

This week Open Daw celebrates our 15th Anniversary!

Our success would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our Volunteers and Supporters. The community, Council, businesses, clubs and local shops of Dawlish have supported us in so many ways throughout the years

THANK YOU ALL

To our customers, clients and doggy visitors THANK YOU TOO!

And finally to all our Trustees a special thank you for your dedication support and guidance



First volunteer Coordinators Margaret and Harry got the charity started and then a grant from Devon Community Foundation meant we were able to appoint Sue Hill as our first paid Coordinator.



Over the years the charity developed and Sue formed the Community Litter picking group and helped instigate Dawlish becoming a Fairtrade town. When Sue retired, Heather Conway filled in as Coordinator for some time.

Angie Weatherhead was then appointed and together with Naomi Merral the Open Daw profile was raised to a higher level in the community and we became involved in numerous projects around the town. Both Angie and Naomi moved on to new opportunities in 2019.

After a busy time searching for replacements we were fortunate to be joined by Olivia and Anthony as new Coordinators who have been active with new ideas

We owe a great debt of gratitude to each of our Coordinators over the past 15 years but our success would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Volunteers and Supporters

Where we are now...

To keep our volunteers and customers safe during the Covid-19 pandemic we have closed our premises. Instead we are continuing to distribute information and advice through the phone, email and with our partners through Helping Dawlish.

We maintain and put new posts onto the Helping Dawlish website and Facebook page as well as our own. We have also helped to produce and update leaflets and put up posters around the town and onto the public display boards

We still have lots of plans for Open Daw and look forward to being able to safely reopen and welcome our customers and clients back!

A message from our Trustees...

...The Trustees of Open Daw are delighted to be celebrating 15 years of supporting the community in Dawlish. We look forward, with our excellent Coordinators, to being able to continue doing so in the future and hope to resume face-to-face services as soon as circumstances allow

“Knowledge is power” they say,
but where to go to find things out,
when you’re not even sure
just what it is you need to know ?
“Look online!” is fine advice,
but if you can’t, you’ll know
that being unable to surf the net
is an additional burden.
And even if you’re at ease with
Wikipedia,
no machine can read the pauses
in between your words,
no ‘app’ will listen sympathetically,
or understand your story.
Open Daw provides community
information -
and so much more.

Coffee comes with a smile,
not at the touch of a button.
Volunteers give their time, gain a purpose;
grant a space, a place to sit and be,
to talk if you want,
or just dip a toe in the water..
Next time, maybe, you’ll have the courage
to say what you’ve come for.
Open Daw –
ten years of opening doors
by giving information,
ten years of opening doors
by giving support and a friendly welcome.
Ten years of the door being open
for anyone who wants to come in.

Elaine Jarvest Miller
(June 2015)

Messages of support...

As a person who drops into Open Daw once a month (during our normal lives) I would like to say how much I appreciate the time and effort you all put into the service you provide. I am always given a really warm welcome and a cup of tea which is much appreciated. Everyone is so friendly and it is a real focal point for the local community—Penny Thompson, Advice and Information Officer, Royal British Legion

Congratulations and best wishes on Open Daw's 15th anniversary from Dawlish Town Council — such kindness shown by the staff and volunteers at Open Daw . It strengthens relationships of those that frequent and creates a sense of well-being and belonging. It also provides community support and help to those who need it— Councillor Carole Tamlyn

Open Daw provides a wonderful service for our community! Do please keep up, and thank you, for all the good work you do because you are very much part of our community, help to promote its cohesiveness and provide a truly valuable service! - Robin Buchanan, Poetry for Pleasure and Dawlish Stamp Club



Anniversary edition quiz

Make sure you have picked up a copy of our special quiz! For a suggested minimum donation of £2 you can test your knowledge and be in with a chance of winning our prize hamper, drawn on 19th June

We will be outside Open Daw on Monday 8th June, Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th from 10.30-12.30 (weather dependent) so come and see us and you can ask us for a copy or get one from the website at www.opendaw.co.uk

With thanks to all the providers that have held regular, free surgeries at Open Daw:

Local Councillors
Devon Carers
Sunflower Bunch Cancer Support
Teign Housing
Scott Richards solicitors
Independent Living Centre
Dawlish Museum
Crohns and Colitis care
Royal British Legion
Local Police
Energy Clinic – Exeter Community Energy
Assist Teignbridge
South West Water
Devon Disability Network
Chess club
Dawlish Gardens Trust



How can I support Open Daw?

Why not join our wonderful team of **volunteers**? Serving teas and coffees at Open Daw, chatting to our regular visitors or helping with the monthly litter pick— give us a call if you would like to volunteer for us in the future. Volunteering is currently subject to restrictions due to Covid 19

Become a member of our **Supporter's Club**! By paying £4.25 per month, £50 per year or anything you can afford, you can directly support our work. Or you can make a one off donation via Give As You Live www.giveasyoulive.com/join/theopendaw-dawlish. We rely on our supporters as a key source of income to keep Open DAW running. Many thanks.