

NEWPORT u3a NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

After a fun-packed festive season, we bid farewell to 2023

TURKEY & TINSEL BREAK



A coachful of our members travelled to Norfolk for a festive weekend break arranged by Out & About Newport. The highlight of the visit was to the Thursford Spectacular for a fabulous variety show which involved a cast of 130 performing singing, dancing, music, humour and acrobatic acts on a 100 foot stage.

A visit to hear the organ being played at Norwich Cathedral's Sunday Service was followed by some sightseeing and retail therapy. A boat trip on the Norfolk Broads had a very informative commentary from the crew whilst serving mulled wine and mince pies. The hotel also provided light entertainment, and a Quiz was organised by our organisers.

L2M@CHRISTMAS

The Listening to Music Group extended the term by meeting at a member's home. Morning Coffee was followed by individually chosen festive music. This was followed by a 'Bring a Plate Buffet' and social hour



CRAFT FAYRE

Members of our Craft Group have been busy producing a variety of handmade items to sell at their annual Christmas Craft Fayre. There was an array of textiles, jewellery and festive ornaments and cards. Together with a raffle they raised £360 which will be donated to St David's Hospice Care.

A new initiative in the group's weekly activities is that members take turns to demonstrate their particular crafts whilst sharing ideas and their expertise.

Marian Murphy, a long-term member of this group, wishes to thank all our members who have supported her and bought her hand-crafted greetings cards. Over the years she has raised almost £4,000 for local charities including £442 this year for the British Heart Foundation.



Gardening and Wildlife Party

Members who attended the last meeting this year enjoyed a buffet in the Cafe before gathering for some fun entertainment. We laughed at silly exam answers then challenged our own knowledge at a Quiz and listened to a few humorous poems. Jean Stanbury demonstrated how to make a natural wreath which she kindly donated to the gift raffle. We finished by singing some Carols. All agreed it was a fun afternoon which set them up for the Festive Season.



TWIXTMAS SKITTLES

Members of the Skittles group met between Christmas and the New Year at the St Julian Inn, and celebrated with some light refreshments during a break in play. Afterwards many retired to the bar to listen to the live Jazz band.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

142 of our members attended our Christmas Concert on the last day of term, which just gets bigger and better each year! The u3a Choir sang 5 carols and the French and Welsh groups sang one each in their languages. Sue Evans, Patricia Phillips and John Tucker read the Lessons which were interspersed with congregational Carol singing.



Complimentary hot drinks and biscuits were served by our catering team. Then the Choir led the singing of festive songs and members of the Creative Writing group read through a funny short play continuing the antics of the Scrote Valley Players.

Steve Lansdowne recited his own poem entitled 'Christmas' whilst the Play Reading Group recited one with the same title by John Betjeman. A collection of £380 will be donated equally to the Serennu Children's Centre at High Cross and Velindre Cancer Centre Cardiff.





SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

This group meets once a month at various venues for Sunday lunch. It's an opportunity to meet members from other groups and it's nice to have good company to celebrate a birthday or special occasion. This month two dozen members enjoyed a Christmas Meal at the Holiday Inn.



THE NEW TERM STARTS ON 10th JANUARY 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR