

Monthly newsletter

November 2022

From the Chair

Many thanks to all those who came to the Annual General Meeting - your strong support shows how much we all value Monmouth u3a. For those who missed it, we said a big thanks to the outgoing Committee for steering us so well through the pandemic and especially big thanks to Tricia Dodd, Mary Ross, Mike Brewer, Val Baker and Estelle Stevenson who stood down. We are very grateful that Diana Wilkinson, Sue Cobourne, Cherry Lewis, Averil Macdonald and Stephen Durrant are staying on, and welcome new members Sandy Scovell, Heather Elliot, Adele Glenn, David Hoyle, Mel Hughes, Ros Parkinson, Pauline Sanders, Kiara White, Sheila Rowland, Sheila Woodward, Charles Emes, and myself, Daniel Jones, as Chairman. We have already begun our first project to update our web-site and our first full meeting will be on 14 November. Do get in touch with us if you have any questions.

Best wishes
Dan

Members Meeting

2.30 pm 15 November at Bridges.

Dr Keith Moseley on SPACE ART THROUGH THE AGES.

Long before the first person went into space, many artists gazed into the night sky and imagined what might be out there. From medieval painters, through artists like Van Gogh, to illustrators for popular science fiction books, games and films, this talk will reveal and illustrate some elements of their work.

Groups

Walking with Dogs

Next walk Tuesday 15 November at 10.00

All are welcome, with or without dog, which does not necessarily have to be your own.

Contact Mel Hughes (mellyhughes4@gmail.com; 07585 807028) for more details.

Geology Group: Wednesday 9 November at 2.00pm in the ballroom at Bridges

Rediscovering Trellech by Katie Churchill, Archaeologist

The village of Trellech in Monmouthshire has been the subject of many articles and investigations over the past 50 years. Today it is well presented in the media as The Lost City, but there is so much more to Trellech than its Medieval town. In June 2021, a community excavation at Court Farm in the centre of the village prompted a new investigation into its archaeological and historical development. This talk summarises these new findings and, combined with previous research,

presents a revised timeline of this fascinating settlement. It will also include a few geological highlights as it is a key discipline in archaeological research.

Although geology will get a mention, the main thrust is about the recent work and research led by Katie. This will appeal to anyone with an interest in local archeology and history. We are happy to welcome any non members of the geology group to this meeting. But space in the ballroom is limited so we would appreciate it if interested non members of the group could let Jim know they hope to be there. Please email jim.s.handley@gmail.com There will be a charge of £2 each.

U3A CINEMA GROUP

There will not be a film showing in November as The Savoy are hosting a film crew and its doors are closed for that week.

It is with great regret that the u3a Cinema Group cannot continue because of the lack of support from the Monmouth members therefore our final film 'Rocks' will be shown on Tuesday, 6th December (this is the first week of the month).

Contacts: Barbara Atkins, 01600 714761 barbara.atkins3@btinternet.com or Dorothy Munslow. 01600 715014

Science and Technology Tuesday 8 November at 2.30pm in the BRIDGES CENTRE

Rewilding - fad or the future? by Cherry Taylor

Rewilding is a bit of a buzz word these days, but what does it mean? Is it even relevant to the average gardener and land owner? Could you rewild your own patch? Cherry Taylor has been exploring these issues with Gwent Wildlife Trust and has gained insight and inspiration from a 2022 visit to the 3,500-acre Knepp Estate – the rewilding mecca in the UK. Coupled with her own experience, she will relay the insights from the Knepp ecologists on how to apply these principles to a smaller amount of land or garden.

Cherry Taylor currently gardens on 1.5 acres of Monmouthshire clay just outside Monmouth, using no dig and organic growing methods, and applying a type of rewilding to parts of the land to drive up biodiversity. The garden has opened for the National Garden Scheme and been used by Charles Dowding to run no dig courses.

If you are not a member of this group you are welcome to join us as a guest for the small fee of £3 (or you can become a full member for £10).

Contact Cherry Lewis on monmouthu3amembership@gmail.com

Jazz Appreciation

We had a very good attendance at the first meeting of the reformed Jazz Appreciation Group in September, confirming our new "Purpose and Strategy.

At our October meeting we tested the strategy we had agreed at the September meeting. We played tracks of the English multi-talented jazz instrumentalist, Tubby Hayes and the French guitarist Django Reinhardt from a playlist compiled on Spotify from those previously nominated by members. We also included a video of each artist we found on You Tube and this proved to be even more enjoyable than simply playing and discussing chosen tracks because we learnt more about the artists. However, we did find that two artists and a tea break left no time for a third artist. We also didn't have time to play all the tracks members had nominated. However, that's no bad thing because they may be chosen in future sessions for illustrating a jazz style, instrument or period. It was therefore agreed that the format of future sessions be 50 minutes x 2 with a 20 minute break for refreshments.

The artists chosen for November are Ella Fitzgerald and Oscar Peterson.

National

News from the Third Age Trust

The latest newsletter from the Third age Trust is here <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=15650e13ae>

Other

Dr Charlotte Jones

Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Charlotte Jones, a long-standing member of Monmouth u3a.

Obituary by Lynn May

Dr Charlotte Jones, a Central European Jewish refugee who became Monmouth's first female GP, has died aged 95.

Monmouth u3a played a significant role in Charlotte's later years during which she made many friends and was convenor of both the Garden Visiting and Creative Writing groups. Indeed, her passion for creative writing formed the basis of her self published memoirs *My Life Remembered*, printed last year.

Charlotte set up her own single handed GP practice in Dixton Road in the early 1980s after an unsuccessful attempt to join the only existing surgery in the town. All its doctors were men who were against employing women GPs. Undaunted Charlotte and her second husband, Alun Jones mortgaged their home to buy the neighbouring bungalow and convert it into Dixton Surgery which she ran until she retired in 2000. She was thrilled when Dr Brian Harries, who succeeded her as senior partner on her retirement, administered her Covid injection last year, making her the first patient in Monmouth to receive the vaccination.

Born in Vienna in 1927 Charlotte was brought up in Czechoslovakia. Her father, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, died when she was seven. In January 1939, months after Hitler annexed Czech Sudetenland, she and her mother sought refuge in London with a distant cousin.

Charlotte's medical studies coincided with the birth of the NHS in 1948 and she attended

the Royal Free Hospital Medical School for Women in London, one of few all-female medical schools in the capital at that time. She qualified as a doctor in 1954 and rose through the ranks to become a registrar in obstetrics at a maternity hospital in Walthamstow, East London. After her marriage to her first husband and the birth of their four children she worked as a locum GP and at school, infant welfare and family planning clinics.

When her marriage failed, Charlotte was left to bring up four children alone. Her subsequent marriage to Alun, an occupational health physician who became a Lord Mayor of Monmouth, was a long and happy one until his death in 2005.

Charlotte enjoyed a full and active retirement which included foreign travel, walking, gardening, Bridge, creative writing and regular swimming. Heart surgery at the age of 90 forced her to cut down but not entirely cut out her swimming until a fall at home when she was 92 broke her back - although not her spirit.

Housebound and confined to a wheelchair she drew solace from nature, garden birds, her much loved cat and visits from her many family members and friends. Covid 19 in 2020 forced her into highly unwelcome isolation supported by a succession of live in carers.

Although the final two years of her life were spent in nursing homes, she never lost her impish sense of humour and thirst for information about world affairs and her family and friends across the globe.

She is survived by two children, three stepchildren and four grandchildren.