

USK U3A SPRING NEWSLETTER



You may recognise this unusual stone-built rustic lodge.
What is it known as locally?
Where can it be found?

Answer on page 6 of the newsletter

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THE AGM 2026

NEW COFFEE
WALKS

WALKING GROUP
SUMMARY

Usk & District

u3a

learn, live

laugh

A REMINDER OF
MEMBERS'
MEETINGS IN 2026

AGM 2026

Thirty members attended the AGM held on Friday the 27th of March 2026. The AGM followed the agenda format and there were no follow up questions from the members present. Minutes of the AGM are available to members who wish to see them.

Judith Lindwall and Keith Edwards were thanked for all their work and support on the committee and were presented with a small thank you gift from the membership. Following the short AGM members enjoyed refreshments including delicious cakes and were then entertained by Helyn Latimer. Helyn has entertained Usk U3A before and on this occasion, she told us the story of Heulwen's Hat. Helyn, an incredibly talented puppeteer, entertained us with a story following a lost hat and how it was returned to its owner, Heulwen. Introducing a range of animal puppets, many created by Helyn herself. A wonderful performance once again. 🙌

Thank you to all the members who help set up and clear away on the day and in particular Pauline Faraday and helpers who organised the refreshments.





COMING SOON: COFFEE MORNING WALKS

Following comments and interest from members, we will soon be introducing "Coffee Morning Walks" aimed at those who would like to combine a bit of exercise with some socialising.

These walks will be in addition to the current Monday (Shorter) and Wednesday (Longer) walks. These will allow members to meet up and socialise over refreshments at a café or similar establishment but with the added health benefit of some exercise before and afterwards.

The format is for a very short walk of between 1 and 1.5 miles to the venue and a similar distance back after plenty of time for socialising over refreshments. Venues need not be within walking distance of Usk but could involve a short drive in shared transport.

We will be looking for members to suggest venues and /or walking routes and ideally to lead these. The walk dates can be on any day that doesn't clash with a Monday or Wednesday Walk.

The success of these walks depends entirely on you, the membership to suggest venues and walking routes and ideally to lead the walk.

The current Walks Convenors: Sue Wright and Keith Renshaw are very willing to provide any help required to anyone willing to lead a Coffee Morning Walk.

Look out for an email that you will be receiving shortly asking if you would be interested in joining this group and if you would be willing to organise a walk.

Walking Groups

The Wednesday (Longer) Walks group has had a successful year to date exploring much of the glorious scenery in this corner of Wales and the Wye valley.

These are day walks of between about 5.5 and 7.5 miles and take place on alternate Wednesdays.

Walks have included the Revenge Stone on Garn Wen; Pontypool Park & the Mon & Brec Canal; the Outskirts of Abergavenny with a stretch by Afon Gafenni; a "Three" Churches walk to Kilgwrrwg, Wolvesnewton & Newchurch; a circuit of Bryn Arw and to the Bloreng and Punchbowl.

The upcoming programme has the following walks planned:

Wed 13 th May	Llandegfedd Reservoir
Wed 27 th May	Coppet Hill
Wed 10 th Jun	Crickhowell and Glangrwyney
Wed 24 th Jun	TBA
Wed 8 th Jul	Cefn Ila & the Decoy Bunker



On the "Outskirts of Abergavenny" walk

The Monday (Shorter) Walks are morning walks of between 2.5 and 4 miles and take place on alternate Mondays in the weeks between the Wednesday walks.

Walks this year have included Wentwood Bluebells; Castle woods and the Usk; the Mon & Brec canal near Gilwern; Around Raglan; Woods and lanes near Monkswood.



On the "Wentwood Bluebell" walk

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE RECENT AGM

The AGM was held on Friday, 27 March 26 and attended by around 30 members. At the meeting, Judith Lindwall and Keith Edwards stood down from their posts on the Committee. We are hugely grateful to both for the work they have undertaken, in many roles, to support Usk U3A over a long period of time. They have both given so much of their time and effort to this organisation.

At the meeting, the Committee asked for members to consider joining the Committee. If that doesn't appeal, we do need volunteers to become involved in advertising Usk U3A and working towards increasing our members and the groups we offer. If you are interested in helping develop our organisation, please contact Heather Tayler the membership secretary by email at membership@usku3a.org.uk

USK U3A COMMITTEE

We are extremely grateful to Heather Tayler who has agreed to become the Interim Chair of Usk U3A for the coming year. We are a small but very friendly committee and as mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we need help to grow our U3A.

Committee members 2026

Interim Chair and Membership Secretary - Heather Tayler

Treasurer - John Wright

Secretary - Joan Clarke

Committee Member - Wendy Young

Committee Member - Keith Renshaw

Committee Member - Lynda Price

Committee Member - Debbie Bainbridge

MEMBERS' MEETINGS IN 2026/27

You might like to make a note of future events although part of the programme is still provisional, and not all speakers have been agreed.

Friday 22 May The Berlin Airlift, speaker Graham Duke at the Memorial Hall, Usk, 2pm-4pm

Friday 26th June "A Tale of Tea" speaker Stella Evans at the Memorial Hall, Usk 2pm-4pm

Friday 25 September celebration of U3A at the Memorial Hall speaker TBD 2pm -4pm

Friday 23 October Members quiz at the Memorial Hall, Usk 2pm-4pm

Friday 4th December Christmas get together speaker TBD at the Memorial Hall, Usk 2pm – 4pm

Friday 22nd January winter lunch venue TBD

Friday 26th February 27 Speaker meeting Memorial Hall, Usk 2pm – 4pm

Friday 19th March 27 AGM and speaker TBD Memorial Hall, Usk 2pm – 4pm

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Answer to our photo puzzle on the front cover: Hansel & Gretel American Gardens Pontypool Park