

## Message from the chair.....

'The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things: Of shoes and ships - and sealing wax and cabbages and kings.' Well we have to face it, folks, anything is better than talking about Covid.

*It is time to talk of membership renewal.*



So, I gathered our committee together on Zoom, and we discussed at length our options, because we still couldn't meet. I joked an age ago about ordering crystal balls because I would be needing them to help us decide how much contribution would be required for 2021 membership. They didn't turn up. Amazon must have sold out!

Besides monies paid for room rental, our main repeat expenditure includes our Third Age Trust Fees, our Beacon charges and licenses for internet etc, these things, like our Remembrance wreath, which I had the honour of laying last month, have to be paid for even though we have not been meeting. For this reason, we have decided that a rate of £10 per member, to top up those items that we have had to spend, will see us through. We hope this will meet with everyone's approval. We have been asked already if some people could join and have settled on New Membership at £20 per member.

We also decided that providing a copy of TAM (Third Age Matters) to each household would be a benefit, passing on information directly, about other u3a's, activities and competitions to all rather than being confined to just those on email so we are including that. It is posted direct to your home from the u3a five times a year (Feb, April, June, September & November).

It has been important to us to keep in touch as much as we were able. It has been hard for us all at times to stay cheerful, easier when the sun is shining, than when we watch rain pouring down. Now it appears we may again be a little more optimistic, we may be allowed to gather in small groups for Christmas, to see family we haven't seen since forever! We have vaccinations hovering on the horizon and hopefully these will give us a bit of confidence in the spring to continue our groups and our lives in our normal way.

I am delighted to congratulate two of our members, Jan Davies and Caroline Limbert who entered the U3A Wales Short Story Competition and were shortlisted in the top ten entries. They were all invited to attend a celebratory Zoom where the top three were announced and invited to read their own stories to everyone. Well done Ladies.

On behalf of the committee I send thanks and congratulations to all who have continued their walks and rides, their meetings and talks by phone, WhatsApp, email and Zoom. We send seasonal greetings for Christmas and New Year to you all in the hope that you will stay safe.

*We will be back!* Sally Corbett, Chair.

### Wishing you the very best for the Seasonal Holiday 2020

Thank you for your continued support for the U3A movement. During this pandemic, your commitment and enthusiasm has been so important and helped us stay connected with each other.

Wishing you health, happiness and continued learning for the year ahead.

There is a UK-wide programme of Winter Activities on the U3A website and many opportunities for keeping in touch in different ways.

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)



## Diary of events for January..... mostly Zooming.

**Book Club 1:** Zoom Meeting on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January to discuss *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn. Anyone wishing to join in, please contact Susan Rowlands.



**Book Club 2:** Are reading *Trio* by William Boyd in January.

**Book Club 3:** The January book is *The Cornish Coast Murder* by John Bude. This is usually held in Carolyn's home; therefore, she only receives ten books from the library. Anyone wishing to join in would have to source their own copy and contact Carolyn by email.



### Conversation or Discussions:

Contact Doug Jones for more details if you want to join a Zoom meeting. First & third Thursdays

**Cycling:** Contact Pat Thomas if you are interested in joining any of the group's rides. Email Pat Thomas.

**COVID RULES APPLY, REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL**



**Thursday Jan 14<sup>th</sup>:** Bryngarw Park to Garw Valley

**Thursday Jan 28<sup>th</sup>:** Local ride, Newton to Wigfach via Stormy Down

**Thursday Feb 11<sup>th</sup>:** Wetlands Llanelli to Burry Port

**Thursday Feb 25<sup>th</sup>:** Early morning ride from Rest bay via boardwalk to Kenfig.

Our **December** ride is on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** to Mumbles from SA1.

**Mindfulness:** Any members that would like to join, please contact Jaci.

**Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup>** 2.00 – 4.00 pm the topic will be Mindfulness Ageing



**Philosophy:** Any members interested in joining, contact Eddie Morgan to be included.

**Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>** Sue Lieven will lead on 'Individualism' 10.00 - 12 midday

**Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>** TBA



**Quiz:** Any members wishing to be included in the invite, please contact Carolyn Perren before the date.

**January 11<sup>th</sup> - 14.00 – 16.00**

**Walking: COVID RULES APPLY, PRIOR REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL**

**Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>** 1.30 p.m. at the Three Golden Cups car park in Southerndown (CF32 0RW)

It will take us through the village towards Ogmore by Sea. Before reaching Ogmore we will turn back and walk along the cliff tops to Dunraven Bay. We return via Slade Woods to the starting point. An easy walk of about 2.5 miles. If you wish to take part please contact Malcolm Cowper



**Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>** 1.30 p.m. at Plough and Harrow, Monkash (CF71 7QQ)

From the start going directly to the coast via Cwm Nash then ascending onto the cliff top to walk towards Nash Point. We will have the option of stopping there to use the cafe and toilets and people may wish to walk to the two lighthouses. The route then goes through the nature reserve to come out on the road by the Horseshoe Inn to walk back to the Plough and Harrow. It's approximately 4 miles. If you wish to take part, please contact Mark Smith



**Art History:** Hello Art Lovers. These are difficult times, and we miss seeing you on

Mondays. However, there are good art programmes on the T.V. and YouTube.

Keep watching, Post-Covid exams are being prepared!

Graham and Jenny Cross.



**Francais:** Bonjour tout le monde. We hope that you are all well and keeping up your

French with Duolingo or reading. Our story is going well and if you would like to join us please contact

Marcia or George. We are always ready for a phone chat.

Jenny Cross and Jenny Worthington.