



Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter February 2021

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



Chair's Ramble

This time last year we were beginning to hear of a virus that had started in China and was spreading across the world. Little did we know then what we were heading towards. The last year has been a very strange one with many downs but also some ups. We, as a u3a, have managed to survive and thrive under difficult circumstances. We have learnt to use technology to our advantage and have supported each other. We have continued to learn, laugh and live and more importantly hope! Many of you may, by now, have heard about or even had your vaccine jab and although I know it doesn't mean we can get back to normal it does give us hope that we can meet again physically before too long.

January's meeting was a more low key affair but even so was well attended. For the next few months however, we have some interesting speakers booked. Thanks to Lesley and Julia for sorting this out.

The meeting on Wednesday February 3rd is a return by Andy Smith from Rugby. He last spoke to us in September and was so well received that we booked him again straight away. Andy's talks are 'musical' based. He plays several guitars, ukulele, mandolin etc. etc. and sings songs and tells, hopefully humorous, anecdotes. The link to the meeting is with the newsletter and will be sent out via email as well. We will start the meeting at 10.30am so everyone can chat and have a coffee and then the speaker will start at 11.00am prompt when everyone will be muted. There will be a chance for questions at the end.

Our zoom groups continue to meet very successfully but we will have to wait and see whether our outdoor groups such as bowls, croquet, garden and hopefully the new petanque group can start in the spring. Fingers crossed!

The other lovely occasion in January was Margery's special birthday. Some of us joined a zoom organised by her daughter to wish her a happy birthday and Mike even wrote a special poem for her which you can read in the newsletter. It was the first time Margery had 'zoomed' but she is now hoping to join us at the monthly meetings with the help of her daughter. Remember you are never too old to learn! If anyone else needs help getting onto zoom please ask.

The Third Age Trust is planning to hold a u3a day on June 2nd come what may. I joined a zoom workshop in January to find out more about what the plans are. We have a committee meeting on Monday 8th February if anyone has any issues they wish to raise please let a committee member know.

Hazel

Our Subject Groups

Activity

Date, Activity and Location will vary - see 'What's On In Newcastle Emlyn U3A'
For details contact Hazel

Art

Every other Thursday from 10.00am at Penboyr Village Hall
For details contact Amanda

Astronomy

3rd Wednesday from 2.00pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd - Joint with Cardigan U3A
For details contact Malcolm

Book Club

4th Tuesday from 10.30am at venue to be advised (currently Zoom meetings)
For details contact Vicky

Bowls

1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday both from 1.00pm at Newcastle Emlyn Bowling Club
For details contact Julia

Bucket List

Date, Activity and Location will vary - see 'What's On In Newcastle Emlyn U3A'
For details contact Helen

Crafty Crafters

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall
For details contact Ruth

Creative Writing

2nd Thursday from 10.30am at Carol's in Penrhiwllan
For details contact Carol

Croquet

1st and 3rd Friday from 2.30pm at Sue's in Penrhiwllan
For details contact Sue

Digital Photography

2nd Tuesday from 10.30am at Coracle Hall, Llechryd - Joint with Cardigan U3A
For details contact Denis

Family History

4th Tuesday from 2.30pm at The Church of Latter Day Saints, Newcastle Emlyn
For details contact Margaret

French

Date varies - from 10.30am at Peggy's in Croeslan
For details contact Ali

Games

3rd Tuesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall
For details contact Hazel

Gardens

Date, venue and time varies amongst the group, or other gardens

More details contact Tony

ICT Support Sessions

3rd Tuesday from 2.00pm at Hazel's in Waungilwen

More details contact Hazel

Lunch

Last Wednesday - venue varies

More details contact Tracy

Patchwork and Quilting

2nd Friday from 11.00am at Penboyr Village Hall

More details contact Ruth

Philosophy am

3rd Thursday from 10.30am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall

More details contact Ali

Philosophy pm

2nd Monday from 2.00pm at Susan's in Pontgarreg

More details contact Susan

Science and Technology

4th Monday from 2.00pm at Penrhiwllan Village Hall

More details contact Jim

Scrabble

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

More details contact Margery

Strollers

Last Friday of the month from 10.30am, at Cilgerran Wildlife Park

More details contact Cyndy

Table Tennis

2nd Tuesday from 2.00pm and 4th Thursday from 10.30am at Rhydlewis Village Hall

More details contact Ali

Welsh

1st Tuesday from 10.30am at Vicky's in Capel Iwan or Liz's in Cenarth

More details contact Vicky

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.

Group Reports

Book Club

In January we read *The Foundling* by Stacey Halls. The story is set in mid eighteenth century London where mothers unable to keep a child could take part in a lottery to leave the child in the care of the London Foundling Hospital. Six years after leaving her illegitimate daughter at the Hospital, a woman returns to reclaim the child but she is told that her daughter has already been claimed, by her. The story unfolds as she tries to find out who has taken her little girl – and why.

We all enjoyed the book, though most felt it a bit lightweight. The historical detail and the differences and dependencies between the classes were well described. We thought the ending was a bit rushed, but overall it was a good read.

There is a museum in London to commemorate the Foundling Hospital.

We will meet on Tuesday 23rd February at 10.30am and will be discussing *Ghostbird* by Carol Lovekin.

Vicky

Crafty Crafters & Patchwork and Quilting

Everyone seems to be keeping their fingers and brains busy doing lots of sewing and crafting. We had several finished Christmas decorations, embroidery, needle felting, knitting, patchwork, embroidery, crochet, zentangling and one of our members is working on a dolls house.

Ali wished us all Happy New Year with one of her zentangles. Denise showed us her cushion and how her embroidered panels are coming along and the patchwork that goes with it. Janet had designed and crocheted a jacket for herself in stripes of colours inspired by autumn colours. Hazel was as productive as ever, showing us sewing for the kitchen and a crocheted baby blanket.

The challenge for this month is to make something with flowers. As usual, any method and any medium. We looked at several ideas of what could be made.

Ruth





Family History

We've had two new members join the group so far this year and 10 of us were at this month's Zoom meeting. This was the second of our 'open' meetings with many useful tips being shared, and general stories showing just how easy it is to get side-tracked by an incorrect piece of research.

Our next meeting will cover the subject of DNA. I hope some members will share details of the origins of their ancestors. We will also discuss how to go about getting a DNA test and what to expect from the results.

In between meetings, I usually forward something that I think might be of interest, often a link sent in by another member. I imagine we shall be holding our meetings by Zoom for some time yet – if anyone else is interested in joining the group, you will be most welcome – contact me for details.

Margaret

Welsh Group

In our January meeting we looked at photographs taken by Julia and by Liz from their windows and tried to describe what we could see. Julia's picture was taken on a rainy day, but showed a lovely rainbow over the view of the Teifi valley. In contrast, Liz's picture was of Cenarth in the summer, with families outside enjoying the sunshine and the river.

We then went through our diaries saying what we had done and not done over Christmas and the New Year. Activities ranged from the day to day feeding of chickens and dog walking to zoom meetings with family members, including some very young ones.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd February, starting at 10.30am, using Zoom when we will talk about more photographs and about our most, or least, favourite TV programme.

Vicky

Wine Appreciation

This group continues to thrive and is well supported with twelve of us meeting in January to find out about Marsala from Sicily. It is the last one of the fortified wine group that we have been studying. Generally used in cooking we were pleasantly surprised that it was quite drinkable on it's own. Very like Sherry or Madeira but without some of the richness and depth.

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th February at 7.00pm via zoom. We are going to continue the Sicilian theme and try some other wines from that region. We concluded that the zoom meetings do have one great advantage in that no one has to drive home!

Hazel

For Margery's 90th Birthday

Here is a copy of the poem Krystyna and Mike wrote for Margery for her birthday

***We have all joined you to say
well done for reaching ninety
happily enjoy your big day
your star is still shining brightly***

***I really miss our games of Scrabble
and wish we could form a Scrabble bubble
so until we can resume our weekly grapple
please stay safe, healthy and out of trouble***

***So we raise our glasses and propose a toast
to wish you all the things you like the most
CONGRATULATIONS Margery
now that you are ninety years old!***

February monthly meeting on Wednesday 3rd February at 10.30am

Please try and support this meeting if you can.

Andy Smith led our meeting last September and was excellent, showing us instruments, sharing stories and leading us in songs. He is here again this month to present

Life in the Music

A journey through life featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads ... plus a few well known numbers!

He will explain a bit about the instruments he is playing - which include several guitars, ukulele and mandolin. There will be lots of amusing chat and nostalgic anecdotes.

Here's all the info. There will not be a waiting room – so Andy will open the zoom at 10.30am and start the video at 11.00am. Everyone will be muted during the talk but there will be a chance to ask questions after the talk.

Andy Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Andy Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: Wednesday 3rd February, 2021 10:30am London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82993611988?pwd=MmdNSTEYnEUyZFizR0ZNcmZUNUftZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 9361 1988

Passcode: 153540

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - February 2021

February

Tuesday	2	Welsh - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Wednesday	3	Monthly Meeting - Zoom meeting Speaker: Andy Smith - Musical compilation	10.30am
Monday	8	Philosophy pm - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Thursday	11	Creative Writing - email	10.30am
Friday	12	Crafty Crafters - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Friday	12	Patchwork and Quilting - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	16	Games - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	18	Philosophy am - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	18	Wine Appreciation - Zoom meeting	7.00pm
Monday	22	Science and Technology - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Tuesday	23	Book Club - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	23	Family History - Zoom meeting	2.30pm
Friday	26	Strollers - to be advised	10.30am
		ICT Support Session - as required	
		Activity - currently not active	
		Art - currently not active	
		Astronomy - currently not active	
		Bowls - in winter recess	
		Bucket List - currently not active	
		Croquet - in winter recess	
		Digital Photography - currently not active	
		French - currently not active	
		Gardens - in winter recess	
		Lunch - currently not active	
		Scrabble - currently not active	
		Table Tennis - currently not active	

March

Wednesday	3	Monthly Meeting - Zoom meeting Speaker: Marc Gordon - Interesting Musical instrument collection	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: 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).
