



Newcastle Emlyn

u3a

Newsletter

April 2022



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

Chair's Ramble

What a fantastic number of members met together again in the Rugby Club in March. We had a great talk from Colin, one of our own members, about Paragliding. He challenged us all to give it a go!

We have another of our members sharing their knowledge with us in April. The meeting will be on Wednesday 6th April and John Piggott will be talking about his holidays in the Panama. Please try to join us to find out more about the Panama and support John. It is so good to have our own members giving us our talks.

Following the main meeting we are inviting all the 'new' members to a gathering to let them meet the committee and find out a bit more about our u3a. 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 12.15/12.30 after the main meeting on Wednesday 6th April at the Rugby Club.

We are making a request for raffle prizes for our celebratory meal on Wednesday 8th June. If you have anything you think would be suitable for a raffle prize please can you let Ann Ecuyere, or any member of the committee, have them as soon as possible. The raffle will be held at the meal at Rhosygilwen.

Hopefully, April will see all of our outdoor groups restarting. Petanque, Croquet and Outdoor Bowls will restart providing the weather behaves itself. Plus, hot off the press we may be about to start a sea Kayaking group for those that fancy a go! Watch out for more information soon.

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 April 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

Garden

Date, venue and time varies amongst the group, or other gardens.
For details contact Tony

Grape Expectations

2nd Thursday from 2pm - venue varies.

For details contact Mike

ICT Support Sessions

3rd Tuesday from 2.00pm at Hazel's.

Lunch

Last Wednesday - venue varies.

For details contact Tracy

Patchwork and Quilting

2nd Friday from 11.00am at Penboyr Village Hall.

For details contact

Petanque

1st Monday, 2nd Thursday, 3rd Tuesday King George V playing fields Newcastle Emllyn

For details contact John

Philosophy am

3rd Thursday from 11.00am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall.

For details contact Ali

Philosophy pm

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

For details contact Susan

Science and Technology

For details contact Jim

Strictly Basic Ballroom group

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00noon.

For details contact Julia

Strollers

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

For details contact Cyndy

Table Tennis

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

For details contact Ali

Walkers

2nd Monday from 10.30am venues varies.

For details contact Nigel

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: Circumstances may require these details to change refer to the current monthly calendar to see if there are any changes to date, venue and time

Groups Reports

Astronomy Group

This meeting was different from our usual offerings in that Adrian was away on holiday. It was down to me as the Newcastle Emlyn representative in the group to produce something for this meeting.

We started with acknowledging what is happening in other parts of the world. We had a presentation on how the Russian invasion of Ukraine affects the current and future space projects. Space satellites have been used to detail the damage caused by missiles, rockets and bombs dropped by aircraft; satellites are being used to monitor the movement of Russian troops; the cancellation of a Russian rocket waiting to be launched and the withdrawal of western countries involvement in present collaborations. One thought we had was what is going to happen to the International Space Station as it comes to the end of its life. What will replace it. There does not seem to be any chance that the Americans will ever go with the Russians again. China is reported to be working towards launch a space station of their own.

We then went on to talk about "Telescopes."

We discussed the differences between the Reflector (Newtonian) and the Refractor, the description and use of mounts, filters, and magnification. We ended the afternoon with a demonstration of the "GOTO" facility.

Malcolm

Book Club

In March we read Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*, which tells the story of two teenagers during World War II, One a blind girl in Nazi-occupied France, the other a German orphan boy pressed into service by the Nazi army. Marie-Laure LeBlanc evacuates Paris with her father but he is later arrested. She becomes part of the French resistance effort helping to broadcast to the Allies. Meanwhile, brilliant Werner Pfennig receives an invitation to a Nazi school. Werner sacrifices everything he believes in to pursue his dream of becoming a scientist, but is pressed into military service.

In Saint-Malo hunting Marie-Laure's radio broadcasts, Allied bombers attack the city. In separate locations, both Werner and Marie-Laure are trapped. But Marie-Laure's broadcasts save Werner's life, and in return, he finds her and saves her from a German officer who is prepared to kill her. We had very mixed views about the book with some thinking it was the best book we had read for ages and others unable to finish it.

Next month, we will meet, via zoom, on 26th April and we will be discussing *The Binding* by Bridget Collins.

Vicky

Crafty Crafters

A good couple of hours were had at the March Crafty Crafters. Some members worked on their interpretations of a card while others worked on their current projects. A couple of members had finished their card interpretations and brought them along to show us. One of these had been knitted, the picture first having been copied onto graph paper to give a row by row copy. We have a very resourceful group.



Our next meeting will be 13th April in Penboyr Hall at 10.30am. We will be trying our hand at block printing on fabric

Ruth

Creative Writing

Unfortunately, Creative Writing was cancelled in March, but we will be meeting on Thursday April 14th 11.00am at Rhydlewys village hall.

Ali

Family History

Some of us met this month in person with others joining on Zoom. We continued with last month's topic – new relatives found through researching our family history, often by a DNA match in our online family tree. Many of the group have found 2nd/3rd cousins they did not know they had, sometimes living not too far away and some have met up. By finding these cousins, you can share more information, photos, possibly put names to faces on photos you have, as well as extending your family tree and possibly breaking down a brick wall.

2nd cousins share the same great-grandparents, 3rd cousins share the same great-great-grandparents etc. Sometimes you and your cousin may share a common ancestor, but you each call this ancestor something different. For example, the common ancestor may be *your* great-grandparent, but *your cousin's* great-great grandparent. This is where the term "once removed" comes in. It means that you are separated by a generation. Your parent's first, second, and third cousins are also *your* first, second, and third cousins—but *once removed* because your parents and their generation are 1 above yours.

If anyone would like a copy of a cousin calculation chart, whether you are a member of the Family History group or not, please contact me by email (jtandmargaret@gmail.com). New members are always welcome to join the group – you don't have to have started your

research yet, as we try to help each other if we can, but please get in touch before coming to one of our meetings in case there is any last minute change of time or venue.

At our next meeting we shall be talking about any certificates we have (birth, marriage and death) or wills – how we come to have them, and the stories behind them.

Margaret

French

The French group met at Ann's and had some good French conversation. It was decided to buy a new book with French stories in for us to study. Other reading material was also discussed. Our next meeting is at Kate's on Monday 28th March.

Ali

Games Group

There were only seven of us this month at Penboyr but we had a very lively morning with laughter and fun. Rummikub and Spider Dominoes were the main games enjoyed but we have many others to try if anyone fancies joining us. We are also keen to learn new games.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th April at 10.30am in Penboyr Village Hall.

Hazel

Garden Group

On a grey overcast afternoon in March 14 U3A gardeners congregated at Sue Phillips' garden in Penrhiwllan. Sue had kindly stepped into the breach at the last minute because we had had to cancel our original plans due to circumstances beyond our control (something to do with a bucket)



However, this gave me a problem as I knew I could not adequately describe her interesting garden and do it justice because I didn't know my *Arisarum Proboscideum* (mouse tails) from my *Leonatis Leonorus* (lions ear) let alone my *Dracunculus Vulgaris* (stinking lily) from my *Indigofera Himalayensis* (silk road)

To solve this dilemma, I asked Sue if she could do her own write up and she helpfully agreed, so here it is:

"The garden is situated within the former realms of an ancient Motte, now covered in oak and wild cherry trees. Fortunately, the morning showers had cleared, but the crocuses growing here and there were rather flattened after the storms. A small rockery at the entrance greeted us with a variegated periwinkle covered in blue flowers, primulas and random pink and blue hyacinths.



A large 'greensward' occupies the centre of the garden consisting mostly of moss, a little grass, ajuga, clovers, meadow flowers and numerous fungi at various times of the year, even in March!

Sue informed us that Moss absorbs more CO₂ than trees. Half a square metre of moss can, through sequestration, absorb 1Kg of CO₂ which is more than a small forest. How? The surface of the moss is 30 times its size! Moss is also used in some waste water systems to

filtrate impurities. In Japan they weed grass out of moss mounds and carefully sculpt moss into interesting shapes. And, finally, Moss also emits Oxygen.

Our tour of the garden started with the bed in front of the greenhouse where Agapanthus, Peonies, Clematis and an interesting Actinidia will emerge in warmer weather. A huge Fatsia and New Zealand Flax were the back drop for a swing seat, bordered by Lily Turf. Then through an archway we saw the raised vegetable beds, one of which had been invaded by a Were-Rabbit* who had jumped over the 4ft high raised bed, in the process bending a steel support. An herbaceous border on the other side was still in winter except for the Ligularia Dentata (Leopards Plant) being munched by very happy slugs as it seems this plant is mildly hallucinogenic!



Further down we found pots containing *Dracunculus Vulgaris*; otherwise known as the "stinking lily" or Dragon Lily. It develops a sturdy stem and then 'flowers' with a huge spathe ... and gives off the smell of rotting meat to attract flies. Fortunately it dies back within 24 hours.

Then, through an arch, we saw snowdrops in a 'wild'

area under the trees where they are left to multiply, as are primroses, cowslips and fritillaries. As well as a 'stumpery' (made from logs) covered with moss and planted with ferns, heucheras, persicarias and hostas most of which were hardly emerging.

Further on we found larger snowdrops thriving under a tree by the pond. And saw the Bluebells beginning to emerge nearby. We then had a peek in the Greenhouse where Sue keeps some exotic plants, including a huge red Banana Palm, Strelitzia (bird of paradise), colcasias, geraniums etc. And a *Leonitus Leornorus* plant (commonly known as Dagga and

grows wild in South Africa). Apparently another mildly squiffy plant! "Were-Rabbit as in Worsell & Grommit!"

Thanks **Sue**



After this visit we travelled to the Winery Bistro Nursery run by Celtic Wines in nearby Henllan. Unfortunately the nursery was not particularly well stocked so we concentrated on the other sides of the business. After some refreshments in the bistro cafe we were given an informative chat about the winery and then a tour round their production facilities

where they have produced award winning fruit wines, spirits, liqueurs and preserves since 1989. Of course, this had to be followed by a tasting session

Mike

Grape Expectations

We held an inaugural meeting of this new group to establish the ground rules of how this second wine tasting group should operate (the original wine appreciation group had reached saturation point). We decided that we should meet in members' homes in the afternoon to avoid travelling in the dark and that starting times should be on a sliding scale according to the time of the year. We agreed to take turns in hosting the meetings and the host should decide which type of wine, or which wine producing region/country, should be the subject under discussion. We may not restrict ourselves to wine but might also sample other types of alcoholic beverages. "Grape Expectations" was chosen as our name after much consideration, and beat off strong competition from the likes of "WAG too", "Winosaurus", "The Plonkers", "Iechyd Das", "The Bottle Openers", "Vinophiles", "Wines R us", "Vinous Varietals" etc. etc.

We decided to have a mini dry run of how the tasting session would work (or was it a wet run?) and the winner of the 3 wines tested was a very full bodied French wine blend with 60% Grenache and 40% Carignan noir grapes. Apparently both these red grapes are of Spanish origin but are more commonly found in French wine. As we had got off to a fun and enthusiastic start we decided to go for a full blown meeting the following week. We were obviously fully embracing the U3A mantra of "Learn, Laugh, Live"

The wine type chosen was our favourite varieties and it soon became apparent how disparate our tastes were with wines from across the world with a range of alcoholic content from 4% to 14.5% (which must be about the full range) bought everywhere from B&M to Laithwaites. The most popular of the 6 wines tested was again a blended wine this

time using Shiraz and Durif grapes (proportion unknown) from Australia. It had a label called Black Stomp which apparently means the boundary between the known world and the unknown world in Australian mythology. Again it was a very full bodied wine with various fruity and spicy flavours

I think everyone is looking forward to trying new wines and learning more about the wonderful world of viticulture

Mike

ICT Support

Ruth and I had three people who needed support with their laptops, tablets and phones at our last meeting plus two people who couldn't make it. Please remember to give us a quick ring to book your place if you want to come as space is limited as well as the time to give to each person.

We are not experts but will try to help with your questions in how to use your devices.

Hazel

Patchwork and Quilting

As well as working on our own projects, we had a visitor in March from one of our u3a members who brought in a lot of goodies for us to help ourselves to. These had been projects, fabrics and other patchwork and quilt related paraphernalia of the member's wife who is no longer capable of carrying on with her sewing. It was all received with grateful thanks and we decided that the group would complete any unfinished projects and donate them to care homes or organisations like Project Linus who provide quilts and blankets to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers. This should keep us busy for a while.



Our next meeting will be 8th April in Penboyr Hall at 11.00.

Ruth

Petanque Group

Welcome back to the restart of the Petanque group.

Dates for April are 1st Monday (4th), 2nd Thursday (14th) and 3rd Tuesday (19th) all dates are starting from 2.00pm at the King George V park, Newcastle Emlyn.

At the moment there is no name list for any of the three groups. I will do my best to fit in any members that wish to attend. Once we know the interested members, named groups will be an allocated list.

Looking forward to resurrecting the Petanque group again,
For details, contact John on 01559 371842.

John

Philosophy Group

Unfortunately, Philosophy am was cancelled in March, but we will be meeting on Thursday April 21st at Penrhiwllan village hall.

Ali

Strollers

This month 9 humans and 3 dogs met at Llanerchaeron House for a 4 mile walk along the old railway track following the river towards Aberaeron. On the way back, we walked through the woods past the old Railway Station and across the field by the National Trust House. It was a very warm sunny day, even warmer in the valley. It was lovely to see all the spring flowers in bloom. Once we had returned to the carpark some of the group stayed for lunch at the café where we happened to meet up with the Cardigan u3a Strollers group on an adjacent picnic table, they had started their walk in Aberaeron up to Llanerchaeron and back, in fact one gentleman joined us from the beginning as he had missed the Cardigan group starting point. A lovely walk on a lovely warm sunny day!

Cyndy

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis group is definitely improving it's skill set. Together with having a lot of fun. We meet twice a month in Rhydlewiss village hall, everyone welcome for a good bit of exercise and fun.

Ali

Walkers Group



Our first walk accompanied by Bendi (my Collie/Pyrenees) on the 14 March was in the Llangranog area, with 5 members eager and willing to take on what was a bit of a challenge both in terms of hills and mud though fortunately the weather was especially kind with glorious sunshine and very little wind. We started from the free car park in Llangranog and took a short walk on the road back up the hill until we hit the footpath that took us past Pigeonsford mansion; sadly, we were not able to check out their walled gardens as this is now

private property despite Cadw saying that it was open to visitors!! Rumour has it that the gardens were visited by David Lloyd George. The group then decided to take a slight diversion from the planned route which took the group through a number of fields and a somewhat derelict farm before again re-joining the road for a short time before some more muddy and slippery field pathways before eventually joining the coastal path. A short break was had to enjoy the view across to Ynys Llochtyn and up towards New Quay and to eat and drink our provisions before the final leg past some friendly welsh cobs finishing off down at the Pentre arms in Llangranog for some well-deserved refreshments. Total distance covered being just shy of 7 km or around 4.5 miles in old money





Our next walk on 11 April will be based around Moylegrove starting and finishing at Penrallt garden centre

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

Wine Appreciation

We were a small but select group that met to taste Malbec wines at Janet and John's house in March. We tasted four Malbec wines from three different countries and a range of prices. Three countries that are known for Malbec are California, France and Argentina. The wines were priced from £5.50 to £10. The favourite was actually the £10 Parilla wine from Argentina and we all felt the £5.50 I Love wine, also from Argentina, lacked body and flavour.

In April we hope to organise a trip to the Penderyn Distillery on Thursday 21st April. This will include members of the Grape Expectations group. Hopefully, we can find somewhere for lunch and then do a tour of the distillery in the afternoon. More details later.

Hazel

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - April 2022

Monday	4	Petanque - King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2-00pm
Tuesday	5	Welsh - Hybrid meeting at Vicky's in Capel Iwan	10-30am
Wednesday	6	Monthly meeting followed by new members meeting at Newcastle Emlyn Rugby Club	10-30am
Thursday	7	Art - Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	7	Gardens – J + J Piggot's garden Horeb, SA44 4JJ	2-00 pm
Friday	8	Patchwork and Quilting – Penboyr Village Hall	11-00am
Monday	11	Philosophy pm – at Sue's in Pontgarreg	2-00pm
Monday	11	Walkers - start Penrallt Garden Centre Moylegrove	10-30am
Tuesday	12	Digital Photography - Coracle Hall Llechryd	10-30am
Tuesday	12	Table Tennis – Rhydlewys Village Hall	2-00pm
Wednesday	13	Crafty Crafters – Penboyr Village Hall	10-30am
Wednesday	13	Strictly Basic Ballroom – Newcastle Emlyn R C	10-30am
Thursday	14	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	14	Creative Writing - Rhydlewys Village Hall	11-00am
Thursday	14	Grape Expectations - at various private locations	2-00pm
Thursday	14	Petanque King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2-00pm
Tuesday	19	Games – Penboyr Village Hall	10-30am
Tuesday	19	ICT Support Session - as required contact Hazel	2-00pm
Tuesday	19	Petanque – King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2-00pm
Wednesday	20	Astronomy – Coracle Hall Llechryd	2-00pm
Thursday	21	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	21	Philosophy am – Penrhiwlan Village Hall	11-00am
Thursday	21	Wine Appreciation – Visit Penderyn Distillery	7-00pm
Monday	25	French – at various private locations	11-00am
Tuesday	26	Book Club – Zoom meeting	10-30am
Tuesday	26	Family History – Church of latter Day Saints	2-30pm
Wednesday	27	Lunch Club – TBA	2-00pm
Thursday	28	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	28	Table Tennis – Rhydlewys Village Hall	10-30am
Friday	29	Strollers – Next walk – TBA	10-30am

Groups currently not active: Bowls, Croquet; Science and Technology is in hibernation

May

Wednesday	4	Monthly meeting with Trevor Gunn talk on Ballooning adventures – Newcastle Emlyn RC	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 Nigel via email at: neu3anewsletter@hotmail.com

