



Chairs Ramble

Finally, most of our outdoor groups have managed to meet and the weather has improved slightly.

Billy Adams was an interesting and lively speaker who told us about how he has got to where he is today with his ceramics. He uses the landscape as his inspiration and has some beautiful pieces. If you missed the talk, or even if you were there, why not visit Billy's studio in Cenarth to see more of his work.

Please note that there is a change to June's main meeting date as there was a diary clash at the Rugby Club. So, our next main meeting will be on Thursday 6th June not the Wednesday. The times and the venue will remain the same. The speaker will be one of our own members, John Piggott. He will be enthralling us with tales of their travels in Arizona. John has spoken to us before and is always interesting to listen to with some lovely photos.

The July meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 3rd July. This is your chance to give something back to our u3a and help to shape its future. You do not have to necessarily become a committee member as that is not for everyone, but we have groups of volunteers who help in various ways. So, maybe you just want to offer your services to help, or shadow one of the committee members to see what they do. We need you to keep Newcastle Emlyn u3a running smoothly in the future!

Don't forget to sign up for our August outing. This outing is always instead of our monthly meeting and is always well attended. This year we are planning a trip to Hay Castle in Hay on Wye. This will be on Wednesday 7th August. The cost is £25 per person to include the coach, entrance to the castle and a behind the scenes tour.

We used to have a group called 'Write Now' run by Julia Rainsbury. She is willing to restart this group again if there is enough interest. The writing of short stories, writing for children, poetry, and writing memoirs can all be covered. If interested, please email Julie Rainsbury on g.rainsbury@btopenworld.com. We already have a Creative Writing group, but the two groups can both run covering slightly different aspects of writing. Why not join both!

Unfortunately Dave Thomas who has led the photography group for the last few years has decided that he needs to prioritise his time for a while and is stepping down as leader. He is still running his own business and is very much involved in the Town Council. We wish him well and thank him for all that he has done for our u3a. Colin Luker has kindly agreed to take over as leader of the photography group.

Art

Every Thursday from 10.00am at Penboyr Village Hall

Astronomy

3rd Wednesday from 2.00pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd.
Joint with Cardigan u3a.

Badminton/Pickleball

2nd and 4th Wednesday from 12.15pm at Llandysul
Leisure Centre

Book Club

4th Tuesday from 10.30am at venue to be advised
(currently Zoom meetings).

Bowls

3rd Monday from 2.00pm at NCE Bowl Club

Crafty Crafters

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall.

Creative Writing

2nd Thursday from 11.00am at Ali's - venue varies.

Croquet

Fridays 2.30 om at Sue's garden Penrhiwllan

Digital Photography

Last Wednesday from 2.30pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd -
Joint with Cardigan U3A.

Don't get me started

2nd Monday from 2.00pm at Susan's in Pontgarreg

Family History

4th Tuesday from 2.30pm at The Church of Latter Day
Saints, Newcastle Emlyn.

French

4th Tuesday - at 11.00am at Sue's in Penrhiwllan

Games

3rd Tuesday from 10.30am at Penboyr Village Hall.

Garden

2nd Thursday at 2pm venue varies

ICT Support Sessions

as required

Kayak Paddlers

Various dates and venues

Lunch

Last Wednesday - venue varies.

Patchwork and Quilting

2nd Friday from 11.00am at Penboyr Village Hall.

Petanque

2nd Monday 2pm + 3rd Tuesday 10-00am King George V playing field Newcastle Emlyn

Philosophy

3rd Thursday from 11.00am at Penrhiwllan Village Hall.

Science and Technology

4th Monday from 2-00pm at Coracle Hall Llechryd

Singing

2nd and 4th Tuesday from 2 - 4pm at Catholic Church Hall, Newcastle Emlyn

Sketchers

1st Tuesday from 10-30am venue to be confirmed

Snooker

3rd Tuesday from 1pm at Beulah Snooker Hall

Strictly Basic Ballroom

2nd Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00noon.

Strollers

Last Friday of the month from 10.30am, venues vary

Table Tennis

2nd Tuesday from 2.00pm and 4th Thursday from 10.30am at Rhydlewis Village Hall.

Theology

1st Monday from 2pm at Ffostrasol Village Hall

Walkers

2nd Monday from 10.30am, venues vary

Welsh

1st Tuesday from 10.30am at Capel Iwan Village Hall

Wine Appreciation

3rd Thursday from 7.00pm - venue varies, amongst the group.

Notification of Newcastle Emlyn U3A AGM 2024 and Membership Fees for 2024-2025

Please be advised that the AGM of Newcastle Emlyn U3A will take place on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 starting at 11am. We need a quorum of at least 40 members and I am sure we can achieve lots more than this as we usually do. Please support your committee in keeping Newcastle Emlyn u3a the great u3a that it has become. The venue will be Newcastle Emlyn Rugby Club in Adpar starting with coffee and chat at 10.30am. Please give any apologies to Jenny Evans, our secretary, neu3asecretary@hotmail.com

All paperwork for the meeting will be sent to you prior to the meeting either via email or in the post. Any proposals or items for the agenda can be submitted in writing or via email to the committee for consideration at the meeting by 15th June.

All of the committee are willing to stand again next year but that does not prevent anyone else being nominated to become a part of the group and nomination papers are included in this email. If you wish to be nominated or know of someone who you think would make a good active member of the committee, please complete the nomination form with the persons consent and hand it or email it to Hazel. neu3achair@hotmail.com These nominations should also be submitted by 15th June at the latest. None of the main roles are up for election this year and all are willing to stand.

Membership fees – As many of you are aware membership fees are also due in July for the year 2024-2025. Newcastle Emlyn membership fees will remain at £16 a head for the coming year. Fully paid-up members of other u3as pay half this fee and vice versa.

You can pay this by bank transfer, cheque or cash. More details will be given about this in a separate email.

Hazel

ASTRONOMY

This is our first report since February as holiday absence has affected our schedule. The group has met each month since then, on the usual 3rd Wed afternoon of each month – and here are some of the topics we have covered in the 3 months:

We had hands on, though not night-time, practice with binoculars and telescopes in March and May led by Jon, and with Paul's help in March.

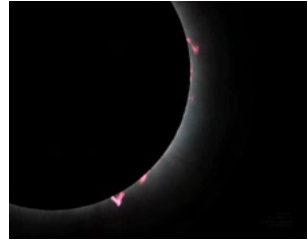
In each month, we looked at the theoretical locations of the usually easy-to-see planets – but things have been steadily getting more difficult as both Venus and Jupiter have moved into angles too close to the Sun, and Mars and Saturn were still very distant so were not too bright – and also they were quite close to the Sun so their visibility time was short. The situation now is not much better; Venus and Jupiter are invisible and Mars and Saturn still rise in the east only for a short time before sunrise!

So currently, apart from the Moon, we have very few easy-to-see naked-eye objects. Orion is below the horizon, as are Sirius and all the stars in the lower part of the Winter Hexagon. Just after dusk, the bright star Capella and the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux, which comprise the top of the Winter Hexagon (and the only remaining ones that are still visible at all) are low down on the western horizon and soon disappear below it.

So, from our brightest stars, that just leaves reddish Arcturus and white Vega (with the other two stars of the Summer Triangle, Altair and Deneb) to see. Arcturus and Vega are both up at about 60 degrees from the horizon, and in the S and SE, respectively, at dusk and they progress westwards through the night. But, of course, there are always the constellations with slightly dimmer stars which never leave our northern viewpoints to see - like The Plough (Ursa Major) pointing to the Pole Star, and Cassiopeia's W-formation.

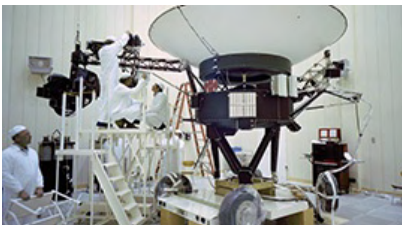


In April we looked at some of the best eclipse shots taken from Mexico and Texas (shown below) through to Newfoundland during the total eclipse of April 8th:

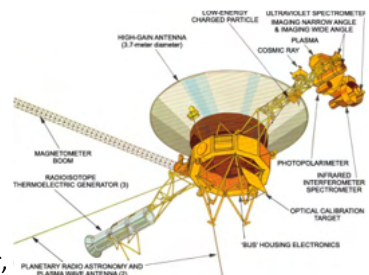


Paul then gave a presentation on why we have red stars, yellow stars, white stars and those tending to have a bluish tint – but no green stars. The basic colours are due to the temperature of the star's surface, with red at the coolest end, through orange and yellow to blue for the hottest stars. But it is also down to how our eyes see the combinations of the colours which the stars emit. Green is in the middle of the spectrum and any radiation at that wavelength tends to be swamped in our visual perception by the emissions on either side – so we don't perceive any stars to be greenish in appearance.

Adrian then gave a presentation stimulated by a “Farewell, Voyager 1” article in an April Spectator magazine. Voyager 1 was launched in Sept 1977 to fly past Jupiter and Saturn – and then it carried on going. It is the most distant object to have left Earth, and is currently about 25 billion km away, beyond the point where the Sun's outgoing radiation and electro-magnetic influence exceed the incoming cosmic effects – and radio signals take 22½ hours, at the speed of light, to reach us.



Late last year,



suddenly became total gibberish – and it was thought that we would be saying good-bye to this by now much-loved space-probe.

However, NASA engineers (including some of the original ones brought back out of long retirement) went through the 50-year old software and wrote some code, a “poke” instruction, to tell it to download a complete memory readout.

They tried it out first on Voyager 2 which is still communicating normally as it travels away, 20 billion km in a different direction – and its memory did download. So, back to Voyager 1 and the downloaded memory showed about 3% of one of the systems was corrupted, and so was probably the cause of the breakdown. The engineers then set about writing instructions in 1970s software to try to by-pass the corrupted memory regions – which they now believe to be just a single chip that died or was hit by a high-energy particle.

This was successful, and we now know that not only is Voyager 1's communication system working properly, but that two of the four scientific instruments which remain operable are sending back measurements – and the other two should be working again soon. Thankfully, it is most definitely not "Farewell Voyager 1", at least not just yet!

Moving on to May's meeting, there was sharing of local aurorae photos, taken during the amazing recent episodes:



Jon gave a presentation of the different types of telescopes that are now available. He also then went on to show what can be easily seen on the Moon with a telescope – in his talk "All things Lunar" – and what other interesting objects there are to look at e.g. within the area of the Summer Triangle.

Our next meeting will be on Wed, 19 June at 2pm in Llechryd's Coracle Hall. Please come and join us if you are interested, or ring 0777-167 4578 if you want more information.

- Galileo

BADMINTON/PICKLEBALL

Having been away on a prolonged holiday my sister kindly picked up the batton in my absence and despite a couple of hiccups the groups have carried on.

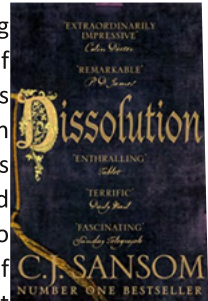
Feeling somewhat refreshed with recharged batteries albeit with a few extra pounds to offload I am looking forward to our next sessions which will be on 11 June 12-15 at Llandysul leisure centre, I hope to see you there.

Nigel

BOOK CLUB

C J Sansom was born in Edinburgh and eventually trained to be a lawyer, before becoming a full time author. He wrote several other novels as well as the Shardlake series and has won a number of awards for his crime fiction. He died in April this year.

Dissolution is the first in a series of seven novels featuring Matthew Shardlake, a hunchback lawyer. Set in the period of the dissolution of the monasteries, one of Thomas Cromwell's Commissioners, who had been sent to Scarnsea monastery on the Sussex coast, is found decapitated. Shardlake and his assistant are sent to investigate the murder. They enter a world of monks and monastery staff who have been required to relinquish their old beliefs and accept the King as the head of the church. Shardlake's investigation into this and subsequent deaths at the monastery leads him to question his own firm reformist beliefs and his unwavering support of Thomas Cromwell.



As often happens, we had mixed views about the book. Some of us loved it and would read, or have already read, more in the series. Others of us struggled with it, losing interest in the narrative, or felt that it was not an authentic representation of monastic life.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday June 25th, on zoom, and we will be discussing The Bees by Laline Paull.

Vicky

BOWLS

The group is now up and running at Newcastle Bowling Club between 2pm and 4pm on the following dates:-

June

Tuesday 4th

Monday 17th

July

Tuesday 2nd

Monday 15th

August

Tuesday 6th

Monday 19th

September

Tuesday 3rd

Monday 16th.

Here is a picture of the group enjoying the fine weather .



Julia

CRAFTY CRAFTERS

Seven of us were in attendance at May's Crafty Crafters to be taught how to do drop spindle spinning by Julia, the eighth member present. Julia started by showing us some of the different types of sheep's fibres that could be used for spinning. They ranged from very soft to one that was quite coarse and more suitable for rugs than soft jumpers. Julia then showed us a range of different drop spindles before demonstrating the art of drop spindle spinning, after which we all chose a spindle and had a go. By the end of the session, we had all managed to produce a length of spun wool. One of us had even managed to ply 2 her wool which is what is needed in order to use the wool for knitting or crocheting (I'll leave you to guess who).



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, 12th June and we will be already half way through the year.

Ruth

CREATIVE WRITING



Our homework was to write a 500 word story on the subject of "Early Morning" which brought forward many variations, all interesting and some humorous. For our class work, "you found a postcard in a book, what was on it? What did you do with it?" That was quite tricky, but again, gave a broad variety of options.

Homework is a 500 word story on "Sound".

Ali

CROQUET

Hope to start Croquet again as soon as the grass is dry and can be mowed

Just want to let you know your optional £1 donations to play Croquet in aid of Skanda Vale Palliative have amounted to a significant sum. Email from Skandavale Hospice:-

Hi Sue

Thank you for donating £55.50 collected by your Croquet Group using one of our yellow pyramid boxes. Please can you pass on our thanks to the members of your group? Every penny raised by generous people like yourselves contributes to the Palliative Care Service that Skanda Vale Hospice provides.

With kind regards

Aquila Muir

Sue

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Last months homework project was animals / wildlife which generated some interesting photographs (see below).



The next meeting is on Wednesday 26th June when there is a photography treasure hunt in Newcastle Emlyn. Meeting will be at 10am in the carpark by the Castle. If you are not in the Group you are still welcome to participate.

Sadly, Dave Thomas has had to give up as Group Leader due to work and other pressures. All members would like to thank him for his efforts over the years and for helping to improve the photographic skills within the Group.

There is an open day at Cardigan u3a on 27th June at 2pm and the Group will be displaying some of their photographs with a view to encouraging some new members.

As is the tradition, the Group plans to produce a 2025 calendar which will be available to all members at £5 each. This should be available at the monthly meetings in November. If you would like to pre-order then email Colin at colinluker@yahoo.co.uk

Colin

DONT GET ME STARTED

Our last meeting for DGMS was on Monday 13th May when we had a very good debate on democracy, its qualities and its shortcomings.

We discussed other options such as monarchy, dictatorship & oligarchy. Socrates and Churchill expressed negative views as to whether democracy was the best form of government. After some very lively debate our conclusion was that nothing else has worked better than democracy, despite its flaws.

Sue

FAMILY HISTORY

This month we were discussing the traps you can easily fall into when researching your ancestors. We have all at some time accepted a record or fact as being the correct one then later finding out it was not. We also discussed how we had eventually found an answer that had eluded us for a long time as well as the difficulty of people either changing their name, or the spelling of especially surnames appearing different from one year to the next, or records just occasionally being wrong. Transcriptions are notoriously prone to errors so it is important to see an image of the original wherever possible. You must also remember that in the past, many of our forebears will not have been able to write, so the spelling of their names would have been open to interpretation by whoever was writing them down. Sometimes there can be up to 30 or so different spellings of the same name.

Following on from this, our next meeting will be all about NAMES. This can include the possible origins of our ancestors' names, or the same for place names.

New members of any experience (or none) will be very welcome to join the group.

Margaret

FRENCH

We had another lovely feast of gateaux and café courtesy of chez Sue. We also conversed in French! Read the latest of our stories and our diaries of an activity. A very enjoyable meeting.

Ali

GAMES

Despite the fact we play inside, the first sunny weather for a meeting this year really lifted the mood. Good craic, and everyone went home happy. We'd love to welcome more members, just 2 quid (including tea/coffee and biscuits) for an enjoyable morning with good company, 3rd Tuesday in the month, 10:30am at Penboyr village hall.

Paul and Linda

GARDEN GROUP

A small but select group of gardeners visited Aberglasney Gardens on a perfect day weatherwise, in May. The whole gardens looked immaculate and we especially enjoyed the woodland area below the lake, the rhodos and azaleas on the hill and the herbaceous garden which still had the last of the tulips and the start of the perennials. As always the cafe gave us a chance to sit, have a drink and take in the view.

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Thursday 13th June at the Brown's garden in Penparc.

Mike

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

A small number met to work on our own projects. The next meeting will be on Friday 14th June. If anyone is wanting to have a go at patchwork or quilting we will help them get started and offer support and ideas.

Hazel

PHILOSOPHY GROUP REPORT

We covered the topic "What is truth" by firstly distinguishing between truth and fact. Having done that we discussed whether facts can always be relied on.

"Truth" we discovered has been a discussion topic for philosophers since early Greek times with Epimedes of Crete setting a puzzle which seems insoluble, although members of the group had a good crack at solving it!

Modern philosophers, from the 1900s, we discovered, have come up with three attempts to understand what we mean by truth, none of them totally convincing.

Our next topic will be a study of Marx and Marxism. Does it have anything at all to say to us today?

Gwyn

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

By public demand, well Martyn suggested it as there was only 4 of us at this month's meeting. So, we are going to have our discussion about the 'Material World' book next month on 24th June 2pm at Coracle Hall, Llechryd.

So, with a bit of luck more of us will have read the book or at least watched /listened to one of the links below where the author was interviewed, or someone talks about the book, etc.

<https://youtu.be/sM4fduxOa-M>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfnFj2Rt89c>



There are others on You Tube, etc. if you want more information.

DATE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
24/06/24	Coracle Hall, LLechryd	Martyn's science 10 minutes followed by discussion on 'Material World' by Ed Conway
22/07/24	Coracle Hall, LLechryd	Community Power
26/08/24	Coracle Hall, LLechryd	Will the Grid cope?
23/09/24	Coracle Hall, LLechryd	Summer Weather and global heating
28/10/24	Coracle Hall, LLechryd	Species Reduction – will humans survive?
25/11/24	Flat Rock Cafe	CHRISTMAS LUNCH – meet 1pm
23/12/24	NO MEETING	

Ideas and suggestions for 2025 welcomed OR does anyone else fancy running the Group next year?

Answer to last month's question – Can iron spontaneously explode?

When the Titanic was being salvaged from 4km down on the seabed, great care had to be taken when bringing cast-iron objects to the surface, due to the risk that they might explode when they emerged from the water.

There are several phenomena involved.

- Cast-iron contains small gas cavities.
- Cast-iron has low ductility e.g. it fractures rather than deforms.
- Seawater (the electrolyte) creates hydrogen which diffuses into the cavities.
- Underwater the pressure in the cavities are equalised with the water pressure.
- When the item is brought to the surface the pressure inside the cavities is greater than the surface pressure and hence BANG!

What's next month's question – who will get the answer?

Why does electricity hum?

Enjoy and see you next month.

SKETCHERS

At last some dry sunny weather allowed us to sketch outside. After coffee at Harrison's in Newcastle Emlyn the group separated with some going to the Castle and others remaining in Harrison's garden to sketch river scenes

The Castle proved tricky; it's largely monochromatic and has little defined shapes but those in the garden fared better



If you'd like to join us in June please contact me for details of the venue

Millie

SNOOKER

Looking for more members to give snooker a try we meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1pm Beulah Snooker Hall SA38 9QB. If you would like to play on another day of the week please get in touch with me I'm more than happy to play most days of the week.

Mike

STROLLERS



The May walk was Penbryn to Capel Morfa, a 3 mile circular walk. Nine members and Scamp and Mitzi met at Penbryn National Trust carpark and set off for a chilly but dry walk. The walk started along a woodland path that was steep in places, there were picturesque views as the walk went higher, and a stream could be viewed at times running along below. The route carried on through a field and along a farm lane and then along a coastal path. There were some sunny intervals and no mud in sight! On returning to the carpark five members enjoyed a lunch at The Plwmp Tart cafe. As I was unable to go on this walk thanks go to Pat, Richard and Helen for their input into this report.

Pam

TABLE TENNIS

We meet in Rhydlewis Village Hall twice a month. It's always a lot of fun – and good exercise. All equipment is supplied, though you're welcome to bring your own bat if you have one - you really don't need to be super fit.

New members will be very welcome.

Margaret

THEOLOGY



LGBTQ+GOD

Revd Sarah Jones (pictured) was ordained in 2004, has been Vicar of St John's Church in the centre of Cardiff since 2018, loves to perform in folk-clubs, and – hard as it may be to believe now – she was originally born a boy. She agreed to talk to the Theological Hitch-Hikers about her life as a trans woman in the Christian faith.



Even in primary school, Sarah felt drawn to line up with the girls rather than the boys; but as an only child in a Roman Catholic family she grew up conventionally, and got married – until her ex-wife gently told her that their marriage felt more like being with a woman than a man. After the world's most amicable divorce (they remain firm friends), Sarah began to explore who she really was. Was she a transvestite? – “there are worse hobbies – have you tried fishing?” – but although friends at the local club were delightful, she concluded that it definitely wasn't for her. Perhaps she was gay?

She met a lovely man, but the kindly conversation about the relationship being more like one with a woman inevitably repeated itself. So she took the plunge and began the process of gender re-assignment; and went forward for priesthood in the Church of England.

Always open about her situation, Sarah delighted to discover that “the Bible is quite a Queer book.” Was Joseph’s famous Coat of Many Colours – literally, a ‘long-sleeved robe’ – actually a ‘Princess dress’, as its only other Biblical occurrence suggests? Small wonder that he became the butt of jeers from his big hairy macho brothers! And what about that chap who showed the disciples to the Upper Room? Carrying a water-pot was the definition of women’s work – so did Jesus book the Last Supper in Jerusalem’s Gay Village? Yes, ‘male and female God created them’; but God also created day and night, land and sea: and most distinctions are less than binary. Day (mostly) doesn’t switch to night in an instant, and there’s a tidal margin at the coast. Similarly, human gender and sexuality tends to be along a spectrum

After a fascinating and utterly absorbing hour in the life of a busy urban Vicar, the burning question from the Hitch-hikers, of course, was: why, as a cradle Catholic, did Sarah defect to the CofE? It was that delightful gay man, who took Sarah to Evensong, and began her lifelong love-affair with Anglicanism. Which is famously a broad church: but only one of the many expressions of the great rainbow of belief explored by the Hitch-hikers’ Guide to Theology.

Carol

WALKING (ROVING REPORT FROM DOWN UNDER)



Having not had an actual holiday for some time, Denise and I decided the time was right to go on a once in a lifetime trip to New Zealand and Australia. As its just about one of the longest trips from the UK we decided that a trip of at least five weeks would justify the long haul flights,

Our flight was booked to go via Singapore and Sydney to Christchurch New Zealand with British Airways and Air New Zealand, a journey taking nigh on two days and despite the airlines best efforts to make it a comfortable journey we arrived at our destination very excited but also very tired. We had booked a three person campervan to drive from Christchurch to the very south of the South Island and back up to the north of the North Island. Both destinations being relevant to your correspondent but more on that later.

Annoyingly our flight was late in arriving at Christchurch which resulted in us missing our lift to the minibus hire centre; fortunately a very kind bus driver took us and our numerous bags having been told that we would have to make our own way, not the most promising start to our adventure. The campervan company were quite efficient in sorting out the paperwork and in showing us around the campervan and we gingerly took ourselves onto the New Zealand highways. Luckily they sensibly drive on the same side as the UK and despite it being the New Zealand version of a rush hour we managed to navigate our way to our first

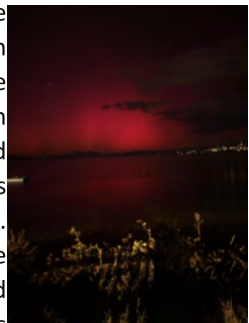
We had decided to spend more time focusing our trip on the scenery rather than cities and goodness me was there a lot of that to see. Practically around every corner especially in the South Island we were met by some incredible views of lakes, fiords and mountains and as they were heading towards winter a number of the peaks were covered in snow which only enhanced the effect. In total we drove just on 5000 km (3100 miles) and we were constantly amazed both at the quality of the road surfaces and the lack of traffic, the only real traffic jam as such we encountered was in Queenstown which seemed to be a real boom town.

There were so many highlights on the trip over and beyond the incredible landscapes one being the Ohakune Chocolate Éclair shop which if you're ever in the area is a must. Also nearby is yet another location used in the Lord of the Rings called Gollum's pool where Frodo and Faramir capture Gollum. The drive to the pool being one of the more challenging drives (of which there



were many) that we did. These modern campervans have tracker devices and it warned us that we were not allowed to go any further up the road otherwise we would be fined \$300 but being determined to get to the pool I carried on and sure enough big brother via the navigation screen confirmed that we had been fined \$300 as we had ignored the warning. In our defence the warning did say between June and October but as it was still May we felt we would be ok. When we arrived at Gollums pool there was snow on the ground but fortunately the road was clear the sun having done its work on melting the overnight snow.

We had a number of items on our tick list that we wanted to try and visit/see and New Zealand delivered with all of them and more. Denise has always wanted to see the Northern Lights and of course whilst we were away the sun had a bad hair day as it were and sent streams of charged particles towards the Earth and we were seeing pictures from Mwnt and Aberporth of some incredible light effects. At the same time we had arrived at somewhere called Lake Taupo which is the largest freshwater lake in Australasia and is described as the inland sea of New Zealand and was



created by a volcanic eruption some 27000 years ago. Not really expecting to see anything we stopped in a lay by and looked out over the lake and gradually as the sun set we realised that the sky was getting redder and sure enough we were treated to our very own Aurora display which we watched for a few hours

Milford Sound lived up to expectations; the boat trip onto the sound is a real must and we were luckily given a dolphin show on the way back in. There is an interesting underwater floating Observatory in the sound where you go down

The result of this is that the fresh water is some 5C cooler than the salt water underneath.. Every day he has to jump into the water to clean the glass of the observatory, with the water especially winter time being just above freezing where it has come down from the snow covered mountains not something that appealed to me.



We seemed to spend quite a bit of time on boats as we went on a Whale



Watching trip from Kaikoura which again was on the list but in addition to watching a sperm whale we were fortunate to encounter a Killer whale family and a variety of Albatrosses plus several pods of dolphins all busy feeding on shoals of fry. I was especially happy to see the albatrosses as previously we had visited the Royal Albatross centre at

Pukekura described as the world's only mainland Royal Albatross breeding Colony only for there to be nobody at home although there were a number of fur seals.

On the subject of fur seals we were told about a spot where we would see loads of fur seals and so it proved . The place was called Ohau Point seal colony. An incredible place where you parked up and walked a few meters to the edge of the car park to look down on hundreds or possible more fur seals with loads of youngster playing in the sheltered seas pools watched by anxious mothers, it reminded me of a creche.



Some of you may have seen recently mass demonstrations by Maori's protesting about the government's proposals to cut back on

programs that are designed to promote the Maori language culture and health care. We were given a guided tour by a very proud and passionate Maori guide at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, this being frequently called the "Birthplace of our Nation" by the Maori people. The Treaty of Waitangi was



signed here in 1840 between the British and 540 Maori chiefs but there were a number of translation errors in the document which ultimately led to disputes on land

ownership and properties between the British and the Maoris culminating in decades of wars between the British and Maori tribes. The young guide did not hide his feelings about how badly the Maori people have and continued to be treated which is some

ways reminded me about Wales call for Independence from the UK Government. On a

We spent the last few days of our holiday in Sydney based in a hotel overlooking Sydney harbour and Opera house . By pure coincidence we were there for the opening night of “Vivid Sydney” a three week festival of light, music, street food and market. We took a boat trip to view the festival from the sea which gave us the best vantage point to enjoy what was a very enjoyable experience. Sydney really went to town with their celebrations the whole place was illuminated by a variety of lasers and moving pictures



Finally I took advantage of the opportunity to do some diving though sadly one trip that I had booked was called off due to strong winds but in summary I managed to cage dive with Great white sharks something that I had always wanted to do but thought I would have to go to South Africa to do, not realising that its available from Bluff on the tip of the bottom of South Island next stop Antarctica and



yes the water was cold but seeing great whites close up more than distracted any thoughts about being cold. In Australia I spent a few days on the Barrier Reef highlights being Turtles, White tip sharks and something called a Maori Wrasse, and then a totally unexpected option became available I went diving in Sydney Aquarium which was totally



insane. We were diving albeit in very shallow water no more than 4 mtrs with Nurse sharks and some massive rays who kept hitting us with their wings, Though nurse sharks look very fearsome they are in reality totally harmless.

Our overall impressions of New Zealand is that it's an incredible destination to visit. If you plan to go then give yourself plenty of time, there is so much to see . We were there for just over four weeks and in that time we only scratched the surface, a very small scratch at that and my report is very much an abridged version of what we actually did in that time.

WELSH GROUP

Our topic of May was holidays. We went through the vocabulary for various types of holiday, such as cruising, camping, city breaks etc and for various holiday activities, such as sight-seeing, sunbathing, swimming and skiing. We also talked about countries and places to go and how to get there.

In June we will be going over some basics. We'll be asking and answering questions and looking at a few of the many ways to respond to questions in the affirmative and negative. Our next meeting will be at Capel Iwan village hall on Tuesday 4th June, starting at 10.30.

Vicky

WINE APPRECIATION

Our May meeting was held at Hazel and John's house and was well attended with 14 people which included two guests from America who were staying with Janet and John. After assuring them that none of us were experts and we just liked trying different wines they joined in well with the rest of us.

This month we were tasting Eastern European red wines. Most people had managed to source one of these and we had two from Romania, two from Georgia and one each from Moldova, Hungary and Bulgaria. A good selection. The two from Romania were actually the same wine but the information that we had said to try it drunk chilled so we did one bottle chilled and one bottle at room temperature. The chilled actually scored higher than the room temperature one so that was really interesting. The wine was called Incanta and was from Majestic wines. The Moldovan wine was generally not well liked but the one that scored highest, in our opinions, was the Bulgarian wine called Yuli's Shiraz again from Majestic wines. Generally Eastern European wines are good value for money if you can get them so keep your eyes open!

This month, on Thursday 20th June, we are meeting in Capel Iwan at Trevor and Angela's for our annual summer barbecue.



WRITE NOW

Hazel

Some members have indicated that they are interested in reviving a second creative writing group. "Write Now" ceased as a group after the pandemic as several members moved out of the area. I am happy to lead a group again if there is a demand. The writing of short stories, writing for children, poetry, and writing memoirs can all be covered.

If interested, please email Julie Rainsbury on g.rainsbury@btopenworld.com and leave your contact details plus any suggestions for suitable times/venues.

Julie

Royal Voluntary Service (Ceredigion & Powys)

The Royal voluntary Service are looking for new drivers to support the Ceredigion Country Cars service, particularly in the Cardigan area.

If you could spare some time, please contact Bob Evans on 07812 485 809 for more details or visit their website :-

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/travel-roads-parking/public-and-community-transport/country-cars/>

to sign up.



Bruce Harris

Day	Date	Venue	Time
Monday	3	Theology - Llechryd Village Hall	14-00
Tuesday	4	Sketchers	10-00
Tuesday	4	Welsh - Capel Iwan Village Hall	10-30
Tuesday	4	Bowls - NCE Bowling Club	14-00
Thursday	6	Main Meeting - NCE Rugby Club	10-30
Thursday	6	Art - Penboyr Village Hall	10-00
Monday	10	Petanque - King George V playing field Newcastle Emlyn	14-00
Monday	10	Walkers - TBA	10-30
Monday	10	Don't get me started - at Sue's In Pontgarreg	14-00
Tuesday	11	Table Tennis – Rhydlewis Village Hall	14-00
Tuesday	11	Singing - Our Lady of the Taper, NCE	14-00
Wednesday	12	Crafty Crafters – Penboyr Village Hall	10-30
Wednesday	12	Strictly Basic Ballroom – NCE Holy Trinity Church Hall	10-30
Wednesday	12	Badminton/Pickelball - Llandysul Leisure Centre	12-15
Thursday	13	Art - Penboyr Village Hall	10-00
Thursday	13	Creative Writing - at Rhydlewis Village Hall	11-00
Thursday	13	Garden - Penparc	14-00
Friday	14	Patchwork and Quilting - Penboyr Village Hall	11-00
Monday	17	Bowls - NCE Bowling Club	14-00
Tuesday	18	Petanque - King George V playing field Newcastle Emlyn	10-00
Tuesday	18	Games – Penboyr Village Hall	10-30
Tuesday	18	Snooker - Beulah Snooker Hall	13-00
Wednesday	19	Astronomy – Coracle Hall Llechryd	14-00
Thursday	20	Art - Penboyr Village Hall	10-00
Thursday	20	Philosophy – Penrhiwlan Village Hall	11-00
Thursday	20	Wine Appreciation - Angela + Trevor capel Iwan	19-00
Monday	24	Science and Technology - Coracle Hall Llechryd	14-00
Tuesday	25	Book Club – Zoom meeting	10-30
Tuesday	25	French – at Sue's in Penrhiwllan	11-00
Tuesday	25	Singing - Our Lady of the Taper, NCE	14-00
Tuesday	25	Family History – Church of Latter Day Saints NCE	14-30
Wednesday	26	Lunch Club - Various venues	12-00
Wednesday	26	Badminton/Pickelball - Llandysul Leisure Centre	12-15
Wednesday	26	Digital Photography - Coracle Hall Llechryd	14-30
Thursday	27	Art - Penboyr Village Hall	10-00
Thursday	27	Table Tennis – Rhydlewis Village Hall	10-30
Friday	28	Strollers - TBA	10-30

To add events to this monthly calendar please contact Nigel neu3newsletter@hotmail.com giving date, venue and time, plus any further information to assist those wishing to attend. Closing date for newsletter contributions will be on the 24th of the month, at the latest.