

USK U3A NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018

Chairman's Report September '18

You will all no doubt been inundated with emails and information in the post from banks and businesses concerning GDPR. These concern EU regulations on handling personal data and impinge on the working of U3As. Over the past months your committee has been getting to grips with this and we will shortly be posting our policy on this and advising members of their rights and procedures. My thanks go to Mel and Joan for the effort both have put in on this difficult topic and again to Mel for the work on Charity Registration

I hope you have enjoyed the long hot summer but some of you, like me, will probably still have holidays booked for the next few months. Apart from individual group meetings our autumn programme commences on September 28th with a guided tour of the Sessions House in Usk, followed by "Something on Antiques" on October 26th, a quiz on November 30th and the Christmas lunch on December 6 (Cwrt Bleddin). Please support us in these events as it offers an opportunity for intergroup "mingling"

On a less bright note we have lost 2 committee members. Cath Collis has decided she has been on the committee too long and we thank her for all her past help. Barbara Daniels is relocating away from Usk. We wish her well in her new home. This leaves two spaces to fill on the committee which we are able to co-opt. If anyone would like to put themselves forward or suggest someone we could approach please contact me or any committee member. I don't need to remind you that my tenure as Chairman ends in March and we are still seeking a replacement. Joining the committee now would be a good introduction for any prospective candidate

I hope you continue to enjoy whatever is left of summer and then early autumn.

Reg

Scrabble Group

During the past year we have enjoyed friendly competitive games of Scrabble attended by an average of 11 including 2 gentlemen. Occasionally we have had a "theme" for our games but as we found we could put a case for the use of most words, we now tend to play "normal" games. We have purchased a modern up-to-date version of the Scrabble dictionary which has new words that are in current use, we are also helped by referring to the "Little book of Scrabble secrets". Looking forward we shall be enjoying afternoon tea with a game of Scrabble at the local garden centre and during the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff some of us will be helping with the U3A stand.

For further Scrabble information please contact me
rosemaryevans410@gmail.com

The Gentle Walking Group

The Gentle walking group have enjoyed some lovely walks this summer in our beautiful countryside.

Everyone particularly enjoyed the walk and tour of the Llangybi estate woods with forester Les Taylor.

During the hot weather in August we meet at 9.30 a.m. instead of 10.00 a.m.

The walks for September are: Monday September 10th and Monday September 24th

And for October

Monday October 8th & Monday October 22nd

Meet as usual in Usk Main car park for a 10.00 a.m.

The Gardening Group

The gardening group has spent the summer visiting a number of very interesting and different gardens.

May saw us at a private garden called Lyndinam near Newbridge on Wye. The property of Lord and Lady Llewellyn the garden is open for the National Garden Scheme at certain times and groups by appointment. Rhododendrons, azaleas, and woodland planting with bluebells and views across the countryside. A huge kitchen garden was being restored and is a huge task in hand. First really good day of the early summer.

In June we visited 4 gardens belonging to or associated with our members. This is always so interesting as what other people make of their gardens and their enthusiasm is contagious together with seeing plants we have not come across.

July we visited Stockton Bury gardens near Hereford. A maze of garden rooms and places to explore. The secret garden nearly defeated us. An interesting and lovely experience. August saw us at The Lasketts the garden of Sir Roy Strong. A maze of different places and artefacts all associated with Sir Roy Strong and his late wife. A personal place, some bizarre concepts, some wonderful plants, a great sense of fun and lots of topiary and structure. September is our last trip of the summer and we shall be going to the Cowbridge Physic garden followed by Dyffryn gardens which are nearby.

The plan for winter meetings have just began and our first meeting is the 12th October at Morris's Garden Centre to discuss the winter programme.

Book Group 2

continues to meet monthly. Meeting in each other's homes means we are a small group. We would be happy to help another small group get started if enough U3A members are interested.

Parlons Francais

On 29th June, one of the hottest days of summer, twenty five or so brave souls turned up at Llangybi Village Hall to watch an old French film presented by our French conversation group, Parlons Francais. But this was not just any old French film – this was LE BOUCHER (The

Butcher) 48 year-old spine-chilling psychological thriller by Claude Chabrol, a film director frequently compared to Alfred Hitchcock. The showing was followed by tea, biscuits and conversation, as is usual after U3A's monthly meetings. The film also provided our group with a topic for discussion at its next meeting.

Parlons Francais has been active for almost four years, meeting in Usk Museum on alternate Thursdays. This is how we operate: a week prior to the session, members receive a text for reading and translating the following week. We also do puzzles, play games, listen to French songs. But the emphasis is on conversation, sometimes on a contentious subject, sometimes about our holidays or activities. It is always pleasing when members bring something of interest to the meeting, or provide material for discussion. On one such occasion each person brought a photo of someone who had been of great influence in their life. The photos were passed around, questions were asked, and in this way we were able to learn more about each other.

Though the standard and ability of the group is varied, each member has something very special to impart and, if Parlons Francais can be called successful it is because of the enthusiasm of each individual who, because of their love of the French language, makes every effort to attend fortnightly, in spite of the busy life retired people live.

Sheila Shepherd

Bridge group

There continues to be two weekly meetings of the bridge group - Mondays and Wednesday's (apart from Bank Holiday Mondays) from 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Session house, Usk. Both groups welcome all players of any standard. There is no need to have a partner. There are always games of duplicate bridge, played in a friendly helpful atmosphere with everyone having an enjoyable afternoon's bridge!

General information

It is always difficult to gather in a complete range of information on all the groups that meet in **usk U3A**. At this time of year several convenors are still on holiday, if there is no report from a group in which you are interested, you might find more information in the Usk U3A website. 'Usku3a.org.uk' Items of general interest will be added to the end of the Newsletter

Monthly Speaker Meetings will be held mostly at Llangibby village Hall, on the last Friday of the month. The speakers have been on many different subjects all have been very enjoyable and favourable reports have been received from all who are able to attend. It is hoped that a full list of dates and speakers will be published as soon as possible. It seems that all the members who attended not only found the talks very interesting and informative, but really enjoyed the opportunity to meet many other members from all the groups in Usk U3A. Details of the events up to Christmas are to be found in Reg, the Chairman's report.

There will be further communications about the Christmas Luncheon, Which be held at CWRT BLEDDYN Hotel on 6th December 2018.