



Chair's Ramble

Love it or hate it, we can no longer deny that Christmas is just around the corner. For some it's a lovely family time and for others a lonely few days that they just want to get through. Whatever your thoughts of Christmas, please remember those less fortunate than ourselves and try to do something to help them, however small.

For our U3A, Christmas means a buffet lunch on the 7th December. Please remember to bring something to share for the table. There will be entertainment by some of our members and a display by the craft group. Unfortunately John and I will not be able to be there so may we take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2017!

I wonder how many of you actually read your Third Age Matters magazine every month. I read ours on one of our recent trips to the Midlands and found many interesting articles, letters and ideas. Not least, I was reading about the groups that other U3A's run. I came across golf, whisky tasting, pétanque, archeology, geology, theatre and cinema, music appreciation, art appreciation and cycling. I am not saying that we can or should run any of these but it does make you think and realise that we can do anything we want to providing someone is interested. Personally I would love to see a Pétanque group! If you don't know what that is, google it!!! We are a learning organisation so let's learn!

South and West Wales Networks are organising a creative writing workshop on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl. I do hope some of our members will support this and bring back some ideas for our group.

There are also big discussions and consultations going on at the moment regarding the structure of the Third Age Trust, who is the governing body of the U3A's. We are sending representatives to a meeting next February to discuss this. For more details please see page 43 of the magazine. If you have any strong views about it let one of the committee know.

Last month the editor included a quiz based on Beatles songs. If you bring your completed entries with you to the December meeting there will be a small prize for the person with the most correct answers. Good luck!

Happy Christmas!

*If you can't wrap Christmas presents well,
at least make it look like they put up a good fight*

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

German Group

(1st and 3rd Thursday from 11.00am at National Woollen Museum, Drefach Felindre)
More details contact Steph and Terry

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 see if there are any changes to date, venue and time.

Help for New and Existing Creative Writing Groups

If your U3A has, or might like to start, a Creative Writing group, you are invited to send one or two people to a day of workshops on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl CF36 5TA.

Presented by Marcia Humphries, the U3A National Adviser for Creative Writing, and by Jo Brooks, Convenor of a successful Porthcawl writing group. The day will cover the basics of creative writing by working through the elements of a short story. It will serve as a refresher course for some and as a starter for others.

The sessions will be in the form of talks, with some fun written exercises. They will cover prose, not poetry & not basic grammar. The aim is to give people confidence to write ... no-one will be put on the spot. There will also be guidance available on how to set up a group or to boost membership of an existing group. If you have a writing group already do make sure they know about this workshop.

The cost is £8 per head, to include tea/coffee on arrival and lunch. Timing is 10am to 3.30pm.

Please book your place as soon as possible at u3awriting@hotmail.co.uk

Hilary Jones, U3A Trustee for Wales hilary.jones@u3a.org.uk 01352 780324

All year long, cats have a litter box
Only in December do dogs have a Christmas tree

Group Reports

Astronomy

December 14th meeting, 2.00pm - Short presentations by members.

Jim

Book Club

Book for January - Mrs. Palfrey At The Clarement by Elizabeth Taylor

Hazel

Creative Writing Group

This month Hilary set us an early Festive task . . . from 2 envelopes we drew a name of a Fictional character from one, and a true person from the other.

Then the scene was set . . . It was Christmas, and these two characters had been invited for the day and we were to buy each of them 3 Christmas presents, a book, an item of clothing and a luxury item . . . and give reasons why each item was selected for our guests. It gave some very amusing results! Our next meeting is December 8th.

Alison

French

Meeting on Monday 5th December at 10.00am - continuing with Travelers French.

Ann

German Language

The German Language group started on the 3rd November at the National Woollen Museum. The group will meet on a two week basis. Five people attended the first session and of course it was more about planning the correct learning procedure that would suit the different levels of all and their goals.

Some basic German was practiced and some members did hold conversations. It will take some time for the group to find a common path. At the second meeting on the 17th November three members enjoyed grammar and discussion, and it was suggested that for the next meeting each member brings an item which they can describe and discuss. The next meeting is on 1st December at 11.00am.

Steph

Philosophy pm

Sadly this meeting was our last one at Teresa's, as she will be taking a sabbatical from meetings. We all expressed our gratitude for her magnificent hospitality and contribution.

We discussed Augustine of Hippo who apparently had great influence on philosophy. We felt he was mainly a Theologian spending most of his time on bible interpretation and power struggles with other Christian Sects. So you can see we are odd philosophers.

The next meeting will be on December 12th but at The Red Lion Inn, Drefach Felindre to thank Teresa for all her help. We will need to choose from the menu, probably from their usual menu (not Christmas menu) for 12.30pm. Please contact me (Jim) on sibguy@aol.com for further details and to book a place. I am sure we will be discussing the philosophy of good food and good company and putting the world to right.

We will be meeting in January and will be moving to a modern subject - this time 'The Freedom of the Press' at Sue's in Pontgarreg - more details and directions next month.

Jim

Strollers

The walk, on 25th November, was a 5.5 mile walk with history around the Drefach Felindre area along the woollen trails, taking in many of the surrounding villages.

Starting in Drefach crossing the Bargod river up to Penrhiw, passing the spot where the Utilitarian Chapel once stood, the chapel was moved in 1952 to the National Museum of Welsh life at St. Fagans. The next building of note on route is Dolwion Mill once owned by John Adams, part of the family moved to America and made good, one ancestor, another John Adams, became the second President of America and his son John Quincy Adams became the sixth president. We then headed for Drefelin and looked at the only corn mill that was in the area, from there on it was a climb up the hillside on to Penboyr hill and on through the wood to Cwmpengraig, passing various



November's strollers + Hazel (behind the camera), welcome to two new members

Wine Appreciation

On 17th November, the Wine Appreciation Group visited Celteg Winery, a small family run company based in Henllan. We were given a tour round the site followed by tastings of any of their products we were interested in.

The company started 23 years ago in Penrhiwllan and moved to Henllan after spending some time in Beulah. They produce a wide range of fruit wines and sparkling wines and liqueurs from fruit bought in from Hereford and all the production and bottling takes place on site in their purpose built premises. They also produce chutneys and fruit wine vinegars. They have received several awards, including the "3 Gold Stars" in 2008 for their Sloe Gin. This places it amongst the top 73 products produced in the UK.

It was a very interesting and informative evening. For more information on the company and their products visit their website <http://www.celticwines.co.uk/>

Ruth

Grandma's Christmas Strategy

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas cheques she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their cheques.

When asked by a friend what caused this change in behavior, the grandmother replied, "Simple. This year I didn't sign the cheques".

Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer

One Christmas eve, Pete and Jane were driving their Russian friend Rudolph back to his house. The weather outside was frightful. Jane asked Pete . . .

"Do you think that's sleet or rain out there?"

"It's rain, Jane" said Pete

"I think it's sleet, Pete," said Jane

Rudolph chimed in, "It's definitely rain, Jane"

"No, I really think it's sleet, Rudolph" said Jane

"Don't argue with the expert, Jane," said Pete

"What do you mean, Pete?" asked Jane

Pete replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, Dear"

Monthly Meeting - Christmas Buffet contribution

If you are planning to bring food for the buffet lunch at the December monthly meeting, please bring savoury/dessert contributions as follows:

Surname beginning A - M please bring Savoury contributions

Surname beginning N - Z please bring 'Deserts' contributions (Jim's spellin!)

Community Choir sing Christmas music

*Cardigan Community Choir sing Christmas music
in aid of church roof renovation
at St. Barnabas church in Drefach Felindre*

Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm
£8.00 admission
Fund raising for church roof

Words of Beatles Songs (November Newsletter)

The answers will be read out at the December meeting with a small prize for the most correct answers. So don't forget to bring along your answers.

There are three stages of man:

He believes in Santa Claus . . .

He does not believe in Santa Claus . . .

He is Santa Claus . . .

A Christmas miracle is when your family doesn't get into a single argument all day

When a father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas
the boy replied,
"A baby sister"

As it turned out, the wife was pregnant
and delivered on Christmas Eve
On Christmas day she brought home a brand new baby sister for their son

The next year, when the father asked his little boy
what he wanted for Christmas
the boy said . . .

"If it wouldn't make mommy too uncomfortable, I'd like a pony"

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree
In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall

My Christmas wish is to spend more time unwrapping presents
than I do untangling lights

Xmas Trivia: Before it became a major shopping holiday
Christmas is believed to have had a "religious" meaning

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn U3A - December 2016

December

Thursday	1	German - at The Woollen Museum	11.00am
Monday	5	French - at Peggy's in Croeslan	11.00am
Wednesday	7	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn	10.30am
		Informal meeting followed by a buffet lunch and entertainment !	
Thursday	8	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	8	Creative Writing - at Carol's in Penrhiwllan	10.30am
Friday	9	Scrabble - at Margery's in Henllan	2.00pm
Monday	12	Philosophy (pm) - at Teresa's in Penboyr	2.00pm
Tuesday	13	Digital Photography - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Wednesday	14	Crafty Crafters - at Annabelle's in Penboyr	11.00am
Wednesday	14	Astronomy - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	2.00pm
Thursday	15	German - at The Woollen Museum	11.00am
Thursday	15	Philosophy (am) - at Lesley's in Henllan	10.30am
Thursday	15	Wine Appreciation - at Hazel's in Waungilwen	7.00pm
Tuesday	20	Games Group - at Hazel's in Waungilwen	10.30am
Thursday	22	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Wednesday	28	Lunch Club - venue TBA	12.15pm
		Book Club - No meeting this month	
		Family History - No meeting this month	
		Strollers - No Walk this month	

January 2017

Wednesday	4	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn	10.30am
		Speaker - Kathryn Horton - HUTS outreach worker	
Wednesday	4	Lunch - at Emlyn Arms (after monthly meeting)	12.30am

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*).
