

NEWPORT u3a NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2023

We may have had a summer recess, but some groups liked to continue throughout the break.

LISTENING TO MUSIC @ HOME

Members of this sociable 'ensemble' enjoy each other's company so much that we continued to meet at each other's homes during the break. Afterwards we had leisurely lunches together at local inns.



Our numbers are creeping back to pre-Covid levels after losing many dear members to frailty and illness. Our new members have dragged us into the 21st century by introducing newer technology to our sessions, and we now enjoy the diversity of using YouTube and Bluetooth. We have also followed a course on CD about Mozart; and thanks to Richard, for installing the AV system, we are now able to watch DVD films such as 'Twin Spirits' that depicts the marriage and music of Clara and Robert Schumann.

SKITTLERS BOULED OVER

The Skittles Group likes to round off the week at the St Julian Inn for a two hour session twice a month throughout the year. During the summer we met in the pub's attractive riverside garden to play French Boules instead. Two teams, aptly named Les Escargots (Snails) and Les Grenouilles (Frogs), enjoyed leisurely afternoons in the sun - although play could get quite competitive with some friendly rivalry and banter.

Afterwards some of us relaxed on the sun deck and listened to the live Jazz band playing in the bar, whilst enjoying the beautiful views. "C'est La Vie!"



ROCK ON HIPPIES

Many members went on the annual outing to Swansea Bowling Club, organised by Newport Out & About. The dress theme this year was 'Rock 'n' Roll' or 'Flower Power,' and many dressed up in an amazing array of garments. We arrived to a sherry reception and elevenses on the patio. The club's stewards then guided us through a few ends of play whilst teaching us the rules and basic techniques. A competitive hour passed very quickly with everyone trying to improve their game.



The stewards then donned their other (catering) hats and served us a superb two course meal in the pavilion. This was followed by our MCs, Pat Fackerell and her sister Celia, hosting a fun elimination quiz and a Sing-a-Long Karaoke. Things were a little quieter on the return journey when some had a well-earned Nanny Nap!

MOODILY SUDELEY

Members of the History Group went on a trip to Winchcombe, a gem with its timeless selection of Cotswold stone cottages nudging timber-framed buildings. Of particular interest was part of a meteorite that landed there in 2021 and at St Peter's Church the altar cloth that was embellished by Catherine of Aragon (godmother of Katherine Parr) who both resided in the nearby Sudeley Castle, which was the main reason for our visit. Steeped in the past 1000 years of history with the Tudor period very prominent, we uncovered centuries of royal history amid its halls and walked in the footsteps of England's famous kings and queens. Some braved the incessant rain to quickly explore the 10 uniquely styled gardens.

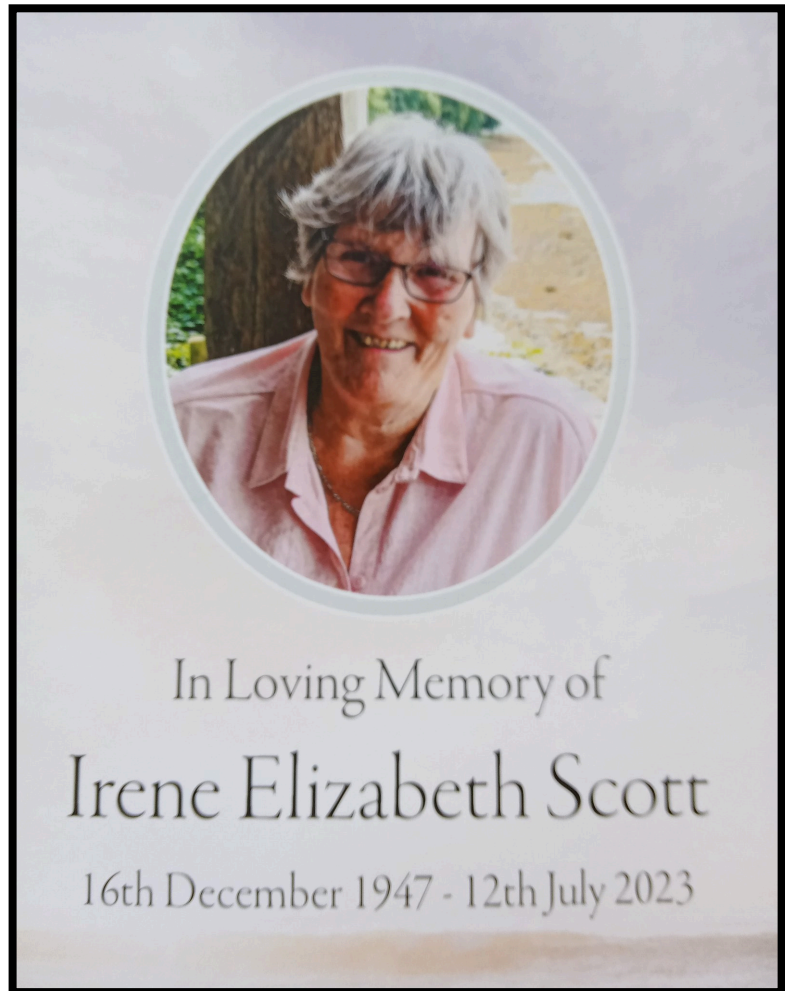


FAREWELL IRENE

Many members, family and friends of our very dear Irene Scott (committee member and kitchen convenor) attended her funeral at Langstone Crematorium with the support of Stephen Berry as the organist.

The wake was hosted at the Dolman Theatre where many of Irene's friends were involved with the catering overseen with meticulous planning by Pat Fackerell, Jackie Kerr and Richard Baines.

It was a lovely personal and informal way to show our appreciation and say farewell to a dear friend.



Contact Angela at publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com if you would like a u3a news item included in a future edition of the Newsletter.

