

USK u3a

SUMMER
NEWSLETTER

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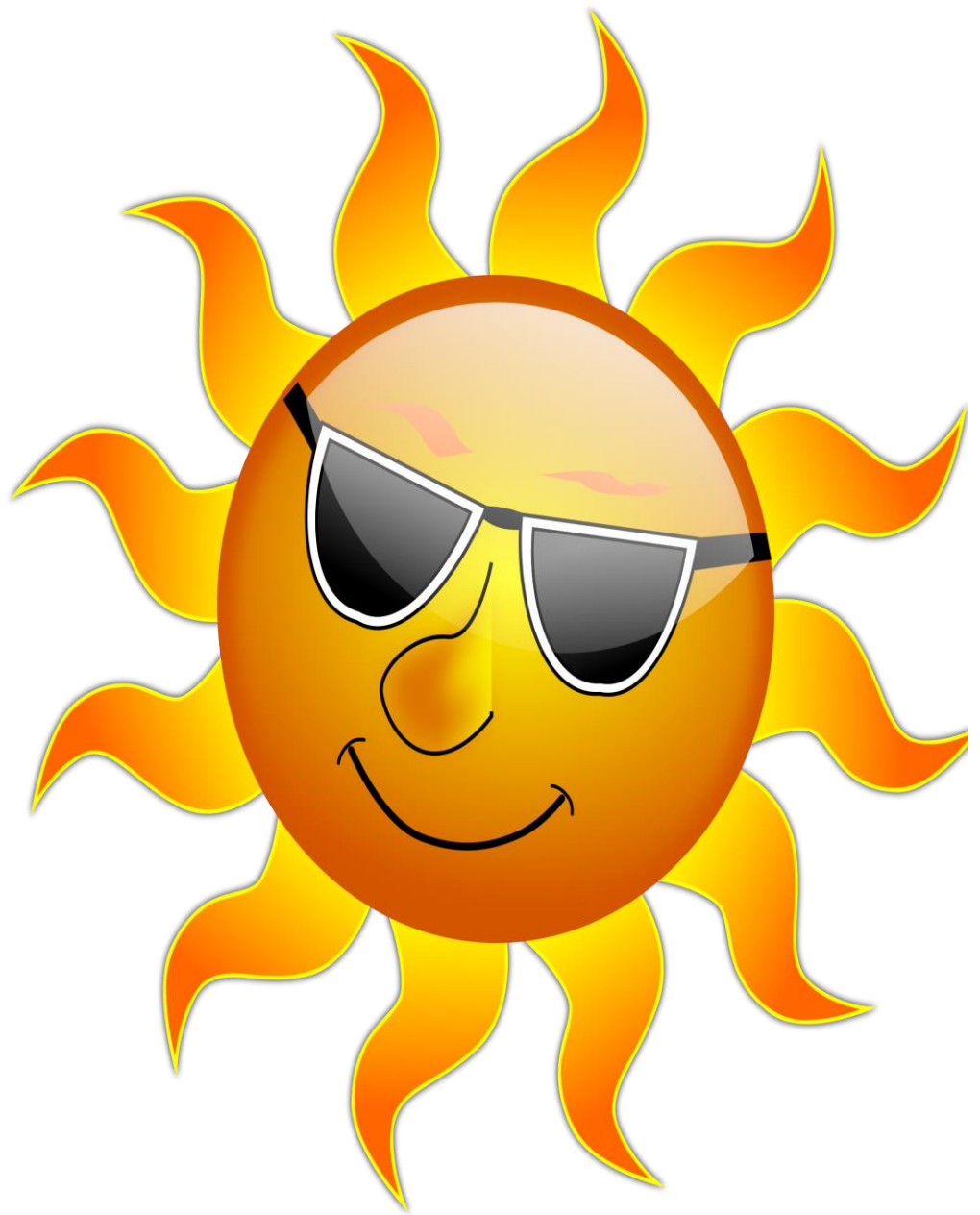
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Would you like to
join the Usk u3a
Committee?



Usk u3a is keen to attract new Committee members to help the organisation continue to thrive and grow. You may like to take on a specific officer role or join as a general Committee member. Please consider joining our small friendly group and ensure that Usk u3a continues for the future. Contact Joan Clarke jpiljoc@aol.com 01633873211 or Wendy Young wy@genesta.co.uk 07592 032426 for information.

Celebrating the 15th anniversary year of Usk u3a



This year marks the 15th anniversary of Usk u3a. The organisation started informally a little before that time but was formally constituted and affiliated to the u3a Trust in 2008. So, the organisation is fifteen years old and this deserves a celebration. We are holding a special event on **Friday, 22 September at 2pm at the Memorial Hall, Usk**. You will be welcomed with a glass of prosecco or soft drink, listen to a fascinating talk about Usk and finish off with tea/coffee and delicious cakes in the good company of other members. Please put the date in your diary and more details about how to book your place at £6 per member will follow.

We are sorry that we are not able to welcome members' guests to this event. However, like last year, we will be offering a special offer of three month's membership and entry to this event for £10. Anyone taking up this offer will be able to attend any of our events and groups until the end of the year.

Update on our Members' Meetings

We have held a number of successful members' meetings over the past few months. We began with a visit to the Newport Ship, which was well attended by twenty-two members. They enjoyed a fascinating tour of the timbers and artefacts with curator Toby Jones and Bob Evans. Members also enjoyed the delicious tea and cakes provided by the Centre.

In May, around thirty-five members attended a talk in Llangybi Hall about 'Poisons' by Ted Richards of the Roath Local History Society. In his entertaining talk, Ted covered poisonings in history and some landmark criminal cases.



This photograph shows members enjoying Ted's talk and learning about different poisons!
The next members' meeting is **Friday, 28 July at 2pm at the Memorial Hall, Usk**. We are promised another fascinating talk, this time about the Plas Gunter Mansion in Abergavenny by Dr Gill Wakely.





Book Club 1 closes down after eighteen successful years.

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to the past convenors and especially the current convenor, Hilary Burgess, for the very successful running of Book Club 1. The group was the first to start as an informal u3a interest group in 2005 and has continued since that time. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the group can no longer continue but we know that many members have enjoyed being a part of the group over the past eighteen years. A big thank you to all concerned.

If you are interested in starting up a Book Group, please contact a Committee member, and we will be pleased to support you.



The continuing saga of our insurance arrangements

You will know from information we have shared previously that we have tried to solve the issue of insurance for non-members attending events. We thought you might like to read the most recent communication we have received from the Trust's Head Office in reply to our plea to sort something out to enable us to invite members' guests.

Email from the Committee to the Trust

We have contacted you several times over the past year to clarify insurance arrangements for our members. Each time you state that insurance is only for members (or prospective members trying out a group/event). But, this arrangement is having a terrible effect on our ability to operate things like group visits (where extra numbers would make the event viable) and meet our members' needs (for example one member wanted to take her daughter and granddaughter on an arranged visit, which we had to refuse due to the insurance arrangements). It is also confusing when we have speakers and we have to check they have insurance. It is becoming a problem with a number of members and convenors grumbling about the arrangements and even considering not re-joining.

While we do understand we are a membership organisation, it does seem as if some things are made extraordinary difficult for us to maintain our numbers and grow the membership. We know that other local u3as are more relaxed about the insurance (another grumble from our members) and other organisations (such as the Hardy Plant Society and WI) have different arrangements so that non-members can attend.

As a Committee, we take our responsibilities as Trustees seriously and so have followed the rules and your advice. But, we have to say it is not going down well with members and hampering our efforts to create a thriving organisation. Our plea is for you to look at this again and see how best everyone's needs can be met.

The email reply from the Trust

A critical component to insurers accepting the Public Liability risk for the u3a is that it is a membership organisation with all members signing up to, and complying with, the terms and conditions of membership. To this extent all individuals who want to participate in u3a should be members in order this principle is upheld and to avoid any potential problems with claims.

There is no insurance cover for those who would not meet the criteria for membership. Children should not attend u3a activities, unless as part of a public audience

Kindest regards

Sharon Ahtuam
Advice and Membership Assistant
Third Age Trust

We hope that you will understand that as the Committee we will have to abide by this decision. It is not one that we would have wished for but there appears to be little that can be done to change the situation. But, watch this space as we will not let the matter rest ...