



Dawlish

and District U3A

Newsletter

July 2021

Our next Members Meeting
Monday 19th July at 2pm
Dawlish Town Council Offices,
the Manor House

Speaker: Lynne McVernon, 'Making it all up....'

Making plans in a pandemic is like building a house on shifting sands. Despite the uncertainty, u3a members are determined to do all they can to continue or revive our wide range of activities. With Anne Whitehead's encouragement, enthusiasm and practical support, an impressive number of interest groups are emerging from lock down and in many cases finding ways to meet face to face, indoors or out. You can find out more about what is going on in the month ahead in this newsletter.

In this spirit, the Committee is keen to resume monthly meetings in person in July. The date in everyone's calendar is the third Monday of the month, **19th July**. You will immediately notice that this is the day we are all hoping will be the one when the country will have restrictions substantially lifted. However, we are not able to guarantee that this will be the case so we have made plans on the basis that things will be as they are now.

Having looked at many options, we have decided to change from our

traditional venue in the Methodist Church Hall, and hold our July meeting in the Manor House. We are confident that the room we have booked (Rooms 4a and 4b for those who are familiar with the building) will prove to be a safe venue which will also be good for access, parking, comfort and all the facilities we need for a successful meeting.

We have invited Lynne McVernon to speak to us. The title of her talk is intriguing: 'Making it all up....' She will be talking about her experiences in British professional theatre across 25 years, from sweeping the stage to directing and writing, from being a Butlins Rep to working in The National Theatre, the dramas that became crises, famous names from film, TV, theatre and music, the good times and the bad - but mostly the good - and some of the personalities she has met and worked with in that time. Lynne's talk should be a great way to relaunch our monthly meetings.

I warmly welcome all our members to meet together again and enjoy a very social afternoon. If you have any questions about the arrangements I have described, please do contact me on enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info. If any regulations change to affect our plans, we will certainly let you know.

John Vick
Chair, Dawlish and District u3a

www.u3a.dawlish.info

Save the date!

18th September 2021 - 10am to 3pm at the Strand Centre, Dawlish

Members of Dawlish and District u3a are planning an exciting Open Day later this year.

The event will enable existing members to reconnect with each other and encourage new members to join.

The Open Day will showcase the wide range of activities available to u3a members. It will provide an opportunity for all of us to find out more about these and to join new groups.

So please, put the date in your diary and keep it free for what is sure to be the social highlight of the season!

Any questions? Watch our website and newsletter for further information, contact the Open Day team via enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info or ask us in person: Steve Angove; Kate McCarthy; Miggie Pickton; John Vick; Anne Whitehead

Bookworms

JULY 29th - Hopefully, we should be able to meet in person this month, for our first, celebratory meeting.

The book for this month will be 'The Whistling Season', by Ivan Doig. It has been described as a 'heart warming story' set in the 20th century in Montana, and it is another coming of age description of 3 boys, growing up without their Mother, and the struggles of their Father to cope, with the help of an amazing housekeeper! The story has some very unexpected twists, and the references to a passing way of life are poignant. It really is an enriching book, and one that many state they are sad to finish.

Jenny Pestridge To contact Jenny email: enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info

Membership Renewals

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership subscription. The few of you who chose not to renew this year will be removed from our contacts list and will no longer receive our Newsletter. Hopefully we will eventually be able to entice you back. If this was purely an oversight on your behalf it is not too late to renew your membership via our website.

Kate McCarthy

Craft Group and Singing For

Health

We need to get together to discuss the format of the groups and possible days and times. Can you let me know if you'd like to attend the planning meetings please so we can organise times and venues.

Anne Whitehead

Phone 01626 867 001, mobile 07786 693 849 annewhitehead63@yahoo.com

Strollers

Dawlish & District U3A Strollers walk will be on **Thursday July 8th**

We are catching the number 22 Paignton Bus at 1.17 from Dawlish and 1.32pm from Teignmouth. The plan is to get off the bus at Babbacombe and walk along Bishops Walk ie coastal woodland walk to Illsham Marine Drive then back to Wellswood for refreshments and bus back to Teignmouth at 40 minutes past the hour.

Jean Gitsham

Weekly Zoom Quiz

For your zoom link please contact:

Graham Carey at

enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info

Theatre Group

As this is a new group we are still finding our way but we had a successful informal meeting on Tuesday 15th June on the Lawn with 12 members in attendance and a further two who had sent their apologies. It was reassuring we all seemed to have the same ideas for the group which would include visits to Theatre, Musicals, Opera, One Man shows, Talks to name but a few. We would like to see performances by both professional and amateurs. The highlight of the year could be the possibility of a trip to London to see a show and an overnight stay. It was accepted that not everyone would be able to stay away overnight but we seemed to have discussed and agreed opportunities for everyone. We all agreed to share ideas and experiences, some would be interested in visiting back stage, try our hand at script reading and we also welcomed the idea of having occasional local Speakers from a Theatrical background. Our first event as a group would be a trip to the Shaftsbury Theatre in Dawlish which is due to perform Stage Struck in August with performances for both those who want to continue Social Distancing and those who choose to not Socially Distance. Hopefully this will be the only event where we will be split as a group.

Our monthly meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month and will be at the Strand, the first meeting will be on the **5th August from 2pm until 4pm** where amongst other topics, we will be discussing Stage Struck prior to attending the play.

Kate McCarthy & Margaret Cunningham

Badminton

Details of a start date will be included in next month's newsletter. Get those rackets out.

Patricia Angove

French Conversation Group

On the 17th June it was a pleasure to welcome Jil Dobson to the group and hear what everyone would place on their bucket list. A variety of things were listed:

Visiting locations in both the UK and abroad; renewing contacts with friends in France and Japan.

Riding in a helicopter

Seeing family (one of the members has her Mum who is 99 living in France and has not seen her for 3 years)

Swimming with a dolphin in Cuba

Seeing the Northern lights

Visiting the Minack Theatre

Writing up on both personal and family history

Attending a football match at the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

This was the last meeting that Graham Carey was convening and his place is taken over jointly by Bridie Cushion and Jill Dixon.

Graham Carey

Boules Group

We shall be meeting by the bandstand on the Lawn for a game on **Wednesday 28th July** and **Friday 13th August at 10.30 a.m.** If you suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobia you're excused from attending on the Friday. Otherwise, new members are welcome, please contact me with any queries. **Michael Heyden**, heydenmichael@yahoo.co.uk.

The next Dawlish & District Newsletter will be sent out on **Monday 2nd August** so copy for the newsletter should be with me by **30th July**.

Please send any group news (don't forget to include the date of your next group meeting), views or anything of interest to the membership.

Patricia Angove, email:

patricia.angove@btinternet.com

Literature Group

Although the Literature Group has continued during the lockdowns either through Social Media or meeting outside to discuss our Monthly books, we held our first proper official meeting on Friday 18th June at a Member's house. This was an extra special gathering not only because it felt like normality, but also because one of our members had got married a few weeks earlier and she had brought her new husband to join the group. So after discussing the last 2 books, we celebrated in style with a little garden party. What a lovely day, enjoyed by everyone.

The last 2 books we had read were completely different, although the theme of both were strongly influenced by family loyalties or the lack of them.

The first was called *The Green Road* written by Anne Enright. It is set on the West Coast of Ireland and is a story of fracture and family, selfishness and compassion. After many years from leaving home and travelling the world, all the children of Rosaleen Madigan reunite one Christmas with their mother. The result having consequences which highlighted their relationships or the lack of them, and how they attempt to resolve their differences. We had a very mixed response from the group which led to a lively debate.

The second book was called *All The Light We Cannot See* written by Anthony Doerr. This was better received although there were still some different responses from people. However it was agreed that it was extremely powerful and we enjoyed a really good discussion. It is set in World War 2, and is a story about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France, and is a tale of survival and determination. It highlights the tragedy and brutality of war on innocent

bystanders who are caught up in its force but still manage to follow their own paths.

The book won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Our current book is *The Shipping News* written by Annie Proulx. This also was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and was adapted as a film starring Kevin Spacey and Judi Dench together with many other celebrated actors. We are looking forward to reading this book, which will be discussed at our next meeting in July.

Margaret Cunningham

Discussion Group

The group met on Monday 14th June on the Lawn to discuss *Social Care*. We talked about what constitutes social care, the differences between social and health care and other connected matters. In general we felt that the current system of different funding streams and responsibility for health and social care was not acceptable, since they were so closely linked that each was affected by changes in the other.

It was generally accepted that each was currently underfunded, and that both needed to be paid for from the same taxation/insurance pool. We recognised that this would involve a new acceptance of provision of services by the state accompanied by reform of the taxation system, and no one was optimistic about changes being made in the short term.

Having suffered hypothermia (April) and heavy rain (May) the meeting ended with the participants in danger of dehydration and sunstroke. What will July bring, I wonder?

Michael Heyden

Stand on the Strand

Come and meet some of our committee members who will be manning a Dawlish & District u3a stand outside the Strand on **Wednesday 14th July and Thursday 4th August - 10.00am to 3.00pm.**

Natural History Group

On Tuesday, 22nd June, 7 members, including 3 new members of the Natural History Group gathered in the Newhay to be led by Kerry Sherwin on a walk around the Newhay. (See inset photo) Kerry was a medical herbalist for 20 years before she retired, so the walk was a fascinating introduction into the uses of some common wild plants.

We began with Hemlock and learned how distinguish it from the more abundant Cow Parsley — vitally important considering that Hemlock is deadly poisonous.

More beneficially we learned of the several benefits of Nettles and Cleavers, how the Elderflower & berries were revered by the gypsies: used for Hay Fever, amongst other uses.

Yarrow (Achillea) was used as an astringent to stop and disinfect wounds, and promote healing. Plantain leaf could be used as a wound dressing; and Burdock could be used as a cleanser of liver and bowel. Herb Robert contained tannin which was useful to stop inflammation of the mucous membrane, sore throat, etc. Other medicinal uses could be derived from Ivy, Ground Ivy and Wood Avens

Finally, we retired for refreshments and to discuss the group's future programme. For this we were joined by Toby Sherwin who will lead our next meeting at **2 PM on Tuesday, 27th July**, at 8, Badlake Hill, on Sea Shells. BYOS for expert identification

George Lipscomb



A Boules Poem

I've moved to Dawlish, got away,
from the hustle and bustle of a distant day
The u3a has been a good cheer,
new welcoming friends through this strange
year.

I've learnt to Zoom for speaker's talks,
chats on the Lawn and lovely walks.
The boules is fun but you need the knack
to throw your boule close to the jack.

My first game, not against the rule,
I went and hit the Chairman's boule!
from right beside the jack it shot away,
just as it could have won the day!

Good luck, pure fluke, I must say
I've only done it on that day!
Now months of practice I must do
I really do not have a clue!

Next time we met on
Dawlish green
we had been spotted
by eyes unseen,
The jack was thrown
high in the sky
shock, shock, a
seagull caught it and
away did fly!

He dropped it once
but dived, took it
again,
I flapped my arms, oh
what a pain
These birds have
become much too
tame.
The jack fell down,
the naughty seagull
gave up his game.

So join us for some
fun on Boules day
We hope the gulls
and flukes will stay

away. Let's have a good game, with no bad
luck like losing the jack in Dawlish Brook !

u3a Boules - 2nd Friday of the month
and 4th Wednesday of the month (check
website for confirmation)

Michael, our organiser, always lets us know if
it is rained off.

Susan (Phillips)