



Sully and District u3a Newsletter December 2023

Sully, Penarth and Dinas Powys

Membership Renewal Reminder

Your Sully U3A membership is due for renewal in January 2024 – still at £10.00 per year. Please can I also remind members to bring their membership cards to all Group meetings and the General meetings. This is to ensure that, in the event of any emergency, everyone is covered by the insurance that is in place. Thank you for your consideration.

There are 3 ways to renew:

1 By direct payment from your bank.

Sully U3A bank sort code is 309652

Sully U3A account number is 18245668.

Reference is your name and membership number

2 By post to Maggie Grayson

5 Bridgewater Road, Sully CF64 5RE

Please make cheques payable to Sully U3A and put your name and membership number on the back. Alternatively, put your renewal in the Sully U3A box in the Old School. The box is on the wall in the corridor next to our notice board.

3 At the monthly meeting

Maggie will be available to accept renewals at the following time:

11 January 2024 meeting from 1.30 onwards

It would be of great help if you could come with a pre written cheque or the exact money. Your new membership card will be available for you to collect after payment.

If you pay tax then Sully U3A can claim gift aid on your behalf. Forms will be available at the meetings. If you have already completed a form then this is still valid unless your circumstances have changed – if so then please let us know.

If you are not around in January then you can renew your membership at a later meeting when you are back in the area.

Group News

Writing Group – from Lorraine Wilson

Our group meets on the first MONDAY of each month at 2 p.m in one of the member's homes. We write prose, poetry, fiction and non fiction / serious pieces, autobiographical accounts and some for fun. We choose a few topics each month, write our piece then listen to each others work at the meeting. We are a friendly and relaxed group. You are welcome to come along and see if you would like to join us.

Here is a sample of our work – entitled **The Photograph** – by Lorraine Wilson

“It is a small, square black and white photograph of a young man. It was taken in a studio as you can see from the cloudy sky backdrop. It's a head and shoulders photograph. You can see dark hair and brows and a fresh complexion. The subject is wearing army uniform. I had to do some research to find that the cap he is wearing is called a field service cap, shortened to F.S. It has a badge which is just out of sight and is decorated with brass buttons. The uniform is called Battledress and is brown khaki in colour. The tunic and trousers are made of woollen serge. I read that wool was chosen as a material because it is resistant to fire.

On the reverse of the photo is a date, 6 Jun 1942, so it's the middle of the second world war. No one knew it then but exactly two years to the date the amazing seaborne invasion of France would begin. This young man would play his part in the Normandy campaign. Checking what was happening on the 6th June 1942 in the different theatres of war I found that mainly the action was in the far east where Japan had captured Singapore in the February, and in North Africa where the Germans under Rommel were in the ascendancy.

On the reverse of the photo is the word 'DAD' written in a child's handwriting. It is my handwriting because the young man is my father.

I don't know where this photo was taken. Was it in a studio in Cardiff not far from his home? Or in a town somewhere in England where his unit was stationed? Maybe it was organised by his army corps which was REME, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

I know very little about my father's army career but I do know that he was 'called up' on his 18th birthday, June 22nd 1941. A letter arrived that morning telling him to report immediately to Chepstow Barracks as he was being conscripted into the British Army. The war had started almost two years previously and it didn't look likely to end in the foreseeable future. What a change for a young man who had lived most of his life in a fairly isolated house on Caerphilly mountain.

I have now found out that Beachley Barracks in Chepstow was the home of the Army Technical School. So it was there that he was educated as a mechanic and to operate heavy plant while also undertaking military training. I know that he learned to drive, and drove a scammel lorry during the war. I think I was told that he went to a garrison in Nottinghamshire at some stage but for the next three years after his conscription he moved around the country with his unit. He was part of a light ack- ack searchlight battery workshop attached to the Royal Artillery. The unit moved to the South Coast of England in early 1944 in preparation for the invasion. In the 1970's when I was living in Hampshire my father was interested to visit Lee on Solent where he said he was based prior to sailing for France. That's a story for another day perhaps.

So Glyn, that was his name, was almost 19 when this photo was taken. He looks younger it seems to me. He was destined to stay a soldier or craftsman as was his rank in REME for another four and a half years. What fearful frightening sights he would see during his time in France, Belgium and Germany. But there would be camaraderie, friendship and good times too.

My father told me many years later that the army had made him. Indeed, he lived at a momentous and challenging time for our country and our world. I am very proud of his service and his part in defeating the Nazi evil.”



For info on any of the groups, please contact Gill at groups@sullyu3a.co.uk

Speakers

Next month's speaker

The Speaker on Thursday 11th January will be James Bischoff who moved to Cardiff a few years ago. He's going to speak to us about Buying, Selling and Collecting unusual objects and he will be bringing examples with him which we will be able to handle and discuss. He has a good knowledge of antiques, is a valuer at a local auction house and has worked at the Portobello market. Should be fascinating.

Don't forget that before we hear from James, we will be taking your subscription renewals for 2024.

Sully u3a Christmas Parties

Sully u3a Christmas Party

On Thursday 14th December just short of one hundred members enjoyed a festive party in the main hall at the Old School.

David Briggs did a wonderful job ordering all the food, planning the layout and organising the entertainment – to say nothing of organising the rest of the committee all of whom knew precisely what their jobs were! No mean feat!

Gill Mathias provided a hilarious comedy double act with David, Ginny Golding (by now famous for her annual quizzes) did not disappoint and the afternoon was rounded off with a few favourite carols accompanied by Rosemary Cook on piano. By this stage everyone was in fine voice.

Many thanks to ex Chair Dai Jones who helped throughout the afternoon and to all the members who rallied round to help clear up. Quite amazingly, at 4 o'clock, you would never have guessed that riotous partying had been raging in the Main Hall!



Ping Pong group Xmas lunch

'Ping Pong Pat' hosted a well-attended Christmas lunch for the Ping Pong group. With 2 choices of soup available, plus rolls, followed by mince pies, chocolate cake and coffee cake. All calorie-free, I understand!



Photography group Xmas lunch

The photography group enjoyed their Xmas lunch at the Sully Indoor Bowls club.



Digital Skills Workshops

Cardiff Metropolitan University is proposing to run a workshop entitled **Basic Digital Skills**, which is aimed in helping people get to grips with basic computing skills. The proposed dates would be sometime in February, so please let **Joyce** know at workshops@sullyu3a.co.uk if you are interested in attending. Other workshops in the pipeline are :

- Creative Coding
- Cyber security Awareness
- Working with Data
- Python programming
- Cryptography
- Artificial Intelligence

For more information on these workshops, please email Joyce at the above address.

Community News

Latest warnings from South Wales Listens

Mobile Phone Upgrade Scam

Criminals are cold calling people, claiming to be telephone service providers and offering mobile phone upgrades for cheap monthly contracts.

These monthly contracts do not exist but criminals are convincing victims to make a purchase and then asking for their personal and financial details. Once they have this information, the scammers are then using it to contact a genuine phone provider and order a new mobile phone handset using the details given but a different phone to that which was requested by the victim.

Once the phone has been delivered to the victim's address, the criminals will then contact the victim and state that the wrong phone has been delivered and will then arrange to collect and take it back. However, it is all a Scam. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, then it is.

Never give out your personal information to a third party if you are called unexpectedly. Do not respond to offers from unsolicited calls and carry out your own research and only contact legitimate phone providers for upgrades.

Police Impersonation Scam

The police have received reports of residents being contacted by a criminal impersonating a Police Officer, stating that they were from Hammersmith Police Station, London.

They stated that the victim had 5 outstanding warrants and unless they paid £5000, that they would be arrested and taken to Prison. So convincing were the criminals that the victim paid part of the amount requested.

The Police will never contact you like this requesting that you pay money to avoid arrest either via bank transfer or gift cards or for money to be collected by a courier. If you get a call like this and are unsure, then STOP. Get their details and then call 159 for your Banks Fraud Department or 101 for the Police but using a different telephone to the one that you were originally called on.

If you do not have a different telephone to hand, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from your bank. STOP, HANG UP and Dial 159 to check if they are genuine. 159 is the new hotline designed to fight fraud. No company will ever ask for your bank details over the phone.

If you think that you may have been a victim of these or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Forward a suspicious **email** to:- report@phishing.gov.uk

Forward a suspicious **text** to:- 7726

STOP NUISANCE CALLS

Tired of nuisance calls ruining your day? Worried you or someone you care for may fall for a scam? The following information may help you. Most major landline phone providers offer a free service to reduce the number of nuisance calls that you receive.

Register for FREE with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). Call 0345 070 0707 or go to their website [Telephone Preference Service \(tpsonline.org.uk\)](http://Telephone Preference Service (tpsonline.org.uk)) If you are asked to pay, refuse and contact TPS direct. TPS can only block UK based companies making unsolicited sales and marketing calls.

Protect your telephone number by asking companies to NOT USE it for marketing purposes, or to pass it on to third parties. If a company calls you, ask them to remove your details from their call list.

December Neighbourhood Watch News

We are pleased to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters across England and Wales.

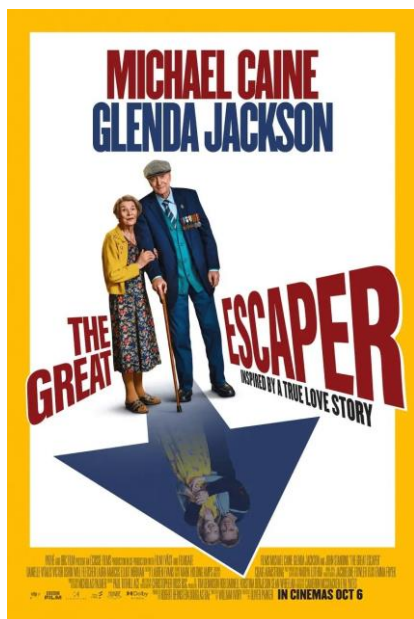
Here are some highlights in December's edition:

- Reach out to your neighbour this Christmas - small ways you can make a big difference to your neighbours and community during the festive season.
- SimpliSafe share their tips for protecting your home this Christmas.
- You can support Neighbourhood Watch for free while shopping, with EasyFundraising.
- Remember to check your smoke alarms this Christmas - the Home Office shares their message on fire safety.
- Avast gives us Five Golden Tips to shop online safely.
- Nominations are open until 17th December for the Movement for Good's charity awards - you could help us win!

[READ THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER HERE.](#)

Sully Community Cinema

On Wednesday 10th January 2024, the Cinema will be showing 'The Great Escaper' starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.



National News

Please click on the link below for the recent mailing from National U3A. (CTRL-Click) to access.

[December National newsletter](#)

Miscellaneous News

Newsletter

If you know of any member who doesn't have email or the internet, I will be leaving limited copies of the Newsletter on the U3A noticeboard in the foyer of the Old School. Please help yourself.

This Week in History

Members may be interested in this piece, which details some interesting historic news for recent weeks. (CTRL-click to access the link)

[This week in History](#)


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For more information on Sully U3A and up to date information on Group activities. Please visit our website:

<http://www.sullyu3a.co.uk/>

On behalf of the Sully U3A committee, I wish you a very **Happy Christmas** and prosperous **New Year**, and hope to see you at one of our general meetings.

Regards,

Claire (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)