

USK U3A NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

## **CHAIRMAN's REPORT**

### **New Convenors, New Ideas!**

Many thanks to all who attended the recent AGM and to all the Convenors and Officers who worked so hard to make it a success. During the AGM we were pleased to present retiring Convenors Mary May, Valda Vanloo and Judith Choppen with an arrangement of flowers each as a token of our thanks for their inspiring leadership over a number of years. I was delighted to report that Margaret Hatfield and Alma Jones have taken over from Mary and Guy Thomas from Valda.

The culture group under Judith's leadership has seen significant growth in the width of interests covered and numbers of members attending the meetings and events. Judith has now left the area and we are fortunate that Maggie Corke has agreed to take over as Culture Group Convenor. Maggie has circulated an updated programme of events for the Summer and Autumn and Maggie has made it clear that ALL U3A members are welcome to attend any and all of the Culture Group events – I urge you to support the programme.

We have recently purchased a good quality laptop driven projector along with a large screen for use by Convenors and/or speakers – this resource was well received at the AGM and I trust they will be pressed into service on frequent occasions and so enhance our activities.

It is usually a sign that an organization is healthy and thriving when succession works seamlessly. I am sure you join me when wishing Margaret and Alma well with the Reading Group and Guy and Maggie every success with the Bridge and Culture Groups. These new convenors will no doubt have ideas to change existing formats and practices – large or small, slowly or quickly – please support and encourage them in every way possible.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Summer, please let me know if YOU have ideas to change and develop our U3A and, please, visit our website regularly to ensure you keep abreast of events: [www.usku3a.org.uk](http://www.usku3a.org.uk)

Keith Edwards

Tel: 01633 450413: email: [keith.edwards@mac.com](mailto:keith.edwards@mac.com)

## Photography\_group

I email all members, who have expressed an interest in the meetings, each month with details of that month's meeting. If there are any new U3A members who are interested in coming to a meeting then I suggest they look at the U3A website and I shall make sure David has details. Our next meeting is the 15th May and I hope to clarify how this group wishes to proceed for the next 6 months.

Margaret Hatfield

## CULTURE GROUP PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 29th May - 2.00pm Llangybi Village Hall. ANNA HASLOCK, Screen printer

Talk and demonstration. Bring an apron if you want to have a go!

FRIDAY 26th JUNE - 2.15pm. National Gallery, Cardiff. FRAGILE? Private tour of the current exhibition. Discover contemporary ceramics; learn how pieces were made, the influence and inspiration behind works, and explore the expressive possibilities of ceramic material. The exhibition includes key works from the collection, ambitious new works by Wales-based artists Claire Curneen, Walter Keeler, Lowri Davies and Adam Buick, and installations commissioned from Phoebe Cummings, Clare Twomey and Keith Harrison.

Cost: free but places are limited but must be booked. Own transport. If you would like to go please contact Maggie Corke by email at [maggiecorke@btinternet.com](mailto:maggiecorke@btinternet.com) or phone on 01633430237 as soon as possible.

THURSDAY 9th JULY - 2.30pm Wales Millenium Centre, Cardiff.

### **OKLAHOMA.**

Coach departs: Usk 11.00, Llangybi 11.10, Caerleon 11.15 (£8.00 on the day). Theatre tickets all taken but a couple of places on the coach if you would like to book your own seat. Contact Val Frewer 01633 450381

FRIDAY 17th JULY - Trip to Lacock. **Lacock village** famous for its picturesque streets, historic buildings and more recently as a TV and film location. **Lacock Abbey, cloisters and garden** a quirky country house of various architectural styles, built upon the foundation of a former nunnery, in a woodland setting. **The Fox Talbot Museum** celebrates the achievements of a

former Lacock resident, William Henry Fox Talbot who took the first photographic negative at Lacock in 1835.

Cost: Coach £12.00. Entry £10.90 (Free £10.90 for National Trust members)

Coach departs Twyn Square, Usk at 9.00 am ( Llangybi t.b.a.) and returns from

Lacock at 4.30pm. If you would like to go, please send a cheque for £22.90 (non NT member) or £12 (NT member) made out to Usk U3A, with your name and contact details to: Pat Kingsley, 8 St Cybi Avenue, Llangybi, NP15 1TT ( tel 01633 450272) **to arrive by 1st July at the latest.**

No meeting in August. September and October to be advised.

**THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER - 2.00pm Wales Millenium Centre. Welsh national opera**

**SWEENEY TODD.** The Demon Barber of Fleet Street - a Musical Thriller. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Cost: tickets £36.50. Coach to be advised. No money required until August. If you would like to go, please contact Val Frewer by email val@frewer.net or phone 01633 450381

**DECEMBER. USK U3A CHRISTMAS PARTY.** No Culture Group meeting

Maggie Corke

(New convenor of the Culture Group)

### **BRIDGE GROUP**

Continues to meet successfully every Monday and Wednesday in the Usk Sessions House every Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:50 - 4.00 pm, for an enjoyable session of ' No Fear Bridge'.

Many thanks to Valda Vanloo for running and being 'responsible' for setting up the "No fear Bridge Group' for the past years, and we now welcome Guy who has taken over as the convenor of the bridge group together with Mary Atkins, on Wednesdays, for this very enjoyable afternoon's bridge session.

### **READING GROUP 2**

The Reading Group 2 meet regularly, generally on the first Thursday of each month. The benefit of being a small group, just eight of us, means that we can get together in the comfort of each other's homes, which is why we like to keep the group number as it is.

However, as always, any of us would be happy to help and advise on setting up a third U3A reading group if enough people are interested. The Usk U3A

secretary is the person to whom you can give your name if you are interested on going on a list.

### **Scrabble Group**

We have continued to enjoy our games of Scrabble with an average of 10 members attending each session. We have good-natured debates as to what new words should be allowed and have become more laid back about modern slang, but draw the line at text speak. Sadly two of our members passed away during the year but we have welcomed some new members.

The chocolate prizes for the winners of each game have proved to be very popular and there are separate prizes for 7 letter words. Other board games including Boggle and Up-words are played occasionally but most people seem to prefer Scrabble in all its different forms.

Even if you usually play by yourself on the computer or x-box, come along to one of our sessions, we'd be delighted to see you.

The dates for May and June are:

Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m. 13th and 27th May

Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m. 10th and 24th June.

### **Walking group**

#### **MONDAY WALKS**

These are from 2 to four and a half miles in length, with stiles, and some hills

Since the last AGM, we have had 26 walks in several locations, with the number of walkers varying from 1 to 15. We have about 23 members on our list. Unfortunately, two members have had to stop walking due to ill health, or family difficulties. We miss them all.

The weather has mainly been dry if cold, but we have braved the showers and now we are better prepared, always feeling more alive for the experience and company.

Some of us even indulge occasional in a coffee and nibbles afterwards.

As many of you know we will be losing Judith Choppen shortly. Whilst we wish her and Bob all the very best in their new adventures, they will be missed in the U3A, and especially by me, as Judith has helped lead occasional walks

I would also like to thank Bernard and Kathy who have also lead walks this year. If any of you would like to join us, please contact me, either to enjoy the convivial atmosphere on the walks, or even help lead the occasional one.

There is an annual charge of £6 per year (or £1 a month) towards the cost of stationery, postal and drivers costs , as we share cars to get to outlying districts.

The walks take place on alternate Mondays, meeting in Usk main car park, near The Museum for a 10.30 a.m. start.

We are again planning a short walking break, this time in Devon, probably in September. The plans are in the very early stages.

## COFFEE WALKS

On the first Friday in the month, we have a coffee walk for those who cannot for various reasons manage longer walks, or stiles and hills. These walks are half to three quarters of an hour long with a coffee stop either en route, or at the end.

We either walk around Usk, meeting in the car park at 10.30 a.m., or we use our bus passes to catch the 10.30 a.m. bus to Raglan, Monmouth and Caerleon, where we sometimes visit a museum, or other place of interest. We are usually back in Usk for 1.30p.m.

If you would like to join us, please contact me for more details.

On both walks, good, stout shoes or walking boots are essential.

Best Wishes. Myra

**Below you will find a list of current Officers and Convenors of USK U3A and their email addresses.**

**Chairman**      Keith Edwards      keith.edwards@mac.com

