



Sully and District u3a Newsletter November 2023

Sully, Penarth and Dinas Powys

Membership Renewal

It is that time of the year again. Your Sully U3A membership is due for renewal in January 2024 – still at £10.00 per year.

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 me – 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

I 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

Art History Group – from John Martin

The Art History group has been running for about 8 years, with a break for Covid. We meet once a month in the Old School Sully, on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30 am. The pattern is a talk of about an hour with a break for coffee. Prior to Covid the group covered many periods with the exception of the 20th century, so in the past year the group has concentrated on that.

Many of the talks are given by the convenor but contributions from the group are welcome. The talks which have been given since Covid are:

19th century French Art

The Paris exhibition of 1900

The Davies Collection at the National Gallery

New British Artists 1860-1939

Early Matisse and Fauvism

Early Picasso and Cubism

The Bauhaus

Surrealism

Art Deco

Those in the pipeline include further aspects of Art Deco, Later Matisse, and 19th century British Art including the Pre-Raphaelite Movement.

The group has a mailing list of more than 50 and the attendance is usually 15-20. We are close to our maximum number but there is space for one or two more. If you are interested in joining then please send an email to arthistory@sullyu3a.co.uk

Ukelele

Can you play the ukelele? We have had some interest from members in starting a new group. If you'd like to help out with setting up and hosting a ukelele group, we would love to hear from you. As always, our group contact, Gill, would be happy to talk you through the very simple procedure for running a group.

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

Please can I 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.

Speakers

Why does China....? – report by **Jane Deery**

In 1820, China, the inventor of the humble wheelbarrow and the umbrella, was successfully trading with the west, but had no particular interest in expanding its territory or its philosophy. So how is it now an emerging superpower? And why does it behave as it does today?

At this month's Sully u3a meeting, speaker **Geoff Henderson** attempted to provide answers, looking at two centuries of turbulent Chinese history.

China's needs were simple back then. It exchanged its valuable tea, silk, and ceramics for woollens and silver. Although its people were poor, the balance of trade was in its favour. But soon things changed.

Distrusting paper money, China insisted on payment in silver bullion. Fine, but what would happen when the West ran out of silver? What other currency was there? The answer: opium.

Opium was already in use in China, but now the powerful East India Company set up its headquarters in Hong Kong and imported the drug from British controlled India – even though opium was illegal in both China and the West. The increased opium trade created enormous wealth for western interests, but had devastating consequences for the Chinese people.

China was too weak to resist and the West's control strengthened. Britain and other countries established their 'Concessions' in Chinese cities – outposts of the west where Chinese law and culture did not apply, and in which the local Chinese were second class citizens.

Such dependence on the West created great tensions within once-peaceful China. It became a country of wars, warlords, rebellions, and internal strife, with two Opium Wars, five 'unequal treaties', wars with Japan, the anti-west Boxer Rebellion, and a weakening of the ruling Qing dynasty. Poverty and corruption were widespread.

In the next century the tide turned again. After many long and often brutal internal struggles, the People's Republic of China was declared in 1949. Under Chairman Mao Zedong, China determined to end weakness and 'a hundred years of humiliation'. But its efforts to modernise had consequences. The Great Leap Forward of 1958-1962, aimed at rapid industrialisation, ended in famine and disaster, and the later Cultural Revolution saw the Communist Party lose control to the fanatical Red Guards.

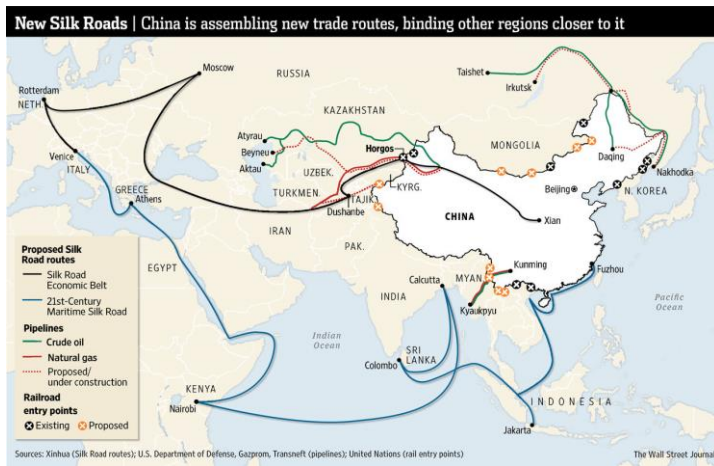
In the nineteen seventies and eighties as the people were once again facing starvation, poverty, and illiteracy, China relaxed its central planning and gradually allowed free enterprise. But despite increasing prosperity it insisted it would not become like a western democracy, as evidenced by the famous Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989.

Recently, to secure its inward trade, it has created 'new silk roads', modern routes into the rest of the world. But where these roads cross through populations holding other ideologies, for instance the Islamic Uyghurs, there is evidence of brutal repression.

The overall spread of China's influence is now clear. It has a presence in fifty of Africa's fifty four countries, and chairs four of the fifteen United Nations agencies. Hong Kong, promised to be 'one country, two systems' after its handover to the mainland, is now purely under Chinese control.

So where once the west controlled the Chinese, power now flows in the opposite direction. Dior, Arsenal FC, Cathay Pacific, Google, Hollywood and the Olympic Committee have all recently faced restrictions or the threat of sanctions as they seek to deal with the Chinese government.

With its tight grip on the people, China sees itself as being on the rise, and the United States in decline. Its sights are firmly set on where it is going.



Community News

Latest warning from South Wales Listens

The **Vale of Glamorgan Neighbourhood Watch** reported that people have been receiving phone calls saying that they have a package for them, but the address was incorrect. The caller then asked for the correct address. Please note, **this is a scam**.

Sully Community Football Match

Well, this is different! This leaflet was given to me by a local police officer at the Old School on Thursday. Please pass on the details to any young football players you know, and who might be interested. Apologies for the poor picture, but I only had a few minutes to capture it on my phone!



All Saints Community Cinema

The Community cinema at All Saints church, are showing **Jackie**, 21st – 23rd Nov.

Starring Natalie Portman in the title role of this biographical drama that follows First Lady Jackie Kennedy in the days after her husband President John F Kennedy's assassination. As we approach the 60th anniversary of the President's death, this is a good time to view the film, which was nominated for several awards including Academy Awards, Golden Globes etc. The film was rated by critics as 'The Performance of a Lifetime' and is classified "15". Please click on this link - [Jackie](#) for more information.

Sully u3a Christmas Party 2023

A reminder that the Christmas Party will be held on **14th December 2023 at 1.30pm** in the Old School. We have had a fantastic response, so, as a result, there are now very few places left. For those who have already booked, can I ask that if you can no longer come along, please let David Briggs know at christmasparty@sullyu3a.co.uk so we can re-allocate your space.

National News

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

[Newsletter Express Trustees week](#)

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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 all the best and hope to see you at one of our general meetings.

Regards,

Claire (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)