



# Dawlish and District U3A Newsletter

May 2021 Issue 1

## **I.T. Help Needed**

The Committee has asked me to investigate the possibility of changing our banking arrangements to make our account accessible online. The application form requires a particular type of encryption which I don't have knowledge or experience of. If any members have relevant IT skills and would be prepared to offer assistance would you e-mail me at [heydenmichael@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heydenmichael@yahoo.co.uk)

Many thanks once again to our members who have renewed their membership. We only have a tiny handful who have yet to renew, so this is a little reminder to those of you who have still to take the plunge.

Many Thanks - **Michael Heyden**

## **French Conversation**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** - Our favourite French writer or poet

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May** - If you could get all your family members to donate to a charity, what would it be and why?

**Graham Carey**

## **Lunch Club**

From May 17<sup>th</sup> we are able to sit indoors for a meal. I'm looking for somewhere with outside seating too if the weather is warm. If anyone has any suggestions it would be appreciated. Once I've found a location it will be in the Newsletter.

**Tracy Penfound**

## **Scrabble**

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

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

The next zoom get together will take place on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**.

To join us please contact:

**Graham Pestrige**

## **Discussion Group**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30**, When we shall be discussing the topic 'Is there any possibility of Britain becoming a Republic in the near future?' **Michael Heyden**

## **Coffee and Chat**

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

**Tracy Penfound**

## **Weekly Zoom Quiz**

Weekly quiz is continuing each Monday on zoom until further notice. Next one, tomorrow **3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.00pm**. To take part please contact **Graham Carey**

## Literature Group

During all the lockdowns our Group has continued to flourish. Although we could not meet up we have kept in regular contact through emails and phone conversations. Dawlish Library has kindly ensured we have received our chosen monthly books, enabling us to jointly review and share our personal opinions of them. We did hold an informal gathering on the Lawn mid April, however, 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 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. **Jean Gitsham**

## Swimming

Cofton Leisure Centre is now open for limited numbers. Booking is essential. I do not, however, propose to officially begin Tuesday afternoon swimming until after 17<sup>th</sup> May, and only then if I am happy that, as a vulnerable group, it is safe for us to do so. They are well organised and I am confident that once we begin all will be well.

**Barbara Warburton**

## Our Last Talk on Zoom (Hopefully)

### A Picture of Waste in Devon

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

Bobby has a degree in Environmental Science and has worked as a Waste Management Officer for a number of Devon Local Authorities over the past 25 years. She has always championed the importance of education and community engagement and as a result has developed the Devon Waste Education Programme (<https://zone.recycledevon.org/>) and the Community Action Group (CAG) Devon Project (<https://cagdevon.org.uk/>)

Lucy and Bobby form part of the Recycle Devon team at Devon County Council. They love to talk to community groups and help people understand what happens to their rubbish and recycling in Devon and how they can reduce their waste.

Lucy is a trained teacher and environmental educator, working mainly on creating educational materials for teachers, parents and students to learn about recycling and sustainability. During lockdown she helped set up Bradninch Community Food Shed in the town where she lives, which distributes waste food from supermarkets to people in the local community.

## Answers to Last Weeks Quiz -

### ADVERTISING SLOGANS

1. The power of dreams? - **HONDA**
2. Don't leave home without it? -  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS**
3. Buy it – sell it – love it? - **E BAY**
4. Just do it? - **NIKE**
5. Good things come to those who wait?  
- **GUINNESS**

6. A diamond is for ever? - **DE BEERS**
7. Advancement through Technology? -  
**AUDI**

8. I'm lovin' it? - **MCDONALD**
9. Because I'm worth it? - **L'OREAL**
10. Loves the jobs you hate? - **MR MUSCLE**

### RADIO

1. Desert Island Discs has had 5 presenters since it began in 1942. Who are they? - **ROY PLOMLEY, MICHAEL PARKINSON, SUE LAWLEY, KIRSTY YOUNG AND LAUREN LAVERNE**
2. Which Radio comedy had a man who lived at 23, Railway Cuttings, East Cheam? - **HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR**
3. What is the name of the Radio 2 pop quiz hosted by Ken Bruce each weekday morning? - **POP MASTER**
4. Who was the first presenter of the Radio 1 Breakfast show? - **TONY BLACKBURN**
5. Which of the stars of the goon show voiced the characters of Eccles and Count Moriarty? - **SPIKE MILLIGAN**
6. Which Radio station began first, Caroline or Luxembourg? -  
**LUXEMBOURG**
7. Which company made the first successful transatlantic radio transmissions in 1921? - **MARCONI**
8. In 1922 the UK government introduced a Radio licence. How much did it cost? - **10 SHILLINGS**
9. The radio presenter Brian Matthews died in January 2017, which programme on BBC Radio 2 had he presented for 27 years? - **SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES**
10. Who joined the team on Radio 4's "Today" programme in 2015 after

stepping down as the BBC's political editor? - **NICK ROBINSON**

## Answers Next Week

### This Week's Quiz

#### CRYPTIC TOWNS AND CITIES ALL IN THE UK

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

### Future D&D U3A Newsletters

As we begin to go back to normal, our newsletter will once again be issued monthly with news and dates of all our groups, new groups and any other u3a news.

Our first monthly newsletter of 2021 will be out on **Sunday 16th May**, (we will still have weekly ones until then). I plan that all future monthly newsletters will be circulated on the **first Monday of every month** but because I am on holiday the first Monday of June, the newsletter will be circulated on **Monday 14th June** and then **Monday 5th July, Monday 2nd August.....**

## Natural History in Lockdown

I receive Nature Trek's monthly emails of exciting local ventures; but when I read on my heart sinks. Invariably these offerings require walks of up to 7 miles. Nowadays, health limitations severely limit my walking and Natural History study since the advent of Covid has been confined to what I can observe from the hot tub in my small courtyard, or principally from my west facing sun lounge window. However, perhaps there is virtue in more detailed study of the minute. Last year a pair of Wood Pigeons nested in the cherry tree that overhangs my small courtyard, that I pictured in a recent edition of the u3a Newsletter, Sadly, for the pigeons, the magpies found the nest and ate either the eggs or the squabs. They haven't nested there again this year; but yesterday morning a magpie was attacking something in the same tree.

Yesterday evening I watched a Carrion Crow perched on the highest branch of Large Leaved Lime, about 40m high, in the grounds of Bridge House, about 120m from me. Normally 2 or 3 Wood pigeons occupy this tree; but no other birds approached it whilst the crow maintained a silent vigil across the woods along Dawlish Water.

He (presumed) didn't move for over an hour except on 2 brief occasions he was joined by his mate, who, presumably was incubating eggs somewhere to the north west

Members of the Corvidae, like crows and magpies, are amongst the most intelligent birds; but, perhaps because they are omnivores, are unfavourably regarded by humanity, with different mores. (Every year during my childhood in the Yorkshire countryside, the local people engaged on shooting all the birds in the local rookery. The practice is now illegal; and, in fact, had negligible effect on the rook population, whose numbers were limited by starvation and dearth of leatherjackets during arid summer months.)

We tend to believe that the largely vegetarian Columbae (Doves) are peaceable — the very symbol of Peace. The local Wood Pigeons often roost on the top of the Lime tree and on the neighbour's chimneys; and I've seen



Herring Gulls chase them off the chimneys. Throughout yesterday evening, whilst the crow maintained his vigil, the local Pigeons were very agitated, active, in a Copper Beech about 100m south and making swift flights either side of the Lime tree. They might just have been recognising a predator, or possible had nests in the area. At 47cm the crow is a bigger bird than the Wood Pigeon's 41cm; but, at full growth the latter is 600gm, of the crow's 520gm. Once yesterday evening a Wood Pigeon did make a frontal assault on the crow, something I thought was totally uncharacteristic. The crow stood his ground and simply raised his awesome beak. The Pigeon flew past, landed on an adjacent chimney, turned round to watch the crow, before returning to the Copper Beech.

This morning the crow's repeated call woke me at 6 AM; but when I drew the curtains 2 Pigeons were roosting in the Lime tree, the crow nowhere in sight. There was also a male blackbird. The crow had returned to his vantage point and there were 4 pigeons in a Liquidambar tree about 120m to the north east. I couldn't hear the blackbird because of the distance and my window was shut; but he was tail flicking and obviously upset by the crow's presence. (I suspect he may be the bolder of 2 male blackbirds that frequent my garden; and the one of them who will watch me from as close as 2m whilst drinking from one of the plant feeders.) Suddenly the crow flew down and chased all the pigeons away. The crow hasn't returned; but the pigeons did and have been

feeding on the embryonic fruits of a cherry tree. Since this slender tree tops the Liquidambar trees by a couple of metres I guess it may be A Rum Cherry, Prunus, Serotina, an ornamental species, like the Liquidambar, that would accord with the planting at Bridge House.

My knowledge of botany is meagre, so I apologise if I have mistaken any of the species; but most deciduous trees are not yet in leaf, and identification at a distance is difficult.

**George Lipscomb**