



Newcastle Emlyn U3A

Newsletter - October 2016

<http://u3asites.org.uk/newcastle-emlyn>



Chair's Ramble

I think Autumn is definitely making an appearance. The leaves are starting to turn and the nights are drawing in and getting chillier but you will always get a warm welcome at our monthly meetings. However, we do need to know what sort of speakers you would like to have at these meetings. We are open to suggestions, names, ideas etc. so please jot them on a piece of paper and give them to Ruth or Linda on the welcome desk or directly to me or Hilary, our new secretary, who has agreed to help sort out the programme with your help. If anyone is willing to help as a second programme secretary please let me know.

It is also the time of year when we need to do a polite nag to everyone to make sure you have paid your membership subscription for 2016/17. There are still some members who have not paid. We understand that it can easily slip the mind or you may have been away but please let Ruth have the money as soon as possible.

The U3A overall is celebrating 1000 groups this year with events in London which were advertised in last month's newsletter. Newcastle Emlyn now has 86 members so I wonder when we will get to celebrate 100 members! Tell your friends and neighbours about us. Bring them along to a meeting and maybe it will be sooner than you think. We are planning a stall at the Victorian Evening in Newcastle Emlyn again this year and will also hold another open afternoon next year.

Please support all our events and groups and maybe give a different group a try. You never know you might like it. There are vacancies in most of the groups and we have a new German conversation group starting soon hopefully. That's two new groups in the last few months (Art Group started earlier this year). Well done to the people who have come forward to get them started.

Scrabble yn Gymraeg (Scrabble in Welsh)

One prominent bookshop in Carmarthen bought in five copies of Scrabble yn Gymraeg (Scrabble in Welsh) – in 2014. Unfortunately the shop sold none that Christmas, or the following Christmas, nor any of the days in between. In total, two years of gathering dust!

Scrabble has sold over 100m copies of the game, in 29 languages, but they have been left lost for words by occurrences in Wales.

*Yesterday is history
Tomorrow a mystery
Today is a gift
That's why it's called the present!*

Our Subject Groups

Activity Group

(every 2-3 months. Activity and location varies)

More details contact Annabelle

Art Group

(2nd and 4th Thursdays from 10.00am to 12.00 at Penboyr Village Hall)

More details contact Amanda

Astronomy

(2nd Wednesday from 2.00pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd). Joint with Cardigan U3A

More details contact Malcolm

Book Club

(4th Tuesday from 10.30am at Ken & Val's in Horeb)

More details contact Ann

Crafty Crafters

(2nd Wednesday from 11.00am at Annabelle's in Penboyr)

More details contact Ruth

Creative Writing

(2nd Thursday from 10.30am at Carol's in Penrhiwllan)

More details contact Carol

Digital Photography

(2nd Tuesday from 10.30am at Coracle Hall, Llechryd). Joint with Cardigan U3A

More details contact Denis

Family History

(4th Wednesday from 10.30am at Coracle Hall, Llechryd). Joint with Cardigan U3A

More details contact Harold

French Group

(date varies - from 11.00am at Peggy's in Croeslan)

More details contact Ann

Games Group

(3rd Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30 at Hazel's in Waungilwen)

More details contact Hazel

Lunch Club

(last Wednesday - venue varies)

More details contact Mags

Philosophy am

(3rd Thursday from 11.00am at Lesley's in Henllan)

More details contact Lesley

Philosophy pm

(2nd Monday from 2.00pm at Teresa's in Penboyr)

More details contact Teresa

Scrabble

(2nd Friday from 2.00pm at Margery's in Henllan)

More details contact Margery

Strollers

(last Friday of the month from 10.30am, venue varies)

More details contact Jim

Wine Appreciation

(3rd Thursday from 7.00pm - venue varies, amongst the group)

More details contact Hazel

Note: Circumstances may require these details to change occasionally. Please refer to the current monthly calendar to confirm date, venue and time.

Visit to The Italian Church at Henllan Church of the Sacred Heart Wednesday 19th October at 2.00pm

We have arranged a visit to the POW camp - now the Henllan Industrial Estate.

Meet at the Visitors Car Park, accessed by going up any of the small entrance roads. Weather permitting we will have a short tour of the POW camp, then go to the Chapel for a talk by the Historian, Mr John Jones, about the history of the Camp, Prisoners and Chapel (the Chapel holds 70).

It will last about an hour and a half.

There is no charge but a good donation would be appreciated for the upkeep and maintenance of the chapel.

It will be helpful to know who is hoping to come. Please let Jim know to help him with arrangements.



Birthday celebration at Llanelly House murder mystery evening



Group Reports

Activity Group - Murder Mystery evening

The Activity Group enjoyed a fantastic evening at Llanelly House on Saturday, 24th September. Sixteen of us attended the Georgian Murder Mystery evening. We were greeted at the door by the ladies of the house dressed in costume and served drinks while other members of the cast introduced themselves. We were all aware that they might be dropping clues about the mystery so listened intently to what was going on. We were taken upstairs to the dining room where we enjoyed a lovely three course dinner with authentic Georgian recipes and the mystery continued to unfold. After dessert and a celebration cake for George and Annabelle's birthdays we suddenly heard gun shots, screams and the murder had occurred. Black Bart, the pirate, had been killed, but by whom and what was the motive.

Each table group was taken on a tour of the house to look for clues and interrogate the possible culprits. Then we had some time to discuss our ideas and come up with answers. Both of our tables managed to get the right murderer, Lady Maria Stepney, with the correct weapon, a knife, but we were a bit awry on the motive! It was a really enjoyable evening, good food, good company and a lovely relaxed atmosphere.

The activity group meets every couple of months, or so, to enjoy something different. It is open to everyone. We have so far enjoyed two different types of bowling and the murder mystery. Watch out for the next activity!

Art Group

Remember the change of dates for the Art Group, we have moved our meetings to the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month.

Astronomy

On the 10th August, Dr David Bacon, Cosmologist at the University of Portsmouth, delivered a lecture entitled "The Dark Universe: Latest Developments" in Aberporth Village Hall. The lecture was arranged for the Astronomy Group, but all U3A members were welcome; even a few members of the general public attended.

Dr Bacon is currently working on the extraordinary concept of producing the largest map of invisible matter, Dark Matter, in the Universe. He says, "it is the same as making a map of the wind, you can chart the effects". During a recent interview for the press by our Publicity Officer, which took place before the lecture, David responded to a few questions about himself and his work:

Exploring the universe from here on Earth, David enjoys the element of discovery, the finding of new features in the Universe. "It's amazing to see a new galaxy, or even a new blob of gravity, for the first time". In a defining moment whilst hunting for weird behaviours of gravity on the outskirts of the clusters of galaxies (bundles of hundreds of galaxies bound together by gravity), and looking at the behaviour of light and gas at the edges of the clusters, he found that Einstein's Theory of Gravity fits perfectly. "It's amazing to me that this guy so successfully predicted the behaviour of objects billions

of light years away. Einstein's Theory of Gravity works so astoundingly well in areas he had no knowledge of at the time". So far, possibly, David's most important finding has been to measure the light, which is bent slightly, by the giant web of material in the Universe; this bending is called 'cosmic shear'.

What does David think about the effect of space research on our day to day lives? "I look at the technological outcomes: your phone has a digital camera, GPS and Wi-Fi, all of which were built up through astronomy research. But more fundamentally, I think it's really important that we all know where we are in the Universe, what it's like - understanding the backdrop to our 'ordinary', actually incredible, lives."

There are always problems to be solved in research. One problem Dr Bacon unravelled, during his most recent project, was measuring how light interacts with gravity in a totally new set of theories about gravity. Along with problems, there sometimes comes controversy. The very strange effect of galaxies, speeding apart faster and faster, leads some to conclude that this is due to Dark Energy, which gives the energy and pressure needed for this expansion. However, an alternative explanation is that gravity behaves in strange ways on large scales in the Universe. "We'd love to decide between Dark Energy and modified gravity".

For the present, David is concentrating on the big new astronomy surveys, to make a more powerful and insightful map of the Universe. These huge surveys should pin down with great precision the behaviour of Dark Energy and Dark Matter, by using visible light and radio light, working together. By bending light, the invisible makes the visible observable. The images of galaxies in the far background bend, making it possible to find structures made of Dark Matter, extending for tens of millions of light years. And then there's gravity: does gravity behave the same way in the vast universe as it does in the lab? With Dr David Bacon's open mind and steely determination, there are sure to be resolutions one day to these challenges.

Galileo

Book Club

The book for September was Brooklyn by Colm Toibin, an Irish writer. The next date for Book Club will be Tuesday, 25th October at Val's. We are reading A Painted House by John Grisham and doing some short play readings.

Crafty Crafters

September Crafty Crafters was quite a quiet meeting. Unfortunately, the planned session on card making had to be postponed until a future date so some of us decided to work on making more Morsebags while the others worked on their own projects. We now have 16 Morsebags ready to give away at the Victorian Evening in Newcastle Emlyn on the first Wednesday in December. Please feel free to make more if you want to help.

In October we will have a go at book folding, making a hedgehog. You will need an unwanted paperback book about 200 pages thick (don't worry if it has more), 2 buttons for eyes, 1 button for a nose, about 1/2 meter of narrow ribbon, some thin card for the base and paper glue.

Creative Writing Group

This month we had a change from the Creative style, leaning more towards an analytical approach! Our task was to take an old "saying", such as "The grass is always greener.....", "Money is the route of all evil....", "Good things come to those who wait....", etc. and write an argument disputing it. If possible using our own experiences. It was good fun and let us have a bit of a rant!

French

The next date for the French Group will be Monday, 3rd October at Peggy's.

Games Group

Please note that the October venue will be back at Hazel and John's and not at Annabelle's as previously advised.

Philosophy am

We looked at whether competition was good or bad and whether the Olympics and Paralympics are worth all the money invested, as it seems not to have increased the grass roots participation in sport.

Surprisingly agreement was reached that stopping competitive sport was a retrograde step as most of life itself had a degree of competition.

The Paralympics were appreciated by all and seemed good value although it was mentioned that comments were made as to the why don't the disabled do more like the competitors at the Paralympics.

As we all tended to drift into personal and family's experiences, so as usual no decision was reached.

Strollers

The September walk is the old road from Cenarth to Newcastle Emlyn. We will meet 10.30am at the Market Car Park, Newcastle Emlyn (at the bowling club side), to share cars to Cenarth (to the coach/car park on the Boncath road). We will walk back through Cenarth to the church and then onto the footpath.

Please, we do still need someone to take on the role of group leader. Someone who will just have a list of the members of the group and will notify members of the next walk - and to record who is on the walk.

Generally, we need a programme of walks so please can you put your thinking caps on and - volunteers to lead a walk. Perhaps we could meet at the end of October for a planning meeting to sort out a programme etc.

If you have any suggestions to progress this matter please contact Jim -

The following is a copy from the U3A Newsletter by the Walking Advisor:-

"The members of the group go on the walk willingly, accepting the risks that are inherent in any outdoor activity such as walking and mountain climbing and accepting that ultimate responsibility for their own wellbeing lies with themselves. The leader just happens to be the person who knows the way!"

Wine Appreciation Group

A small but select group gathered at Ruth and Malcolm's to taste German White wines last month. We have designed some tasting notes now so that we can record our thoughts about each of the wines we taste.

Unfortunately next month there are quite a number of the members no available so we have decided to cancel Octobers meeting.

In November we are visiting the Celteg winery for a talk and tasting. There will also be a chance to purchase gifts for Christmas! This visit is on Thursday, 17th November and is open to any member who wishes to attend. We will be meeting at 6:30pm at the winery in Henllan and can sort anyone who needs a lift. Please let Hazel know if you wish to attend or sign the sheet at the next monthly meeting. We need at least 10 people so please come along and enjoy the evening.



Activity Group enjoying an entertaining and fun evening, with a very good (authentic) Georgian meal, at the murder mystery evening, Llanelly House

Q: Name the four seasons . . . A: Salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar

Q: Where are whales weighed . . . A: At a whale weigh station

If you took all the people that fell asleep in church on a Sunday and laid them on the floor end to end . . .

. . . they'd be a lot more comfortable!

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn U3A - October 2016

October

Monday	3	French - at Peggy's in Croeslan	11.00am
Wednesday	5	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn Speaker - John Wigley, The Bee Man	10.30am
Wednesday	5	Lunch - at Emlyn Arms (after monthly meeting)	12.30am
Monday	10	Philosophy (pm) - at Teresa's in Penboyr	2.00pm
Tuesday	11	Digital Photography - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Wednesday	12	Crafty Crafters - at Annabelle's in Penboyr	11.00am
Wednesday	12	Astronomy - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	2.00pm
Thursday	13	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	13	Creative Writing - at Carol's in Penrhiwllan	10.30am
Friday	14	Scrabble - at Margery's in Henllan	2.00pm
Tuesday	18	Games Group - at Hazel's in Waungilwen	10.30am
Wednesday	19	Visit to Italian Chapel - at Henllan	2.00pm
Thursday	20	Philosophy (am) - at Lesley's in Henllan	10.30am
Tuesday	25	Book Club - at Val's in Horeb	10.30am
Wednesday	26	Family History - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Wednesday	26	Lunch Club - Cardigan Golf Club	12.15pm
Thursday	27	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Friday	28	Strollers - To Be Advised	10.30am

Wine Appreciation - No meeting this month

November

Wednesday	2	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn Speaker - Melvyn Grey, Wild Life Photography	10.30am
Wednesday	2	Lunch - at Emlyn Arms (after monthly meeting - all welcome) (if you wish to attend, you will need to book and choose your meal at the start of the monthly meeting)	

To add events to this monthly calendar please contact John, giving date, venue and time plus any further information to assist those wishing to attend.

Closing date for newsletter contributions will be on the 24th of the month.

Sorry, later than this and I cannot guarantee its inclusion.

Contact John via email at: neu3anewsletter@hotmail.com

It's easy to remember - **n** (Newcastle), **e** (Emlyn), **u3a** (catching on!)
newsletter (I think you've got it!) - @hotmail.com (gets it to me).