



# Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter June 2021

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



## Chair's Ramble

Is anyone else still wearing winter clothing? I hope we get some summer soon, May has been rather wet, windy and gloomy but the forecast is looking better from next week.

Roger Browne gave us a really interesting and amusing talk in May about growing up in a war ravaged Salford interspersed with music and songs.

We have actually now done a full year of main meetings on Zoom! Our first one was June 2020. Thank you for bearing with us and for supporting us through it all. It isn't quite over but things are improving.

June's speaker is one of our own members, Kari Byrne, who will take us on a journey by canoe that she undertook in the Canadian Wilds following in the footsteps or paddles of her father. The meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd June at 10.30am via Zoom. The link is in the newsletter but will also be sent out via email. I know that things are getting more back to normal but we cannot meet in any great numbers indoors as yet so we will continue on Zoom for the time being. It would be good to see a good number of members join us for this talk and support Kari. All you have to do is click on the blue link in the email!

It has been really uplifting to see some groups getting going again in May, the garden group met at Aberglasney, the Petanque group managed one session, the Art group resumed and many more are set to start in June including Bowls, Table Tennis, Crafty Crafters and Patchwork and Quilting. Please read your newsletter carefully to see what else is now meeting. Other groups still continue on Zoom.

July will be our AGM so I have included notification and nomination papers with this newsletter. We have traditionally had an outing for our main meeting in August but this year we have decided to have a speaker in the morning and then hopefully have a Picnic and Games in the Park in the afternoon (weather permitting). It will be so good to see people together again. So put the date of Wednesday 4th August in your diary!

*Hazel*

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## ***Newsletter and Website updates!***

As groups start to reopen can group leaders please review and update their information of venue, times and dates with Hazel, Ali and the newsletter editor.

We do really need to keep the newsletter and the website up to date!

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# 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

4th Monday from 10.30am at Ali's in Ponthirwaun  
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

For details contact Tony

## **ICT Support Sessions**

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

For details contact Hazel

## **Lunch**

Last Wednesday - venue varies

For details contact Tracy

## **Patchwork and Quilting**

2nd Friday from 11.00am at Penboyr Village Hall

For details contact Ruth

## **Petanque (Boule)**

1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday from 2.00pm at King George V Park, Newcastle Emlyn

For details contact John

## **Philosophy am**

3rd Thursday from 10.30am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall

For details contact Ali

## **Philosophy pm**

1st Tuesday then every other Tuesday from 2.00pm at Susan's in Pontgarreg

For details contact Susan

## **Science and Technology**

4th Monday from 2.00pm at Penrhiwllan Village Hall

For details contact Jim

## **Scrabble**

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

For details contact Margery

## **Strollers**

Last Friday of the month from 10.30am, venue varies

For details contact Cyndy

## **Table Tennis**

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

For details contact Ali

## **Welsh**

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

For details contact Vicky

## **Wine Appreciation**

3rd Thursday from 7.00pm - venue varies, amongst the group

For details contact Hazel

**Note:** Some groups are still meeting via Zoom. Please refer to the current monthly calendar to see if there are any changes to date, Zoom, venue and time.

# Group Reports

## Book Club

In May we read a selection of books by Tana French, an American Irish writer, who was new to all of us. We read some of the books in the Dublin Murder Squad Series and also a standalone novel, all of which are set in Ireland. We mostly enjoyed the books but felt that the endings were a bit weak. Many of the books are based around very dysfunctional families with many interpersonal rivalries and relationships. Most of us would read another novel by her.

In June we are reading *The Lost Man*, by Jane Harper. Our meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd June, via Zoom.

*Vicky*

## Crafty Crafters & Patchwork and Quilting

Last month, I set the challenge of trying something new – trapunto work and I'm pleased to say, some members had managed to try it out. We had a pretty hand stitched butterfly from Julie and some sea creatures in the shape of a starfish, a crab, a fish and a couple of different shells from Hazel which she is going to incorporate in a small bed quilt for her grandson. Not wanting to start something new, I had also done 2 more sea creatures, an octopus and seahorse, for Hazel to make up a full row for her quilt.

Denise hadn't actually done any stitching this month but had found a book on trapunto work by machine. She explained to us that you first stitch a layer of wadding behind your design, possibly polyester wadding because it tends to have a higher loft (thickness). After stitching the design, the wadding outside the design should be carefully cut away close to the stitching. To finish, a further layer of your normal wadding is placed behind the work. Stitch again on the outline and complete any more quilting required. Stippling around the design would enable it to really stand out.

Janet hadn't done any sewing this month but had started work on a crochet bed cover. Made of squares, she had soon realised she would have to make it more than twice the number of squares to cover her bed

Ali is a member of the craft group and doesn't sew. Over the last 12 months, she has been developing her zentangling and pattern work. Her challenge this month was to "try something new". She had settled for parchment work. Parchment craft is a papercraft hobby. It involves the embossing, colouring and perforating of special parchment paper". We think we'll have to 'book' Ali to do papercrafting demonstrations when we get back to meetings.

The new challenge is to try to complete one (or more) UFOs (unfinished objects). I asked members to think about any UFOs they have. Everyone gave details of what

they hope to finish (or at least work on) by June's meeting.

We are hoping to re-start face to face meetings next month, which means the Crafty Crafters group and Patchwork & Quilting group will separate and return to their original days, both at Penboyr village hall.

**Crafty Crafters** will be Wednesday, 9th June at 10.30am – 12.30pm.

**Patchwork & Quilting** will be Friday, 11th June at 11.00am – 3.00pm.

*Ruth*

## Family History

World War One has been the main subject of our last two meetings, with many group members having found out a lot of fascinating information about their ancestors during that period, both online and through family stories. Some of the stories have been quite harrowing. Also some interesting mementos have been shared. Perhaps when we are able to meet at the Family History Centre again, we shall be able to see some of them 'in the flesh'.

Our next meeting in June will be more of a general Q & A session again with everyone sharing information on how to get the best out of the various genealogy websites. I hope that anyone who is just beginning their research or struggling with a particular branch of their tree will be able to get some help from the more experienced of us.

We shall be continuing with Zoom meetings for the next month or two, but assessing the situation regarding Covid restrictions on a monthly basis.

*Margaret*

## French

At the French groups meeting we had to revert to Zoom as the weather was too miserable for a garden meet. We played "Qu'est-ce que c'est?" and had a stab at conversation!

*Ali*

## Games group

The games group members again met on Zoom in May and enjoyed an online game of 'Oh Hell' on Trickster cards. It is a form of Rummy or Whist, making tricks. The members are going to look at some of the other games on Trickster before the next meeting.

Unfortunately, the games group cannot start to meet physically as yet because we share equipment and need to sit closer than the two metre distancing rule so meetings will continue on Zoom for a while yet. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th June at 10.30am. I will send out the link nearer the meeting as usual.

*Hazel*

## Gardens Group

After a long wait we finally managed to have our first post-lockdown garden group meeting. Seventeen members braved the poor weather to visit Aberglasney Gardens but it was well worthwhile as the gardens were looking spectacular, the rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom and the woodland area was full of colour. We wandered around individually to start and then after lunch had a guided tour with the gardener, Joe, which we all enjoyed.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd June at the home of Mike and Krystyna Johnson at Maesymeillion and then on to Ty Cwm nursery for tea and cakes, anyone is welcome to join us. Mike has offered to be joint group leader so he will be able to organise things while I am away. He also has rockery stone to give away so if anyone can make use of some please contact him direct.

Happy Gardening, Tony Poole

## Petanque (Boule)

I am surprised how many members have shown an interest in the new Petanque group. Currently we are at 20 members with 16 -17 members available for the 1st Monday sessions and 15 -16 available for the 3rd Tuesday sessions.

Some are available for both sessions and may need to stand down for one or the other session. I have since received a request from 2 more members. As the Petanque terrain is only large enough for 2 groups these numbers are starting to overload the facility.

The normal number of players, per terrain, is 1 v 1; 2 v 2: or 3 v 3 players. This, mathematically, says that the maximum numbers per terrain is 6 - therefore a maximum of 12 people per session is the optimum number - without overloading the space.

I am suggesting that we consider these numbers and, if we do, a solution could be a third session per month, or even a fourth! It could mean that members might only be able to play once per month! Another thought would be two separate sessions, one following the other, on the same day?

If we do go down one of these routes, I would be grateful of someone to assist with one, or two, of the sessions. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

*John*

## Philosophy am

At the Philosophy am groups last Zoom meeting we discussed the pros and cons of the Covid vaccination programme. Whether we had a social duty to have the vaccination, and whether there should be some professions for which vaccination for Covid should be compulsory, or not.

*Ali*

## Strollers

On Friday 7th May we met at Llanerchaeron for our first walk of the year, there were nine of us so a good attendance.

It was a lovely walk in the Aeron valley to Aberaeron and back, the sun shone all the way, we couldn't have wished for better weather. Some of the more eagle eyed of us spotted several Orchids growing wild, very pretty. Bluebells were abundant in the woods, lovely aroma. One footpath through the woods took us past the old Llanerchaeron Railway Station.

Once back to Llanerchaeron centre some of us stayed for lunch at the outside café.

The walk was about 5 miles in total which was a bit further than anticipated but very enjoyable.

*Cyndy*



## Table Tennis

Table Tennis restarted at the end of May and will return, in June, to the dates and times listed in the 'Our Subject Groups' (page 3) - at Rhydlewys village hall.

*Ali*

## Welsh Group

In May we took turns to describe two more photographs. One showed Sue and her husband in front of a small aeroplane at Haverfordwest. They had just been on a flight in the plane along the coast. The other was a picture provided by Liz of a delicious looking Greek salad in a taverna in Naxos.

We also practised talking about and buying fruit and vegetables at a greengrocers.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st June starting at 10.30am, using Zoom. We will look at and describe two more photographs. We will also practise ordering and paying for food and drink from a restaurant menu. Good practise for when hospitality is open again.

*Vicky*

## Wine Appreciation

The wine group continued their Australian theme in May by tasting wines from the State of Victoria. Victoria is the second smallest state in Australia but is home to more than 800 wineries and 600 cellar doors. It has 21 distinct wine regions across the state. It has a great diversity of climate which allows for the production of every imaginable wine style. Between the members we tried six different wines which included three reds and three whites. All except one were scored on our scoring system at 4, 4.5 or 5.

One of the most interesting things about the wines were the names. Many of them had names with stories behind them such as Boy Meets Girl, Don't tell Gary and The Butterfly Effect.

Next months meeting will still probably be on Zoom on Thursday 17th June at 7.00pm and we will be tasting wines from our last region of Australia, New South Wales. Hopefully by July we will be able to meet physically again and hope to have a barbecue or similar.

Hazel

## ***June monthly meeting on Wednesday 2nd June at 10.30am***

**Kari Bryne shares her  
Canadian canoe adventures**

**Topic: Newcastle Emlyn u3a's Main Zoom Meeting  
Time: 10:30am Wednesday 2nd June, 2021 London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7696055146?pwd=aXhXc0xmdnV  
oQmJXU1d1RVZxNmJOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7696055146?pwd=aXhXc0xmdnV<br/>oQmJXU1d1RVZxNmJOQT09)**

**Meeting ID: 769 605 5146**

**Passcode: NEu3a**

**Dial by phone:**

**0208 080 6591 United Kingdom**

**Meeting ID: 769 605 5146**

**Passcode: 812530**



## **Notification of Newcastle Emlyn u3a AGM 2021 and Membership Fees for 2021-2022**

Please be advised that the AGM of Newcastle Emlyn u3a will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 7th July 2021 starting at 11.00am. The meeting will be held via Zoom, the link will be sent out nearer the time. We need a quorum of at least 25 members and I am sure we can achieve lots more than this as we did last year.

Please support your committee in keeping Newcastle Emlyn u3a going throughout this pandemic.

All paperwork for the meeting will be sent to you prior to the meeting either via email or in the post. Any proposals or items for the agenda can be submitted in writing or via email to the committee for consideration at the meeting by 16th June.

We have at least one committee vacancy this year. Nomination papers are included with this newsletter. Any nominations for committee members should be submitted by 16th June and you should gain permission from the nominee before putting them forward. Obviously we cannot get forms easily signed physically this year so we will contact each nominee for permission. Please consider who would make a suitable member. If anyone has a burning desire to join the committee and wants to know a bit more about it please contact Hazel. The main three roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are not up for election this year and the current holders are all willing to remain in post.

*Hazel*

### **Membership Fees**

As many of you are aware membership fees are also due in July for the year 2021-2022. Newcastle Emlyn membership fees have been £14 a head since 2008-09 but it has again been decided that no increase will take place this year due to the pandemic. So fees will remain at £14 a head for the year 2021-2022. This is reduced to £7 for fully paid up members of another u3a.

We have managed to stay solvent for the last year and are still paying bills such as Third Age Matters, Insurance, Beacon management system etc. We have also continued to keep the subscription to Zoom so that groups can still meet if they wish. There is still a hope that we can hold an 'Anniversary Plus' dinner at some point and this will be subsidised.

Membership fees of £14 a head are therefore due in July and can be paid via bank transfer or cheque to Ruth. No cash at the moment please. More details will be given about this in the next newsletter.

*Ruth*







# What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - June 2021

## June

Tuesday	1	<b>Welsh</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	1	<b>Bowls</b> - at Newcastle Emlyn Bowling Club	1.00pm
Wednesday	2	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
		<b>Speaker:</b> Kari Byrne takes us on a journey by canoe in Canada	
Thursday	3	<b>Gardens</b> - at Mike and Krystyna's	2.00pm
Friday	4	<b>Croquet</b> - at Sue's in Penrhiwllan	2.30pm
Monday	7	<b>Petanque</b> - King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2.00pm
Tuesday	8	<b>Table Tennis</b> - at Rhydlewis Village Hall	2.00pm
Wednesday	9	<b>Crafty Crafters</b> - at Penboyr Village Hall	10.30am
Thursday	10	<b>Art</b> - meets fortnightly via Zoom	11.00am
Friday	11	<b>Patchwork and Quilting</b> - at Penboyr Village Hall	11.00am
Tuesday	15	<b>Philosophy pm</b> - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
Tuesday	15	<b>Games</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	15	<b>Petanque</b> - King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2.00pm
Wednesday	16	<b>Astronomy</b> - at Coracles Hall in Llechryd	2.00pm
Thursday	17	<b>Philosophy am</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	17	<b>Wine Appreciation</b> - Zoom meeting	7.00pm
Friday	18	<b>Croquet</b> - at Sue's in Penrhiwllan	2.30pm
Monday	21	<b>Bowls</b> - at Newcastle Emlyn Bowling Club	1.00pm
Tuesday	22	<b>Book Club</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	22	<b>Family History</b> - Zoom meeting	2.30pm
Thursday	24	<b>Table Tennis</b> - at Rhydlewis Village Hall	10.30am
Thursday	24	<b>Art</b> - meets fortnightly via Zoom	11.00am
Friday	25	<b>Strollers</b> - to be advised	10.30am
Monday	28	<b>French</b> - at Ali's in Ponthirwaun or Zoom if wet	11.00am
Monday	28	<b>Science and Technology</b> - Zoom meeting	2.00pm
		<b>ICT Support Session</b> - as required	
		<b>Creative Writing</b> - currently not active	
		<b>Activity</b> - currently not active	
		<b>Bucket List</b> - currently not active	
		<b>Digital Photography</b> - currently not active	
		<b>Lunch</b> - currently not active	
		<b>Scrabble</b> - currently not active	

## July

Wednesday	7	<b>AGM Meeting</b> - via Zoom	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](mailto:neu3anewsletter@hotmail.com)

It's easy to remember - **n** (Newcastle), **e** (Emlyn), **u3a** (catching on!)  
**newsletter** (I think you've got it!) - [@hotmail.com](mailto:@hotmail.com) (gets it to me).