

**OPEN DAW
NEWSLETTER
May
2016**



Mad Hatter's Tea Party

On Saturday 23rd April the Open DAW celebrated World Book Night by holding a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The Vestibule area was decorated with garlands, roses and little notices saying "eat me" and "drink me". Outside were colourful decorations around the railings. A magnificent Mad Hatters cake, made by Joy Matthews was the centrepiece of the cakes display. There was also a beautiful cake stand holding small cakes with various little quotes from "Alice in Wonderland" on them in icing. Other cakes were provided by various supporters of the Open DAW. We thank all the cake makers!

To provide even more atmosphere we had Alice and the Mad Hatter attending with characters from different books including Harry Potter and the Phantom of the Opera.

48 books were provided by the national organisation of World Book Night and these were given out free to people to encourage reading. Alongside this giveaway there were table sales of both paperback and hardback books which were very well used by customers.

During the morning we had several poems read by members of the Poetry for Pleasure group sessions held each month. A children's book author, Susan A J Haslam, came along to read some pieces from her books. Thanks to Rosie Seymour for arranging the day so beautifully.



The Open DAW - Dawlish Community Information Centre
Vestibule of Dawlish Methodist Church , Brunswick Place EX7 9PB
Open Mon - Fri 10am to 12 noon Tel: 01626 867722

Registered Charity: 1113482
Email: opendaw@btconnect.com
Twitter: @Open DAW

Celebrating St. George's Day

Once again the Open DAW were one of the very few organisations who celebrated St. George's Day. It sometimes seems we English do not share the same enthusiasm as the Welsh and Scots about celebrating their national saints day!

A small number of us attended at The Ugly Duckling for a meal of Roast Beef or Hunter's Chicken and a dessert of apple pie or spotted dick with custard or ice-cream. During the evening we struggled through the table quiz cryptic clues on English place names and famous Georges. There was a reading by Margaret Charlesworth from Shakespeare to mark the 400th Anniversary of his death. A draw for the raffle was made and a present presented to Susan Moore who was selected by the Ugly Duckling staff as wearing the best costume for St. George's day. Finally we enjoyed singing old English songs, reminiscent of the Last Night at the Proms, with John Stather playing his keyboard.



Over the past two years it has been noticeable that the numbers of people coming along to Burns' Night and the St. George's evening at the Ugly Duckling have decreased a lot compared with our earlier ones. So it is an appropriate time to think of other events which could be more attractive to the community.

Any suggestions to replace these events would be most welcome.

Any ideas—please pass them on to Angie or Harry

POETRY for PLEASURE

May and June is an exciting month for the Dawlish Poetry for Pleasure Group!

On the 15th May the selected poems for the Dawlish Poetry Trail will be announced and during the week of the Dawlish Arts Festival 28th May to 4th June these will be displayed in shop windows around the town. A booklet covering the route of the Trail will be available from the Tourist Information Centre, Open DAW and the Library.

Also as part of the festival there will be a DIY poetry tent on the Lawn from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Saturday 4th June. You are encouraged to come and join the group to write a line of poetry about Dawlish or contribute to the Poetry Tree.

The group is also running a Poetry workshop on Tuesday 31st May at Dawlish Museum by local Poet Jennie Osborne. Workshop places are limited and must be pre-booked.

Full details of all of these events are in the Arts Festival programme available online at www.dafl.org.uk or buy a programme at Open DAW—we can also book tickets for you!

The next meeting of the Poetry for Pleasure group itself is on Saturday 21st May at 10.30am to 12 noon at Open DAW. Anyone can come along and read, listen or share a poem on the topic of the month. The topic for May is 'Parts of the body'. All welcome!

Don't forget we organise a Community Litter Pick on the last Saturday of each month! Bags and pickers provided!

We have recently purchased more grabbers and jackets thanks to a Town Council grant—so we can always accommodate more collectors!

Drop-in to Open DAW!

Each month, agency representatives make themselves available at Open DAW to support and advise people on matters worrying for them. These range from Scott Richards Solicitors, the Devon Disability Network, Assist Teignbridge, Town Councillors and many others. Why not make the Open DAW your first place to try to help you or a friend or neighbour's problem? Angie is also available to help signpost people to where they can get help. **Why not pop in to meet Naomi from Destination Dawlish about the new cycle path on Tuesday 7th June or buy some local books from Dawlish Museum table sale on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.**

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Dates for Your Diary—2016

Wednesday 25th May Charities Bingo (for Rowcroft Hospice) at the Langstone Cliff Hotel (eyes down 8.00 pm). Book of tickets and tea or coffee with slice of cake £10

Wednesday 8th June Open DAW 11th Anniversary—Open Morning

10.00 am—12 noon

Mayor to cut the cake—10.30 am

Come along and bring a friend for coffee and slice of cake

This is a FREE event but donations are welcome.

Events Committee Date:

Tuesday 10th May at 6.00pm

New Committee members welcome! To help us plan events!

Trustees Meetings:

Tuesday 14th June at 7pm

At the moment we urgently need more volunteers to help with the Credit Union, Plough and Share. Why not find out how you can help?

Your contribution as a Friend of Open Daw is vital to the running of the Centre.

We are grateful for your support and if you know someone who would like to become a Friend let us know!

Open Daw is a registered charity and it means we can claim gift aid on donations—so please remember us!