



Newcastle Emlyn

u3a

Newsletter

June 2022

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



Chair's Ramble

June is always a very busy month and this year is no exception. The weather is warmer so the gardens are calling and plants and seeds need sowing, visitors and holidays are in the offing, the u3a AGM is looming and this year June is our celebratory month!

Trevor enthralled us all with his ballooning escapades last month and maybe whet a few appetites to try a balloon ride. It is always interesting to hear of the exploits of our own members. Please see our program secretaries if you feel you, or someone you know, could offer us a slot as speaker.

Now to June! **Wednesday 1st June**, our main meeting, is our Picnic at The Rugby Club, details of which have already been emailed out and are also included elsewhere in this newsletter for those not on email. So, gather your candelabras, picnic tables and chairs and decorations to celebrate our 25th+, national u3a 40th and the Queens Jubilee and pray for fine weather!

This is closely followed on **Wednesday 8th June** by our Celebratory lunch at Rhosygilwen. Bookings for this closed at the end of May but promises to be a fantastic occasion. If there any further donations of raffle prizes please bring them to the picnic on 1st June. Many thanks for all of the donations so far.

Notification has been given for our AGM on **Wednesday 6th July** when there will also be some quizzes as well as the formal meeting. This is our first physical AGM since 2019 so let's make it a good one. There are spaces on the committee so please think seriously about anyone you think might make a good committee member and speak to them. Then, hopefully, fill in the nomination papers included with this newsletter.

August's meeting on **Wednesday 3rd August** will be our annual outing (rather on hold over the last few years!) This time we have booked a coach to go to Powis Castle near Welshpool. More details about cost and how to book are in the newsletter.

Hazel

Our Subject Groups

Art

Every Thursday from 10.00am at Penboyr Village Hall

For details contact Amanda on 01559 372273 or amanda.treesong@gmail.com

Astronomy

3rd Wednesday from 2.00pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd - Joint with Cardigan u3a. For

details contact Malcolm on 01239 711787

Book Club

4th Tuesday from 10.30am at venue to be advised (currently Zoom meetings).

For details contact Vicky on 01559 372278 or vkthomas2008@gmail.com

Bowls

1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday both from 2.00pm at Newcastle Emlyn Bowling Club.

For details contact Julia on julia.pearson2013@icloud.com

Bucket List

Date, Activity and Location will vary - see 'What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a'.

For details contact Helen on 07964 674287 or helencoedmor@gmail.com

Crafty Crafters

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall. For details contact Ruth on 01239 711787

Creative Writing

2nd Thursday from 11.00am at Ali's - venue varies.

For details contact Ali on 07716826362 or 01239 682965 or alisonkate606@gmail.com

Croquet

1st and 3rd Friday from 2-30pm. Venue in Penrhiwllan at Sue's house

For details contact Sue on 01559 370684

Digital Photography

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

For details contact Dave on thomasdavej@hotmail.com

Family History

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

For details contact Margaret on 07866 420122 or jtandmargaret@gmail.com

French

4th Monday - at 11.00am at various private locations.

For details contact Ali on 01239 682965 or 07716 826362

Games

3rd Tuesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall.

For details contact Hazel on 01559 371842

Garden 1st Thursday at 2pm venue varies. For details contact Tony on 01239 712931 or poolletony@hotmail.com or Mike on 07949032308

Grape Expectations

2nd Thursday from 2pm - venue varies.

For details contact Mike Johnson on 01545590246 or email mikejohnson36963@yahoo.co.uk

ICT Support Sessions 3rd Tuesday from 2.00pm at Hazel's in Waungilwen.

For details contact Hazel on 01559 371842

Kayak Paddlers

For details contact Nigel on 07447440841 or email cambs5@sky.com

Lunch

Last Wednesday - venue varies..For details contact Tracy 01239 710887

Patchwork and Quilting

2nd Friday from 11.00am at Penboyr Village Hall.

For details contact Ruth on 01239 711787

Petanque

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

For details contact John on 01559 371842

Philosophy am

3rd Thursday from 11.00am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall.

For 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

For details contact Susan on 01239 652945

Science and Technology

For details contact Jim on 01239 613752

Strictly Basic Ballroom group

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00noon.

For details contact Julia on julia.pearson2013@icloud.com

Strollers

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

For details contact Cyndy on 07931 834460

Table Tennis

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

For details contact Ali on 01239 682965 or 07716 826362

Walkers

2nd Monday from 10.30am venues varies.

For details contact Nigel on 07447 440841 or cambs5@sky.com

Welsh 1st Tuesday from 10.30am at Vicky's in Capel Iwan or Liz's in Cnarth.

For details contact Vicky on 01559 372278

Wine Appreciation

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

For details contact Hazel on 01559371842

GROUP REPORTS

Book Club

In May we read *A Private Affair* by Lesley Lokko. The book follows the lives and experiences of four women, all of whom ultimately have a connection with the same man. Two of the women are the wives of officers in the British army and the storyline moves from place to place where the army officers are based including Northern Ireland, Germany and Sierra Leone.

We had, as we so often do, varying views about the novel. Some of us found it difficult to follow, as the chapters move from woman to woman and through various times. We also thought that the descriptions of the characters could be unnecessarily detailed. But we generally felt that it described the lives of military wives at the time very well, showing how they could not entertain career prospects of their own and how hard it was to be so frequently uprooted and transferred from place to place.

Next month, we will meet, via zoom, on 28th June and we will be discussing *The Cobra*, by Frederick Forsyth.

Vicky

Bowls

Our next session is on Tuesday 7th June starting at 2 pm at NCE bowling green. Fingers crossed that the weather is on our side. Do come along and have a go.

Julia

Bucket List

16 of us left NCE at 8.30am on the 17th to travel the 3hour trip to Llangollen. The weather was in our favour and we were looking forward to our 2 hour Barge ride along the canal and over the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.



We arrived in time for coffee on the Wharf before we took our seats on the barge.



We were the lucky ones that had the front section of the barge reserved for us and definitely had the best views. We travelled along the canal through some very narrow parts where the barges have to wait for those travelling the other way to pass through. A lookout is sent along the towpath on these narrow bends. Several of us partook in the delicious scones with jam and cream that were served. After several bumps and scrapes we arrived at the aqueduct. As you can see from one of the photos how narrow and close you pass to the edge, only inches with 126 feet drop into the valley. Our driver picked us up at the end and drove us back to Llangollen for a wander around. One of our members during this last hour managed to run along the towpath all the way to Horseshoe pass and back.

It was a lovely day.

Helen

Crafty Crafters

We carried on with block printing in May, finishing off the projects we started in April. Having started last month, we were ready to get started straight away and everyone had another good session.

There were pigs, hens, elephants, roosters, leaves, trees, houses and lots more, even a Welsh dragon.



Ruth

There is no meeting in June because it coincides with our celebration lunch at Rhosygilwen. Our next meeting will be 13th July.

Digital Photography

May's homework was Black & White/Monochrome photos and we had some fantastic results. At each meeting we are watching tutorial videos to help us all with our homework. Links to re-watch the videos are emailed to everyone afterwards so they can be watched again and again and members are also provided with electronic tips sheets and books to assist with homework too.



Adrian Milner



Dave Thomas



John Leigh



Malcolm Brown



Margaret Taylor

Pauline Brown

Our group is growing in numbers, so if you would like come along to see if it is for you or you want to join us, please confirm your details to Dave at <https://u3asites.org.uk/newcastle-emlyn/mailling/c:42076>

Homework for the next meeting on Tuesday 14th June in Coracle Hall, Llechryd is 'Landscape Photography using the foreground to create depth'.

Also, for information - U3A eye holds a monthly photography challenge and is open to any U3A member. If you would like to know more and possibly submit your photos, please visit <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/u3a-eye> Also, if you are on Facebook, the official U3A Facebook page is www.facebook.com/u3auk

Dave

Family History

This month, we continued with our theme of certificates and wills, and an interesting selection of documents were brought to the meeting for us to look at. Many people have some very old family documents in their possession, often not knowing quite how they got there. Next month's meeting will not have a particular subject so anything of interest will be welcome. In the next month or so we shall tackle the topic of what we do with the information we find and how we keep or display it.

One of the reasons we meet at the Church of Latter Day Saints is that we have access to its Family History Centre records and premium genealogy websites. We should be able to access these websites on our own devices while at the meetings but we have encountered a few problems with this along the way, so at our meeting in June we will try to overcome these hurdles and get all our group members able to do this.

We generally have quite a small number of members attending our meetings – new members are always welcome. Even if you are a beginner, you will be welcome – please contact me for more details of what we do.

Margaret

Games Group

We welcomed a new member, Steve, to our group in May and he soon settled in to beating a few of us at Rummikub! Others enjoyed Nine Dominoes.

The group is hoping to have some games for everyone to enjoy at the Picnic at the Rugby Club on the 1st June. If you fancy joining the group and enjoying a fun morning playing board and card games then please contact Hazel or come along on Tuesday 21st June to Penboyr Village Hall at 10.30am.

Hazel

Garden Group



This month a smaller than average group met at Cae Hir gardens in Cribyn, advertised as a "Welsh Garden with a Dutch History nestling in the foothills of the ancient and glorious Cambrian Mountains" It has mass planting of a whole variety of plants and trees covering approximately 6 acres on a steep hillside.

The garden is run by Stuart Akkermans whose father, Wil, brought his young family over from Holland to Wales in 1983 with a dream to create a garden fit for the public to enjoy. Wil achieved this dream as early as 1989 and in 2004 the garden became an RHS Partner Garden and has since been voted the second best garden in Wales by readers of Garden News 2019/20. This is a remarkable achievement as Wil, and Stuart in his footsteps, treated it as "A One man Job" and started off with a derelict and dilapidated smallholding with a "blank canvas" garden.

The family history was in the tree nursery trade so it is no surprise that trees form the backbone of the garden with many of them coming over from the family's nursery in Holland. Indeed their clever logo is the letters CH in the shape of a tree. We were lucky with the weather for a change and enjoyed basking in the warm sunshine. We debated such vital and fascinating questions as is there such a thing as blue lilac?, or purple cornflowers?, or green hellebores? (Yes to all 3 I believe) whilst relaxing on the benches and admiring the lush surroundings and views, visiting the cacti filled greenhouses, buying plants and finally indulging ourselves in the tea room (Y SIED = the shed). A good time was had by all.

Those of you who attended the plant sale run by the Drefach Felindre Gardening Club will be pleased to hear that the event was a resounding success and over £800 was raised.

Our next meeting will be at Vicky and Brian Thomas's garden at Capel Iwan at 2.00pm on Thursday 2nd June, despite this day being a bank holiday. Vicky will be supplying tea and biscuits for us.

The Plant of the Month is my almost luminous acer.



Mike

Grape Expectations

A small but select group of wine tasters met at the Brown's in Penparc to sample wine from bottles with amusing or unusual labels. This is an up and coming genre with the majority of such labels coming from either California or Australia. The wines we tasted all came from Southern Australia and they were all well received, indeed there was a score draw for the most popular. One was a shiraz and the other one was a merlot.

The tasting was held in Pauline and Malcolm's summerhouse, we then adjourned to their kitchen/diner where we all enjoyed tea and coffee and yummy cakes provided by Pauline.

The theme proved so popular that we intend to repeat it in the near future. We will continue to scour the local wine suppliers in the hope of finding such wine as "Vociferous Dipsomaniac" or even "Cenosillicaphobic Cat" (google this adjective!). Perhaps a more appropriate label for U3A might be "Goodbye Tension, Hello Pension" or even "Hornswoggle Stay in Bed Red".

If you feel that you might enjoy this sort of event the group would welcome new members

Mike

ICT Support

There will be no ICT support group in June due to summer holidays we hope to resume in July

Hazel

Kayak Paddlers

Our planned inaugural paddle at Llys y Fran turned out to be a non-event as a few of us turned up full of expectations and some trepidation only to find that according to the booking desk no booking

had been made and yet I had made the booking when I went there for the dummy run for the walkers group some weeks earlier and reaffirmed it the day before. So sadly we all, after a drink and a bite to eat, had to trek home. After some stiff missives from yours truly in which it looks like a mixture of ignorance of the system on both sides they have agreed to give a 20% discount on our next and what will still be our inaugural session. Details of dates and times to be resolved. For further details contact Nigel on 07447440841 or email cambs5@sky.com

Nigel

Patchwork and Quilting

We had another new member join us in May, welcome Charlotte. We had another good look through the unfinished work we received a couple of months ago and decided on how to finish off some more quilts. A couple of members took some of them to work on while other members worked on their own projects. The hope is that we will be able to complete the quilts over time and then donate them to care homes or Linus Quilts. In June, we have the area coordinator for Linus Quilts visiting to tell us more about the project so more about them next month.

Our next meeting will be 10th June

Ruth

Petanque Group

The weather has been reasonably kind to us in May but numbers have still been quite low so next month we will meet on Monday 6th June and Tuesday 21st June. There will not be any petanque on Thursday 9th June. However, we also have a date fixed with Llanelli u3a Petanque group for a friendly game on Thursday 16th June at 2pm in the King George V playing fields. Some of us will be having lunch with them first at the Travelling Teapot. If you wish to join us at any of these times to play Petanque please let John know.

John

Strictly Basic Ballroom

A fun filled session, gentle exercise and learning something new: that's what SBB is about. Come and join us on Monday 6th June 10.30 at NCE rugby club. This is a change from our usual Wednesday as it clashes with the Rhosygilwen celebratory luncheon.

Julia

Strollers

This month we met at the Wool Museum for a three-and-a-half-mile circular walk around Drefach Felindre



There were 12 of us and 3 dogs. It was a lovely warm sunny morning, we set off following tracks and footpaths. We crossed a footbridge over a waterfall, surprisingly there was quite a flow of water considering we haven't had much rain and some streams we crossed were almost dry. On our way back, walking along the main road through the village we saw Ann Day's post box topper she made in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee it was quite spectacular.

Cyndy

Table Tennis

Table tennis is being enjoyed by a very friendly group of players, keeping fit and improving their skills.

Ali

Walkers

Our walk this month was around Llys y Fran and in total was around 10k. It was decided that we would take the easier way round with the very hilly bit at the outset. The walk itself was very pleasant as you always had a view of the lake to your right-hand side and in the main we were the only people enjoying what was good walking weather. Somehow some unexpected hills appeared on the route especially towards the end of the walk which tested the fitness and resolve of the u3a group but we all made it round and finished with what is now a traditional drink and a mixture of cakes and hot food. If anybody would like to go there to have a walk then in the main it's not a bad

route albeit a little man made as it were. The food and drink served in the café are really good and there's a great children's play area just outside the restaurant if you're looking for somewhere to take the grandchildren over the summer holidays plus kayak hire and mountain bikes both around the lake and on a bespoke track. Our next walk on Monday 13th June will be around the Devils Bridge area.

Nigel

Welsh Group

At our meeting in May we continued working on days, weeks, months and seasons, coming up with sentences to say what we were doing, where we were going and when, and describing features of the seasons. We also looked at numbers, including doing a few sums, and we described the weather. We decided to focus mainly on the weather next time.

Our next session will be on Tuesday 7th June

Vicky

Wine Appreciation

We had a great meeting in May at Capel Iwan when we tasted wines that we had found with a fancy label or interesting name. We had two white wines which happened to both be Sauvignon Blanc. One was called the Doctors' Sauvignon Blanc and the other Fire and Foal. Both had interesting stories behind the names which would be too long to relate here but if you are interested I am sure you can 'google' it!

The four reds we then tasted had similarly interesting tales and two from the 19 Crimes range even had an app which you could scan the label to hear the story behind it! There were also two Malbec called Jamshed and Asado Club.

Overall the most liked wine was the 19 Crimes - the Uprising red wine. We felt it was really useful to try these wines as none of us had had any of them before.

We have now planned a programme for the next few months and will be meeting next at Vicky and Brian's house in Capel Iwan on Thursday 16th June at 7pm. We will be looking more closely at the French Wine Regions starting with The Loire.

Hazel

Notification of Newcastle Emlyn U3A AGM 2022 and Membership Fees for 2022-2023

Please be advised that the AGM of Newcastle Emlyn U3A will take place on **Wednesday 6th July 2022 starting at 11am**. We need a quorum of at least 30 members and I am sure we can achieve lots more than this as we usually do. Please support your committee in keeping Newcastle Emlyn u3a the great u3a that it has become. This will be our first physical AGM since 2019 and will be held at Newcastle Emlyn Rugby Club starting with coffee and chat at 10.30am. Please give apologies to Jenny Evans, our secretary, neu3asecretary@hotmail.com

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 15th June.

We have **two committee vacancies** this year. Nomination papers are included with this newsletter. Any nominations for committee members should be submitted by 15th June and you should gain permission from the nominee before putting them forward. Forms need to be signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder. Please consider who would make a suitable member and speak to them about it. If anyone has a burning desire to join the committee and wants to know a bit more about it please contact Hazel. The roles of Chair and Secretary are up for election this year so nominations will be accepted in the way described above. The treasurer's role has one more year to run and she is willing to stay in post.

Membership fees – As many of you are aware membership fees are also due in July for the year 2022-2023. Newcastle Emlyn membership fees, as you have been informed, will be £16 a head for the coming year. Fully paid up members of other u3as pay half this fee and vice versa.

You can pay this by bank transfer, cheque or cash. More details will be given about this in the next newsletter.

Picnic at The Rugby Club

Our June main meeting is on Wednesday 1st June. We are taking the format of our August Picnic In the Park from last year but having it at the Rugby Club where we can have indoor accommodation if needed and toilets are more available. The theme will be celebration! That is of our 25th (now 2 years late) the national U3A's 40th and the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Take your pick!

The meeting will start as normal at 10.30 with registration, free tea and coffee and a chat. Please park your cars at the far end of the car park if you are able so we have plenty of space at the river end.

At about 11.00am we will start our activities which will hopefully involve croquet, petanque, badminton, plant stall etc outdoors and group displays, indoor games and a chance to try some Strictly Ballroom indoors. If you have any outdoor garden games that you could bring along for people to have a go at please do so.

During that time you will be able to set up your picnic tables and chairs which we hope you will decorate appropriately and maybe even wear suitable hats etc! I don't promise a prize for the best dressed table but you never know! At about 12.00 we will have our picnics with the thought of winding up about 1.00pm.

The Rugby Club have been very accommodating and we can use the pitch itself for some of the games such as croquet and any of the gravel areas for the Petanque etc. They have also said they will mow the grass down near the river for our picnic and move a couple of the benches down there for those that maybe do not have their own tables.

I hope as many as possible will be able to join us to celebrate these occasions. I believe we may even be getting a mention in the next Third Age Matters magazine and they have asked me to send some photos so start planning your tables!!!

If the weather is totally unsuitable to be outside we will do the best we can inside and you can set up your tables in the hall. Whatever the weather it should be a fun and enjoyable time.

Celebratory Anniversary Lunch at Rhosygilwen

10.30 start on Wednesday 8th June 2022

Cost £15 for members £20.50 for non-members payable by 1st June

Before dinner guest speaker, 2 course lunch, gardens visit and much more.

Celebrate 25 years of NEu3a, 40 years of National u3a and the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Menu

Chicken with Almonds in Ginger Cream Sauce or

Spiced Beef Brisket with Roasted Carrot Orzo or

Mushroom stroganoff

All served with rice pilaff, green Salad and crusty bread

Lemon Posset with Raspberries or

Pavlova with Summer Berries or

Chocolate Torte (flour free)

If you wish to go to the lunch please email Hazel neu3achair@hotmail.com

What's On In Newcastle Emlyn u3a - June 2022

Wednesday	1	Monthly meeting- Jubilee Picnic Games and Plant stall Newcastle Emlyn Rugby Club	10-30am
Thursday	2	Art- Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	2	Gardens – Vicky and Brian's Capel Iwan, SA38 9LT	2-00 pm
Friday	3	Croquet – Sue's house in Penrhiwllan	2-30pm
Monday	6	Strictly Basic Ballroom – Newcastle Emlyn R C	10-30am
Monday	6	Petanque - King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2-00pm
Tuesday	7	Welsh- Hybrid meeting at Vicky's in Capel Iwan	10-30am
Tuesday	7	Bowls – Newcastle Emlyn Bowls Club	2-00pm
Wednesday	8	Celebratory Lunch at Rhosygilwen	10-30am
Thursday	9	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	9	Creative Writing - at various locations	11-00am
Thursday	9	Grape Expectations- at various private locations	2-00pm
Friday	10	Patchwork and Quilting - Penboyr Village Hall	11-00am
Monday	13	Walkers – Devils Bridge area	10-30am
Monday	13	Philosophy pm – at Sue's in Pontgarreg	2-00pm
Tuesday	14	Digital Photography - Coracle Hall Llechryd	10-30am
Tuesday	14	Table Tennis – Rhydlewisl Village Hall	2-00pm
Wednesday	15	Astronomy – Coracle Hall Llechryd	2-00pm
Thursday	16	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	16	Petanque match v Llanelli u3a Petanque King George V playing fields	2-00pm
Thursday	16	Wine Appreciation – Vicky +Brian Capel Iwan	7-00pm
Friday	17	Croquet – Sue's house in Penrhiwllan	2-30pm
Monday	20	Bowls – Newcastle Emlyn Bowls Club	2-00pm
Tuesday	21	Book Club – Zoom meeting	10-30am
Tuesday	21	Games – Penboyr Village Hall	10-30am
Tuesday	21	ICT Support Session - as required contact Hazel	2-00pm
Tuesday	21	Petanque – King George V Park Newcastle Emlyn	2-00pm
Thursday	23	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am
Thursday	23	Table Tennis – Rhydlewisl Village Hall	10-30am
Thursday	23	Philosophy am – Penrhiwllan Village Hall	11-00am
Friday	24	Strollers – Next walk –	10-30am
Monday	27	French – at various private locations	11-00am
Monday	27	Science + Technology – Penrhiwllan Village Hall	2-00pm
Tuesday	28	Family History – Church of latter Day Saints	2-30pm
Wednesday	29	Lunch Club – TBA	12-00am
Thursday	30	Art – Penboyr Village Hall	10-00am

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. Please contact Nigel via email at: neu3newsletter@hotmail.com