



**u3a**  
Newent & District



# NEWSLETTER

April 2021

**Welcome to Issue 7 of our Newsletter.**

**As you will all know following  
Government advice regarding  
the Covid19 virus  
all our Monthly General Meetings are suspended.  
However, there is a programme  
of Zoom Monthly Meetings.**

**Many individual Group meetings have not been  
able to meet face-to-face  
because of Covid restrictions but  
are now using Zoom.**

**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.  
All still possible using Zoom!**

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

## NEWENT AND DISTRICT u3a NOTES AND NEWS

Hello everyone. Our lives seem to be moving towards happier and easier times as the vaccine roll-out gathers pace and the numbers of people affected lessens. The day when Newent u3a can resume activities is getting nearer. In the meantime, u3a activities via Zoom have escalated. A first for us was the Zoom Monthly Meeting which was a great success with nearly forty members at the meeting. "Fool's Gold" performed folk songs familiar to many and I'm sure had people singing along at home – in my case you should be pleased that the "mute" button worked. The history and background to each song gave a good insight to the origin and meaning of the words. There has been much positive feedback which was very encouraging to the Management Committee.

Marian Berry has decided to stand down from the Management Committee. The Committee would like to thank Marian for her huge contribution to the running of Newent and District u3a over the years. Her contributions have been insightful, meaningful, and often delivered with a "twinkle in her eye". Her presence at those meetings will be missed – however we look forward to seeing her at the various group meetings she attends where it is hoped she will continue with that "twinkle in her eye".

### Next Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

The next scheduled Monthly Meeting, via Zoom is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30. Our speaker is Mary Smith, whose talk will be on "A Schoolgirl's War". The story of school life in the South during WW2 and features recently discovered and exquisite artwork of a WW2 school art teacher, who set out to document in paint & pencil the lives of school children & their teachers as the war unfolded. The work features in paint the disrupted schooling, air raids, doodlebugs & underground lessons in shelters experienced by so many children and believed to be unique.

If you are interested in joining the meeting, please email Tony Snowdon at [tonys2112@icloud.com](mailto:tonys2112@icloud.com) to express your interest. There will be a further email reminder sent closer to the date, with joining instructions being issued the day before the meeting.

### Membership Subscriptions

It is that time of year to renew your subscription if you have not already. You will remember that for those who paid their subscription for the year 2020-21, have had their subscription carried over to the year 2021-22. To ensure full participation in all Newent and District u3a activities, and to receive the N&D newsletter and Third Age Matters Magazine members are asked to renew their subscription by 1<sup>st</sup> July. Please contact Tony Snowdon [tonys2112@icloud.com](mailto:tonys2112@icloud.com) to renew.

## DIARY OF ZOOM MEETINGS

GROUP	TIME	DAY	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Writing for Pleasure	14.30	First Thursday	1	6	3
Latin	14:30 (1hr)	First Friday	2	7	4
Wrens(Nature Appreciation)	10:00	Second Wednesday	14	12	9
Spanish (Intermediate)	10:30	Second Thursday	8	13	10
Latin	14:30 (1hr)	Second Friday	9	14	11
Photography	14:00	Third Monday	19	17	21**
MONTHLY MEETING*	10:15 for 10:30	Third Tuesday	20	18	15
Historic Buildings	14:00	Third Wednesday	21	19	16
Spanish (Elementary)	10:30	Third Thursday	15	20	17
Latin	14:30 (1hr)	Third Friday	16	21	18
Quiz	14:00	Fourth Wednesday	28	26	23**
Q.A.C.K.S.	14:00	Fourth Monday	26	24	28**
Spanish (Advanced)	10:00	Fourth Thursday	22	27	24**
Latin	14:30 (1hr)	Fourth Friday	23	28	25**
Latin 14:30 (1hr) Fifth Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April - Check with group leader					

All meetings are scheduled for 2 hours unless otherwise shown.

Contact the group Leader for details of the Zoom I.D. and passcode.

\*MONTHLY MEETING - An email will be sent to all members giving the link, Meeting ID, and passcode.

\*\* Legal limits to social contact expected to be withdrawn on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June so check with GL.

JAZZ APPRECIATION is by clicking on an internet "link" emailed every Wednesday – contact Roy Cansdale with your email address to join: [roy.cansdale@sky.com](mailto:roy.cansdale@sky.com)

This list compiled from participants details and coronavirus rules as at 08/04/2021.

THE 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE IS NOT THAT FAR AWAY !

So far so good !

Step 2 of the 'Roadmap' for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April was confirmed! However, because of continuing restrictions about numbers of individuals and households allowed to meet face-to-face our u3a must wait until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May before more than six people (but no more than 30) can meet outdoors, or six people or two households can meet indoors, or in a pub or restaurant, etc.!

As you will see in this newsletter, the Garden Group have recognised the opportunity and are planning to meet outdoors on the 18<sup>th</sup> May! (See below) The 21<sup>st</sup> June, which is the earliest date for Step 4 and an end to "all legal limits on social contact ", may seem too far away to start planning some return to normal, but in terms of communication, and the timing of our newsletters, it's closer than you think!

In preparing the 'Diary of Zoom Meetings' for this April newsletter I have included the month of June. Our next newsletter will be due around the second week of June, and if Step 4 of the 'Roadmap' is confirmed for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June , then "all legal limits on social contact are removed", which means that the meetings scheduled beyond that date, marked \*\*, will be allowed to meet face to face again, if they wish!

Our newsletter in June will also provide an opportunity to create the 'normal' diary of meetings, whether by zoom or face-to-face, so by the end of May I hope that all Group Leaders and Group Members will have had a discussion and decided whether they would like to continue with Zoom, or return to face-to-face, and inform me of their choice! If there are any difficulties about returning to meeting indoors at Group Leaders' private homes, or other premises used in the past, then please let me know, along with any suggestions of preferred alternative venues, and I will refer that to the Management Committee to discuss and hopefully resolve.

For some groups Zoom has not been a practical alternative, but I'm sure that they too will be following the relaxation of the rules in the 'Steps' of the 'Roadmap' closely and will be appearing in the diary for July and August.

Roy Cansdale

Group Coordinator

## Group News

### From the French Group

Au secours!

Would you be interested in taking over as the tutor for the French groups? At the moment there are 2 groups of about 6, Beginners and Intermediate / Advanced. I have been their tutor for about 3 years and have really enjoyed the company of these charming people, but, due to ill health, I cannot continue. If you would like more details, please contact me. Veronica Teasdale 01531 821321 or Group Co-ordinator Roy Cansdale at [roy.cansdale@sky.com](mailto:roy.cansdale@sky.com)

### From the Gardening Group

#### National Garden Scheme

The Government's Step 4 plan for "all legal limits on social contact to be removed" due on the 21<sup>st</sup> June will hopefully allow many gardens to open this Summer for the National Garden Scheme, raising money for its chosen nursing and health charities. However, Step 3, scheduled for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, will move from a 'rule of six' to a maximum of 30 people meeting outdoors. If there is no announcement delaying this date or altering the rules, and car-sharing is permitted, then our Group's first garden visit will be to The Old Vicarage, Murrells End, Hartpury on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, followed by refreshments outside in my garden at Abbots Place, Hartpury, and a seed and plant swap.

In February 2020 our Gardening Group visited Home Farm, at Huntley, to view the snowdrops, but the arranged visit to the Old Cornmill at Aston Crews for March was cancelled at short notice due to concerns over the spread of coronavirus.

The garden owners who are accepted by the NGS, choose a date or dates in the calendar when their displays are usually at their best, from Spring to Summer and early Autumn. In 2020 more than 200, unable to proceed with their planned NGS open days or 'party' bookings, filmed their gardens for viewing via the internet, as worthy evidence of the results of months of hard work!

Those videos are available to view on 'YouTube'. Just type "ngs virtual garden visits 2020" in the 'search' panel, then begin with "Explore Woodlands Farm", when a list also appears on the right-hand side with 205 garden names, which will continue automatically, or can be selected individually. Whereas in 2020 these virtual tours were available to view on the ngs.org.uk website, a donation was necessary, but I am sure that this 'free' viewing on YouTube will encourage us to make visits as soon as allowed in 2021 and support this charity as often as possible.

There are of course many , many, delightful videos about gardens and gardening on YouTube , and if you are a gardener do not forget there is always work to be done outside!

I have taken on the leadership of the Gardening Group following Josie Goodwin's move to Devon last November, and Roy Cansdale (a member of the group , as well as being the Group Coordinator) will be helping me with the process of planning and transport for our regular monthly meetings (third Tuesday afternoons). If you would like to join our group, please contact Roy Cansdale. [roy.cansdale@sky.com](mailto:roy.cansdale@sky.com)

Judy Eley  
Garden Group Leader

## **From the Writing Group.**

### **Polio and Covid**

The world is now almost free of a scourge that in the past killed or paralysed thousands of people, mostly children, and left many more disabled. Most of us can remember the fear when there was an outbreak in the UK, and many will know someone who was affected by Polio. There is evidence that polio had been endemic for much of human history, but it wasn't until 1905 that it was recognised that not only was it contagious, but that there could also be asymptomatic carriers of the disease who could infect others while not falling ill themselves. In 1908 it was discovered that polio was caused by a virus, but it then took 47 years for the invention of a safe and effective vaccine. Children in the UK began to receive this in 1956: I remember being among the first cohort to get it amid much excitement. Thanks to this vaccine, here in the developed world, polio became a disease of the past, but this was not the case for the rest of the world where polio remained endemic.

In 1979 a group of Rotarians started a campaign to eradicate polio in the Philippines a task requiring the immunisation of 6 million children. The success of this project engendered a much more ambitious task: to eradicate polio throughout the world. In 1985 Rotary International launched Polio Plus with an initial target of raising \$120 million to fund vaccination followed in 1988, in conjunction with the World Health Organisation, the foundation of the Global Polio Eradication Programme. One great advantage of an oral vaccine is that anyone can administer it after a few minute's training and Rotarians around the world were mobilised to support the campaigns, raising money, helping with logistics organising vaccination sessions and administering the vaccine. By 1994 the Americas were polio free; followed by the Western Pacific region in 2000.

By 2006 only 4 countries had endemic polio, Afghanistan, Pakistan ,India and Nigeria . By 2009 Rotary had raised more than \$800 million dollars and it was at this point that Bill Gates stepped in with a large financial contribution. In 2014 India had been 3 years without a case and the South-East Asia region was declared polio free followed by Africa as recently as 2020. So, with polio we are almost there- but not quite. Pakistan and Afghanistan remain problematic and there have been occasional outbreaks in other areas of conflict-, brought in by refugees or those coming from infected areas to fight on one side or another. But until polio has been completely eradicated it could come roaring back should we relax our vigilance.

There are obvious parallels with Covid- but also some major differences. Covid has affected everyone's life in some way and is causing major economic hardship throughout the world with job losses, lockdowns and travel restrictions. But on the plus side - Covid does not attack mainly the young: none of us want to go before our time but just imagine how we would feel if all the Covid deaths, horrific as they are, had been among our grandchildren. It has taken only one year to isolate the virus and produce several effective safe vaccines- and many countries, partly thanks to the polio effort, are geared up for mass vaccination campaigns. In spite of the difficulties of the past year we are so fortunate in this country that we are already being offered the vaccine, and, thanks to the NHS, it is free of charge, which is not the case in many countries

which simply do not have the resources to provide vaccine for all who need it. The World Health Organisation and Covax are attempting to supply these countries with vaccine for 20% of their populations and Astra Zeneca is supplying vaccine at cost. At Cheltenham Rotary, wondering what we could do to help, we had the idea that many of us would have been happy and financially able to pay for our vaccines, so we have launched a campaign asking for people to donate the cost of their vaccine ( £6 for the Astra Zeneca – a small amount for most of us but beyond the reach of many in developing countries) giving the gift of protection to one person who would otherwise be vulnerable. Our donations will help the work of Covax to make the world a safer place for all of us. If you are interested you can find full details at [www.cheltenhamrotary.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrotary.org.uk) where there is a link to the campaign or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Cheltenham-Rotary-UK-350891792803162> or you can contact me Pam Turner at [pam@bramblegarth.co.uk](mailto:pam@bramblegarth.co.uk)

We may never completely defeat Covid: it is a different sort of virus which mutates readily – but we do have the tools to keep it under control - all it needs is the collective will to do so. Let's just hope it doesn't take as long as the fight against polio.

Pam Turner

March 2021

**Newent u3a does not make charitable donations. At the end of Pam's piece above she explains how *individuals* may donate to a charity raising funds to help bring Covid Vaccinations to people in parts of that world that may not otherwise receive Covid Vaccination.**

**From the Jazz Appreciation Group.**

## **BEATING THE LOCKDOWN BLUES**

Delving into Jazz music on the internet (i.e. YouTube) during lockdown has proved to be an amazing resource for finding and listening to recordings both rare and familiar , easily shared at home , at a time of our choosing, by a weekly email link from me or my co-presenter Alan Tugwell.

Who or what did the Jazz Appreciation group listen to or watch in January and February?

We started 2021 with Alan's discovery of a 24 minutes long 1940s film of the All Girl 'International Sweethearts of Rhythm', who not only challenged the sexist expectation that women just sang, rather than played instruments, but also colour prejudice and racism laws in being the first integrated black and white American Jazz orchestra. At a time when racial mixing was illegal in many States the 'Sweethearts' followed in the footsteps of the Count Basie and Duke Ellington bands as they toured constantly across America by bus (in which they often slept) in the 1940s, often pulling the shades down as they passed through small southern towns. In 1945 they famously toured France and Germany performing as part of the United Services Organisation entertaining multi-racial audiences.

I followed with the last in a mini-series about trumpet playing British Jazz Bandleaders (Nat Gonella, Humphrey Lyttleton ,Freddy Randall) with a tribute to Alex Welsh. Unfortunately, not a filmed performance, but a splendid radio sound recording from 1955, introduced by George Melly , who also sang on three numbers in more familiar tones than in his spoken voice, which was 'very BBC' at that time!

Inspired by the 'The International Sweethearts of Rhythm' , Alan pursued the 'All Girl Orchestra' theme with no less than another TEN results, on records and some on film, including Britain's very own Ivy Benson and her 'All Ladies Orchestra', in his next selection!

Time for a change of tack in YouTube waters, with my next choice, a 1968 video from Copenhagen of the self-taught Jazz pianist Erroll Garner, whose boundless energy, imagination and style, made him a unique performer. He began and ended this show with his great composition 'Misty'.

Alan then explored the world of Dixieland with a dozen 'Hot Jazz' delights from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, including Louis Armstrong from 1928 ('West End Blues'), and discovered 'treasure' (i.e. not previously heard by me!) - records by Freddie Keppard's Jazz Cardinals ('Stockyard Strut') and Papa Celestin's Original Tuxedo Jazz Orchestra ('Give Me Some More')

Oscar Peterson was such a brilliant pianist, accompanying many Jazz singers and 'soloists' over many decades. I've started another mini-series titled "With the Oscar Peterson Trio" - the first choice of 'guest' was the tenor saxophone player Ben Webster.

Type in any of the above titles in this remarkable internet site if you would like to beat the Lockdown Blues now with some warm-hearted music. Better still, send me an email and be included in sharing the next 'broadcast'!

Roy Cansdale ([roy.cansdale@sky.com](mailto:roy.cansdale@sky.com))

## From the Newent's Historic Building Group

We had a couple of great sessions on Zoom on the third Wednesday afternoon in February and March. Participants all said how much they enjoyed them contributing to discussion with comments and questions.

We looked at a wonderful cruck building in Newent. This is listed and dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, but when you get inside it is a very different story. (The inspectors who created these listings to safeguard historic buildings rarely went inside them or round to the back). Once over the threshold it was immediately striking that we had a much older house with the lower part of huge cruck trusses on view.

We saw lots of photographs starting with the front and back of the house as well as basic plans, then went on to look at more detail and specific features. Many of these features suggested an earlier date, both inside and outside.

The date range we arrived at for this remarkable survival was 15<sup>th</sup> century, making it one of the oldest buildings in Newent. This date range makes it medieval, and evidence also showed that it had been an open hall with an open fire.

In the second session we followed a similar pattern looking at the photos and a plan of two houses in Church St; these houses are also listed but they were once one. The features in here were rather different to the Culver Street house, but this too turned out to be another remarkable survivor also dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and with an open hall.

At the next session on the 21<sup>st</sup> April we will be looking at two properties in the Market Place, two more fascinating buildings with some surprises in store once inside. **In May there will be a very special and exciting session to which the whole of the u3a and other guests are invited; please see the separate notice about this in the newsletter.** On June 16<sup>th</sup> we will look at inventories with lots of photos of items people possessed and from them learn about the lifestyles of medieval and post medieval people living in these houses, which was so much harder and without the comforts and mod cons we enjoy today.

So..... if you want to know about historic buildings in Newent, many hidden from view by later frontages, find out more about them and how we pin a date range on them join us. For those of you interested in finding out more about who lived in these houses and how people lived in them, come and join us on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month. For more information or to join please contact me on 01452 790628 or email [dianec88@gmail.com](mailto:dianec88@gmail.com)

Diane Charlesworth

Group leader

**From the Newent's Historical Buildings Group**

**Newent area u3a**

**Historic Building Group**

**Invites you to an online talk by**

**Dr Andy Moir - dendrochronologist**

**'A New Time-Line for Newent'**



The Gloucestershire Dendrochronology Project took place in Newent through 2020. It was intended to tree-ring date some of the oldest buildings in Newent and this talk will be the first public release of the tree-ring dates for some of the buildings investigated in the town. This Heritage Funded project aimed to involve local people and building owners in recording and precisely dating the construction of the largely ignored clusters of surviving timber-framed buildings in Gloucester, Tewksbury and Newent. The project is organised by the Gloucestershire Building Recording Group. For more information on the project visit: <https://www.timber-framed.com/newent/>

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 2.0pm**

For a link to this talk please email [dianec88@gmail.com](mailto:dianec88@gmail.com)

(who will send the link a few days before the talk)



## From the Walking Group

### First u3a walk of 2021 - post Lockdown no 3

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> April: We were socially distanced of course, as we ventured south from Newent, through the orchards of Moat Farm and up Stallion Hill. Here we enjoyed the views across to the Malvern Hills one way, the Cotswold Hills the other way, and May Hill behind us. We made our way back by Peacock Brook, passing through fields of ewes and their lambs. The much loved wild daffodills were everywhere, and the bird song in the trees and hedgerows made for a refreshing leisurely spring walk of 5 miles.

#### Participants:

June, Janet, David, Paul and Ginny, the walk leader this time behind the camera.



THROUGH THE FARMYARD,  
OVER THE STILE, FOLLOW  
THE HEDGEROW THROUGH  
TWO FIELDS, CROSS THE STREAM  
BY THE FOOTBRIDGE



*"Gerald, you're rambling again"*

Now a quiz to give your brain some activity.

#	QUESTION	A	B	C	D
1	Due to superstition, what didn't Bjorn Borg do at Wimbledon?	Shave	Wash	Change his socks	Brush his teeth
2	Countries from which continent boycotted the 1976 summer Olympics in Montreal?	Europe	Africa	Asia	South America
3	What is the old name for Sri Lanka?	Spice Islands	Mandalay	Ceylon	East Pakistan
4	Karol Wojtyla is better known under which name?	Pope John Paul II	Liberace	Carole King	Santa
5	What was the name of the infamous nuclear reactor in Harrisburg Pennsylvania?	1 mile island	3 mile island	9 mile creek	16 mile creek
6	Anna Pavlova excelled in which of the following?	ballet	chess	painting	tennis
7	Which three letters replaced CQD?	SOS	KGB	TNT	FYI
8	The crown of which New York City landmark was originally built as an airship dock?	Chrysler Building	Empire State Building	Statue of Liberty	Trump Tower
9	"The Agony and the Ecstasy" was a book and film about which man?	Churchill	Jesus	Michelangelo	Marquis de Sade
10	What was the number of the last Apollo mission?	13	14	17	22
11	Which pop duo was the first western band to play in The Peoples Republic of China?	Wham	Simon and Garfunkel	Chas and Dave	Right Said Fred
12	Timber selected from how many fully grown oak trees were needed to build a large 3 decker Royal Navy battle ship in the 18th century?	50	500	1,500	3,500
13	Speed skating originated in which country?	Russia	Holland	Canada	Norway
14	Off the coast of which country did the Amoco Cadiz sink in 1978?	South Africa	France	USA	Spain
15	What part of the body does a turtle use to breathe?	Belly	Shell	Mouth	Anus
16	For how long is a dog pregnant?	9 Weeks	39 Days	9 Months	9 Fortnights
17	Who was the first band to play at the Cavern Club in Liverpool ?	Swinging Blue Jeans	The Merseysippi	Beatles	Merseybeats

18	Which band was not from Liverpool?	Searchers	A Flock of Seagulls	Stone the Crows	OMD
19	Doris Day had a sleepy hit with which song?	Pillow Talk	Golden Slumbers	The Beds Too Big Without You	Tears On My Pillow
20	The song "An Englishman in New York" was about which man?	Quentin Crisp	Sting	John Lennon	Alastair Cooke
21	In the book "The Last of The Mohicans" what was the name of Chingachgook's only son?	Mingo	Lightfoot	Magua	Uncas
22	In which year did Louis Reard invent the bikini?	1906	1926	1946	1966
23	Julius Caesar said "The die is cast" after crossing which river?	Danube	Rubicon	Seine	Tiber
24	In which continent did the ostrich originate?	Africa	Australia	North America	Asia
25	What are Lanthanides?	Periodic table elements	Mountains on Earth	Mountains on the Moon	Bacterium
26	On what make of motorcycle did Barry Sheene win the 500cc-world title in 1977?	Kawasaki	Suzuki	Honda	Yamaha

If you are interested in quizzing, we do have a Quiz Group that meets every month via Zoom. For further details please contact Roy Cansdale [roy.cansdale@sky.com](mailto:roy.cansdale@sky.com)

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

Question #	Answer	Question #	Answer
1	<i>a</i>	14	<i>b</i>
2	<i>b</i>	15	<i>d</i>
3	<i>c</i>	16	<i>a</i>
4	<i>a</i>	17	<i>b</i>
5	<i>b</i>	18	<i>c</i>
6	<i>a</i>	19	<i>a</i>
7	<i>a</i>	20	<i>a</i>
8	<i>b</i>	21	<i>d</i>
9	<i>c</i>	22	<i>c</i>
10	<i>c</i>	23	<i>b</i>
11	<i>a</i>	24	<i>a</i>
12	<i>d</i>	25	<i>a</i>
13	<i>b</i>	26	<i>b</i>