



Newsletter DECEMBER 2016

Newyddion RHAGFYR 2016

From the Chairman

We are now into the late Autumn/Winter period and our programme continues apace. In November we had an excellent and well-attended talk by Harry Lowman on the lakes of Cumbria which had a good reception. The inaugural meeting of the new Astronomy group proved to be very popular and this bodes well for the future. All of the groups that used the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel have found different homes and hopefully the new arrangements will bed down quickly. We have a packed programme of events through December, many of which have a seasonal flavour. I hope to see you at many of them.

[Chris \(marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk): tel 864742

Congratulations

Marcia Humphries and Jo Brooks, the convenors of our Writing for Pleasure Groups 1 and 2, recently accepted an invitation to lead a Writing Workshop for the North Wales Network of U3As. It was an outstanding success, with 31 members of 10 U3As attending and three U3As setting up Writing Groups of their own. Marcia and Jo have now been invited to lead a similar Workshop for U3As in the South Wales Network in April 2017. These invitations show that Marcia and Jo are highly regarded themselves and that Porthcawl U3A is respected throughout Wales.

[Chris \(marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk): tel 864742

Christmas Tree Display in All Saint's Church

There will be a U3A Christmas Tree, for which members have contributed decorations, at the annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church. Nearly 60 trees representing organisations in Porthcawl will be on display between Tuesday 29th November and Sunday 4th December. You are encouraged to visit and enjoy this delightful spectacle.

SPECIAL OFFER

Looking for Christmas present ideas? How about giving a copy of my book '**Glamorgan's Greatest Generation - Memories of Wartime Life in South Wales**'? As a special offer during the month of December, U3A members can buy it at a discount price of £7.00 instead of £7.99. The price of twenty cigarettes, and it won't damage your health! You can buy as many copies as you like; they will all be £7.00. Please contact me if you would like copies. My contact numbers are 01656 858812 and 07761 498284, and my email address is malcolmcowper@gmail.com. Deliveries to Porthcawl addresses will be free.

[Malcolm Cowper \(tel. 858812\)](tel:01656858812)

Opportunity

Liberty Bell Productions, a television production company which makes programmes for major broadcasters in this country, is inviting members of U3As to take part in a documentary which features older people who have successfully taken on interesting and challenging activities or projects in their retirement. The aim is to recognise their achievements and to inspire other older people to take on challenges themselves. Please contact me if you have achieved something notable and or if you know of someone who has done so. With your permission I will then pass your name on to the production company. **PLEASE DO NOT BE MODEST.**

[Doug Jones \(tel. 657571\)](tel:657571)

New Interest Group: Astronomy

We have started a new interest group on Astronomy. If you have any interest in the subject or are a complete beginner then please come along to our next session which will be held in January and regularly from then on. You will be very welcome. The January newsletter will have full details.

[Chris James tel. 864742](tel:864742)

Delivery of Newsletters

Would you please inform me if you change your address locally or if you move away from the area. Please also get in touch with me if you know of any member who has passed away. We are very grateful to members who help with the delivery of newsletters, but we need more deliverers. If you can help, please contact Doug Jones (tel. 657571).

[David Parry \(tel. 784211\)](tel:784211)

Friday 2nd December 10 for 10.30am at the Prince of Wales Kenfig
Our Writing Groups 1, 2, and 3 present their popular Morning of Stories Poems, & Sketches

This entertaining morning will be followed by a hot buffet lunch and the cost for the whole event is just £8.00. Places are limited by space and if you would like to join us please contact me by email if possible, or phone as below. Places will be allocated in order of bookings and cheques made payable to Porthcawl U3A must be received by November 25th, **but please do not send any cheques until you have confirmation of availability.** Thank you.

Jo Brooks 12 Mayfield Avenue, Laleston CF32 0LH Tel: 01656 859535 or email: jo.brooks1949@gmail.com

Wednesday 7th December 10am at the Rugby Club:
A Christmas Special by our Play Reading Group

On Wednesday 7th December our Play Reading group will present their "Christmas Special" at 10am in the Rugby Club. All members are invited to attend this performance which is certain be most entertaining. There will be mince pies and sherry afterwards.

Liz Sumner (tel 772314)

Wednesday 7th December 2.15pm at the Hi Tide: Talk by Doug Jones
Getting the Message: A History of Communication

In this extensively illustrated talk Doug will argue that communication is as essential as breathing. Without it we die and civilisations perish. He will show some of the many different ways in which we have communicated over the centuries and how ingenuity and technology have helped us connect with one another to acquire, develop and transmit the essentials of civilisation and human progress. He will also invite us to think about how the current communication revolution is already affecting our lives and how it may do so in the future as it gathers pace. Do come along if you can.

Chris James (tel.864742)

Thursday 8th December: Visit to Millennium Centre for a performance of *Kiss Me Kate*

The coach for this visit will leave the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl at 11.00 am and Sainsbury's Bridgend at 11.15am approx. All tickets have now been taken up, but if you would be interested in a late cancellation please contact me as soon as possible. **Judith Hillman 1 Seawinds, Rest Bay Close Porthcawl CF36 3UN Tel: 07981869066 or email: jude.hillman@yahoo.com**

Wednesday 14th December at 2.15pm at Trinity Church:
Our U3A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held at Trinity Methodist Church at 2.15pm on Wednesday 14th December, by kind permission of the Minister. I hope that you will be able to join us at this traditional and moving Service which so eloquently expresses the true spirit and message of Christmas. Trinity Church is at the junction of John Street and Lias Road. There is parking in the public car parks nearby. Please come along if you can.

Dorothy Jones (tel. 657571).

Thursday 15th December 12 for 12.30pm: Our U3A Christmas Lunch at the Hi-Tide

Our U3A Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 15th December, Cost is £12.50. The menu is included with this newsletter. Following the lunch there will be entertainment by our unique Singing for Pleasure Group. It will be a very happy occasion, so do try to come along if you can. To book your place, return the menu sheet to me - Pam Munro, 12 Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3LL – as soon as possible with your choices and a cheque for £12.50 made payable to PorthcawlU3A.

Thursday 26th January: Visit to Porthcawl School's Production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*

I am arranging to reserve tickets for this production at the Grand Pavilion by the remarkably talented students of this school. **Please phone me without delay if you would like a ticket. The concessionary cost for a seat in the stalls is £6.**

Dorothy Jones (tel. 657571)

16th and 17th March 2017: Classical Spectacular Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Arrangements are now complete and individual participants will hear from me with all the details very soon.

Elizabeth C Bower, 786234, 38, Heol Croes Faen, Nottage, Porthcawl, CF36 3SW

Meetings of our Interest Groups in December 2016 & Early January 2017

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Ancient History	2.15pm at the RAFA Club	Thursday 1 st Dec	Mysteries and wonders of the Ancient World.	David Trace tel. 782335
Archaeology			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January	Ian Hutchinson tel. 654418
Art History	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 12 th	We will study the work of Egon Schiele, 1890-1918 - an Austrian Expressionist painter, draughtsman and print maker, influenced by the Art Nouveau movement; and Alfred Sisley, 1839-1899 – a French Impressionist painter, mainly of landscapes	Graham Cross tel. 785876
Astronomy			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January	Chris James tel. 864742
Book Club 1			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January	Barbara Miles tel. 783291
Book Club 2	10am at 132 New Road	Wed. 14 th	Discussing <i>Mothers Sunday</i> by Graham Swift.	Annie Rance tel. 711848
Book Club 3	10am at 2 Bardsey Close, Nottage	Thursday 8 th	Discussing: <i>When Will There Be Good News?</i> By Kate Atkinson. (Due to library error we did not read this last month).	Carolyn Tansey tel. 07970508233
Bridge Course for Beginners	2pm at Awel y Mor (Side Room)	Tuesday 6 th and 13 th	Bridge continues weekly with tuition, practice and advice from Tony and Pat Howarth .	Caroline David tel. 771657
Canasta	2pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 5 th Dec. 9 th January	This is an enjoyable card game. New members very welcome but please phone the convenor Mary Thomas will take over as convenor from 9 th January	Judith Davey tel. 783632 Mary Thomas tel. 786137.
Computers, tablets and other gadgets	10am to 12 noon at the DADDY'S (previously The Coast), Dock St	Monday 5 th & 19 th	A drop-in and help-desk for all your gadgets. Feel like kicking it? We'll show you how to love it. Want to do more? We can help with that too. Please note change of venue <u>Geoff Henderson tel.786790; Martin Patten tel.786745 & Laurence Parry 788089</u>	GH; MP, & LP
Conversations (Discussion Group)	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Thursday 8 th	Discussing: <i>Has the growth of social media and other digital communications improved the quality of our lives?</i> We have invited some of the senior students at Porthcawl Comprehensive School to join us for this discussion, and the session will be led by Malcolm Cowper.	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Crafts	2pm at the Y Centre	Thursday 8 th	A warm welcome awaits members interested in any type of craft	Pam Munro tel. 783751
Drama – Origin & Development	2pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 12 th	We shall conclude our study of <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> by listening to a CD of the play with Robert Donat as Thomas. May I remind members of the poetry and drama groups that we are meeting for lunch at <i>The Pickled Radish</i> in Laleston at 12.30pm on 6 th December.	Elizabeth C Bower tel. 786234
Film Club	2pm at Stella Maris	Friday 16 th	We will see "Die Hard" (1988); starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman. When a Christmas office party is taken over by terrorists only Bruce Willis can save the day.	Chris James Tel. 864742

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Food in Britain	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 13 th	Fruit in Britain – a session led by David Parry	Margaret Williams tel. 665128
French for All	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 13 th	Discussing Christmas traditions in France. And testing[!] French food. Jenny Cross (tel. 785876) Jenny Worthington (785446)	Jenny Cross Jenny Worthington
Gardening			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January	Handel Davies tel. 788364
German	10.30am at Stella Maris	Thursday 1 st 8 th 15 th	Foundation Group Advanced Group Both Groups together	John Murdoch 07583570891
History	10am at the Y Centre	Wed 14 th	We have just this one session, with time for some quick revision on recent topics and discussion before end of term tests and mince pies. Next term we are going on Crusade with Chris.	Andrew Collier tel. 784939
Latin	10.15am at the RAFA Club	Monday 5 th & 12 th	Grammar Revision & translation from & into Latin, friendly argument, enjoyment & Christmas fun!	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Listeners' Guide to Music			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January	Brian Nelson tel. 742159
Mah Jong	2pm at the Rugby Club	Thursday 1 st & 15 th	Play will recommence on these dates. Beginners are very welcome.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Musical Theatre Course	2pm at the Y Centre	Monday 5 th	'Cole Porter' Next year we will reconvene after Easter.	Harry Lowman tel. 663353
Painting Workshop	10am at the Y Centre	Thurs, 1 st and 8 th Dec and then on 5 th Jan.	If you are not already a member of this group and want to join it, please phone me.	Stephen Jarvis tel. 649165
Philosophy and Ideas	10am at the Y Centre 10.15am at the Prince of Wales, Kenfig	Friday 2 nd & 16 th	Gary will conclude his introduction to Leibniz who is turning out to be more important, interesting and provocative than many of us thought. This will be our last 'normal' session. We will have our now traditional 'Christmas Special' at the Prince of Wales in Kenfig, at 10.15 .	Andrew Collier tel. 784939
Photography for Everyone	10.30am at the Rugby Club	Monday 12 th	Learning and developing skills in digital, still and video photography	David Morgan tel. 740605
Play Reading	10am at the Rugby Club	Wed 7 th Dec & 4 th Jan	We shall be presenting our Christmas Special. We shall be starting new work.	Liz Sumner 772314.
Poetry	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Monday 5 th	We shall interrupt our study of Old English Poetry in order to celebrate the season by listening to a CD entitled <i>A Literary Christmas</i> May I remind members of the poetry and drama groups that we are meeting for lunch at <i>The Pickled Radish</i> in Laleston at 12.30pm on 6 th Dec.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Quiz	2pm at the Y Centre	Monday 12 th	Come along and test your general knowledge in good company.	Roger Thomas tel. 786292

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Science			We will not meet in December but we will resume in January. Gwyn Davis tel. 654766; Brian Nelson. tel. 742159	Gwyn Davis; Brian Nelson.
Scrabble	10am at AWEL Y MOR	Mon. 5 th Dec and then 9 th Jan	A game, a chat and a cup of coffee. Members of all abilities welcome.	Pat Parry tel. 784211
Shakespeare & other "Greats"	2.15pm at Stella Maris	Tuesday 6 th Dec and 10 th Jan	. We are studying 'Othello'	Barbara Miles tel. 783291
Singing for Fun	2pm at the RUGBY CLUB	Friday 9 th	We will continue our preparations for our performance at the Christmas Lunch on 15 th DEC	Veronica Rees tel. 784718.
Spanish for Beginners	10am at the RUGBY CLUB	Tuesday 6 th	Gaining confidence to speak Spanish in everyday situations.	Declan Gilmartin tel. 772675
Table Tennis	10.00am at the Y Centre 10.00am	Friday 9 th Dec and then on 6 th Jan	Come and join in our relaxed and friendly games. If you have a bat please bring it along. Please wear suitable shoes. Please note the time.	Pam Munro tel. 783751
Walking	9.30am at Kenfig Nature Reserve Car Park 1.30pm at the car park opposite the Fox and Hounds at St Brides	Friday 2nd Dec Friday 16th Dec .	This walk is our annual early morning venture across the dunes to Sker beach ahead of our Writing Groups' morning at the Prince. This is a 3 mile walk over the Ogmores Downs which may be muddy so wear suitable footwear. This walk will be led by Anne and John Cobby (tel.784986 or 07712 579796) If the weather is doubtful please phone to check that the walks will take place. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. We walk at our own risk.	John Pearman tel. 782133
Welsh	10am at the Rugby Club	Thurs 8 th	We will make you welcome whether you are a beginner, an improver or fluent speaker. John Pearman (782133) David Parry (784211)	John Pearman David Parry
Writing for Pleasure Groups 1, 2 & 3	10am for 10.30am at the Prince of Wales, Kenfig	Friday 2 nd Dec	Our morning of poems and stories. Marcia Humphries (772895) & Jo Brooks (859535) & Annie Rance (711848)	Marcia Humphries. Jo Brooks & Annie Rance



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
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PRIFYSGOL Y TRYDYDD OED
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Summary of Dates and Events in December 2016 and Early January 2017

Thursday	1 st Dec	10.00am in the Y Centre 10.30am in Stella Maris 2.00pm in the Rugby Club 2.15pm in the RAFA Club	Painting Workshop German Mah Jong Ancient History
Friday	2 nd Dec	9.30am at Kenfig Nature Reserve Car Park 10 for 10.30am at the Prince in Kenfig 10.00am in the Y Centre 10.00am in the Y Centre	Walking Group Morning of Poems, Stories & Sketches Philosophy & Ideas Table Tennis
Monday	5 th Dec	10.00am at DADDY'S, Dock Street 10.00am at Awel Y Mor 10.15am in the Rugby Club 10.15am in the RAFA Club 2.00pm in the Rugby Club 2.00pm at the Y Centre	Computers Scrabble Poetry Latin Canasta Musical Theatre Course
Tuesday	6 th Dec	10.00m in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm in Stella Maris	Spanish Bridge: Playing and Learning Shakespeare & other greats
Wednesday	7 th Dec	10am at the Rugby Club in the Hi Tide 2.15pm at the Hi Tide	Play Reading Group's Christmas Special Talk by Doug Jones
Thursday	8 th Dec	10.00am in the Y Centre 10.00am in the Rugby Club 10.00am in 2 Bardsey Close 10.30am in Stella Maris 11am from the Atlantic and 11.15 from Sainsbury's 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Painting Workshop Welsh Book Club 3 German Visit to Kiss Me Kate Crafts Conversations (discussion group)
Friday	9 th Dec	10am at the Y Centre 2.00pm in the Rugby Club	Table Tennis Singing for Fun
Monday	12 th Dec	10.30am at the Rugby Club 10.15am in the RAFA Club 2.00pm at the Rugby Club 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Photography for Everyone Latin Drama – origin & development Quiz Art History
Tuesday	13 th Dec	10.15am in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	French Bridge: Playing and Learning Food in Britain
Wednesday	14 th Dec	10.00am at 132 New Road 10.00am in the Y Centre 2.15pm at Trinity Church	Book Club 2 History U3A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Thursday	15th Dec	12 for 12.30pm at the Hi Tide: 10.30am in Stella Maris 2.00pm in the Rugby Club 2.15pm in the RAFA Club	Our U3A Christmas Lunch German Mah Jong Ancient History
Friday	16th Dec	10.15am at the Prince, Kenfig 10.00am in the Rugby Club 1.30pm at the Fox & Hounds St Brides 2.00pm at Stella Maris	Philosophy and Ideas Writing for Pleasure 1,2 & 3 Walking Group Film Club
Monday	19th Dec	10.00am at DADDY'S , Dock Street	Computers

Please note that the following groups have given information about their meetings in early January 2017.

Wednesday	4th January	10am at the Rugby Club	Play Reading
Thursday	5th January	10am at the Y Centre	Painting Workshop
Friday	6th January	10am at the Y Centre	Table Tennis
Monday	9th January	10am at Awel y Mor	Scrabble
	9th January	2pm at the Rugby Club	Canasta
Tuesday	10th January	2.15pm at Stella Maris	Shakespeare and other 'Greats'

Full details of the January programme will be given in the January newsletter which will be made available as early as possible in the New Year.