

MONMOUTH

U3A

AUTUMN & WINTER
EDITION No.2



MAGAZINE

SEPT - MARCH EDITION

PLEASURE OF LEARNING FOR ITS OWN SAKE

U3A is a self-help organisation run entirely by the voluntary efforts of its members.

Members regard themselves as both learners and teachers. It gives or requires no awards or qualifications, except the experience of life.

If you are not a member, and are reading this magazine and it encourages you to join would you please ring the Membership Secretary. New members are always welcome.
01600 740137

Contributions, and photographs, can be received at any time but to ensure they are available in time for the next magazine please submit at the earliest possible time.

We welcome items on a diversity of subjects, from our members, so please get photographing and writing.

Monmouth U3A Magazine is published by the Monmouth U3A, for the members of the U3A, in April and September of each year, and is free to all members

The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily endorsed by U3A, and in the events of any advertisements printed in this magazine it will not mean that such product or service has been endorsed by U3A or this magazine.

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The Committee respectively informs all its members that in taking part in U3A activities, that they do so entirely at their own risk.

The U3A does not insure any member against personal accident.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the second issue of our new full colour magazine. It contains original contributions from individual members, details of recent activities in some of our groups and articles of general interest.

During the six months since the publication of the first issue, our membership has reached a record number of 420. I should like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members and hope they are enjoying participating in our groups and finding us a friendly organisation. There is something to interest everyone in the range of groups we have on offer, but the committee is always open to proposals for new activities and a suggestion box is available at the monthly meetings and on our website for you to contribute your ideas.

The new website was launched six months ago and is receiving a steady increase in the number visiting the site. Several of our convenors are posting information on their Group pages and committee minutes, monthly bulletins and the magazine are all available. If you have not yet seen the website, Jenny Robbins has an article about it in this issue.

This summer, as a change from the traditional Summer Lunch, the committee canvassed the membership for their suggestions on a venue for a full day visit. The most popular choice was a trip on the Severn Valley Railway and this duly took place on a sunny day in June. A short account of the day can be found in these pages. There are several interesting venues within reach of Monmouth that we could visit on future occasions.

Our next social event is the Christmas Lunch which will be held on December 2nd in the Beechwood Restaurant at the Forest of Dean Catering College. This has proved so popular that all the available places are filled already.

I am very pleased to welcome two new members on to our committee as a result of voting at our AGM in September. They are Jo Binmore and Diana Wilkinson and both have joined Monmouth U3A in recent months. They will jointly take on the responsibility of Social Secretary. We now have a committee up to full strength and with a good balance of age and experience. This is a good start and I look forward to the coming year.

Valerie Conniff

MONMOUTH U3A SUMMER OUTING



The sun shone all day, on the 25th June for our journey on

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

The countryside is at its best at this time of year and we had time to savour it in full as our steam train chugged gently through the scenic Severn Valley route. An unexpected sight --- a field full of vivid red poppies came into view. The line is a living museum, everything - engines, carriages, stations, platforms - all have been carefully restored with meticulous attention to detail by the dedicated team of volunteers



We stopped at the Engine House Visitor Centre to view the massive locomotives and other interesting exhibits, including a Royal Mail sorting van and King George VI's Royal Carriage, as well as informative video presentations.

On board again after lunch, via diesel this time, to Bridgnorth where there was the opportunity to travel on the Cliff Railway from Lower to Upper Town.

After time spent in Bridgnorth, an uninterrupted steam-driven journey back to Kidderminster where our coach was waiting to return us to Monmouth, almost 11 hours after we had left! All in all a very memorable day and a rare opportunity to experience life at a more leisurely pace than the 21st century allows.



Two poems by BERYL ALLEN

NOVEMBER

Rain shattering the window panes
Searchlights of cars beaming on the glistening tarmac
November rain, cold penetrating, stinging

Dark morning fog shrouding the valleys
Then slowly rising to reveal a cloudless sky
Watery sun shining on autumn leaves
As they spin down to settle on a woodland floor
Of burnished red and gold
Shining on the delicate beauty of a spider's web
Shimmering in the dew

November evening, sizzle crackle as the bonfires are set alight
Swish and woosh as the fireworks reach for the sky
And explode into glorious colour
November can be many things
Dark, dreary, depressing
But oh how it can lift the hearts at times

RAIN

Clouds brooding
Pitter patter
Faster faster
Rippling
Gurgling
Flooding
Rushing down the hill
Gathering momentum
Trees torn cars strewn
Crashing through the houses
Memories kept in boxes
Swept away in the wake of the storm
Devastation
Darkness
Tears join the rain
Eyes unbelieving



PORTRAIT PAINTING's

by

*BARBARA
DAVIES*

With grateful thanks to our
U3A tutor [2005 - 2010]
KATHLEEN BUTTFIELD,
who taught us so much.

All these paintings were copies from various magazines,
and top left is the actress and film star
MERYL STREEP.

Bottom left is an unknown male,
with

H.M. The Queen on the right,
painted in April, 2006



AN EVENING IN THE HIGH STREET

by Ros Hallett

It takes hours to perfect The Look. Fake tan liberally applied to any bare flesh magically spreads itself to any surface in the bathroom, making up the face takes an hour of careful artistry. The eyes have to be wide open with a startled look, the lips pursed with a scarlet pout. Fake tan, fake nails, fake eyelashes, the more fake the better. The bare minimum of clothing is donned, boobs and thighs exposed whatever the temperature, and the hair is fluffed, straightened, coloured or twisted according to the desired look.

Then it's off to town with the girls, ready to set Cardiff, or Stockport or Swindon alight. It doesn't matter that they might have been trotting along the same street only hours earlier, at night the place is transformed in their eyes. The dress shops, the shoe emporia, the beauty parlours have all shut up for the night, the shoppers have all gone home long ago, no one over the age of 30 appears to be about.

Loud beat music booms out from the pubs and clubs, which, all but invisible during the day, have suddenly manifested themselves all along the street. Groups of casually dressed youths hang around the doors, making loud comments on the gaggles of giggling girls who walk past. The comments get lewder as the night creeps on.

"Oy, darlin, fancy a bit?"

" in yer dreams, tosser! "

Neon lights flash, inviting the punters in,

"Happy hour! 8 til 10"

" live music!"

The girls parade from bar to bar, shot after shot, glass after glass downed to the accompaniment of cheers and jeers. Girl groups gradually mix with the boys, couples begin to pair up. As the evening wears noisily on, queues form outside the more popular venues.

" got I'd, love? "

" hop it lad, you ain't eighteen"

Inevitably, fuelled by drink, tempers flare. There's a punch up, a crowd forms, and before the protagonists realise it, there's a wailing of sirens and the police have arrived. Punch drunk, lager drunk combatants are pulled apart, put in the police van and taken to the local nick to sober up in the cells, to be sent off in the morning with a headache and a talking to. No actual bodily harm done, no prosecution necessary.

Past midnight, and the progress along the street is decidedly more shaky. Charmaine, Sherrie or Kylie, tittuping along in heels so high they almost tip the wearer forwards, have difficulty negotiating the irregular paving stones, and, shrieking with laughter as one or another stumbles weave their wobbly way along to the kebab house.

Charmaine wants a kebab, Sherrie fancies cheesie chips, Kylie feels so ill she just wants to lie down where she is.

Homeward bound on the last bus, in a taxi, by train, they bid each other noisy goodbyes. They know they'll feel like death come the morning, and in some cases wake up in a strange bed with a strange partner, but it's worth it for a bloody good night out. Same time, same place next week?

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If you would like more information on any of the
U3A Special Interest Groups
please refer to your Membership booklet for
full details

This magazine can now be found on the
Monmouth U3A website.
Why not visit the site it is full of interesting information.
www.monmouthu3a.com

POETRY GROUP 2

Convenor : Linda Blunt 01600 714847

The group meets on the third Monday of each month at 13 Auden Close, Osbaston. Monmouth, NP25 3NW from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

After a summer break in August, this friendly group will meet up again on 15 September, when it will be looking into the poetry of Vernon Watkins (1906 – 1967). He was a friend of Dylan Thomas, whose poetry the group enjoyed rereading earlier in the year and who described Vernon as ‘the most profound and greatly accomplished Welshman writing poems in English’. Apparently, Vernon announced at the age of 5 that he would be a poet. Vernon and Dylan first met in 1935 when Vernon returned to Swansea to work in a bank. As a child, Vernon had lived with his family at Caswell Bay. He was the only person from whom Dylan took advice when writing poetry and they remained lifelong friends. Vernon wrote the obituary for Dylan, while Philip Larkin wrote Vernon’s obituary.

Members of the poetry group take it in turns to take the lead at a meeting and find out in advance considerable information about the poet’s life and works, but every group member does some preparation and comes to the meeting prepared to read poems to the others. All group members participate in deciding which poets are to be studied , ensuring that different styles and topics of poetry are covered from several centuries ago up to the present day . In the course of 2014 the group has studied poetry by – Charles Hamilton Sorley (1895-1915), John Clare (1793-1864), Matthew Arnold (1822- 1888), poetry written in the post-2nd world war period of the late 1940s and 1950s, lesser known female poets, Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953) and Lewis Carroll (1832- 1898). Occasionally, in the past, poems by American, Australian and African poets have been studied.

MONMOUTH U3A WEB SITE

Webmaster :- JENNY ROBBINS

www.monmouthu3a.com



Have you looked at the Monmouth U3A website, on the move, at home or in the library? Check out your Committee, catch up on notices, read the story from a member of Creative Writing, and see what activities the groups are offering. There are photographs of visits to Concord, the original flyer now shown in the history of U3A written by Geoffrey and Vera Easton, bulletins and the magazine, and one lady member balancing on a rocky ledge in the Brecon Beacons! Use the Contact Form to send updates and comments.



Sadly, Hugh was not to enjoy its success for long.

NATIONAL AGM & CONFERENCE

held at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester

Three committee members attended the second day of this year's conference which was AGM day !

Before the AGM we listened to an excellent talk on Ageing by Professor Richard Faragher (Professor of Biological Gerontology at the University of Brighton) which was optimistic and uplifting suggesting that research was well on the way to counteract some of the effects of ageing (which unless one is a clam appears to be inevitable!)

The talk was followed by the AGM, conducted very efficiently (and swiftly) by our superb national chairman, Barbara Lewis. As a group we were allocated two votes, in order to re-elect officers and to accept the Annual report and accounts. The votes for officers were by secret ballot and were counted whilst we had lunch. All were returned with a very large majority.

The afternoon session saw a new innovation for the conference of a question and answer session. U3A groups had previously sent in questions, ranging from why 'Chairman' through technical questions about the Charity commission, to why Third Age Matters is not sent to members as part of the annual subscription. All were answered by the Trustees who also took some follow up questions from the floor. There was a strict time limit to each topic and your delegates felt that this was a very useful session indeed, and everyone else agreed! Finally, Barbara Lewis sent us away with the following inspirational message:

U3A is an organisation of men and women
who regularly gather together to share their experiences,
knowledge, philosophies, values and ideas.

They learn from each other.

It is a forum for the growth of the human spirit,
the development of friendships and
the exploration of ideas
to enrich the quality of life in the Third Age



GREAT BRITISH DANCE BANDS

Last Tuesday, of the month,
at 7:30pm
**THE MUSIC GOES
ROUND, AND ROUND**



This small, but thriving group, meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month and enjoy the music played by the pop idols of the 1920's thru to the 1940's. Popular bands of the day Ambrose, Roy Fox, Harry Roy and Lew Stone and many other great bands through to the bands that time forgot, but the melodies and arrangements still live today.

Like today many scandals followed the bands around the British Isles but in those days going astray was kept under wraps and very rarely reached the public domain. Some seem very far fetched but then this was life.

An example of this was told the group about the very well known band leader Arthur Lally, who was also a saxophonist in Ambrose's Mayfair and Embassy Orchestras. He led an increasingly hectic lifestyle which began to take its toll on his health, however, when the War Office refused him permission to personally fly a bomb laden plane to kill the German leader Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgarden, he took his own life.

Did you know that in the early 1930's some records were made of cardboard and not all record needles were made of steel - some were made of wood and a type of cigar cutter was used to sharpen the point. Just some of the useless information we hear about as we go back to the days of radio and dancing to the 78 shellac records playing on the windup gramophone - when music was music and one could listen to the individual musical instruments as they played notes to give pleasure and enjoyment to the masses



CHURCH VISITING GROUP

Few historic buildings are as easy to visit as a parish church. Church buildings are not only places of worship but also make a contribution to the historic environment, and this is always evident during our visits.



St. Edward at Kempley

During most of our visits we have had an expert guide, some of whom have a special interest in aspects of their particular church, and have spent many hours researching the history, so we learn far more information than the casual visitor ever could! For example, in August we learned about Blanche Parry, a confidante of Elizabeth 1st and Keeper of the Queen's jewellery who has a monument in Bacton Church in the glorious Golden Valley . The church also has a beautiful framed altar cloth exquisitely embroidered by Tudor ladies, which was originally an Elizabethan court dress.



St. Maughans

The visits take place from April to September. Once we have decided on where we would like to go, usually at the suggestion of group members, each month a member organises the visit. We also enjoy a good lunch somewhere nearby !



St ISSUI at PARTRISHOW

The top picture is of the 14th century screen,
and the St.Issui's Holy Well

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

The Photographic Group meets on the last Wednesday, of each month to view and discuss photographs taken on a subject chosen previously. This is a very useful and informative meeting and is of great benefit to the members in improving their knowledge of digital photography without too much technical detail.



Reflections at Mallard's Pike, photograph by
Madelaïne Tiltman, using a Panosonic DMC Z FZ150

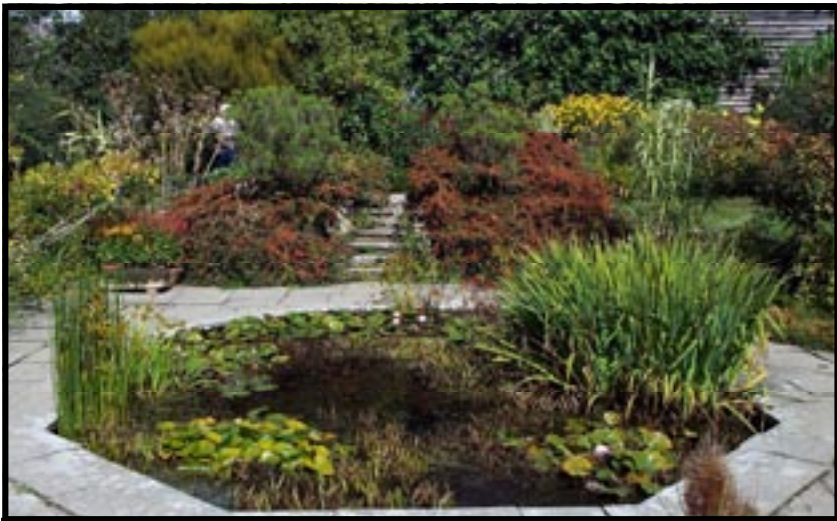


Veddw House Gardens, Devauden, photograph by
Sylvia Biggs using a Pentax Optio E85 camera

Photographic Group.



‘Cool Spot ‘ near Glyn Farm, Redbrook, photograph by Mark Lees, using a Nikon Coolpix S4000 camera.



‘Sunken Garden @ at Great Dixter, photograph by Rex Biggs, using a Fuji FinePix S8200 camera,

CLOSING TIME

By Marianne Wright

At six o'clock that summer's day Mr Brown stood at his office window looking down as his colleagues left the building. From his viewpoint he could see Mr Dunn and Mr Roberts, with their hair combed back with brilliantine that showed him their sharp white partings. The extravagant shoulders of their de-mob suits jutting out each the side of their prominent ears. Miss Humber patted her thick springing ginger hair with a flash of scarlet nail polish before putting on her white gloves and stepping off the pavement. Mrs Eggerton left next, with her round black widow's hat, and her even rounder bosom protruding as it proceeded her down past the ironmongers wheelbarrows and dustbins displayed on the pavement. Heavens, if he was to have salacious thoughts then it must not be about Mrs Eggerton's bosom. Mr Brown hurriedly looked up to the hot white cloudless sky. There was the suggestion of ochre on the horizon foretelling a thunder storm later that night.

In the mean time he wended his way down from his attic office closing doors and windows. He slammed the last one on the second floor and saw Miss Hunt and Miss Tyler sashaying down the dusty pavement in their home made New Look dresses. They were giggling and carefree as they headed towards Mr Dunn and Mr Roberts lighting up cigarettes outside the open door of the King's Head, before they all went inside. It did not take Mr Brown long to shunt all the money shuttles back to their correct positions, tidy the counters of the emporium, and lock the heavy double mahogany doors.

The High Street had emptied and in the evening's golden light, it shimmered and appeared both abandoned, and altered, from its mundane bustling daytime self. Mr Brown felt proprietorial as he slapped on his trilby and started to walk steadily down its length to the bus terminal. Within a few steps he found himself pulling back his shoulders, lifting his chin and marching. It was not so long ago that he was a very insignificant Private Brown, living in stark barracks or following orders on the battlefields. He passed the guildhall fronted by large plane trees, their luxuriant summer foliage casting deep shadows across the paving stones.

Contd on Page 18

Two red brick and ornate banks, a dress shop with its protective yellow cellophane shielding La Mode's pre war mannequins. Nearer the bus terminal the shops became smaller and shabbier with the newsagent and the bus station café having the larger frontages. Each unchanged in the intervening time since Private Brown had become plain Mr Brown of accounts.

He was a happy man; he liked his quiet office where the buzz of the shop scarcely reached him. No sergeant shouting and better still no noise of gunfire and bombs dropping. He liked this time of day almost as much as the freshness of early morning. He liked this solitary walk, his lone footsteps echoing down the side passages with their ranks of dustbins. The blinds were down on the windows of the smaller shops and the pawn shop had its metal grill in place to guard its dusty relics of other people's lives. This was a pause in the life of the High Street before it became its noisier, livelier self as the shabby cinema, theatre and pubs served their customers and spat them out into the High Street. This was not a pause in the life of Mr Brown. As he climbed onto the bus platform and bought his ticket from the conductor he knew he was a happy man. This ordered calm and the knowledge that he could continue this routine for just as long as he wanted made him a very, very happy man.

The bell clanged and the bus jolted away from its parking bay before starting its evening journey returning Mr Brown to his mother's semi detached mock tudor home in the suburbs and undemanding peace.

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**WYESING
U3A CHOIR**
at the
Mitchel Troy Village

FOUR CHOIRS FESTIVAL

On a peaceful Sunday morning in July some very weird noises were heard coming from Mitchel Troy Village Hall. Inside more than 50 people were having a lot of fun and laughter contorting their faces and emitting strange repetitive sounds; these exercises were all part of the voice workshop which our talented Natural Voice teacher, Helen Vincent had arranged for our day long singing festival.

Helen has four choirs which meet together on a weekly basis: The Crickhowellers, The Old Recks (who sing at the Old Rectory, Llangattock) and the two Monmouth choirs: The Monnow Mouths and the newest, our **U3A group WyeSing**.

The morning comprised of focused voice work including breathing, movement and singing in harmony, a very energising and enjoyable experience. This was followed by a shared lunch to which each participant contributed. No menu was planned beforehand and we had the most amazing variety of delicious food, better than any restaurant!

After lunch we separated into our individual choirs to rehearse the songs which we had been learning and practicing during the previous weeks ready for an informal concert (or "sharing", less scary!). The four groups were to perform to each other and then join together for a grand finale for invited friends and family.

We sang some lovely songs together with the other choirs. Our language skills much challenged by the African national anthem 'Nkosi Sikeleli Africa' and the popular Welsh hymn 'Calon Lan'. With Monnow Mouths we sang the haunting 'Only Remembered' from War Horse. Our own group rendition was the catchy 'Rice Krispies' ad song from the 50s, having heard it on Youtube we thought we were a great improvement on the original!

It was an uplifting and joyful day and so good to meet singers from Helen's other groups. We very much hope this will become an annual event.

WyeSing is going from strength to strength, having lots of fun singing our hearts out every Thursday afternoon and we warmly welcome more members. You don't need to read music or have any previous experience just a wish to sing, then please contact Jeanne Weston 01600 780271 or jeannewestonlyl@yahoo.co.uk

THEATRE GOERS

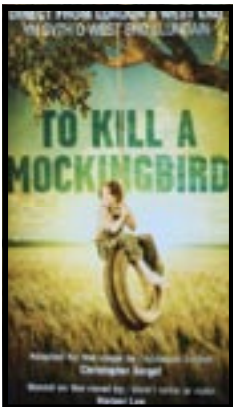


Sometimes with theatre going it pays to be a little adventurous rather than staying within our comfort zones. Many people thought that ‘*Therese Raquin*’ by Emile Zola might be rather heavy going and difficult, even boring some said, but those of us who took in the

Theatre Royal, Bath performance in August were treated to one of the most memorable plays we have seen in the three years or so since this group was formed. A stellar cast including Alison Steadman as Madame Raquin, held the audience rapt throughout as the plot unfolded from a loveless marriage through a passionate affair, murder, a ghostly haunting, madness and ultimately self-destruction. Not a single negative comment was heard on the coach home.

On the other hand, a comedy starring Simon Callow and Felicity Kendal – what could possibly go wrong? Sadly, even a masterly performance by Simon Callow could not rescue ‘Chin Chin’ which we saw almost a year ago. Felicity Kendal was ill but the consensus was that not even she could have rescued a fundamentally bad play.

This was the only failure of the year. ‘West Side Story’ at Bristol Hippodrome. ‘Twelve Angry Men’ with Martin Shaw at Malvern, ‘Things We Do for Love’ by Alan Ayckbourn at the New Theatre, Cardiff and Welsh National Opera in ‘La Traviata’ at the Millenium Centre were very much enjoyed by all.



Two very different American classics are next on the theatre goers’ programme which does aim to appeal to a wide range of tastes. Far be it from me to disagree with Michael Gove but ‘*To Kill a Mockingbird*’ by Harper Lee, for many of us, contributed to a lifelong love of reading and this stage production at New Theatre is on tour following outstanding reviews in the West End.

Contd on Page 21



The recreation of the Irving Berlin musical, Top Hat, probably best remembered for the much loved Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film, is also on a post West End tour having picked up Olivier

awards for best new musical, best choreography and best costume design. We are going to see it in January on stage at the Millenium Centre , everyone's favourite venue.

The theatre section of the website is kept updated and is the best way of keeping in touch with what's on for those who might be interested.

I also maintain a circulation list of regular theatre goers which anyone is welcome to join by emailing me.

Lesley Dibben

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ASCENT OF MERA PEAK IN THE HIMALAYAS

in memory of Tom Williams



We are pleased that following the article in the last issue of the Monmouth U3A magazine **Neil Williams** carried out his fund raising in the Himalayas and wishes to extend his grateful thanks to all those members who sponsored him in this event, and is pleased to advise that circa £ 1,100 was raised and donated to St David's Hospice..

Neil at 5300 metres on the snow fields of Mera Peak

NELSON GARDENERS

This May the Nelson Garden had its first Open Day, with the National Gardens Scheme, attracting just under 100 visitors and raising over £ 300 for Health Charities. This was a real recognition of our seven years of hard work in the restoration of the garden. In view of this success it is planned to make it an annual event. The new level access across the entrance was open for the first time, enabling people with disabilities to enjoy the garden, and this development was much appreciated by the general public.



Our programme of events continued with the Monmouth Male Voice Choir Concert in June. Then in July the Savoy Youth Theatre delighted audiences with their colourful production of ‘ Alice in Wonderland ‘. In September the garden participated in Monmouth’s ‘ Open Door ‘ at which the Monmouth U3A Recorder Group entertained the guests.



SKITTLES

Royal Oak, Hereford Road

Why not join fellow U3A members for our best morning fun social, held on the **last Thursday of every month** - no experience necessary just have fun. Why not come along ?

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The U3A monthly meetings take place at
BRIDGES COMMUNITY CENTRE
Every 3rd Tuesday, in the month, at 2:30pm

- 1st Oct** **DYLAN THOMAS**
This talk places the famous Welsh poet in his home environment and shows those his prose and poetry how important Swansea and west Wales were in influencing his work. The Speaker is **David Harrison**, well known to Monmouth and the U3A
- 18th Nov** **The ORIGINAL & INVENTIVE MIND OF ALFRED WATKINS [1855-1935]**
A business man, self-taught antiquarian, photographer and theorist.. **David Whitfield** examines his life and achievements
- 16th Dec** **CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Programme to be announced
- 20th Jan 2015** **ART IN THE WYE VALLEY**
A illustrated talk, by **Eleanor Bird**, exploring how landscape in the 18th & 19th centuries was reflected in images of the Wye Valley, one of the first centres of tourism in Britain.
- 17th Feb** **HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MINT**
Our speaker, **Chris Baker**, introduces us to the history of the Royal Mint, at Llantrisant.
- 17th March** **WHEN WILL WE DISCOVER LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE ?**
Our speaker, **Mike Edwards**, is Professor of Astrophysics at Cardiff University and Head of the School of Physics and Astronomy.

Fortcoming Events contd.....

- 21st Apr SEVERN CROSSING - Past, Present and...Future ?**
A collection of geological, historical and other interesting observations, by **John Evans**, since working on the original Severn Road Bridge in August 1961.
- 19th May WORLD WAR 1**
Our speaker, **Rev'd. Canon Simon Guest** , reminds us of the horrors of the Great War and tells us of the many War Memorials to be found in both Dingestow and Rockfield.
- 16th Jun WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS**
Our speaker, **Sue Cromact**, is the Secretary of the Guild of Weavers and Dyers.
- 21st July MEMBERS MEETING**
Programme to be announced
- 18th Aug INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF THE ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN.**
An illustrated talk, by **Pete Ralph**, covering the extraction of coal, iron and stone and timber..
- 15th Sep ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by RIVER, MOUNTAIN AND DESERT.**
Our speaker, **Gill Suttle**, takes a Syrian journey, on horseback, through the rich and varied landscapes of the country.
- 20th Oct MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOWS**
The Monmouthshire Meadows Group was started some 11 years ago , and **Stephanie Tyler**, helps us to understand how to manage the meadows for wildlife.
- 17th Nov ALFRED SISLEY & the IMPRESSIONISTS**
Who was this English Impressionist who lived most of his life in France, alongside Monet, Manet and Picasso, but who married in Cardiff. Our speaker, **Malcolm Meadows**, reveals all.
- 15th Dec CHRISTMAS PARTY.**
Programme to be announced