

NEWPORT U3a NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2026

June: the month when Nanny Naps are not only encouraged, but essential!

33rd AGM

130 of our members attended our 33rd AGM at which Julie Kennedy, our Chairperson, reflected on her third and final year in office: of all the challenges that were dealt with, changes that were implemented in accordance with Third Age Trust regulations, and the many extra curricular activities that were enjoyed. She thanked the members for their participation, and committee members, receptionists, convenors and cafe personnel for all their dedicated work (which is all voluntary) and makes our wonderful organisation so successful. Julie then handed over her position to the Vice-Chairperson Adrian Harris who, in turn handed over that position to committee member Jane Beament. Stephen and Gill Berry, and Margaret Swabey were thanked for their many years dedicated service after announcing that they were retiring from the committee. Two new members were welcomed on board - Denise Lloyd and Brian Hillier.



Treasurer, David Gore, produced his annual report and assured us that we are financially healthy and there would even be a £5 reduction on membership fees next year!

Complimentary refreshments were provided whilst our u3a Choir performed a selection of songs, and all agreed that it had been an enjoyable and sociable affair.



The Dolman Theatre has no contract for the disposal of food waste. It is therefore important that U3a members do not put partly eaten sandwiches, apple cores, banana skins etc in any of the bins that the Dolman provide. Please dispose of any food waste elsewhere - there is a waste bin outside the main entrance.

THEATRE VISIT

Members of our History and Theatre Groups attended a performance of "Pianoforte - The Story of Mary Frost" at the Riverfront Theatre, performed by *Her Story Theatre Company*. The play written by Adele Corder was inspired by



the book "Mary Frost: Wife, Mother, Chartist" written by our very own member Sylvia Mason (centre, left).

Set during the turbulent days of the 1839 Newport Rising, Mary Frost was a strong supporter of her husband John Frost, and the work of his fellow Chartists, to reform British politics. She did this whilst looking after their eight children and living through enormous political upheaval and personal sacrifice. The play restores her voice and honours the many women who fuelled change behind closed doors.

The title "Pianoforte" is itself a tribute to Mary's quiet strength.

The three actors, Clare Drewett, Adele Corder and David Constant played multiple roles whilst giving poignant performances. The play crackled with wit, tension and authenticity. We send our best wishes to the Company which will be performing at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August.

Members are invited to submit photographs for future Newsletters. The subjects should be seasonal, about our u3a, or our locality.

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

