



Garth Olwg U3A

Founded : March 2008

Web - <https://gartholwgu3a.wordpress.com/>

Registered Charity No. 1206759

FEBRUARY, 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

1. WELCOME

At the risk of sounding boring, PLEASE SIGN IN AT THE DOOR for our General Meetings. This is important for two reasons – (1) we'll need to do a roll call should there be any reason to evacuate the building and (2) you are only covered by u3a insurance if you are shown to be present.

This bulletin contains some information about our future events and Interest Groups.

2. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) **Quiz Night** : This popular event is back with us once again. Our own Dave Snook will be asking the questions and (hopefully) you members will be providing the answers. Teams will consist of six people so find your partners! The event will start at 7pm on Wednesday 30th April at the Rugby Club in The parade. Entrance fee is £5pp and this will include a supper buffet.
- b) **Cinema Group** : This group is restarting and will continue on Mondays as and when we find appropriate films. Notice of such films will be quite short (as we find out about them) but you will be informed by special Newsletter.
To start off with, this reformed Group will meet at the **Showcase Cinema in the Nantgarw Cinema Complex on Monday 17th February** at 1-45pm to see the latest in the Bridget Jones series – “Bridget Jones – Mad About the Boy”. I am told that the cost of this will be £5.
- c) **Coffee Morning** : We are on a drive to get new members. To this end, we are organising a coffee morning at Café Rana (at Garth Olwg LLC) on Thursday 6th March at 10H30. All are invited but please try to bring with you a friend who would possibly join our U3A club.
- d) **Annual General Meeting** : Yes – it's coming up to that time of year again. This year's AGM will be on Wednesday, 16th April at our usual General Meeting venue – the theatre at Garth Olwg LLC. More details and the official notice next month.
- e) **We are considering having a “Birthday” party on Friday, 23rd May.** Barbara will explain a bit about this but more details will be in next month's newsletter.

3. SUGGESTIONS

We have had quite a few suggestions (keep 'em coming folks!) and discuss them all at our monthly Trustee Meeting. Several are too expensive, too far, unsuitable for the more elderly people etc etc.

However, arising from our latest meeting, it has been decided to consider a trip to Carmarthen for a day out on the **Gwili Railway**. (A return trip on this steam railway is £14pp) and we are thinking of this for end May.

Another trip being considered is that to the new **War Museum at the Barry Island Railway Station** in late June. Here, we could get a train from Treforest or Pontypridd directly to the station at Barry.

We have had a suggestion for a **Skittles Group**. Unfortunately, after exhaustive investigation, we could find no local appropriate venue.

All those members who remember the extremely popular **Strollers Group**, may welcome a new group – the “**Amblers**”. As suggested, this will not be a strenuous hiking group but one more acceptable to our members and run on the same line as the Strollers. Barbara will be asking for a “show of hands” at our General Meeting.

We have at least another four suggestions under consideration – including an overnight trip. Barbara will be speaking about the suggestions at our General Meeting on 19th Feb.

3. GENERAL NOTICES CONCERNING OUR MEETINGS

c) **Our Monthly Raffle** : Each strip of tickets is only £1 so please pay up !! All proceeds are ploughed back into our funds to offset future costs, However, try to use the correct money as Clare has a problem with £50 notes !!

d) We will **not** be able to take part in the **Table Tennis Tournament** to be organised by **The Wales u3a Group**. Only one member came forward as interested and we will need to field a team in order to play doubles or mixed doubles.

e) There is better news regarding the “**u3a QUIZ**” hosted by Porthcawl u3a. Beryl Keating is organising our team so please speak to her about this. .

4. INTEREST GROUPS

Should you have an interest in forming a new Interest Group then please contact our new **Interest Groups Co-ordinator – Barbara Brown on 07734 384234 or barbarabrown0550@gmail.com**

We want to increase the number of Interest Groups that we have and increase the membership of some of the groups that we already have. To this aim, we are thinking about a **Tiddleywinks Group** ! Seriously, this has become one of the most popular groups in other U3A branches. Again, Barbara will be talking about this at our General Meeting.

Note that the **Enjoying Science Group** is now at its maximum numbers for the room and will not be accepting more new members. A “waiting list” has been started.

Wednesday, 12th February - Lunch Club: meeting at 12.30pm at the Dynevor Arms, Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen, CF72 8NS. A £10 deposit will be required – payable ASAP
At our General Meeting on 17th May 2023, an announcement was made whereby the last opportunity for booking a lunch club lunch will be the Sunday evening following the relevant General Meeting.

Contact : Elaine Williams on williams.me.49@gmail.com

Friday 14th February – Gardening Club meeting in the foyer at Garth Olwg at 2pm.
The February meeting has been cancelled with the next meeting being in March.
Contact : Jacqui on 01443 205004 or 07399719235 or eMail to j.bunnage@talktalk.net

Tuesday 18th February – Games Group meeting at “Woodlands Walk” Garden Centre, Efail Isaf from 12.30 to 4.00pm. **NOTE THE NEW VENUE**
Contact : Elaine Williams on williams.me.49@gmail.com

Wednesday 19th February – General Meeting – The venue is now permanently in the Theatre at Garth Olwg at 2pm.

The speaker at this meeting will be James Stewart. James is a local Journalist and Broadcaster and his talk is entitled “In search of the Last Bard”. This is about the life and legacy of Edward Evan (1716 – 1798). The activities of Edward Evan are most important for the very revealing insight they give to many aspects of Life in Aberdare during his lifetime.

Thursday, 20th February – Poetry Reading Group – The theme this month is “Seas and Oceans”

Contact : Barbara Brown on 01443 201535

Thursday, 27th February – The Art & Architecture Group – meeting at 2.30 pm in Tabernacle Chapel in Efail Isaf.

NOTE THAT THE START TIME HAS REVERTED TO 2pm

We will watch the second section of a DVD called Stories From The National Gallery

Contact : Beryl Keating on 01443 222637 or 07804834344

Monday, 3rd March – Trustees Meeting at the Old Parish Hall at 11am.

Tuesday 4th March – Enjoying Science Group -- Meeting in Garth Olwg -- Room 21, 2pm.

We will continue with the DVD on the development of planet earth. In this episode we look at how plants came to dominate the planet threatening their very existence in the process. Catastrophe is averted and forest swamps appear leading to the creation of coal that is still mined today.

Contact: John Sayle on 07766 714669

Wednesday 5th March - Book Club - meeting at 11H00 in Room 16 at Garth Olwg

The classic “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens will be discussed:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. So begins Charles Dickens’ most famous historical drama: a gripping tale of war, social injustice and the choice between darkness and light. After being unjustly imprisoned for 18 years, French doctor Manette is released from the Bastille jail in Paris and embarks upon a journey to London in the hope of finding the daughter he never met. Young Lucie Manette is a pretty and dutiful girl who soon attracts the attention of two very different gentlemen. Now reunited with the father she believed to be dead, happiness appears to be within reach. But as they are all drawn back to the bloodstained streets of Paris, misery and the threat of La Guillotine loom once again.

Contact : Joan West on joan.jmwest@icloud.com

Wednesday, 11th March - Lunch Club: meeting at 12.30pm at the Miskin Arms. A £10 deposit will be required – payable ASAP

At our General Meeting on 17th May 2023, an announcement was made whereby the last opportunity for booking a lunch club lunch will be the Sunday evening following the relevant General Meeting.

Contact : Elaine Williams on williams.me.49@gmail.com

4. And, FINALLY

Please look at our own branch website- very ably run by our own Jayne Harte. You can find this at <https://gartholwgu3a.wordpress.com>. This site is updated and contains information on our local history, our various Interest Groups, the various trips that we’ve been on as well as your photographs and links to other u3a information – well worth a look. Additionally, we’ve included all our Policies on the site as well as our Job Descriptions.

The u3a Trust website also contains a lot of information and you can find this at

www.u3a.org.uk.

Bob Davies

(Business & Communications Secretary and Membership Secretary)

SNIPPETS :

In 1969, a contender for loneliest person in the Solar System was astronaut Michael Collins. When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin first set foot on the Moon, the whole world was watching. The whole world, that is, apart from Collins, who was circling around the back of the Moon, looking after the command module. When he was fully behind it, mission control couldn't get messages to him, so Collins was literally on his own, temporarily separated from every other human in existence. Collins has since said that he didn't feel any loneliness. 'Behind the Moon it was very peaceful – no one in mission control is yakkin' at me and wanting me to do this, that, and the other.' However, it's quite a long way to go to get some peace.

Funny You Should Ask . . . : Your Questions Answered by the QI Elves

THE ORIGIN OF THE CAPUCCINO

In 18th century Austria, the word *kapuziner* or *capsuziner* was used for a glass of coffee mixed with cream – the colour of which echoed the brown hue of the habits worn by Capuchin friars. During the 19th Century, during the period of Hapsburg domination over the Northern Italian states (prior to unification), this usage spread into Italy. Early 20th Century tourist guidebooks explained that *cappuccino* was served in a smaller cup and contained less milk than a *caffè latte*.

Today's cappuccino evolved in parallel with the espresso machine – a quintessential Italian invention - that appeared just before the First World war. This uses steam to brew coffee under pressure and is equipped with projecting “wands” used to warm milk. As these became more powerful, so the habit of “frothing” or “foaming” milk developed. The character of coffee itself was fundamentally altered after 1948 when Achille Gaggia revolutionised the design of these machines to extract the hot espresso at much higher pressures.

Smile :

Mental Hospital: I was walking past the mental hospital earlier today. All the patients were shouting, '13....13....13.' The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on..... Some crazy b***** poked me in the eye with a stick! Then they all started shouting '14....14....14'...

A car was going only 25 mph on the motorway. Cars were speeding by, honking their horns and cursing the driver of the slow car. A police officer pulled behind the slow-moving car, turned on his lights and the slow car carefully pulled to the side of the road. The officer was surprised to see a little old lady behind the wheel. “Ma’am, do you know why I pulled you over?” “No sir, I don’t. I wasn’t breaking the speed limit.” “Ma’am, the speed limit is 60 mph.” She pointed to a sign and the officer laughed. “Ma’am, that sign says Route 25...not 25 mph.” Then, the officer noticed the three passengers...all of whom were elderly ladies...all of whom were simply terrified. Politely, the officer asked: “Are your passengers okay?” “Oh, they’ll be fine. We just got off Route 125.”

One day an Irishman goes into a pharmacy - reaches into his pocket and takes out a small Irish whiskey bottle and a teaspoon. He pours some whiskey onto the teaspoon and offers it to the chemist. "Could you taste this for me, please?" The chemist takes the teaspoon, puts it in his mouth, swills the liquid around and swallows it. "Does that taste sweet to you?" says Paddy. "No, not at all," says the chemist. "Oh that's a relief," says Paddy. "The doctor told me to come here and get my urine tested for sugar."

“Everybody appears sane – until you get to know them”. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

