

# USK U3A NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2018



## The Chairman's Report December 2018

### **New officers, new activities: the hunt is on**

**Chairman and Secretary are both due to stand down after serving their time**

WITH THE onset of Winter I always think it is the time for us to maximise our activities within the U3A.

Obviously it impacts on the Walking group's activities but short of heavy rain we generally manage to carry on and cold frosty mornings are among the best times for walking.

At the time of writing I am anticipating the Quiz in November and the Christmas lunch in December. Thanks to Pat once again for taking on the organisation and to Joan Bennett for finding what promises to be an excellent post prandial entertainment.

I have asked for an entry to be included in the January edition of The Usk and Raglan Diary in an effort to generate extra groups and activities. I would urge all of us to consider other activities but of course convenors or a team will need to come together to set them up.

While we are on that subject I will be coming to the end of my 3rd year in office and we are still seeking someone to take over the reins. In addition our very efficient long term secretary has also expressed a wish to stand down so that is another post we need to fill at the AGM in March.

Wishing you all the best for the Holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year. **Reg Darge, Chair Usk U3A, Tel 01291 673242**



***Our long-serving officers Secretary Mary Atkins and Chair Reg Darge who are both due to retire at our AGM in the spring. Who do you know who could step into their shoes?***

## **Bridge Group**

### **Incentives for chocolate lovers – twice a week ...**

The Bridge group continue to meet on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1.45 to 4.00pm in Sessions House in Usk.

We are a friendly group enjoying “No Fear” bridge - the winning North /South pair and East/West pair being awarded a chocolate bar of their choice! There is no need to have a partner just come along and you will be sure to have a game.

***Mary Atkins***

## Gardening Group

### Garden visitors find sunshine and surprises

The Gardening Group had a very busy summer of trips to enjoy a variety of gardens.

In June we visited four gardens in Usk, two of which were owned by members and the other two had close associations with members. It is always fascinating to take a look at other people's ideas, and there was plenty to see.

July saw us at Stockton Bury, Herefordshire. A delightful garden with lots to explore including a secret garden which defeated a small group of us for at least 20 minutes. Excellent home cooked lunches and a wonderful sunny day. The garden had suffered a little from the dry summer but there was still a lot to enjoy.

August was a visit to Sir Roy Strong's garden, The Lasketts near Ross on Wye. The garden defies description as it meanders from one area to another where unique statues, plaques and topiary are accompanied by a phone commentary by Sir Roy on his personal history of the garden.



*Making Christmas decorations*

In September we visited the Physic Garden in Cowbridge followed by Dyffryn gardens. The Physic Garden was a surprise. Tiny but full of interesting plants and beautifully laid out. Dyffryn Gardens has been really improved by the National Trust and we were all impressed by the quality of plants, care of the garden and especially the transport within the garden for those who could not walk great distances.

October and September has seen us back at Morris's Garden Centre for talks on gardening and planning our next programme. For December we will be at the Hall in Llangybi making Christmas wreaths and table arrangements using foliage and plants from our gardens.

In January we are hoping to have a Gardening Quiz with a difference and in February a talk on Bonsai. The rest of the programme is being prepared. Summer 2019 will see a number of visits and everyone is welcome.

*Margaret Hatfield, Convenor, Tel: 01291 652972,  
email [margarethatfield@madasafish.com](mailto:margarethatfield@madasafish.com)*

## Scrabble Group

### **A few words from the sociable Scrabblers**

We meet fortnightly to play friendly competitive games of Scrabble. We do have the official Scrabble Word List and the latest edition of the Scrabble Dictionary which includes words in current usage.

The sessions are proving to be quite sociable occasions as we offer help to anyone who is new to the game and we are not too strict about the time rule. We have the Super Scrabble version as well as a large print edition which enables people with visual impairment to enjoy the game.

#### *Scrabble dates for the next two months:*

<i>Wednesday 2nd January 2019</i>	<i>2 - 4 pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th January 2019</i>	<i>2 - 4 pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 30th January 2019</i>	<i>2 - 4 pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 13th February 2019</i>	<i>2 - 4 pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 27th February 2019</i>	<i>2 - 4 pm</i>

A Welsh edition is also available. We welcome new members.

*Rosemary Evans, Convenor*

## Painting For Pleasure

### **Growing art group sees the bigger picture**

The U3A Art Group began two years ago with a small band of twelve members who have remained loyal and committed throughout. They form the backbone of the group.

We were delighted to welcome ten new members this September so the group is currently a large and enthusiastic one.

Because members have such a broad range of experience and abilities we have spent this term re-acquainting ourselves with all the main art media. We have produced drawings and paintings in pencil, charcoal, ink, pastel, watercolour and acrylic.

Next term the focus will be on coloured pencils, felt pens, scraperboard and collage. Something for everyone.

The class can provide members with some of these art materials so if you are thinking of joining you do not need to spend a fortune!

Periodically we display our work in Llangybi Village Hall, which is where we meet for our fortnightly sessions on Thursdays from 10am to 12.30pm.

If you would like more information about this friendly and welcoming group phone me on 01633 450209.

*Sue Morgan, Convenor*

## Gentle Walking Group

### **“We’ll follow the sun!” say Monday Walkers**

The Monday Gentle Walkers continue to thrive and enjoy our beautiful countryside. We meet on alternate Mondays in the Usk Main Car Park for a 10.00 am start.

Due to the lovely warm weather this summer, we met at the earlier time of 9.30 am, and if next summer is hot, we will meet earlier too.

The walks are usually 2 to 3 miles long with a short stop for a drink and small snack. There are some stiles and hills but nothing too arduous.

There is a small annual contribution to the drivers who willingly give lifts to places outside of Usk, which means we can explore further afield.

All paid members of Usk U3A are very welcome. For further details. Please contact me on 01291 673377.

*DATES FOR THE NEXT WALKS are Mondays December 3rd and 17th. There will be no walk on 31st December.*

*The new programme will be out after Christmas. We meet for the first walk in 2019 on Monday January 14th.*

I look forward to seeing some of you then. Meanwhile I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

*Myra France, Convenor*

## U3A management and governance

### It's official! We're a registered charity

Usk U3A has become a registered charity. This could give us extra credibility with the public and make fundraising easier, although funding is not currently an issue because we have a healthy bank balance.

The Committee's decision to register follows a recommendation from our national parent organisation, The Third Age Trust.

Charitable status is likely to involve more responsibility for our Committee who are now officially "charity trustees". But the change will make little difference to the way we work with Usk U3A members. We already follow standards set by the Charity Commission in our commitment to retired and older people and the open and honest way we manage our activities and finances.

Our "charitable objects" say that we must use our resources to work for "the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work in Usk and its surrounding locality by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development." The official title of the new charity is "Usk University of the Third Age (U3A)", though we will continue to be known as "Usk U3A". Our registration number is 1180731.

Members can find out more about the charity at any time - including how to contact us and the names of our trustees - by carrying out a search of Charities Register on the Charity Commission web site. Please contact the Secretary Mary Atkins at [maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like a full copy of our constitution.

Mel Witherden, Treasurer, [treasurer@usku3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@usku3a.org.uk)

1180731 USK UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A) **NEWLY REGISTERED**

**Activities**  
NO INFORMATION RECORDED

**Where it operates**  
MONMOUTHSHIRE

**Other names**  
USK U3A (WORKING NAME)

**Where it operates**  
MONMOUTHSHIRE

**Governing document**  
CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 07 APR 2008

**Area of benefit**  
NO INFORMATION RECORDED

**Organisation type**  
STANDARD REGISTRATION

**Registration history**  
16 November 2018 Registered

**Charitable objects**  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE EDUCATION OF OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED FROM FULL TIME WORK BY ALL MEANS, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCTIVE TO LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

**Classification**

**What**  
• EDUCATION / TRAINING

**Who**  
• ELDERLY / OLD PEOPLE  
• PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
• THE GENERAL PUBLIC / MANKIND

**How**  
• PROVIDES SERVICES  
• PROVIDES ADVOCACY / ADVICE / INFORMATION

#### *Usk U3A on the Charities Register*

## Usk U3A EVENTS PROGRAMME for 2019

The U3A Events Programme for 2019 is close to being finalised. The following talks and activities will normally be at 2pm on the last Friday of each month at Llangybi Village Hall. But please check with our publicity closer to the date for confirmation of the details.

All members and their guests are welcome. There is usually a £1 charge for refreshments, with entrance free to members and £1 for guests.

- 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY “WILDLIFE IN THE HOME” - speaker Dr Bruce Campbell
- 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY “LLANDEGVEDD RESERVOIR” - speaker Richard Poole
- 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH “THE LIFE OF A CONCERT PIANIST” - speaker a U3A Member
- 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL “MONMOUTH ODDITIES AND CURIOSITIES” - speaker David Harrison MA
- 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY “EVERY WOMAN REMEMBERED - DAUGHTERS OF NEWPORT IN THE GREAT WAR” - speaker Sylvia Mason MA
- 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE “EVERYONE HAS A NOVEL IN THEM: TRUE OR FALSE?” - speaker Cath Barton
- 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER (To be announced)
- 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER “CLOCKS” - speaker Malcolm Hatfield
- 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER U3A QUIZ

## Membership

### We're taking steps to protect members' personal data

The Committee has been working hard to create new safeguards to protect the personal data we hold on individual members. This is currently limited to essential contact and membership subscription details.

We hope to publish comprehensive Data Protection and Privacy policies in the New Year following the government's introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Members should contact the Secretary if they have concerns or questions about the information we hold on them.



## Usk U3A group convenors

BRIDGE: Kath Collis

PAINTING FOR PLEASURE: Sue Morgan

READING GROUP 1: Alma Jones

READING GROUP 2: Rosemary Cochrane

GARDENING: Margaret Hatfield

SCRABBLE: Rosemary Evans

WALKING: Myra France

*Contact details for the Convenors are available from the Secretary, Mary Atkins, Tel 01291 673539, email [maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk).*

## Usk U3A Committee Members

**Chairman:** Reg Darge, [rtd@darge7.plus.com](mailto:rtd@darge7.plus.com)

**Business Secretary:** Mary Atkins, [maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryatkins2002@yahoo.co.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Roma Meek, [romameek@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:romameek@tiscali.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** Mel Witherden, [treasurer@UskU3A.org](mailto:treasurer@UskU3A.org)

**Network Secretary:** Jo Acton, for Newsletter contributions, [2joact1@gmail.com](mailto:2joact1@gmail.com)

Jan Bennett

Mike Cowburn

Diana Dawkins