



**u3a**  
Newent & District



# NEWSLETTER

**November 2021**

**Welcome to Issue 10 of our Newsletter.**

**No longer in full time work or raising a family?  
Join your local u3a to meet new people  
enjoy exploring a wide variety of interests  
at low cost.**

See <https://u3asites.org.uk/newent/events> for more details.

**Monthly General Meetings have resumed  
in Newent Memorial Hall.**

**The speaker on November 16th will be: -  
Richard Ricketts with  
“Introducing the Amazing Honey Bee.”**

Doors open @ 09:45 with the talk/commencing @10:30.

Admission is £2:00 as usual, with tea & coffee provided.

**Many individual Group meetings  
are once again meeting face-to-face.**

**Please check with your group organiser  
for meeting details.**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – Christmas in The Memorial Hall**

Doors open @ 09:45 with the festivities @10:30.

## Monthly Meetings

The return to Monthly Meetings in the Newent Memorial Hall has been extremely successful and welcomed by all. In September, Catherine Williams, aka "The Garden Lady", who lives locally, gave a talk on "How to Love Your Garden". Catherine gave us valuable insights and tips on how to plan and design a garden from first principles right through to the choice of planting regimes. For October we were treated to a comprehensive presentation on "The History of Air Sea Rescue" from Fraser Gunn. Fraser is a local speaker who is no stranger to our club as he has presented to us in the past. His latest presentation to us took us from the very inception of the Air Sea Rescue Service (ASRS) right through to the present day. Our journey was thoroughly researched and illustrated, with Fraser drawing upon his own childhood experiences in Portsmouth seeing flying boats in operation and his extensive knowledge of the development and history of the ASRS. I am disappointed that I was not able to be there.

### **Future monthly meetings and speakers will be: -**

#### **16<sup>th</sup> November - Richard Rickett - Introducing the *Amazing* Honey Bee!**

Do you know how many eyes a bee has (it's not two!), or which part of its body it uses to taste with (not its tongue!)? Or how many hundreds of miles flying it takes to make one teaspoon of honey for your toast?

If the answer is no, this talk will inform, amaze, and entertain you.

Beekeeper and author Richard Rickett gives a fascinating and entertaining talk about bees and beekeeping. You will find out about the extraordinary lifecycle of honey bees, how they live, breed, communicate, and, perhaps most importantly, make honey!

This illustrated talk takes a peek inside a beehive, explaining the complex, finely tuned relationship of its tens-of-thousands of inhabitants.

The talk will be of interest to anyone who gardens, would like to know more about bees and beekeeping, or who just enjoys a bit of honey on their porridge.

## Christmas Social - 21<sup>st</sup> December



Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December in Newent Memorial Hall 9:45a.m. for 10:30a.m. start.

Please come along to enjoy each other's company, enter a free raffle and to participate in a Quiz - *guess what it is about!*

Enjoy some mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls, cake, and the twelve days of Christmas

## Monthly Meeting - 18 January 2022 - Speaker - Jemima Parry-Jones MBE

### Director of the International Centre for Birds of Prey, Newent (ICBP)

ICBP opened to the public on May 25th, 1967, as The Falconry Centre, run by Philip Glasier and family. It was thought to be the only dedicated bird of prey centre in the UK at the time and is now one of the oldest in the world.

Under the direction of Jemima Parry-Jones, Philip's daughter, the centre has become the ICBP we know today, focused on the care and conservation of birds of prey.



... by the way this is not a picture of Jemima! But she may bring along a friendly feathered friend.

### Membership Subscriptions

If your membership has lapsed, your Committee and I sincerely hope you will decide to renew. You can renew your subscription, at the reduced half yearly rate, which will allow you to continue an active role in Newent and District u3a. For Membership renewal/application forms, you are invited to contact Membership Secretary Tony Snowdon. His email address is [tonys2112@icloud.com](mailto:tonys2112@icloud.com) or go to the website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/newent/>

### New and re-joining members

A very warm welcome to new members Clare Church, Josephine Collins, Cynthia Offord, Elizabeth Charles – I hope you will enjoy being part of this community.

It is also good to welcome back members renewing their membership. Welcome back Patricia Muirhead and Ann Vizor.

### Vacancy Management Committee Members

With the departure of Roy Cansdale, our Group Coordinator, we now have several vacancies on our Management Committee that need to be filled. Participating in the work of the Management Committee enables you to contribute to both the operation and the development of our u3a. Being a Committee Member is in no way a boring or unrewarding activity. All of us enjoy the role and finding it fulfilling and an opportunity to put something back into our u3a. Any organisation needs fresh blood if it is to keep fresh and develop - Newent & District u3a is no different in that respect! So, I am urging people to think seriously about joining us on your Committee. I would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to participate. Please contact me to discuss what is involved (not much!) to hopefully persuade you to join us - [alan.tugwell@outlook.com](mailto:alan.tugwell@outlook.com)

## Interest Group news

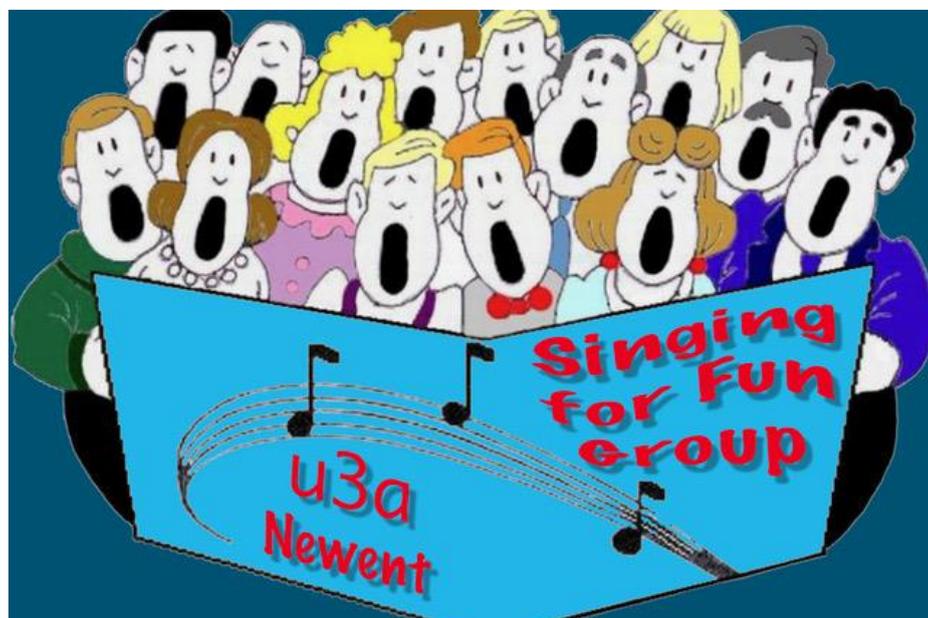
### Calling all card players



Do you play or are you interested in forming a group playing Canasta?

If so, please contact Sandy on 07815734525

### Do you sing in the bath or shower?



How about forming a *Singing for Fun* group?

Do you know anyone who would be willing to lead or accompany us?

If so, please contact Sandy 07815734525.

## Wrens (Nature Appreciation) Group:

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed each month, between 10am & noon

### 2021 Summer Outings to the Forest of Dean

- Woorgreen Nature Reserve Lake - exploring biodiversity:

**Wed 8th Sept 2021**

*The Group: Jill, Christine, Clare & Ginny (behind the lens).*

We met in Newent for the car share &, once parked, we walked the short distance to the lakeside. Keeping the water on our right, we took an hour or so to slowly work our way around it.

We looked up & down, finding a variety of species of invertebrates & flowering plants, as well as the ducks on the lake. Between us we had a variety of ID books & enjoyed having a reasonable guess at the species we were looking at.

We then moved onto Beechenhurst café for lunch, where we shared what we had seen. Together we identified around fifty species, so plenty of biodiversity in the lake margin habitat!



- Puzzlewood - in search of Fungi:

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021**

*The Group: Christine, Paul & Aroon, Pat, Jill, Clare & Ginny*

We met in Newent for the car share, & very soon, we were entering the weird 'pre-historic' landscape of Puzzlewood.

The terrain was difficult in places, but with handrails, & each other to hang on to, we ambled along the pathways, looking for fungi & mosses etc.

We spotted a variety of them, large & small, & the ID books were out to, at least, have a guess at what each species it was! Some were more intense about this exercise, than others, but we all appreciated the complexity of it all, & it was fun to try.

Together we saw around 42 species of fungi & mosses & it was a place of interest for us all. We enjoyed a lunch from the take-away café, before heading home.



## Wrens Winter meetings:

We have agreed to consider more outings, if the weather permits, or continue with our 'Wrens Conversations' on Zoom until Spring, when we can reconsider how best to meet.

We have covered many topics in the couple of years we have been active. We welcome new members, so please email me if you would like to know more?

Interested in Nature? Concerned about Environmental Issues? Our group is for you!

Ginny Birkett (Wrens Group Leader)      [vmbktt@gmail.com](mailto:vmbktt@gmail.com)

## The Writing Group

*Firstly, an apology from the editor. In the last newsletter I attributed the piece "The Beauty of Flowers" to Pam Turner when it should have been Pat Lamb. This month's piece is by Pam Turner*

## **XYZ**

It was fortunate that Professor Zrug was not of a nervous or superstitious disposition when the package arrived on his desk at precisely 4.15 on a sunny afternoon on the planet of Cryg in a solar system many light years from our own. Zrug, who had been about to go home early for once, merely muttered "My goodness gracious me" – or at least the Crygian version of that phrase- and set to examining the package that had mysteriously materialised on his desk a few moments previously. The fact that the package had arrived there at all was the result of so many coincidences and fortuitous events that had such low probabilities that they never should have happened at all, but the universe being so vast even low probability events actually have a chance of happening as has been proved many times.

Jemima Grant, a name I am sure you are familiar with, had always been fascinated by mathematics, announcing at the age of 8 that she wanted to do proper maths- the sort you did with letters not numbers. So, it was no great surprise that she read mathematics for her degree and went on to an academic career at one of the better universities. She had an especial interest in transformations – you may have come across these in your school career with names such as Laplace and Fourier. Transforms originated as a mathematical way of simplifying difficult problems so that you could actually solve them: a feat which had many practical benefits in the real world. However, you have probably not heard of the Milton-Bennett transform, derived at some point during the 21<sup>st</sup> century, This transform had the theoretical property of sending any object you placed in its field to somewhere else – instantaneously and unchanged. The practical benefits, if this could be ever made physically feasible, were obviously immense and so working on the Milton-Bennett transforms became Jemima's life work. It was a small field with few researchers for the MB transforms came with a few apparently insoluble problems, which made it an unattractive proposition for many. Firstly, you could have no idea where the transform would send any article until it arrived. Secondly such a method of transport was only practical if you could also send things back to the point of origin – and this was not simply a matter of reversing all the signs in the equations. Thirdly you would have to build some apparatus that would translate the theoretical into the physical. After many years of work playing with her x, y's and z's- to say nothing of a's, b's and c's, square roots, prime numbers, wave functions, calculus, exponential functions and the like, plus the engineering ability of several PhD students Jemima had solved the second problem and could now produce an equation which could bring any object back to its starting point. Unfortunately, you had to apply this equation at the destination to effect the return. She was also confident that they had solved the third problem as they had a machine which would certainly despatch any item placed in it to somewhere else. As the items involved had been small and there had never been any reports of unexplained deaths caused by small foreign bodies appearing somewhere they shouldn't have been, Jemima assumed that all

had landed somewhere uninhabited on Earth or shot off into space. There was one report of a red Lego brick being found on Mars, but as there is no way of telling one red Lego brick from another, Jemima could not be sure if it was one of hers. After that all despatches were marked with a code. But the first problem remained intractable. A few years before her retirement Jemima decided on a last-ditch attempt. She prepared to send several hundred copies of her work with the all-important return equations out into the universe. Each would be sent with different starting conditions. Realising that if any of these were ever found by an intelligent species, they would be unlikely to read English or use the same mathematical notations, the bundle included a primer carefully designed to familiarise the recipient with the mathematical system used and a limited reading vocabulary. Then crossing her fingers, she sent these packages off into the universe.

By another impossible coincidence the Professor Zrug was himself a mathematician and soon realised that the parcel he had received was something mathematical. It took him a while to work through the primer, even longer to understand the equations and build the necessary apparatus, but at last all was ready. As it happened his missive arrived on Jemima's desk on a Sunday afternoon, so it was not until Monday morning that she found the reply. Jemima could not believe her luck! A communication from another culture on a completely unknown planet! The 2 mathematicians began a long collaboration. Cryg and Earth were not too dissimilar in terms of size and environment and convergent evolution meant that Zrug looked almost human, apart from the fine fur that covered his body – though as the Crygians wore clothes that hardly mattered. It wasn't long before recordings and the technology to play them were being exchanged as well as all kinds of information that had nothing to do with mathematics. Both parties being aware of the possible horrific consequences of unwelcome bacteria or viruses being transported everything was subjected to careful sterilising and quarantining processes and neither party made any effort to disseminate the knowledge acquired – realising perhaps that unlimited easy travel across the universe could have many unforeseen consequences. Eventually however the experiment of sending a living creature had to be attempted. Plants transferred successfully as did small animals.

Jemima's retirement date was now only months away and this encouraged her to try the final experiment. Zrug sent her vaccinations against all known Crygian pathogens for which there were vaccines, and hesitantly at first, but then with greater confidence as she seemed to suffer no disturbing side effects, she administered these. Leaving on her desk only the computer chip containing her life's work and a note saying, 'I have gone on a journey', she stepped into the transform field and activated the transfer.

Since then, as you will know, we have heard nothing of her. The media furore surrounding her disappearance and the revelation of the success of the work she had been engaged on have long since died down, but in her office the transform apparatus remains, hoping that one day a message will be received that tells a further chapter in her story. For you see, perhaps wisely, Jemima had carefully erased any record of the particular combination of x, y's and z's which had led to her success.

## **Lunch Club.**

The Lunch Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month. New members are always welcome – why not join us for "some nosh and a natter". If you would like to join the Lunch Club or would like more information, please ring the Group Leader Ann Humphries on 01531 820766.

The following venues have been arranged: -

18 <sup>th</sup> November	The Farmers Arms, Apperley.
16 <sup>th</sup> December	The Full Pitcher, Ledbury.

## **THE COMPUTER IMPROVERS GROUP WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Are you already a confident Windows computer user or would you like to know more? If so, why not consider joining the u3a Computer Improvers Group?

Meetings will take place on the 1st Thursday of every month from 09:50 to 11:50 in the Newent Community School. The next meeting is on the 2nd December.

If you would like to receive guidance on using more of the features included with your computer or learn other ways you can use them, this Group may be able to help you. Bring your laptop with you (if you have one – or just take some notes if you have not) for a better understanding of some computer basics including:

- Desktops/resolution/text size/screensavers/shortcuts
- Firewalls/virus protection/anti-spyware/passwords
- Drives and how to organise, rename and search folders and files
- Copying, pasting, deleting and backing-up files
- Installing new apps and deleting old ones
- Installing new hardware and safely removing temporary drives
- Checking disk capacity, emptying the re-cycle bin, defragmentation

Maybe you would like to know more about using internet browsers, emails, Zoom and Word. If so, you will be very welcome to come along for one or two taster sessions so you can decide whether this Group is for you.

Power supplies and Wi-Fi will be provided. Presentations will be projected onto a screen so everyone can watch and copy the steps on their own machines.

Please contact the Group Leader Robin Lister via the Newent U3A website CONTACT page <https://u3asites.org.uk/newent/contact> to find out more or if you would like to join a Computer Improvers Group meeting.

Robin Lister

### **Quiz Group**

The Quiz Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoon of the month. The next quiz is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November starting at 2:00pm at Newent Community School, Watery Lane.

Quizzes are informal (of course we are not competitive!) and cover a wide range of topics. There is no set format, and the question master is ALWAYS correct! In the two-hour quiz (with a break midway) and we normally have around 100-ish questions, divided into several rounds. Currently there 6/8 quizzers BUT we would welcome more members.

If you are interested or want to give it a try, please contact the group leader Janet Furtado, her email is [antichoc51@gmail.com](mailto:antichoc51@gmail.com)

To get you going below is a quiz from Alan – good luck.



No.	Question
1	<i>In Cuba what is a habanera</i>
2	<i>Which black powder is the oldest known explosive</i>
3	<i>What is the national flower of Japan</i>
4	<i>What is the first day of Lent called</i>
5	<i>Who wrote "The Man in the Iron Mask"</i>
6	<i>Who was King at the time of the Gunpowder Plot</i>
7	<i>Which country has the smallest birth rate</i>
8	<i>Which Latin phrase means "in place of a parent"</i>
9	<i>Gerald Durrell was a director of which zoo</i>
10	<i>Which chess piece is named after a member of the church</i>
11	<i>What does a Ichthyologist study</i>
12	<i>Who or what lives in a formicarium</i>
13	<i>What did Christopher Cockerel invent</i>
14	<i>What animal's name translates as "water horse"</i>
15	<i>Who sold Louisiana to the USA in 1803</i>
16	<i>What is the longest river in Italy</i>
17	<i>What family of plants does broccoli belong to</i>
18	<i>What colour is the bull on an archery target</i>
19	<i>Which magazine was famous for its nude centrefold</i>
20	<i>What were the first false teeth made from</i>
21	<i>How many tournaments make up tennis's Grand Slam</i>
22	<i>What is the world's most widely used vegetable</i>
23	<i>In which country was Hitler born</i>
24	<i>What is a puck made from in Ice Hockey</i>
25	<i>On which three metals would you see a hallmark</i>
26	<i>In today's currency how much would a guinea be worth</i>
27	<i>What is a Great Australian Bight</i>
28	<i>Where in London was the Great Exhibition of 1851</i>
29	<i>What is the largest state in the USA</i>
30	<i>Which canal is also called the gut</i>

Answers on page 11.

**Answers to General Knowledge Quiz**

No.	Answer	No.	Answer
1	<i>A dance</i>	16	<i>The Po</i>
2	<i>Gunpowder</i>	17	<i>Cabbage - (Brassicaceae- formerly Cruciferae)</i>
3	<i>Chrysanthemum.</i>	18	<i>Gold (or yellow)</i>
4	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19	<i>Playboy</i>
5	<i>Alexander Dumas.</i>	20	<i>Ivory.</i>
6	<i>James I</i>	21	<i>4 – US; Australian; French; and Wimbledon</i>
7	<i>Vatican City</i>	22	<i>Onions</i>
8	<i>In loco parentis</i>	23	<i>Austria</i>
9	<i>Bishop</i>	24	<i>Rubber</i>
10	<i>Jersey Zoo</i>	25	<i>Gold, platinum, silver</i>
11	<i>They study fish</i>	26	<i>£1.05 – a guinea was worth 21 shillings</i>
12	<i>Ants do</i>	27	<i>Bay</i>
13	<i>The hovercraft</i>	28	<i>Hyde Park</i>
14	<i>Hippopotamus</i>	29	<i>Alaska</i>
15	<i>Napoleon</i>	30	<i>Alimentary Canal</i>

..... and finally, folks if you have any ideas about the content of the newsletter or you'd like something about u3a included please contact me at:-

[fletcher\\_tim123@outlook.com](mailto:fletcher_tim123@outlook.com)