



Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter March 2021

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



Chair's Ramble

There are many signs of Spring about with daffodils opening their petals and snowdrops in swathes on the roadside. It has even been a bit warmer lately but our thoughts must also go out to those who suffered more flooding in the latest storms. I hope you have all survived and stayed safe. There are glimmers of hope on the horizon that we might be able to meet up again before too long. However, the committee and I fully appreciate that it will take a while before everyone feels confident to do so.

In the meantime we follow our program on zoom with next months main meeting on Wednesday 3rd March being led by one of our own members Marc who is going to show and tell us about some of the many stringed instruments he has in his possession. It sounds really interesting so please support Marc by joining the zoom meeting. The link is in the newsletter and will also be sent out via email.

February's meeting was very well attended. We met Andy Smith again and enjoyed more of his tales and songs. Andy has a website if you are interested in buying or downloading any of his songs. Hopefully Andy will be joining us at our next meeting in March to listen to Marc.

The good news is that Amanda has restarted the art group again. They are meeting every couple of weeks via zoom to share their art work and discuss techniques etc. If you are interested in joining the art group please see the report in the groups news. Ali is also hoping to restart the French group again very soon. It is great that our group leaders are working so hard to keep things going and I thank them very much.

Member Link. This programme draws together members, u3a committees, volunteers, and the Third Age Trust. They are going to use the collective ideas, innovations and experiences used by u3as in 2020 to face the pandemic to rebuild the u3a community in 2021 and keep it strong. The aim is to ensure that every member in every u3a can still participate in u3a life. Here is a link to a leaflet about Member Link. Non email members have a printed copy with their newsletter. https://mcusercontent.com/656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed/files/385aa144-b340-46fd-9ffa-853ba455fd5f/colour_u3a_Members_Link_Leaflet_Size_A4_PDF_Version_V2_1_.pdf. There is also a dedicated page on the National Website. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/member-link>

I hope you have all read your Third Age Matters magazine. There are some very interesting articles.

Stay safe,

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 Rhydlewys 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

Art Group

The u3a Art Group is meeting virtually on Zoom, every fortnight on Thursday at 11.00am. Next meeting Thursday 4th March at 11.00am. We set a topic each time, and share our work with each other: the next topic is Trees: which can be leaf, twig, bark, branch or whole tree.

If you wish to join, connect through the Newcastle Emlyn website.

Amanda

Book Club

In February we read Ghostbird by Carol Lovekin, a local author. The story is set in Wales and concerns a teenage girl seeking truth from her mother and aunt about the death of her sister and then of her father, before she was born.

Most, but not all of us, didn't really enjoy the book, feeling that the story tended to be slow and repetitive, especially the first half. We also felt that the aunt's magic and the dead sister's ghost appearing as a bird were a bit unconvincing. But it did describe the teenager quite well.

Next meeting we will meet on Tuesday 23rd March and will be discussing 'A Single Thread' by Tracy Chevalier.

Vicky

Crafty Crafters & Patchwork and Quilting

The challenge given out in January was to do something connected to flowers and once again our members had risen to the challenge.

Michelle had first printed and then used stitching to embellish her picture. Julie had embroidered a pre-printed picture. Janet was crocheting tea cosies for the church sale so had created two with flowers attached. I had decided on foundation piecing patchwork to create flowers for cushion covers.

The challenge had encouraged two of our members to pull out old projects. Denise had been very productive completing unfinished projects, she had finished an



appliqué picture of hydrangeas and a bright and cheerful table runner made of yellow hexagons. She also had a picture of sunflowers painted on silk and then embroidered.



Hazel had needle felted a picture of a pansy on a felted background and had pulled out some previous work of flowers to try to decide what to do with them. She had incorporated some drawn thread work into an ipad or tablet cover and was going to insert a trapunto quilted flower in a box lid. Although Ali wasn't able to join us this month

she had still created her flowers and had sent me a picture of her artwork.

Following this, we discussed ideas for the future.

Suggestions were to continue with the flower theme but using a different technique, jewellery, Easter, and quilling. As there had been quite a lot of interest in Hazel's trapunto work. We decided to stick with the flowers theme for next month but using a different technique.

If anybody has any other ideas, please let me know, they are always welcome.

Ruth



Family History

There were 12 of us at February's Zoom meeting to discuss the use of DNA in the context of family history research. Our guest, Vince Jones, gave us a fascinating talk on how DNA analysis works and how it can be used to enhance our research, with examples from his own family tree.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 23rd March we will be sharing our memorable breakthroughs and examples of how we have gone down the wrong path and found our way back to the right one, also examples of misleading records we have found and how we managed to interpret them correctly. The idea is to share not only what we found out but how we found the correct facts, in order to help each other when we get stuck – as we all do.

Margaret

Games Group

We valiantly keep going via zoom although numbers were smaller in February. The meeting happened to be on Shrove Tuesday so our quiz tested our knowledge of that day and pancakes! We are all missing the opportunity to play games physically but it is good to catch up with friends each month.

Hazel

ICT support

Although I cannot help physically with ICT problems with laptops, tablets and phones at the moment. If anyone has any problems please email or phone me and I will try and help remotely if I can.

Please take care with all of the scams that are around at the moment. If it sounds odd or too good to be true it probably is! Never click on a link you are not 100% sure of.

Hazel

Philosophy am

The subject for our last meeting was, 'Are we in control?' Jim led the meeting and it stayed mainly on topic! It was concluded that we're not wholly in control, but being more proactive could give us more control.

Next month is a light hearted look at Eccentricity.

Ali

Philosophy pm

We are meeting often every 2 weeks, but dates do vary so please get in touch with Sue, if interested. This time we stumbled on looking at Goodness and what is good. Just looking at the many definitions of good and goodness. It was considered a 'lazy' word like nice but on the whole understood its use. We were unsure about its derivation - whether related to a god.

We still tend to wonder along the subjects and not being deeply philosophical but still continue to keep our grey cells active.

Jim

Science & Technology

The last time we looked at 'How Humans are here rather than Dinosaurs'. We looked at how the solar system formed and that another sun/suns had to self destruct for our system to develop. That there had to be the right elements, the solar system had to be in the right pattern and stable long enough for life to develop and evolve and that there were periods of adversity that caused destruction of species enabling humans to develop.

So everything seemed to be right for our presence here, but we are creating our own species extinction now so cheerfully hope we can sort it so humans are around a bit longer.

Jim

Welsh Group

In February we looked at photographs of their gardens taken by Hazel and by Sue and tried to describe what we could see. Hazel's back garden picture showed the lawn, pond and seating area, together with vegetable beds, all surrounded by trees. Sue's picture showed large numbers of pots of flowers and tree saplings with bags of compost ready for planting out and with the fruit and vegetable garden beyond.

We also talked about TV programmes with our selections varying from wildlife to quizzes. Lesley also told us about a film concerning a local murder that has never been solved.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd March, starting at 10.30am, using Zoom. We will be talking about bird counts we have done in our gardens and describing more photographs, this time not necessarily of our gardens.

Vicky

Wine Appreciation

In February twelve members of the wine group met via zoom to find out more about Sicilian wines. We learned that they are not that available in the UK and that many are blends but that true Sicilian wines are quite unique and even within a small island vary quite a bit from the vines grown on the slopes of the volcanoes, including Etna, to those on the lower slopes. They produce white and red wines. Between us we had sampled 4 different reds including two which used the Nero D'Avola grape and one the Nerelo Mascalese. We also tried three whites. All were reasonably priced.

Over the next few months we are going to revisit Australian wine and try some from each of the 5 Australian regions to see how they vary. In March we are going to try wines from Western Australia. The meeting will be via zoom on Thursday 18th March at 7.00pm.

Hazel

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - March 2021

March

Tuesday	2	Welsh - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Wednesday	3	Monthly Meeting - Zoom meeting	10.30am
		Speaker: Marc Gordon - Interesting Musical instrument collection	
Thursday	4	Art - meets fortnightly via Zoom	11.00am
Monday	8	Philosophy pm - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Thursday	11	Creative Writing - email	10.30am
Friday	12	Crafty Crafters - Zoom meeting (with P&Q)	10.30am
Friday	12	Patchwork and Quilting - Zoom meeting (with CC)	10.30am
Tuesday	16	Games - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	18	Philosophy am - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	18	Art - meets fortnightly via Zoom	11.00am
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
		Strollers - currently not meeting (lockdown)	
		ICT Support Session - as required	
		Activity - 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	

April

Wednesday	7	Monthly Meeting - Zoom meeting	10.30am
		Speaker: Regeneration of Bishop's Park at Abergwili, Carmarthen	

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).
