

# NEWPORT U3a NEWSLETTER - JUNE - 2025

June is here, bringing us an infectious energy!

## HISTORY TRIP

Our members went on a day trip to Barry War Museum and The Royal Mint organised by our History Group. The museum is based at the historic railway station on Barry Island where volunteers research, preserve and promote the wartime history of the area and hold regular exhibitions. We stepped back in time for an authentic wartime experience as the very knowledgeable volunteers brought to life a WWI trench that simulated the realities of life on the Western Front. There was also a genuine WWII Anderson Shelter, which were so cold, dark and damp, that many were reluctant to use them until the air raid sirens had sounded. A 1940's kitchen portrayed the meagre rations available and the stark reality of providing meals for a family.



Onto the Royal Mint for their award-winning tour where we learnt about its 1100 year history including the move to Wales from the Tower of London and Tower Hill, and the manufacturing process of coins. Expansion into global currency production means it is now the world's leading export mint supplying 30 different countries each year. In addition it produces a wide range of military, sporting



and commemorative medals such as those awarded at the 2012 London Olympic Games. The exhibition rooms displayed some of the rarest and most unique coins in the world and even a Mini covered in pennies!

## OUR 32nd AGM

Over 130 of our members attended our 32nd AGM at which Chairperson Julie Kennedy reflected on her second year in office when she helped Newport City Council's sub committee submit a successful application to become an Age Friendly City, and also met Rhian Bowen- Davies the Older People's Commissioner for Wales at our Newport 50+ Forum publicity stand.



She thanked all the committee members, group convenors, door duty and cafe volunteers for all their hard work which makes our wonderful organisation so successful - confirmed by the membership numbers reaching a record 500 this year. She has admired the fantastic skill of the Art Group at their Exhibitions, the talented Choir singing at Caerleon Arts Festival, the work produced by the Creative Writers and participated in the excellent Holiday, Theatre and Day Trips.

Treasurer David Gore assured us that we are financially healthy and there will be no need to increase membership fees yet again next year. The vice-chair, Gwyn Havard, announced that he had completed his term of office and after the election of officers and members to the committee he then handed over the position to his successor Adrian Harris. He has completed his Fire Marshall Course and making a huge effort in updating our Fire & Safety Regulations. Also Gwyneth Hawkes resigned as IT Specialist after taking us



through a period of change (along with Richard Baines) and providing training of our new website. Also 3 new members were welcomed onto the Committee - Jane Beament, Clare Jarass and Gary Hall. Free refreshments were served by our Cafe volunteers and many agreed that it had been an enjoyable, social affair.

Contact Angela at [publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com) if you have any news about your group to be included in a future Newsletter.

