilst cooking for Christmas in 1995. She looked everywhere for it and even had her kitchen floor pulled up hoping she could find it. However she wouldn't see it again until 2012.

While gardening 16 years later, the woman found the ring around a carrot that was sprouting in the middle of it. The only explanation was that the ring must have been lost in vegetable peelings that were turned into compost. Clearly, composting isn't just good for the environment.

This week's Quiz - GARDENING

1. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek word for star?

2. Which plant if touched causes a serious chemical reaction which makes skin hypersensitive to ultraviolet light?

3. What is the common name for salix babylonica?

4. Which flower is also the goddess of the rainbow in Greek Mythology?

5. Most species of eucalyptus are native to which country?

6. Who designed the Blue Peter Garden in 1974?

7. The Avenue of the Baobabs is a group of famous trees in which country?

8. Which Cotswolds garden is notable for its miles of sculptured hedges?

9. Were tulips once so valuable in Holland that the bulbs were worth more than gold?

10. Which king created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?

11. Who is the patron saint of gardeners and florists?

12. Which fruit has main varieties slicing, burpless, and pickling?

13. What is pomology the study of?

14. What fruit comes in varieties Oro Blanco, Thompson and Pink?

15. Which famous 30 acre sculpture garden is near Dumfries?

16. What is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines?

17. Apples, pears, plums are members of what family of flowering plants?

18. What were brought to Britain from Germany by Sir Charles Isham in 1847?

19. Can daffodil bulbs can be used in place of onions in many recipes?

20. Which flowers were once known as gillyflowers?

Answers Next Week

Another Funny

I love jokes about eyes, the cornea the better.