



Newcastle Emlyn u3a Newsletter March 2022

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



Chair's Ramble

Well thanks to Storm Eunice many members were without power for quite a number of hours and we lost another tree in our back garden! I hope you all survived without too much damage.

The good news is that we are definitely back in the Rugby Club for the March main meeting and our speaker will be Colin Partridge, one of our own members, who will be talking about Paragliding and why he came to Wales. I hope that we will now continue to meet there each month!

In April we will be inviting all the 'new' members to a gathering to let them meet the committee and find out a bit more about our u3a. I have put new in inverted commas as this meeting used to be held yearly but for obvious reasons has not happened recently. Therefore, some of you will have been members for a while! We will be inviting anyone who has joined since September 2019. Please try and attend if you can as it is your chance to find out how we run and to meet other new people and there may be cake! It will take place about 12.30pm after the main meeting on Wednesday 6th April at the Rugby Club. More details and personal invites to follow.

The other good news, and a date for your diary, is Wednesday 8th June. We will finally be holding our postponed anniversary dinner at Rhosygilwen. Henry VIII will be joining us before we eat and there will be a chance to visit the gardens at Rhosygilwen and talk with the Head Gardener there. It will be a two course lunch celebrating our 25th birthday, the Queen's Jubilee and the 40th anniversary of The Third Age Trust (our governing body). Lots to celebrate! The committee have decided that the cost for members will be kept at the subsidised price of £15. A bargain! More details will follow soon but get the date in your diaries. The main meeting on Wednesday 1st June will also be something different so watch this space.

The new second wine appreciation group will definitely be starting soon so if you are interested please get in touch with me. We also now have a Walkers group which tackles slightly more challenging walks than the Strollers. More details in the newsletter.

Hazel

Our Subject Groups

Art

Every 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 11.00am at Alil's - venue varies

For details contact Ali

Croquet

In winter recess, restart in March 2022, weather permitting. Follow the newsletter.

For details contact Sue

Digital Photography

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

For details contact Dave

Family History

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

For details contact Margaret

French

4th Monday - at 11.00am at various private locations

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 or Mike

ICT Support Sessions

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

More details contact Hazel

Our Subject Groups

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

Petanque

In winter recess, restart in March/April 2022, weather permitting. Follow the newsletter.

More details contact John

Philosophy am

3rd Thursday from 11.00am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall

More details contact Ali on 01239 682965 or 07716 826362 or alisonkate606@gmail.com

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

Strictly Basic Ballroom group

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00noon (starts 2022)

More details contact Julia

Strollers

Last Friday of the month from 10.30am, venues vary - to be decided monthly

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

Walkers

2nd Monday from 10.30am at various venues

More details contact Nigel

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.

Groups Reports

Book Club

Our book for February was *Abide With Me* by Elizabeth Strout. The story is set in the late 1950s in New England and tells of a church minister struggling to cope with the death of his wife and to continue to provide pastoral care to his congregation. The difficult behaviour of his grief stricken five year old daughter is causing trouble in the community and the problems of the family are exacerbated and exaggerated by the small town rumour-mill.

Our group was divided in opinions about the book. We generally found it difficult to identify with the characters, but felt that the book improved towards the end and it gave us plenty to think about.

Next month, we will meet, via zoom, on 22nd March and we will be discussing *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

Vicky

Crafty Crafters

February's Crafty Crafters was cancelled due to most members having other engagements. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 9th March.

Ruth

Creative Writing

We held our first face to face meeting in Rhydlewish Hall in February. Our task set by Hilary was to pick a member of a wedding party, and tell the story of the wedding from their perspective. The characters were picked unseen from a collection of names for us.

Amusing stories were told, but we all wished that we had picked the 'church mouse'! The next meeting will be at 11.00am in Rhydlewish Village Hall on Thursday 10th March.

Ali

Family History

At our February meeting in the Church, which also included a couple of group members joining on Zoom, we talked about information shared by distant cousins that we had contacted or who had contacted us through our online family trees, often through our shared DNA. It was very interesting that many of us had stories to tell from relatives that we did not previously know of, and photographs that have turned up after many years with another part of the family. Also, it is very satisfying when a distant relative can identify someone in a photograph that had previously had no identity. Family history is not always just about people who lived in the past. All this just goes to show the value of publishing your family tree and submitting your DNA results with a site such as Ancestry. There are so many stories among the group that we ran out of time and will continue this theme next month.

Margaret

French

Paul very kindly hosted the meeting for January. Each member spoke about something they had done that month. A discussion was had about what to do next, and it was proposed to purchase 3 different books to work from. The next meeting will be 11.00am on Monday 28th February at Ann's.

Ali

Games Group

The games group met as usual in February and even managed a very brief zoom with a member who is living away at the moment. It was good to see her and include her in the group. The connection wasn't brilliant so it was only a short visit.

The group has now bought their own Rummikub so some members enjoyed playing that and others played Spider Dominoes. We are trying to build up a set of the more popular games that belong to the group.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th March at 10.30am in the Penboyr Village Hall.

Hazel

Garden Group

On the 3rd February 20 members plus assorted dogs and children congregated at Penrallt Garden Centre in Moylegrove. Apparently there is no collective name for a group of gardens so I propose a 'congregation of gardeners' like we are worshippers at a church.

We were met by the owner, Peter, who briefed us about how he and his family have built up the business over the past 20 years from very humble beginnings to the successful 3 acre site that we see today. On his guide round the centre he showed off his array of huge Cambridge greenhouses many of which were packed with produce. He gave us lots of tips and advice about growing successful plants and we were surprised about the large range of plants on display even at this time of the year. They all looked vibrant and healthy particularly the cecilia shrubs and rhododendron bushes which had an absolute abundance of buds.

Many members took the opportunity to purchase plants, with the Australian rodanthe and the Mandarin primula (see photo) proving popular. We managed however to resist the temptation of acquiring his cone shaped boxus for £200 each! Peter showed his generosity by giving one lucky member (Elaine) a couple of his primula free of charge. We concluded the visit by enjoying refreshments in their Pavilion cafe.

Our next meeting will be at 2.00pm Thursday 3rd March at a garden called Gelli Uchaf situated in Rhydymerau SA19 7PY. Car sharing will be necessary due to the restricted parking space available. The owner is one Julian Wormald whose passion for bio-diversity makes him look like Wales' answer to David Attenborough.

His garden is inspired by Monet's Giverny and is a "characterful, rainbow coloured heaven". It specialises in early spring flowers, particularly snowdrops, and has apparently "millions of bulbs". Their website, called www.thegardenimpressionists.com, is geekily informative, combining horticulture, science, botany and entomology in a poetic partnership. Julian has been blogging for the past 11 years.

The plant of the month is this beautiful and delicate miniature Iris from the Browns' garden.



Patchwork and Quilting

We had a good number attend February's Patchwork & Quilting Group. In January I suggested members chose a card and made a copy of it in fabric. This is what a lot of the members were working on during the session and I'm looking forward to seeing the finished items. I'm hoping that we can have a display later in the year at a general meeting.

One of our beginner members was extremely thrilled when she announced to the group that she had finally completed her first ever block. A great achievement.

The next meeting will be 11.00am on Friday 11th March.

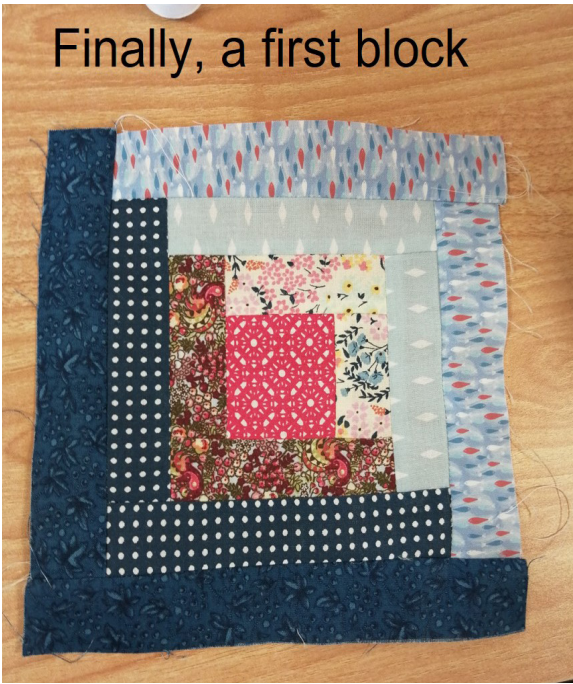


Table Tennis

Fun and fitness for all who join in our table tennis sessions. Next session is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 8th March in Rhydlewis Village Hall.

Ali

Finally, a first block



Wine Appreciation

In February 14 members gathered in Cenarth at Chatterbox Cottage to taste Chardonnay wines. We learned that actually, unlike Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay does not have one distinctive aroma and taste as it depends very much where the wine is made and what terroir and climate the vines are grown in.

We tasted four Chardonnay wines from around the world but priced at £4.50 to £15. Again we tried to work out which we liked best and also which was which price. The favourite wine was actually the most expensive one and we managed to guess that it was the most expensive!

In March we will be doing a similar exercise with Malbec wines. The meeting will be on Thursday 17th March at 7.00pm at the Browns in Penparc.

There were 2 new members at the meeting who came along to see what we do. We will be starting a second wine group so if anyone else is interested then please get in touch.

Hazel

Strollers

This month's Strollers, eleven of us, met at the old cattle market in Cardigan for a walk around Cilgerran Wildlife Park. We walked along the boardwalk and went into one of the hides where an eagle eyed person in the group spotted a Stonechat, then a heron flew over the wetlands and landed not far from the hide, it was quite spectacular to see the Heron in flight.

We then made our way to the Centre Café and stopped for a coffee, it was lovely to sit on the picnic benches in the glorious sunshine, the weather was perfect. Some of the group stayed for lunch while the rest of us walked back along the old railway track to where we parked. Next month's walk will be in Llanerchaeron.



Newsletter News

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that we have a new newsletter editor, Nigel Jones.

John Towle has been producing our newsletter since August 2016 but has decided it is now time to relinquish the role to someone else. What he has produced has been excellent and has become a wonderful archive for what has gone on in Newcastle Emlyn u3a. The person who writes up the history for the next 25 years will have an easier job!

I put out a request for help and as usual in our u3a someone, in fact two people, came forward. Thank you to both of them. Hopefully, they will both be able to take a role in our u3a in some capacity.

Nigel will take over for the March issue and the email address to send your reports should stay the same i.e. neu3anewsletter@hotmail.com. John and Nigel will work together for a smooth transition but please bear with us if there are any minor issues.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of our members to thank John for all of his hard work and dedication over the last 7 years it is very much appreciated.

Hazel

Walkers Group - First report

The group has been set up for those looking for longer walks in and around the Ceredigion area and slightly further afield. In the main the walks will be between 4 and 8 miles and will be on a circular route ending up at the starting point hopefully finishing near to a suitable place for refreshments.

Our first walk will be on Monday 14th March starting at 10.30am meeting up at the free carpark in Llangranog for a walk covering around 5 miles of in the main fairly level surfaces with some more challenging bits.

If you have any queries or questions about the group please contact Nigel Jones cambs5@sky.com. Further information regarding each walk will be posted directly to those members who have signed up to the walking group.

Nigel

Welsh Group

At our February session six of us were present, with no zoom participants. We played a board game which involved each of us answering questions, which were mostly, but not exclusively, about colours and numbers. This was a useful revision of some vocabulary, but also made us think and helped us practise answering questions with full sentences.

The session went well and we plan to repeat and extend this, with questions next time focussing mostly on clothing and parts of the body.

The next session will be on Tuesday 1st March from 10.30am with the option of face to face and zoom participation.

Vicky

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - March 2022

March

Tuesday	1 Welsh - Hybrid meeting at Vicky's in Capel Iwan	10.30am
Wednesday	2 Monthly Meeting - Colin Partridge on Paragliding	10.30am
Thursday	3 Art - meet weekly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	3 Gardens - Sue Philips in Penrhiwllan	2.00pm
Tuesday	8 Digital Photography - at Coracle Hall,	10.30am
Tuesday	8 Table Tennis - meet Rhydlewys Village Hall	2.00pm
Wednesday	9 Strictly Basic Ballroom - at Newcastle Emlyn R.C.	10.30am
Wednesday	9 Crafty Crafters - meet Penboyr Village Hall	10.30am
Thursday	10 Creative Writing - at Rhydlewys Village Hall	11.00am
Thursday	10 Art - meet weekly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Friday	11 Patchwork and Quilting - meet Penboyr Village Hall	11.00am
Monday	14 Philosophy pm - at Sue's in Pontgarreg	2.00pm
Monday	14 Walkers - start at Llangranog car park	10.30am
Tuesday	15 Games - meet at Penboyr Village Hall	10.30am
Tuesday	15 ICT Support Session - as required, contact Hazel	2.00pm
Wednesday	16 Astronomy - meet Coracle Hall, Llechryd	2.00pm
Thursday	17 Art - meet weekly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	17 Philosophy am - at Penrhiwllan Village Hall	11.00am
Thursday	17 Wine Appreciation - at the Browns	7.00pm
Tuesday	22 Book Club - Zoom meeting	10.30am
Tuesday	22 Family History - meeting at Church of latter Day Saints	2.30pm
Thursday	24 Art - meet weekly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am
Thursday	24 Table Tennis - meet Rhydlewys Hall	10.30am
Friday	25 Strollers - Next walk - Llanerchaeron National Trust	10.30am
Monday	28 French - at various private locations	11.00am
Wednesday	30 Lunch Club - Penrallt Garden Centre	2.00pm
Thursday	31 Art - meet weekly at Penboyr Village Hall	10.00am

Groups currently not active:

Bowls, Croquet, Petanque, Science and Technology is in hibernation

April

Wednesday	6 Monthly Meeting - To be confirmed	10.30am
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To add events to this monthly calendar please contact Nigel, 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!)