

NEWPORT U3a NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2025

Fear not November's challenge bold - we've books and friends and hearths that never can grow cold.

CAERNARFON HOLIDAY

49 of our members went on a 'Winter Warmer' coach holiday to Caernarfon, North Wales, arranged by 'Out & About Newport.' We visited the popular Victorian inland resort of Betws-y-Coed set in a



unique valley at the confluence of three rivers, with its many craft shops. We then travelled on to another Victorian gem - Llandudno - for some retail therapy in the elegant Malls or a stroll along the impressive pier and promenade.

Overnight there was a frost and, if by magic, all the mountains were covered in a blanket of snow making our day trip to Anglesey very picturesque - the sun was shining so we had a group photo with the Menai Bridge and snow-capped mountains in the background. Our first stop was at the captivating resort of Beaumaris with its charming streets of pastel coloured cottages, independent shops and also Edward I's last fortification in his Iron Ring of castles built to control Wales. Of course, we could not visit Anglesey without a stop at the village known for its long name - Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwilllantysiliogogoch; which was invented in the 1860s to give the railway station a name.

On our final day we explored Porthmadog bathed in sunshine; a vibrant town with a lovely beach and a mile-long cob. We walked around the ancient harbour and watched the steam train being decorated in preparation for the 'Santa Specials.' We returned to Caernarfon and had some leisure time to explore Wales' most famous castle (built as a Royal Palace and fortress inside a medieval walled town) and also wander the narrow streets and stylish waterfront.

We were entertained each evening at the hotel with singers, a quiz, bingo and a treasure hunt. There was never a dull moment!

U3a CHOIR CONCERT

Members of our Choir have been preparing for their busiest season of the year; you may even have heard them rehearsing Christmas Carols - since July! The Choir has grown in stature and numbers (now over 70) which enables us to sing in four part harmony - the traditional format for choral singing.



This month we performed two sets at St Woolos Cathedral's Christmas Bazaar which was greatly appreciated by the browsing congregation - many of whom decided to sit down and appreciate the show, and several gave some very positive comments. Our programme included non-Christmas songs from our repertoire, some lovely lesser known carols and also some light-hearted singalong seasonal songs. Stephen Berry, Carol Brown and Julie Davies shared the conducting and accompaniment on the piano. Money raised will be used to support the cathedral fabric. The Choir is available to perform at social and charitable events.

LET THE BUS HAVE THE FUSS

Here's a reminder of a responsive, flexible addition to the public bus service which offers low floor accessibility that is much appreciated by some of our members travelling to U3a. Surprisingly, it is run by Monmouthshire County Council's Grass Routes Community Transport. You can arrange to be picked up from your home and transported free of charge (if using a bus pass) to your chosen destination within Newport on weekdays 9:00-14:00. There is a lifetime joining fee of £5 per household of up to 4 members. Phone freephone 0800 085 8915 the day before your planned trip, preferably at 9.00am. Visit www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/buses-trains/grassroutes



WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS - Last day of term is 12/12 and we return on 7/1.

Contact Angela at publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com if you have any news about your group or photographs to be included in a future Newsletter.

