

Usk u3a - Spring News Bulletin / Update 2021

To all members of Usk u3a

We have come through an unprecedented twelve month period. As this update is being prepared we are beginning to see the possibility of life returning if not to normal then to something more like it. We hope you have come through this period in good health and are hoping to resume u3a activities as soon as government diktat allows.

Usk u3a's 2021 AGM:

This took place by Zoom on April 14th. All members were advised of this and were invited to participate. We would like to thank all those who attended or gave their apologies. Your new committee is as follows:

Chair: Position Vacant
Vice Chair: Position Vacant
Business Secretary: Ann Jones
Treasurer: Keith Edwards
Committee Members: Joan Bennett, Joan Clarke, Reg Darge, Margaret Hatfield, Wendy Young

In view of there being no chairman elected committee members will take turns to chair the meetings. This situation is far from ideal and we do not see it continuing like this for more than a maximum of twelve months.

In addition to the committee above the following people are acting in an ex officio capacity:

Mel Witherden: Membership secretary
Mike Faraday: Network Officer
Jon Prince: Website Manager
Judith Lindwall: Usk News Diary Liaison

Retiring Committee:

The following Committee members and supporters did not seek re-election in April 21

Mel Witherden: Mel was treasurer for several years and guided us through constitution updates, charity registration and aspects of GDPR. At the AGM in 2020 he took on the role as Vice Chair. before becoming Membership secretary.

Maggie Corke: Maggie was originally Convenor for the Culture Group, sat on the committee for 2019/20 and then elected as Chair.

David Lee: Sometime treasurer and Webmaster for at least 10years

Mary Atkins: Long time secretary and committee member for 20-21

We are sure that all members will wish to thank them for their contribution to Usk u3a over the years.

Coming out of Lockdown

Whilst lockdown restrictions have been eased recently it is clear that government restrictions are still having an effect on Usk u3a activities. While some groups, such as Craft, will continue to meet by Zoom, a few such as the Book group and the Walking group are beginning to start again under strict Covid guidelines. As the Covid situation improves over the next few months, we expect to see more groups returning to face to face meetings. However, it may be quite some time before some groups resume due to challenges such as social distancing at venues. Please use our website to find out which groups are operating and when and where they are occurring, or contact a committee member or group convenor for details.

Usk u3a Monthly Meetings

Due to Covid19, last year we had to cancel our monthly meetings in Llangybi Hall. Initially we hoped this would only be for a short while, until January 2021, but we have had to make it 'until further notice' now.

As an alternative we have been and will continue scheduling professional Zoom presentations at the usual time of 2pm on the last Friday in the month. These are paid for by Usk u3a with no charge to members. We would encourage you to participate in this as it allows you to maintain contact with other members. The first one was held in September 2020, 'The Curious Incident of Agatha Christie' presented by Stephen Wells

Stephen's presentation was excellent. We were so impressed that we have invited him back to give the talk at the meeting on **Friday 28th May at 2pm on**

BUTLINS HOLIDAY CAMPS - The rise and fall of an empire

Stephen Wells went from being a Butlin Redcoat to being Entertainment Executive responsible for putting on the biggest names in Show Business.

A great talk fully illustrated and with lots of stories about the stars, including Cliff Richard, Des O'Connor, Jimmy Tarbuck, Ringo Starr, Dave Allen, Tommy Trinder and many more.



We hope you will join us and enjoy the presentation.

Zoom joining instructions will be sent out nearer the date

Photographic Initiative:

We would like to see more photographs on our Usk u3a web site, both of our groups' activities and the local area. You can view some current photos at <https://usku3a.org.uk/blog/images/>

If you are interested, you can email photographs to usku3aphoto@gmail.com

Photographs can be on any subject (eg views, gardens, pets, craft work etc.) but not children or adults unless you have their express permission. The photographs are displayed on a public web site and could be reproduced elsewhere out of our control.

The photographs can be taken on any device, a smart phone is ideal as it is very easy to take a photograph and send it by email. Photographs will be converted to a compressed file to make web site loading quick and easy. Please say if you would like your name or subject information added to the photograph. If there is interest there is a possibility we could start a new Usk u3a Photography group

Contact:

We hope you have enjoyed reading this brief update on our activities. Should you wish to comment on any issue raised in this letter or any other matter please email: treasurer@usku3a.org.uk