

# MONMOUTH u3a MONTHLY BULLETIN JANUARY 2021

## **Monmouth u3a Activity Groups whilst in Alert level 4**

Whilst Wales is in Alert level 4 (very high risk) for Covid-19 control it is not possible to meet in groups either indoors or outdoors and therefore all face to face group activities have been suspended. Some activity groups are continuing through the use of media such as Zoom, What's App and Facetime. Please consult the Group Convenor if you wish to find out more information about a particular activity group.

### **Great British Eccentrics**

**A talk (via Zoom) by Paul Robbins**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 2.30pm**

Have you ever wondered why Britain has had so many eccentrics? Great British Eccentrics & Rogues is a highly amusing talk which looks at some of the World's great eccentrics & Rogues who just happened to be British!

Paul takes you on a light-hearted journey that looks at some of the great characters from our past like the Lord who lived in a converted fish tank, a unique singer, a UFO obsessed peer and then to more recent times and some of the great eccentrics of the last 30 years.

If you are interested in joining, please email Mike Saunders ([mikesaunders.mjs@gmail.com](mailto:mikesaunders.mjs@gmail.com)) by 16<sup>th</sup> January and he will send out an email invitation nearer the time.

### **u3a 2021 Calendar**

In 2019, the Third Age Trust ran a u3a photography competition in Wales on the theme of Welsh Castles. They have compiled a calendar using the top 12 entries in that competition. It can be downloaded here

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/walesu3a/docs/castless1pu3awales.pdf>

### **Festive Broadcast of u3a Radio**

The u3a podcast team have created a special festive episode which will be available to listen to from 25 December. This is in addition to the regular December episode. These can be heard on the u3a YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a>

### **Winter Watch**

The Third Age Trust are collecting images from across the u3a membership that represent winter. This is a collection of experiences and memories.

They want to see everything from the beautiful landscapes in your area to your home Christmas decorations, family traditions and home-cooked winter warmer dishes.

For information about this, and other national u3a activities, please see the December newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-national-newsletter-december>

Third Age Trust have also issued a festive newsletter express which is available here <https://mailchi.mp/u3a/newsletter-express-for-u3a-movement-25-december-2020?e=ff512e300f>

### **Creative Writing- Simon Durrant**

This group will restart in the New Year at Bridges as soon as rules allow. Anyone who I have not been in touch with who would like to take part should drop me a line at [sncd@outlook.com](mailto:sncd@outlook.com) Perhaps anyone who intends to come to the meeting might produce a piece of writing on some aspect of this last horrible nine months. Chocolate will be available for the most uplifting.

### **Science and Technology online meeting, but all Monmouth u3a members welcome**

**12 January 2021 @ 2.30**

#### **Rockets, Satellites, Space Lasers and the Internet:**

how SpaceX plans to connect everyone everywhere

Mark Handley, Professor of Networked Systems at UCL, will introduce us to hugely ambitious plans to ring the earth with tens of thousands of low earth orbit satellites interconnected by space lasers, and demonstrate how this will facilitate a global high-speed internet, connecting people all over the world in places that optical fibre will never reach.

Please register for this talk by Sunday 10 January by emailing Cherry Lewis on [monmouthu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:monmouthu3amembership@gmail.com)

### **Third Age Trust payments**

Every year, we pay an amount to Third Age Trust (TAT) based on the numbers of members we have. This money covers the costs of the national office which provides advice and guidance on running a u3a, national activities and insurance cover for all our activities. It is included in the annual subscription you pay to Monmouth u3a. At this year's TAT AGM a motion was passed increasing this payment from £3.50 to £4.00 per member from April 2022. Nearer the time, the committee will consider what affect this might have on Monmouth u3a membership fees and, if we are proposing any change, there will be a motion put to the membership at the next AGM.

### **u3a- change of logo**

You may have noticed that we have changed the way we refer to the u3a, using lower case rather than upper case letters. This is in line with new guidance from the Third Age Trust after they carried out a rebranding exercise at the national level.

### **Monmouth – community help**

If you don't have anyone who can support you to get essential shopping or prescriptions during self-isolation then please contact [partnerships@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@monmouthshire.gov.uk) 01633 644696 Similarly, if you could offer to help others in this way, please get in touch by the details above

(Please note- this is a service run by **Monmouthshire County Council** not by u3a)

### **Bulletin contact**

From next month, Simon Durrant will be compiling the monthly bulletin. The committee would like to thank Frances Williams, who is the current compiler, for all her help. Contributions for the bulletin should be sent to Simon ([sncd@outlook.com](mailto:sncd@outlook.com)) by 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.