



# Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter December 2021

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



## Chair's Ramble

It was a delight to welcome Linda Feagon to our November meeting to hear about the history and work of the Dog's Trust. Personally I had not realised it was such a big organisation. The new centre in Bridgend sounds as if it would be well worth a visit next year!

December of course is our Christmas meeting which will take place on **Wednesday 1st December at 10.30am in the Newcastle Emlyn Rugby Club**. The format will be similar to the last few years in that we will enjoy coffee and chat first and then the committee will entertain you with a short production entitled 'Twas the week before Christmas and Now I've Joined the u3a. We will also show you last years zoom production, Christmas Shenanigans, which some may have missed. There may even be a fun quiz in there as well! There will be a hamper raffle. Please try to bring the correct money if you can. If you have a festive jumper or hat please wear it to make the occasion more festive.

This will all be followed by a buffet put on by the Rugby Club at a cost of £5 a head. This will be payable on the day. Many have already booked their places as we needed to have some idea of numbers but if you wish to come along please let me know. It looks like being quite a full meeting so please remember the protocol of wearing masks if you are able when moving about the room and using the hand gels provided. The bar will also be open during the buffet for you to buy drinks if you so wish!

Unfortunately, this meeting will not be zoomed as there will be too much moving around but we may see if we can at least video the skit to send out later. We will also have a box available for you to drop any donations towards the u3a 40th anniversary woodland.

Our first meeting of 2022 will take place on Wednesday 5th January at 10.30am in the Rugby Club and will be one of our own members, Trevor, talking this time about his exploits in the ballooning world.

The Science and Technology group is looking for a new person to co-ordinate their meetings as Jim has sadly decided to step down as leader. Jim has always done a great deal for our u3a and I would like to thank him for setting up and leading the group. Hopefully someone, or a couple of people as a team, will step forward as it would be a shame to see the group fold. Please speak to Ali our groups co-ordinator if you think you can help. As I said it could be a team effort!

We have a new group starting soon! Julia and Jenny are going to start up a Basic Ballroom Dancing Group for 2022. This sounds great fun and Julia says if people are not happy dancing with a partner at this time then that is not a problem! Many thanks to them for starting another group.

Finally can John and I wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2022.

*Hazel*

## Our Subject Groups

### 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 2.00pm 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 11.00am at Rhydlewis Village Hall  
For details contact Ali

### Croquet

1st Friday and every other Friday from 2.30pm at Sue's  
For details contact Sue

### Digital Photography

2nd Tuesday from 10.30am at Coracle Hall, Llechryd - Joint with Cardigan U3A  
For temporary contact please use Dave

### 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  
For details contact Ali

### Games

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

### Gardens

1st Thursday normally at 2.00pm - venue varies  
For details contact Tony or Mike

# Our Subject Groups

## ICT Support Sessions

3rd Tuesday from 2.00pm at Hazel's  
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

1st Monday & 3rd Tuesday 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

2nd Monday from 2.00pm at Susan's  
For details contact Susan

## Science and Technology

4th Monday from 2.00pm at Penrhiwllan Village Hall  
For details contact Jim

## Strictly Basic Ballroom

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am (2022) at Holy Trinity Church Community Hall, NE  
For details contact Julia

## 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 Rhyd Lewis Village Hall  
For details contact Ali

## Welsh

1st Tuesday from 10.30am at Vicky's or Liz's  
For details contact Vicky

## Wine Appreciation

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

## Astronomy Group

The joint Astronomy group met on 17th November. It was lovely to get together again and, though still subject to Covid precautions, it was really sociable. The heating was on, and there was plenty of space and air.

Colin answered the question he had posed for homework at the previous meeting – we see reddish, slightly bluish, yellow and white stars; why don't we see green stars? Well, it all comes down to the distorted bell-shape curves for the quantity of light at each wavelength emitted by stars of different surface-temperatures, the so called "black body" radiation curves. Even when it is at its peak, the green part of the spectrum is too small to stand out in the resultant whitish colour of moderately hot stars.

Adrian presented slides about the Rosetta mission from 7 years ago, and what conclusions have now been drawn from it about the structure of comets. At the beginning of November the comet known as 67P/C-G returned for its first close encounter with the Sun since Rosetta. Our Group had followed it closely in 2014 to 2016, and when Rosetta's side-kick Philae made a disappointing landing on the comet on 12th November 2014, bouncing, and ending up on its side in a surface crack. Philae wasn't able to do some of its planned surface measurements, but it still provided some unique data from its approach and bounce before its batteries ran out. Rosetta itself carried on travelling near 67P, round past the Sun in 2015 and as the orbit headed outwards again when sunlight was becoming too weak to keep its batteries charged. It too was then manoeuvred down towards 67P's surface to make its last scientific measurements before everything was switched off just before impact.

Enormous amounts of data were received at ESA during the mission, and they put all the calibrated data into the public domain in 2019. We now know a lot more about the structure and origin of icy comets like 67P. Within their really cold interiors, they contain frozen oxygen, nitrogen, argon, carbon monoxide and organic chemicals from which "life" may have evolved. But as more data is analysed, more will be revealed.

We next meet on **Wednesday 19th January 2022** and subsequent 3rd Wednesday afternoons each month, at the Coracle Hall, Llechryd. Cardigan and Newcastle Emlyn u3a members are welcome to attend. If you need more information call Galileo.

*Galileo*

## Creative Writing

We enjoyed our first face to face meeting at Hilary's. We had an interesting task, to write the end of a story, and then ask the others to guess what the main body of the story was. Clues were used, but not often recognised! . . . it was a fun and informative task.

*Ali*

## Crafty Crafters

\*\*\* Please note the change of date and time for December \*\*\*

During November's Crafty Crafters, we were making Christmas decorations from felt. We had robins, bells, mittens, hearts, a Father Christmas and a reindeer. There was lots of felt to choose colours from and beads, threads, ribbons and other bits to decorate them.



We are having a change of date for the December meeting. We will be meeting on Wednesday, **15th December**, instead of the usual 2nd Wednesday, which this month would clash with the lunch group which several members wish to attend. We will also start **half an hour earlier at 10.00am**.

Come with your ideas or suggestions for future meetings so we can talk about them while we enjoy some seasonal nibbles.

I suppose I should mention that we will be making fabric covered pinecones.

*Ruth*

## Family History

There were 9 of us in the Church of Latter Day Saints for our November meeting including three new u3a members. We were discussing the use of the various free genealogy websites. FamilySearch.org is the most useful site people use, which has a huge number of records available online, but I am also a great fan of the General Record Office website - [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk), especially to confirm you have the correct birth or death records in England and Wales.

Hazel was able to shed some more light on the National Archives site and I have forwarded to all group members a copy of the notes she had produced on looking up records.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th January, 2022. We will be discussing census records - just in time for the 1921 census to be available to view online from 6th January on FindMyPast - unfortunately not yet free, even if you have a current subscription.

Our January meeting will be held at the normal time 3 weeks later when we will see what we have found on the 1921 census.

*Margaret*

## Gardens Group

Our visit this month was to the garden of Lorna and David at Pencwm, Hebron. We had a record turnout of 22 members including 3 new members to an interesting but challenging garden set on a steep hillside.

Covering over an acre it is mainly shrubs and trees with a stream, ponds and a bog area in the Cwm. Although late in the season there was still plenty of Autumn colour and we all enjoyed the visit.

Lorna treated us all to a welcome tea and cakes in her house and as she opens the garden to raise money for Marie Curie homes she was delighted with the £140 we donated.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd December, 2.00pm at The Bunch of Grapes, Newcastle Emlyn when we are having a Gardening Quiz with a difference, easy questions so all are welcome followed by tea or coffee plus mince pies.

Hope to see you there,  
*Tony P. & Mike J.*



## ICT Support

Ruth and I were able to support two members at the ICT support group in November. One had had a new laptop and phone and had a few questions to ask about how to do things and the other was learning how to scan documents from her printer to her laptop. If you have any questions about how to do things please get in touch and we will do our best to help. Because it is almost a 1-1 session we do ask that you contact us and book a place rather than just turn up!

The December meeting will be on Tuesday 21st December at 2.00pm.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you want some support, or if Christmas is too close?

*Hazel*

## French

We had our first face to face meeting in Penrhiwllan Hall. It was a small group and lovely to meet up. Our next meeting will be in January (2022) - Monday 24th, at 10.30am.

Joyeux Noel tous le monde!

*Ali*

## Philosophy AM

Our first face to face meeting was a very enjoyable event. We discussed a “hybrid” of subjects, following the Insulate Britain protesters’ actions, we discussed, “Protest...riot... what is acceptable?” And “Is CO2 reduction achievable?... and at what cost to individuals?” As usual we did drift “off piste”....but basically we agreed we must have the right to protest, but protest to those who make the decisions.

*Ali*

## Book Club

In November we read the first novel of Anne Youngson, called ‘Meet Me at the Museum’. We all enjoyed this book which is a rarity for us. The book is written as a series of letters between a middle aged farmer’s wife in East Anglia and the curator of a museum in Denmark. Though living in very different worlds, the two become friends and share details of their lives, loves, hopes and regrets through their correspondence. It is a charming book.

Next month, we meet, via zoom, on Tuesday 28th December at 10.30am and we will be discussing “Notwithstanding”, by Louis de Bernieres.

*Vicky*

## Patchwork and Quilting

We welcomed a new potential member to our Patchwork & Quilting group in November. Norma said that, although she does patchwork, she hasn't done a lot and is keen to do more and learn new techniques. Before we finished, she said she hopes to see us at many more sessions.

Members bring their own work to our Patchwork and Quilting group and have four hours of undisturbed time to sew, something that is difficult to do at home. We have both experienced and beginner patchworkers. If you've never done it before but would like to start, we can help you.

December's meeting will be 11.00am on Friday 10th, in Penboyr Village Hall.

*Ruth*

## Digital Photography

The Cardigan and Newcastle Emlyn joint Digital Photography group is planning to restart its meetings in the morning of the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Coracle Hall, Llechryd - as it did pre-Covid. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 11th January at 10.30am.

Denis who has led the group for many years has decided to retire. He will be really missed, but we have decided that the group will restart anyway and build on the experience that we have gained from Denis over the years.

All Cardigan and Newcastle Emlyn U3A members are welcome to attend our meetings. If you need more information contact me on 01239-891549 or via [adrian.r.milner@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.r.milner@gmail.com) and email Dave on [thomasdavej@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasdavej@hotmail.com). for Newcastle Emlyn.

*Adrian*

## Petanque

Little to comment on this month, largely due to weather performances. The method of joining in with the Petanque at this time of season is open to all of the Petanque group and free to come to either session. The 2 meeting dates for this month are Monday 6th and Tuesday 21st of December. Weather permitting, looking forward to seeing some of you, otherwise - hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

*John*

## Science & Technology

I am sorry to say that I will not be able to continue with the Science & Technology Group, so will be putting the group into Hibernation. But it can be easily woken up if another member would like to lead.

It has been enjoyable leading the group and thank you for your patience, input and attention. I am sure your interest in science will continue and hope another member will come forward to lead.



An especial thanks to Colin for your well prepared and fascinating Presentations.

Best wishes,

*Jim*

## Strollers

This months Strollers falls on New Years Eve so I wasn't planning a walk on that day as people might be away or have visitors but did think about an impromptu walk between Christmas and New Year picking a day when the weather is looking good. I thought about 2 days notice for a shortish walk somewhere local, if the weather is looking bad for that period then we haven't got to cancel anything at short notice.

I have to walk the dog anyway so if anyone wants to join me at short notice that will be good!

*Cyndy*

## Strictly Basic Ballroom group

### Something New for 2022

Recently Jenny Evans and I sent out an email introducing an exciting idea for a new interest group. We're aiming to call it : "Strictly Basic Ballroom".

Yes let's start dancing.

Jenny and I have fixed a venue and date for a taster session in January and invite you to come along and have a go.

Venue: Holy Trinity Church Community Hall, Church Lane, Newcastle Emlyn.

Date. Wednesday 12th January 2022 Time: 10.30am - 12.00noon midday.

Dancing is such a stimulating and rewarding activity and beneficial in so many ways. Whether you are a novice or a more experienced dancer come along. The aim of the sessions will be to provide a bit of exercise, plenty of social interaction, some new skills and heaps of fun. You don't need to have a partner and we can untangle two left feet!

May we ask you to let us know if you would be interested in joining the group.

Please reply to [julia.pearson2013@icloud.com](mailto:julia.pearson2013@icloud.com)

The Welsh government COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines will apply.

*Julia*



## u3a Growing the Future

To mark the u3a movement's 40th Anniversary in 2022, the Trust are creating a u3a anniversary woodland on the English/Wales border in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

We are collecting donations at the December meeting to buy some trees for this woodland in the name of Newcastle Emlyn u3a.

## Welsh Group

Six of us met in November, with a combination of face to face and zoom attendance.

We were discussing our clothing preferences in relation to the weather, so we described what we might wear in the rain, when it is cold, when it is warm and so on. Some very colourful wardrobe items were described. It was no surprise that mostly we wear casual and comfortable clothing.

Next time, as it will be December, we are going to revise Christmas greetings and talk about Christmas, family and, of course, food.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th December at 10.30am, again with the option of face to face and zoom participation.

*Vicky*

## Wine appreciation

Fifteen of us gathered at Brian and Vicky's house in Capel Iwan for our November meeting. Anyone watching us arrive may have wondered what was going on as all of the bottles of wine were hidden in socks, wrapping paper, bags etc. We enjoyed a blind tasting session to test our taste buds! We were quite good on the white wine but I am afraid we need to go back to the drawing board with the reds as we didn't get many right!

We will meet at Hazel and John's next month for some Christmas nibbles and social evening on Thursday 16th December at 7.00pm.

There are now 20 names on the wine group list but I have had enquiries from more people who are interested in joining. The current group cannot get any bigger as we meet in people homes but I am willing to support another group starting if there is enough interest. This would mean they could start from the basics of wine tasting as we did a few years ago and build up from there. The 2 groups could share social occasions and visits to wineries etc. If you are interested in co-ordinating or joining this group please let me know.

*Hazel*

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As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two . . . . *Norman Wisdom*

When you're not too surprised by the arrival of a new financial crisis - your hairline has already been in recession for 20 years!

My Doctor told me to do something that puts me out of breath, so I've taken up smoking again. *Jo Brand*

When you insist on handing out name badges at all family gatherings, especially Sunday lunch with your spouse and children.

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from: *The Little book of SENIOR MOMENTS* by Freddie Green



Glass fusion bucket list photos from the November session



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

## December

Wednesday	<b>1 Monthly Meeting</b> - Twas the week before Christmas	10.30am
Thursday	<b>2 Art</b> - meet fortnightly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	<b>2 Gardens</b> - at The Bunch of Grapes (Gardening Quiz)	2.00pm
Monday	<b>6 Petanque</b> - meet King George V Park, Newcastle Emlyn	2.00pm
Tuesday	<b>7 Welsh</b> - Hybrid meeting at Vicky's in Capel Iwan	10.30am
Wednesday	<b>8 Lunch Club (Christmas Lunch)</b> at Cardigan Golf club	12.00pm
Thursday	<b>9 Creative Writing</b> - meet at Rhydlewis Village Hall	11.00am
Friday	<b>10 Patchwork and Quilting</b> - meet Penboyr Village Hall	11.00am
Monday	<b>13 Philosophy pm</b> - at Sue's in Pontgarreg	2.00pm
Tuesday	<b>14 Table Tennis</b> - meet Rhydlewis Village Hall	2.00pm
Wednesday	<b>15 Crafty Crafters</b> - meet Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	<b>16 Art</b> - meet fortnightly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	<b>16 Philosophy am</b> - at Penrhiwllan Village Hall	11.00am
Thursday	<b>16 Wine Appreciation</b> - at Hazel's and John's, in Waungilwen	7.00pm
Tuesday	<b>21 Games</b> - meet at Penboyr Village Hall	10.30am
Tuesday	<b>21 Petanque</b> - meet King George V Park, Newcastle Emlyn	2.00pm
Tuesday	<b>21 ICT Support Session</b> - as required, contact Hazel	2.00pm
Thursday	<b>23 Table Tennis</b> - meet Rhydlewis Village Hall	10.30pm
Monday	<b>27 Philosophy pm</b> - at Sue's in Pontgarreg	2.00pm
Tuesday	<b>28 Book Club</b> - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Thursday	<b>30 Art</b> - meet fortnightly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am

**Groups currently not active:** Bowls, Croquet, Digital Photography  
Science & Technology is in hibernation

## January (2022)

Wednesday	<b>5 Monthly Meeting</b> - Trevor Gunn, exploits in ballooning world	10.30am
Tuesday	<b>11 Digital Photography</b> - at Coracle Hall, Llechryd	10.30am
Wednesday	<b>12 Strictly Basic Ballroom</b> - at Trinity Church Community Hall	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).

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