



Hi Everyone,

I wasn't expecting to write another u3a News Letter but the Committee asked me to write one 'final chapter'. As you know, my tenure as chairman comes to an end at our AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. This will be held at Ty Gwyn Community Church at 10.30am. I wish my successor every success in taking our u3a forward during the next three years.

Your Committee will have a new look, with a new chairman, vice-chairman as well as others being elected onto the Committee. I have always been of the opinion that one of the ways to prevent an organisation from becoming moribund and outdated is to have new members on the Committee. New members bring new ideas; new ideas of working and a new approach to meet the challenges of our ever-changing world.

The death-knell of any organisation are these eight words "we have never done it like this before"! Now I know that as we get older, we don't like things to change, we tend to like things to remain as they are, and in some cases, we can be quite resisted to change. Fortunately, that has not been my experience during my time as chairman and I am most grateful for the support you have given me, and your Committee during the difficult days of Covid-19. Sadly, during this time of Covid-19, some members have died, others due to advancing years have felt unable to renew their membership. Conversely, we seem to have had an influx of new members joining our u3a, and to all who have recently joined, let me extend to you, on behalf of the Committee, a hearty welcome!! May I add a gentle reminder to members who have failed to renew their membership to pay the fee of 10 pounds at the AGM please.

It is usual in our AGM to have an Annual Report printed but due to our scaled down programme due to Covid-19, I will now give you a Report in this News Letter.

One of the ways in which we have endeavoured to keep our links with you, is by my Monthly News Letter. This letter was originally sent, when Sandra and I were holed up in Dubai, and on our return, there was a request that I continue to write this letter to you to keep you informed.

Here is a summary of the activities that we have been able to provide during the past few months.

**DISCUSSION GROUPS** – we were able to initiate two Discussion Groups, one on Zoom and the other on 'WhyPay' for those members who were not able to connect to Zoom. We have now been able to recommence our Discussion Group on the second Tuesday of the month at Llanerch Community Centre at 2.30 pm and Christine Johnstone has agreed to be responsible for that group.

**MONTHLY LECTURES** – we were able to have two Zoom Lectures each month. Some of our members provided us with some very interesting lectures during this time. Now we are able

to revert back to our normal lecture schedule once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Felinfoel Resource Centre at 2.00pm.

**BOULES GROUP** – Julian and Maria Chidzoy have sought to maintain this group on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10.30am at the Pwll Playing Fields and these mornings have been very well attended.

**WALKING GROUP** – As soon as the Welsh Government allowed us, Keith Vincent arranged our month `Strollers and Striders` Walking Group and again this was very well supported.

**SOCIAL WALKING GROUP** – Again, as soon as he was able, Michael Morris organised our Social Walks and again these have been very well supported.

**`LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT HISTORY` GROUP** led by Julia Evans resumed at the Llanerch Community Centre last month, and will continue on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm.

**SNOOKER GROUP** led by Archie Richards recommenced at Cowell Street, Llanelli on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

**TABLE TENNIS GROUP** has resumed at the Llanelli Leisure Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with Lis Glanville as the contact person.

**BOOK GROUP** has been meeting at 9 Beech Grove on the third Monday of the month at 10.30 am. Members choose the book they are going to read and Sandra Ivinson is the organiser.

**CRAFT GROUP** has had an initial meeting at the Felinfoel Resource Centre, and will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. Sue Court is the organiser.

**CYCLING GROUP** has had one or two outings, with Paul Cullen taking responsibility for this group. This group functions as the weather permits.

**GARDENING GROUP** was initiated by Maria Chidzoy, and has met on a couple of occasions, this group is obviously a summer group meeting, as and when, the weather permits.

**OUR WEBSITE** has been a means of information during the lockdown and beyond, so thanks to Paul Cullen for keeping the website up-to-date.

Julian and Maria Chidzoy have organised various entertainment events, such as a Jazz night at Llanelly House, a Picnic, Indoor Bowls night and a four-day holiday to Hereford.

As other Groups resume or new ones emerge, I know the Committee will keep you informed.

On September 4<sup>th</sup> (the day after her Golden wedding anniversary) Mari Dafis, who has been a member for many years, completed her fund-raising walk for Macmillan Cancer Support who have helped her and her mother in the past.

The walk was `O`r mynydd i`r Mor` (from the mountains to the sea), from Mynydd Mawr along Cynheidre Railway line to the sea – a distance of 5 miles. Mari is looking for financial support for this Charity. The online giving site is [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maridafis](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maridafis) or donate via Mari at 27, Bretenham Street, Llanelli SA15 3ED. Mari would be grateful for any support you can give.

Finally, let me say a big thank you to my friends on the Committee for your support and advice during my tenure, also to all of the Group Conveners for your tireless endeavours in making sure our Groups function, and finally, but not least, to all of you that have chosen to stay with us during this difficult season.

Pob hwyl,

John