

**Chair's Ramble**

I hope everyone had a peaceful and happy Easter whatever they were doing. The year is whizzing past! When I was little I couldn't understand it when my mother said things like that but the older I get the more I catch myself saying it!

It was with great sadness that I had to let everyone know of the death of Ken Crichton earlier in April. Ken had been a member of our U3A and with his wife Val has hosted the book club for many years. A good few of us attended his memorial service in Llandysul. He had certainly led a varied and interesting life. Our thoughts are with Val and the family at this time.

This month I managed to get to visit the French group which meet's at Peggy's. They were busy reading a short story in French and learning vocabulary about houses. I still have to visit a few other groups and will be in touch when I can.

I thoroughly enjoyed our open morning on the 18th April. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. The groups again did us proud and it was lovely to see every group represented. Unfortunately we did not get as many visitors as last year but those who did come seemed genuinely interested and may well join us soon.

Last month I announced the start of my technology support group again. Two people came this month and we managed to sort out a few problems with them. ICT stands for information communication technology and between Ruth and I we are happy to try and help with any technology from phones through to laptops. Just let me know you are interested in coming and what your problems are as spaces are obviously limited each month. If you want to know anything further, please ask me.

Our August trip, instead of the monthly meeting, will be on August 2nd and will be to Aberglasney gardens. We will be having a talk and tour of the gardens with the head gardener and a history tour of the house and grounds. The cost will be about £9 a head for entrance to the gardens and the history tour and the U3A will fund the head gardeners talk. There will be chance to have lunch in the café or take a picnic.



We hope as many members as possible will join us on this day. Lifts can be arranged for those who need them. More details and booking form to follow.

Hazel

French Group during the Chair's visit to their April meeting

Our Subject Groups**Activity Group**

(every 2-3 months. Activity and location varies)
More details contact Annabelle

Art Group

(1st and 3rd 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 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 Penrhiewllan)
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

ICT Support Sessions

(3rd Tuesday from 1.30am to 3.30 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 Susan's in Pontgarreg)

More details contact Susan

Scrabble

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

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.

Ali (from Creative Writing)

Ali is joining a group of friends to do the London Moonwalk on May 13th in aid of Breast Cancer Research. I'm sure all of us know someone who has fought with this cancer, some have won, some have lost. One of our group is a dear friend of over 45 years who has had a fight with this cancer, if she has found the strength and courage to do this challenge I am ready to do without a few hours sleep, and a few blisters to join her!

If anyone would like to donate, that would be lovely, and you can log into the following page and click on Donate: www.moonwalklondon2017.everydayhero.com/uk/ali-18

Many Thanks, Ali

Table Tennis Wales / Tenis Bwrdd Cymru U3A National Championships 2017

Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

Wednesday 6th September, 2017 - 10.00am start, concluding around 5.00pm

TTW is proud to host the first ever U3A Welsh National Table Tennis competition
This is a mixed doubles event open to teams from all U3A groups in Wales

If you are interested, or want to know more, please contact Hazel

Competition details are available at - <https://u3asites.org.uk/walesu3a/page/15061>

Group Reports

Astronomy

Galileo has to apologise to the members of the astronomy group, who made presentations last month, because their efforts go unreported here, due to Galileo not being present for most of the meeting. Adrian, Martyn and Los made presentations with our grateful thanks, but if anyone else showed, or produced, what was certainly a valued contribution, many apologies for the absence of proper commentary on these pages.

Galileo

French

The May meeting will be on Monday, 8th at Peggy's in Croeslan, at 11.00am.

Jim

Strollers - Walking Tour of the Botanical Gardens

Friday 26th May. The strollers group would like to invite you to join them on a guided walking tour of the regency parkland and restorations at the National Botanic Gardens of Wales (NBGW).

Peter Stopp, one of their volunteer tour guides will be taking us on the walk. We will arrive at 10.30am and start with a coffee in the coffee shop at the main entrance and then meet Peter to start the tour at 11.00am at the Gatehouse. Please note it is a two hour tour with muddy patches and hills en route, so sturdy walking shoes are recommended. There will be an entrance fee for the gardens (NBGW members free) and we can enjoy the rest of the gardens and lunch afterwards.

If you are interested in joining us on this walk please let Hazel or Jim know.

Wine Appreciation

The April meeting was at Annabelle and George's where we sampled a variety of Australian wines - and welcomed Chris for his first visit to the group. The May meeting will be at Les and Lesley's. We will be tasting Sauterne wines (Hazel and John have already bought theirs while in France - during their visit to Cognac).

Hazel

Short Story Competition - U3A Wales

an opportunity to share your imaginative talents

Closing Date: 31st August, 2017

Competition details are available at - <https://u3asites.org.uk/walesu3a/page/15061>

If you have any queries, please contact Hilary Jones at: hilary.jones@u3a.org.uk

Astronomy Workshop 31.03.17

What an extraordinarily successful day! We have since found out that this is the very first interest group, that has single-handedly organised and produced a study day/workshop in West Wales, and probably further afield (but confirmation of that is hard to come by). Usually such days are held and organised by the main U3A committee. Good thing no one told us that before we started – it's amazing what innocence of usual procedure can produce. Four of the group members were tasked with the organisation of the day Martyn, Adrian, Sam and Helen, and playfully given the acronym, the MASH team.

U3A members from our own wide ranging Network gathered (Narbeth, Tenby, Pembroke, Newport, Carmarthen, etc., as well as further up north a large contingency from Aberystwyth) in the Guildhall, Cardigan for a day, starting at 10:00 finishing at 3:30pm. Approximately 70 people attended.

First on the bill was space specialist, David Grace, from the Physics Department in Aberystwyth, who told the assembled group about 'How Light tells Us Everything We Know About Stars', followed by a fascinating workshop. In the workshop he helped us all make SPECTROSCOPES for viewing the spectra in various forms of light. All the materials for the spectroscopes were provided by the Physics Department at the University.

After a wonderful buffet lunch it was the turn of astronomy group members to show how the group was run, and contribute their part to the day. Presentations by Adrian, Space Telescopes, Sam, Constellations, and Martyn, Iridium Flare Satellites were all well received.

The inclusion of Dr. David Bacon (son of Cardigan U3A members Chris and Sue Bacon) in the mix was a special treat for us all. A Cosmologist from Portsmouth University, and expert in many different up-to-date aspects of astronomy, he delivered his usual clear, precise, amazing and amusing lecture, Gravity in the Universe, announcing at the very end of it that there had been a new discovery . . . but he couldn't tell us what it was! That's how to leave an audience wanting to know more! Graham Goodeve, member from Pembrokeshire, and founder member of the U3A, was the specially invited guest.

The day was highly praised for its outstanding organisation from those that attended. Who will be next to attempt it? Here's some advice: it's hard work, but worth it. What we should also point out is that without the help of nearly every member of the astronomy group, it wouldn't have been half as successful. Small part, big part? Everyone played an important part.

Galileo

If a man said he'll fix it, he'll fix it. There is no need to nag him every 6 months about it

I am nobody . . . Nobody is perfect . . . I am perfect!

Panic, Chaos, Pandemonium – my work here is finished

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn U3A - May 2017

May

Wednesday	3	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn Speaker - Helen Palmer - The work of the County Archivist	10.30am
Wednesday	3	Lunch - at Emlyn Arms (after monthly meeting) If you wish to attend, please order from the menu at the meeting	12.30am
Thursday	4	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	4	German - at The Woollen Museum	11.00am
Monday	8	French Group - at Peggy's in Croeslan	11.00am
Monday	8	Philosophy (pm) - at Susan's in Pontegarreg	2.00pm
Tuesday	9	Digital Photography - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Wednesday	10	Crafty Crafters - at Annabelle's in Penboyr	11.00am
Wednesday	10	Astronomy - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	2.00pm
Thursday	11	Creative Writing - at Carol's in Penrhawllan	10.45am
Friday	12	Scrabble - at Margery's in Waungilwen	2.00pm
Tuesday	16	Games Group - at Hazel's in Waungilwen	10.30am
Tuesday	16	ICT Support Session - at Hazel's in Waungilwen	1.30pm
Thursday	18	Art Group - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	18	Philosophy (am) - at Lesley's in Henllan	10.30am
Thursday	18	German - at The Woollen Museum	11.00am
Thursday	18	Wine Appreciation - at Les and Lesley's	7.00pm
Tuesday	23	Book Club - at Val's in Horeb	10.30am
Wednesday	24	Family History - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Friday	26	Strollers - at the National Botanic Gardens. All welcome	10.30am
Wednesday	31	Lunch Club - at (TBA)	12.15pm

June

Wednesday	7	Monthly Meeting - at Community Hall, N. Emlyn Speaker - Mhari Matheson - A writing Journey Part 2	10.30am
Wednesday	7	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).