

## Usk and District



*“In springtime, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding”. William  
Shakespeare*

“Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s Party’” quote, Robin Williams

Members of Usk and District u3a may not be partying as such but they are having fun as they plan to celebrate u3a’s 40th anniversary. Events are being organised in u3a’s across the country. The Anniversary Woodland target to plant 5,000 trees is well on its way and will help combat climate change.

Learn, Laugh and Live - is the u3a motto. The “Third Age Matters’ magazine which all members receive, reflects this motto through its informative, entertaining and wide area of subjects.

The latest issue has some interesting and stimulating articles, including: tips on ‘Taking a stand against ageism’, a report on the u3a Kindertransport Event and contributions from Dame Esther Rantzen who spoke on line to a 98 yearly whose whose life was affected by the transport.

One article in the magazine caught the eye of a u3a member - ‘How to deliver a great speech’ with a cartoon and the humorous caption “The human brain is the most complex of all our organs. It starts working the moment you are born and doesn’t stop until you stand up to make a speech.” Anyone who has ever been called upon to make a speech will know how true this can be.

The main focus of the latest issue of “Third Age Matters” was an interview with Ruby Wax in which she talks about beating loneliness and why it’s never too late to learn. She says “You can sign up for anything and learn anything now. If you have a community, you will help each other.” Just the message Usk and District u3a want to send, they are a community and they are here for you. Do get in touch if any of our groups interest you or you may have an idea about starting a group.

It’s back to Zoom Meetings for u3a members, yes, they have been there before, like so many interest groups up and down the country, but they will not be beaten. In January, Stephen Wells who did the Zoom ‘Agatha Christie’ and the ‘Butlins’ talks presented another entertaining and illuminating talk on ‘The Magic Circle and some of the Great Magicians’. He did it “Just like that!!”

The roller coaster of the pandemic has meant that u3a groups have had to be flexible about meeting arrangements. Below is a little overview of the current situation.

Gardening - They are hoping that to restart on Fridays in February in Llangybi Village Hall.

Bridge - The group is not meeting at the moment Some members are playing on line via zoom others are using websites such as 'Just Play Bridge'.

Craft - this group is currently meeting via Zoom

Cribbage - this group is pausing for the moment, but is hoping to re-launch Wednesday evening meetings.

Photography - currently this activity involves uploading photographs onto the Usk and District u3a website. If you are interested in contributing then do check out the activity on the website. If there is enough interest there is a possibility to start a new Usk u3a Photography group.

Scrabble - this group is not meeting in person at the moment, but they keep in touch with a weekly word quiz. To maintain their word skills members are playing games online.

The Gentle walking group meets on alternate Mondays throughout the year. They meet in the main car park, Usk, near the rear of the Museum for a 10.00 a.m. start. The walks are usually 2 – 4+ miles long and they aim to get back to Usk for 12.30 – 1.00 p.m.

A Longer Walks group has been set up recently, walking for around 6 miles. Details are available on the website.

More details and information about the above groups can be found on Usk and District u3a website [Usk and District U3A](#)

If you'd like to join Usk and district u3a, or just find out more please call or email: Mel, Membership Secretary, 01495 769000, [Membership@usku3a.org.uk](mailto:Membership@usku3a.org.uk)