



**FOR ALL THE NASTY STORMS, SPRING IS COMING!**



### From the Chair

#### **Timing of future Monthly Meetings: 3.15pm in the Council Chamber, The Manor House.**

As you may recall, in February we began our monthly meeting slightly later than usual at 3.15pm in the Council Chamber of the Manor House. This experiment was led by our need to have a room which offered a better environment for a visual presentation. It proved to be a considerable success.

We were all able to see the slides clearly, sit with more generous spacing, and the recent efforts to improve the acoustics in the Chamber seemed to be substantially successful. We had a very good attendance (over 50) and all those present indicated that they would be happy for this to become our regular meeting time and place. I will obviously need to consult all the visiting speakers who have agreed to come in the months ahead, but providing that they are all happy with this later start, we will make this change permanent.

Please be aware that the Council Chamber is booked by another organisation earlier in the afternoon, so we are asked not to arrive before 3.15pm with a starting time of 3.30pm. The reason why the Chamber was not in use on 21<sup>st</sup> February was that the earlier booking had to be cancelled because of Covid. This will not be the case in future.

At our next meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we will welcome – after a postponement of about two years! – Derek Gore. Many of you will have heard Derek speak before. He is a Teaching Fellow at the University of Exeter and before that was for twelve years a part-time lecturer in archaeology. He specialises in the archaeology of the Viking Age in Europe and Scandinavia. His subject on this occasion will be 'The Vikings in the West Country'. I am looking forward to hearing his talk as his knowledge of this subject is encyclopaedic and always fascinating.



**John Vick**

### Quiz

**Culm Valley u3a are arranging a quiz for Devon u3a's to take part in. The details are on the website, [enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info) If you're interested, please contact Michael Heyden.**



Monthly meeting report:

### **Dawlish Life in Pictures 1865-1925**

At our February meeting, members filled the Council Chamber to enjoy a fascinating presentation by David Gearing of photographs showing aspects of life in Dawlish during the years 1865-1925. David is one of our members and also the Chair of the Dawlish Local History Group which is the custodian of an extensive archive of photographs. A sample of the rich resource this offers can be seen by following this link: [Dawlish Local History Group \(dawlishhistory.org.uk\)](http://Dawlish Local History Group (dawlishhistory.org.uk))

David selected 30 photographs from this period, beginning with the very earliest photograph in the archive. We saw images of the changing face of the Strand, the evolving construction and engineering works on the sea front, rough and ready roads in the town, the development of the railway line, the active fishing community at Boat Cove, pupils at the local school, the G&S Society, a remarkable number of children displaying their violins, the changing fashions and conventions about how people dressed over the years, and a fleeting visit by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII). What the pictures themselves intended to show us is interest enough, but it is often the unintended, accidental details of a photograph which are most intriguing. What exactly was that man doing playing a musical instrument in an empty street outside the hairdresser? Why does no-one seem to smile when they are being photographed? Why is there such a crowd gathered on the beach? (It seems they were there to watch a water polo match.). As we sat in the Council Chamber, we learned of the history of the contractor who built Early's Wall which gives access to Coryton Cove, who seems to have been unjustly driven into bankruptcy by the ill treatment from the Town Council.

David is currently working on the next phase of his presentation on Dawlish Life in Pictures, this time taking the history from 1925 to the 1960s. He will be showing this at the Local History Group AGM on 19th April. I am sure David would welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to join the Group to learn more about the often surprising story of our town and its people.

If you would like to see a small selection of the photographs David showed us, they can be found on our website [Monthly talk: David Gearing - Dawlish Life in Pictures 1865-1925 - Dawlish & District U3A](#)

**John Vick, Chair**

### **TEA & CHAT**

This was our second get together and the turnout was good despite the appalling weather conditions. Lively discussions and lots of laughter was had by all.

Our next Tea & Chat is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 2 – 4pm, at the Riverside. As it is St Patrick's Day, wearing something green is not obligatory but is encouraged.

All members are welcome.

**Kate McCarthy & Michael Heyden,**

**Conveners**



### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Once again we have come to that time of year when I will shortly be contacting you to remind you to renew your membership. The fee remains unchanged from the past couple of years. £15 for full membership and £10 for Associate (if you belong to another u3a). This year we will also be asking you to confirm on the renewal form whether as a tax payer you are willing to Gift Aid.

**Kate McCarthy,**  
**Membership Secretary**



## PAINTING AND DRAWING GROUP

We are a small group that started last November who like to paint and draw. By meeting a couple of times each month we can share our work and ideas with each other.

If you are interested in bringing something along with you that you can work on for a couple of hours then join our group, or come along for a trial session to see what you think. It doesn't matter if you have done a lot of painting or not, we meet to inspire each other and encourage creativity. Everyone is welcome.

Acrylic paint is popular as it dries quickly and is easy to transport, as are watercolours. Pastels, charcoal and pencils are all mediums to try if you would like a place to experiment with new ideas. Just bring your own materials and give them a go. A photograph or picture to work from can give you inspiration and can lead to ideas and designs of your own.

The room we meet in is bright, light and comfortable. 2nd and 3rd Mondays at 11am to 1pm in the Lounge Room at The Strand Hall, Dawlish. Entrance to the room is from the upper door on Lawn Hill.

**Kim Walker,  
Convener**



## LITERATURE GROUP

### ***The Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante***

This novel follows the adolescent and early teenage years of Giovanna, a girl born to comfortably - off academic parents in the well-heeled district of Naples. Written in the first person, we witness through her eyes an old family rift, unfaithfulness, her parents' divorce, her teenage rebellions, involvement with bad boys, her burgeoning sexuality, first love and the beginnings of her intellectual life.

The central mystery is her father's estrangement from his sister Vittoria who lives in the insalubrious part of Naples, overcrowded and hectic but warmer and livelier than Giovanna's home. We share her uncertainty about where the truth lies and her struggle with trying to discover the true story behind the strange symbolic bracelet gifted to her, seemingly, at birth by her aunt.

However, our reading group did not enjoy the book. Perhaps it lost something in translation from the Italian. A first person narration can be very effective but on this occasion it could possibly have benefitted from writing the story from the viewpoints of other characters, as in the Moonstone, our November read. We felt uninvolved with the family and found the ending unsatisfactory. We awarded the book only one point out of four.



**Liane Goulding, Convener**

## PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Storm Eunice and other commitments played havoc with our plans to meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. The three of us discussed a little about Beauty, but decided to leave it open for further meetings, as it sounded like a topic to which people could contribute from lots of angles and personal experiences and knowledge.

We shall try another Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> in March and hope more of us will join. As we did not have enough people to decide, the format next time will be loose, letting everyone contribute ideas for an interesting discussion. Please come with your pet theory and your philosophical or psychological concerns and we shall decide on the current and future topics.

**Dana Dima, Convener**

## CRAFT GROUP

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 1.30 – 3.30pm in room 6 at the Manor House. For the meeting in February members brought their current piece of work they were working on to show, which inspired other members to think about starting something.

A group of us are going to the "Craft for Crafters" at Westpoint Arena in Exeter on Saturday 26th March so if you fancy going but don't want to walk around on your own, let me know and we can arrange to meet there.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1.30 in room 6, The Manor. New members are always welcome.

**Kate McCarthy, Convener**



## GARDENS AND GATEAUX

**Coleton Fishacre, Friday 27th May, with a guided tour**

This trip still has some spare places. If you think you would like to join the Gardens and Gateaux group, just for this one trip, please contact, Barry Baker via [enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:enquiries@u3a.dawlish.info)

It will cost £24.35 for transport both ways, entrance to the gardens, and the guided tour. (*NT members £12.00*)

We will leave Dawlish at 10am and return around 3.30.

**Barry Baker, Convener**



## IN OUR OWN WRITE

Having cancelled our January meeting due to the upsurge in Covid our small, but perfectly formed, creative writing group met up on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

We had all prepared in advance an article/ short story based on a newspaper headline chosen at random. All were entertaining but Eileen's was outstanding and we felt that her short story of an old man nearing the end of his life, giving flashbacks to a tragedy in his youth, was very evocative and worthy of publication.

We discussed characterisation and decided to base our next project on "Stranded with a group of strangers" which should give us plenty of opportunity for character building.

Our next meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> March from 2-4 pm.

**Travina White, Convener**



## FRENCH CONVERSATION

The GROUP has reverted to zoom because of the recent rise in infections. A couple in our group don't like zoom but we also have some who are uncomfortable meeting indoors so we have zoomed! When things settle down we can review this. At first meeting this month we each talked about a favourite book or film or TV series. Offerings included "Hamnet", "Where the Crawdads sing, the film "Heat of the Night", the Richard Osmond book, "The Thursday Murder Club" and "Keeping up with the Aristocrats". At the second, the topic was "If you could go back and learn something that you now wish you had learned such as a sport, a skill or whatever what might it be?" Contributions included learning the piano or a musical instrument, training to sing, learning and speaking more languages, learning economics, learning how to ride a bike, to ski and DIY. it was rather sad to hear some of the regrets!

**Bridie Cushion, Convener**





## ART APPRECIATION

For the February meeting members were invited to choose any work of art on the theme of *Work and Industry* and talk about it for a few minutes. A very interesting variety of pictures and artists was selected, including Stanhope Forbes from the Newlyn Group, the Soviet artist Aleksandr Samolkhvalov, Jean-Francois Millet, Stanley Spencer, Edward Poynter, Ford Madox Brown and Laura Knight. We saw fishing, the building of the Moscow Metro, a munitions factory in WW2, backbreaking work in the fields by 19th century French women, Israelite slaves in Egypt, Irish navvies building the London sewers, shipyard workers on the Clyde and the furnaces at Coalbrookdale in the early days of the Industrial Revolution.

The March meeting will be at our new regular meeting date of the second Tuesday in the month at 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Mayor's Parlour of the Manor House. We have decided to have another 'themed' meeting when members are invited to select a work of art and talk about it for 5-10 minutes. The chosen theme is 'Food'. This can be interpreted as broadly as members like, and may include still life, cooking, eating, food production etc, and come from any period and medium.

If you would like to know more about the Art Appreciation Group, and perhaps have a taster session, please get in touch with Lynne Vick by emailing [enquiries@u3a.dawlish.org](mailto:enquiries@u3a.dawlish.org).

**Lynne Vick, Convener**



## THEATRE

This month a group of us is going to see "I Elizabeth" at the Pavilions Teignmouth, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm and "Mary Rose", again at the Pavilions Teignmouth on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Anyone who wants to join us, buy your ticket and let me know so that we can meet up before the performances.

Shaftsbury are advertising "TWO" and we are going to see this performance on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Why not treat yourself to a ticket and join us? We will meet at the bar at 7pm.

Our next Theatre Group meeting will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 4pm in Room 4a at the Manor. If there are any productions you fancy going to but want company, let me know and I can share it with members in the Group.

**Kate McCarthy, Convener**



*Have a wonderful, instructive and enjoyable spring!*