



Learn, laugh, live
Dysgu, chwerthin, byw

Caldicot & District

December 23 Newsletter



CHAIR'S REPORT

Well almost a year has passed since our AGM when I took over the Chair of Caldicot and District u3a.

In January we had a well attended AGM and were entertained by Lorna Pearson a very talented Comedienne who had us in stitches.

In June we held a Coronation Celebration where we crowned our own King, David Evans, and Queen Fran Green.

In July we moved outdoors to the Castle grounds and had a picnic in the park entertained by our Ukulele Group.

September saw our Open Day which was attended by over 100 people and many new members were signed up.

In October we welcomed our National Chair, Liz Thackray to a special Coffee Morning. We also held two First Aid sessions.

In November a very successful Handicraft and Art Christmas Fayre was held, again over 100 people attended.

December brings our u3a Christmas party. All are welcome to enjoy the festivities.

All of our Groups were very active during this year and we signed on many new members through our monthly Coffee mornings.

Looking forward, we will be holding an AGM in January and other events throughout the year. One of these will be a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of when Caldicot became a town. There will be events from February until the end of the year entitled "The Festival of the 70's" and Caldicot and District u3a will be putting on an event in

The Summer as our contribution to this celebration. I cannot thank the Committee who have worked so hard throughout the year enabling all of these events to be successful, enough, without them all of these special days could not take place. They could not take place without the hard work of your Convenors either who continue to do their best for their groups.

Finally thank you to all the members who support our special events and their groups throughout the year. Without you we would not have a u3a. I hope that your support will continue into 2024. Lastly I wish you all a lovely holiday season and a very healthy and happy year in 2024.

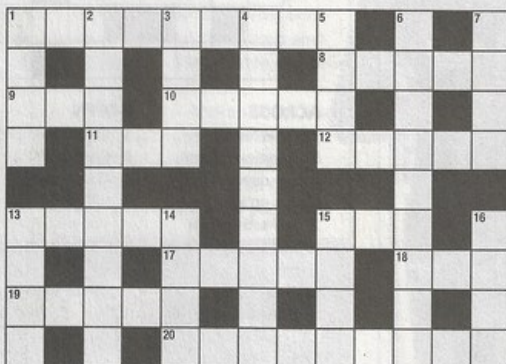
Linda Stewart, Chair

ACROSS

- 1 Renovate (9)
- 8 Foster permanently (5)
- 9 Criticise heavily (3)
- 10 Thesplan (5)
- 11 Opening, space (3)
- 12 Famous racecourse (5)
- 13 Night-time beverage (5)
- 15 Drag with a car (3)
- 17 Utter (5)
- 18 Single number (3)
- 19 Modern wireless (5)
- 20 Zoe - - -, My Family star (9)

DOWN

- 1 Lasso (4)
- 2 Mould-destroying substance (9)
- 3 Gather a harvest (4)
- 4 Aim (9)
- 5 Rabbit-like creature (4)
- 6 Cleaning or ironing, eg (9)
- 7 Minute particle (4)
- 13 Centre of an apple (4)
- 14 Admit openly (4)
- 15 Division of a school year (4)
- 16 Equipment (4)



COMPUTER GROUP

Hello Campers

Since our last newsletter we have been discussing and working on different ways of supporting our members with their problems.

e.g. Hands on Files and Folders

Copy files from USB stick onto the Desktop of your laptop./ File names Gas-Electric-Rates-Car Water Rates etc. Name The Household Bills.

Sending E Mails Comparison of cc and bcc where ,why,and how. they should be used. QR codes, what are they How are they used?

HOW TO BUY SAFELY ON LINE including different payments.

How to decide which different type of mobile phone to buy.

Finally we discussed the CALL 159 STOP SCAM. this has been set up by the British banks to help us all from SCAMMERS.

Here is their website link|___<https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159>

We continue to hold our monthly Photo Competition with a different subject each time. Finally we have been pleased to welcome a few NEW FACES and have enjoyed the group. All are welcome to join us, and bring your problems with you, somebody will be able to help you.

Best wishes John M

THANK YOU

TO THE u3a COMMITTEE
FOR YOUR CARD, ALSO CARDS AND
TELEPHONE CALLS, FLOWERS ETC,
THAT WE RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS WHEN WE CELEBRATED OUR
65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
ON 6th SEPTEMBER. (BLUE SAPPHIRE).
SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO OUR FRIEND

WENDY WHO MADE OUR
ANNIVERSARY CAKE,
DELICIOUSLY MADE BEAUTIFULLY
DECORATED. WELL DONE FRIEND.
KIND REGARDS (COFION CAREDIG)

CORAL & JOHN MILLS

Nita Fenton

We would like to thank everyone for
their good wishes during Nita's
recent & ongoing
incapacity. Cards, visits & phone
calls have been very welcome & lift
morale considerably.

Special thanks to Ann & John for
transport & to Wendy for occasional
meals

Crumbles a speciality).

Nita & Jim Fenton

VISIT

Caldicot and District u3a were visited by the National Chair, Liz Thackray on 5th October. She attended a special drop in Coffee morning and spent a couple of hours talking to Members in attendance. Liz informed us that she was very impressed with the "buzz" in the room and the fact that members were all mixing with each other. Thank you to all who attended and made her visit a great success.

Our honorary member, **Lillian Bull** was 100 on 2nd November. A couple of Committee Members visited her to deliver a beautiful basket of flowers. Lillian was a member of our Gardening, Music Appreciation and Handicraft groups. She was brought up in Weston under Penyard near Ross on Wye. At 18 she started her nursing training at The Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. She then moved to London to continue her training and became a Midwife. Lillian then joined the British Army as an officer and was sent to Malaysia and Singapore, travelling down the Suez Canal.

When she left the Army she went to Mount Pleasant Hospital, Chepstow as a Theatre Nurse. She was introduced to Ronald Bull, an Engineer at the Pumping Station in Sudbrook. After their first date Ronald went home and told his Landlady that he had met the girl he was going to marry. They married 9 months later.

Lillian became involved in village life, joining the W.I. Mothers Union and attending Church. She had many hobbies including Scottish Dancing, Swimming, Gardening and u3a. Lillian had two children and when the youngest was around 8 years old she became a District Nurse, which she did until she retired at 60. After retiring Lillian and Ron travelled to America, Canada, a Safari and to Singapore to show Ron where she had served in the Army. They bought a caravan so that they could visit many places in this country.

Many local people remember Sister Bull in her little Mini and all her friends in Caldicot and District u3a wish her a very Happy Birthday.



Lillian as a Baby



Lillian now



CHRISTMAS PARTY
THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2023
2.00 P.M. TO 4.00 P.M.
CALDICOT CHOIR HALL
ADMISSION BY TICKET £2,
WHICH WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE
AVAILABLE FROM YOUR CONVENOR OR COFFEE
MORNING
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED,
COFFEE/TEA, SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS CAKES
ENTERTAINMENT

www.CreativeCertificates.com



We will be holding our u3a Christmas Party on Thursday, 7th December, at Caldicot Choir Hall, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Entry will be by ticket, these can be obtained from any committee member or at the next Coffee Morning. The cost for the ticket will be £2 and is numbered. The numbers from the tickets will be entered into a prize draw.

There will be entertainment provided by a Choir and a Magician.

You will be served Coffee, Tea and a selection of Christmas Cakes, e.g. Stollen, Christmas Cake, Mince pies, etc.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Choir Hall
for the fun and festivities.

**Firstly,
The Art & Craft Fayre was held
last Saturday.**

Handicraft & Art.

On Saturday 4th November the u3a Handicraft and Art groups combined to hold a Christmas Fayre in the Methodist church hall in Caldicot from 10am until 12 noon. The regular monthly Coffee morning also took place and with a mixture of over 100 members and the public passing through it proved to be an enjoyable and successful morning for all concerned.

There was a varied and interesting selection of exhibits of Art and Handicraft on display that showed off the skills and talent of people in these groups to great effect. Indeed many people took the opportunity to make some Christmas purchases. Many thanks to everyone who exhibited and to those of you who supported this event.



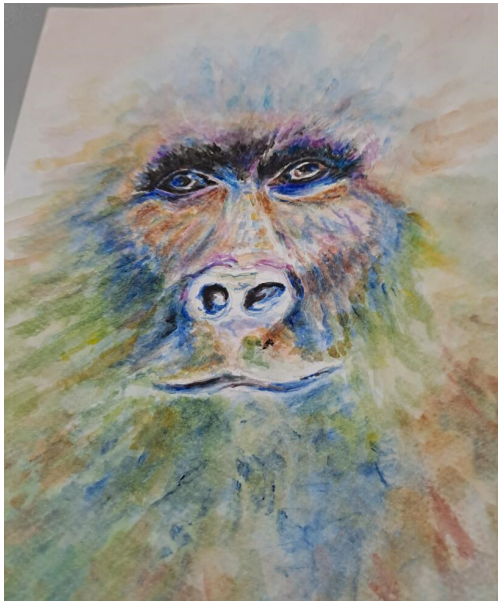
**Secondly,
Advertising The ART group.**

The u3a Art Group continues to thrive by taking a very relaxed approach to our work, we have a mix of experienced artists and those who are developing their skills and techniques by using all types of mediums.

Encouragement and giving each other tips means that we all learn together. Put that alongside having a chat and a cuppa seems to work, because at our recent Art Fayre people remarked on the high quality of the work on display. So if you are interested in drawing or painting just for enjoyment, but just don't seem to make the time, why not join our u3a Art Group.

We meet Weekly at Portskewett Recreation Hall every Wednesday from 1.30 to 3.30 and costs £2 per session. Contact Rob Harry on 01291-421282 if you are interested. **Cheers Rob**





DRAMA

Our drama group have been very busy this year having entertained at 10 various venues throughout the County. Having said that it is now with great regret Dianne Payne and myself (Pam Caines) both convenor of Drama have decided to retire as at the end of November. Unfortunately as there has been no interest in anyone taking the group over, Drama will no longer exist. We have lost members since the pandemic due to illness and other reasons and we now have only three people in the group which makes it impossible to carry on. Dianne and I started Drama approximately 16+ years ago and we have entertained our U3A at least twice a year every year. We would like to thank all those past members for all their hard work and dedication, we have had many a laugh and enjoyed every minute but since the Pandemic there has been little interest in this Group apart from outside venues. These we have been able to entertain with small sketches and humorous poetry which have been greatly received and enjoyed.

So we feel it is now time to bring the curtains down and bring the performances to a close.

Thanks to all those who attended previous entertainment and showed their appreciation, we enjoyed everything we did for you.

Southern Spiced Pecans

Ingredients:

2oz butter
 1 1/2 Teaspoon ground Cumin
 1/4 Teaspoon cayenne pepper
 24oz pecan halves
 1oz sugar
 1 teaspoon salt

Method:

In a large frying part, melt butter.

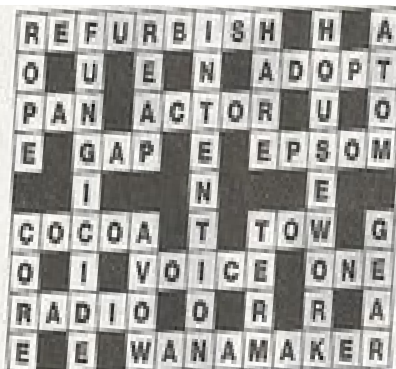
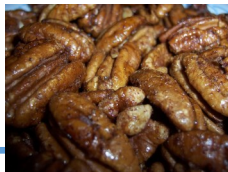
Add cumin and cayenne; cook, stirring constantly for 1 minute.

Remove from the heat, stir in pecans, sugar and salt until well coated.

Spread on a single layer in a greased 15x10x1 baking pan.

Bake at 300 for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.

Cool, store in airtight container.



GARDENING

2023

12th October

Speaker: Nathalie Magnotte
Subject: Garden of the Sun King

9th November

Speaker: Richard Rallings (Mynd Hardy Plants)
Subject: Five Centuries of Women & Gardens

14th December

Speaker: Andrew & Pauline
Subject: "Christmas" Demonstration

2024

11th January

Speaker: Helen Mugridge
Subject: "Wildlife & The Landscape of Scotland"

8th February

Speaker: Trey Saunders of Orchid Botanics

14th March

Speaker: Anne Brake of Bristol University
Subject: Botanic Garden

11th April

Speaker: Jonathan Jenkins
Subject: "The History of the Lent Lily"

**There will be a Gardening Trip to the Malvern Show
on Friday, 10th May, 2024.**

The total cost will be £40.

The coach will leave Caldicot at 9.30 a.m. and return at 5.45 p.m.,

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Our August meeting was a trip to St Mary's Church Chepstow for a lunch-time concert given by a local soprano, mezzo-soprano and piano accompanist. The full and varied programme included everything from early Baroque opera to twenty-first century South American songs. The quality of the performers was first class and the event was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

In October we celebrated Halloween and Bonfire Night with music portraying ghosts, ghouls and 'things that go bump in the night', as well as fire, fireworks and songs mentioning 'guy'. There was plenty of banter and laughter at our choices.

For the months of November, January and February (no meeting in December) the time of our meetings is changing to 1.30 to 3.30 to enable group members to return home before it is too dark. Date and venue remain as before. Our next meeting on 22nd November will be our Christmas party. Please bring suitable music and, if possible, a small plate of food for our buffet table. We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you would like further information please phone me on 01291 794034.

Jan Potter

**HAVE YOU
SPOTTED THE
MOUSE**

SCIENCE & NATURAL HISTORY

Looking back:-

In October the History group listened to a fascinating talk given by Dr. Rhian Morgan on the history and advancement of DNA. She related it to the use in solving current and 'Cold Case' crimes.

Our November talk was given by local, professional photographer, Mr. Allen Lloyd. We were treated to a truly amazing range of his work. He started with photos of the night sky, following by wildlife from many countries. Finally, there were day and night photos taken with his drone.

Looking forward:-

4th December 2023 - Kimberley Nicholson. Work of the Monkey Sanctuary in Cornwall. How they rescue and rehabilitate monkeys.

We meet the first Monday in the Month, with the exception of August and Bank Holidays.

Unfortunately in 2024, January, April and May are Bank Holidays, so there will not be a meeting on these months.

BUT we hope, in April, to organise a trip to Jenner's Museum and Berkley Castle, depending on numbers.

5th February 2024 - Alan Stealey
Biodiversity

4th March 2024 - Dr. Graham Cope
Antibiotic Resistance

3rd June - Rachel Turner
Bee Keeping - (bringing along some live bees)

1st July 2024 - Mike Dunsbee
'Friends of the Lower Wye'. Their work on keeping our rivers clean.

2nd September 2024 - John Handby
Talk on AI. Very topical at the moment.

We are in the process of booking some more exciting speakers for the rest of the year.

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 Monday 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



CALDICOT MUSICAL
THEATRE SOCIETY

E BENEZER

The Night Before Christmas

BASED ON 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' BY CHARLES DICKENS
FEATURING SONGS FROM 'THE MUPPET'S CHRISTMAS CAROL'

SAT 2ND DECEMBER: 1PM & 5PM

SUN 3RD DECEMBER: 1PM

DOORS OPEN 30 MINS BEFORE PERFORMANCE

CALDICOT SCHOOL

Box Office:

TEXT 07955713012

OR SCAN OUR QR CODE!

ALL TICKETS £12



CMTS



CALDICOTMTS