

Monthly newsletter

February 2023

Committee

We launched our new redesigned website on 1st February and it uses the same url: <https://www.monmouthu3a.com>. For the next few days some of you may still be redirected to the old site but this will be resolved by Monday 6th February at the latest.

The new website follows the brand guidelines issued by the Third Age Trust and meets web standards for accessibility. We hope you like the new design and find it easy to navigate. If you have any feedback or corrections please send them to webmaster@monmouthu3a.com

Members Meeting

Philip Vaughan-Smith: *The Italian Renaissance* 2.30 on 21 February at Bridges.

The Renaissance forms a link between the ancient world and the modern. It started in Florence in the 14th Century and extended its influence across Italy and later Europe. It created a spirit of enquiry into all matters intellectual which transformed the culture of a continent and laid the foundation for rebellion against accepted ideas and for the growth of science. What drove the key figures in literature and the arts in their work? Why did their patrons support them? Why did these ideas spread and take root?

Groups

Science and Technology

Life and death in Iron Age Wales by Dr Adelle Bricking, Museum of Wales, Cardiff on Tuesday 14 February at 2.30pm in the BRIDGES CENTRE

The study of human remains provides us with our most direct window onto the Iron Age population in Wales, but burial evidence from Wales has been understudied compared to areas such as Yorkshire and Wiltshire. However, a recent reappraisal of the literature on excavations of Iron Age sites has shown that the quantity of burial material in Wales is much larger than previously recognised. Using new data collected at two sites – RAF St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan and Dinorben in Conwy – the aim of this project is to directly address how we understand mortuary practices, and to reveal new insights into life through diet and origins of later prehistoric populations in Wales.

Forthcoming events:

14 March: *Humphry Davy: from Cornwall to Clifton – the promotion of a genius*

11 April: *Electromagnetic fields: what they do and don't do to your body.*

If you are not a member of the Science and Technology group you are welcome to attend as a guest for the small fee of £3 (or you can become a full member for £12).

Contact Cherry Lewis on monmouthu3amembership@gmail.com

Theatre Visits

Our next trip is to The Bristol Hippodrome to see Matthew Bourne's – Sleeping Beauty on the 2nd of March 2023 at 14.30. Over the years a small credit has built up in The Theatre groups account – we are therefore going to run this trip slightly subsidised at £60 each (for U3A members only). £70 for non-members. We currently have 41 members going!

One person is sadly now not able to join us – so we are trying to resell her ticket.

I have just checked on the Theatre site and there are still some seats available. We have 7 seats available on the coach – so are inviting extra members to attend. Please let us know by Friday 10th Feb 2023 if you want to join us. We leave Monmouth at 1100 and return around 1830.

e-mail maureenshipley@hotmail.com.

Seat will be allocated on a first come basis.

Country Dancing

What a lovely turn out for the January country dancing. We look forward to seeing everyone in February on the 21st. We still have room for 2 or 3 more members.

We will be in the ballroom at bridges at 2pm.

Christine.

Geology Group: Wednesday 8th February at 2.00pm in the ballroom at Bridges.

Geology of Mars -- Dr Keith Moseley

Mars has been so intensively studied that some say its surface is better known than Earth's. This talk explores the rocks of Mars, their age and origin, showing how Mars has changed over the last 4.5 billion years.

Non-members of this group are very welcome. Cost £2. If you hope to be there let Jim know on jim.s.handley@gmail.com

Cycling

If anyone is interested in a cycling group, would they email Simon Durrant suggesting the time/distance they would be interested in cycling – don't be shy, all levels can be accommodated – and the frequency of rides – weekly, monthly.

Events

The Royal Mint visit


The visit on 4th April has had a wonderful response. Thank you to all. I am now setting up a reserve list. For those who would like to be added please contact me.


Kind regards Melanie Hughes.

Some photos from the Christmas Party:



News from the Third Age Trust

Here is the latest copy of the Third Age Trust newsletter [Your u3a National Newsletter – January](#)  [\(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Here is an additional newsletter about a new u3a initiative [u3a Newsletter Express 19-01-23](#)  [\(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Other

Gresham College Lectures

Gresham College offers free on-line lectures on a wide range of subjects including Astronomy, Environment, Business, Law, History, Literature, Mathematics, Medicine & Health, Music, Politics, Religion and Technology. See [Lecture Series 2022-23 | Gresham College](#)

To subscribe to their newsletter go to [Sign up for our Newsletter | Gresham College](#)

Monnow Street Public Consultation

Monmouth residents will be able to view and comment on the latest design proposals for Monnow Street, either in person or via the Monmouthshire County Council website and share their views on the proposed ideas.

The scheme aims to create a pleasant and safe environment for people on foot or cycle, which encourages people to visit and spend more time in Monnow Street, while maintaining two-way vehicle traffic and on-street parking.

Key measures proposed in the design include creating more space for pedestrians and for businesses to spill out onto the street, making it easier to move around and cross the road, and providing better loading facilities for businesses as well as on-street parking. The scheme will also address the current problems with drainage and uneven footways. When built, it is intended that the new scheme will replace the temporary measures introduced for Covid.

The designs have focused on five key principles, which are;

- A Place for People
- A Place for Crossing
- A Place for Loading
- A Place for Planting
- A Place for Parking

There will be face-to-face engagement opportunities where people can come and meet MCC Officers, Cabinet Members and the Design Team in the High Street at **22 Agincourt Square, Monmouth (Formerly Ruby Tuesday's) on Saturday 11th February between 10am – 5pm** and **on Wednesday 15th February between 10am – 8pm**. There will be a large display with the most recent proposals and people will have the opportunity to chat to the project team and provide feedback

Alternatively, people can visit the Monmouth Community Hub during opening hours between Friday 17th February and Saturday 4th March, where the exhibition boards will be on display. There will be a website with designs and a link to a survey for people to complete, the survey will be open from Saturday 11th February until midnight on Sunday 5th March 2023. Paper copies of the survey and post boxes will also be available in Monmouth Leisure Centre, Monmouth Shire Hall, and Monmouth Community Hub. Full designs and the survey can be found at Monnow Street consultation 2023 – Monmouthshire or Ymgynghoriad Monnow Street 2023 – Monmouthshire.