



Newsletter APRIL 2017

Newyddion EBRILL 2017

From the Chairman

March was a packed month of activities. On 2nd we had the well-attended celebration of St David's Day in the Hi Tide followed the day after by a visit to a concert in St David's Hall in Cardiff. Geoff Henderson gave a fascinating monthly talk on the unlikely subject of "John Hughes of Merthyr Tydfil and his part in shaping the life of Nikita Khrushchev". Our AGM was held on 24th and Brian Thomas was nominated as secretary and Jeff Perren as treasurer. Lawrence Parry and Margaret Williams were elected as members of the committee. I look forward to working with all of them in the future. I would also like to thank David Morgan who left the committee in March, for all the hard work he has put in over the years

Chris (marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk): tel 864742

Membership Badges

We would ask you to wear your membership badge to all the U3A groups and events you attend. If you do not have a badge, please contact Chris James, our Chairman, by e mail marilynjameschris@yahoo.co.uk or phone: **tel 01656 864742**

Caroline David (tel. 771657)

Links with Local Schools

Porthcawl U3A has in recent times been developing strong links with our local Comprehensive School by, for example, inviting students to take part in our Conversation (Discussion) Group sessions, or inviting students to sing at social events, and we, in turn, have attended their drama productions. We and the School are very keen to further these links, and one way we can do this is by giving the senior students interview practice.

The students are at a stage in their lives when they will be facing interviews for higher education or employment. Many of us have been both interviewers or interviewees in our working lives and have acquired skills which we can pass on to the young people. Interviewers from the outside world, rather than their teachers, will make the experience more 'real', and follow-up feedback will give the students valuable guidance as to how they can present themselves to maximum advantage.

The Head of the Sixth Form suggests that the students most likely to benefit from the mock interviews are those in Year 12 (First Year Sixth) and the most suitable time will be the second half of the summer term, i.e. mid June to mid July, when they will have taken their As Level exams. The School will provide guidance for interviewers.

I would like at this stage to ascertain whether there is sufficient support within Porthcawl U3A for this project to proceed. So, if you are interested in taking part would you kindly contact me by 31st March on 01656 858812, 07761 498284 or malcolm.cowper@gmail.com

Malcolm Cowper

Please Help - to ensure that Porthcawl U3A continues to be one of the best in the UK

There can be no doubt that we rank among the best U3As in the country. That is due entirely to the unstinting efforts of many of our fellow members and the recognition and support they receive from the membership as a whole. Yet, we need even more help if our U3A is to maintain and indeed improve the quality and range of what it provides. **In particular we need members to help with the planning and organization of social events, including Coffee Mornings, and we also need help with compiling and delivering the monthly newsletters. If you think you can spare the time to help with these or any other tasks please get in touch with me. Whatever you are able to do will be greatly appreciated.**

Pam Munro (tel. 783751)

Our Summer Series of Evening Talks 2017

This year's summer evening sessions will be debates and I hope to publish fuller details next month. **Meanwhile advance dates for diaries are Fridays 5th May, 'Nato and Defence' with Madeleine Moon MP; 12th May 'Democracy under threat' (Paul Thompson, ex-President of the Oxford Union); 19th May 'Assisted Dying' (Prof. Paul Badham, Dignity in Dying); 9th June 'Torture', (Martin Pollard, WCIA) and 30th June 'Education' (Prof. Sally Power).** I am still hoping members will volunteer to speak and open to ideas for other topics/motions.

Andrew Collier (tel.784939 e mail helgandrew@yahoo.com.

**Wednesday 5th April 2.15pm at the Hi Tide: Talk by Hilary Jones:
'Discovering Japan'**

Fancy an afternoon in Japan?

You are warmly invited to a talk entitled DISCOVERING JAPAN by Wales U3A Trustee Hilary Jones, at The Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl on Wednesday 5th April at 2.15pm.

Hilary and her husband have visited Japan 4 times since their son went there to live. Her illustrated talk outlines what everyday life is like there; how people live, what they eat and what the customs & traditions are.

Tea, coffee and cake to follow.

Chris James (tel.864742)

**Tuesday 25th April 2.15pm at the Hi Tide: Talk by Professor Chris Williams:
J.M. Staniforth, the Cartoonist of Edwardian Wales ('The Welsh Tenniel')
(The 5th Annual Gwyn Petty Memorial Lecture)**

For many years the late **Gwyn Petty** worked tirelessly to help many organisations in Porthcawl and the surrounding area. The Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, Porthcawl PROBUS and our own Porthcawl U3A were among those which benefitted greatly from Gwyn's dedicated work and support. These three organisations have worked together to establish an **Annual Gwyn Petty Memorial Lecture** in his memory. This year the lecture will be given by **Professor Chris Williams, the distinguished historian and academic who is** Head of the School History, Archaeology and Religion at Cardiff University.

This is an opportunity to listen to a leading expert and to honour the memory of a member who made an outstanding contribution to community life in Porthcawl. Do come along if you can. **Tickets are now available from Doug Jones**

(tel. 657571) at £4 each to include refreshments after the lecture.

Chris James (tel. 864742)

Wednesday 26th April: Visit to the Nature in Art Museum and Gloucester Cathedral

The coach for this visit will leave the Atlantic Hotel at 8.30am and Sainsbury's Bridgend at 8.50am (approx). Although nature has been an important stimulus to human creativity for many thousands of years, it was not until the opening of the Nature in Art Museum in 1988 that art inspired by nature was exclusively collected, displayed and celebrated by any museum in this country or abroad. The collection has now grown to include works by over 600 artists from more than 50 countries, embracing a wide range of styles and media and providing wonderful opportunities for inspiration and learning. After lunch together we'll go on to Gloucester Cathedral, which was founded as an Anglo Saxon Religious House in 678 AD, By the Norman Conquest it had become a monastery and the buildings were improved and extended over the following centuries. The monastery was dissolved in 1541 when it was designated a Cathedral and the seat of the Bishop of Gloucester. Today it houses magnificent stained glass windows and sculptures and exemplifies a Medieval, Romanesque and Perpendicular architectural styles.

The cost of the visit to include coach fare, admissions, introductory talks and tours is £20. If you would like to come along please send me – Dorothy Jones, 84 Heol West Plas, Coity, Bridgend CF35 6BA – a cheque for this amount payable to Porthcawl U3A as soon as possible.

Dorothy Jones (tel.657571)

**Sunday 30th April 12.30pm at the Brentwood Hotel, St Mary Street, Porthcawl
Our Sunday Lunch Group**

The Sunday Lunch Group will return to The Brentwood Hotel in St Mary's Street at 12.30 on April 30th (Bank Holiday weekend). The cost of the main course will be £6.95. Please leave me your choice of beef, lamb, pork or turkey and your phone number if you would like to come.

Caroline David (tel. 771657)

Wednesday 3rd May: Visit to the Samtampa Commemoration Event at the Senedd, Cardiff

The coach for this visit will leave the Atlantic at 10am and Sainsbury's at 10.20am (approx.)

This event is being organised by Porthcawl Shout Forum to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the awful tragedy which occurred at Sker Point in April 1947, causing the deaths of the entire crews of the Samtampa itself and of the Mumbles Lifeboat. The First Minister, Carwyn Jones, and the Mayors of Porthcawl and Mumbles will be present at this Commemoration Event, and there will be contributions from school pupils, students and community groups. These will include choral and folk singing, story-telling, poetry, personal reflections and art exhibitions. Although this is a Commemoration Event it will also be a celebration of courage and endeavour – one which we will enjoy and one that is truly deserving of our support. There is no charge for admission but the coach fare is £9 per person. If you would like to come along please send me, Dorothy Jones, 84 Heol West Plas, Coity, Bridgend CF35 6BA, a cheque for this amount made payable to Porthcawl U3A as soon as possible.

Dorothy Jones (tel.657571)

Please Note:

From 13th to 19th April, there will be an exhibition at the Pavilion about the disaster. Part of it will feature work from our Writing for Pleasure groups. On the evening of Saturday 15th April, there will be a short film & live performances, including poems & stories by our writers. All this will take place on the lower ground floor of the Pavilion & entry is free.

Saturday 13th May: Visit to Malvern Spring Flower Show

There are still places available on the coach to the Malvern Spring Flower Show on Saturday 13th May. The coach will cost £14 and admission to the show will be £18 with a discount for RHS members. It will help if you make out a cheque for £14 payable to Porthcawl U3A and bring it with you on the day. PLEASE NOTE THAT MY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 788364 Handel Davies (tel 788364)

Thursday 18th May at the Hi Tide: Our Annual Special Study Day: Enjoying and Cherishing our National and Global Environment

Despite its beauty and fragility many of us take our natural environment for granted. We are unmindful or unaware of its great variety and diversity and of the work of environmentalists and writers who work strenuously to safeguard and highlight its attractiveness. The first talk on this Study Day will be given by the Director of National Parks UK who will describe the work done to preserve them and at the same time safeguard the interests of those who depend on them for their livelihood. The second will describe the importance and the attractions of the worlds beneath our oceans and the third talk will be given by an adventurer and author who walked alone and unaided across the continent of Africa. The full details of the programme are included with this newsletter, and I'm sure you will agree that it promises to be an interesting, informative and indeed an entertaining day. **The cost of the Day, to include coffee on arrival, a two course lunch and the three talks is £14. If you would like to come along please send me – Doug Jones, 84 Heol West Plas, Coity, Bridgend CF35 6BA a cheque for this amount made payable to Porthcawl U3A. It is advisable to book your place soon because we have invited members of U3As throughout the south of Wales to attend** Doug Jones (tel. 657571)

Wednesday 21st June, 7.30pm at All Saints Church: Talk by Professor Niall Ferguson

Professor Niall Ferguson, the internationally renowned historian who owns Sker House, has become a Friend of the Porthcawl Lions Club, one of a worldwide network of Lions Clubs whose main purpose is to raise funds for the benefit of local, national and international community and humanitarian organisations and causes.

Professor Ferguson has held professorships at Oxford, New York, Harvard and Stanford Universities. He has devised and presented two prize winning TV series, he has been a BBC Reith Lecturer, written 14 books and is a columnist for the *Sunday Times*.

To help Porthcawl Lions Club celebrate the centenary this year of the Lions Club International, Professor Ferguson will be giving his talk on **Wednesday 21st June, 7.30pm at All Saints Church**. The Club aims to give Porthcawl residents the first opportunity to attend the event and so would like to invite members of the U3A to be amongst the first to purchase tickets at £12 each. Please contact me, **Martin Patten, 16, Adrian Close, Porthcawl**, if you would like tickets for this most prestigious event. You can also purchase tickets from **Andrew Collier (tel. 784939) and Doug Jones (tel. 657571)** Martin Patten (tel. 01656 786745) e mail mcareyu@yahoo.co.uk

Music in Porthcawl in April and May

Monday 10th April 7pm at All Saints Church: Porthcawl Choral Society will present Reflective Music for Holy Week Retiring collection for charity.

Saturday 28th April 7pm at All Saints Church: Cor Bro Ogwr present Rutter's Requiem and other music. Tickets will be available at the door.

Friday 5th May and Saturday 6th May at the Grand Pavilion: Porthcawl Operatic and Dramatic Society present All Shook Up in the Grand Pavilion. The show features songs of Elvis Presley. Evening performances are at 7.30 and there is a Saturday Matinee at 2.30. Tickets are £14.00 and £12.00, available from the hotline 01656 788148 or from the Pavilion box office.

Sunday 28th May 7.30pm at All Saints Church: Charnwood Orchestra in concert: The programme includes Berlioz: Beatrice and Benedict overture; Brahms Hungarian Dances nos. 17-21; Bruch Concerto for Clarinet and Viola (Chris Swann and Philip Heyman); Dvorak Symphony No.7 Tickets: £8 from www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk or from the Y Centre, 25 John St, Porthcawl or on the door.

New Interest Group: Whist

A Whist Group will be starting in May which will meet in Awel Y Mor on alternate Monday afternoons. Please contact me if you are interested in playing or learning to play. Pam Munro (tel.) 783751.

Meetings of our Interest Groups in April 2017

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Ancient History	2.15pm at the RAFA Club	Thursday 6 th & 20 th	We are currently looking at the Warring States in Ancient China and then the first Emperor of China in 221 BCE.	David Trace tel. 782335
Archaeology	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 18 th	Osteoarchaeology can tell us a lot about skeletons found in archaeological excavations such as gender, age, ethnicity, diet, diseases suffered and much more. We will be looking at recent work done in this field and be discussing the ethics of disturbing the dead.	Ian Hutchinson tel. 654418
Art History	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 3 rd & 24 th	We'll study the work of Sir ANTHONY VAN DYCK (1599 -1641), the Flemish painter who spent time in England during the reign of Charles I and portrayed the Glistening English society of that time at its most glorious. We'll study the work of TOULOUSE LAUTREC, the painter and poster – maker of Parisian Bohemian life.	Graham Cross (tel. 785876)
Astronomy	2pm at the Y Centre	Thursday 20 th	I will give a talk on stars.	Chris James (tel: 864742)
Book Club 1	10am at Stella Maris	Friday 28 th	Discussing <i>The Improbability of Love</i> by Hannah Rothschild ..	Barbara Miles
Book Club 2	10am at 5 Locks Common, Porthcawl.CF36 3HU	Wed. 12 th	Discussing <i>Nightmare in Berlin</i> by Hans Fallada Please note the venue.	Ray Richards tel, 786991.
Book Club 3	10am at 25 Heol Croes Faen, Nottage	Thursday 13 th	Discussing <i>My Dear, I wanted to Tell You</i> by Louisa Young Please note the venue	Carolyn Tansey tel: 788093
Bridge Course for Beginners	2pm at Awel y Mor (Side Room)	Tuesday 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , and 25 th	We will have expert advice from Tony as usual.	Caroline David tel. 771657
Canasta	2pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 3 rd & 24 th	New members very welcome and we will teach you how to play.	Mary Thomas (tel. 786137)
Computers, tablets and other gadgets	10am to 12 noon at the DADDY'S (previously The Coast), Dock St	Monday 3 rd & 24 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 the 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 13 th & 27 th	Discussing: <u>Have we seen the concepts of "family" and "community" change in our lifetime? If so, why? And does it matter?</u> Discussing: <u>For what causes, if any, are worth dying and killing for?</u>	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Crafts	2pm at the Y Centre	Thursday 6 th & 20 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 10 th & 24 th	During the month we intend to complete our reading and discussion of <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> , watch a video of the play and possibly begin <i>The Iceman Cometh</i>	Elizabeth C Bower tel. 786234

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Film Club			We will not meet in April but we will resume in May	Chris James Tel. 864742
Food in Britain	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 4 th April	Pat Grail will lead a session on <u>Healing Foods</u>	Margaret Williams tel. 665128
French for All	<u>10.15am</u> at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 4 th & 25 th	We shall be discussing <u>Entertainment</u> . We shall be discussing <u>Regions of France</u>	Jenny Cross (tel. 785876) Jenny Worthington (785446)
Gardening	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 25 th	Our topic for this session will be decided and announced later.	Handel Davies tel. 788364
German	10.30am at Stella Maris	Thursday 6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	Advanced Group Both Foundation and Advanced Groups together NO SESSION Foundation Group	John Murdoch 07583570891
History	10am at the Y Centre	Wed. 5 th & 19 th	Chris is still crusading valiantly and stimulating great interest which is likely to see us through the month. When he has finished a closer look at some of the characters involved may be in order, Eleanor of Aquitaine for a starter.	Andrew Collier tel. 784939
Latin	10.15am at the RAFA Club	Monday 10 th & 24 th	Grammar Revision & translation from & into Latin: "physical jerks" for the brain, friendly argument and enjoyment!	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Listeners' Guide to Music	2pm at the Rugby Club	Wed 12 th Wed 19 th	The programme will include Beethoven's <u>Symphony No 6 (the Pastoral)</u> and a selection of music from <u>The Armed Man</u> by Karl Jenkins. The programme will include Grieg's <u>Holberg Suite</u> and Schuman's <u>Cello Concerto</u> .	Brian Nelson tel. 742159
Mah Jong	2pm at the Rugby Club	Thursday 13 th & 27 th	The group number is limited by the sets of Mah Jong owned by U3A but at present it could accommodate two new members, if you are interested in learning this game of skill and chance, please telephone me.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Painting Workshop	10am at the Y Centre	Thurs, 6 th & 27 th	If you are not already a member of this group and want to join it, please phone me.	Stephen Jarvis tel. 649165 & Kay Richards tel.786463
Philosophy and Ideas	10am at the Y Centre	Friday 7 th & 21 st	Sue will be leading us on The Necessity of Art, and in the unlikely event that such aesthetic ideas run out Kropotkin awaits with Charles.	Andrew Collier tel. 784939
Photography for Everyone	10.30am at the Rugby Club	Monday 10 th & 24 th	Learning and developing skills in digital, still and video photography	David Morgan tel. 740605
Play Reading	10am at the Rugby Club	Wed 12 th & 26 th	We'll be continuing with new work Rolf Mitchell (tel. 740120) & Len Smith (tel. 771574)	R.M & L.S
Poetry	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Monday 3 rd	We shall continue our reading and discussion of Byron's <i>Childe Harald</i> . New members always welcome.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Quiz	<u>2pm</u> at the Y Centre	Monday 10 th	Come along, enjoy yourselves and test your general knowledge in lovely company	Roger Thomas tel. 786292

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Science	2pm at the RUGBY CLUB	Monday 10 th	Martin Patten will talk about <u>Driverless Cars</u> and <u>What Else does the Future Hold?</u>	Gwyn Davis tel. 654766; Brian Nelson. tel. 742159
Scrabble	10am at AWEL Y MOR	Mon. 3 rd & 24 th	A game, a chat and a cup of coffee. Members of all abilities welcome.	Pat Parry tel. 784211
Shakespeare & other "Greats"			We will not meet in April	Barbara Miles
Singing for Fun	2pm at the Rugby Club	Friday 21 st	We'll sing some of our familiar favourites as well as some new songs. At the moment the group is full to capacity.	Veronica Rees tel. 784718.
Spanish for Beginners	10am at the RUGBY CLUB	Tuesday 11 th & 25 th	Gaining confidence to speak Spanish in everyday situations.	Declan Gilmartin tel. 772675
Table Tennis	10.00am at the Y Centre	Friday 21 st & 28 th	Come and join in our relaxed and friendly games. If you have a bat please bring it along. Please wear suitable shoes.	Pam Munro tel. 783751
Walking	2pm at the Car Park opposite the Fox and Hounds St Brides Major 2pm at Ogmores Castle	Friday 7 th Friday 28 th	We will walk along the Valeways Heritage Trail to Southerndown, where we will visit The Walled Garden of the former Dunraven Castle. (This walk has been moved to the 7 th as the 14 th is Good Friday. Please note that it will start at 2pm, as will all the walks during the summer months, and will be led by Malcolm Cowper. {01656 858812 or 07761 498284} We look forward to our popular "Bluebell Walk" around Merthyr Mawr and the challenge {for the brave at heart!} of the Ogmores Castle Stepping Stones. Please wear suitable clothes and footwear. If the weather is doubtful on either occasion 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 13 th & 27 th	Our meetings are not suitable for complete beginners. They take the form of presentations and discussions about pre-selected topics.. John Pearman (782133) David Parry (784211)	John Pearman David Parry
Writing for Pleasure Groups 1, 2 & 3	10am at the Rugby Club	Friday 7 th & 21 st	We write simply for the pleasure of writing and to receive friendly advice. Marcia Humphries {tel 772895} Group 1; Jo Brooks {tel 859535} Group 2; Annie Rance {tel 711848} Group 3	

Summary of Dates and Events in April 2017

Monday	3rd April	10.00am at DADDY'S, Dock Street 10am at Awel Y Mor 10.15am at the Rugby Club 2.00pm in the Rugby Club 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Computers Scrabble Poetry Canasta Art History
Tuesday	4th April	10.15am in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm at the Rugby Club	French for All Bridge: Playing and Learning Food in Britain
Wednesday	5th April	10.00am in the Y Centre 2.15pm at the Hi Tide	History Talk by Hilary Jones on Japan
Thursday	6th April	10.00am in the Y Centre 10.30am in Stella Maris 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the RAFA Club	Painting Workshop German Crafts Ancient History
Friday	7th April	10.00am at the Y Centre 10am at the Rugby Club 2pm at Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major	Philosophy and Ideas Writing Groups One, Two & Three Walking Group
Monday	10th April	10.15am in the RAFA Club 10.30am in the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Y Centre 2pm at the Rugby Club	Latin Photography for Everyone Drama: Origins & Development Quiz Science
Tuesday	11th April	10am at the Rugby Club 2pm at Awel y Mor	Spanish Bridge: Playing and Learning
Wednesday	12th April	10.00am in the Rugby Club 10.00am at 5 Locks Common 2pm in the Rugby Club	Play Reading Book Club 2 Listeners' Guide to Music
Thursday	13th April	10am at 25 Heol Croes Faen 10am at the Rugby Club 10.30am in Stella Maris 2pm at the Rugby Club 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Book Club 3 Welsh German Mah Jong Conversations
Friday	14th April	GOOD FRIDAY	
Monday	17th April	EASTER MONDAY	

Tuesday	18th April	10.15am in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor	Archaeology Group Bridge: Playing and Learning
Wednesday	19th April	10.00am in the Y Centre 2pm at the Rugby Club	History Listeners' Guide to Music
Thursday	20th April	2pm in the Y Centre 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the RAFA Club	Astronomy Crafts Ancient History
Friday	21st April	10.00am in the Y centre 10.00am in the Y centre 10am at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club	Philosophy and Ideas Table Tennis Writing Groups One, Two & Three Singing for Fun
Monday	24th April	10am at DADDY'S, Dock Street 10am at Awel y Mor 10.15am in the RAFA Club 10.30am at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club 2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Computers Scrabble Latin Photography for Everyone Canasta Drama: Origins & Development Art History
Tuesday	25th April	10am at the Rugby Club 10.15am at the Rugby Club 10.15am at the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm in the Hi-Tide	Spanish Gardening French for All Bridge: Playing and Learning Gwyn Petty Memorial Lecture
Wednesday	26th April	8.30am from the Atlantic and 8.50am(approx.) from Sainsbury's 10.00am in the Rugby Club	Visit to Nature in Art Museum and Gloucester Cathedral Play Reading
Thursday	27th April	10am at the Y centre 10am at the Rugby Club 10.30am at Stella Maris 2pm at the Rugby Club 2.15pm at the Rugby Club 10am at Stella Maris	Painting Workshop Welsh German Mah Jong Conversations Book Club 1
Friday	28th April	10am at the Y Centre 10am at Stella Maris 2pm at Ogmores Castle	Table Tennis Book Club 1 Walking Group
Sunday	30th April	12.30pm at the Brentwood Hotel	Sunday Lunch Club