

NEWPORT u3a NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2023

We are all pleased to be back at u3a after a restful break, as are the many new members that have enrolled this month who will surely get a huge welcome from our members.

GROWING WITH u3a

Newport's Belle Vue Park has a number of rare trees including a LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA AUREOMARGINATUM which was planted 10 years ago to commemorate 20 years of Newport (S E Wales) u3a. In late spring yellowish tulip shaped flowers appear but are borne so high that they are often missed. They are followed by cone-like fruit that provide winter interest after the leaves turn gold and drop off.

During our 30th Anniversary Year we have replaced the original plaque, which was frost-damaged. The tree can be found on a junction at the top of the park, in front of the steps that lead up to the bowling green.

LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA
AUREOMARGINATUM
THIS TREE WAS PLANTED TO
COMMEMORATE 20 YEARS OF
NEWPORT SE WALES u3a
1993 - 2013
www.u3asites.org.uk/newportsewales



FANCY A QUICKIE QUIZ?

This is a new group that was introduced to our timetable this term - a short monthly quiz at noon on the first Thursday of the month. The questions are chosen to appeal to our members' ages, diversity of interests and experience, with just the occasional 'snorter' to determine a winning team.

Several teams were formed upon arrival so that individuals could be involved; they competed for the much coveted prize of bars of 'GOLD' biscuits! The winning team (aptly named El Dorado - meaning gold) consisted of Marion Green, Rob Wilkinson and Sue Kilby.



AN ALPINE ADVENTURE

A coachful of our members has just returned from a holiday to Austria arranged by our 'Out & About Newport' group. We travelled to Mayrhofen and spent four days in perfect weather exploring the surrounding area.

We visited the Alpine gem of Innsbruck, and investigated its cobbled streets, historic medieval buildings (including the Golden Roof), boutiques, museums and cafes.



A coach trip over the steep Gerlos mountain pass afforded spectacular views and a quick photo stop at Krimml (Europe's highest waterfall) before some free time at the ski resort of Kitzbuhel.

On our free day we decided to take the cable car from Mayrhofen to the Penken Mountain and some walked up to its peak at 1790 metres before relaxing amongst the shops and cafes.

A train took us through the Ziller Valley before we transferred to the Archenseebahn steam cog railway (the oldest in the world) to travel up among soaring mountains to Seespitz for a cruise on its lake to Pertisau. We stopped at Rattenburg for a glass-blowing demonstration.

The hotel pool was popular for a pre-breakfast dip. Evening entertainment was provided at which our member, Steve Bissex-Williams, took the microphone on two evenings and wowed the audience with some wonderful solos for which he received standing ovations.

SCAMMERS BEWARE!

We are all aware that Age Cymru provided three Scam Awareness sessions this month at which there was an extra bonus of a Trading Standards member also in attendance.

Approximately 70 of us attended and we were very impressed by the amount of information that the presenters were able to squeeze into an hour and a quarter! We thought we were fairly 'scam-savvy' but were surprised at how many potential areas exist that had not been considered. Printed materials were supplied and some useful stickers to deter unwelcome cold callers. Given the success of the sessions we hope to arrange some more in the near future.