

# USK u3a AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Read about our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event celebrating the start of the u3a in the UK



A warm welcome to our new Committee member



It's Quiz time for the next Members' meeting!



We have a new convenor for the Craft Interest Group



Christmas is coming! Details of our Christmas lunch inside



Can you help us increase our membership?



Usk u3a celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the u3a in the UK



On Friday, 23 September over forty-five members, a guest poet and musician marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the u3a organisation in the UK in style.

The u3a movement began in 1982 and quickly became a national organisation of locally-run interest groups. By the early 1990s, u3as were opening every month. There are now u3as across Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland with a membership of over 250,000.

The event began with a poem specially written and performed by local poet and actress, Louise Longworth. Members then enjoyed a Pimms with delicious cakes and strawberries and cream to the background music of local musician, James Ramsey.



On display was a timeline spanning over forty years showing key dates relevant to the national u3a, Usk u3a and its interest groups. Members also added in when they joined, which prompted a lot of discussion and scratching of heads! The result is below.



Next year, it will be a special anniversary for Usk u3a! In 2008, after three interest groups had already begun, Usk u3a was formally constituted and affiliated to the national u3a. So thinking caps on please for how we can celebrate together. If you have ideas for an anniversary event or would like to help organise the event, please email Wendy Young [wy@genesta.co.uk](mailto:wy@genesta.co.uk) 07592 032426.

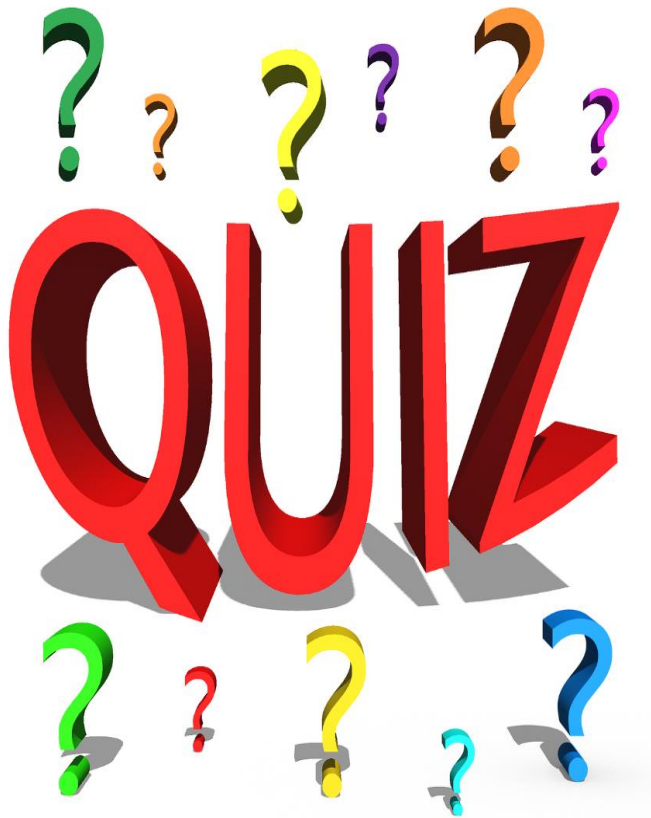


## A warm welcome to a new Committee member

We are sure that members will join us in welcoming Judith Lindwall to the Committee for Usk u3a. Judith has previously been on the Committee so she brings lots of experience as well as enthusiasm and knowledge to the role.

A message for members from Judith: *“I was unsure if I wanted to return to a Committee role but I know how important it is that we all contribute so that organisations like ours can continue. It was really helpful to attend a Committee meeting first so I could see how it was operating and if it would suit me. I would urge other members to join us and have a ‘taster’ session.”*

Would you be interested in joining the Committee? Please contact either Joan Clarke [jpiljoc@aol.com](mailto:jpiljoc@aol.com) 01633873211 or Wendy Young [wy@genesta.co.uk](mailto:wy@genesta.co.uk) 07592 032426.



## AN INVITATION TO A QUIZ WITH QUESTIONS SET BY REG DARGE

On **Friday, 28 October**, we are holding a fun quiz for members in Usk Memorial Hall. The subjects will include nature, science, literature, music, entertainment, sport and leisure and food and drink. The questions are not overly difficult and there are some multiple choice answers as well as a picture quiz.

While teams should have a maximum of six members there is no minimum number. We expect to make up some teams on the day so if you come alone everyone can join in the fun. We have a range of prizes to be won.

## The Craft Interest Group has a new Convenor

We want to offer our thanks to Ann Jones who is stepping down as Convenor for the Craft Interest Group. Ann set up the group two years ago and kept the group going through lockdown.



We were on pins and needles wondering what was to become of this very active group but we needn't (!) have worried. We are pleased to announce that Sue Punnett will take over. We look forward to hearing how this group goes from craft to craft (we couldn't resist the puns!).

## Christmas is coming!

Yes, it is that time when we start to think of the Christmas season and our Christmas lunch. Joan Clarke has been busy examining venues and menus and we shall be enjoying our lunch at the Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel again.

We shall be sending out information on how to book very soon but please put **Thursday, 24 November** in your diary.



## Can you help us increase our membership?

Recently, we have seen our membership numbers increase through initiatives such as a special offer of full membership for the remainder of the year combined with access to the anniversary event. We have also gained a few new members who have heard from other members how good Usk u3a is. But, we need to continue to grow our membership so that the organisation can thrive. If you know of anyone interested please encourage them to join. If you have any ideas for increasing our membership numbers please contact a Committee member.

---