



u3a
Newent & District



NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Welcome to Issue 9 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.

**As you will all know
Government advice regarding
the Covid19 virus restrictions has been relaxed.
Monthly General Meetings are to resume
in Newent Memorial Hall from 21st September.
The speaker will be: -
Catherine Williams – The Garden Lady**

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

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

u3a

Newent & District

(<https://u3asites.org.uk/newent/home>)

MONTHLY MEETING IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

Date : 21/09/21 Doors open : 09:45 Start : 10:30

“How to love your garden”

by

Catherine Williams, aka “The Garden Lady”

Please come along - Members, Guests and Visitors will all be very welcome

£2 admission for room hire, talk and refreshments

Relevant Covid security guidelines are in place. Mask wearing is encouraged.

The Management Committee welcomes you all to the Monthly Meeting,
now face to face!

As much care as possible will be taken to ensure u3a members are as safe as possible.

The Memorial Hall continues to follow government guidelines for public meetings. Tea, coffee, and cakes will be served. Mugs for our use will have been sanitised before the meeting as well as the tables and chairs.

Please think of the safety of yourself and those around you helping to minimise the risks from the pandemic. You are encouraged to wear a mask and to take extra care over hygiene and sanitisation.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

If your membership has lapsed, your Committee and I sincerely hope you will decide to renew. The Monthly Meetings will resume as a Face-to-Face Meeting in the Newent Memorial Hall on the 21st September as will some Interest Group meetings. Please check with your Group Leader for details.

You will need to renew your subscription to allow you to continue an active role in Newent and District u3a. To help you re-join and to find advice on where to find copies of the Membership application forms, you are invited to contact Membership Secretary Tony Snowdon. His email address is tonys2112@icloud.com or go to the website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/newent/>

New Group Co-ordinator

Roy Cansdale contributes much to the u3a community here and his departure to pastures new will be missed – we wish him well in his new home. That leaves our u3a with two appointments to fill – that of Group Co-ordinator and Leader of the Jazz Group. The committee would be very pleased to hear from you when you come forward to fill those positions. Please contact our Chair Alan Tugwell alan.tugwell@outlook.com or Robin Lister lister.r@outlook.com

New and re-joining members

We welcome new member Clare Church, and Wyn Lemarchand who has re-joined! It is hoped that both Clare and Wyn will enjoy being part of the Newent and District u3a community.

Au Secours! (Help!) – French Groups

Y a-t-il quelqu'un là-bas ? (Is someone there?) Unfortunately, due to continued ill health, Veronica Teasdale cannot continue leading Beginners and Intermediate/Advanced French Groups. It would be a great shame if the French Groups fell by the wayside. Would you be interested in taking over either or both? For more information, please contact Veronica on 01531 821321

Facebook and other social Media

Several Clubs and Societies use social media to publicise their group and to inform their members about club activities. When used constructively and kept up to date social media can be a good communication tool. Is there a need for Newent and District u3a to embrace social media? Is there someone out there that could/would take on the responsibility of co-ordinating a Facebook page for instance?

Please let me know if you are that person by emailing me at fletcher_tim123@outlook.com

NEWENT AND DISTRICT INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Writing for Pleasure Group.

“The Writing for Pleasure group would welcome new members. You don't have to be a would-be best seller – just someone who would like to have a go. Each month we pick a theme for members to interpret as they will – or if you have a project of your own and would like to run it past a friendly audience that's fine too. If you are interested just contact me on martin@bramblegarth.co.uk or 01531820666.

Pam Turner

The Beauty Of Flowers

Writing for pleasure 12th August 2021

What a wonderful subject to have chosen at this very dull and dreary time of such bad news we keep hearing and seeing, except for the Olympic Games which was amazing to watch.

My neighbours and I, who are now limited in walking and not being able to drive, now have had this wonderful privilege of when looking out of our windows, whatever the weather, are so fortunate to see just across the other side of the Close on their balconies an abundance of flowers in lovely arrangements. Geraniums, red and pink, Sweet Peas, in many colours, Busy Lizzies in all colours and not forgetting the greenery that accentuates them, plus our own little gardens where we can also smell the different perfumes. They are a joy to see.

It reminds me so much of the saying 'You are closer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth.'

The other day my son took me out for a drive and that too was such a pleasure, I needed plenty of cushions to raise me up as he has such a big car, so that I had a good vision of all the countryside. I was with my son who had had the Liver Transplant and it was wonderful to see him looking so fit and healthy

Plus, I am now the proud owner of a Deluxe Scooter!!! which means I can now ride around the estate with my neighbour, stopping to look at everybody's' gardens which is another great pleasure. The flowers, seeing them so close, look amazing, some of my favourites being, Foxgloves and Hollyhocks.

I was disappointed that I couldn't make the most recent meeting due to an appointment, but I think you wouldn't have seen much of me as I would have been in my element just walking around Pam's garden as I think it is beautiful and if it was possible to be open to the public - they would love it, but then again one needs the peace and quiet to appreciate it and on second thoughts I think Pam would be so exhausted she wouldn't be able to entertain us (so I think just a selfish thought popped into my head.)

You probably on reading this little effort today will gather that I am in a rather pensive mood but comfortable and relaxed. I have my laptop on my lap and a nice cup of tea to hand.

It's now time to read a Winnie The Pooh Story: a brand-new book called 'Favourite -Winnie The Pooh Stories', which I found in one of the charity shops, highly recommended by Pam and Paul !!! I have some catching up to do!!!

Although not able to walk far now I have found other activities which fill my day, one special one, opening my eyes more fully to take in the wonders of nature that surround us.

Pam Turner.

Scrabble and Rummikub Group News.

Scrabble and Rummikub cannot be done on zoom and although we have not been able to meet in person to have a game, some of us have met socially when allowed. We meet in members' homes and our first meeting face to face was on the 6th September, when a happy group of six players enjoyed the beautiful sunshine in Penny Brown's garden. The next meeting is on the 11th October at Shirley Howard's house in Lakeside Newent. All the Scrabble pieces, Rummikub numbers etc will be disinfected beforehand and hand sanitizer will be on the table. We really are hoping to get back to some sort of normality. If you would like to join future games, please phone Penny Browne on 01531 890366. Ability to play not necessary - ability to laugh a must!

Penny Browne

The Latin Group.

Greetings from the Latin group! We have been going ahead with our meetings/studies thanks to the U3A zoom facility. We have been able to get together more regularly, and we feel that our Latin has improved! Little and often is certainly an effective way to acquire language skills.

It's also been pleasant to meet socially on zoom too - we are a small group which makes this feasible. So, thank you for your help in achieving this !

Haf Ricketts

Investment Discussion Group.

We normally meet every month, on 3rd Thurs at a volunteered members house/garden (dependent on covid restrictions are top priority-agreed and applied). Many of us are active managers of some/all our money affairs. Our aim is to grow in confidence to make informed, better judgements for investments. The wealth of lifetimes in various fields is an asset plus new interests bring many topics to the groups lively discussions on directions of economic sectors.

Further details from Chris Webb using Newent u3a website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/>

u3a Wrens: 2nd Wed of the Month - 10.00 – 12.00

We appreciate Nature, so we explore how the natural world works, & how it is damaged by our modern lifestyles.

We discuss our experiences and observations. No specialist knowledge is necessary, just a love of nature!

We were very grateful for the Zoom facility over the last few months, so we could stay in touch and continue our discussions. This year so far, we have covered these topics:

- **The True Cost of Clothes:** We looked at the labels in our wardrobes and established that all but a few were made in the Far East using synthetic materials. We discussed how we could reduce our carbon footprint by changing our buying habits and keeping what we have for much longer.
- **Birds:** We each researched a chosen species and shared some of their unexpected features.



- **Re-wilding:** We viewed YouTube clips, featuring projects around the UK, and discussed the importance of this movement.
- **The Wild Flowers of Crickley Hill:** None of us was an expert, but with our basic ID books, we observed a surprising variety of wildflowers, and appreciated the value of a nature reserve such as here, for encouraging rarer species to thrive. A picnic lunch finished off the session nicely.
- **The Butterflies of Robinswood Hill:** This trip had to be cancelled, because I was 'pinged' the day before!

This summer our group decided to continue to have either a local outing to a green space, or, if still available from our u3a, a Zoom meeting, that is, until the covid stats are a bit more comforting.

We will try more outings this year, which may include a local nature reserve, in search of biodiversity, an arboretum for the autumn colours, and Slimbridge for the winter visitors. We meet in Newent for a car share to the venue, with covid protocols in car. You would be most welcome to join us!

To find out more, please contact me by email

Ginny Birkett (Wrens Group Leader) Email: vmbktt@gmail.com

The Walking Group

The walking group has restarted both of its walks - short up to 3 miles & a slow pace, & long 5miles plus at a faster pace! So far attendance has been low compared to before the pandemic, averaging 6!

Everyone is welcome to join us & now that the weather is turning cooler it is ideal walking weather so dust off this boots & come join us! We will be reinstating the "after walk lunches" for those wishing to turn the walks into a more social gathering.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Tony at tonys2112@icloud.com & he will ensure details are forwarded to you.

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, starting on the 7th of October.

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 haven't) 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

PHOTO GROUP MEETINGS RESUME

Although so-called “freedom day” was still nearly a month away, some Photography Group members were so keen to get out with their cameras, they arranged to meet face-to-face in the fresh air for the first time in over 15 months on the 21st June.

In any other circumstances the weather would have been considered too dull for photography, but after so long Ginny, Hazel, Sandra, Paul, and Robin decided to go ahead anyway (while maintaining appropriate social distancing).

One or two had misgivings about the usual car sharing, so the Group elected to stay local by meeting in the Lewell Street car park and walking around Newent Lake, including some of the wooded area at the far end.

Although it was never going to be a day for capturing any prize-winning shots, everyone managed to find a variety of things to photograph.

The get-together concluded with lovely warming refreshments in the garden of the Red Lion.

An enjoyable time was had by all. It was just such a pleasure to be together again, a long-overdue chance to catch up and to spend some time pursuing a shared interest.

Robin Lister



The 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: -

16 th September	The Royal Oak, Much Marcle.
21 st October	The Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle.
18 th November	The Farmers Arms, Apperley.
16 th December	The Full Pitcher, Ledbury.

Ann Humphries

