



Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter December 2020

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



Chairs Ramble

December 2020 – what a year! Wales has emerged from our latest lockdown and we await news of what we can and cannot do over the Christmas period. Whatever any of you do please stay safe and take care so that we can all enjoy a hopefully much better 2021. However, I am very pleased to say that Newcastle Emlyn u3a is still alive and kicking!

**John and I would like to wish you all a very
Happy and Peaceful Christmas
and a Wonderful New Year!**

Please accept this as our Christmas greeting this year as we have made the decision to not send our usual amount of Christmas cards to u3a members due to postage, but to give a donation to Newcastle Emlyn u3a instead. If others wish to do the same please send your donation to Ruth either as a cheque or via the bank transfer details you used for your subscription payments.

The good news is, that should the rules after Christmas allow, we will be starting our table tennis group again at Rhydlewis Hall following guidelines from the Table Tennis association and Rhydlewis Hall themselves and our own u3a risk assessments. We also hope that a new Petanque group can start using the new terrain in the park. If you are interested in having a go at Petanque (French Boule) please let me know and we will start a list of interested people.

November's meeting was well attended on Zoom with 32 members joining us to find out some more about Tonga from our own member John Piggott. If anyone else feels they are able to share some of their knowledge with us please let Julia, Lesley or myself know. We are booking some external speakers for next year but using our own expertise keeps the cost down at this difficult time.

The committee have been working very hard during November to produce our '**Christmas Shenanigans**' for the December meeting on Wednesday 2nd. It will be a treat not to be missed! The Zoom link to the meeting is in the newsletter and will also be emailed to everyone. Lets see if we can top our AGM record of 45 members! The committee and especially Julia deserve your support as it has been a very large learning curve producing the skit and everyone has worked very hard and actually had a lot of fun as well!

The meeting will start as usual at 10.30am for coffee and a chat. Please wear something Christmassy if you are able. At about 11 o'clock we will share our '**Christmas Shenanigans**' with you for approximately half an hour. After that we hope you will all join us in raising a glass or a coffee and a few nibbles or mince pies as we would normally do at our Christmas meeting. We will also have a quiz at this time. It's the best we can do under the current circumstances but at least we will be able to see each other and we are doing something! If anyone needs help getting onto Zoom by computer, tablet or by ordinary phone please ask me.

The January meeting on January 6th will be a slightly less glamorous affair I am afraid and will probably be a coffee and chat morning. However, we have a full programme planned after that.

Stay safe and well over the festive period and see you all on the 2nd!

Hazel

Main meeting link for December

Newcastle Emlyn U3A is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Newcastle Emlyn U3A's Christmas Shenanigans monthly Zoom Meeting

Time: December 2nd, 2020 at 10:30am London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7696055146?pwd=aXhXc0xmdnVoQmJXU1d1RVZxNmJlOQ09>

Meeting ID: 769 605 5146

Passcode: NEu3a

Dial by phone:

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 769 605 5146

Passcode: 812530

Sorry, no "Our Subject Groups" this month
please use the website if you need group details

Book Club

The book club met on Thursday 24th, via zoom (again!!) and we discussed None So Blind by Alis Hawkins which is the first book in the Coroner Trilogy. It seems we all enjoyed the book very much though for slightly different reasons. Most liked the background it gives to the Rebecca Riots as it seems none of us knew more than very basic facts.

We all picked up on different historical aspects which either taught us new things or particularly interested us. The book was long with a complex plot which kept us guessing to the end.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd December - we will be discussing Camino Island by Jon Grisham.

Vicky & Hilary

Crafty Crafters and Patchwork & Quilting Groups, combined

November's meeting had lots of inspiration from those attending, starting with Julie showing us the cross-stitch holly leaves and berries she was doing as the centre for a Christmas card. Ali had taken her inspiration from the Christmas projects link from last month and had covered one of her doors in white paper and decorated it as a snowman ready for Christmas, a bit early but a good bit of fun. She had also taken inspiration from Clarity Stamps website and had been creating cards using stamps and alcohol inks and she had continued doing Zentangling.

Denise had been crocheting baubles from a kit brought back from a Scottish island and has now made several. She'd had to remind herself how to crochet but managed with only one or two setbacks.

Hazel had been as productive as usual making a Christmas stocking for her new (well, 3 months old now) grandson, a beaded Christmas bauble and 3 patchwork diamond baubles.

Following this, we watched three videos, two from National Quilting Circle showing log cabin patterns and comparing $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangles with $\frac{1}{4}$ square triangles.

The third video was from the National Sewing Circle about how to keep your sewing machine running smoothly.

<https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com/video/log-cabin-quilt-block-patterns-003710/>

<https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com/video/half-square-vs-quarter-square-triangles-016562/>

<https://www.nationalsewingcircle.com/video/how-to-keep-your-sewing-machine-running-smoothly-017016/>

Ruth

Family History

We had an interesting meeting this month on the subject of Occupations. We also had a 'live' demonstration of an Ancestry search from Ken. He also showed us how to save records and add people to his Ancestry Family Tree.

The December meeting will be on Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday 8th December. We shall be trying to offer practical help during the meeting - live again, by sharing our screens. Members can ask for any kind of help like 'How do I . . .?' - 'What am I doing wrong here?' - 'Where can I find out about . . .?'. Also, I hope some of us can suggest general search tips and anything from their own experience they think may be helpful to the rest of the group.

Margaret

Games Group

Only six stalwarts managed to meet in November but it is still an interesting and enjoyable get together. We always enjoy a couple of quizzes together. This month was about James Bond in memory of Sean Connery! December's meeting we will meet via Zoom, Tuesday 15th December. I think the quizzes will have to be Christmas related!

Hazel

Philosophy am

In our November meeting we had a lively discussion on whether shopping habits have changed during the Covid pandemic. We discussed how much we are monitored with every click, pause, browse and purchase we make on-line, and how we can be influenced to make purchases. We moved onto a lively discussion on vaccines - slightly off piste, but an interesting subject.

The next meeting will be Thursday 17th December, discussing 'Christmas past' - our experiences of Christmas - good or bad - funny or sad.

Ali

Table Tennis

I have some encouraging news, according to current guidelines we could start to play table tennis again. Strict Covid rules would apply, and only games of singles can be played. Rhydlewys Hall is open for use, after risk assessment and Covid rules adhered to. I will look into re-starting the group in the New Year, something to look forward to!

Ali

Welsh Group

Our session in November involved describing where places are in Newcastle Emlyn. Using an online street map of the town we gave instructions on how to get from place to place and what buildings and shops we passed on the way. We all also described how to get back to our home from the town centre. We all learnt some Welsh and some local geography.

In December we are going to describe and discuss a picture taken from the house or garden. We will also take a look at the National Anthem and some other Welsh songs. As it is the December meeting we will also review Christmas and New Year greetings.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st December, starting at 10.30am, using Zoom.

Vicky

Wine Appreciation

Fourteen members met on zoom in November for our usual get together. This month we tried and found out about another fortified wine, Vermouth. Most of us decided that we had not drunk it since our late teens! It is of course made famous by 007 as a Vodka Martini (shaken not stirred!) We read some information first and then we watched a couple of You Tube videos on our own computers to find out how it was made and how it is drunk in the Catalonia area of Spain. They have it in copious amounts as an aperitif with tapas before lunch!

Our own tastings involved Martini extra dry, Tesco extra dry, Morrisons extra dry, Martini Bianco and Rosso and an Aperol aperitif. Personally, I preferred it with ice and a slice rather than neat and some tried it with lemonade.

We hope to try and have some sort of social in December around the 17th if weather and Covid rules allow, if not we will be back on zoom for a Christmas gathering.

In January we will be trying the last of the fortified wines, Marsala.

Hazel

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - December 2020

December

Tuesday	1	Welsh Group - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Wednesday	2	Monthly Meeting - Committee Shenanigans? These are our Leaders !!!	10.30am
Tuesday	8	Family History - Zoom meeting	2.30pm
Friday	11	Crafty Crafters - Zoom meeting - merged with P & Q	11.00am
Friday	11	Patchwork and Quilting - merged with Crafty Crafters	11.00am
Tuesday	15	Philosophy (pm) - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Tuesday	15	Games Group - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	17	Philosophy (am) - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	17	Wine Appreciation – social event? venue/date to be confirmed	7.00pm
Tuesday	22	Book Club - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Monday	28	Science and Technology - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Tuesday	29	Strollers - Aberporth to Tresaith	10.30am
		Creative Writing - email	
		ICT Support Session - as required	
		Bowls Group - in Winter recess	
		Croquet Group - in Winter recess	
		Gardens Group - in Winter recess	
		Table Tennis – plan to restart 2021	
		French Group – plan to restart 2021 - via Zoom	
		Digital Photography - currently not active	
		Scrabble - currently not active	
		Astronomy - currently not active	
		Lunch Group - currently not active	
		Art Group - currently not active	

January 2021

Wednesday	6	Monthly Meeting – Coffee and Chat morning	10.30am
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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, at the latest.

Contact John via email at: neu3newsletter@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).

WILDFLOWERS 2

Can you name these wildflowers, which were all photographed on my "Lockdown" walks.

