



Sully and District u3a Newsletter January 2024

Membership Renewal Reminder

For those of you who haven't yet renewed, please can you do so in order to keep your membership up to date. Still at only £10 per year. This also ensures you are covered by the insurance that's in place at our venues. A reminder of the ways you can pay are outlined below. 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

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.

Group News

Please see our website for information on Group activities, plus information on when and where they meet.

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

Speakers

Snuff boxes and Skirt Lifters.... From Jane Deery

Sully u3a members turned out in force for the first monthly meeting of 2024. They may have been hoping for tips from speaker James Bischoff on his topic of 'buying, selling and collecting unusual objects', or else they were looking forward to guessing the purpose of some Georgian and Victorian household objects he was to bring with him. They were not disappointed.

As a child, James Bischoff saw his peers collect stamps and cigarette cards, but his own collecting passion began at the age of 14, when he was given his first antique wooden snuffbox. The habit of inhaling pulverised tobacco leaves (snuff) into the nose was common before the more widespread use of cigars and cigarettes. But the boxes were often showpieces, elaborately carved and decorated.

Bitten by the bug, James started to collect. He eventually helped on a stall in Portobello and progressed to working at an Oxfordshire auction house. But it was that snuff box that led him to specialise in collecting 'treen' – small handmade wooden items.

The audience were truly engaged as they passed around samples of James's collection, opening lids, unscrewing anything moveable and generally being completely foxed by the purposes of these old objects. Some did correctly guess one scissor-like item to be a glove stretcher, but another, one of only two items made of metal, was a mystery. Who would have guessed it to be a skirt lifter? Not as alarming as it sounds, it was just a pair of tongs by which a woman could grasp and lift her skirt hem above the dirty streets, hooking it via a chain or cord to her waist, thus leaving her hands free, and those nicely stretched gloves in a pristine state.

One item that *was* risqué was a snuff box with a compartment so secret that no-one in the audience discovered it. James eventually revealed the compartment and the highly erotic image concealed within....

Other items included a late eighteenth century dispenser of finely ground cuttlefish and sand for drying ink when writing on vellum, and an item thought by some to be a flower press, but which was actually a playing card press, necessary when cards were made of linen and apt to curl.

The value of most of these items was in the low hundreds of pounds, with the exception being that erotic snuff box at £1500.

As for tips for any buyers and sellers in the audience, James Bischoff recommended being careful to choose an auction house that specialised in the object to be valued or sold. He advised sending a photo or ringing for a visit - auctioneers will value objects free of charge if they are of interest. He had some cautionary tales though for buyers and sellers. The small coins some children were using to play 'shop' with about ten years ago turned out to be gold sovereigns and half sovereigns worth £1,500. The parents had no idea that sovereigns were actually little more than the size of a thumb nail!

But a lady in Wiltshire who had seen her friend's stamp collection valued for £120,000 hopefully approached an auctioneer with a similar collection, only to find that her late husband had actually been collecting facsimiles. Perhaps even sadder, a brother and sister selling a family member's genuine original stamp collection were told that it was in fact worth little, as the stamps had been stuck to the page with glue.

When all the circulating objects had been viewed, examined, and returned there was just time, in true Antiques Roadshow fashion, for a game of 'Basic, Better, Best'. Three ornately carved circular wooden snuff boxes were presented, with a few background details, and the audience were invited to arrange them according to value. Would it be the one depicting a riding lesson, the one with a portrait of George Washington, or the one with its depiction of the 'Three Emperors' on top, with its secret inner compartment showing the owner's favoured choice – Napoleon.

Unfortunately for the many who chose that most intricate one, American pride and buying power won out over craftsmanship, and George Washington was revealed as the most valuable.

Next Month's speaker

Next month we will see the return of an old favourite, Geoff Henderson. Quite a departure from his usual talks, in February Geoff will be telling us about the laying of the Transatlantic Cable in the 1860s, the technology employed, and the hazards and the triumphs encountered.

Craft Fair

A few of our members have agreed to hold a craft fair at the next monthly meeting (Thursday 8th February at 2pm) when they will be offering works of their own creation for sale (or merely for admiration!) You might find just the right gift for a friend or family member or, better still, for yourself.

If this is successful, we will continue to hold this fair, and open it up to other Sully u3a members to show off and sell their creative endeavours.

Some examples of what to expect: -



Sully Island – Acrylic on canvas



Flat Holm – Acrylic on canvas

Both by Wendy Gruffydd



Fridge magnets and driftwood pieces

by 'Sticks and Stones' aka Claire Stansfield

Digital Skills Workshops

As reported last month, 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 summarised below. All suitable for beginners.

- Creative Coding - Unleashing your creativity through code. JavaScript is a programming language that lets you bring your ideas to life and create cool visuals from scratch. You don't need any prior coding experience to join. This workshop inspires creativity through coding, making the process feel intuitive and effortless.
- Cryptography - Are you keen to enjoy some engaging problem-solving? This workshop is designed to inspire problem-solving abilities by introducing learners to cryptographic techniques employed throughout history, from ancient times to the present day. Through practical understanding and application of these methods, participants will enhance their logical reasoning and adeptness in problem-solving.
- Artificial Intelligence - **Are you curious to understand more about the world of AI?** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the intelligence exhibited by machines or software, and there are many interesting questions around this topic. Can you program a computer to think? This workshop uses a selection of online tools such as chatbots to analyse these questions and to give learners an understanding of Artificial Intelligence.

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

Members Corner

This is your space to offer any contributions to our Newsletter – a page, a paragraph or just a few lines on any subject you think will be of interest to other members. All items are most welcome. Please get in touch with me, Claire, at newsletter@sullyu3a.co.uk

Community News

January Neighbourhood Watch News

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

Here are some highlights in January's edition:


- Protect your Pa\$\$w0rds - password protection in three easy steps
- ERA's experts offer guidance on how to pick the best home security system for you
- Hear from Neighbourhood Watch members who supported us while playing the lottery, and won BIG prizes

Read the January newsletter [here](#)

Penarth Library Info


I recently picked a few items up from Penarth library, which may be of interest to members. Apologies for the wonky nature of some of these pics. I was crouching down to take them. Not easy as you get older!

Penarth Local History Society



Windsor Road shopping centre.
Treeless -1950, shop awnings against the afternoon sun. Lady Windsor (Harriet) started its construction, the St Fagan's Castle Inn first, then the full line of shops on that side by 1878.

Penarth Local History Society



Washington Kinema opened in 1938.
The film ads for *Petri* and *Old Yeller* show it's a 1957 picture. This beautiful design was sponsored and built by the Willmore Brothers. Remaining original rear section demolished in 2022.

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Plassey Street, Penarth at 7.30 p.m.

The Penarth Local History Society Programme for 2024

Date	2024	Speaker:	Subject:
January 8 th	Paul Moorcraft Military Historian & Author	Churchill's German Special Forces linked to Wales	
February 12 th	Dave Noble Chair, Penarth Civic Society	Penarth Heritage: the Civil Society project	
March 11 th	Terrence Crane Grangetown History Society	Grangetown-to-Penarth subway: history and memories.	
April 8 th	Rachel Morgan Red River Archaeology	The archaeology of Five Mile Lane: Medieval discoveries	
May 13 th	Chris Riley Penarth historian	Cardiff from a dull country town into a mighty city.	
June 10 th	Alan Thorne <i>On street walk-and-talk, if weather is fine.</i>	Historical buildings in north Penarth	
July 8 th	Jonah Jones Llantwit Major film producer	New video + talk on Early history of Llantwit Major	
August 12 th	No Meeting		
September 9 th	Bruce Wallace	Penarth Paddlers to the Shearwater schooner—100 year Maritime history	
October 14 th	Dan Brown archivist	Exploring PLHS historical papers.	
November 11 th	A. G. M.	plus History Quiz / Social evening	


President Mr Brian Williams 01446 408 330
Chairman Mrs Michele Carter 029 2031 7080
Treasurer Mrs Joan Paines 029 2070 9125
Membership Secretary Mrs Susan Jarvis 029 2070 2901
Minutes Secretary Mr Brian Williams 01446 408 330
Publicity & Librarian Mr Dan Brown 07454 293 959
Programme Secretary Mr Max Wallis 07783 330 956
Facebook: Penarth Local History Society

Penarth Local History Open Day and History of Flat Holm

"The Garden by the Sea"

PENARTH

...your town/
your history...



PENARTH LIBRARY
VALE OF GLAMORGAN LIBRARIES

LOCAL HISTORY OPEN DAY

Are you interested in the history of your town/family/street/house /church/ school?


You can find all this information and more at your **Local Library**. Come along to the Open day and see all the local history resources available and find out how to use them.

25TH JANUARY 2024
11.30 – 6.30PM

PENARTH LIBRARY, STANWELL ROAD

NO BOOKING REQUIRED JUST DROP-IN!

FOR MORE LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES, VISIT:
VALEOFGLAMORGAN.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES



PENARTH LIBRARY
VALE OF GLAMORGAN LIBRARIES

INTEREST TALK
SGWRS AR BWNG

The Illustrated History of Flat Holm

with gyda Alan Thorne

Discover the fascinating story of Flat Holm (*Ynys Echni*) with an illustrated talk by Local Historian Alan Thorne.

Dewch i ddarganfod stori hynod ddiddorol Ynys Echni gyda sgwrs ddarlunio!ol gan yr Hanesydd Lleol Alan Thorne.

EVENT DETAILS/MANYLION Y DIGWYDDIAD:

Wednesday January 17th 2024 / Dydd Mercher Ionawr 17 2024

7.00PM – 8.00PM Penarth Library / Llyfrgell Penarth

Ticket / Tocynnau: £4.00
(including glass of wine or soft drink / yn cynnwys gwydrïad o win neu diod ysgafn)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL / ARCHIBU WY HANFODOL: 02920 708438

Follow Us on Social Media!

Penarth Library

Call the office on 029 20 708438

Email for more information: plh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

South Wales Network News by Mo Hoskins

Might I encourage members to take a look at the National (ie UK wide) website, if you have not done so previously. There is such a lot of useful information and ways to take part in activities. One can write a short story or poem to send in, take a photograph for the 'Found in Nature' site or enter one for the themed section. There are also puzzles to enjoy and lots of news and items to read about and talks to attend on Zoom. I myself have had two photos exhibited and have sent in a poem, which wasn't chosen to display. Individual members of U3As around the country were invited to an online talk recently, given by Professor Alan Gow of Heriot Watt University, on the subject of cognitive ability with ageing. About 330 members of U3As around the UK took this opportunity, of which I was one. The 2023 Third Age Trust AGM is available on the site for those who wish to pick up on it, hosted by Liz Thackray (Chair) and Sam Mauger (CEO). On arrival at the site, from the link given below, simply scroll down or click on the Menu at top right.

[u3a - Home](#)

U3A Network Link

The Network Link Team have an exciting meeting planned and would like to invite you to –

The Network Link Spring Meeting, to be held via Zoom, on Monday, February 12, 1000 to 1230.

Our speakers will be:

Susie Berry, Update on the Pilot Council.

Alison May, joined by Ian Webb, Chair of Harborough Welland u3a and one other speaker (to be confirmed): Pre-retirement Planning, and u3a Models.

As usual, there will be opportunities for questions to the speakers and the meeting will conclude with an **Air and Share** session. If you would like to contribute to the Air and Share session, could you let Sue Russell know in advance at Sue.Russell@u3a.org.uk so that she may have an idea of numbers and likely topics.

Attendance is free, and open to all u3a members from all u3as.

Registration is via TicketSource – please click on this link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/u3a-thames-valley-network/t-kr1pmxn> and follow the instructions to register. (Network Link is grateful to the Thames Valley Network team for their technical assistance with TicketSource links.)

Please answer the two questions on the booking form – if your u3a is not currently a member of a network, or if you are not sure which one, please say so.

If you have any problems with registration, please contact Avis Furness at u3anetworklinkmeeting@gmail.com

The Zoom link will be sent out nearer the time to all who have registered.

Bits and Pieces

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 New Year**, and hope to see you at one of our general meetings.

Regards,

Claire (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)