

---

## From the Chair

### New committee and other roles

Following the AGM and the election of more committee members, it has been possible to look at how roles are distributed amongst members. Broadly speaking, we are trying to have a supporting, 'back up' member for most roles, sharing the tasks, and ensuring we have back up when people are not available.

I am pleased to say that one important gap has been filled. The committee elected Kate McCarthy as Vice Chair, a position she will hold until the next AGM. She agreed to take this on one very firm condition: that there is no expectation that she will become Chair in due course. All members should take note of that!

Some discussions continue and I will update members on any further developments. Changes which you may particularly note are that Barry Baker has taken on handling the 'Enquiries' emails which we receive, and George Mansfield will be supporting Michael as Treasurer. Khim Sim will be assisting Kate as Membership Secretary, and also will take on the role of finding Speakers for our monthly meetings. I will continue to deal with Publicity matters involving print, media etc while David Wright and Barry Baker will take the lead on organising publicity 'events' which arise during the year. Brenda Butterworth will continue to take the lead in organising the 'hospitality' side of our monthly meetings. Roz Summerton is our Newsletter Editor, and I am happy to act as her assistant as required.

This is an overview of the situation at present:

Chair	John Vick
Vice Chair	Kate McCarthy
Treasurer	Michael Heyden, assisted by George Mansfield
Secretary	David Wright
Membership Secretary	Kate McCarthy assisted by Khim Sim
Beacon	Kate McCarthy
Speakers' Secretary	Khim Sim assisted by John Vick
Enquiries	Barry Baker

Living



Laughing



Learning

Groups Coordinator

Barry Baker

Publicity

- Print, Web, media releases

John Vick

- Publicity events

David Wright, Barry Baker with John to assist if required

Newsletter Editor

Roz Summerton, assisted by John Vick

Meetings Manager, raffles etc

Brenda Butterworth, assisted by all committee members

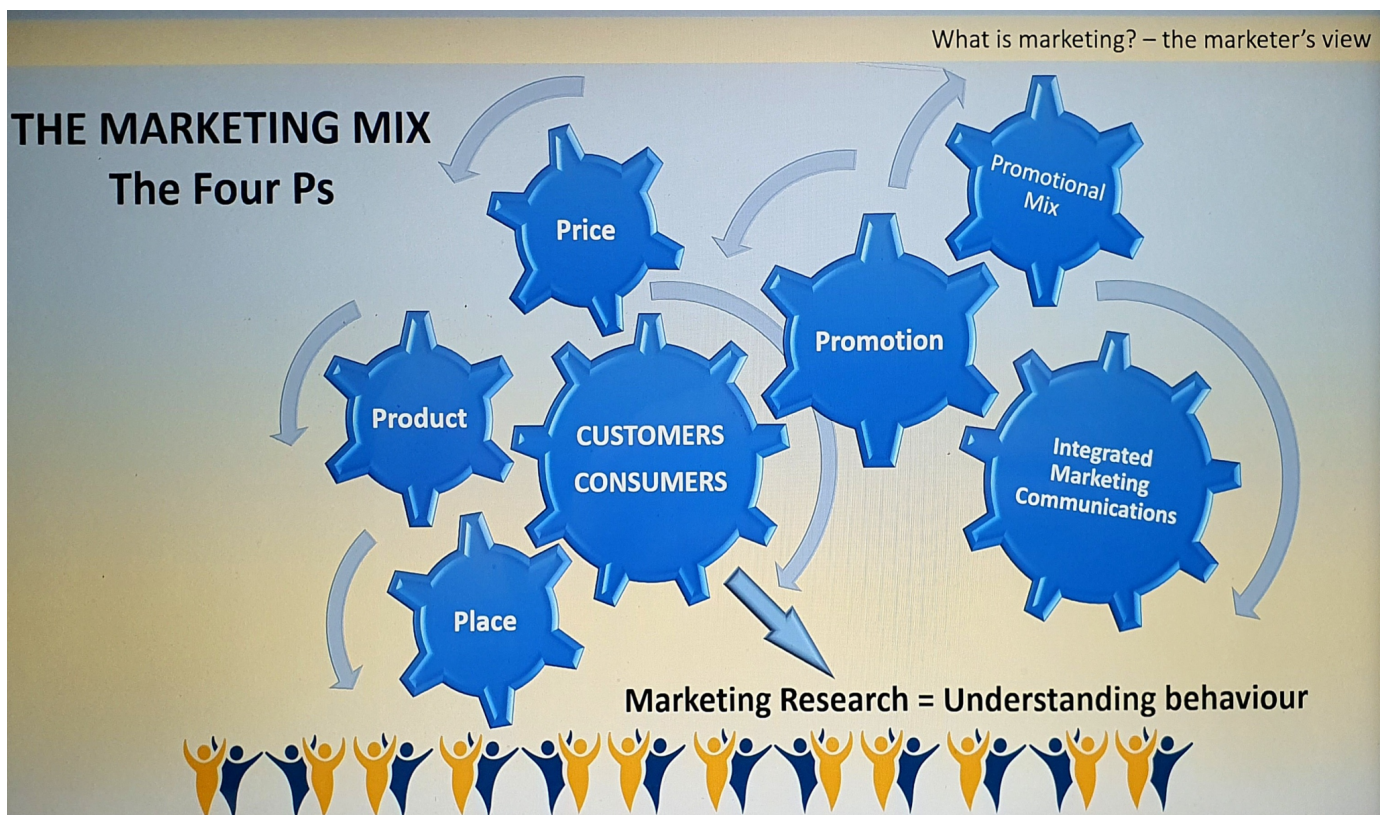
### Audio System in the Manor House

At the November meeting, I told members that I have been lobbying the Town Council about the problems some members experience in hearing what is being said at meetings. These are largely members whose hearing difficulties have not reached a stage where they use hearing aids and therefore can benefit from the Loop system. I am pleased to say that I have received a positive response from Andrew McKenzie, the Town Clerk, to say he had raised this with councillors, and it now seems likely that the council will invest in some equipment which users of the Council Chamber and some other rooms in the Manor House, will be able to hire. I don't know any details at this stage and will keep members informed.

John Vick, Chair

---

## Monthly meeting report



## What has marketing done for us?

It was a real pleasure to have one of our own members, David Pickton, to speak to members at our October meeting. David has spent his career either in the commercial world of marketing or in university departments and has immersed himself in the research literature on the subject. We were very fortunate to have such a well-qualified and engaging speaker to share his expertise with us.

He started by asking members about their broad response to the whole concept of marketing: is it entirely good? Is it entirely bad? Or a mixture of both? Unsurprisingly most regarded it with somewhat mixed feelings which were explored as the talk progressed. In a very wide-ranging exploration of the subject, David gave us a clearer picture about how marketing can impact our lives and posed a number of questions, including 'Does marketing work?' and 'What does the future hold?'

David showed us that marketing facilitates exchange between the customer and the producers and sellers of goods and services. The customer finds out what is available, where they can get it, when and how they can obtain it – all important information for the customer. Meanwhile, the producer and retailer engage in a great deal of research about the customer, what we want and need, and learns a great deal about our behaviour, how our minds work, how to attract our attention and to persuade us – to manipulate us. Marketing encourages us to buy or to buy more, and to buy some things we don't need and probably should not want.

Importantly, we need to remember that marketing is used by all sorts of organisations, and also by us as individuals. We promote ourselves in all sorts of ways, in our working lives, in our everyday relationships. Of course, marketing may be used unscrupulously by political parties and governments, but it is also used to benefit society by educating, enlightening and encouraging us to improve our sense of social responsibility.

Like everything else in our world, marketing is changing rapidly. Companies like Apple and Amazon are getting bigger and more influential. Amazon has developed very sophisticated web technology, much of which is not immediately apparent to customers. A very large part of its income comes not from directly selling goods but from providing marketing services to other providers. Its remarkable success comes because it is simple to view, to order, to pay, to receive, to return and simply better - but now it has plenty of rivals. All these tech companies are using the vast amounts of data that we provide – knowingly or unwittingly – to learn more about us so they can market their products successfully.

We concluded this enjoyable session by remembering the brands that belong to various slogans and logos. It is rather sobering - and even depressing - for us to realise how successful and pervasive marketing campaigns are in our lives. Commercial slogans and TV adverts, brand images and other marketing devices have become part of our culture, no matter how much we think we are 'above' being affected in this way. Very few people (of a certain age) will fail to recognise the following slogans and be able to identify the product they promote:

- *Only the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate tastes like chocolate never tasted before*
- *Probably the best lager in the world*
- *Have a break, have a...*
- *A million housewives every day, pick up a tin of beans and say, Beans Means...*

- *Fresh with the tang of citrus, made to make your mouth water, four refreshing fruit flavours*
- Perhaps the one which made members think twice was *PROBABLY the BEST ice cream in town* (If you're stumped, go for a walk along Brunswick Place!)

Khim Sim, John Vick

---

## November Monthly Meeting – Change of Speaker

Unfortunately, the speaker scheduled for our November meeting has had to pull out, but the good news is that at very short notice we have been able to find someone who promises to be a very interesting replacement.

Gray O'Hanlon will be speaking on the subject 'It's Up in the Air' about his career as an airline pilot.

Gray tells me that after university he served an engineering apprenticeship at Ford Motor Company. Very quickly he realised their way of business was not for him. He then applied and was selected for commercial pilot training. He started with BEA, later BA. He has flown dH Trident, Boeing 757, 767 and finally 777. He enjoyed the last four of his 29 years on this type.

Gray says there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and promises to give everyone a chance to learn about the life of a pilot and air crew.

The meeting will be at the scheduled time of 3.45pm on Monday 21st November in the Council Chamber of the Manor House.

I hope it may be possible to have a speaker at a future date to speak on the important subject of food banks, the topic originally planned for November.

John Vick

---

## Interest Group news

---

### Adventure Group

As usual there is plenty going on in the Adventure Group. At the time of writing we are looking forward to going foraging on the Dartington estate and to our next adventure here in Dawlish. Organised by Deborah, she describes it thus:

"November's adventure will be quite close to home. It is an opportunity to climb the eighty five steps to the roof of the tower of St Gregory's Church in Dawlish and admire

the views. On the way to the top of the tower you will have the chance to see Dawlish's eight bells. You will also visit the ringing room where there will be a short talk about bell ringing and you will have a chance to see how a bell is rung and have a go yourself with one to one support from Dawlish's Ringing Master."

Anyone wanting to come along should check out the full details on the website (<https://u3a.dawlish.info/adventure-group-top-of-the-tower-trip>).

We are also inviting u3a members to book for our stay at the Manor House Hotel near



Okehampton in March of next year. Again, full details are in Adventure Group news (<https://u3a.dawlish.info/tag/adventure>). Please note, you don't have to be an Adventure Group member to join this trip - all are welcome.

Finally, we have set the date for our next group meeting. This is where members of the group get together to decide which activities we are going to try over the next few months. We will send more information about this in the next few weeks but in the meantime please keep the date free: **Friday 5th January 2024 at 10am.**

Miggie Pickton

---

### Art and Crafts Group

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in The Manor House. All are welcome and please bring along your current project you are working on. No particular skill is required just enjoy the company of a group with multiple interests with always someone on hand for help if you are stuck. Kim will be bringing something for anyone who wishes to have a go at painting/sketching a still life. Just bring along a sketch pad, pencils, paints etc.

Please email enquiries if you would like to join us as due to work at The Manor House we are not always in the same room.

Kate McCarthy & Kim Walker  
Convenors

---

### Art Appreciation

As several members were unable to come to David Gearing's talk in October, we decided to postpone this until our next meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. David's talk will be

on *17th century women artists: Artemesia Gentileschi and five others*. David's talks are always impressively researched and fascinating so members felt they would prefer to postpone this until a later date when more members could attend.

Lynne Vick, Convenor

---

### Beer and Skittles



The Beer and Skittles group have moved to the Royal British Legion to continue their evening meetings, not that the change of venue seems to have helped our skills level. Despite the dubious weather there were 14 of us at our last meeting, and it's open to any of our u3a members to turn up on the night.



## Boules

Our summer boules program concluded this month with six hardy souls defying the predictions of the convenor's seaweed, and travelling to Exminster for our last outing on a proper surface this year.

In November we shall revert to playing Dawlish Rules Indoor Boules, a game for those who should know better at their age, but don't. We shall be meeting in the Strand Hall on the second Friday (November 10th) and the fourth Wednesday (November 22nd) at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome, equipment is provided and fun guaranteed.

Michael Heyden, Convenor

---

## Dog Walking

We are currently meeting on Tuesdays at 1030 as this day suits the majority of us. Walks this month have been to The Obelisk, the playing field next to the Sports Centre, Dawlish Warren beach, and Powderham Church walking along to the Turf Pub for a coffee break. Dogs need to be walked whatever the weather and the walks can be as long or short to suit each dog. Not all our walks end with a coffee stop as some walkers carry on walking.

Contact enquiries if you wish to be added to the group or just come along and join us.

Kate McCarthy

---

## Great Lives

Nine of us met to hear David talking about the fascinating life of Ida Lupino (1918-1995), actress, director, writer and producer.

Ida was born into a theatrical family in London and was encouraged to perform from an early age. Her first film appearance was when she was aged 13 and at first she was cast in several unsuitable roles for a child. She tended to often play "bad girl" roles and although a successful actress both in the UK and later in the USA she preferred watching the filming and editing and stated that she was bored on set when "someone else seems to be doing all the interesting work".



Ida Lupino, producer and director



She became involved in directing and later started an independent company with her husband, making low-budget films, exploring virtually taboo social issues, such as rape. She was regarded as one of the most prominent film makers in the 1950s and the first woman to direct "film noir". Although directing was her passion she continued to appear in films to acquire funds for her own productions. Ida also directed TV productions. Her final acting role was in 1979.

Sadly Ida's personal life was not so successful. She married and divorced three times. Following drug and alcohol problems she became a recluse. Ida Lupino died in 1995 from a stroke while undergoing treatment for colon cancer.

At our next meeting on Friday 24 November, Tom will talk to us about Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

---

### **In Our Own Write**

Our topic was, A stray or Astray, whichever we preferred.

Three very different interpretations were read out and discussed. One was an interesting story about a family falling on hard times after being duped. The next was a fascinating story of an ex-military officer finding solace in nature and eventually gaining the trust of a stray dog. The last, a story of two people having supper together and the feelings which arose across the table and more.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13 November at 2 pm. The topic is "The house on the Hill"

### **Literature**

Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman

Partly inspired by the stabbing of Damilola Taylor, Pigeon English is a story about an 11 year old Ghanaian boy, Harri, who has recently moved to a grim council estate with his mother and older sister. His father, grandmother and baby sister have remained in Ghana and his mother, a midwife, is in debt to the violent criminal who enabled their relocation. The novel is told from the perspective of Harri and uses Ghanaian expressions and the typical slang of young people.

He is struggling to make sense of his completely alien environment and when a school friend is stabbed he invents a game with another boy, based on American TV cop shows, of trying to identify the killer. This puts him in mortal danger from the gang who wield enormous power over the children on the estate.

Harri and his sister are drawn into the gang culture against their will, through fear and partly because of their need to belong and fit in.

There seems to be no escape from violence, cruelty and bullying for Harri's family.

Stephen Kelman was brought up in Luton on the notorious Marsh Farm Estate and teaches martial arts to underprivileged children but, even so, there were some strong misgivings about a white man in his forties writing with the voice of a young Ghanaian boy. Other authors have written from the viewpoint of a child, To Kill a Mockingbird particularly comes to mind, but some of us thought that this writer had not carried it off so successfully. Others found the book powerful, horrifying, sympathetic



and moving, with realistic and engaging characters. The writing style with its unfamiliar vocabulary was off putting to a couple of our readers but others got the hang of it after a few pages and persevered.

The metaphor of the pigeon confused us.

Was it a guardian angel, a wise onlooker, a character as despised as the immigrants or did he represent nature and wildlife so missing in Harri's life?

Pigeon English is now on the GCSE syllabus and tackles important social issues.

Our mixed response to this month's book resulted in a mark of 2/5

---

## Lunch Club



The Gurkha Dawlish Restaurant was the selected venue for the u3a's October luncheon on October 17th.

The occasion attracted great interest and was attended by 25 u3a members.

The lunch was very enjoyable and Khim's organising ability was appreciated.



Different traditional Indian spicy dishes are explained as follows:

Korma, 🌶️ a milder dish with sweet creamy coconut sauce.

Bhuna 🌶️ thick medium spiced chopped onion sauce.

Doplaza 🌶️ medium spiced with onions and peppers.

Balti 🌶️ with onions and peppers in Balti sauce.

Rogan 🌶️ tomatoes and peppers.

Sagwala 🌶️ medium spiced with chilli.

Ceylon 🌶️ 🌶️ hot, sweet and sour with coconut.

Jalfrezi 🌶️ 🌶️ spicy sauce with onions and pepper.

Dhansak 🌶️ 🌶️ hot, sweet, sour with lentils.

Patia 🌶️ 🌶️ hot, sweet and sour with tamarind.

Madras 🌶️ 🌶️ 🌶️ traditional hot curry.

Vindaloo 🌶️ 🌶️ 🌶️ 🌶️ traditional very hot





## Page Turners

In October the Page Turners made a second foray into non-fiction, reading 'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

This book tells the story of mountaineer Greg Mortenson who in 1993 was helped by the residents of an impoverished Pakistan village after a failed attempt to climb K2. He promised to return and build them the school that their village needed. Over the following decade he returned to the area and built not just one but fifty-five schools, especially for girls. We learn how he used his extraordinary skills to build relationships and gain the trust of the villagers, Most of us enjoyed the book. We found it to be well written and very engaging. We have learned that the authors have since admitted that some of the events in the early part of the book did not happen exactly empowering them to build and run the schools, and how he inspired Americans to donate to the charity he set up to fund his work.

Most of us enjoyed the book. We found it to be well written and very engaging. We have learned that the authors have since admitted that some of the events in the early part of the book did not happen exactly as described but we tended to feel that the semi-fictionalised account helped to make the story more accessible and did not detract from the message of the book about the power of education to promote peace.

In trying to find out what had happened to the work since the book ended in 2003, we learned that the charity is still operational but Mortenson himself is no longer involved.

Unfortunately, we can see in the book that whilst he was inspirational in the way he worked with the Pakistan communities, he

## FUTURE LUNCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### November 21st 2023

The Smugglers Inn 12.30 - 14:30

### December 19th 2023

Langstone Cliff Hotel 12.30 -14.30

### January 16th 2024

Castle Inn, Holcombe 12.30 to 14.30

### February 20th 2024

Crab Shack

3, Queen Street, Teignmouth

### March 19th 2024

Tradewinds

12, Station Rd Teignmouth

### April 16th 2024

Reflections Bistro

Dawlish

### May and June 2024

I am away

Khim Sim

was not good at record-keeping, time-keeping and the organisational skills needed to run a large charity. He was accused of misappropriating the charity's funds and although no criminality was found, he was forced to resign in order not to damage support for the charity's vital work. We were sad that this left a bad taste in the mouth when we had been so impressed by the amazing work he had done.

As always our reading inspired a wide-ranging discussion with topics such as the importance of girls' education and international politics at the forefront of our minds this month.

If you would like to read this book we have copies available and would love to swap our page turner for one of yours.

Deborah Wallis Convenor

---

### Quiz Group

The members met on the Alpha and Omega Mondays of October.

Unfortunately, for the first quiz there were 3 teams unable to participate tonight and a member who had computer problems. This said, the two teams that soldiered on did well, with each team winning 3 rounds.

The chosen subjects were Egypt, Fictional Characters, General Knowledge, Half, That's good and Fruit and Veg. As usual, I give you a taster of the evening with a question from each round. So here goes...

What ancient Egyptian goddess was seen as the ideal mother?

Where did Borat come from?

Which politician's car use earned him the nickname 'Two Jags'?

In what year was the British half-penny coin retired from circulation?

Good King Wenceslas was Duke of where?

Hass and Monroe are types of what?

So did you get all 5 correct? The best round on the night was the 'Fictional characters' and the booby prize went to 'the half' round.

A three week break and we then reconvened to tackle subjects pertaining to Viruses, That's war, Previously known as, General Knowledge, Grey and Sausages.

The quizzers needed to know what...

Virus caused babies to be born with small heads

The biggest Prisoner of War camp was in the UK

Was previously known as Back Rub

Country is the largest producer of bananas

The painting 'Arrangement in Grey and Black no 1' is better known as

The two main ingredients of a boudin sausage are

There were 3 maximum point rounds, 2 in a joker round! 'previously known' proved a popular subject whereas a closer look at the sausage counter at Sainsbury would be appreciated!

We hope we will be able to continue to keep the quizzes going and how about joining in the fun? You can stay in the comfort of your own home.

Graham Carey

## Strollers Social Walking Group

Taking advantage of the continuing good weather we went to the Country Park on the outskirts of Dawlish, and walked, slowly, to the top. The bench there was very welcome, and the views to Mamhead, the Haldon hills and as far as Berry Head were fantastic. We sat there for some time in the autumn sunshine, before walking through the lanes to Cockwood, for more sitting down, this time in the garden of the Ship Inn. A very pleasant afternoon for all. Do remember that anyone is welcome, just contact the convenor for details of the next walk.

Michael Heyden

We're going somewhere different in November for our Dawlish & District u3a Strollers walk.

On **Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>** we're planning to walk from Shaldon Bridge to Old Walls Vineyard at Bishopsteignton. New walkers are always welcome to come along.

From Dawlish catch the number 2 Newton Abbot bus from the bus shelters by the railway line at 12.30pm and the same bus from Teignmouth Sea View Diner bus shelter at 12.45pm. We'll be getting off the bus at Shaldon Bridge, crossing the road and walking along Newton Road towards Newton Abbot for about 100 metres. Just before the Broadmeadow industrial estate we'll join the public footpath which takes us up above and behind Morrisons. This path leads us out into the countryside where we'll be walking along and then up to the top of a field. Just before the path meets the country lane there's a bench where we can recover from the climb. The country lane route starts on the flat before we begin the gentle climb uphill to our refreshment stop at the Old Walls Vineyard.

There are three choices of route back:

- return the same way
- via the Ridge which comes out at Morrisons road junction
- walk down to main road to catch number 2 bus home

Please note, although it is level most of the way to the vineyard there are uphill sections so please be aware. It is not a race. Our faster walkers always take care to wait for others to catch up.

Jean Gitsham, convenor

---

## Tea and Chat

We meet in the Riverside Centre next to the Manor House, on the first Thursday of the month from 2 – 4pm.

Come along for a friendly chat or if you fancy a board game, bring one along. Most Committee members are present and as many Convenors as possible. New members and those thinking about joining are strongly encouraged to come along to talk to Convenors 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.

Kate McCarthy & Michael Heyden  
Convenors

---

## Theatre

This group has now joined Tea and Chat on the first Thursday of the month. In October a group of us went to the Shaftesbury for the last night of The Cripple of Inishmaan.

Set in the 1930s in a small island off the Irish west coast it tells the story of a young

17 year old man named Cripple Billy. It is a dark comedy touching not only on the stigma of a disability, but also the poverty and desperation of life in a small community. His parents having died when he was a baby surrounded by rumours of an accident or suicide, he is bought up by two well-meaning but overbearing "foster aunts" who run the local sweet shop.

Cripple Billy is determined to shake off the stigma of having a disability and yearns to be called Billy without the added Cripple. This alongside his lifelong love for a young Irish girl called Slippy Helen forces Billy to look ahead and what he sees is a bleak future.

Slippy Helen, her brother and Cripple Billy hatch a plan to persuade Bartley's, the only boat owner to row them over to a neighbouring island where it is rumoured a famous Hollywood Producer is looking for cast members for an upcoming movie. Cripple Billy is eager to escape the boredom, poverty and gossip of his hometown.

Fast forward to Billy who supposedly is doing well in Hollywood returns home and admits

that he wasn't picked by the Hollywood Producer and had spent the past few years living in poverty and overwhelmed by homesickness. Even though he has not scored a starring role in any movie, Billy is welcomed home as a hero and the islanders even agree to drop the discriminatory epithet "Cripple".

A most enjoyable well-acted, entertaining but thought provoking production that we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Elsewhere some members went to see the 1941 classic film noir The Maltese Falcon at the Shaftesbury, one of the film club's chosen films. There is no need to be a member, the cost is £5 at the door.

Next month some of us are going to Pavilions at Teignmouth to see Cecil Beaton's Diaries and Panto season is not far away!

Kate McCarthy  
Convenor

---

---

## Other news:



## Christmas Lunch

Khim Sim is pleased to announce that there will be 47 u3a Christmas lunch attendees.

For those that have booked, the deadline for the final payment of £24 is November 28th.



You can either bring a cheque or cash to the next monthly meeting and give it to the u3a Treasurer or alternatively you can pay by bank transfer to the u3a account (details below).

Name of bank: NatWest

Name of Account: Dawlish and District U3A

Sort code: 52-30-22

Account No: 34078967

Reference: Xmas

Numbers will be finalised by Langstone Cliff Hotel from attendees paid in full by the deadline. Please note, the £5 deposit to the Langstone Cliff Hotel is non refundable.

Further details, including the menu for the midweek Christmas lunch, can be found [here](#).

Please make sure that you register your car details at reception to validate your free parking.

---

## Contact us:

You are invited to send us all your group news and updates.

**Newsletter Editor:** Please contact Roz Summerton via [newsletter@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:newsletter@u3a.dawlish.info).

**Webmasters:** If you would like your news to appear on the website please contact Dave and Miggie Pickton via [webmaster@u3a.dawlish.info](mailto:webmaster@u3a.dawlish.info)

Want to know more about Dawlish & District u3a? Check out our website: [u3a.dawlish.info](http://u3a.dawlish.info).