

u3a Newsletter November 2025

Dear Members,

As autumn gives way to winter, it's lovely to see our U3A continuing to thrive. The mornings may be colder and the evenings darker, but our groups are as active and welcoming as ever. It's also been wonderful to see our new groups settling in so well — a big thank you to everyone who has helped get them started and to all who have joined in with such enthusiasm.

Earlier this month, Vince, Annette and I attended the Wales Network Meeting in Newtown, which brought together representatives from U3As across Wales. It was an enjoyable and inspiring day, full of discussion about how we can work more closely together and share ideas for the future.

One particularly exciting development is the plan to re-establish the Mid Wales Network, which sadly had to close back in 2019 due to illness and, later, the impact of Covid. The prospect of it starting up again is great news. A strong local network will bring huge benefits — from sharing speakers and resources to supporting new group leaders and encouraging collaboration between branches.

There was a real sense of optimism at the meeting, and it's clear that this revival will help to bring renewed energy and cooperation across Mid Wales. I'll keep you updated as plans progress, but it's certainly something to look forward to in the months ahead.

And looking closer to home, we're delighted to announce that we will be attending the Welshpool Winter Festival for the first time this year, on Saturday 29th November. It promises to be a truly festive event — a great opportunity to meet the public, share what U3A is all about, and perhaps even welcome a few new members. We hope to see many of you there!

A gentle reminder about our Christmas Lunch at The Cowshacc on Tuesday 2nd December, starting at 12.30pm. We'll be enjoying a hot and cold buffet, with drinks and festive treats to help us celebrate the season together. It's always a highlight of our U3A year — a lovely chance to relax, catch up with friends and get into the Christmas spirit.

Welshpool & District u3a



Finally I'm delighted to announce November's talk is by our very own Ian Thompson, who will be sharing the fascinating story of Buffalo Bills visits to England from the late 19th century. From Wild West theatrics to Royal audiences Ian will guide us through where American showmanship meets Victorian society. As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement. Our U3A thrives because of your ideas, friendship and community spirit. Let's keep that energy going as we move into winter and the festive season.

Dates for Your Diary

- . Wednesday 5th November Monthly Meeting, The Cowshacc
- Wednesday 12th November 2pm, New Members welcome, The Cowshacc
- Saturday 29th November –Welshpool Winter Festival
- . Tuesday 2nd December- 12.30pm Christmas Lunch, The Cowshacc

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National U3A (Wales) Meeting Update

The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary attended an all-day National U3A (Wales) meeting in Newtown on October 6th.

The meeting included representatives from the Wales Council and the recently appointed CEO of the Third Age Trust, Iain. You can find more information about Iain here:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/new-ceo-for-the-third-age-trust>

National Changes

The Third Age Trust is undergoing some significant national changes, including welcoming a new leadership team. Details are available here:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/the-third-age-trust-welcomes-a-new-leadership-team>

Crucially, these national changes will not affect the activities we offer to our members at the local branch level.

One of the main reasons for this national shift is to increase membership, with a target of 500,000 members nationally, and to offer members a wider range of services.

Improving Branch Cooperation

A key topic at the meeting was improving communication and cooperation between branches.

It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly set back inter-branch cooperation, as seen by the current inactivity of the Mid Wales Network. Despite several attempts to revive it, barriers remain, including the significant travel distances across Mid Wales and a lack of budget for travel and venue hire. We will, however, continue to work with other Mid Wales branch officials to try and revive the network.

The National representatives will consider how to overcome these and other potential barriers.

- **Electronic Meetings:** Online meetings were considered as a way forward, but not all branch officials were supportive. Barriers were identified, including a lack of available technology or licensed software for some officials. National officials will explore negotiating a nationally provided software license to make online meetings more feasible.

Future Cooperation

There was no immediate support for a higher tier of cooperation (like a national committee with representatives from the four Wales regions meeting twice a year) until the in-region cooperation and communication is stronger.

Our branch officials will consider what cooperation with adjacent branches can be achieved with the objective of offering our members a wider range of activities.

Vince Howells Branch Secretary Welshpool and District U3A: Paul Harris has kindly offered to help anyone struggling with technology relating to Windows with a view to starting a group. If this is something you'd be interested in please register your interest with our groups coordinator Elaine.

Posters: We now have a New version of our posters available, good idea to replace any that you put out there. It keeps things fresh and people aren't seeing the same one image.

Please see Annette if you would like some.

More and more activities are now being posted on our Facebook page, the site is now secure and only members have access, let's try and make full use of it to keep in touch and promote our groups.

A few links relating to press release regarding our U3a:

<https://www.mywelshpool.co.uk/viewerfeatures/ArticleId/28293>

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/25484473.welshpool-u3a-announce-new->

[welshpool-matters-group/https://www.shropshirestar.com/your-world/2025/09/22/welshpool-district-u3a-launches-welshpool-matters-citizen-research-group/](https://www.shropshirestar.com/your-world/2025/09/22/welshpool-district-u3a-launches-welshpool-matters-citizen-research-group/)

Check out our New Website, we welcome any comments and feedback you may have

Art & Design

Bird Group

Board Games

Book Club

Bowls

A photograph of an indoor bowls hall with several green bowling lanes on a wooden floor. People are seen playing and watching. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

INDOOR BOWLS GROUP

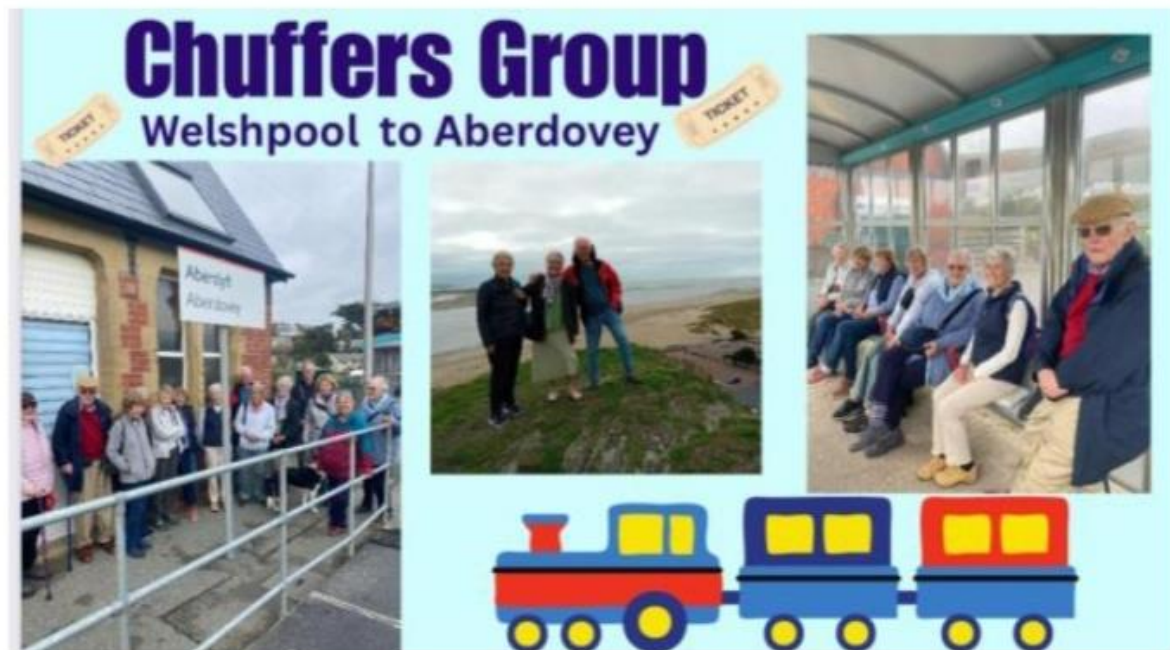
Every 2nd & 4th FRIDAY
The Cowshacc 2pm

Come and learn or share your
experience
Equipment provided

Please bring a change of footwear.

Fees apply.

Chuffers – Outings By Train



Digital Photography

Dog Friendly Walking

Everything Textiles

Film Group – Montgomery

Focus Discussion

Gardening

Knit & Natter

Local History Group

Lunch Group

Medieval History

Philosophy/Mythology & Civilisation (PM&C) Group

Next Meeting 18th November : Epicurus & his 'ism'

Poetry

Next Meeting 13th November 1400. Newedd Maldwyn Residential Home. No theme this month. Come, listen or read.

Psychology – NLP

Strollers Walking Group

Hard to believe this is our last stroll of 2025, how time seems to fly!

This month's stroll is a bit Deja vu, back by popular demand it's the one we did this time last year along a stretch of the beautiful Montgomery Canal starting at The Street, in Four Crosses. It's an easy level stroll, suitable for all abilities. We're heading in the direction of Llanymynech and stroll as far as you feel comfortable with.

I've booked lunch at The Lion in Llansantffraid,

Date: Monday 10th November

Time: 10.30am Start

Directions: Take A483 from Welshpool towards Oswestry in approx 6.3 miles at roundabout take second exit onto B4393 towards Llandrinio in 80 yds turn left onto the Street. In 0.5 miles you've arrived .

What3words: printout.shapes.bristle

Please let me know if you'll be joining us and also your choice for lunch.

Email: alanmsmithers@gmail.com

Tel/text [07984643420](tel:07984643420).

Look forward to sharing the stroll with you.

Alan.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STROLLERS



Planning meeting

Thursday 13th November

10.30am

The MONKEY PUZZLE Cafe

6 Cumberland Place
Welshpool



Not a group member, come along and find out more

Supper Club

u3a Welshpool Matters – Citizen Researchers

Walking Group

Hi Strollers & Walkers,

Christmas Lunch

Strollers and Walkers Group

This years Christmas Lunch will be held at
The Old Hand & Diamond Inn
Coedway,
Nr Shrewsbury SY5 9AR.



Date: Monday 8th December
Time 12.30pm

Further details to follow



1

Christmas Lunch at The Old Hand and Diamond, Coedway, on Monday 8th December 2025 at 12.30 pm. Please let me (Penny) know ASAP if you would like to come and also your choice of food and deposit. ALL bookings MUST be in by Monday 10th November.

A NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF £10.00 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK DIRECT AS IT CAN CAUSE CONFUSION'

I'm sure most of you will be familiar with the location, it's on the B4393 heading towards Shrewsbury. What3words routines.swooning.locator

Alan and I are hoping you can make it and look forward to seeing you all.

Deposit - payment by bank transfer to Mrs P Tozer A/C 00006726 sort code 11 05 24

Or if you prefer to send cash or cheque to Mrs P Tozer, Afonlas, Manafon, Welshpool, SY21 8BJ

Best Regards Penny

Any queries ptozer39@gmail.com Tel. 07485475176

or alanmsmithera@gmail.com Tel. 07984643420

Wellbeing Strollers



STROLL
EVERY 1ST 3RD & 4TH
MONDAY OF THE MONTH

COME AND GIVE IT A TRY
A SHORT STROLL WITH FRIENDLY CHAT
REFRESHMENT

Wine Appreciation

Writing Group

Welshpool Methodist Church

Welshpool Music Club (Est 1942)
Season 2025 – 2026
All concerts at 7.30pm Tickets £15. Children Free

September 27th Young Musicians

October 23rd 'Cocktails for Two'
Featuring Tony Jacobs (vocals), Martin Litton (piano)
Songbook – music from 1920's 1930's & 1940's
A lighter introduction to the new season


November 27th Premier Welsh Pianist
Llyr Williams – piano recital
Music by César Franck, Schumann, Rachmaninov,
and Shostakovich



~2026~

March 26th 2026 Horn trio with
Ezo Dem Sarici (violin) Annemarie Ferderle (horn)
Harry Rylance (piano)
Music to include Brahms and Ligeti

**April 30th Despina Homatidou Harpsichord and Flute
& Sofia Mavrogenidou (flute)**



May 28th A welcome return of pianists
Benjamin Frith and Heidi Rolfe
Four Hands – one keyboard