

**Dear Members,**

This month I would like to highlight the celebration of the 100th birthday of one of our beloved members. A full account of his exploits in a memorable lifetime are on page 2.

A resolute and tremendously active member of Porthcawl u3a, who it has been my pleasure to have met at the start of my membership of our u3a and which has developed into a true friendship.

He epitomises everything that the u3a ethos is meant to portray. A true gentleman who is always positive and truly supportive of all activities.

Happy birthday, Sir and hopefully many more to come.

Regards,

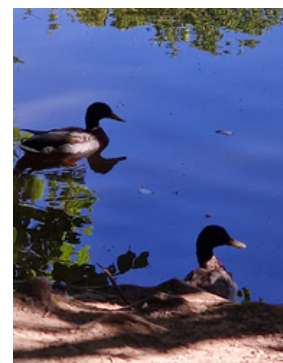
**Chair** 07531 062146 or [chair@porthcawlu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@porthcawlu3a.org.uk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wildlife Walk - Frog Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve, Pyle Tuesday, October 6th, 2pm

A walk of about 1 mile, looking at hedgerows, woodland and pond.

If the weather is bad, there will be a talk about Frogpond Wood at Kenfig Nature Reserve instead. Park at Pyle Enterprise Centre, Village Farm Rd, Pyle CF33 6BL. Turn right at the traffic lights in Pyle, past Pyle Garden Centre. Continue down through the industrial estate until you come to a T Junction, turn left and follow the road almost to the end. Pyle Enterprise Centre is on the right.



### Monthly Talk - Wednesday, October 14th - 'History from elsewhere'

October's talk is by one of our members, Andrew Collier. Andrew will highlight less well known points in the histories of our near and slightly more distant neighbours in Europe and Scandinavia. Expect to be interested, intrigued and surprised.

Previous talks can be found on our Porthcawl u3a YouTube channel. [Click here](#)



### Friday, December 18th - Frankie Valli Tribute Night with Festive Dining - £35



Held at the Atlantic Hotel, 2 courses for £35. Seats are limited, so bookings will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis. Please pay by October 10<sup>th</sup> to secure your place. Email our treasurer at [treasurer@porthcawlu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@porthcawlu3a.org.uk) specifying the names of those attending and whether you are paying online or by cheque. Priority will be given to Porthcawl u3a members. You will receive confirmation of your booking, with a menu, asking for your food choices. To join Porthcawl u3a email [membership@porthcawlu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@porthcawlu3a.org.uk)

### Coffee Mornings

**Wednesday, 7th** - Waterfront - 10am (first Wednesday of every month)

**Saturday, 31st** - Atlantic Hotel - 11am (last Saturday of every month)



# MEMBERS' MOMENTS

## Happy Birthday, Porthcawl u3a member

### 100 Not Out!



This beloved member was born in Cardiff, but after his childhood in Roath Park and Cardiff High School, his family decamped to Tre Athan, Porthcawl; to the family house built in 1906 by his great-grandfather.

Graduation in Forestry 1946, and Botany (Hons) 1947 from Bangor University was followed by 2 years' National Service in the Royal Engineers including 12 months in Kenya. After a spell in the Forestry Commission surveying Welsh forests, in 1950, he joined the Colonial Forestry Service as Assistant Conservator of Forests in Nigeria. Known as the 'White Man's Grave'; you retired at 45 if you made it that long!

His family got used to him disappearing and returning every couple of years; coming and going on a steamship. He wrote letters prodigiously and never forgot birthdays. He used his diaries as the basis for his books - All our Yesterdays and An Earthly Paradise – although, his memory was and is amazing. Ask him who he had lunch with in 1956 in the middle of nowhere in the African bush, and the chances are he'll remember. (And what they ate!)

He ran the gauntlet of malaria, yellow fever, polio and leprosy before his Nigeria Service (including a year at Magdalen College Oxford's Institute of Forestry) came to an end.

In 1963, he went to Botswana, where for 5 years his forestry work continued amongst elephants, hippos and lions. 1969-70 at UK Land Resources Development Centre, Tolworth, involved postings to Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Dominica, Brazil, Bahamas, Seychelles and St Helena. He then went to ODA HQ, 1979-83, as a Forestry Advisor with tours to Africa, Middle East and the Caribbean, followed by 'retirement' in 1987 as General Manager of and consultant to the Lesotho Woodlot Project until 1992.

Returning to Tre Athan, he immersed himself in Porthcawl life, remaining to this day a well-known figure at St John's Church, Probus, Newton Institute, Glamorganshire History Society and of course u3a. He has been a generous contributor/participant to many charitable organisations – most notably establishing a Forestry Postgraduate Studentship Fund with Bangor University. In his spare time he researches genealogy, has written two books and for several years owned and managed 100 acres of woodland near Pencader – just to keep his hand in!

His continuing great zest for life and interest in others, together with a shared love of family remain a lesson for us all.

We wish him a very 100th Happy Birthday



# MEMBERS' MOMENTS

## MONTHLY TALKS

Our September speaker, told us the story of the life and times of Tommy Cooper, a hilariously funny man. His talk was entitled, '*Glass, bottle, bottle, glass*' a reference to a number of Cooper's magic tricks. Early in his career, Cooper learned that appearing to get a trick wrong, was much funnier than getting it right - something one could only do successfully, if one could get it right. He entertained us for decades, and was fondly remembered by our members.

### Would you be interested in presenting a Monthly Talk?

In 2026 we were entertained by three of our members, and we're seeking members who'd like to speak to us in 2027. We're happy to offer tech help if needed. Our slots are the second Wednesday of each month, except August and December. If you're interested, please let us know.

### September's Kenfig Walk

For this walk, we caught the bus from Porthcawl bus station to Kenfig pool. Then we walked across the golf course, around Sker house and along the coast into Porthcawl on a sunny warm afternoon. It was delightful!



# MEMBERS' MOMENTS

By joining the 100 Club you are not only helping to raise valuable funds for our U3A but you can also win a cash prize. There are currently some unallocated numbers for the 100 Club. Any member who wishes to join for the rest of the year (to May 2027) or any existing member who would like an extra number, can do so for a reduced price of £15.



## Congratulations to the 100 Club's September winners:

|            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>1st</b> | <b>SH</b> | <b>£50</b> |
| <b>2nd</b> | <b>DJ</b> | <b>£25</b> |
| <b>3rd</b> | <b>MH</b> | <b>£10</b> |

Winners, please email your bank details - Bank, Account name and Sort Code - to our Treasurer at [treasurer@porthcawlu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@porthcawlu3a.org.uk)

## Sing it Again !!

Come along to the Newton School Room on the last Wednesday of the month from 2–4pm for a relaxed and friendly singalong featuring well-loved songs spanning eight decades, from 1950s classics to more recent favourites. No auditions, no pressure and no previous singing experience needed — just bring your voice, your enthusiasm and a love of great songs!

### Badger

Badger, badger, black and white,  
in the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye  
can catch a glimpse of one so shy.

Thy claws are sharp and they call you Brock,  
some come to kill and some to mock;  
They blame you for diseases rife,  
whilst human beings extinguish life.

They dig you out with dog and spade,  
from a sett so well and strongly made;  
No regrets or pardons come thy way,  
bodies scattered upon break of day.

Why not leave this Brock alone  
in thy sacred forest home?  
Free to roam and free to play,  
living out those carefree days.

Badger, badger, black and white,  
in the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye,  
has the right to take thy life?

JC

Writing Group 2



## Have you signed up to easyfundraising?

What is easyfundraising?

Easyfundraising turns your everyday shopping online into free donations.

There are 3,600 retailers that will make a small donation to a cause of your choice.

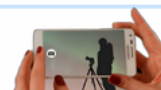
This is a great way of fundraising for Porthcawl u3a. If you are interested in setting up easyfundraising and are having difficulty registering please let us know.



Please let the Newsletter team know of any upcoming local events you think other members may enjoy.

# Calendar for the Month

|                                                                                                                                                                          |          |    |               |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|---------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Astronomy                                                                                                                                                                | 1<br>15  | Th | 2pm           | YC       | Darkness                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |          |    |               |          | Earth from Space                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Beach Clean                                                                                                                                                              | 6<br>20  | T  | 10am          | Rest Bay | New volunteers welcome                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div> <div>  </div> <div>Book Clubs</div> | 30       | F  | 10.30         | AFC      | <i>The Eights</i> by Joanna Miller                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                          | 14       | W  | 10.30         | TBC      | <i>The Right Stuff</i> by Tom Wolfe                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                          | 1        | Th | 2pm           | TBC      | <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> by Daniel Keyes                                                                                                                                                     |
| Canasta                                                                                                                                                                  | 12<br>26 | M  | 2pm           | YC       | Anyone who would like to play, or learn while playing, is very welcome.                                                                                                                         |
| Ceramics                                                                                                                                                                 |          | W  | 2pm           | YC       | This is a very popular course, running to capacity. Add your name to the waiting list and you will be welcomed as a valuable member of the group just as soon as there is a vacancy.            |
| Conversations                                                                                                                                                            | 8        | Th | 2pm           | AFC      | Would Welsh Independence benefit the people of Wales?                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                          | 22       |    |               |          | Should pensioners agree to forego state pension increases in order to enable expenditure on defence and health services to be increased?                                                        |
| Exploring Poetry                                                                                                                                                         | 5<br>19  | M  | 2pm           | AFC      | <i>The Complete Poems of Keats</i>                                                                                                                                                              |
| French for All                                                                                                                                                           | 6<br>20  | T  | 10.15         | AFC      | <i>My Summer</i>                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |          |    |               |          | <i>A Little About Me</i>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Gardening                                                                                                                                                                | 27       | T  | 2pm           | AFC      | New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Guitar                                                                                                                                                                   | 12<br>26 | M  | 10am          | NSR      | This is a very popular course, running to capacity. Add your name to the waiting list and you will be welcomed as a valuable member of the group just as soon as there is a vacancy.            |
| History                                                                                                                                                                  | 5<br>19  | M  | 10.15         | YC       | We will complete Local Government history and revisit the displacement of the Native Americans. Maybe, Canada turning to Commonwealth.                                                          |
| International Zoom Link                                                                                                                                                  | 5<br>19  | M  | 2.30<br>10.30 |          | Join us via Zoom link where members of our u3a and members of the u3a at Nantes in France chat in English about current issues affecting our countries and ourselves. You will be very welcome. |
| Italian For All                                                                                                                                                          | 1<br>15  | Th | 2pm           | TC       | Members with at least beginner level of Italian are welcome.                                                                                                                                    |
| Kaffeeklatsch                                                                                                                                                            | 13<br>27 | T  | 11am          | YC       | Friendly German conversation over a cup of coffee. Basic knowledge of German essential. New members welcome.                                                                                    |
| Latin                                                                                                                                                                    | 12<br>26 | M  | 2pm           | YC       | Come and help us translate interesting Latin stories.                                                                                                                                           |
| Mah Jong                                                                                                                                                                 | 8<br>22  | Th | 2pm           | YC       | New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Mindfulness                                                                                                                                                              | 6<br>20  | T  | 1.30          | YC       | Everyday mindfulness: "Present awareness in ordinary moments, with curiosity and without judgement" please join us if this interests you.                                                       |
| Monthly Talk                                                                                                                                                             | 14       | W  | 2.15          | H-T      | <i>'History from Elsewhere'</i>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Origins and Development of Drama                                                                                                                                         | 12<br>26 | M  | 2pm           | AFC      | <i>King Henry IV Part 1</i>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Painting Workshop                                                                                                                                                        |          | Th | 10am          | YC       | This is a very popular course, running to capacity. Add your name to the waiting list and you will be welcomed as a valuable member of the group just as soon as there is a vacancy.            |
| Philosophy & Ideas                                                                                                                                                       | 2<br>16  | F  | 10am<br>10.15 | YC       | Philosophy of Philosophy (whatever!) and we will start a series on Democracy and Law on the 16th.                                                                                               |
| Photography for Everyone                                                                                                                                                 | 13<br>27 | T  | 2pm           | YC       | New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                             |



|                                                                                                         |                                               |    |       |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----|-------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Play Reading</b>                                                                                     | <b>22</b>                                     | Th | 2pm   | YC    | New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Psychology</b>                                                                                       | <b>15</b>                                     | Th | 10am  | AFC   | Dr Neil Frude will talk about 'The Psychology of staying young.' Exploring some simple but powerful strategies anyone can use to feel young relative to their actual age                                                                                   |
| <b>Quiz</b>                                                                                             | <b>12</b>                                     | M  | 2pm   | YC    | New quizzers welcome<br>Come and test your general knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rummikub</b>                                                                                         | <b>2</b><br><b>16</b>                         | F  | 2pm   | SH    | New players welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Scrabble</b>                                                                                         | <b>5</b><br><b>19</b>                         | M  | 10am  | H-T   | Keen to have new members. We are a friendly group and players of all abilities welcome.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Search for Knowledge</b>                                                                             | <b>19</b>                                     | M  | 2pm   | AFC   | <i>Effects of El Nino on tropical storms. Future of humanity with AI, led by Noah Harari</i>                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sing it Again</b>                                                                                    | <b>28</b>                                     | W  | 2pm   | NSR   | Just for fun. New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Social Cycling</b>  | <b>21</b>                                     | W  | 10.30 |       | Meeting at Bishops Palace car park, Carmarthen to cycle the brilliant new Tywi Valley path to Llandeilo                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Social Dancing</b>                                                                                   | <b>13</b><br><b>27</b>                        | T  | 2pm   | TC    | A mix of ballroom, Latin, sequence, the odd line dance and Rock & Roll.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sustainability</b>                                                                                   | <b>13</b>                                     | T  | 2pm   | YC    | Nuclear power and the Llynfi planning application                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Table Tennis</b>                                                                                     |                                               | F  | 10am  | YC    | Weekly meets<br>New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Technology Help Desk</b>                                                                             | <b>12</b><br><b>26</b>                        | M  | 10.30 | COSTA | Do you need help with your electronic devices?<br>Ring for an appointment                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Ukelele</b>                                                                                          | <b>2</b><br><b>16</b>                         | F  | 2pm   | YC    | New players welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Understanding Modern Art</b>                                                                         | <b>12</b>                                     | M  | 10am  | YC    | We are looking into the influence of modern artists, their ideas and technology on the development of film during the 20 th century to today.                                                                                                              |
| <b>Walking</b>       | <b>9</b><br><b>23</b>                         | F  | 1.30  |       | From Ancient Briton car park, Newton (CF36 5NT) for a circular walk of about 4 miles with great views of the Bristol Channel.<br>Seagull car park, Nottage (CF36 3UT) for an easy 3.5 mile stroll around Rest Bay. No stiles or hills. Great scenic views. |
| <b>Welsh</b>                                                                                            | <b>2</b><br><b>16</b>                         | F  | 10am  | YC    | New members welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Whist</b>                                                                                            | <b>5</b><br><b>19</b>                         | M  | 2pm   | YC    | Anyone who would like to play, or learn while playing, is very welcome                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Wildlife</b>                                                                                         | <b>6</b>                                      | T  | 2pm   |       | Frogpond Wood Local Nature Reserve<br>See page 2 for details                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Writing for Pleasure</b>                                                                             | <b>1</b><br><b>2</b><br><b>3</b><br><b>16</b> | F  | 10am  | RC    | Meetings are informal and relaxed.<br>Beginners and experienced writers welcome.<br>There are spaces in each of the three groups.                                                                                                                          |

**General Enquiries:** 07531 062146

**Executive Committee:**

**Membership:**

**Newsletter Team:**

**Treasurer:**

**Webmaster:**

**Visits Team:**

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#### Venue key

**AFC** = Football Club

**H-T** = Hi-Tide

**KNR** = Kenfig Nature Reserve

**NSR** - Newton School Room

**RC** = Rugby Club

**SH** = Seagull Hotel

**TC** = Trinity Church

**YC** = YMCA