



Newsletter FEBRUARY 2017

Newyddion CHWEFROR 2017

From the Chairman

We have had an excellent start to the year with a packed programme of talks and events in January, not forgetting the usual high standard of the interest groups. This is the time of year when many people seek to join the U3A so if you get the opportunity please spread the good news of what is on offer. There is plenty to look forward to in February and new and old members can enjoy the many opportunities for learning, and fun, that are available. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

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

Membership Subscriptions for 2017 and Gift Aid Declaration

Our membership subscriptions for the period January to December 2017 are now due. **The annual subscription for 2017 has been reduced to £30, so I'm sure you will agree that our U3A is remarkably good value for money. If you have not already done so, may I ask you to:**

- **complete the membership form included with this newsletter and send it to me as soon as possible with your cheque for £30 made payable to Porthcawl U3A - my address is given on the form;**
- **ensure that you fill in every section of the form and send it to me even if you are already a member;**
- **inform me without delay if you do not intend to re-join this year.**

Special Note on Gift Aid. Please remember to answer Yes or No to the question about Gift Aid. It does not cost you anything to agree to Gift Aid. In fact, higher rate tax payers benefit from making the declaration. You are entitled to tick the Yes Box if you do pay tax, but many members do not realise they are paying tax because it has been deducted at source, for example on an occupational income or on investments. If you are in doubt please contact me. I will not enquire into your circumstances. The U3A is entitled to claim Gift Aid because it is a registered charity and the income from Gift Aid helps to keep the annual subscription to a minimum.

David Parry (tel. 784211)

Our Summer Series of Evening Talks 2017

It is proposed that at least some of this summer's series should take the form of debates, and I will start planning them in the next few weeks. I would welcome suggestions for topics (as varied as possible) and possible lead speakers, as well as any volunteers to have a go.

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

Wednesday 8th February 2.15pm at the Hi Tide: Talk by Dr Ritchie Wood *Churchill and the Tonypany Riots*

In the autumn of 1910 Winston Churchill, as Home Secretary, authorised the deployment of troops to reinforce officers of the Glamorgan and City of Bristol Police in their attempt to quell the rioting of striking miners in Tonypany and the surrounding area. That decision blighted Churchill's reputation among the people of the South Wales Valleys for the rest of his career. Did he deserve that criticism or was his action justified? Dr Wood will examine this question, describing the background and the wider context of the industrial disputes in the area at that time. This will be a fascinating afternoon so do come along if you can.

Chris James (tel.864742)

Friday 17th February 10am at the Rugby Club: Talk by Gary Victor The Samtampa Tragedy

On Friday 17th February at 10am at the Rugby Club Gary Victor will be giving an illustrated talk to a meeting of all three of our Writing for Pleasure Groups about this historic and tragic event which occurred off our coast in April 1947. The Groups have kindly invited all members of the U3A to attend this interesting, moving and inspirational talk. Do take up this opportunity if you can.

Chris James

Wednesday 22nd February: Visit to Tredegar House, Newport

The coach for this visit will leave the Atlantic Hotel at 9.30am and Sainsbury's Bridgend at 9.45am (approx). Tredegar House was the home of the immensely wealthy Morgan family for over 500 years. Greatly enlarged in the 17th century and extensively refurbished over the years, it is one of the most historically important properties in Wales and it is now in the care of the National Trust. Its rooms are furnished and decorated in styles ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries, while its below-stairs areas give a real sense of how the staff lived and worked there during the Victorian period. After lunch together, we'll have a guided tour of the house and if the weather permits we will be able to spend some time in grounds. The coach fare, entry and the guided tour for U3A members who are not members of the National Trust will cost £20 per person, for U3A members who are members of the National Trust the cost is £12.80 - as they get free entry. Cheques for the appropriate amount made payable to Porthcawl U3A are to be sent to – 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 26th February 12.30pm at The Rock, Porthcawl: Sunday Lunch Group

Sunday lunch this month will be at 12.30pm on 26th February at The Rock (opposite the bus terminals). The prices are: large roast £8.95, medium £ 6.95, dessert £2.95. Why not treat yourself? Please telephone me to book to book a place and your choice of meat.

Caroline David (tel. 771657)

Thursday 2nd March 6.30 for 7pm at the Hi Tide: Our Celebration of St. David's Day

We will celebrate St David's Day with a meal and a performance by Dawnsywyr Penyfai, the very accomplished and popular Welsh Folk Dancing Group. The two course menu at £13.95 is included with this newsletter. Please return it to me with your menu choice and a cheque for £13.95 made payable to Porthcawl U3A by 24th February. I hope very much that you will want to join us on this very enjoyable occasion.

Pam Munro 783751.

Friday 3rd March 2017: Visit to Concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff

This concert is given by the Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra, with Yutaka Sado (Conductor) and Angela Hewitt (Piano). The programme is Mendelssohn: *Hebrides Overture*, Beethoven: *Piano Concerto No. 4*, and Dvorak: *Symphony No.9 (New World)*. The coach for this visit will leave the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl at 5.45 pm and Sainsbury's, Bridgend at 6 pm approx. If you would like to come on this visit but have not yet reserved your seat, please contact me **immediately** to check availability.

Janice Lloyd (tel. 01656 78653)

16th and 17th March: Classical Spectacular at The Royal Albert Hall

Two places have become available for this very special concert in this very special venue. As readers may recall from previous entries in the Newsletter, the Classical Spectacular is a multi-media presentation of popular classics: attendees will enjoy music from Orchestra, Military Band, Choir, Soloists, Dancers plus Laser Lighting Effects Fireworks and the Moscow Fusiliers will enhance the playing of the 1812! Our seats are in the stalls and are directly opposite the stage. The group will stay overnight at the Queensgate Hotel which is a four minute walk from The Royal Albert Hall for the evening entertainment. We shall leave for London at 9 am from the Rugby Club on the 16th and leave from the hotel for our return at 4pm on the 17th so there will be ample time to include a visit to one of the major museums in the area or to explore the temptations of Harrods. Cost depends on the type of room chosen. Please would anyone who would like to take up one or both of the tickets please contact me as soon as possible.

Elizabeth C Bower (tel 786234)

Porthcawl U3A Website

Surfing the Waves of Learning is the new strapline to the Porthcawl U3A website. Thanks to Christine Groom of Writing for Pleasure Group 1 for thinking that up. We are grateful that Martin Patten has re-created the site, using U3A Site Builder. This brings us into line with most other U3A groups nationwide. Have a look at it by typing Porthcawl U3A into your search engine. It gives information about most aspects of our U3A. There are also links to the Wales U3A website & the UK website. Each interest group has its own page. May we remind Convenors to check their page periodically to ensure it is kept up to date.

Did You Do National Service?

I am resuming work on a book about National Service between 1945 and 1960. I have already interviewed ten U3A members about their experiences, and would like to hear from any others of you who did National Service and would like to share your memories with me. **Please contact me on 01656 858812 or 07761 498284, or email malcolmcowper@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.**

Malcolm Cowper

Registers

May I remind convenors to return their 2016 Registers to the staff at your meeting place or to the Y centre as soon as possible. Please phone me if you have any problems.

Caroline David (tel. 771657)

Meetings of our Interest Groups in February 2017

Group	Time & Venue	Date	Information	Contact
Ancient History	2.15pm at the RAFA Club	Thursday 2 nd & 16 th	The group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month. We are currently discussing the early dynasties of Ancient China. We will continue looking at the Zhou dynasties as well as more on Chinese culture, traditions, inventions etc. We will also be trying our hand at Chinese calligraphy! We will be looking at the Shang and Zhou dynasties as well as the Chinese New Year due at the end of the month.	David Trace tel. 782335
Archaeology	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 21 st	We will look at some recent Anglo-Saxon excavations in Cambridge and consider the mystery of dykes including Offa's.	Ian Hutchinson tel. 654418

Art History	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 6 th & 20 th	We'll study the work of STANLEY SPENCER (1891-1959) - a painter of mystical and wartime experiences – and of TINTORETTO (1518-94) - a fine Venetian painter of the High Renaissance period. We will study the work of GEORGE STUBBS (1724-1806) – an English animal painter and engraver and the greatest of all horse painters - and of JMW TURNER (1775-1851) - English painter, one of the greatest and most original of all landscape painters.	Graham Cross Ctel. 785876
Astronomy	2pm at the Y Centre	Thursday 16 th	We shall examine the classic deep-sky objects contained in the Messier catalogue.	Chris James tel. 864742
Book Club 1	10am at Stella Maris	Friday 24 th	Dicussing <u>Human Traces</u> by Sebastian Faulks. .	Barbara Miles tel. 783291
Book Club 2	10am at 5 Locks Common, Porthcawl.CF36 3HU	Wed. 15 th	Discussing <u>On the Road</u> by Jack Kerouac Please note the venue.	Ray Richards tel,786991.
Book Club 3	10am at 2 Bardsey Close, Nottage	Thursday 9 th	Discussing: <u>Now is the time to open your Heart</u> by Alice Walker.	Carolyn Tansey 07970508233
Bridge Course for Beginners	2pm at Awel y Mor (Side Room)	Tuesday 7 th , 14 th , 21 st & 28 th	Bridge continues weekly with tuition, practice and advice from Tony & Pat. Please ring me if you need more information.	Caroline David tel. 771657
Canasta	2pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 6 th & 20 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 6 th & 20 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 9 th & 23 rd	Discussing: <u>Who, in the public eye, do you most admire and who do you most dislike?</u> Discussing: <u>Are we indeed the most fortunate generation of all time?</u>	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Crafts	2pm at the Y Centre	Thursday 9 th & 23 rd	A warm welcome awaits members interested in any type of craft	Pam Munro tel. 783751
Drama – Origin & Development	2pm at the Rugby Club	Monday 13 th & 27 th	We shall continue our reading and discussion of Eliot's <i>Family Reunion</i> . Group members will decide on our next dramatist.	Elizabeth C Bower tel. 786234
Film Club	2pm at STELLA MARIS	Friday 10 th	We will see "The Third Man" (1949) - dir: Carol Reed, Screenplay: Graham Greene, starring Joseph Cotton and Orson Welles. A taut thriller set in post-war Vienna.	Chris James Tel. 864742
Food in Britain	2.15pm at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 7 th & 21 st	Len Smith will lead a session on <u>the History of Cake Food for the Soul</u> Ann Trimble will lead a session on <u>Pasta</u>	Margaret Williams tel. 665128
French for All	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 7 th & 21 st	Conversation on an agreed theme. Fun and Games – French style.	Jenny Cross (tel. 785876) Jenny Worthington (785446)
Gardening	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Tuesday 28 th	Jackie and Lynne will lead on a topic of their choice.	Handel Davies tel. 788364
German	10.30am at Stella Maris	Thursday 2 nd & 16 th Thursday 9 th & 23 rd	Foundation group Advanced group	John Murdoch 07583570891
History	10am at the Y Centre	Wed. 8 th & 22 nd	Chris will continue his well- researched and informative account of the Crusades: it is indeed a model of how history should be done – keeping us on the edge of our seats.	Andrew Collier tel. 784939

Latin	10.15am at the RAFA Club	Monday 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	Grammar Revision & translation from & into Latin: "physical jerks" for the brain, friendly argument and enjoyment! Please note that we will not meet on 6th February	Doug Jones tel. 657571
Listeners' Guide to Music	2pm at the Rugby Club	Wed 1 st Wed 15 th	The programme will include Rachmaninov's <i>Variations on a Theme by Paganini</i> and Haydn's <i>Symphony No 49</i> The programme will include Mendelssohn's <i>Piano Concerto No 1</i> and Borodin's <i>String Quartet No 2</i>	Brian Nelson tel. 742159
Mah Jong	2pm at the Rugby Club	Thursday 16 th	Play will resume at 2 pm in the Rugby Club on the 16 th February.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Painting Workshop	10am at the Y Centre	Thurs, 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	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	Friday 10 th & 24 th	Can Neil persuade us that Capitalism is fraudulent and if, he does, what are we to do about it? If he has finished before Friday 10 th it will be Charles's turn to introduce the Anarchist Kropotkin. In the unlikely event that he has finished by 24 th we will move on to less radical ground with some arty Aesthetics.	Andrew Collier tel. 784939
Photography for Everyone	10.30am at the Rugby Club	Monday 13 th & 27 th	Learning and developing skills in digital, still and video photography	David Morgan tel. 740605
Play Reading	10am at the Rugby Club	Wed 1 st & 15 th	We'll be continuing new work	Liz Sumner tel. 772314.
Poetry	10.15am at the Rugby Club	Monday 6 th & 20 th	We shall continue our perusal of the poetry of Byron.	Elizabeth C. Bower 786234
Quiz	2pm at the Y Centre	Monday 13 th	Come along, enjoy yourselves and test your general knowledge in lovely company	Roger Thomas tel. 786292
Science	2pm at the RUGBY CLUB	Monday 27 th	Martin Patten will talk stem cells, immunotherapy and nanobots in medicine	Gwyn Davis tel. 654766; Brian Nelson. tel. 742159
Scrabble	10am at AWEL Y MOR	Mon. 6 th & 20 th	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 14 th & 28 th	We shall continue our study of <i>Othello</i> .	Barbara Miles tel. 783291
Singing for Fun	2pm at the Rugby Club	Friday 10 th & 24 th	We'll sing some of our familiar favourites as well as some new songs	Veronica Rees tel. 784718.
Spanish for Beginners	10am at the RUGBY CLUB	Tuesday 14 th & 28 th	Gaining confidence to speak Spanish in everyday situations.	Declan Gilmartin tel. 772675
Table Tennis	10.00am at the Y Centre	Friday 3 rd & 17 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	1.30pm at the Prince of Wales Car Park 2pm at the Ancient Briton Car Park	Friday 10 th Friday 24 th	This will be a circular walk via Maudlam and Cornelly, organised by Malcolm Cowper {tel 858812 or 07761 498284} We'll walk over Newton Dunes and Burrows to Candleston and back. 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 9 th & 23 rd	Although a basic knowledge of Welsh is desirable, we will make you welcome in this group 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 at the Rugby Club	Friday 3 rd & 17 th	We write simply for the pleasure of writing and to receive friendly advice. On 17th Gary Victor will speak to all three groups together about the Samtanpa tragedy, and all members of the U3A are invited to attend. Marcia Humphries {tel 772895} Group 1; Jo Brooks {tel 859535} Group 2; Annie Rance {tel 711848} Group 3	

Summary of Dates and Events in February 2017

Wednesday	1st Feb	10am in the Rugby Club 2pm in the Rugby Club	Play Reading Listeners' Guide to Music
Thursday	2nd Feb	10.00am in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the RAFA Club 10.30am in Stella Maris	Painting Workshop Ancient History German
Friday	3rd Feb	10am in the Y Centre 10am at the Rugby Club	Table Tennis Writing for Pleasure Groups One, Two and Three
Monday	6th Feb	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	7th Feb	10.15am in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm in the Rugby Club 2.15pm in Stella Maris	French for All Bridge: Playing and Learning Food in Britain Shakespeare & other greats
Wednesday	8th Feb	10.00am in the Y Centre 2.15pm at the Hi Tide	History Talk by Dr Ritchie Wood
Thursday	9th Feb	10.00am in the Y Centre 10.00am in the Rugby Club 10.00am in 2 Bardsey Close 10.30am in Stella Maris 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Painting Workshop Welsh Book Club 3 German Crafts Conversations (discussion group)
Friday	10th Feb	10.00am at the Y Centre 1.30pm at Prince of Wales Car Park 2.00pm at Stella Maris 2pm at the Rugby Club	Philosophy and Ideas Walking Group Film Club Singing for Fun
Monday	13th Feb	10.00am at Awel y Mor 10.15am in the RAFA Club 10.30am in the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Y Centre	Scrabble Latin Photography for Everyone Drama: Origins & Development Quiz
Tuesday	14th Feb	10am at the Rugby Club 2pm at Awel y Mor 2.15pm at Stella Maris	Spanish Bridge: Playing and Learning Shakespeare and other Greats

Wednesday	15th Feb	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	16th Feb	10.00am at the Y Centre 10.30am in Stella Maris 2pm at the Rugby Club 2pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the RAFA Club	Painting Workshop German Mah Jong Astronomy Ancient History
Friday	17th Feb	10.00am at the Rugby Club 10.00am at the Y Centre	Talk by Gary Victor Table Tennis
Monday	20th Feb	10am at DADDY'S , Dock Street 10am at Awel y Mor 10.15am in the RAFA Club 10.15am at the Rugby Club 2.00pm in the Rugby Club 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Computers Scrabble Latin Poetry Canasta Art History
Tuesday	21st Feb	10.15am in the Rugby Club 10.15am in the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	French for All Archaeology Group Bridge: Playing and Learning Food in Britain
Wednesday	22nd Feb	10am from Atlantic & 10.15am Sainsburys 10.00am in the Y Centre	Visit: Tredegar House History
Thursday	23rd Feb	10.00am in the Y Centre 10.00am in the Rugby Club 10.30am in Stella Maris 2.00pm in the Y Centre 2.15pm in the Rugby Club	Painting Workshop Welsh German Crafts Conversations (discussion group)
Friday	24th Feb	10.00am in the Y centre 10.00am in the Stella Maris 2pm at the Ancient Briton Car Park 2pm at the Rugby Club	Philosophy and Ideas Book Club 1 Walking Group Singing for Fun
Sunday	26th Feb	12.30pm at The Rock, Porthcawl	Sunday Lunch Group
Monday	27th Feb	10.15am in the RAFA Club 10.30am at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club 2pm at the Rugby Club	Latin Photography for Everyone Science Drama: Origins & Development
Tuesday	28th Feb	10am at the Rugby Club 10.15am at the Rugby Club 2.00pm in Awel y Mor 2.15pm at Stella Maris	Spanish Gardening Bridge: Playing and Learning Shakespeare and other Greats

Programme of Monthly Talks 2017 (including our Study Day)

- Wednesday 18th January: **Carol Evans:**
My Teaching Adventure in Africa, with a tribute to Rowena Milward who should have been there
- Wednesday 8th February: **Dr Richie Wood:**
Churchill and the Tonypandy Riots
- Wednesday 8th March: **Geoff Henderson:**
John Hughes of Merthyr Tydfil and his part in shaping the life of Nikita Khrushchev
- Wednesday 5th April: **Hilary Jones:**
Discovering Japan
- Tuesday 25th April: **Professor Chris Williams (Head of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion at Cardiff University)**
(The Annual Gwyn Petty Memorial Lecture arranged in partnership with Porthcawl Museum and Porthcawl Probud)
- Wednesday 18th May: **Study Day: Theme: Aspects of the Environment**
- a) **Kathryn Cook (Director National Parks UK):**
A Delicate Balance - Life, Work, Recreation & Conservation in our National Parks
 - b) **Anna Holmes (Curator, Marine Biology at the Nat. Museum)**
A Look at Life beneath the Oceans
 - c) **Fran Sandham (Adventurer and Author):**
My Solo Walk across Africa
- Wednesday 7th June: **David Carrington:** *The Treasures of the Kenfig National Nature Reserve (to be held at the Reserve Centre) (max. capacity 50)*
- Wednesday 5th July: **Chris Bleach:**
The Life of Tommy Cooper
- Wednesday 6th September: **Neil Sinclair:**
From Tiger Bay to Cardiff Bay
- Wednesday 4th October: **Jon Laver:**
Global Warming – Myth or Monster?
- Wednesday 8th November: **Chris James:**
Looking at the Night Skies
- Wednesday 6th December: **Andrew Collier:**
A History of Religion



Outline of Proposed Visits in 2017

25th January: Visit to Exhibitions at the National Museum of Wales and to the City of Cardiff Museum

February: Visit to Tredegar House, Newport

3rd March: Visit to Concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff

Visit to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales and Aberglasney

April: Nature in Art Museum and Gloucester Cathedral

29th April: Visit to performance of *Nell Gwyn*:

May: Visit to Malvern Flower Show

June: Visit to Berkeley Castle and Gloucester Docks

July: Visit to a Welsh Proms Concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff