

Cardigan u3a Newsletter

No 163 JANUARY 2024



Editorial

Happy new year everyone.

Another year has gone and already it seems as though Christmas was over in a flash. So much preparation for just a few days but I hope everyone had family around them and enjoyed the festivities. I certainly did, with two out of my four children here with their families for 2 days. It was noisy, chaotic, messy but brilliant. Now I am coming to terms with the fact that my only daughter has gone to America with the two youngest grandchildren. Her partner, Jason is American and has a property in Texas and his parents have not yet seen the children. Jason and Becky have to give it a go but as Jason also loves Wales, there is a very strong chance that they will return at some point. My daughter already has plans for a new venture in Wales should things not work out!! She has taken a shine to Narberth if they do come back ---watch out Narberth is all I can say- she is a force of nature!!

I really have to congratulate Dennis Rawles and his wife for their fantastic coastal path walk- there is a full account of it in the newsletter. I had to have a lie down after reading about it!!

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INTEREST GROUPS

MORNING COFFEE AND AFTRNOON TEA GROUPS

The coffee morning was held on Thursday, 7th December at Newport Golf Club. Once again it was well supported with over 20 members there.

It was a very welcoming venue with a beautiful outlook over the beach and surrounding countryside. The coffee, tea and cakes were soon ordered, conversation flowed and I think everyone had a lovely time. These social gatherings are a great idea and our thanks –once again- must go out to Liz and Will North for organising them so efficiently. It is no mean feat to contact these venues to see –firstly- if they are agreeable to hold a social morning or afternoon and secondly - to determine how many people they are willing to take.

The Morning Coffee Group meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, usually at about 11.00am. The venues are selected within about a 10 mile radius of Cardigan and should be able to host around 20 members and enable free parking. Forthcoming events are:-

Thursday, 1st February, 11.00am at Y Bryn A'r Bragdy, Brynhoffnant.

Thursday, 7th March, 11.00am at the Albion, Cardigan (on the Teifi by the bridge).

The Afternoon Tea Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, usually at about 3.00pm. The venues are selected within about a 10 mile radius of Cardigan and should be able to host around 20 members and enable free parking. Forthcoming events are:-

Thursday, 15th February 2024 at the Cwtch Café, Newcastle Emlyn at 3.00pm.

Thursday, 21st March at Cenarth Tea Rooms, Cenarth at 2.30pm.

The Cae Bach, Hermon, (SA36 0DS) NGS Open Garden dates are:-

1st Open Day - **Sunday, 23rd June 2024** - 11.00am - 5.00pm

2nd Open Day - **Sunday, 18th August 2024** - 11.00am - 5.00pm

The Garden is open by arrangement for groups of 5 or more from Sunday, 16th June 2024 - Sunday, 21st July 2024 and is well worth a visit.

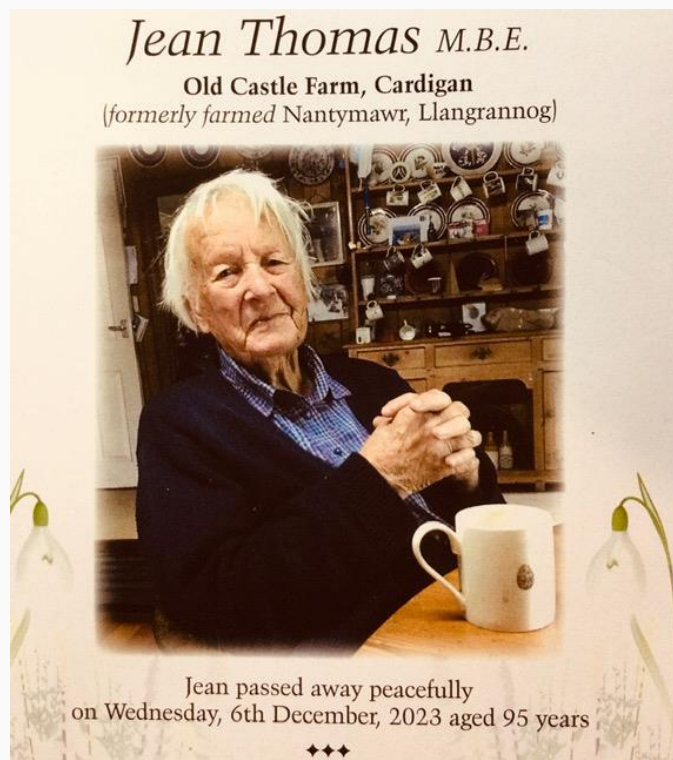
Is there someone out there who could start a Gardening Group? These Open days to view the Liz and Will North's garden may be the inspiration needed!

Teas, Coffee and homemade cakes can be enjoyed and there will be plants for sale also. All proceeds go to National Garden Scheme (NGS) Charities.

If any of the new members would also like to voice their opinion concerning these social gatherings, then their comments would be very welcome.



CREATIVE WRITING



On Dec 6th 2023 Jean Thomas passed away.

Below is a tribute to Jean written by her daughter, Rosie. It describes some of the extraordinary things Jean did in her life, which included spending many years in the USA. We, as a group, met at her and her partner Colin's home. We spent many hours enjoying her company, her beautiful writing and the talent she had for reading out loud, both her own contributions and everyone else's.

She is deeply missed.
I hope you're sitting comfortably!

JEAN THOMAS MBE- a long life, well lived

Jean was born in 1928 to Albert and Margery Butler at Marsh Farm just outside Devizes in Wiltshire, where the background to her childhood was the farm, the railway and its iconic 'Fish Bridge', the Caen Hill Flight of Canal Locks and the endless opportunity for exploration and discovery of the fields and surrounding countryside. Grampy Butler might have been disappointed to have no son to succeed him but he had a daughter who was steeped in generations of agriculture and I hope he would have been truly proud of all she achieved.

The war years dominated her secondary school education and in fact she travelled by bus for her first day at Trowbridge Girls High School to find the school gates were shut and the start of term had been delayed because it was the first day of the 2nd world war. Nevertheless, her school years were a success, she was a popular, academically able and sporty youngster excelling in tennis and hockey. School finished with Higher School Certificate and then an unexpected accolade, a County Scholarship to help fund university education and this at the time when not many from country schools ever went on to university.

Judy her younger sister by 8 years says she had a lot to live up to when it was her turn at the school.

Jean had a place at Wye College (part of London University) for a BSc in agriculture but had to defer for a year because places were given preferentially to demobbed service men returning from the war. So, in 'modern fashion' she had a gap year working on a farm near Yeovil. Note, there was no tractor at Marsh Farm until 1947 so working horses were a major part of farming life. In her ramblings at night in the last few weeks mother was repeatedly giving orders about horses and cows, and disconcertingly, in a distinct Wiltshire accent! She also wrote once that 'the chalklands of Wiltshire are my homeland and even after over 60 years in Cardiganshire, no expanse of sea can compare to the Wiltshire Downs or Salisbury Plain'.

Her university years at Wye were memorable and particularly resulted in many lifelong friendships, a new skill and enthusiasm of bell-ringing and her husband to be John Thomas.

They were married in mid-winter and came to start their farming life together at Nantymawr in 1953. The first time mother came to Cardigan and West Wales was on the Cardi Bach railway line which of course we now enjoy walking along through the Teifi Marshes Wildlife Reserve. I suspect one lucky incentive that drew them in this direction, was that land was more affordable than further east. They took over from the four elderly Parry brothers. It wouldn't have been an easy start, with the farm being generally run down, with poor fencing and banks riddled with rabbits.

Family life came next with the arrival of Angela (who sadly died a few years ago), Sarah, Rosie and Michael. Mike was mentally handicapped and was the trigger for Jean's involvement with MENCAP. We all four including Mike had a tremendous farm childhood.

MENCAP is the charity which supports people with learning disabilities, their families and carers. Jean helped found the Ceredigion Branch of Mencap in the 60s and was then chairman for 19 years. In 1986 she was given an MBE 'for services to the community' and her visit to London accompanied by Beti Morris and Angela to receive it was a proud moment.

In 1972, John had a life changing accident resulting in paraplegia compounded by a stroke such that he was wheel chair bound with difficult speech and one useless arm for the next 30 years. It was a difficult time, but as teenage children we weren't really aware of the stresses and difficulties this caused Mother. With her as an example - as a family we all got on with it. Mother wrote later about a seminal moment after an upset with the tractor, in a flash she made a decision, probably with 40 years and generations of an agricultural background behind her; she had always wanted to farm and if she was going to do it she was going to ENJOY IT! She was a strong determined woman!

Sarah, a born farmer, was home intermittently and there was a full-time farm worker. In true family farm style, Welsh or English, there was helping out with the neighbours and in particular the Mossmen from Nantybach next door. The farm prospered. Every farm has its setbacks big and little - consider the extreme snow in the winter of '82 or coping with Brucellosis.

Roll on to 1988, 16 years of handling suckler cows and a 400 ewe flock was taking its toll, looking after John at home was becoming more difficult and Sarah didn't want to take over and so the farm was put on the market and mother RETIRED.

Then began a whole new chapter in Mother's life- she definitely didn't rest on her laurels! Shortly after, Mother moved to Old Castle Farm, Cardigan to be with Colin where she has lived for the rest of her long life. She and Colin have been a great team and a very loving partnership. As I was approaching 60, Mother said to me that her 60s were the best years of her life.

With things agricultural, Jean was involved with Ceredigion NFU serving as vice chair then a busy year as chairman, she was a group training organiser with the ATB (Agriculture Training Board). Longtime members of The Cardigan Grassland Society,

Colin and Jean were secretaries for 12 years and in particular would organise the meetings and speakers and the annual trips away. She said, if you want someone to speak at a meeting don't just ring them up out of the blue, send them a letter first and ring up a few days later; they are much less likely to say no! The Grassland trips away were hugely memorable and varied and included visits abroad to Holland and Ireland. On the farm at Old Castle, she provided a sounding board for Colin's ideas and plans and problems rather than physical involvement.

Best of all, together they had a shared enthusiasm for gardening and gardens, for food and cooking and music, a love of natural history and landscape, especially birds and botany. Before Colin retired, they would have a trip away between first and second cut silage. But after Colin retired they could do more. They had 2 memorable trips to New Zealand when Sarah was there, they visited Scotland and the island of Col to look for the corncrake, Salisbury Plain to see the Great Bustard, Slovenia for amazing flowers and similarly Ireland and the Burren. Cemlyn Bay in Anglesey, the Somerset levels, the River Exe were favourites for birds. They had enquiring minds and like many of us, did farming 'over the hedge' as they were driving around. They would stay in Farmhouse B and Bs which could be memorable or quirky and added an extra unknown to trips away.

Ever since university mother was a keen bell ringer and rang regularly here in Cardigan into her 80s. She always had a passion for the written word, poetry and particularly reading aloud. She was long time member of the U3A writing group which met at Old Castle every month. There is a folder of her writing at Old Castle and that has given me a new insight into some of her thoughts and feelings and imagination through the years. Mother volunteered at the Oxfam shop in Cardigan for many years, sorting, ironing and folding contributions. She made and looked after the flower displays outside Theatre Mwldan. She enjoyed seeing her grandchildren and great grandchildren grow and become people in their own right and took pride in their achievements. One of her well-known sayings was that 'The Family that sits down to eat together- stays together' On the subject of food; butter and cream came top of her list of favourite things.

Latterly, with her health failing, we all achieved our aim to keep Jean at home at Old Castle in the familiar place she loved, with a warm fire and Maggie the cat on her lap. She found great enjoyment in daily trips out in the car and flowers both wild and in gardens and trees also gave her huge pleasure. We would particularly like to thank Dai Trebarried and Simone, Lucille and Jan for the help they have given us during this time. Maggie, the old Castle cat played a very important role too.

To sum up, Jean was kind, articulate, intelligent, determined, forthright, imaginative, hardworking, frugal, self-reliant, self-less and uncomplaining when life conspired against her,

She will be well missed and Sarah and I are proud to be her daughters...



Digital Photography



We didn't have a formal meeting in December. On behalf of the digital photography group, I hope you all had a happy festive season and Happy New Year to you all!

As a group we have agreed not to have a formal meeting in December and will have an informal get together over lunch instead from now on. So for December 2023, we dined at the Welsh Wildlife Centre in Cilgerran. We were joined by two special guests, Denis True, who used to run the digital photography group and his lovely wife Gill. The staff were very friendly and accommodating and the food was delicious - Thank you Welsh Wildlife Centre staff.

If you would like to join us, we welcome beginners, intermediates and advanced digital photographers, so it doesn't matter what camera equipment or level of experience you have, so what's stopping you!

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 2.30 pm in Coracle Hall, Llechryd** and the homework is:

SIX (6) Light Trails and/or Light Painting photographs (Light Trails – Such as car head and tail light, the stars, etc. / Light Painting – Getting creative. e.g. With a torch or some Christmas lights.)

SIX (6) something of interest photographs you have taken between 29th November 2023 and Wednesday 31st January 2024

OR

For more information, please email Dave at davejthomas66@gmail.com with your name and contact number. You will then receive a welcome email with information to aid you with the months homework to help you get started straight away.

Kind Regards / Cofion Cynnes

Dave

Mobile 07974 590946

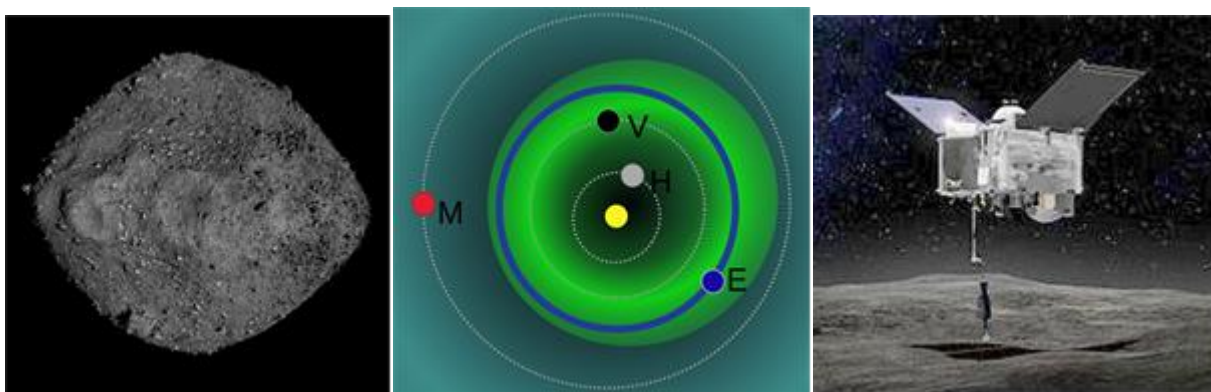


Astronomy

The Cardigan and Newcastle Emlyn u3a Astronomy group had its first meeting of 2024 on Jan 17th, the 3rd Wednesday of the month as usual.

We had a quick comparison with November, the time of our last meeting, of what is easy to see in the current skies - and Jupiter remains the brightest by far, except for Venus for about an hour before sunrise. Jupiter shines at a convenient angle around 45 degrees above the south to south-western horizon from dusk until around midnight. There is now no Summer Triangle of Altair, Vega and Deneb to see, but Orion and all the Winter Hexagon stars that surround it are very visible, as they rise and move from East to West through the evening.

Last week NASA managed to remove the last two, very reluctant, bolts from the Osiris-Rex capsule returned in September, with its pristine rock and dust samples collected from near-Earth asteroid Bennu. This prompted us to look at this space project - which started with lift-off in Sept 2016, arrival at Bennu in December 2018, 2 years of orbiting it to map it and then a drop-down to the loose surface to sample it in Oct 2020. It left on its return to Earth in May 2021, and deposited the sample container on the Utah desert in Sept 2023.



Benu is one of thousands of small asteroids which orbit the Sun in the green area of the diagram between Venus' orbit and just beyond Earth's. Many of these asteroids cross Earth's orbit and so could be hazardous. Benu is about a half-kilometre across in most dimensions and has a mass of around 70 million tonnes – and was chosen because it was likely to contain a lot of carbon and water, and possibly organic compounds which could lead to life on Earth. Studying Benu's orbit in detail so that its hazard potential is better known, was also a factor in its choice for study. (Benu is now estimated to have a 1-in-1750 chance of hitting Earth between 2178 and 2290!)

When opened in a sterile glove-box in October, the returned capsule's external (but also sealed) compartment yielded about 70 grams of particulate matter – more than the project aimed for in total – and initial tests have shown the presence of water and carbon and a wide variety of rock compositions. Some of these rock and dust samples most probably were present when the Solar System's precursor dust and gas were condensing into the Sun and planets so are likely to be unchanged from pre-Solar System times. Hopefully this will help us understand more about the formation of the Solar System and how life started.

Now that the main container has been fully opened, we have perhaps another 2 kg of Benu dust and rock for eager analysts at labs around the world to spend their time on.

The Japanese Space Agency, JAXA, had already visited two similar asteroids with their Hayabusa spacecraft and brought back samples in 2010 and 2020 - though not as voluminous as Osiris-Rex's. These samples are also carbon-rich so NASA and JAXA are now working closely together, sharing samples and new relevant analytical techniques – and we await results from the many labs which will be involved in both sets of analyses.

To conclude our meeting, Jon demonstrated the free planetarium-type program, Stellarium, that shows us where almost everything we can see in the sky with modest telescopes (or just binoculars or naked eyes) is going to be at any point in time – and

how we can use it to find anything, e.g. one of the examples he used, the Beehive Cluster of stars.

Our next meeting will be on Wed, 21 February at 2pm in Llechryd's Coracle Hall. Please come and join us if you are interested, or ring 01239-891549 if you want more information.

Galileo



A very long walk.

Following retirement and moving to this area we decided to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. Just after completion the whole of the Welsh Coastal Path opened up. We had the walking bug and why not go for it.

Whenever we had time, starting each walk where we had finished previously and staying in all sorts of accommodation, it took quite a lot of planning as we only possess one car. Using public transport (good old bus pass) and the odd taxi. Tide times were very important and could add miles to the walk or even be inaccessible. There are no go areas e.g. MOD, Steelworks, Oil Refineries etc and then the large seaside towns e.g. Rhyl, Swansea, Cardiff Bay etc. all of which had to be negotiated.

The above locations were really a very minor part of the walk as the rest was simply sublime. The solitude and magnificent views, the hidden coves, fauna and flora through the four seasons was second to none. Anglesey, the Llyn Peninsular and the Gower are a few of these beautiful places.

There was one challenge left. To walk Offa's Dyke, thus completing the entire circumference of Wales a total of 1047 miles. We started in Sedbury near Chepstow, walking south to north (sun behind us). This time no heavy industry or large towns. The walk was quite strenuous over many mountains with smaller towns and villages, passing through Monmouth, Hay on Wye, Oswestry and the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Llangollen. The scenery was equally outstanding and the people in the smaller villages went out of their way by leaving refreshments in local churches.

At the completion of the walk in Prestatyn, it is customary to have a paddle in the sea which we duly obliged (BL- -DY FREEZING). Our well-worn boots were dispatched in a nearby dustbin and then we went for a meal and a couple of pints to celebrate.

Looking back on so many wonderful memories the one that really stands out is when we were staying in Shrewsbury and caught the Heart of Wales train to Knighton where the Offa' Dyke centre is located. It was a very hot day with steep mountainous terrain. Owing to these conditions and some bad planning on my part

we were way behind schedule and would not reach our destination to catch the last bus back to Shrewsbury. With about two miles to go we managed to thumb a lift with a young farmer.

He was driving a very old open back land rover with two sheepdogs in the back. We managed to squeeze into the front, with my wife sitting in the middle against the gear stick. The farmer could not move the gears and drove in second gear all the way to Bishops Castle. He was somewhat distraught and explained that he was going to town to get twenty pounds out of the cash machine because that morning he had run over two of his elderly neighbours chickens and she was upset. We reached the bus stop on time. We thanked him for his kindness and gladly gave him the twenty pounds because a taxi to Shrewsbury would have cost a lot more.

We have slowed down a little now and still attempt to walk with the Tuesday Walkers who are a great bunch of people- especially Roy our co-ordinator who has willingly compiled the walk lists for many years.

Dennis Rawles



Singers' News

We are back singing in Maes Mwldan. We appreciate the warmth there with all the freak storms we are having. We are re-visiting some 'oldies' (such as Over the Rainbow and Anfonaf Angel) and trying to get to grips with Song of the Sea Lullaby and The Seal Lullaby. The latter we find quite challenging ... trying to get our 'ooohs' sound like a wave flowing and ebbing. But fun...

We would like to gain some more voices -so please join us if you can. We sing for fun and everyone is welcome. There are no auditions and due to the fact that Jan cannot drive, we meet every Monday in Maes Mwldan. For more information about our group just ring Adrienne on 01239 612460 or just turn up to one of the practices. New members would be very welcome.



Book Group

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'. So begins the story of 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens. The two cities are London and Paris and the story takes place in 1775 against the backdrop of the terror and the lead up to the French Revolution.

Lucie Manette, whose doctor father she thought was dead, has been discovered in a garret in France where he has been looked after by Defarge. He has spent eighteen years in the Bastille and his health has been badly affected. Now he spends his days

mending shoes. Lucie is escorted to France to be reunited with her father and with her gentle care he is 'recalled to life'.

In London Charles Darnay has been accused of treason against the British state but is saved by his colleague Sydney Carton, a dissolute man, who bears a remarkable resemblance to the accused man. The story develops with a French aristocrat, an uncle of Darnay, running down a poor child with his carriage and shows no regret, an action typical of the ruthlessness of the aristocracy. The story is intricate and the various strands are woven together to present a picture of the troubled times both in England and France.

A number of characters are introduced including Madame Defarge who sits in her wine shop and knits the names of the guilty aristocrats into her cloth. While much of the story is about redemption it is also about the violence of the revolution of people who have been trodden on for too long. While most of us enjoyed the book, it was felt by some that the book needed re reading to get the most from it.

Our book group meets on the second Thursday of the month in the morning and if you would like to join us we have vacancies for two new members. We all contribute ideas for book choices and our reading varies from the classics to new books of all genres. Our meetings are relaxed and informal so do come and join us.

Marie Everett



Ukulele

We have had a very busy and successful year. Our growing reputation appears to be reaching beyond Cardigan and we are now travelling further afield for our gigs.

Our Christmas dinner was a great success. We played in the pub opposite the Reading Room in Newchapel. Several people played solos and duets with great success and added to the Christmassy feeling of the afternoon.

Two concerts of note for this year is firstly a weekend session in Lamphey where we are able to both camp and then play on both the Saturday and Sunday. Secondly, we also have the chance to play at the Tenby festival in the summer.

Our group is a mixture of both seasoned and new players but there is always such a brilliant atmosphere. New people who join – and our numbers are growing – often comment on the friendly and totally inclusive atmosphere of the group

Each session begins with a tutorial half hour where the more advanced members of the group are able to teach a specific genre of music that they feel comfortable with. This increases the number of songs and also style of music that we are able to play.

New members are always welcome and if anyone knows of a group who would like to hear us play then please let me know and I will forward the message to the committee.

Our first 'gig' is in February in the village hall in Clunderwen where we will be playing our usual variety of new and older well- known songs.

A quote from Bob Marley – 'One good thing about music is that when it hits you, you feel no pain'



Cardigan U3A Tuesday Walkers

All walks start at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated.

Walks organised by u3a automatically have public liability insurance cover, provided the walkers are u3a members. However, this is not a personal accident insurance and all members should be aware that they walk at their own risk. For further guidance on Health and Safety issues please read Health and Safety on U3A Walks. Participants should also read the group's Risk Assessment, which details the procedures to be taken to ensure general risks are mitigated and the overall activity is managed in a coronavirus secure way.

Chris Edwards - program organiser



CASTLE BAGGING

Following the success of the visit to Cardigan Castle –organised by the group leader Sharon Swift- it is to be hoped that there will be a visit to Scolton Manor in the very near future.

As Sharon has pointed out, the winter weather is not the ideal time to be out in the cold so she is trying to arrange a visit to an historical house where we can stay inside and still see these wonderful buildings and learn something of the history.

I know Sharon is working hard to arrange a visit and hopefully further details will be forthcoming shortly. In February there is a chance of a visit to Scolton Manor but as yet the date has not been confirmed. If this visit is available before the next newsletter, then Howard –u3a Chairman -will send out further details to u3a members



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GUILD HALL MEETINGS

Thursday meetings will still be the same 4rd Thursday of every month.

On Thursday 25th January we had a brilliant talk given by Judi regarding Burns Night. It was a mesmerising and truly informative talk which was brought to life by Judi's brilliant narrative of Robbie Burns and the rather colourful lifestyle he led all his life! He had a couple of failed attempts at farming- more out of necessity to earn money than for the love of that type of work -but was completely out of his comfort zone.

With well over 40 people attending, Judi told the story of this renowned poet from his very humble beginnings as one of seven children of tenant farmers to the world famous poet he became and who is still held in such high regard today. With many dangerous liaisons (there is a film there somewhere!) and the resulting number of children he fathered, it is surprising he had time to write a sentence, let alone the beautiful, sensitive and moving works that he became known for. His tours of Scotland meant that he was always in great demand. He was a man of the people, very sociable who could easily move people with his poetry and love songs.

Walter Scott had previously met Burns and said that the great poet was a strong, robust, rustic, shrewd and very talented character who seemed to glow with not only poetic temperament but also a simplicity about him. This was high praise indeed from another great man of his time.

Judi is such an inspiring speaker you could not hear a pin drop during her talk. At the end she mentioned the fact that Liverpool University had reconstructed his face from his skull. She finished the talk with Stuart Penny –both of them reciting his famous work 'Tam o' Shanter' with the reconstructed face of Burns on the screen- it was really uncanny to see him how he was.

Like so many brilliant poets and writers of that time Burns died very young- in his 30's -but for 60 minutes the u3a audience was transported back in time. He was brought back to life. Thank you too, Stuart, for your valuable input into that very well- known and very long poem. It was so enjoyable.

Judi, what can I say – it was a wonderful and mesmerising insight into his life at that time and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone lucky enough to hear it.

Thank you.



A Message from the Chairman

It's that time for our newsletter as I have been reminded by Shirley Cole, our hard-working Editor. For the last time can I wish you all a Happy New Year. I think the end of January is the cut-off point in my book,

I'm sure you have heard we have arranged a post-Christmas meal for members at the Cardigan Golf Club again on Thursday 8th February- next month already! I have

sent out a menu, prices and choice list to all but if you have not had it then contact me for one to be sent. The prices quoted on the menu are for a Non-member guest if you bring one along? The cost per member is a £5 discount **off** the menu as the committee have agreed to subsidise it.

We must have your menu choice at the very latest a week before with payment which is the **1st February**. **We then have to give the list to Pat who is in charge at the Golf club**. They can cater for 40 places, Please **do not** contact them directly.

You can pay cash/cheque (**payable to Cardigan u3a**) by BACs to our account, sort code 20-18-17 account number 53483878 Cardigan u3a. **Please- in the reference section give your name and state Golf Club Meal so we know it is for that and nothing else**. There will be paper forms for those who cannot print it out at the monthly meeting.

The last date for your choice is 1st February when we have to give it to the club. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

We have organised another coach trip this year. Our plan is to go to St Fagans National Museum, near to Cardiff on Thursday 13th June. The coach price is yet to be confirmed but will be about £12-£14. This will be cheaper if we can fill the bus. I want to thank Linda Miles for once again getting the bus booking sorted.

There will be more information about details and pick up points nearer to the time.

My ongoing plea for someone to come forward to take on the Group organiser role has finally succeeded. We have a volunteer (hooray) who is liaising with Adrian about the role, again --more on this later.

We are approaching the end of our Membership year and your committee have discussed fees and you will be delighted to hear that we are maintaining the yearly membership from the 1st April at £16, I think you will agree- in the light of the financial problems around us- that is a welcome decision. If you want to start paying your subs contact Will North our membership secretary.

Anyway, that's enough from me. There are many interesting articles in this month's edition, enjoy reading them and think about submitting one yourself next month?

Best Wishes

Howard Lillyman Chairman



For the benefit of the new members- and welcome to those who have recently joined U3a - all meetings usually take place on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Guildhall. We have our own website for all information. It is **cardiganu3a.org.uk**. We are also on **facebook**. cardiganu3a@yahoo.co.uk

As you know the newsletter comes out on the last Thursday of every month. **I would be grateful if all newsletter entries could be in to me by that last Thursday afternoon at the latest-** preferably before if possible!!

DATES OF THURSDAY MEETINGS

Meeting Date	Event	Speaker	Location
February 22 nd 2024	<i>Bee keeper/ former commercial herb grower</i>		Guildhall
March 28 th 2024	<i>List of Historic Place names</i>	Dr. James January-McCann	Guildhall
April 28 th 2024	AGM	None	Guildhall
May 23 rd 2024	Panto!	Shirley Cole	Guildhall
June 27 th	Open Day	None	Guildhall



PANTOMIME

As people may know the writing of the panto is finished. The cast has been chosen from the willing volunteers who were queuing outside my front door for several nights. The date is arranged and it will take place on the 23rd May at the Guild Hall.

Although we do not have a regular meeting place as yet for rehearsals –they have in fact started and are going quite well! Please get in touch if you have any ideas for a space in which to hold rehearsals.

I hope that the pantomime will be well supported by our wonderful u3a members.

wallaceshirley@hotmail.com

