



Learn, laugh, live  
Dysgu, chwerthin, byw

# **Caldicot & District**

## **September 23 Newsletter**



## CHAIR'S REPORT

We have almost come to the end of another Summer. During Summer we had a successful Picnic in the Castle grounds, where 45 members attended and enjoyed socialising with each other. Thank you to Jan for the excellent quiz and to the Uku-lele group for entertaining us.

We also held two very successful Coffee Mornings where we gained new members. In spite of the weather at our August Coffee Morning, 47 members attended and 3 non-members, one of these non-members joined on the day. Thank you to the "Catering" group for tirelessly manning the kitchen.

I, Rob Harry and Glenice Dallow attended the Langstone Ladies meeting at the beginning of August and gave a small presentation. The Ladies were very interested in u3a and several have expressed the wish to attend Open Day and are considering membership. On the subject of Membership thank you to Joy and Lyn for all of their hard work ensuring that the new membership system ran efficiently.

As you know Science and Natural History is now holding meetings on the first Monday of each month. I am sure all u3a members would join me in thanking Bob for his service as a convenor over the last few years and thank you to the ladies who volunteered to take over this role.

Please come along to the Science and Natural History meeting to support them.

We now look forward to our Open Day which will be held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. at Caldicot Methodist Church. I would request that all Members help their Convenors to set up a display table and perhaps man that table for a short time on the day.

Going forward the Committee will be working on gaining new members, upgrading our Marketing/Advertising and working with other groups in the local community.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who continues to support Caldicot and District u3a, without you we would not exist, **Linda Stewart**

## CONVENORS NOTES:

Our monthly meeting will re-start on 7<sup>th</sup> September after our summer break. These have been successfully held sharing information with useful discussions.

Many groups have had their August break returning in September with their Autumn programmes, full of new plans and ideas. Maybe in this Newsletter we will read times shared in last quarter and also, news of future events. We look forward to seeing all groups displayed at Open Day on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Glenice Dallow**

Interest group Co-Ordinator.



## HISTORY

The History Group meeting in May was a talk given by Jan Potter on the survivors of the Titanic disaster in 1912 when over 1500 people died and just over 700 were rescued. The talk covered the problems faced by survivors in the days before post traumatic stress disorder and survivor guilt syndrome were recognised. Some came to terms with what they had experienced and went on to lead fulfilling lives, whilst others suffered mental health problems for the rest of their lives, ten of the survivors committing suicide. The talk also explained how the first film based on the disaster was released the month following the event, and the extraordinary life of the leading actress who was herself a survivor. Some of the other survivors focused on were a leading fashion designer who was sued by a very young Norman Hartnell, a honeymoon couple belonging to one of the richest families in America, and the hate campaign directed against the Managing Director of the White Star line, who many believed should have gone down with the ship. There were few happy endings! However the impact of the tragedy and some disclosures at the later enquiry led to the introduction of many of the safety regulations for passenger liners which are still observed today.



## GARDENING

The following are dates for  
Gardening Group  
Meetings resuming in October:-

12th October

Speaker is Catherine Williams,  
"The Garden Lady"

9th November

Speaker is Richard Rallings  
Mynd Hardy Plants "Five Centuries  
of Women and Gardens"

14th December

"Christmas Treats"



## GARDENING TYNTESFIELD

Pauline had arranged something extra for the group on our recent visit to Tyntesfield.

We were met by Head Gardener Paul who had been to talk to us some time ago about his work with the National Trust at Tredegar House.

After a quick coffee in the Cowshed (no cows), when we had what was luckily the only rain of the day, Paul shot off up the hill to the Arboretum. He could have planted a tree by the time we caught up!

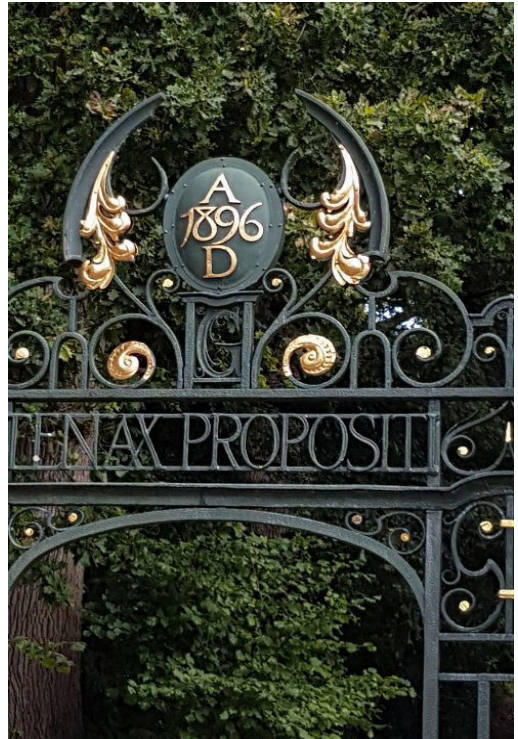
There was a spectacular collection of trees, many of them rare specimens brought from all over the world and propagated at Tyntesfield.

Paul then took us to the Rose Garden, more recently created under his direction. As many old varieties only flower once in a season the roses had been thoughtfully interplanted with a variety of perennials, chosen for colour and interest as well as for attracting pollinators.

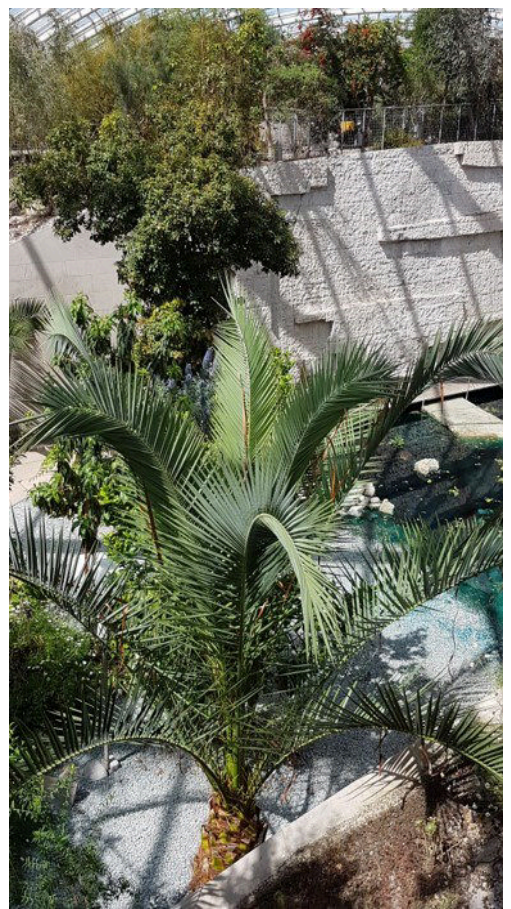
Finally we were shown the Orangery and kitchen gardens. The National Trust recruits volunteers to help its team of regular gardeners. We would have volunteered to pick some ripe apricots and peaches but were not required.

There was time for a coffee in the sunshine before making our way back up the hill to the bus.

On the way home we had a couple of hours at the Cadbury Garden Centre. We had time for a late lunch (both food and service excellent) and shopping. A lovely day out, thank you everyone!











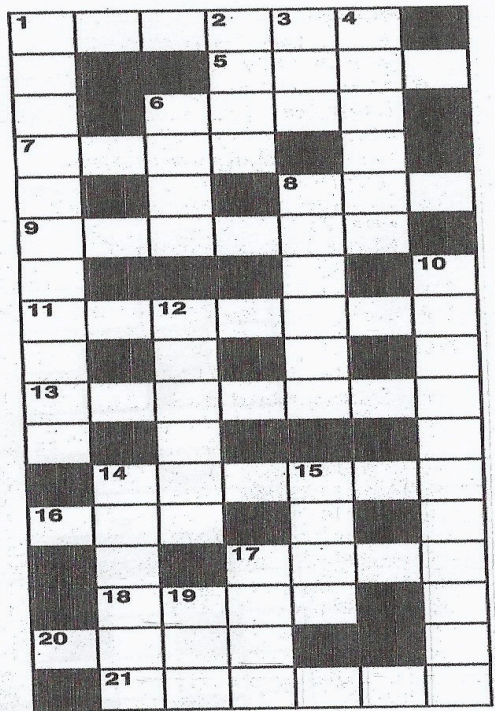


**ACROSS**

- 1 Old five-shilling pieces (6)
- 5 Body part above the neck (4)
- 6 Reckon, suppose (4)
- 7 Not long now! (4)
- 8 Sneaky (3)
- 9 Agile, supple (6)
- 11 Omid \_\_\_\_, comedian and actor (7)
- 13 Lifted by helicopter (7)
- 14 Concealed rifleman (6)
- 16 Thick mist (3)
- 17 Green hairy fruit (4)
- 18 Vehicle on rails (4)
- 20 Indistinct image (4)
- 21 Shouted (6)

**DOWN**

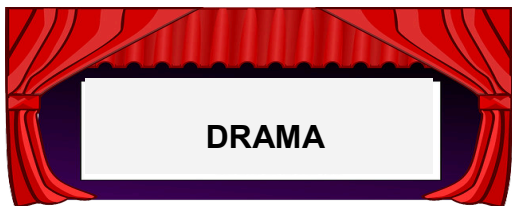
- 1 Ceasing to trade (7,4)
- 2 At what time? (4)
- 3 Formerly surnamed (3)
- 4 Small piece for testing (6)
- 6 Dreadful fate (4)
- 8 Santa's transport (6)
- 10 Daft (4-7)
- 12 Shop canopy (6)
- 14 Gently (6)
- 15 Demure (4)
- 17 \_\_\_\_ Marx, Prussian-born radical thinker (4)
- 19 Strongly scented herb (3)

**PUMPKIN MUFFINS****Ingredients:**

- 1 Egg
- 125ml Milk
- 125ml mashed cooked or tinned Pumpkin
- 55g butter melted
- 189g Plain flour
- 100g Sugar
- 2 tsp Baking Powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Nutmeg
- 100g Raisins



1. Heat oven to 400°.
2. Grease bottom of Muffin cups or use paper cups
3. Beat Egg slightly with fork
4. Stir in Milk, Pumpkin and Butter
5. Blend dry ingredients and stir in just until flour is moistened
6. Batter should be lumpy, fold in Raisins
7. Fill Muffin cups  $\frac{2}{3}$
8. Sprinkle sugar over each Muffin
9. Bake 18 to 20 minutes.



## DRAMA

After our successful year last year we have been requested to go to the following venues to entertain yet again. We have put a selection of poetry together based on the Two Ronnies newsnight comedies.

Venues are:

11th July - Monmouth Bridges

2nd Aug. - Cheerful Club Rogiet

13th Aug - Abergavenny

8th Sept. - Magor Baptist Chapel

26th Sep - Caldicot Council Offices

19th Oct - Friends and Neighbours.

After these dates we will be deciding what to do for Christmas. Although we are down in numbers we still carry on regardless.

**Pam Caines**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

I will not be organising a Turkey Tinsel holiday this year as it is a bit late now as most of these holidays have already been booked. So, I may think about an early holiday in the New Year, something to look forward after Christmas. I can only do these holidays if there is interest.

## Holiday

I am pleased to say the holiday to the Peaks District taking in Chatsworth House was a great success. Unfortunately we were down in numbers due to illness etc but 29 of our adventurers boarded the coach on the 24th July. The journey took longer due to a nasty accident on the M6 but spirits were high. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were busy days sightseeing and the scenery over the Peaks was absolutely stunning. We visited Bakewell famous for its puddings. Yes they are not called tarts but puddings. Some of our group

bought from the Original Bakewell Pudding shop to bring home. Another visit made to Matlock where the Blue John stone jewellery was sold. Yes some were purchased as mementoes. Chatsworth House was visited on Thursday and was well worth it. The Duke and Duchess were in residence but we tried not to disturb them!! Eyam village was another stop on our tour. This place was where the Great Plague originated. A ride on the old Steam Train was taken by us all into Matlock.

Altogether we had a very busy time and I am pleased to report we had really good weather all week. Our coach driver was absolutely brilliant negotiating very narrow roads and over the Peaks. We all agreed he deserved a medal. Now on to the next holiday which will probably be a Turkey/Tinsel and hopefully a Warners Hotel. If you are interested then please let me know asap.

**Pam Caines.**



## SHORT MAT BOWLS

The Short Mat Bowls group enjoyed a well-earned break in August after a busy 7 months playing the Monmouthshire SMB League and Monmouthshire Triples tournaments.

We restart our group meetings on Wednesday (2.00 - 4.00pm) 6th September and Friday evenings (6.00-8.00pm) on 8th September. The league season starts again in October and the Triples tournament in November - Roll on Summer 24!!

**Helen Wormald**



## HANDICRAFT

The Handicraft Group are having a holiday break during the month of August, however, we are meeting socially in Caldicot Castle on the 16<sup>th</sup> August for an hour or so from 11 a.m. We shall resume our regular meetings in the Methodist Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> September from 10 a.m – 12 noon. The Ladies have been busy making poppies ready to decorate in the village for Remembrance Sunday. In their spare time(?) they have also been making packs of a flannel and a bar of soap for patients in the County's Hospitals.

The Group will have a display table at the u3a Open Day in the Methodist Church Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> September, with examples of various crafts.

As last year we hope to hold a Christmas Fayre in conjunction with the monthly u3a coffee morning, the precise date is yet to be decided but will be the beginning of November or December. Further information will appear on the u3a Facebook page nearer the time.

**Jill Greenhalgh Convenor**

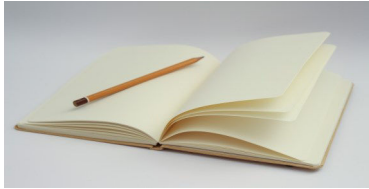


## OPEN DAY

Saturday, 9th September  
Caldicot Methodist Church Hall

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### FOR YOUR DIARY

**2nd September:** Coffee morning in Caldicot Methodist Church at 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. This follows a very successful August coffee morning where many members came along to enjoy the coffee, cakes/biscuits and company of u3a friends and chat, catching up on future events. We thank these members for braving the most inclement weather that morning.

**7th September:** Convenor/Treasurer meeting in Caldicot Methodist Church at 10.00 a.m. If you have anything you wish to be discussed please let me know. Thank you

**9th September:** Open Day in Caldicot Methodist Church from 10.00a.m to 2.00 p.m. Look forward to seeing you and all your displays

We wish to thank everyone for their cards, present and best wishes on the occasion of our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Thank you.

**Adrian & Glenice Dallow**

**Musical Time Machine**

COME ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND EXPERIENCE HITS FROM THE MUSICALS, FROM THE 1930s TO THE PRESENT DAY!

**SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**  
**2PM & 7PM START**  
**CALDICOT CHOIR HALL**

**ALL TICKETS £10**

**BOX OFFICE:**  
**TEXT 07955713012**  
**OR SCAN OUR QR CODE!**

**S**omething to do 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday a month  
**C**ome along, try it and see  
**R**eally friendly group  
**A**t 2 - 4pm  
**B**ethany Baptist Chapel, Neddern Way NP26 4NJ  
**B**roaden your vocabulary  
**L**yn Mitchell - Convenor 01291 421567  
**E**njoy an afternoon out.

**HAVE YOU  
SPOTTED THE  
MOUSE**



## A LOAD OF RUBBISH

'Oh David, what am I to do about that brother of mine? He insists the world is flat. I'd like to flatten him.' David gazed at her for a moment. He stretched his hand palm upward towards her across the table knocking her soup onto her lap.

'My dear,' he said. 'the world will continue to rotate whatever you do.'

'Oh David, I feel a warm glow right through me when you speak such words of wisdom.'

Straightening her wig, she leaned forward and gently resting her elbow in the butter dish she took his hand in hers and smiled lovingly as her electronic prosthesis crushed his fingers.

Grimacing with delight at her loving gesture, he withdrew his hand leaving behind a full set of fingernails.

'Are these for me?' Jane purred. 'I love surprises. I can play tiddlywinks with them.'

Removing his dentures from the finger bowl she placed it on the far side of the table and set herself up for the first plink. David sat enthralled as he watched his little finger nail plop into the water followed by his index nail. The one from his second finger overshoot the mark, hit the salt cellar and bounced with a clink into his wine glass.

'Oh,' she said with obvious glee. 'that was just like bagatelle.'

'My darling,' he said, winking at her with his glass eye, 'when you set your mind to it

you can be so delicate with that can crusher hand of yours.'

They sat in silence for a few minutes, David, deep in thought building a castle with his mashed

potato, while Jane washed her feet in the finger bowl. Seeing his lovely castle, she scooped out his fingernails and pressed them onto the potato.

'There,' she said, 'now you got arched windows in it.'

Attaching a pair of scissors to her metal flanges, she snipped off the end of his tie.

'And this makes a flag for your castle, but it doesn't sort out my brother.'

'Ah that's easy. A disc is flat and it's round so you're both right.'

With that brief bit of eclecticism, he turned from his chair and fell flat on his face.

'Oh bugger the world,' he said, 'I forgot to strap on my false legs.' She stretched her stainless steel hand palm upwards towards him across the table.

'My dear,' she said, 'the world will continue to rotate whatever you do, with or without your legs.'

**Rob Taylor-Hird**

### Easy quiz.

All answers are film or song titles

Wife of maybe a ruler of Morocco?

Len Goodman's favourite film?

He was too clever for his own good?

Firebird gets airborne?

Out on his own on the cricket field?

Keep going in Pakistan?

Sweets for my sweet?

Miss Asher is a disaster?

The Shard on fire?

Raving maniac?

## UKELULE

The group continues strongly, meeting every Tuesday in the Recreation Hall, Portskewett from 2pm to 4pm. There are 22 members with average attendance around 16. As well as the Tuesday meetings, the group has played at 4 care homes this year: Cherry Trees, Crick, St Annes Chepstow and Severn View Chepstow. Dave Lloyd or Willie Cowan normally lead the playing and prepare song sheets, although other members have also led. Attached is a photo of the group playing at Severn View

Beginners are welcome, as most of us started that way, and the leaders will provide separate basic tuition -

eg on holding the instrument and playing simple chords. New members can buy a basic instrument to begin with before upgrading, although a spare instrument is usually available for first timers.

The music sheets are stored on a private facebook group, from which members can download and print or display on a tablet. There are currently around 100 tunes in our repertoire, ranging from simple sing-alongs like "You are my sunshine" to more advanced tunes with riffs such as "Brown Eyed Girl". Members are invited to name more tunes they would like to play.

**Chris Spiller**





## CARDS THIS QUARTER

### 60yrs

Adrian & Glenice Dallow

*Congratulations on your  
60th wedding anniversary.*

### 80yrs

Mrs Fran Green

Mrs Nita Fenton

*Congratulations both*

### Get well

Mrs Wendy Rudd

Mrs Cynthia Gillard

*Hope you are both  
on the road to recovery.*

### Sympathy

Mrs Gillian Graham.

*We are so sorry to hear this sad  
news*

## Answers to Quiz

African Queen

The magnificent seven

The man who knew too much

Flight of the Phoenix

The Third man

Carry on up the Kyber

The Searchers

Calamity Jane

The Towering Inferno

Physco

David & Iris Edwards would like to thank u3a members for cards, messages of condolence and donations received following the unexpected death of their daughter Vicky.

Thank you also to those who attended the funeral service. It is comforting to be members of the u3a family.

**David & Iris**

## AMBLERS at Blackrock





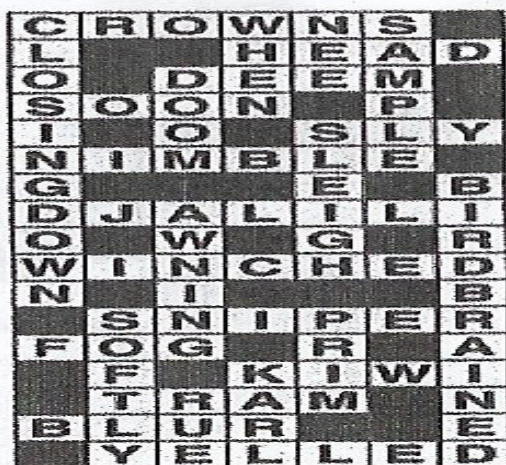
•Taking a well-earned rest – members of the walking group of Caldicot U3A.

## WALKING GROUP

This photograph was taken in the autumn of 1997, by Sheila Ford the founder member of the u3a walking group. The group was formed in 1996 by Sheila and her partner Don Pep-pin. The photograph was taken in the Churchyard at Bishton Church and shows the members enjoying their coffee break. When Vanda & I joined the group in May of the following year, these are the members who made us very welcome. Total membership at this time was approximately 20-24.

List of members are as follows: to the far left of the photograph is Don Pep-pin Sheila's partner, to his left is William Davies, and to his left sitting on the gravestone is John Barry, and to the left of John is Les Watkins. The lady to the left of Les is Thelma Weston, and in front of her wearing spectacles is Adel Harris. To her left is Gwyneth Stephen's. And to her left is Alma

Gaskell, and to her left again is Maureen Baker and Carol Elliot. Sat on the grass in front of these ladies is Barbara Pearce. Standing directly behind the ladies is Lyn & Barbara Reed. And finally standing on the far right of the photograph is Reginald Taylor and to his left Gill Pearce.





# u3a Computer Group



Do **you** want help with your Computer/Laptop/Tablet/phone

How can a Computer / Laptop / Tablet / phone help me.

Backing up ?

Word documents

Spreadsheets

Computer safety

e-mails ?

Making a photo collage

Difficulties with mouse, screen appearance, editing photographs

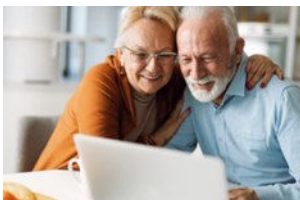
Or can **you** help us to help our members with any area of computing ?

If you know next to nothing about computers , but would like to know a little, or a lot.

You maybe know a lot about one or more areas of computing and would be willing to help others, in small or large groups.

Whether learning or helping , come and see us on Friday mornings , 9.30 to 12.15 am and enjoy a tea or coffee and biscuits with friendly group.

We restart on Friday September 1st



**Where - Bethany Baptist Church, Neddern  
Way, NP26 4NJ  
( at the top of Sandy Lane)**

## ACTIVITY GROUPS

### A Little bit of Welsh

Convenors: Ann Holloway 07443 224894,  
Linda Calvin Thomas 07784 634567,  
Alt Wed 10.30-11.30, Caldicot Library

### Art

Convenor: Rob Harry 01291 421282  
Wed 1.30-4pm Portskewett Rec Hall

### Bridge

Meets Caldicot Library  
Thursdays., 2pm

### Computing

Convenor: John Mills 01291 420045  
Fri 9.30-12.30 Baptist Church

### Drama

Convenors: Pam Caines,  
Dianne Payne 01291 431864.  
Fri 2-4pm Portskewett Rec.Hall

### Gardening

Convenor: Pauline Marx 07544 671870  
2nd Thursday each month Caldicot Methodist  
Church

### Handicraft

Convenor: Jill Greenhaigh  
01633 548968 1st & 3rd Wed 10-12pm  
Caldicot Methodist Hall.

### History

Convenor: Dave Edwards 01291 422303  
3rd Wed in month, 2 - 4pm  
Council Day Centre

### Music Appreciation

Convenor: Jan Potter 01291 794034,  
Adrian Dallow 01291 422925  
4th Wed of month 2-4pm  
Home of Jan Potter

### Rock Roll Stroll

Convenor: Lynne Howells 01291 423395  
Alternate Thurs 8pm  
St Marys Church Hall

### Science & Natural History

Meet 1st Thursday in the Month.  
10am Caldicot Methodist Church Hall

### Scrabble

Convenor: Lyn Mitchell 01291 421567.  
2-4, 2nd & 4th Fri of month  
Bethany Baptist Church Hall

### Short Mat Bowls

Convenor: Helen Wormald 01291 423765  
Wed 2-4 & Fri 7-9, Scout Hall.

### Spanish

Convenor: Julian Wood 01291 421095.  
Mon 10.45-12. Various venues.

### Special Events

Convenor: Pam Caines,  
01291 420750. Various Short Holidays.

### Table Tennis

Convenor: Les Mitchell 07367 064322  
Mon 2-4 Scout Hall. Sandy Lane

### Ukulele

Convenor: Chris Spiller 01291 424694  
Tue 2-4, Portskewett Recreation Hall

### Walking Groups

Every Tuesday am  
Various Locations & Starting Points

### Stragglers, 3-4 mls

Convenor: Brian Hopkins 01291 422387

### Amblers, 4-5mls

Convenors Jenny & Stan Griffiths  
01633 880578

### Strollers, 4.5-6mls

Convenor: Bill Bewg 01633 880165.

### Striders 5-7mls

Convenor: Richard Harding 01291 420305