



Dawlish & District u3a

Newsletter February 2023

FROM THE CHAIR

Cyber Security

I am grateful to Kate McCarthy for making these very useful notes from the presentation on Cyber Crime at the January meeting.

Steve Shepherd the Cyber Crime Protect Officer for Devon and Cornwall Police spoke to a very well-attended meeting, an indication of how significant this topic is for us all. Steve gave members some key 'take home' messages:

ALWAYS BE CURIOUS!

- Nothing is free
- Never click on links/attachments if you are unsure of the sender
- Even if it looks authentic - check grammar and spelling to see if there is anything which is not quite right
- Note the salutation. "Dear Customer" from your bank/provider/HMRC will be a scam as they will always use your proper title and name
- Ask yourself whether the sender purporting to be genuine would have your email address?
- Let your cursor hover over the sender's email address

PASSWORDS

- Make it as hard as you can make it. How easy are yours to crack? Date of birth, the same password each time with slight changes, these are all too easy for a hacker.
- Never use the same password.
- A seven-letter password will take one second to crack but a password with 12 or more characters takes 200 years to crack.
- TIP: Use three random words i.e.: looking around the room windowwallchair add a number/?/! in the password.
- If you prefer, keep an old-fashioned book to write down your passwords.
- Turn on two step verification - most banks have introduced this already for online banking.
- Back up your important information.
- Always keep your devices updated.

If you think you may have been compromised, don't hesitate, contact your bank immediately.

If you do have concerns, here are some useful addresses:

- actionfraud.police.uk
- if you do not have access to the internet, you can contact Action Fraud on 03001232040.
- report@phishing.gov.uk
- If you receive a text you are unsure of, you can forward it to 7726

Finally, by reporting fraud and cybercrime, you will enable law enforcement to understand how these criminals operate and help catch them.



Devon u3a Quiz Championships

I am pleased to say that there are plans to resume the Devon u3a Quiz Competition. It is being organised by the Ivybridge u3a. It will take place from 2-4.30pm on Wednesday 15th February at Bittaford Village Hall. We will be able to enter two teams of four members. The entry charge is £10 per team to include refreshments.

The first part will consist of 40 questions on a variety of subjects, followed by answers. At 3pm we will break for refreshment, after which we will have a further 40 questions followed by answers. There will also be a Picture Tabletop Quiz which will be on teams' tables throughout to do at each team's leisure.

Unfortunately, our regular Quiz Master, Graham Carey cannot take part on that day, so I am happy to coordinate our entry. If you would like to take part, please get in touch with me by emailing me on chairman@u3a.dawlish.info by Monday 6th February. I am sure we can put in at least one team which will be able to put on a good show. It should be good fun.

John Vick, Chair

Monthly Meeting, 3.45pm on Monday 21st February 2023

Kerry Sherwin, 'Prison Visiting - an Inside Story'

There is a change of speaker for our February meeting. Unfortunately, Chris Hanvey who was going to speak to us about the Samaritans, is not able to be with us as he is unwell. I am pleased to say that we have 'one of our own' to speak instead. Kerry

Sherwin will be speaking to us about her experience of being a prison visitor. This is an area of life about which I know almost nothing, so I am looking forward to learning more from her 'Inside Story'. It is sure to be fascinating, and an important subject which we ought to know more about. I hope you will wish to come along to find out more.

John Vick, Chair

DISCUSSION GROUP



The Discussion Group met at the Manor House on Monday 9th January, and prompted by the fact that Dawlish is a 'Fair Trade town' we talked about the Fair Trade movement.

The u3a had had a talk about this back in 2019, but bearing in mind that some members' memories are no longer what they were (the convener being unsure what he'd had for breakfast), we thought we'd look at the subject with fresh and unprejudiced eyes.

The Fair Trade Towns International organisation sets out five goals for certificating communities, of which there are over 600 in the UK. They aim to ensure on the one hand that communities promote Fair Trade products, and on the other that the workers, farmers and cooperatives gain certification, avoid exploitation and get paid a sustainable and guaranteed price for their products. There are over 6000 Fair Trade items and along with the well-known ones such as tea and coffee, we were surprised to find wine and gold on the list. Two million farmers in over 70 countries are said to benefit.

In principle, we all agreed that the aim was admirable but had some reservations about how matters might be put into practice at both ends. It was probably fairly easy for a community in the first flush of enthusiasm to

get support to gain certification. A local steering group should be in place to ensure continuing compliance, but how effective this might be was queried.

Margaret spoke eloquently of her personal experiences in Columbia of meeting Fair Trade coffee farmers and felt that the system made a real difference. Others expressed concern over any pressure there might be in the chain between farmer and retailer to keep prices low. Green beans attracted a lot of attention, and some were worried that the Fair Trade organisation might prioritise the production of crops for first world markets over the needs of local areas. Fair Trade flowers are apparently grown in Ethiopia, where food for the population appears to be always in short supply.

There seems to be a lack of promotion of the provision and sale of Fair Trade products, certainly locally, although Margaret spoke approvingly of a town in Lancashire where this seemed much more prevalent.

It was an entertaining debate throughout, and we decided next time on Monday, 13th February, to discuss strikes and protests, both the subject of government concern and possibly legislation at present. Providing the convener can remember, and hasn't gone on strike.

Michael Heyden, Convener

In December, **ADVENTURE** group members had a go at line dancing and in January and February we're trying out tobogganing at the Snowsports centre in Plymouth. We are definitely the group that is up for anything!

If you would like a say in what we do next, the group will be meeting on February 17th to decide our next few adventures.

Full information is available here: <https://u3a.dawlish.info/adventure-group-meeting-17th-february-2023>

The meeting is open to all current and potential group members. Please let me know via adventure@u3a.dawlish.info if you'd like to come along.

To find out more about the Adventure group just check us out on the Dawlish & District u3a website.

Miggie Pickton, Convener

TEA AND CHAT

We meet in the Riverside Centre next to the Manor House, on the first Thursday of the month from 2-4pm all welcome. Come along for a friendly chat or if you fancy a board game, bring one along. Most Committee members are present and as many Conveners as possible. New members and those thinking about joining are strongly encouraged to come along to talk to

Conveners and group members about any interest group they may be interested in trying. No need to book a place, just turn up on the day. Next Tea and Chat is on Thursday 2nd February.

Kate McCarthy & Michael Heyden, Conveners



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHESS?

As a spinoff of the Games Group, there will be a dedicated Chess table at all Tea & Chat meetings until further notice.

One pair of players will have the use of the group's Chess set, but you are encouraged to also bring along your own set, to allow further games to be played simultaneously.

There are no additional costs for any of the activities at Tea & Chat meetings, just the £1 to cover room hire. That also includes as much Tea, Coffee & Biscuits as you like.

Chess is also played at several venues across Dawlish and Teignmouth unrelated to the u3a, but regular players would be happy to point you in the right direction if you want to play more.



THE ACTUAL GAMES GROUP

There is no need to join the Games Group to play anything at the Tea & Chat meetings, just come along and join in. Players turn up with whatever games they may have and everyone is welcome to have a go at

something new or just play whatever is on offer.

If you do join the Games group, you will be asked to share your contact details with other members to allow for various games to be arranged between group members. You can do this at any venue of your choosing, at any time that that is suitable to those playing. You can challenge one other member to a game or put out an open invitation to all group members. All the pubs and cafes in Dawlish can be your oyster.

Personally, as well as the Tea & Chat meetings, I often play at the Methodist Church on Brunswick Place, and the Swan Pub, but I'm not ruling out a table on the lawns next summer.

Barry Baker

(The not very good at Chess) Games Group Coordinator



STROLLERS

Firstly many thanks to the four Strollers who braved the somewhat damp weather to join me for our January downhill stroll into

Teignmouth 😞 😞 ...The walk was shortened due to increasing rain so we headed to a

warm cafe for early refreshments instead 🙌

Our next D&D u3a Strollers walk is on Thursday 9th Feb. Linda has kindly offered to help lead it...it's a Dawlish route we've not done before. We'll be walking around the Dawlish Water area with a visit to Dawlish

Cemetery on the way 🙌

From Teignmouth catch the number 22 Dawlish Warren bus at 12.21pm from the stop by WH Smith or from Dawlish catch the number 2 Newton Abbot bus at 12.32pm from the stop by the station.

We'll meet up to start our walk at the junction of Coronation Avenue and the main Dawlish/Teignmouth road i.e. at the top of

the hill leading down into Dawlish.

Our walk will take us along Coronation Avenue, then a detour through Dawlish cemetery and on to St Gregory's churchyard where some walkers may choose to join us ...we'll then do a circular walk of Dawlish Water. I am led to believe it's not too steep

😞 ...walk will then end at our cafe

refreshment stop in Dawlish ...so 🙌 hopefully the weather will be ok for our Feb

9th D&D U3A Strollers walk 😊

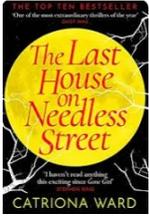
Btw I have 33 listed Strollers, including two new ones who we will hopefully meet in February; however, around another ten on the list have yet to join our Strollers walks



Jean Gitsham, Convener



LITERATURE



The Last House on Needless Street by Catriona Ward

It could be loosely described as contemporary horror but there is much more than that in this novel. It is based on the mysterious disappearance of a six-year-old girl eleven years ago and is multi-layered, told through the main characters, all of whom are vividly drawn. The ultimate twist, though guessed by two group members, came as a such a surprise that several of us felt compelled to re-read the book in order to re-examine all the clues that we puzzled over on the first reading.

The book contains very distressing details

of abuse, too much for one of us, but these were not considered gratuitous. In fact, the plot would not have made sense without them. There is compassion at the heart of what would have otherwise been merely another exploitative Gothic horror novel based on a similar theme. There is no sense of distasteful relish in the descriptions of the suffering endured and extensive research went into this sympathetic and well-written book. What seems bizarre and confusing is resolved for the reader and we were left with a feeling of sadness and pity. We awarded *The Last House on Needless Street* 4/5



PAGE TURNERS



To damn with faint praise, no one really disliked our January 'page turner' *The Birdcage* by Eve Chase. One member did not finish the book as she had something more engrossing to read and one said she enjoyed it. The general feeling in the group was that the thin story was too drawn out, long-winded, tedious, repetitive and frustrating in that hints and clues were dropped but then cut off abruptly. Also frustrating for one member was that people did not talk to each other, although she did rather like the characters: three half-sisters drawn back to their grandparents' home in Cornwall by their louche artist father twenty

years after a terrible unnamed event on the day of the eclipse when a fourth girl, who was later revealed to be another half-sister, was also present. The location of the large Victorian villa on the North Cornwall coast was thought engaging and well described, but the characters were in general found to be more caricatures or representative types and insufficiently interesting to care about, relate to or engage with. There was some tension and jeopardy in the story, and there was an interesting narrative device in the use of the first person for the chapters looking back in time, but no one was surprised by the eventual revelations.

**Natalie Brophy,
on behalf of the Page Turners**



GREAT LIVES

The Great Lives group meets at the Manor House on the 4th Friday of the month. Nine members attended our January meeting and Charlotte talked to us about the Victorian artist William Powell Frith (1819-1909) who has been described as the "greatest British Painter of the social scene since Hogarth". His works can be seen in many major art galleries, including the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.



Frith had originally intended to become an auctioneer but was encouraged to take up Art by his father. As well as describing his upbringing and career, Charlotte also talked

us through two of his best-known large paintings, "Derby Day" and "Paddington Station" which so well depict how life was in the Victorian Era for people from all walks of life. The subject matter was made even more interesting when Charlotte told us, part-way through the talk, her reason for choosing William Powell Frith: he was in fact her great-great-grandfather. His second daughter, Ellen Panton (1847-1923), Charlotte's great-grandmother, was a journalist and author of domestic issues. She also wrote an autobiography, which gives more insight into the family's life.

Jill Maynard, Convener

The **BOULES** group continue to meet in the Stand Hall twice a month to play our own version of indoor boules during the winter. There's no skill required, but an ability to

laugh at other people making a fool of themselves is essential.

Michael Heyden, Convener



FRENCH

We met only once in January, as the icy roads were a bit of a worry so we'll save the topic "Do you like surprises?" for the next meeting on 2nd February. At the earlier gathering in January we covered a range of topics...the inevitable New Year's resolutions, the strikes, the honours list and we then heard from Trevor about cheap train deals. Very useful! Annie added to this with her experience of the time you actually travel. She saved more than half by travelling half an hour later. Quite a few people didn't and don't make resolutions as they know they won't keep them! However, we had the usual

ones mentioned...do more exercise, drink more water and less alcohol and travel somewhere plus learn something new like chess and flower arranging. We had a slight moan about the honours list and Lynne clarified the meanings of the different honours: MBE - local role, OBE - major local role, CBE - regional role. I can't remember what we said about strikes. I think most were supportive. There's no money tree but there's a lot of people ..a lot more than there were...who are extremely rich. There's a huge imbalance and maybe taxes should be raised?

Bridie Cushion, Convener

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



At our January meeting, Keith Feltham gave a presentation on Paul Klee who was born in Switzerland in 1879. We learned that he was from a musical family, and showed musical talent from an early age but against the wishes of his parents decided to pursue a career in art.

Surprisingly, although he is noted for his sensitive use of colour, his early works were in black and white in the form of drawings, etchings and even glass paintings. He settled in Germany and exhibited work in Munich and Berlin. He is often associated with the expressionist group, Der Blaue Reiter, with whom he exhibited in 1912. Cezanne, Picasso, Braque, Delaunay, Kandinsky and Marc were influences on Klee's work.

It was not until he visited Tunis in 1914 that he was inspired to work in colour. Keith showed us a range of Klee's paintings which illustrated a number of different styles. His

travels in Tunis resulted in abstract works which suggest the architecture of the area, with geometric shapes in glowing colours. In some works, the shapes are based on letters of the alphabet. In others, he introduces quirky, humorous caricatures on a background patchwork of subtle colours. Many of his works were on a very small scale but his output was prolific, and he was hugely successful both in Europe and the United States, and taught at the Bauhaus between the wars. Having been denounced by the Nazis in 1933, Klee was forced to move back to Switzerland where he died in 1940.

Our thanks go to Keith for sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge of Klee's work with the group.

Our next meeting will be in the Manor House at 2pm on Tuesday 14th February when Michael Heyden will give a presentation on the British artist, Walter Sickert.

Lynne Vick, Convener



ART AND CRAFT



Due to the increase in numbers, we are moving to a larger room at the Manor House. There are slight changes to start times until we can have a regular booking. We will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month in room 4b but contact me if you plan on coming so that I can add you to

the circulation list. Interested in joining us? Just come along to the next meeting which will be on Wednesday 1st February at the later time of 2pm. Kim will be bringing some art supplies for anyone who wishes to have a go at painting/sketching a still life.

Kate McCarthy & Kim Walker, Conveners

FROM THE QUIZ GROUP



The group started off the New Year with a quiz on 9th January. From the feedback it was evident that everyone had sobered up from the New Year parties as the Remember 2022 round was the best score. The other rounds focused on How old are they?, Crosses, Lloyds, General Knowledge and the hot topic of Unions.

The group members found it so hard to discern the age of the ten people I mentioned, and would you have guessed the age of Brian May from Queen or the actor Colin Firth? From the other subjects, would you have correctly answered how many underground lines go through King's Cross station or in which city Lloyds Bank was founded?

Our second quiz was held on the 23rd and we tackled questions on Gardens, Aunts and

Uncles, First names, Sport 1 to 10, General Knowledge and A Fox hunt.

Being such an athletic group, it was no wonder the Sport round gained the most points. However, the worst round for everyone was the first names subject. Would you have known Bear Grylls' real first name and also that of Noddy Holder from Slade? Or how about Buzz Aldrin?

Those of you who are keen gardeners may know which King brought the fashion for long straight canals in gardens to England. When it came to Uncles and Aunties we mentioned the Who's rock opera 'Tommy'. So who was the wicked Uncle? The fox hunt included the gem of a quote from? ..'Fox hunting is the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable'. The next quizzes will be on the 6th and 27th February. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Graham Carey, Convener

NATURAL HISTORY

For a variety of reasons, only five of us were available for the first monthly group meeting of 2023. It was nevertheless, I felt, a stimulating discussion; and we were able also to extend an especial welcome to new member Hilary Wratten.

You might find this information on the walks on Dawlish Warren, provided by Matt Collis attractive. We are planning for an attempt in April. Be aware though that he strictly limits numbers, so it will be a question of first come, first served; and you will need to sign up individually at

<http://www.devonwildlifetours.co.uk/walks/>

We offer regular wildlife walks each month to visit exciting sites, acquire new ID skills, and simply enjoy a guided wildlife walk with others. There is always something new to encounter and our aim is to help you learn about nature in easy, bite-size chunks to ensure both your knowledge and connection grows.

Everyone is welcome, irrespective of background or baseline knowledge – Each walk is approximately three hours, taken at a slow and pleasant wildlife-watching pace – The terrain varies but typically involves a mixture of easy to moderate walking, accessible for anyone with suitable footwear and a can-do attitude – Start times vary to maximise our encounters with wildlife but include both early starts and more typical times i.e. start at 10am and finish at 1pm – Group size maximum of eight to ensure*

everyone gets good views and access to guide – All walks £20pp. unless otherwise stated.

**For those who need significant assistance with walking, be it a walking stick or wheelchair, please do speak to me directly in advance to discuss suitability of individual walks. No set schedule – these are 'general public' walks – may be cancelled if bad weather or not enough partakers (I joined one on Aylesbeare Common with only two others).*

Attached is current list of walks – I know February already fully booked...<http://www.devonwildlifetours.co.uk/experiences/> Experiences available for private groups starting at **£150** for **up to four people** and then an additional **£25 per person**. These include: Nightjars, Beavers, Birds by Bike, Bats, Dawn Chorus, Wild Seaside, Winter Waders, Walk in your wild (i.e. exploring area chosen by group...)

George Lipscomb, Convener



THEATRE



Three members went to see the screening of Living on Tuesday 3rd January at 7pm at Pavilions in Teignmouth. For more information on this film please look on our u3a website.

On a wet and grey Saturday afternoon in January, four of us went to see Andre Rieu screening of his World Tour performing in Dublin. We forgot the weather outside as we were transported to a colourful world of stunning music including the classics, Irish ballads and listening to the beautiful voices of Sopranos and Tenors.

Saturday 4th February a large group of

members are off to the Shaftsbury in Dawlish to see *Business of Murder* which was originally scheduled in November but sadly cancelled due to illness in the cast and crew. We will be meeting in the Bar from 7pm. Tickets have been purchased for a *Night of Nostalgia* at the Shaftsbury on Saturday 18th February.

Further afield tickets are being booked for productions in Plymouth.

Want to join us for any of the above? Contact me and I can let you know seat numbers. Or, you may just want to be added to the circulation list for future Theatre performances.

Kate McCarthy, Convener

IN OUR OWN WRITE

Unfortunately, I have been ill for our last two meetings and unable to attend. However, the meetings have gone ahead with several new members and so we are now at full capacity.

The last meeting was on the 16th January and due to holidays and sickness had three

attendees. The topic of discussion was "New beginnings".

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th February from 2-4 p.m. and the topic will be "A moment that changed my life".

Must get my thinking cap on!

Travina White, Convener



Wishing you a happy potting and planting season and flowers galore!

With longer days, spring is in the air, allow a spring in your step too...

The Editor