



# NEWPORT U3A

Website: [www.newportu3a.org.uk](http://www.newportu3a.org.uk)

# NEWSLETTER



## SPRING/SUMMER 2014

(Issue No 64)



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED AT THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Audrey Anderson	Pam Cocchiara	Alan Fry*
Chris Brunning*	John Dainton	Julie Fry*
John Brunning*	Judy Evans*	Vanessa Mason
Chris Coles	Rita Exton	Margaret Swabey

Avril Allen, Joyce Hoad and Patricia Phillips have resigned from the committee. We thank them for the work they have done in the past year. Jackie Kerr and Pat Vaughan returned to the committee last April to help us at a difficult time. During the year, they have been “training” new committee members and are now stepping down. I am sure that we are all very grateful for their work during their extra year, and hope that they will continue to enjoy their membership.

\* We welcome Chris and John Brunning, Julie and Alan Fry and Judy Evans to this year’s committee, and hope that they will have an enjoyable and rewarding period of office.

Duties of all committee members are shown on the inside back page of this newsletter.

### TERM DATES, 2014-2015

Summer Term ends	11 July 2014
Autumn Term starts	3 September 2014
Autumn Term ends	12 December 2014
Spring Term starts	7 January 2015
Spring Term ends	27 March 2015
Summer Term starts	15 April 2015
Summer Term ends	10 July 2015

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DOOR DUTY

Please help us by volunteering for just 2½ hours, once a month. Contact

Chris Coles	☎ 01633 666001
Deputy Audrey Anderson	☎ 01633 413487

**THOSE ON DOOR DUTY SHOULD KEEP THE FRONT DOOR LOCKED AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT WHEN MEMBERS ARE ENTERING OR LEAVING.**

**It is important that members DO NOT touch any of the heating controls either in the kitchen or on the radiators. On completion of their meeting, will convenors please ensure that all windows are closed and lights switched off. Also, if another group follows you into a room, be sure to vacate the room so that they can start on time.**

  **PANIC BUTTONS!!**  

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS AN ALARM BELL AT THE SHAFTESBURY CENTRE. THE “PANIC BUTTONS” ARE:

IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE LOBBY - ON THE WALL TO THE LEFT OF THE DOOR LEADING TO THE OUTSIDE CORRIDOR,

IN THE BACK LOBBY - ON THE WALL BETWEEN THE KITCHEN DOOR AND THE DOOR TO THE SMALL BACK ROOM.

## ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS



In severe weather, eg snow, ice, flood, the committee has responsibility for the health and safety of all our members, and has to take the decision as to whether U3A will open for that day/week. Therefore if anyone is in doubt about a group taking place, please contact the convenor for the group or a committee member. All convenors' telephone numbers are on the timetable (back cover of this newsletter), and committee members' telephone numbers are printed inside the back page of each newsletter.

PAM COCCHIARA, Chairman

## FROM THE "EDITOR"

Our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations are now over, and we reached the age of 21 February this year. You will remember that the tree which we ceremoniously planted in February 2013 in Belle Vue Park did not survive the very cold spring that year. I am pleased to report that its replacement is now fit and healthy - this picture doesn't flatter it, but can see that it has got leaves! If possible, go and see it in real life!

To me the highlight of all the celebrations was the concert in the Dolman Theatre - it was a wonderful afternoon and there was the opportunity for every member to participate, either on the stage, behind the scenes or in the audience. For this reason I am repeating the account of this event in this newsletter, in case you missed it or would like to read it again.



in  
you

I appreciate receiving articles whenever they are ready, so that I can spread the work and don't have to do it all at the last minute. **Please try to be fairly brief and to the point and include your name and telephone number or email address, so that I know where it has come from.** As soon as you have something we may like to know about, please get it to me for the next newsletter - I can add more or make changes nearer the time if necessary. **Don't leave it all to the convenors - relevant news articles from members are very welcome.** I can download information from the web, but if you are emailing an article for Barbara Phillips, it would help if you sent it to me as well if appropriate - and vice versa! For this newsletter, after an urgent appeal at our May monthly meeting, "news" has flooded in! There is very little room for anything else - apologies if I have missed something you sent in, but hopefully all the news items are included.

THE LAST DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER IS  
FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014

Please either hand your contributions to a Committee member, put them in the "box" in the kitchen at Shaftesbury, OR YOU CAN EMAIL ME AT: [pam.ponthir@googlemail.com](mailto:pam.ponthir@googlemail.com)

ENJOY THE SUMMER

PAM AMBROSEN

## CONTENTS

All That Jazz-----	Page 21
Art-----	19
<b>Chairman's Report</b> -----	<b>3</b>
Committee members and general information -----	1
<b>Convenors' names and telephone numbers</b> -----	<b>Back cover</b>
Celebration Concert-----	Page 24
<b>Craft</b> -----	<b>14</b>
Dates for your diary-----	25
<b>Duties of Committee members</b> -----	<b>26</b>
French-----	20
<b>French Debutants</b> -----	<b>9</b>
Gardening and Wildlife -----	17
<b>History and Reminiscences</b> -----	<b>11</b>
Keukenhof Bulb Fields -----	15
<b>Latin</b> -----	<b>19</b>
Monthly meetings-----	7
<b>Quizzers</b> -----	<b>22</b>
Reading-----	22
<b>Singing - Third Age Singers</b> -----	<b>8</b>
Spanish - Beginners-----	14
<b>Sunday Lunch Club</b> -----	<b>13</b>
Theatre-----	10
<b>Timetable of groups</b> -----	<b>Back cover</b>
Ukulele -----	Page 14
<b>Walks - Wednesday</b> -----	<b>10</b>
Walks - Saturday-----	21
<b>Welsh</b> -----	<b>12</b>

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*At our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2014, Jackie Kerr highlighted some of the main events from May 2013 until April 2014, as follows:*

In May 2013 we took part in the Gwanwyn Festival. We took over the top floor of Newport Market; the Art and Craft groups displayed some of their wonderful work, and the Line Dancing group performed a variety of dances and encouraged the public to join in (and a number of youngsters actually did). The Third Age Singers and Creative Writing Groups arranged and held an excellent concert in the Church.

In June we held our annual Quiz, organised and run by Eric Cunnell and Pam Cocchiara. Once again it was very competitive; nine teams took part with three overall winners. Pam also arranged a raffle with prizes donated by our members. This year the Quiz will be held on Friday 6 June. A number of our members also took part in the Cardiff U3A Quiz and came fourth.

By chance the History Group actually met on 6 June 2013 - therefore they decided to hold a D-Day Celebration party. Pat Fackrell decorated the room and tables with flags and bunting, the members wore 1940's dress, we ate wartime-type food and sang songs from the period. It was a fun afternoon enjoyed by everyone.

The fifth Produce Show was in July 2013 and the high standards were maintained. The flower displays were amazing, especially considering the weather had been very hot on the days before the show. The baking competition was unforgettable - my mouth still waters at the thought of the delicious lemon drizzle cakes, they were sampled and enjoyed by everyone. To add to the climax of the day Mary Pumell arranged for the usual "Chelsea style" judging, awards and prizes - it was another excellent show.

Our Open Day in August was memorable, there was torrential rain, and the visitors had nowhere to park because the council decided to dig up and re-tarmac all the roads around the building! The official opening was carried out by the Mayor, Cliff Suller and his wife Christine. They both spent the morning visiting each table and chatting with members and visitors. In spite of the road works, the day was a success with 36 new members joining in September/October.

In September Vanessa Mason and Pam Marlowe attended the Third Age Trust National Annual General Meeting on our behalf. Vanessa gave a very good report back to the October monthly meeting, encouraging members to volunteer to attend the AGM meeting as it is very informative. The Network of U3A's in South Wales and South West Wales is currently considering changes to its organisation, and there will be developments during the second half of this year.

The Senior Citizens' Open Day was in October, and as usual we had our favourite three tables near the coffee bar. The organisers offered us space in their programme to advertise our U3A, and we filled two pages with photos, information and "one liners". We had a further 16 new members during the month.

The Craft sale once again proved to be very popular, with a large variety of greeting cards, jewellery, scarves etc, all hand made by the Craft group. From the sale they raised £450 and shared it between Ty Hafan, McMillan Nurses and the British Heart Foundation.

Continuing in Pat's tradition of making an annual Craft display, in 2013 they made "A Christmas Dinner". Everything was knitted from the prawns and the turkey, to the peas on the plate, and of course the Christmas cake. The full display was shown at the Dolman Theatre as part of our Celebration Concert.

Our annual Carol Service was organised and conducted by the new Minister, the Reverend Richard Gillion. Six of our groups took part in the service, and the foreign language groups greatly appreciated the fact that the Minister thanked them in the appropriate language. During the service a collection of £232 was made and donated to Sparkle.

In December a class from the Crindau Primary School came to sing carols for the Friday morning U3A groups. Everyone agreed that it was a lovely gesture enjoyed by all, and hopefully they will make a return visit this year. Perhaps they can be part of our Carol Service.

In February, to support the British Heart Foundation in their "Red Letter Day", Pat Fackrell arranged for the Craft, French and History groups to dress in red, make cakes and hold a raffle. Amazingly £300 was collected, and, added to the £150 from the Craft Christmas bazaar, a total of £450 was given to the British Heart Foundation.

A number of our groups including Wildlife and Gardening, Walkers, Spanish, and History have arranged holidays, overnight stays and day trips. Latin, Art History and Art groups have arranged day visits linked to their subjects. The Theatre group has attended some wonderful shows including the Last Night of the Welsh Proms, the Welsh Remembrance Concert, Ghost, and Only Men Aloud.

With the support of St John's Ambulance a second group of twelve members has been trained in basic first aid. They have received their certificates - congratulations to all of them.

The Third Age Singers have continued to develop their repertoire, and over the year they have given ten concerts to outside organisations. As a result they have donated £200 to Age Concern Cymru, £200 to St Woolos Hospital for the Lymph-assist machine, and £100 to Abi Lewis towards the Moving Mountains charity to help the orphanage in Kenya.

At the end of the year our membership was a very healthy 372. We have changed the membership form to include next of kin information, and we continue to ask members to tick a box if they are willing to help out with tea making or door duty.

Two new groups started this year - Ukulele for Beginners and Spanish for Beginners. I am pleased to report all of our 33 groups are thriving.

Our Website, run by Barbara Phillips, continues to have a big role in the success of recruiting new members, and a source for existing members to check out the latest news and information on our activities. On average we get about a thousand visits a month on to the site.

The link with the Scout/Girl Guide Christmas postage scheme has proved to be very positive - we have agreed to continue the link for Christmas 2014. We are also in the process of producing an information leaflet about our U3A, which hopefully will be available by the end of this term.

During the year Pam Ambrosen has produced two high quality Newsletters. They were used at our Open Day and formed a major part of the publicity issued to the public. A plea on Pam's behalf - please keep sending articles and information to her. Also please remember to send a copy to Barbara for the web site.

We have had an invitation to take part in the Caerleon Arts Festival on 12 and 13 July 2014. We will hire a marquee for our Craft and Art groups to display their work. The Festival will also allow us to publicise our U3A and issue the Newsletter and leaflets to the public.

During the year a number of our previous members have died including Elizabeth Forsythe, Tom Wood (who was one of our Founder Members) and Roy Counsell a prospective member who died suddenly on his first walk with us. Also during the year from our current membership we lost Kathleen Smith, Marlene Keepin, Marion Marsh, Colin Dancer, Gwyn Bevan and very recently Audrey Collins. They are all sadly missed.

I want to finish with a few words about our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert, held unexpectedly at the Dolman Theatre. I say "unexpectedly" as it was originally going to be in the big back room of the U3A, then it grew so we moved it to the Church, then it grew again, so we moved to the Dolman. It was a very special day, with an audience of over 230 members. In the first half more than 50 members took to the stage and performed sketches, songs and poetry. They were all wonderful, but I must single out one person for a special mention – Greg Platt. He was our Compère and was so versatile; he told jokes, had a change of hat to go with each joke, moved the sets for the various acts, and generally held the whole show together.

We invited the Swansea U3A Ukulele Band to join our festivities and in the second half they gave a fantastic show, playing and singing tunes we all remembered. It was full of energy and they ended with the "second Welsh National Anthem" - Delilah. It was a very enjoyable day and showed the talent and versatility of our members. Following their success at our concert, the Swansea U3A Ukulele Band has been invited and will be performing at the Caerleon Arts Festival on Saturday 12 July 2014.

A special thought - we have a number of members battling cancer, going through treatment, recovering from operations and illness. We wish them all a good recovery and a speedy return to U3A.

That rounds off another busy year, it just leaves me to say "thank you" to all the convenors, the members who cover the door rota and the kitchen, and the committee members who all give up their time to ensure our U3A continues to thrive and run smoothly. Also to thank all the members, for the support you have given our U3A and me throughout the year. It just leaves me to wish the new Chairman, Pam Cocchiara, and the new committee every good wish for the coming year.

JACKIE KERR, Chairman

At the Annual General Meeting in May Pam Cocchiara gave our thanks to Jackie for her four years as our Chairman. Jackie served her three year term of office from April 2009 until April 2012. Barbara Phillips followed her for one year, but unfortunately had to retire for health reasons. Thankfully, Barbara continued her membership, and runs our website, is convenor of one of the French groups, and gives computer tuition on a one-to-one basis.



In April 2013 Jackie agreed to take the chair again for one year only, and has, as always, worked extremely hard with the committee to keep our U3A running very satisfactorily. I am sure that we all appreciate the work Jackie has done for us, especially during this “extra” year. Pam Cocchiara has now taken over as Chairman, and we have a full committee, so we start the year in a strong position. We all hope that Jackie continues to enjoy her membership. She will, of course, be kept busy as - amongst other things - she will continue as convenor of the History group, which she has done for a few years already.

Our “resident cartoonist”, Greg Platt, designed a card to accompany a gift which was given to Jackie - this is the front cover.

Also we are grateful to Pat Vaughan, who returned to the committee for another year from April 2013. She came back to “train” our new Catering organiser Audrey Anderson, and her assistant Chris Coles, so that the kitchen continued to run smoothly.

THANK YOU JACKIE AND PAT!

PAM AMBROSEN

## TOM WOOD, 1925-2014

We were sad to hear that Tom had died at the end of January. Tom was a founder member of our U3A and was chairman when the move from Charles Street was mooted, and 'scoured the streets of Newport' until he found our present venue at Shaftesbury Church. He was the first member at the inaugural meeting to offer to lead a group - "I'll start an Art group", and the group is still thriving. One of the early members of his group was Rosemary Boyle – and she became his wife! He was a very talented artist, as is Rosemary, and they had a very happy marriage with common interests. Tom had a great sense of humour and always had a big smile and a cheery greeting for every one he met.



Tom was a former member of Newport Harriers and a Welsh international athlete. He was part of the team that won the Welsh senior men's team cross country title 14 times between 1949 and 1965. At the age of 50 he finished fourth in the World Veterans' Marathon – his time was 2 hours and 48 minutes! He completed the London Marathon several times during the 1990s – at least one of them was while he was a member of our U3A.

Many of our members who knew Tom attended the very moving memorial service and celebration of his life at the Gwent Crematorium on 6 February. Our thoughts are with Rosemary and their families at this difficult time.

GREG PLATT AND PAM AMBROSEN

---

---

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### **MARCH    The Monmouthshire Breconshire Canal restoration works             Phil Hughes, Manager of 14 Locks Canal Centre**

A very interesting, well-illustrated, talk about the history of the canal in the region of the 14 Locks Centre, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until the present day. The images on the screen brought back memories to many of the members present.

### **APRIL     The Work of a Magistrate             Clive Hughes, Magistrates in the Community Co-ordinator**

This was an interesting and informative talk, which led to questions from members and some lively discussion.

### **MAY       St David's Hospice Care - putting life back into days             Emma Saysell, Chief Executive Officer of St David's Hospice Care**

We enjoyed a very interesting talk which opened with a poignant quote from the founder of the UK hospice movement - "How people die remains in the memory of those who live on" and went on to give a reassuring report of how this local organisation has grown over the years to provide a comprehensive support service for patients and their families facing an end of life illness.

It evolved from a project started by Heulwen Egerton, a nurse tutor at the Royal Gwent in 1979. Initially it cared for six patients in their own homes. Last year St David's Hospice Care provided a wide variety of care for over 3,200 patients. The focus is still on help at home and in this respect it is one of the largest organisations in the UK. The service is free to users and is led by a team of 18 Clinical Nurse Specialists assisted by 79 Hospice at Home nurses. They operate in four community based teams across Gwent and into Powys. Help is provided for patients and their families working closely with the NHS. There are four Day Hospices, including the recently opened £3 million facility at Blackett Avenue in Malpas, which provides treatment and palliative care. Last year the 10 bed in-patient St Anne's Hospice unit at Harding Avenue Malpas joined with St David's Hospice Care.

The running costs are huge - over £7 million pounds per year. 80% of this has to be raised by St David's Hospice Care. Volunteers and Support Groups are central to the fundraising effort, which includes events and a weekly lottery. The Charity Shops are also very important in providing a reliable cash flow. Our Craft Group at Newport U3A have done their bit by knitting Christmas window displays for the city centre shops. The Rabbits' Wedding and the Olympics have featured in recent years.

**JOHN DAINTON**

**8 May Accordiana - Travels with a piano accordion  
Ralph Diaper**

After our Annual General Meeting we were treated to a very interesting and amusing hour listening to Ralph Diaper. He had two accordions on the table in front of him, and started by dismantling one of them to show us the inside workings of both treble and bass sections. I hope he managed to re-assemble them! Then followed a number of anecdotes about his very eventful adventures with his accordions, since a very early age. We also had interludes when he played easily recognised tunes - we even sang along at times. Obviously there is a lot more than I realised to playing this instrument well - particularly the base section with all the buttons.

Reluctantly Ralph had to finish at 12 noon, but described this talk as "Part 1" - we look forward to "Part 2".



### THIRD AGE SINGERS

The Singers are shown here wearing their new choir uniform! Don't they look smart. They are photographed at their concert for the "Sugar and Spice" group who meet at St Mary's Church Hall on Stow Hill, Newport. The audience was very appreciative and very complimentary after the performance. I don't know who enjoyed it the most, the audience or the choir!



We are delighted to welcome Stephen Berry to our group. He joined us in January after his retirement from work, and volunteered to play for us. We were delighted to accept his offer as he is an accomplished pianist and he has fitted in very well with the group. It means that I can at last conduct the choir. They have been fantastic in the past, coping without a conductor, but they all agree it is much better having someone in front guiding them.

We are always open to new members, experienced or not. We sing a varied programme of music, so hopefully there is something to suit everyone! If you wish to join us, just come along on a Thursday at 10 am and see if you like us! No need to read music, no voice test, no audition! I have to tell you this - we have one new member who is in his eighties, and sang in his first EVER concert this week. He was absolutely delighted with the concert and can't wait for the next! You are never too old for new experiences!

We look forward to our next concert at Llanyravon Community Centre in June, a return visit, as we sang there last year and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Enjoyment is the key word. If we enjoy ourselves, then so does our audience.

We were very sorry to learn, early in June, that Margaret Arthur has been admitted to Claremont Court Care Home, Pillmawr Road, Malpas, after suffering ill health for some time. She has been a member of our U3A from the early days, and started the singing group, then known as "Singing for Enjoyment". All of us hope that Margaret will be comfortable in her new surroundings.

PAM LINTON, Convenor

---

---

## FRENCH - LES DEBUTANTS

We are doing very well, with between 9 and 11 attendees on a regular basis. The group claims to work hard, but we laugh rather a lot, too. And why not - the U3A's ethos is "Learning for Pleasure".



We have a text book, but as it can get boring following this group of wretched tourists around, we get diverted from time to time. For example, instead of just reading about people standing on street corners looking for a particular shop (generally it is just over the road), we have drawn a map of our own and get lost in our little town of Ste Tropwen. An advantage of this is that, like the real world, you can put in road works, one-way streets, animals escaping from the zoo and other hazards to trap the unwary tourist. We look at menus, discuss recipes and plan parties at various establishments.

Numbers can be interesting and useful, too - understanding the price of meals and correctly transcribing a telephone number can be vital. We practise by playing Lotto occasionally, and take turns to read out the numbers. Generally this is kept to the end of term, as it doesn't really seem like work!

A few weeks ago we started "literature" - please note the inverted commas. We studied a short passage from Harry Potter, made sure we understood it, and then I dictated it. I don't actually mark work from the group, that seems to defeat the "for pleasure" part on both sides, but I try to go back over things in class to see how we have done. With the dictation the group started with 20 points and took off ½ for every mistake. Marking their own, the average mark was 12, which was excellent.

I plan to try to introduce some poetry, if not this term then in September. Nothing too heavy, but it will be a challenge. Perhaps the following, taken from *Mots d'Heures*: Gousses, Rames:

Lille beau pipe  
Ocelot serre chypre  
En douzaine aux verres tuf indemne  
Livre de melons un dé huile qu'aux mômes  
Eau à guigne d'air telle baie indemne

The original has explanatory notes on translation - you might like to try reading it aloud.

BARBARA PHILLIPS, Convenor

## WALKING - WEDNESDAY, ALL DAY

We have a very successful walking group, with a good membership. Our walks are all day, meeting at Evans Street at 9.30 am. There is availability for people who would like to share cars, with a minimal charge towards the petrol.

Our walks are between 7 and 9 miles approximately through the beautiful Welsh countryside. Paths are usually well marked and leaders very responsible, having pre-walked before the day. There is a coffee stop in the morning, packed lunch midday and usually a cup of tea stop in the afternoon. These breaks make it a very enjoyable day out. Also if there is a historical feature in the walk, most leaders research it and a little talk is given at the appropriate place, which makes it very interesting. The walking programme is mixed, with some mountainous walks and some lower walks, which are not so strenuous.



UJA walkers make it to the trig point above Talgarth

If you are a new member, obviously you must be prepared for the terrain and weather, which means a good pair of walking boots (preferably that don't let in the wet) and wet weather anorak and trousers - as it does sometimes rain in Wales! We have quite a few members who are now trained in First Aid, should the need arise. Training was given by the St John's Ambulance team with lots of valuable information.

Our annual walking trip takes place in September and a bus is provided for us (and this year for the Saturday walkers as well) to do a walk in the Gower region, which will be a coastal path walk. Our annual holiday is in North Devon on 30 July and is always well supported.

If you feel this group is for you, please come along and join us, you would be made most welcome. Our Convenor is Allan Cowhig if you require any further information.

GILL ASHDOWN

---

---

## THEATRE

The Theatre group meets immediately after the monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month. Theatre dates are nicely spread out for 2014, as follows:

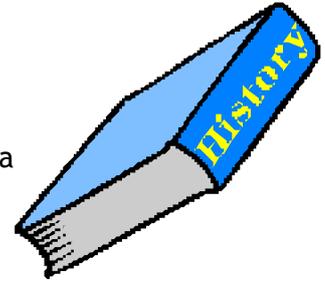


What	Where	When
War Horse	Millennium Centre	14 July
Last Night of the Proms	St David's Hall	26 July
Cats	Millennium Centre	9 August
<del>Rock of Ages</del>	<del>New Theatre</del>	<del>10 October</del> - CANCELLED
Lion King	Millennium Centre	8 November
Dreamboats and Miniskirts	New Theatre	22 November
Alfie Boe	Motorpoint	13 December

PAM MARLOWE, Convenor

## HISTORY

We aim to have a programme of local and world subjects. Below is a flavour of some of the talks we have enjoyed during the last three months.



**Audrey Griffiths** told us about her relative Elizabeth Andrews JP OBE, how she came from a humble background to become the first woman organiser of the Labour Party in Wales. She became a JP and was awarded the OBE.

**Chris Thomas** gave us a fascinating talk about the men and families who in the 1870's moved from South Wales to the Ukraine and formed the City of "Hughesovka".

**Captain David Jones**, following his talk last year on his wartime experiences. David came back to talk about his life after the war, when he was appointed the Captain of a number of different ocean liners. He gave us a colourful description of the famous guests and anecdotes about the various voyages.

**Margaret O'Brien** told the life story of the Queen Mother through photographs and postcards - many we had not seen before.

**Richard Rudd** told us about the re-conquest of the Sudan when Britain appointed Lord Kitchener to command the Egyptian army to prepare for the re-conquest.

**Polly Davies** showed us wonderful slides of history and current day Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

**Roger James**, a member of our History group, gave a talk on the Morgan's of Tredegar House. All our members really enjoyed his talk which gave a different dimension compared to previous talks on the subject.

On 20 February, the group had an interesting talk from **Chris Thomas** on the early days of the railway unions, with particular reference to South Wales. He combined it with the colourful life history of a Newport man, Jimmy Thomas, who rose through the ranks of the railway unions to become a politician holding important offices of state in the inter-war years. Born in George Street in 1874, he started life on the railways as an engine cleaner at the Dock Street Station. He married Agnes Hill, also from Pill, in 1898.

Jimmy had a keen brain and was a good speaker. He soon became adept at negotiating improved working conditions with the railway companies and rose through the ranks of the unions to become General Secretary of the NUR and later President of the TUC. He also had political ambitions, and with union sponsorship was elected Labour MP for Derby in 1910. His powers as an orator and ability to deliver deals marked him out and he was rewarded with ministerial posts when the Labour Party came to power following the 1924 General Election. He dismayed some in the Party by accepting posts in the National Government of the early 1930s. However the laws of gravity eventually caught up with him and his political career ended when he was forced to resign after making some injudicious remarks prior to the 1936 Budget, hinting at its content.

The talk awoke memories of those in the group who had generations of family members who worked on the railways and one lady recalled a saying from her childhood about being overdressed: "done up like Aggie Thomas".

JACKIE KERR Convenor

## REMINISCENCES

We meet once a month, on the second Thursday, from 1.30 to 3 pm. We take a leisurely stroll down memory lane, covering a variety of topics, e.g.

- Living through the war years
- Rationing
- Memories of a first Christmas
- Life before supermarkets

MAUREEN ROCKE, Convenor

## PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS - HISTORY AND REMINISCENCES

July to December 2014

3 July	"The Life and Music of Julie Andrews"	Howard Mortimore
10 July	REMINISCENCES	
4 September	"The Chartists"	David Harrison
11 September	REMINISCENCES	
18 September	"World War One"	Steve Taylor
25 September	"The Enemy my Friend"	Captain David Jones
2 October	"Into the Abyss - Gwent in 1914"	Peter Strong
9 October	REMINISCENCES	
16 October	"Rosemary - the Society Girl who nearly became Queen of Britain"	Will Cross
23 October	"Hawaii"	Polly Davies
30 October	"Sportsmen who died in the First World War"	Michael Rees
6 November	"Puddler Jim"	Malcolm Johnson
13 November	REMINISCENCES	
20 November	"Development of Pubs in Roman Times"	Lyn Pask
27 November	To be arranged	
4 December	Fun Afternoon	
11 December	REMINISCENCES	

Convenors: History - Jackie Kerr, Pat Fackrell  
Reminiscences - Maureen Rocke

---

---

## WELSH

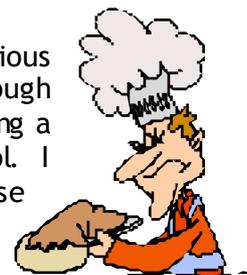
The Welsh Class is a lively group of enthusiastic people steadily progressing through class book *Dosbarth Nos*. This is supplemented with other learning materials and varied discussions which can include place names, road signs, anything topical, origins of Welsh words encountered. The aims of the group are to be able to speak and read basic Welsh and to learn more about Wales and its culture. However, the emphasis is to make learning Welsh enjoyable and fun. There would be a warm welcome for anyone who wishes to join us!



MARI MORGAN, Convenor

## SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Around 20 of us enjoy meeting for Sunday lunch once a month. We have various suitable venues, and are always ready to add to the list. Usually we have enough drivers to take those members who do not have a car - we expect those having a lift to give the driver a small contribution to the ever-increasing cost of petrol. I am sure this is appreciated by those who do not drive, and am grateful to those who are willing to give lifts.



Since the last Newsletter went to print, we have enjoyed the following lunches:

**JANUARY** Avril Allen volunteered to arrange this lunch - her first venture. She made all the arrangements and kept me well informed, but was not able to come for the meal - she was enjoying much better weather than our January gales and rain, and who can blame her? We went, for the first time, to the Ridgeway in Newport. The food was very good, but the "atmosphere" was lacking, probably because we were away from the main dining room - to the relief of the other diners, maybe, as we are rather noisy until the food arrives! Fortunately because of the information I had from Avril I knew exactly what the bill should be - their computer didn't seem to know what was happening and it took some time to be sorted. Eventually School Certificate Maths (yes, it was in my day!) triumphed over modern technology, and we came up with an amount which was mutually acceptable.

**FEBRUARY** Ivy Forkin arranged this meal, at Junction 28. They are well able to deal with a large party, the food, service and atmosphere were very good. There was lots of choice for all three courses, and between us we sampled many of them. Everyone seemed well pleased with their meal - and the bill was easily settled.

**MARCH** We dined at Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent, as arranged by Pam Marlowe. It was a beautiful day and we had a lovely meal - we all felt that Spring was in the air after the gales and rain during the Winter. We had excellent service from the staff, lots of choice for all three courses, and there were no complaints about the food. They have a large, light and airy dining room, and were well able to cope with the number of diners, which included an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party with a wonderful "garden theme" cake which we were able to admire.

**MAY** Trixie arranged for us to go to the Woodlands Tavern at Llanfair Discoed. As usual, we had a very good meal in pleasant surroundings with excellent service. The menu was very varied - traditional Sunday roast, a good vegetarian choice and even battered fish, chips and mushy peas!

I was sorry to hear that Lilian Williams passed away recently. She has not been to our lunches for two or three years due to ill health, but was a regular "Sunday luncher" for many years. She was a lovely lady - we are thinking of her family at this sad time.

A big "thank you" to those who have arranged meals for us, I am always looking for volunteers. I am willing to prepare the hand-outs and lists each month, if given enough notice. Sunday Lunch Club meetings are normally on the second Sunday after the monthly meeting. The expected dates for the rest of this year are:

DATE OF MEETING	LAST DATE FOR BOOKING	TO BE ARRANGED BY
Sunday 20 July	Sunday 13 July	Pam Ambrosen
Sunday 14 September	Sunday 7 September	Volunteer, please
Sunday 12 October	Sunday 5 October	Volunteer, please
Sunday 16 November	Sunday 9 November	Volunteer, please
Sunday 7 December		Pam Ambrosen

NOTICES WILL BE AVAILABLE AND NAMES TAKEN AT THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING. PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL EITHER THE ORGANISER OR ME, AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE, WHETHER YOU INTEND TO BE THERE OR NOT. YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT THE ORGANISER TO RING YOU.

PAM AMBROSEN, Convenor

---

---

## UKULELE - UKEKANDOWIT (say it quickly - YOU CAN DO IT)

Aha! Following the sorting out of certain electrical problems and the junking of a CD player, the group is enjoying the benefit of the backing disc. Listeners lurking outside have been heard to remark (in various tones of surprise to amazement) "Oh, it sounds quite good!" A just reward for all the hours of practice our dedicated band of beginners spend at home, on holiday, whilst walking on the Brecon hills . . . More seriously, the bass and drums playing behind us give a bit more depth and cohesion, most encouraging. It makes our target look quite realistic. Please don't ask what the target is, we'll let you know when we reach it and are ready to move on.



It is a shame that we don't have room for more to join us at the moment. However, anyone who would like to take up a space if someone leaves should let us know and can join the waiting list. We meet at lunchtime on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays at 12.15 - 1.00 pm. Most people arrive around 12, to give time for tuning up (oh yes, we do that!) and finding somewhere to sit.

GREG PLATT, Convenor

---

---

## SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

We are pleased to announce that the Spanish Beginners group has started! The lessons are for absolute beginners in Spanish or those who have tried elsewhere and given up.

Hopefully the course will be enjoyable, light-hearted at times but with the serious intention of enabling members to communicate and be understood in everyday situations that they will encounter in Spain or the Americas. The thread running throughout will be Coffee Break Spanish (available free on the Internet).



RAY CANTWELL, Convenor

---

---

## CRAFT

We will be displaying our Dog Show on Thursday morning 3 July, at the monthly meeting. It's a good opportunity for many people to see it. Next it will be on show at the Caerleon Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 July, along with our Christmas Dinner. After that I think the dogs will be tired out, but they will be on show on our Open Day, which is 21 August.



PAT FACKRELL, Convenor

*A collection of Ladies with talents galore, Whatever the challenge they come back for more.  
Sharing our happiness, jokes and sorrow, Enjoying the moment that leads to tomorrow.*

*Submitted by MERYL GUMBLETON*

## KEUKENHOF BULB FIELDS (via Antwerp)

In April seventeen of us set off at 4 am in the from Newport station for a nine hour journey to Dover - where were thirteen beautiful silver buses and one old one from the Valleys!! Guess which one we had? There were various problems – faulty microphone on the bus, meal on the boat sent back to the kitchen, etc - but two bottles of wine helped us to have fun on the boat! The driver had marked me off the list before I'd even got to the bus, it was a complete shambles!! We travelled to our hotel in Mechelen in Belgium, then off we went to Antwerp.

Antwerp has one of the largest seaports in Europe. The Diamond Museum was not open, so were taken to the beautiful MAS (museum on the stream). This was opened in 2011. The building was like a set of boxes stacked up with glass on different comers, with ten floors, and each floor had a different gallery showing various aspects of Antwerp over the ages. The top floor view had a complete view of everything in Antwerp - it was brilliant. Some of our party went on to the centre of Antwerp and then to Brussels. We went on an open top bus around Antwerp to get our bearings, and then had a leisurely lunch in the square, in lovely sunshine. The City Hall was festooned with flags of all nations and the atmosphere was great! The Cathedral was magnificent and was started in 1352 - 1521, but has never been finished!

PAT FACKRELL

**Keukenhof Bulb Fields** Keukenhof was founded in 1949 and covers over 32 hectares. I really did not know what to expect. I just thought there would be tulips, in various colours and sizes. How surprised I was! True, there were masses of tulips, but also many other flowers and trees in blossom (7 million bulbs were planted this year). The swathes of tulips were spectacular - such precision, and not a single "rogue" colour amongst them. There were also pavilions with special themes, and adequate restaurants.

We noticed the windmill soon after we arrived on site, but there was such a long queue we by-passed that. We covered all the area, and were just making our way to book for a boat ride on the canal along the adjoining bulb fields, when we noticed a very short queue to go up the windmill. So we were lucky enough to view the whole park and surrounding area from a fantastic viewpoint. The ride along the canal took 45 minutes, which left us a very limited time to get back to the coach. However, we managed to do so.

Who was the person responsible for this superb experience? - Pat Fackrell, our great trips organiser. Thank you, Pat.

TRIXIE STEVENS

Pat's sister has written a very amusing 36-verse poem about the trip. Obviously she is just as talented as Pat. No space for all 36, but these are appropriate for the bulb fields.

The flowers were amazing  
The colours were so bright  
Tulips, daffs, anemones  
Pat got the timing right!

Before we leave the tulip beds  
It's time to join the queue  
And jump upon a crowded boat  
Sit back, enjoy the view.

'Cos they were all a'blooming  
In every bed we saw  
Every corner we did turn  
Tulips - more and more

Meander through the fields of red  
Of yellow, pink and green  
Miles and miles of tulips  
Best rainbow ever seen.

## SUSAN'S HOLIDAYS IN LLANDUDNO

*Some of you may remember seeing Susan Hughes at Shaftesbury with her guide dog. She contacted me to see if I thought members would be interested in reading about her experiences in Llandudno earlier in the year. I spent a very interesting couple of hours at her home, and together we concocted this article.*

**PAM AMBROSEN**

"I am blind, and started attending Newport U3A in 2009, when I had my guide dog Henley. He retired three years ago, at the age of 10½ - I see him most Sundays, he was "adopted" by some friends of mine. I am a member of the History and Creative Writing groups, and also attend private lessons in French. I had an accident when a car knocked me over, and this resulted in me losing my sense of smell, and I decided not to have another guide dog. I have a word processor with a speech output package, but am not on the internet.

"This year I booked a holiday at a hotel for the blind in Llandudno, from Friday 7 March. When booking I asked the Manager whether it would be possible to contact the convenor of the Llandudno U3A French group, and he did some research and gave me the name of Dr Marian Giles-Jones. I telephoned her in February, and she asked me to phone her when I arrived at the hotel. On Saturday 8 March she called at the hotel for me, and took me to a Spanish café for coffee where we got to know one another. We arranged to meet again on the following Monday and go to her home, for a cup of tea and to plan the lesson with her French U3A group which was to meet the next day - in a room at the Asda supermarket! All of this conversation was in French! Also she showed me how to contact French radio stations on the internet.

"Tuesday 11 March - I was taken by Marian to meet her French group - there were about seven of them. I told them about myself and had prepared questions to ask the students which they answered - all done in French! They meet for two hours once a fortnight and usually don't have a break, but on this occasion we did, which gave me a chance to chat to the students on an informal basis. One of them said to me 'Marian doesn't allow us to speak any English!' - as you will gather, I had already found this out for myself! They all made me feel very welcome and, though nervous at first, I became totally at ease.

"Two months later I went to Llandudno for a second week, having arranged the date with Marian. I arrived at the hotel on a Wednesday, and saw Marian on Thursday for coffee. She invited me to go to a classical music concert on the Sunday - all the chat was, again, in French. On Saturday we went to the RSPB Reserve near Llandudno, and then met again for the concert on Sunday evening.

"On Monday she again took me to her home, where we prepared for the lesson the next day. This time there were a few students who hadn't been there on the first occasion. All the conversations were, of course, in French. Then back to the hotel, and when we parted Marian asked me to contact her again.

"I feel very fortunate to have had this experience and to be given such hospitality. Marian chauffeured me around, and she and her students made my holiday worth while. She embraced the challenge with so much enthusiasm."

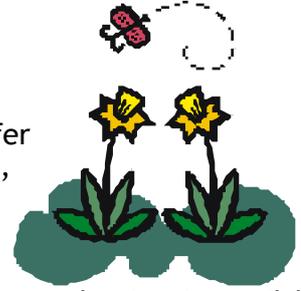
**SUSAN HUGHES**

*What a wonderful example of how U3A members from different areas can work together and help each other in this way. I came away feeling much admiration for the courage and determination of this lady. She has made every effort to lead an eventful and active life in spite of her disability - she said she "enjoys a challenge", and that was obvious. She travelled to Llandudno on her own, with pre-arranged assistance from staff at Arriva trains.*

**PAM AMBROSEN**

## GARDENING AND WILDLIFE

**Preparing Newport City Council Floral Displays** In February Jennifer Lovell, Street Scene, described the new way floral displays are designed, planted up and cared for in the City Centre. Keeping our city environment to a high standard has been named "Street Scene". Jennifer and other members of staff are now multi-tasking - gardening, street cleaning and filling in holes. It has come about due to the recent reduction in available finance and reorganising council services.



Jennifer plans floral displays many months ahead. Plants are grown in the greenhouses at Belle Vue Park and in polytunnels in Tredegar House grounds. These have problems, namely Belle Vue greenhouses require repair and the rented land at Tredegar House may only be available until next year. However, the long term plan is to establish Street Scene near the Civic Community Waste Disposal Site at Maesglas. The plan is to set up nursery, polytunnel and greenhouse facilities.

Around 220,000 plants are grown annually, many are used in 500 hanging baskets and 40 barrier planters as well as beds. Sponsors are encouraged to pay for roundabouts and various areas of their choice. Areas where one can view floral displays are the Civic Centre, Newport Cathedral, Mariner's Wharf, Newport Bridge, the Cenotaph, various traffic islands, Queensway and many more. Compost is bought as geranium and pansy mix to ensure no failures. No chemicals are used. Compost from household waste is not up to standard because the wrong items are put in the compost. It's now used to cover tips at Maesglas in order to grass over. Health and Safety has stopped the use of ladders to water hanging baskets. Instead, a special cage is attached to the rear of a lorry. Hanging baskets weigh 25 kilos before their first watering. A shop at the Maesglas Waste Disposal Site is to open this summer to sell plants.

U3A members will have a new interest in 2014's floral displays, thanks to Jennifer's enthusiasm. We shall enjoy admiring them even more.

**The Manor House, Upton Grey, Hampshire** On a glorious sunny day in early May we were privileged to visit this garden, designed in 1908 by Gertrude Jekyll when she was sixty and at the height of her career. I have always been an admirer of Gertrude Jekyll. She was a gifted artist who was forced to abandon her career due to failing sight. Instead she used her artistic talents to create wonderful, colourful gardens. Her original style was to combine soft-coloured flowers or hot-coloured flowers massed in borders, unknown in Victorian England. She collaborated with Edwin Lutgens, the famous architect. He planned the garden layouts, mostly using stone, often as wide semi-circular steps, raised beds or archways. Gertrude set up her own nursery as a business - unusual for a woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Manor House is considered to be the best example of a Gertrude Jekyll garden in the UK. Our hosts, Rosamund Wallinger and her husband, have restored the 4.75 acre garden over the last 30 years. They moved into a derelict house and garden - luckily no constructive damage occurred, it was just covered in brambles and weeds. They have used plants chosen by Gertrude Jekyll, having researched extensively including California, where she undertook commissions. After coffee and cakes on the terrace, we strolled around the rose garden, kitchen garden, orchard, wild garden and herbaceous beds, many surrounded by clipped yew hedge. Rosamund describes her garden as a living museum of Gertrude Jekyll's plants and design.

We followed with snacks in the local pub before Alan, our driver from Jumbo Coaches, drove back to Newport in record time.

MARY PURNELL, Convenor

**Visit to Highgrove** - near Tetbury, the home of HRH Prince Charles. On 8 April we set off on a bright and dry day and had time for lunch in the little historic town of Tetbury before making our way to our planned tour of the gardens at Highgrove. Our tour was booked for 12 noon, and we arrived 15 minutes in advance where we were met by very strict security - everyone had to produce their identification before being admitted - but they did let us all in!! We were met by our expert tour guide Jenny, who certainly did know everything there was to know about the house and the gardens. We stayed together as a group and were not permitted to wander on our own for obvious security reasons.

Our visit did not include a tour of the house - it stands surrounded by the beautiful gardens. The house itself is rather stark but is improved by abundant climbing plants which add personality to the rather plain building, built in the 1790's, and purchased by Prince Charles in 1980 as a home for him, Princess Diana and Princes William and Harry. The house is surrounded by parkland and has been much improved by Prince Charles - many impressive trees were in place at the time of its purchase.

Highgrove is famed for its six-acre flower studded meadow which contrasts with the classical house, which is surrounded by neatly clipped ornate hedges. There are many busts of Prince Charles, given to him by various dignitaries, set into the hedges. He insists this is not vanity - but as they are gifts it is a good way of showing these sculptures to their best advantage.

As we passed through the Sun Dial Garden with its impressive wrought iron gates and well tended gardens we were delighted to see that many of the trees were hanging with well-stocked feed cages for the birds. There was an orchard of trees which was circled with muscari flowers which looked so pretty. There were plenty of water features stocked with fish some of which had little fountains in the middle.

We wandered through the stumpy garden, full of old tree stumps, ferns and hostas. This garden contained a tree house built for the Princes William and Harry - called "Hollyrood House". It was originally built in a 10 ft holly tree, which unfortunately became diseased, and the house had to be repositioned in its current spot.

These delightful gardens are full of surprises, including the Indian Gate found by Prince Charles on a visit to India and brought back for the garden, and the Cottage Garden full of spring bulbs. The pastel painted garden furniture is dotted around - one of our members has already painted her own garden furniture in the same colour (I won't mention her name, but her initials are JM).

Following our tour of the garden, we all headed for the Orchard Restaurant, which overlooks the garden, and partook of cream teas - it would have been rude not to do so!! It was a lovely day and a delightful visit - one that we can all recommend.

**Visit to The Cottage, Cwmpennar, Mountain Ash - 3 June** Twenty-eight of us visited this garden, set on the mountain side just outside Mountain Ash. It was so steep that the coach could not get up to the garden - but Helen and Hugh Jones looked after us very well. Mr Jones met the coach and transported those less able to walk up the steep slope by car, making several journeys - both on our arrival and when we left - which was most kind. This garden is listed in the National Garden Scheme and all the monies raised are donated to charity.

The garden is described in the NGS booklet as 4 acres and 35 years of amateur muddling - it did not look like muddle to us. It is a very informal garden set around what was formerly the home of a coal mine manager - the house having been in the Jones family for several generations and has been added on to. It has small balconies overlooking the valley. The house itself was covered in various climbers and was very pretty.

On our arrival Helen provided teas and coffees and a choice of delicious home made cakes, all made by her. Hugh was proud to show us round his gardens - he is outdoors, she indoors. The garden was full of unusual plants and shrubs. It is an enchanting garden and included a bluebell wood, rhododendrons and camellias, shrubberies, herbaceous borders, a rose garden, small arboretum. It has been featured in "My Garden" pages of the South Wales Echo, and has also been shown on TV. There were plants for sale at a very good price.

We were sorry to leave this beautiful garden - but followed our visit to Mountain Ash with lunch at the Caerphilly Garden Centre - which was well stocked - we all found something to buy.

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Hugh Jones for their hospitality and to our driver Stuart for getting us all home safely. Thanks also to Mary Purnell for organising the trip.

**Sadly Mary is retiring as convenor for the Gardening and Wildlife group - thanks for her efforts over the years - she will be sorely missed but will continue to come along to our meetings.**

ISABELLE PARADICE

---

---

## ART

We have had quite an eventful few months, beginning in January with a most enjoyable lunch at Cross Keys College. In March we went to Cardiff Museum, where an enthusiastic guide was put at our disposal for the day. We looked at the role of art collectors and their importance to the Museum today. We were shown sculptures, paintings and furniture from the collections of pioneering art patrons such as Gwendoline and Margaret Davies. Our lunch was a hurried snack in the Museum's café, after which we were taken on a journey through landscape. This included work by Van Gogh and Rubens, and Constable's impressive six foot painting, "Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows", currently on loan from Tate Britain.



Our monthly showing of instructional DVD/videos continues to inspire and to remind us what can be achieved with perseverance and happy accidents in not necessarily equal amounts!

We shall be joining the Craft group at the twelfth Caerleon Arts Festival on 12 and 13 July, as part of a general display of information about Newport U3A. On this, the second and final weekend of the festival, the Hanbury Field is open to Arts and Crafts of all kinds and is a popular no-entrance-fee event; an ideal venue for showcasing our organisation.

\* \* \*

In January, we were sad to learn that Tom Wood had passed away. Tom was the founder of U3A's Art group and is remembered for his gentle guidance through the intricacies of Art and a belief that there should be no rules, except to enjoy - and this we continue to do.

PAT MORGAN, Convenor

---

---

## LATIN

We have had a good year, with some going and coming in personnel, but with nine or so regular members. A good deal of the interest shown is thanks to the book we are using, the Cambridge Latin Course. This course, now approaching its half centenary, was at first derided by many classics teachers who perhaps as a group are not known for their willingness to accept change. They lamented the reduction in the amount of grammar covered, and considered the replacement of great literature - Vergil, Tacitus, Horace - with the study of everyday life and events as treachery to a great inheritance. But, whatever conservative teachers felt (and indeed some may even still feel!) there is no doubt that for U3A students the combination of language and culture in the course, together with excellent illustrations and maps, is exactly what we are looking for.

Obviously, to come to terms with a heavily inflected language takes some practice and vocabulary learning, but it has the great merit not only of making people think outside their normal framework but of being also a considerable help towards learning other Romance languages - and not just French and Spanish, but Italian, Portuguese and Romanian as well! And, although Latin is no longer the main spoken European language (as, of course, it was for some 1500 years), we do at least use CDs for oral work!

We are lucky, too, in that we have several interesting Roman sites within fairly easy reach of Newport, in particular Caerleon, Bath and Cirencester. We had a delightful trip over the Cotswolds to Cirencester earlier this term, when we had the chance to look at the splendidly displayed Roman discoveries in what was then the second most important city in the UK (ie the Roman province of Britannia). We also found lots of pleasant shops, cafés and pubs - which, if you have not already discovered them, offer a most enjoyable day out!

HUGH AMOS, Convenor

### FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS

When you were learning French at school,  
As every pupil will remember,  
You started with the basic rule  
That every object has a gender.

So, tables, chairs and cars and wings  
Embrace their femininity  
Whilst trousers, pencils, books and rings  
All flaunt their masculinity.

The French, with typical finesse,  
Use agreement adjectival,  
A skill the English don't possess,  
What's more, can never rival.

All verbs you learn to conjugate,  
And after use your common sense  
For how you differentiate  
Twixt perfect and imperfect tense.

If future fills you with dismay  
And leaves you feeling rather queasy,  
Remember what I always say:  
Use 'aller' with a verb, it's easy!

The written word gives joy immense,  
A satisfaction quite euphoric.  
When looking at this different tense  
You recognise the Past Historic.

But, beware of certain French expressions,  
For if within their realms you tread  
Without the use of due discretion,  
Subjunctive rears its ugly head!

When it comes to conversation  
You'll find the French speak so much faster.  
So to help and give you inspiration  
Here's useful tactics you can master.

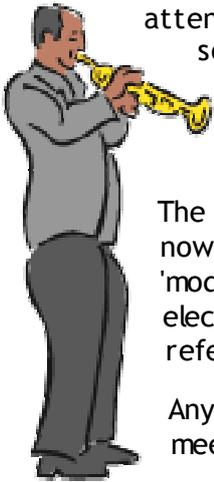
Say "Zut alors!" with Gallic shrug,  
And purse your lips like this for 'u',  
Greet people with a kiss or hug  
And know when you use 'vous' or 'tu'.

Use words like Euh or Bon or Ben  
Throw them in casually all day long,  
Just think Maurice Chevalier  
You'll find you really can't go wrong!

So now for all those future trips  
You're planning to the Hexagon,  
Remember all these little tips  
And don't forget your lexicon!

by PAM COCCHIARA

## ALL THAT JAZZ



As we go to press, the first of this year's two 'live' jazz sessions will be upon us. Our attendance usually trebles when we move from the usual recorded presentations and soon we will be following the precedent set last December and moving to the Dolman Theatre - just joking! The faces will be familiar, with Clive, Alan, Keith and Greg once again gathering together for the chance of a free coffee and an enjoyable musical jam.

The move from the third Wednesday to the third Thursday lunchtime has settled down now and the numbers are creeping back up. May's session took in some of the more 'modern' styles (including one track without a blowing instrument in earshot and electronics reigning supreme) moving away from the 20s to 40s for a change. A referendum is promised on future directions.

Anyone is welcome and there is still more room than there is when the Ukulele group meets in the same room! Do come along.

GREGG PLATT, Convenor

---

---



*Want to be happy and healthy? Join the WJA Saturday walking group!*

## WALKING - SATURDAY, HALF DAY

We are a friendly group of walkers who meet at Evans Street every Saturday morning departing at 10 am for a half day walk in the beautiful South Wales countryside. The walks vary in distance between 3 and 5 miles and cover a variety of terrain from the flat walking of the canal, to the slopes of local mountains, fields and woodland. Lifts can be provided for those without cars.

Come and join us if you like good walking and talking!  
JANE MORGAN, Convenor

## WALKING - AMBLERS (Pat's Patrol)

Amblers toddle off from Newport Bus Station with Pat Vaughan at 10 am on Saturdays.

PAT VAUGHAN, Convenor

Pat has recently had an unfortunate accident. She is now confined to the house and unable to put any weight on the damaged leg. We wish her all the best for a full recovery to her former good health and mobility.

## QUIZZERS

The British philosopher, Bertrand Russell, once said, "There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge." Was he a quizzier, do you think? The pieces of 'useless knowledge' demanded of our quiz teams on Friday 6 June certainly gave a great deal of pleasure and maybe just a little pain as we racked our brains to stimulate the memory cells.

At the end of what was once again a challenging but enjoyable quiz, set by our regular quiz-master, Eric Cunnell, the winning teams were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Les Frogs    2<sup>nd</sup> S A S    3<sup>rd</sup> The Also-Rans

An added touch this year were the red, white and blue decorations arranged by Pat Fackrell, and many of us followed her instructions to dress in those colours to honour the fact that it was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings of WW2.

Audrey Anderson and her dedicated team worked extremely hard to prepare and serve the refreshments which were much appreciated, and once again members came up trumps and donated a large number of prizes for the raffle.

Many thanks to all who helped make this such a successful and enjoyable day.

## . . . AND HERE IS A QUIZ FOR YOU

Here are some famous quotations. Who said them?

- 1 You can have it in any colour as long as it is black
- 2 Ich bin ein Berliner
- 3 I am just going outside and may be some time.
- 4 In the future everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes.
- 5 I can resist anything except temptation.

## Answers on page 25

PAM COCCHIARA

*(Pam would be interested to have some "feedback" on the quizzes in the newsletters, we have no idea whether you enjoy them. Pam A)*



## READING

Every time I go the library I'm amazed by how many books there are, and of course this is just a fraction of how many there are in all. I'm never going to read everything that I'd like, but I will encourage my grandson to read as much as possible from an early age, as I'm sure you all do with your grandchildren. It's so important.

In our group we're doing our best to get through as many books as we can, but it's always disappointing when you don't enjoy a particular book, and this sometimes happens to us. 'Take a Chance on Me' by Jill Mansell was an example of this; it drifted along with no real depth to the story. Also, 'Winter Ghosts' by Kate Mosse; despite some lovely descriptive sections, didn't have enough content.

But all was not lost. Jeffrey Archer's 'Only Time Will Tell' was thoroughly enjoyed by us all, so much so that one member has since read the follow-up to the book and said it was very good. I must admit I had never read any of his books before, but would be happy to read more. Another author I'd not read before was Dick Francis, but 'Bloodline' was a good thriller. Sadly Dick Francis died a couple of years ago, and his son, Felix, with whom he had collaborated on a few of his works, completed this book.

'The Light Between Oceans' by M L Stedman got high scores from us all. Set in Australia in the 1920's/30's, it told the story of a lighthouse keeper and his wife. The hard life they had to put up with and the problems and heartache endured was so poignantly written. I must admit to a few tears on occasions; I found it so moving.

Well, on that note, I will finish with a scary thought: - so many books, so little time! Keep reading.

CHRIS CONNOLLY, Convenor



## THE CELEBRATION CONCERT

Newport U3A rounded off its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Celebration Concert in the Dolman Theatre on Thursday 12 December 2013. Around 230 members attended and were entertained by light hearted sketches and musical performances from some of the groups. After the interval for refreshments, the 21 strong Ukulele Band from the Swansea U3A entertained us with a string of popular favourites. All were agreed the concert was a great success and an uplifting way to celebrate our first 20 years of “learning for fun”.

The Acts were ably introduced by Greg Platt, convenor of the All that Jazz group and the fledgling Ukulele for Beginners group. His change of costumes between acts was an entertainment in itself.

Michael Elliott and Paul Greene opened the show with a piano duet written by Michael entitled “Celebration March” based on themes from “Happy Birthday”. This was followed by a witty poem delivered by Pat Fackrell, describing the variety of ways a turkey can be consumed over the twelve days of Christmas. Jean Moore then read a moving poem on the memories that can be evoked by the sending and receiving of Christmas cards. Next the History group’s “Jackie’s Troubadours” delivered a colourful rendition of “There was an old woman who swallowed a fly” which soon had the audience joining in. Then we were treated to a humorous sketch, performed by three members of the French 1 group, based on the misunderstandings that arise when Alf and Ethel, on a day trip to Calais, try ordering a meal in a restaurant. The Third Age Singers then came on stage in nautical attire to perform a lively version of “All the nice girls love a sailor”. Next Greg Platt delivered an amusing musical take on family history with the novelty song “I’m my own Grandpa”. Four members of the Gardening group’s Poetry Corner then took the stage to deliver some humorous verse. Isabelle’s “Topsy Fairy” was a particular favourite with the audience. Next the Craft group’s homage to the art of haute couture was paraded to the music “Dedicated Follower of Fashion”. Four members of Creative Writing then took to the stage with a witty sketch, lampooning the trend towards political correctness in modern life. We were invited to listen in to the editorial group of the “Small Minds Publishing Company” discussing what to include, what to amend and what to exclude from the latest edition of their book of Children’s Nursery Rhymes. Finally, and showing that Newport U3A are up for anything, the History Group’s “Pat’s Team” took to the stage with a neatly choreographed slapstick version of “If I were not upon the Stage”. Be assured, no one was injured in the performance of this sketch.

After refreshments we were treated to a superb medley of songs and jokes, all old favourites and delivered with tremendous finesse, by the Swansea U3A Ukulele Band.

Winding up the proceedings Jackie thanked all who had been involved in producing and performing in the concert. She noted that the last minute change of venue from Shaftesbury Street to the stage of the Dolman Theatre, far from overawing the performers, had inspired them to produce a show that would surely go down as the highlight of this anniversary year.

JOHN DAINTON

As a member of the audience, I would like to add that this was a wonderful afternoon in an ideal venue. Judging by the reaction of those in the auditorium, and the standing ovation at the end for the Swansea U3A Ukulele Band, which included our own performers from the first half, those who were watching would agree with me. The sight of all of us at the end of the concert, singing “Delilah” with arms aloft and swaying, must have been wonderful to see from the stage. I couldn’t help wondering what the young man on “sound” thought of it all!

In addition we were treated, in the Foyer, to a viewing of the magnificent knitted “Christmas Dinner” - another triumph for Pat Fackrell and the Craft group.

Also, in the interval, some of the men from the Third Age Singers entertained us from the platform with a rousing rendition of “the Beaux Gendarmes” - totally unexpected and very enjoyable.

**OLD ALPHABET TO NEW**

**A**'s for Arthritis, **B**'s the bad back  
**C**'s the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac, **D** is for dental decay  
**E** is for eyesight, can't read the top line, **F** is for fluid retention  
**G** is for gas which I'd rather not mention, **H** high blood pressure  
**I** is for incisions, with scars you can show, **J** is for joints, that won't bend  
**K** is for knees that crack and bend, **L** is for libido, what about sex?  
**M** is for memory, I forget what comes next, **N** is neuralgia, nerves low down  
**O** is for osteo, bones that don't grow, **P** for prescriptions, free to you  
**Q** is for queasy, is it fatal or flu, **R** is reflux, so good for you  
**S** sleepless nights, counting my fears, **T** is for tinnitus, bells in my ears  
**U** is for urinary, troubles with flow, **V** is for vertigo, dizzy you know  
**X** is x-ray, what might be found, **Y** another year I've left behind  
**Z** is for zest I still have in my mind.

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, and I'm keeping twenty doctors all fully employed.

Submitted by CLIVE HARD

**ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 22**

1 Henry Ford, 2 J F Kennedy, 3 Captain Lawrence Oates, 4 Andy Warhol, 5 Oscar Wilde

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 2014**

Caerleon Festival – we will have a display in a marquee on the “field”  
 (near the bridge) on the weekend of

12 and 13 July

Swansea U3A Ukulele band will play on the “field” at 1.30 and 3.10 pm

Saturday 12 July

Open Day

Thursday 21 August

Senior Citizens' Open Day

Saturday 27 September

Carol Service

Friday 12 December

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 30 April 2015

## DUTIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN	PAM COCCHIARA, ☎01633 892928
VICE CHAIR	CHRIS BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
TREASURER	RITA EXTON, ☎01633 430186
BANKING	CHRIS BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
BUSINESS AND MINUTES SECRETARY	VANESSA MASON, ☎01633 300750 Deputy - CHRIS BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MARGARET SWABEY, ☎01633 663802
CATERING	AUDREY ANDERSON, ☎01633 413487 Deputy - CHRIS COLES, ☎01633 666001
CONVENOR LIAISON	JUDY EVANS, ☎01633 420489
DOOR ROTA	CHRIS COLES, ☎01633 666001 Deputy - AUDREY ANDERSON, ☎01633 413487
EQUIPMENT.....	ALAN FRY, ☎01633 896527 JOHN BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
NETWORK SECRETARY .....	JOHN BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
NOTICE BOARDS	JULIE FRY, ☎01633 896527
PHOTOCOPYING	JOHN BRUNNING, ☎01633 421540
PUBLICITY	JOHN DAINTON, ☎01633 212349
SPEAKERS .....	JOHN DAINTON, ☎01633 212349 ALAN FRY, ☎01633 896527

## CO-OPTED MEMBER

WEBSITE	BARBARA PHILLIPS, ☎01633 763884
---------	---------------------------------

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings of members are held usually on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month, from 10 am in one of the rooms belonging to Shaftesbury Methodist Church, NP20 5LD. Information regarding any changes, additional activities, trips and forthcoming events will be given out, and convenors have the opportunity to talk about their activities. The meetings are followed by a presentation from a guest speaker, and usually finish at about 12 noon.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.**

## CONVENORS' MEETINGS

When there is a fifth Thursday in the month the convenors meet with the Chairman and other members of the committee. These meetings are used to convey information to the convenors, and for the convenors to pass on comments and ideas from their group members. The next convenors' meeting is expected to be on Thursday 30 October at 10 am.