

THE STORY  
OF  
SWANSEA  
U3A



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U3A**

*Published by*  
**The Editorial Sub-committee of Swansea U3A**

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**Published by  
The Editorial Sub-committee of Swansea U3A  
63 Southgate Road, Southgate  
Swansea SA3 2DH**

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**Printed in Wales by  
Dinefwr Press  
Rawlings Road, Llandybie  
Carmarthenshire, SA18 3YD**

*The Editorial Sub-committee wishes to express its grateful thanks to all those members, past and present, who have trawled their memories and made valuable contributions to this story, and to the photographers who have generously allowed us to use their photographs, and our particular thanks to The City and County of Swansea for the use of the cover photograph.*

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# The Chairmen



*Edwin Lewis.*



*Richard Lillicrap.*



*Idris Davey.*



*Marjorie Vanston.*



*Derick Jenkins.*



*Roger Knight.*

# Foreword

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Nobody really likes to be proved wrong in a good cause. When Professor Costa, who had helped to set up the original Université du Troisième Age in Toulouse, came to Swansea at my invitation to speak about this new idea, I doubted whether it would take in Britain, where the universities' extramural departments and the WEA were already so well established.

So I was astonished, some years later, to discover that an active U3A had been founded in Swansea and when I was honoured to be invited to serve as its president, I was delighted to put aside my scepticism.

For our U3A has grown into a very vigorous organisation. To hold plenary meetings every week calls for an unusual commitment on the part of those who arrange them and of active interest among the large number of members who attend them; our thirty-odd groups have given invaluable service not only to our own members but also to the City, while several of our members, like Idris Davey and John Moyses, have made an invaluable contribution to the work of U3A at national level.

This account of how our U3A has developed over the last fifteen years has been brought together by the Editorial Sub-committee to whom our warmest thanks and appreciation are due.

I commend it with pride and affection to all who read it.

*Maurice Broady*  
*President 1989-2002*



*Professor Maurice Broady.*

# Introduction

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*Whosoever, in writing a modern history, shall follow the truth too near the heels, it may haply strike out his teeth."*

Sir Walter Raleigh (*History of the World 1614*)

The idea of compiling the history of Swansea U3A came to me as a result of an error I made at the first Annual General Meeting I attended as chairman in June 1997. I stated at that meeting, in my annual report, that Swansea U3A had been in existence for 10 years. However, within a short time of returning home I received a number of telephone calls, from U3A members, politely informing me that I was wrong and that Swansea U3A had in fact been in existence for 12 years at that time.

I had taken my information from the records that had been passed to me on taking on the role of chairman but, as my informants pointed out, it was doubtful if any records were kept during the first few years and, in digging deeper, I found that this was indeed the case. I resolved there and then that it was important that our records should be completed and who better to provide the necessary information than the longer serving members of our organisation.

Further thoughts on the form the records of our history should take were inspired by an article on the early days of Swansea U3A "From Whence We Came" written in *Swansea Chronicles* (numbers 5 and 6) by Dr Edwin Lewis, our first chairman. His light hearted and humorous reminiscences would be impossible to follow but I felt it was necessary that any history should be easy to read and I sincerely hope that this is what we have achieved.

I set a target for completion to coincide with our celebration of the new Millennium but I totally underestimated how much work was involved, especially for the long serving members who very quickly agreed to dig into the deep recesses of their memories to provide the missing information. So, after many months of very hard work, particularly by the handful of contributors and the Editorial Sub-committee, the Story of Swansea U3A is now complete to date.

It was John Quincy Adams who, in his "Report - The Establishment of the Smithsonian Institution" in 1846, said:

*"To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself and enlarges the sphere of existence."*

I believe these words are very appropriate as far as U3A is concerned and particularly in Swansea where, since its inception, great emphasis has been placed on educational rather than recreational aspects and I sincerely hope this policy will be continued by our successors.

I would also like to think that, after so much time and effort has been put into preparing this publication, it will be updated from time to time. I believe that, for an organisation of our size, it is necessary that some form of historical record should be kept and I believe it is incumbent upon our successors to do so for future generations of U3A members in Swansea and especially for some hapless future chairman to get his facts right at some future AGM.

*Derrick Jenkinsy*  
*Chairman 1997-2000*

## Let's Begin at the Beginning

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The University of the Third Age was founded in Toulouse in 1972 as an opportunity for people in the third age to continue with their education and was, in France, based at the University Colleges where senior citizens were enabled to join with students in structured courses as set out in a syllabus. This is still the pattern today as we enter the 21st Century.

In February 1981 Professor Peter Laslett of Trinity College, Cambridge, had convened a meeting of eminent social scientists and obtained their support for the establishment of a University of the Third Age in Britain. Among those at the meeting were Michael Young (now Lord Young of Dartington) who had worked with Professor Laslett in establishing the Open University, the National Extension College and the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) and Professor Eric Midwinter who had also been involved with them in the founding of ACE and, along with other interested academics, in long-standing discussions about increasing educational opportunities for older people.

The association of these three men and their passion for making education available to all led to the founding of U3A in Britain and this was recognised at the U3A Conference in Norwich in September 2000 when they were all honoured with the title of Founder Member Emeritus.

The formation of the Université du Troisième Age (UTA) in Toulouse, France, in 1972 had provided inspiration and, indeed, title for U3A, but French adults had never enjoyed the kind of educational provision on offer from British Local Education Authorities, Universities, and organisations such as the WEA, so that the more acute needs of the French had led their government to pass a legislative decree directing French Universities to make provision for older people. The UTA model consists of local committees of retired people who negotiate with their community university for the use of their facilities and expertise, courses being taught by university staff. Any attempt to follow the UTA pattern was never an option in Britain for two reasons: the University of Cambridge was not interested in supporting such a venture but, more importantly, it was immediately obvious to the founders that third agers were perfectly capable of organising their own activities and of providing the skills and expertise needed.

The idea of U3A as a self-help or mutual aid organisation was therefore born. It began with an experimental Easter School in March 1982 and, arising from that, the first U3A National Committee was formed comprising Michael Young (Chairman), Diane Norton (Secretary), Peter Laslett and Eric Midwinter. The National Office was situated in Diane Norton's spare room and it was from there, in October 1983, that the Third Age Trust was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

By 1988 there had been tremendous growth in the number of U3As totally outstripping the facilities available, and there was a move to the first "proper" office, namely one room in Stockwell Green, sublet from the British Association of Settlements. A part time administrator was employed, with a team of volunteers from London U3As helping out.

In 1989 an extraordinary general meeting was held and a revised constitution was agreed for the Third Age Trust. An enlarged committee made up of members from around the country set about planning an expansion of its work including the levy of a per capita subscription from every U3A at £1 per annum. This was the situation on the national scene when Swansea U3A began to formalise its own operations, and it has moved forward in parallel with the National Executive Committee ever since and there are now over 470 U3As in the UK. with more than 110,000 individual members.

**PROFESSOR PETER LASLETT (CBE)  
AND LORD YOUNG OF DARTINGTON**

**As we came to the final stages of the editing of this booklet we learned, sadly, of the death of Professor Laslett and, later, that of Lord Young.**

**Professor Laslett was born on 18 December 1915 and died on 8 November 2001. The son of a Baptist Minister, he was a great educational reformer and believer in extending and widening access to education, particularly in his initiatives and enthusiasm in the founding of the Open University and The University of the Third Age.**

**Lord Young, born Michael Dunlop Young on 9 August, 1915, died on 14 January 2002. The son of an actress/painter and violinist/music critic, he was a barrister, columnist and sociologist and was the founder of the Consumers' Association and thought up the idea of the Open University and, of course, was instrumental in setting up U3A amongst his many other achievements.**

**We in U3A are deeply indebted to Peter Laslett and Michael Young. Their enthusiasm for this and other organisations which they initiated, or with which they were associated, will be greatly missed.**

## Genesis in Swansea

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Swansea U3A was launched in the summer of 1986 in the YMCA building in St Helen's Road. Through a notice in the local press a public meeting was called to look into the possibility of setting up a U3A in Swansea. Over thirty people responded to the advertisement and attended the meeting. The U3A National Organiser, Harry Muscat, addressed the meeting and, by the close, a steering group had been formed to design a programme. Dr Edwin Lewis was appointed Chairman of the committee, Michael Colson agreed to act as Secretary and the task of Treasurer was taken on by Ivy Brooks. A meeting place had already been negotiated at the University's Adult Education Centre in Berwick House in the Uplands area and accommodation on Tuesday afternoons had been allocated. Speakers were arranged for the first three meetings - Professor Gordon Roderick, head of the Adult Education Department becoming the first speaker, Graham Smith, County Advisor for Adult Education following the next week as the second speaker and the third weekly meeting was addressed by The Lord Mayor of Swansea.

As so often happens with new organisations, the initial impetus and enthusiasm did not continue so that, before long, the membership had declined to about fifteen regular attendees. It was decided at this stage to divide the members into two study groups meeting simultaneously; one studied history and the other studied literature. There appears to have been some fundamental differences of opinion about the degree of formality in the type of studies to be followed. As a result of this there were some resignations which coincided with others who resigned for personal reasons. This, of course, dramatically reduced the membership so that the two groups were of necessity obliged to become one under the guidance of Dr Lewis who remained as Chairman. Mollie Harris and Lena Parry now jointly took over the task of Secretary, Betty Bevan became Treasurer and the programmes were prepared on a week to week basis.

A sudden surprising setback was now presented to the group with the sale of Berwick House by the University. With the need to find new premises the group was fortunately rescued by Professor Roderick who, having negotiated the re-housing of the Adult Education Department at Hendrefoilan House, arranged for a small room on the ground floor of the same building to be put at the disposal of U3A. At about this time, Professor Roderick took early retirement and moved to Cardiff where he took up a part-time post with their Adult Education Department. Dr Lewis now brought all his dynamism into play and made determined efforts to bring the U3A movement to the notice of the general public in Swansea. He arranged for posters to be printed and exhorted the U3A

members to place these at libraries, clinics, post offices and other likely places where they would be seen by third agers. He also contacted Swansea Sound Radio and The Herald of Wales. He describes the occasion:

The Editor there owed me a favour, and I visited Adelaide Street to claim my dues. I was stopped at the desk whilst his Secretary announced my presence. "What does he want?" came the voice from within. "Your best reporter to interview me on behalf of Swansea U3A," I shouted from the desk. "Get rid of him at any price and make it snappy," I heard him say. I got his best reporter and she compiled a praiseworthy account plus a photograph of the Committee. There was, however, a slight drawback. The published interview contained a final paragraph: "Swansea U3A is continuing to grow rapidly; how do you, as Chairman, see the future?" To this I replied: "I am confident that we will continue to expand and ultimately take over the whole of the university campus!"

"Great!" added the Reporter, "I can't wait to enrol my mother."

### **What U3A Means To Me**

Joining U3A should have a Government Health Warning! Since I have been a member I have met so many interesting people that 'phone a friend' has given me a very serious problem - my telephone bill!!

MW

\*

U3A provides focus, exercises the mind, ensures friendships and, I believe, keeps me young at heart.

MLT



## The Development of Swansea U3A

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These efforts bore fruit and soon, new members having been enrolled, the room on the ground floor became too small and a larger room on the first floor was found for U3A and became the next meeting place.

Membership numbers continued to grow and the group was offered the much larger New Lecture Theatre which adjoins Hendrefoilan House. It was during this period that the offer of six lectures on Geology was made by the distinguished geologist, Professor T R (Dick) Owen.

The announcement of these lectures brought in large numbers of people—not all of whom committed themselves to becoming members of U3A. The presence of the large numbers of cars being brought onto the Hendrefoilan campus presented problems for the faculty and students. The main concern was one of access particularly for emergency services, possibly jeopardising the safety of the entire campus.

Alternative accommodation had to be found so only two of the Geology lectures were actually presented at Hendrefoilan. The remaining four were delivered at a new venue, the Townhill Community Centre. Use of these premises was negotiated by Mollie Harris. Here, there was a large hall with a stage at one end and a Warden who wholeheartedly welcomed members and provided refreshments at the end of each meeting. The only commitment was that each person became a member of the Community Centre at an annual fee of £1 per head, a small sum that was little enough to pay for such services.

Lectures and talks continued to be arranged at the Townhill venue and it was here, too, that the first Swansea U3A AGM was held. Unfortunately, no written records have been found of this. Up to this time, Dr Lewis, Mrs Harris, Mrs Parry and Mrs Bevan had continued acting in the capacity of the officers, but now the situation changed and was formalised by the election of a committee. Dr Lewis was confirmed as the Chairman, Margaret Hammond and Bart McCarthy were elected as joint Vice-chairmen, Mollie Harris and Lena Parry became joint Secretaries and Betty Bevan was confirmed and continued as Treasurer.



*An early Committee - Bart McCarthy, Lena Parry, Margaret Hammond, Margaret Taylor, Edwin Lewis, Mollie Harris, Stan Lloyd, Idris Davey.*

Around about this time, Professor Maurice Broady, who previously had connections with the French UTA, was approached to become President of Swansea U3A.

Here is Maurice's humorous account of this event:

“Only in Swansea could one have become the president of the U3A in such an informal fashion. It all began, though I could hardly have anticipated it at the time, at a United Nations seminar which was held in Marbella about 1974. The *rapporteur-general* was a Professor Jean Costa from the University of Toulouse, where he had been actively involved in setting up the very first University of the Third Age in the early seventies. We kept in touch with one another and in 1987 he invited me to attend the 15th Anniversary Conference in Toulouse and to address the Plenum of some hundreds of delegates on the singularly ponderous topic of *La contribution de l'urbanisme l'amélioration des conditions de vie des personnes âgées*.

Having accepted Costa's invitation, and having vaguely heard that a branch of this recondite organisation had been founded in Swansea, it occurred to me that it would be a good idea to take with me to Toulouse fraternal greetings from this far-distant group in Wales. But for all my sleuthing, I had found it impossible to locate the secretary or to find out how I might contact the Swansea branch.

The problem was solved in David Evans' ladies dress department, where I had accompanied my wife who wanted to buy some summer-weight dresses for our sojourn in the south of France. Chatting with the sales assistant while Mary changed in the nearby cubicle, I happened to say that these dresses would be very suitable for our impending visit abroad. That simple observation provoked a very Swansea-like interrogation, charged with warmth as well as curiosity, an interrogation which I am sure could hardly have been forthcoming in Howell's in Cardiff, still less in London's Selfridges. Where were we going? What were we doing in Toulouse? What kind of conference was it? When I mentioned the University of the Third Age, she almost burst with astonishment and said 'But my neighbour is in that'. Equally surprised, and delighted at this quite unexpected connection, I urged her to ask her neighbour to give me a ring.

I hardly expected any phone call until the evening. So when Mary and I were sitting in the lounge after lunch drinking our coffee and I saw what I took to be a small cortege of Jehovah's Witnesses passing by on their way to our front door, I opened it prepared to send them on their way with my standard one-sentence rebuff. But before I could even open my mouth to speak, this tall, thin and obviously vigorous chap, who was clearly the leader of this band of proselytes who stood before me, burst upon me with

the cry 'Professor Broady, I'm Dr Edwin Lewis and I'm chairman of the U3A 'Then come in, Dr Edwin Lewis', I replied, 'and bring your troops in with you', utterly astonished that my request to the assistant in David Evans had produced such a very personal response less than three hours later.

I resonated warmly to Edwin as he told me with characteristic enthusiasm all about the Swansea U3A which he had largely brought into existence. And it was evident that he enjoyed my equally warm response for, within ten minutes of his sitting down in our lounge, and evidently taking for granted the concurrence of the posse of his minions who had accompanied him, he suddenly asked whether I would agree to become president of the Swansea U3A.

I accepted with alacrity since, as president-presumptive, I should be able to take Swansea's greetings to the Toulouse conference with unquestionable authority. On the other hand, it dawned on me that Edwin was buying a pig in a poke and it has been out of a concern not to let him down in public that I have tried my very best to live up to the high expectations which, presumably on intuition and certainly not on any rational grounds, he had invested in me."

Towards the end of 1989 tragedy struck and the premises at Townhill were severely damaged by fire, enforcing Swansea U3A to search yet again for a new home.

### **On the University Campus**

Through the good offices of a U3A member, Mrs Allinson, Mr Robert Barnes, the Accommodation Registrar at Swansea University College, offered free use of a lecture theatre in the Physics Building. This was made available in the afternoons of both Tuesday and Wednesday but only during the three terms of the Academic Year. (During periods of recess the campus facilities are required for alternative use.)

This, then, was the beginning of the long and happy association with the University College of Swansea - now University of Wales, Swansea.

Swansea U3A has been privileged since then to enjoy use of the various facilities that have been offered although, from time to time, it has been necessary to make changes to suit the University needs. The lecture theatre in the Physics Building was eventually required by the University and was no longer available, but a meeting hall was found in the Abbey. This had been, in the University's earlier days, the refectory which became redundant when new buildings were put up on the campus.

It became clear, with the constant increase in student intake numbers, that accommodation at the University was stretched to the limit and a letter was received at the end of 1993 informing the Secretary that there would be no room for U3A from October, 1994. In advance of this, and to liaise with West Glamorgan Education Department, a working party, comprising Idris Davey, Richard Lillicap, Luke Toft, Cliff Pike and with Margaret Hammond as convenor, was set up to look at the whole question of accommodation.

Idris Davey rightly concluded that members' cars were at least part of the problem, so a discussion meeting was set up with Robert Barnes, the Accommodation Registrar. He confirmed that cars were the main problem, since parking difficulties were almost worse than room shortage. In addition, Room 16, the old refectory, was needed for a major alteration to provide the accommodation registry with a new suite of rooms which could be cut off from the rest of the Abbey since there was separate side access to Room 16.

Idris Davey asked whether a solemn undertaking not to allow members to park would cause him to reconsider and, agreeing with the suggestion, Mr Barnes asked Steve Boarder, an Accommodation Officer, to suggest an alternative room. He tentatively mentioned the New Arts Hall (now known as Taliesin Annexe) due for demolition, and they both agreed that there was enough life left in it to be worth considering. It was immediately inspected and accepted with gratitude by U3A, especially when a kitchen was revealed, where tea/coffee could be made at the end of a meeting, always providing willing volunteers could be found to man this service. During the Summer Term, the annexe was required for examinations and the Grove Theatre in the Chemistry Building was made available instead. Since October 2001, the Arts Hall has not been available at all and currently, all lectures take place in the Grove Theatre.

Throughout this whole period, membership continued to grow until, by June 2001, our membership reached 330. With up to two-thirds of the membership attending Wednesday afternoon meetings, we have not yet reached the limit of accommodation but the threat of overcrowding still hangs over our heads. As with other U3As, several members join mainly to attend study/ interest groups. Others attend only the Wednesday meetings and thereby miss out on the opportunity for socialising which the groups offer.

## **Programme**

Arranging a programme for the weekly meeting (which was eventually established on a Wednesday afternoon) was very much an 'ad hoc' affair in the beginning; speakers were arranged from time to time but not necessarily on a regular basis. Weekly meetings continued taking various forms, discussions, talks by members, literature or history studies and, occasionally, talks by outside speakers.

With the production of an early form of Newsletter, edited by Alun Richards, members were advised of forthcoming events, one term at a time, including speakers, outings and other activities but not necessarily covering every week of the term. About this time, Luke Toft introduced the basic membership card which was supplied by the National Office.

Later it was decided to produce locally a more informative card giving details of officers and committee as well as one term's programme. The details for the following two terms were issued, as they were arranged, on loose leaf pages, for members to insert inside the card. This evolved eventually into the current triptych form of card showing the full programme for the year. This meant that the Secretary who had previously arranged the programme, along with other duties, became overburdened and a 'Programme and Functions' subcommittee was set up, including the Secretary, to solve this problem. Subsequently, this sub-committee was further subdivided so that now the Programme Secretary and the Outings and Functions Committee work independently of one another.

#### Programme Secretary

If a programme secretary ever moans about the task of finding speakers for a whole year's programme in advance, the blame lies at Margaret Taylor's door. Initially she combined the work of Swansea general secretary with that of the programme secretary preparing just one term's programme at a time. Having called for help, and with the setting up of a subcommittee to assist, she was eventually emboldened to take the plunge and arrange the whole year's programme in advance so that it could be printed on the membership card.

She says, "I must have been mad, but once embarked upon the task there was no going back, and those who followed me have doggedly followed the pattern I set."

Happily, long before she handed over the task to Joan Potheary, her successor, the preparation of the programme had been divorced from the work of the general secretary, and finding people from among the membership to fulfil the role has never been a problem.

Marjorie England, who followed Joan Potheary, says, "When I volunteered to take on the post I felt that I had gained so much from being a member that I should try to put something back into U3A."

Help given by one programme secretary to the next has been acknowledged also.

Joan says, "I was very fortunate in my predecessor who was an enormous help and I enjoyed my time as Programme Secretary" and Marjorie says, "I had excellent help from my predecessor."

Programme Secretaries have each devised their own methods for obtaining speakers for Wednesday afternoon meetings. Margaret attended lectures given at the Museum, the Maritime Museum and on Open Days at the University and targeted the speaker on each occasion when she thought that what she had heard would be of interest to U3A members. She also approached (cold as it were) the Government Ombudsman, the Gwent/Glamorgan Archaeological Trust, members of the University faculty and many more as well as those speakers recommended by U3A members and others.

She says, "In approaching a potential speaker, either in person, by telephone or by letter, I was at pains to point out that Swansea U3A was not in a position to pay fees but would willingly meet out-of-pocket expenses. Only one person turned me down on that score."

The bottle of wine that is now given to each speaker came later, after Margaret had vacated the post and when Swansea U3As financial situation was much more secure.

Joan Pothecary's approach was "by telephone, and I met the speaker for the first time in The Bay View restaurant prior to the afternoon meeting. It was a very pleasant way to become acquainted, hearing about their interests and lives, and I think they enjoyed the relaxation before the meeting."

Marjorie England's approach was "with a list of blank Wednesday afternoons before me, and the thought that if I filled in the outings and lunches first, it would look good on paper and give me a confident start."

Audrey Standish followed Marjorie in preparing the programme. She says: "I shuffle through numerous names and telephone numbers collected over the years then, with a deep breath, pick up the phone and dial a number. What relief! When the first speaker for the year has been pencilled in, I continue this basic procedure - phoning, pencilling in - until I have prepared a programme to cover thirty- two weeks. Taking on the role of Programme Secretary for U3A was no big issue, but does not come with a P.A. to attend to all the paperwork that it involves, and this can take up several hours a week of one's time."

All who take on this work send letters of confirmation to the speakers and further letters reminding them when they are due to give their presentation, and Audrey adds: "Record cards for each speaker are filled out giving name, address, telephone number, date of talk and subject. Details are also taken to Security to make sure the speakers are allowed through and, with luck, given a parking spot. Media Resources, who ensure that screens, projectors, etc. are available, are also contacted."

There is no hard and fast rule about how to do the work, and there is also no guarantee that a speaker will perform well, or that a talk will suit everyone in the audience.

Marjorie worried, "Would they turn up? Had they forgotten? Had they fallen ill? And, more worryingly, would I recognise them?" These concerns bothered all, plus what Joan calls "little hiccups - the speaker delivering a different talk from the one promised, faulty microphones, the wrong projector for the slides - Tuesday night was insomnia night."

There are always stories attached to any task involving the use of 'outsiders' in making up a programme, and Joan tells of one U3A member approaching her saying: "Who on earth arranges this programme - it's so boring." The speaker had not been aware, it seems, of Joan's 'Programme Secretary' badge. Joan's response was (to avoid embarrassment): "Tell me the name of a speaker you would enjoy." This she did and Joan declares it was one of the most enjoyable talks we had.

Marjorie, too, had some embarrassing moments, and says: "When waiting for one speaker to arrive, I introduced myself and gave a warm welcome to a person carrying a briefcase who turned out to be a new member. This made me wonder if I should ask unknown speakers to carry a copy of the Financial Times or wear a red carnation!"

Audrey, during her first year of office, received a phone call from the speaker from Techniquet, who had just received the letter of reminder, saying that she could not remember having made the commitment and had another meeting planned for that day. Luckily, Audrey had recorded the date of her first phone call and was able to quote this. She says: "The rest is history as the saying goes. She cancelled her arranged meeting and came to us. We enjoyed a delightful afternoon. Before the Meeting it meant several journeys to and from her van humping heavy equipment."

Both Joan and Marjorie acknowledge the support given to them by Dr Keith England who is always willing to step in at short notice and give a talk on Sociology, and Richard Lillicrap always ready to fill the breach with a musical programme. The other side of the coin, however, shows that there is lack of support from members when help is required to fetch and carry, put out seats, move tables, open windows to clear stale air after previous occupation of the room. Audrey Standish, in trying to introduce light relief into our programme, was saddened by the fact that members appeared to be unwilling to co-operate.

She says: (for the afternoon of light entertainment), "part of which I hoped would be selected by members, but this became a matter of 'arm-twisting' when asking members to come forward to read poetry. In the event, it turned out to be an enjoyable afternoon for those who took part and for those who attended. It is hoped to include a similar afternoon, with a different theme, in future programmes, and I live in hope of better support second time around.

Each secretary adds his/her approach to the job and my aim is to prepare and produce a programme with something to suit everyone. VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE!"

Marjorie's summing up of the work of a programme secretary is good recruitment material. She writes: "Being a programme secretary has proved a valuable learning experience and I met many interesting people. I hope that I have made a contribution to the success of Swansea U3A. I thoroughly recommend to anyone who wants a stimulating post to consider becoming a programme secretary."

And Joan's final words are: "Good luck to my successors."

We must never forget the dedication, often in isolation, of those who prepare the programmes. Sensible, constructive suggestions and criticism are always welcome if we are to have a challenging and interesting programme. It is recognised, of course, that it is impossible "to please all of the people all of the time."

## **Lectures and Talks**

The speakers who have come to educate and entertain U3A members have introduced a very wide variety of subjects from the light-hearted to the technical. In the early days one lady came from Llandyssul to show us a collection of dolls that had been on display in a museum. She told the story of each of the characters represented and how she had made them and dressed them as authentically as possible.

On another occasion the Chairman talked to us about the problems attending the translation of the Bible into Welsh, and another member later spoke about the work involved in tracing one's ancestry. None, however, has been more prestigious than the six initial and three subsequent geology lectures given by Professor Owen.

To follow these, Professor Owen conducted field expeditions to study at first hand the geological features to be found in the Swansea Valley, one to the Llyn-y-Fan-Fawr and Llyn-y-Fan-Fach area and the other to a site overlooking Llandeilo.

A series of three equally important lectures on the history and politics in Wales were later given by the eminent historian, Professor Sir Glanmor Williams, and another valuable series of lectures was given by Gilbert Bennett on Welsh authors writing in English. For several years, the annual programme of weekly meetings has included at least one talk by Dr Keith England and two from Professor Maurice Broady.

As will be seen in appendix 4, other subjects have included archaeology in its various aspects, the art of famous painters, the discoveries by famous scientists and the work



of reformers. Informed discourse about music has featured on occasions accompanied by recorded performances to illustrate the talks. Travel has been a recurring theme covering a wide choice of places of interest in many parts of the world, and education, both in this country and overseas, has not been overlooked.

There have been contributions from among our number as well as from members of other U3As. Some Swansea members themselves have travelled to give talks to other U3As, always a very rewarding experience. Being a speaker can, of course, have its problems, some of which have to be overcome at short notice. The projector that works only intermittently or breaks down completely, will cause a dramatic change of plan for the speaker and projected charts and lists that are not easily read by the audience will require more detailed explanations on the part of the speaker. The title chosen by a speaker may not always truly reflect the content of the talk. This may cause some disappointment for the audience or, on the other hand, it may herald a revelation of something really interesting and entertaining. With unforeseen problems lurking in the wings for any speaker, an audience needs to be patient and understanding.

The Arts Hall does not have good acoustics but the University Media Resources section were normally willing to provide portable equipment for us at no cost. Unfortunately, the equipment sometimes gave difficulty, despite the helpfulness of members of the Media Resources team, so that after some years it was decided to acquire our own equipment. A sound system was purchased and installed for us by one of the University Media Resources team. This comprised two (later three) radio microphones, amplifiers and loudspeakers. The system was not completely satisfactory and could occasionally be subject to severe radio interference from other radio microphones in the vicinity. It also required volunteers to move the equipment (some of it quite heavy) from cupboard to hall and back and the person placing the loudspeakers on their shelves had to find a safe chair on which to stand.

At one stage, we found the Arts Hall had been rearranged with the screen and speaker's table at the other end of the room. Many members were taken aback to enter the hall and find themselves facing a phalanx of faces. This was particularly trying if the member arrived after the meeting had started.

If slides were to be shown, the programme secretary would need to request a projector from the Media Resources section in good time. On one occasion, the projector was faulty and the then chairman was unable to adjust the focus, so that the speaker had to talk about some very fuzzy pictures, quite ruining the afternoon for everybody. After that, it was decided that we should purchase our own projector and stand.

It was not always easy to find volunteers who could set up the equipment, despite frequent requests for help. The sound system in particular often needed some

adjustment during the course of a talk and this not only required the volunteer to understand the basics of the equipment, but also to have good hearing to be able to assess the efficacy of his manipulation of the controls. Frequently the rooms have been in use until 2 o'clock and there is then a frantic rush to set up the equipment.

Although the acoustics of the Grove Theatre are quite good, some speakers need the assistance of amplifiers to be heard throughout the room. The built-in equipment was sometimes temperamental and relied on fixed or hand-held microphones, which were not so effective with the more demonstrative sort of speaker. Although there is a fixed slide projector system in this theatre with good remote controls, it can also cause problems when slides jam in the mechanism.

Most of the time, we were able to find a volunteer to organise a rota for serving refreshments from the Arts Hall counter, but it was sometimes a close-run thing and at one stage, members had to do without before a volunteer could be found. There are no facilities for refreshments in the Grove Theatre, which was perhaps not so bad when we only used it during the summer term, but many members miss it during the cooler months.

Another disadvantage of the Grove Theatre is the tiered seating arrangements which inhibit free movement and socialising.

Speakers have on the whole been volunteers, (one or two maybe have been pressed into service) and as has been written elsewhere in this account, only one speaker having been approached has ever refused an invitation to offer a grateful audience a free lecture. Upon their arrival, speakers are often surprised to be faced by such a large audience, which is usually in the range of 100-180. The list of talks we have been privileged to hear has been impressive, always educational, sometimes weighty and sometimes in much lighter vein. It would be too much to expect that every talk has been enjoyed by everyone but hopefully the consensus will confirm that the programme secretaries have been on the right track. Even the Christmas quiz, while not to be taken too seriously, has an educational flavour and hopefully has added to everyone's knowledge, however ephemeral that knowledge has proved to be!

## **Functions**

As a break from the Wednesday lectures, Swansea U3A lets its hair down on two special Wednesdays in the year to celebrate St David's Day and Christmas when the President can be relied upon to inject his special brand of humour. The first St David's Day luncheon took place in the catering department at Swansea College, Tycoch, when the late Gladys Parker wore her Welsh costume as she did on subsequent occasions.

The venues for these luncheons have been varied and, in earlier times, have included a raffle with generous gifts. These occasions are now enhanced with music provided by the Singing for Pleasure Group.

## Outings

From quite early in the history of Swansea U3A outings were included in the main programme. It has been the consistent policy of Swansea U3A not just to take the group to a place, but to arrange a talk or guided visit plus a meal taken together, thus fostering the sense of community that is so vital to us. Nowadays outings frequently take place outside term time when our usual accommodation is not available. The first was in 1988 when, in a small bus, a group of members visited the Museum of the Welsh Woollen Industry at Felindre. The working machinery, displays and available literature tell the story of the processing of wool from fleece to cloth and guides are on hand to answer questions. Later in 1988 a visit was made to the National Museum of Wales, first of many more visits to come. There we saw the Geraldus Cambreisis (Gerald of Wales) exhibition telling the story of Gerald's journey around Wales accompanying the Bishop on the recruitment drive for men to enlist for the Holy Wars. Although a great many men, fired by the orations of both the Bishop and Gerald, signed up and 'took the cross' as it was termed, a sizeable proportion ultimately dropped out before ever leaving these shores.

The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth was the destination for the outing in April 1989. This is where a copy is kept of every publication in Wales, and every issue of the Swansea Chronicle is a part of that archive material.

On the 23rd May 1989 Luke Toft, having given a talk to U3A about 'Standing Stones', led a tour into Gower to study some of the stones to be found there, commencing at Llangyfelach Church and visiting Llanrhidian, Llangennith, Nicholaston and Reynoldston and other sites.

It would not be possible to include an account of every visit made by Swansea U3A members but a few more examples follow to show the variety offered.

Among the earliest visits was one to the Houses of Parliament where we were welcomed by the MP for Swansea West,



*Visiting churches during Luke Toft's 'Standing Stones' tour.*



*The Rt. Hon. Alan Williams MP welcomes Swansea U3A to the Houses of Parliament.*

The Rt. Hon. Alan Williams, who escorted us over both the House of Lords and the Commons chambers, as well as the committee rooms, before we had tea in the basement restaurant.

We went to Picton Castle in West Wales to visit the purpose built gallery, which contained a collection of the paintings of Graham Sutherland, since removed to another venue. A video was screened in which the artist himself explained his approach to his art, his ideas and philosophy which gave rise to a great deal of controversy. The Castle itself was not open to the public but we were able to enjoy the interesting gardens and a courtyard which offers the usual tourist fare at a cafe and gift shop.



*A visit to Llancaiach Fawr Manor House.*

At Cosmeston, a replica of a medieval village has been set up and the visit taken by coach gave members the opportunity to look inside the round houses where sizes and furnishings depended upon the status of the occupant. There was very little comfort afforded to people who lived at that time. The guide, in medieval costume, gave plenty of information and answered the many questions put to him. At Llancaiach Fawr Manor House, the venue for the July 1992 visit, the guides not only wear the costume of the civil war period but their speech and thinking are entrenched in the actual month and year of the visit. They are so good at acting their parts they resist any attempt to take them ahead of their time.





*Richard Lillicrap's "Sermon on the Dam" at Llyn Brianne.*

We were privileged in 1993, on one of our visits, to have as our guide one of our U3A members, Richard Lillicrap, who, as Engineer and Manager, was responsible for the complete Llyn Brianne Dam and River Towy Water Supply Scheme. The visit included the Llyn Brianne Dam, Nantgaredig Pumping Station and the Felindre Treatment Works. The dam stores water from the upper Tawe valley which is then released to control flow in the river. This permits the extraction lower down at the Nantgaredig Pumping Station where water is pumped to Felindre for treatment and supply to Swansea and surrounding districts. There were guided tours on each of these facilities which were enthusiastically received by members, many of whom perhaps would not have expected ever to inspect such places so closely.

Big Pit at Blaenavon, visited in March 1992, was an entirely different experience. Here the visitors were obliged to wear hard hats with lamps attached before being ushered into 'cages' to descend into the bowels of the earth. Fortunately, it is all now sanitised and no-one ended up with coal dust on the face.

Even the chocolate factory called at as part of a visit made to West



*Derrick Jenkins and Bill Burgoyne kitted out on a visit to Big Pit.*

Wales was truly educational, showing how 'hand-made' chocolates are actually made and revealing that the blocks of chocolate used in the process are imported from Belgium.

In 1992 the National Garden Festival at Ebbw Vale was also visited. This was a great achievement with some features created specifically for the Festival but others, more permanent, are still to be seen in that area today.



*Members relax at the Ebbw Vale Garden Festival.*

Many more outings have been enjoyed by the members of Swansea U3A and are listed in appendix 3. Castles, churches, museums, industrial sites, galleries and baronial halls have all featured and have given great pleasure over the years.

Arranging outings, even today, is not a simple task. Great forethought, research, preparation and often much telephoning and writing of letters is required. To give some idea of what can be involved, an example is a visit in 1992 to Laycock. Firstly, a group of four set off by car on 23rd March to make a reconnaissance journey to Laycock to check access to the village and discover what there was of interest in addition to the Abbey and the Fox Talbot Museum nearby. Catering establishments were also visited and tentative arrangements made to bring a party at a later date. Having taken slide photographs of various points of interest and, subsequently, of places in Swansea that were significant, a talk was prepared entitled Fox Talbot and the Swansea Connection which was given to the members at the Wednesday meeting on 28th April, 1992. The follow-up outing, arranged by letter and telephone calls, required two coaches and was a most successful venture on 7th May, just over a week later.



Getting members on to the buses at various pick-up points and transporting them to the day's destination is accomplished by good prior organisation. U3A is made up of individuals and the effort of getting forty such on and off buses should not be underestimated! Although two or three have occasionally missed the bus, as far as we know we have not left anyone behind at the destinations.

## Holidays

Many Swansea members have enjoyed holidays and 'away-breaks' together. Now, many of us join in with holidays organised by the U3A Travel Group, where our Swansea member, Margaret Harris, has been very actively involved for many years - more of that later! But, in the early days, in 1992, John Llewellyn, with the help of



*Meeting bench U3A members on a visit to Rouen.*

of Mary Wright, arranged a very successful visit to Llangollen International Eisteddfod with an overnight stay and, in 1994, Idris Davey, then Chairman, led an enjoyable holiday based in Rouen and visiting Giverny, Bayeux and some of the Normandy battlefields. Both of these visits were so popular that they were subsequently repeated.



*Swansea and Llanelli U3A members get together on a Scottish holiday.*



Swansea members also enjoy holidays organised by Carmarthen and Llanelli U3As which included, amongst others, visits to Scotland, Ireland, Ironbridge, Spalding and York.

## **Study/Interest Groups**

In the early years, when new U3As were formed, the usual pattern was to have monthly general meetings from which interest groups would spin off, either for a course of study or to share leisure activities. As numbers grew, often to an unwieldy level, meetings of the whole U3A became difficult and it was soon realised that personal contacts and friendships could best flourish among smaller numbers.

In the largest U3As, where membership reached over 1,000 (e.g. Bath, Sheffield, Bromley) there could rarely be more than one or two general meetings a year and the smaller interest/study/activity groups blossomed.

Swansea U3A had from the beginning established the tradition of general weekly meetings in the form of a lecture given either by a guest speaker or one of the U3A members. Helped by the facility of drawing on lecturers from the University, where the meetings are held, the supply of weekly speakers had proved adequate and the weekly lectures continue.

The disadvantage of this tradition, popular as it is with the membership, has been the very slow start in forming study groups other than those involving leisure activities such as walking and gardening. Swansea had always been well served in the adult education field with extramural classes at LEA and University level and many of the earlier members of U3A had attended these classes. With the introduction of fees, the pressure for validation and accreditation of students' work for vocational reasons, a supreme effort on the part of the U3A Chairman and Committee and a new generation of members, that slow start has advanced rapidly.

In Swansea, the move to the Singleton campus, as already stated, provided the use of a lecture theatre on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Main meetings were held on Tuesdays, and the opportunity to set up groups became available on Wednesdays.

Among the first to emerge were the French and Discussion Groups. The French group flowed from the President's interest in a French UTA group in south west France. A proposal was floated that we should have a reciprocal exchange with members of the UTA group in Pau, where we would stay with their members whilst subsequently they would come and stay in members' homes here. Such was the enthusiasm for the idea that a group was quickly formed to revive our rusty school French to enable us to receive our prospective guests properly. That group was so large that it quickly divided into accomplished French speakers and novices. Unfortunately, the idea fell through, but the French group continues to this day.



*An early French Group celebrates Dave Davies' birthday in Barbara Wells' Loughor home.*

At the same time, the Discussion Group was formed taking over that role from a previous weekly programme that had become more structured. It was a lively group and met weekly at first and later once a fortnight during the term. It suffered eventually from lack of support and was for some time discontinued. However, popular request saw the resurrection of this group which has subsequently gone from strength to strength and is now one of the most well attended groups.

Only a short while after the Discussion Group was set up, Alex Matthews founded the Gardening Group. He was well able to lead this group having been a market gardener and gave useful talks on various aspects of gardening and was able to answer any questions put to him. This group flourished and soon had a staunch band who regularly attended the monthly meetings. At the time it was said to be the jewel in the crown' of Swansea U3A. Now, of course, it is just one among many jewels. The Gardening Group has carried on steadily and is, today, a healthy group with a large following.



*Ken Brookes (centre back) and some members of his Local History Gimp are congratulated by Chairman, Edwin Lewis, Evening Post's photographer and reporter.*

This group foundered through lack of support at that time and another Local History Group did not appear until much more recently.

By November 1990, according to the Newsletter issued that month, there were seven groups in existence namely: Discussion, Gardening, Welsh, French, Theatre, Travel and Walking. The *Newsletter* also stated that active steps had already been taken to



*The Walking Group on Pennard cliffs.*

initiate new groups for those interested in Local History, Oral History, Listening to Music and a Sunday Luncheon Club. There were also tentative plans for a Bridge group, Bird Watching, Swimming, Art, Nature Study, Literature, Needlework, Theology and Photography. Some, but not all, of these were eventually formed in subsequent years.



*Serious concentration in the Calligraphy Group.*



*The "snake charmers of the Recorder Group.*



*A presentation on Swansea's Copper Industry by the Industry and Life Group.*



*Glan "Picasso" Thomas at work in the Painting Group.*

In 1998, Derrick Jenkins, the then chairman, urged the appointment of a Groups Co-ordinator and this has greatly enhanced the growth of groups and helped in finding accommodation.

Convenors adopt a style to suit the group and themselves. They do not necessarily need to be experts in the subject, just enthusiastic and willing to take on the burden of organising venues and programmes without it becoming a worrisome chore. Sometimes a group runs out of steam' and will close down, either temporarily or permanently. It is usually better to have a clean end before a group dies of apathy - there are so often other groups able to use the time slot so released!

Groups have a great deal of independence and are self-supporting even to the extent of finding their own accommodation, using a variety of venues from hired accommodation to private homes.

Some find it convenient to meet in the city centre at the Dolphin Hotel which provides, for a small charge, a room and refreshments - coffee or tea and biscuits. This is convenient for members using public transport but involves parking costs for car users.

Three groups currently meet at the small hall behind the old Miners' Welfare Hall - now a Snooker Hall, at Fforestfach. Car parking here is free and there is a small quarterly charge for the hire of the hall and kitchen. A very popular venue is the West Cross Community Centre, beautifully maintained, with a spacious hall with a piano for the Singing for Pleasure Group and up-to-date facilities for the Bowls Group.

Many groups find it more congenial to meet in members' homes, particularly when favourite and familiar music equipment is needed, and when the size of the group is not too overwhelming! The generosity of members in using their own homes and in opening their gardens gives some indication of the warmth and friendliness which is generated in these small groups.

Some public venues have been used: for some years a small group met at Swansea Leisure Centre for swimming and other physical activities; the Research Group works currently at Swansea Museum and has previously been using the Archive Room at County Hall and the Rare Books Room on the University campus. As has been said, we have in the past enjoyed the co-operation of Swansea's Adult Education Department; The Industry and Life Group regularly used their Canoldre Centre and the Computer Group has monthly use of the Dynevor IT Centre.

For some members, joining the Computer Group raised their enthusiasm about getting to know what this modern technology is all about and they were emboldened to join public training courses on aspects of computing and Internet use. In some ways this was a direct result of being able to use the Dynevor Centre to overcome their apprehensions about technologies that had never featured in their lives before.



One example among many was Eira Davies, who became fascinated by the World Wide Web and was encouraged to design some pages for a Swansea U3A website. Ceri Wasley was featured by the local evening paper after she enrolled for a computer course at the age of eighty.

In order to raise members' awareness of group activities, a Groups Afternoon was held in October 1995 and each year thereafter. It later became clear that the Arts Hall was not well suited for this purpose and the October 2000 event was particularly disappointing as the Hall was still being used for a lecture at 2 o'clock and convenors had little time to set up their displays. There was also an inadequate number of tables and display boards available.

In 2001, it was therefore decided to hire the Scout & Guide Headquarters Hall from 9 a.m. and make the event an Open Day. Posters were placed in libraries and doctors' waiting rooms to encourage non-members to attend. An adequate number of tables and one display board were available at the hall and other boards were borrowed from a number of sources. Tall poles were attached to each table to hold a card with the group name so that they might be seen over the heads of the crowd. The Lord Mayor accepted our invitation to visit and formally open the event. The whole day turned out to be a great success, the Lord Mayor enjoyed his tour around the stands so much that he overstayed his allotted time. He afterwards remarked that he was surprised by the range of activities covered and was impressed by the obvious enthusiasm of all the members involved.



*Groups Day visit 11 the Lord Mayor Robert Francis Davies, with the Chairman, the Vice-chairman and member Enid Griffiths.*



*S4C televising the Gardening Group in Clyne Gardens.*

## **Group Outings**

In addition to the main twice-yearly outings organised by the Outings Sub-Committee for the whole membership, groups themselves took to arranging 'away days' for their members (other U3A members often joining the parties). The Discussion Group visited, among others, The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, the Gower Farm Museum and The Neath Canal where they travelled on a 'long boat' and enjoyed refreshments at the little cafeteria.

The Walking Group sets off once a fortnight to walk in local areas - the Gower Peninsular, Lliw Valley - and slightly less local areas - Neath Valley and Neath's Gnoll Park. Going further afield the group has on occasions joined U3A walkers in Llanelli and Brecon. The Swansea walkers and the Swansea Gardening Group members were both interviewed one memorable day by S4C TV, the Welsh speakers among them being significant on that occasion.

The Nomads Music Group plays music in members' homes, the venues varying month to month. They have also visited concert halls and theatres enjoying programmes such as the National Orchestra of Wales at the Brangwyn Hall, matinee performances at Bristol of shows such as Les Miserables, Martin Guerre, and on trips to London with overnight stops in three-star hotels (Bed and Breakfast only) have visited such top line shows as Carousel, Show Boat, Oklahoma, Cats and Phantom of the Opera. On one of these London visits the group was joined by members from Neath and Porthcawl U3As.

The Gardening Group holds monthly meetings usually with speakers who cover a wide range of gardening subjects from care of plants, propagation to compost making. The group has organised many trips when they have occasionally been joined by other U3A members. One of the first outings was to Clack's Farm of television fame, another to Westonbirt Arboretum in the autumn to admire the wonderful coloured foliage on the trees there. The Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells has been a venue on two occasions when a large party travelled to enjoy the exhibits, animals, show jumping, trade and craft stands, food to consume there and to take home at the end of the day.



*Some members of the Painting Group at Pennard Castle.*



*The President leads the Research Group on a weekend visit to Gregynog.*



*The Discussion GIMP visits The Neath Canal.*



On the second visit the bus joined a queue - traffic jam - stretching for three miles from the entrance to the showground. That three miles took nearly an hour to cover but did not diminish the pleasure of the occasion. The group was also privileged to visit The National Botanical Gardens of Wales in 1998 and 1999 before the gardens officially opened to the public. The third visit in 2000, after the official opening, gave pause for amazement at the transformation that had taken place in the last year. Herbaceous borders had matured and provided a riot of colour, the 'Broadwalk' had become a breathtaking feat whilst the enormous glass dome, fully planted with specimens from around the world where a Mediterranean type climate is enjoyed, was a revelation with terraces at different levels, bridges and a waterfall. Gardens are not completed in just a few years, however, but are ongoing and this site will give pleasure to visitors for years to come.

Not far away is Aberglasney and there a garden is being rediscovered after long neglect. This provided an interesting visit for the Gardening Group in September, 2000. Gardens had been reset, a decorative roadway had been uncovered and the large house which is destined to provide exhibition and study facilities is being restored. This had been a labour of love for the researchers and workers who have dedicated themselves to recreating something that had been lost.

The Swansea U3A Gardening Group has also formed an occasional liaison with the Ross-on-Wye U3A Gardening Group and has, on more than one occasion, visited the garden of one of the members there and been able to meet members of that group.

As one would expect, party groups to various theatres in Swansea and elsewhere have been arranged from time to time by the Theatre and Film Group. At Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare's plays have been enjoyed in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre while open-air Shakespeare has provided the group with some memorable performances, first at Dyffryn House and later at St Fagans Museum of Welsh Life. A Midsummer Night's Dream was set in 1940 and opened by a group of young evacuees, carrying gas masks, being marshalled across the 'stage' by an official wearing an armband. Hermia, the heroine, was a land-girl and wore overalls and head scarf, while her lover, Lysander, was a GI in uniform and utterly disapproved of by Hermia's father, as Shakespeare wrote, but on this occasion, no doubt, because he was a Yank. The fairies, however, were dressed as fairies should be and flitted about as they were intended to do. The stage, with trees and shrubs framing it, was used imaginatively to create the woodlands so necessary to the play. An injection of comedy made for some hilarious moments and sent the audience away with smiles on their faces.

*The Merchant of Venice*, performed at the same place, was beset from the beginning

by rain which the cast managed to deal with manfully until the interval when a tremendous thunder storm with torrential rain broke out and the play had to be abandoned - the famous speech about the quality of mercy and the gentle rain from Heaven never spoken. (Under the circumstances just as well!) Another year saw the visit in July 2000 to Much Ado About Nothing This time blustery winds played about with the canvas awning covering the audience causing wild and noisy flapping sounds. The players, however, played on and presented a very enjoyable performance. There is great pleasure to be got out of open-air performances even when contending with the vagaries of the elements.

The Armchair Travel Group does get out of its armchairs from time to time and actually do some travelling. A memorable visit to Shrewsbury was accomplished in comfort, courtesy of the mid-Wales railway system, while comfortable coaches transported members to Bath and its Abbey and Roman Baths and, on another occasion, to Gloucester and the 'Historical Docks', both visits much enjoyed by those who participated.

In April 1993 the Research Group was involved in helping the President, Professor Maurice Broady, with his researches into the Celtic Studios in Swansea, designers and makers of stained glass. At his invitation, four of the group joined the Friends of the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery on a four day visit to Cork, second city of the Republic of Ireland and at that time recently twinned with Swansea.

The occasion was a Conference of Friends of Irish Museums and Galleries and included the unveiling of a new stained-glass window, tours of galleries and museums and a visit to Bantry House, calling at a church to see windows by Harry Clarke, a world famous high artist in glass, a banquet at the University of Cork and the chance to meet some delightful people. The crowning pleasure was to be received in the Lord Mayor's parlour as part of the 'Twinning' celebrations by Micheal Martin, then Lord Mayor and now Minister for Health and Children in the Dail. There was a welcome in Irish, responded to in Welsh. A memorable visit.

The Industry and Life Group have made a number of interesting visits, namely those to the Welsh Porcelain factory at Maesteg, the Mond Nickel Works at Clydach and the Britannia Metals Company works at Avonmouth, to see the blast furnace processing of zinc. On the way there a visit was made to the workings for the new Severn Bridge on the English side of the river near where it straddles the Severn railway tunnel.

However, probably the most interesting of all this group's visits was that to the Magnox nuclear power station at Oldbury, on the banks of the River Severn, some 15 miles upriver from Bristol. This latter trip was arranged by one of the many ladies in the Industry and Life Group, Ceri Wasley, whose son was one of the senior engineers

at the site. It was probably more interesting than the other trips because of the awesome incredible power being generated literally under our feet, literally because at one time we were standing almost above the nuclear reactor.

At another part of the site we were overlooking the cooling ponds where the used uranium elements are stored in water for 90 days. This allows them to cool before being sent to Sellafield for reprocessing where 96 per cent of the spent fuel rods can be reprocessed for future use. The visit was also topical as, at the time, nuclear power was once again coming under the microscope of environmentalists and political lobbyists who were campaigning for the closure of all nuclear power stations.

Oldbury generates 435 megawatts of electricity a day, enough to supply a city one and a half times the size of Bristol. As much electricity can be generated from one tonne of natural uranium as from 20,000 tonnes of coal.

It became clear that safety was of prime importance at the plant where the radiation levels within the complex were far lower than the natural radiation levels measured in a 30 mile radius of the plant before it was opened.

It was learned that the total radiation from all UK nuclear power industry sources counts for less than 0.1 per cent of radiation received annually by each person in the UK. It was strangely comforting to know that four times as much radiation comes from air travel and luminous dials on clocks and watches and 12 times as much from medical sources. The remaining 87 per cent of radiation comes from natural sources.

Perhaps these details will give some indication of the depth of involvement of many of the study visits and it will be apparent that they involve considerable preparatory work which is not always adequately appreciated.

## **Funding**

U3As being autonomous, have to be self-funding. The usual method is by charging each member an annual subscription which, in Swansea, is currently £10 per annum. All expenses have to be met from this fund and members are asked to pay subscriptions early in the academic year. Some U3As are fortunate enough to attract sponsorship as well, and some have received National Lottery funding. There is, however, no central funding. Instead, U3As have to fund the National Office by paying over a capitation fee for each member each year. The amount of the capitation fee can vary but has to be authorised at a National AGM before any changes can take place.

The subscription fee in Swansea entitles all members to attend the weekly Wednesday meetings and to join any groups they choose. Group expenses, when they arise, are, of course, the responsibility of the group members.

The Treasurer each year has to produce a set of audited accounts and this again is a detailed and time-consuming task and we have always been fortunate in arm-twisting an able, competent member to take it on.

Expenses incurred by anyone acting voluntarily on behalf of any aspect of U3A are, of course, recoverable on production of a valid expenses claim supported by evidence in the form of invoices, bills and so on.

In Swansea our funds have enabled us to buy some of our own equipment, relieving us of the necessity to apply for help from the Media Resources Department of the University who have, nevertheless, always been very supportive.

One thing we cannot ever become complacent about, however, is the fact that we enjoy free accommodation and do not have to pay rent in contrast to many U3As. In the event that we should ever have to relocate from the campus and find rented premises, we must ensure that we always have sufficient surplus funds to, at least, give us a good start. This is something that our committees have always kept in mind. Management of our funds is being well handled and we are fortunate that we have among us people capable of looking after our interests in this way.

### **Annual General Meetings**

With regular attendance at our weekly meetings of about 100-180 and a membership each year of about 300-350, it is always a disappointment that attendance at AGMs has been low, but fortunately we have always had a quorum. This is the one opportunity of the year for members to show their appreciation, approval or dissatisfaction with the Committee and the President has always made it clear that he sees his role when presiding at the AGM as representing the interests of the members.

Although members have often been reluctant to stand for committee, once elected they very quickly become enthusiastically involved. It is always regrettable that so few people are willing to be nominated that there is no need for election.

In its wisdom the constitution stipulates a turnover of committee members which infuses new blood and safeguards against the possibility of the organisation becoming moribund.

### **Publications**

After Alun Richards' initial efforts in producing, single handedly, a Newsletter, Swansea Chronicle was launched in 1991. A small Editorial Sub-Committee had been set up - Dr Edwin Lewis, founder Chairman, Glyn Davies and Betty Lowe, soon joined by Cliff Pike and Derrick Jenkins. Cliff used his word processor to move us



*Stan Lloyd with Ivor Stokes, Curator of Swansea Botanical Complex, leading the Gardening Group at Clyne Gardens.*



*Singing for Pleasure Group with leader and accompanist, Gwevri John.*



*The Boyos' practicing 'The Bold Gendarmes'.*

## The Open Day at Scout Headquarters, 10th October, 2001.



*Registration Team.*



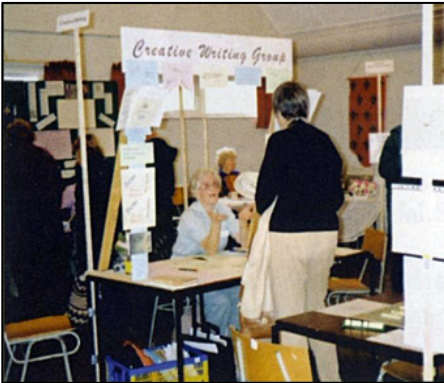
*Tea Ladies.*



*Travel and Calligraphy.*



## The Open Day at Scout Headquarters, 10th October, 2001.



*Creative Writing.*



*Nomads Music.*



*French.*



*Bowlers.*



*Walkers.*



*Toasting 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays.*



*Would-be rugby stars at the Millennium Stadium.*



*John Moyse and Margaret Hammond at Network Meeting.*



forward providing copy for type setting by the printer. The big step forward came when Roger Knight joined us and produced camera-ready copy off his computer which greatly reduced the lead time and costs. The acquisition of computers by Derrick and Joyce Jenkins and Betty Walker greatly relieved Roger of the typing load. Joyce, Derrick and Roger are able to communicate information via e-mail which again helps to reduce lead time. Margaret Taylor has all along been a major contributor and we were delighted when she agreed to join the sub-committee.

The twice-yearly Swansea Chronicle is an in-house publication containing articles, stories, poems, etc. submitted by the members. The subject matter is varied, sometimes erudite, sometimes light-hearted but always well worth reading. At first, contributors were few but, as time has progressed, people have grown more willing to submit items. New contributions are always welcomed and it is the hope of the Editorial Sub-committee that there will always be plenty to keep them occupied.

A second publication, the Newsletter, is more immediate and business-like, giving up to date information, issuing notices and reminders and, once a year, including reports from the groups about their activities during the year.

Both publications are free to members, given out at Wednesday afternoon meetings, the only exception being the May Newsletter which goes out to every member by post with the AGM mailing. For new members an introductory package is provided with general information about U3A.



*The Editorial Sub-committee.*

## Contact with Swansea University

The success of the 1995 National Conference, the support given by some members to student events, the surprise of the Vice-Chancellor at the size and quality of the audience when giving a Wednesday lecture, all seem to have ensured the position of U3A as part of the life of the campus. The Annual Lecture on 30 June, 2000, given by Donald Anderson MP, in Taliesin Theatre provided the Vice-Chancellor with another instance of U3A at its best, borne out by his sincere and complimentary remarks when he addressed the assembled members.

Swansea U3A does not overlook the debt of gratitude it owes to the University of Wales, Swansea, and each year from our funds, we donate a sum of money to the University. The use made of this is left to the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. In the past it has been used to buy books or to help students in financial difficulties. We must never forget our great good fortune in being able to meet on the campus without cost to ourselves, and the generosity of the Media Resources Department which has always been willing to lend us equipment. We cannot assume that our present 'grace and favour' situation will continue indefinitely and must be aware that, in the future, we may be obliged to move off the campus and have to pay for alternative accommodation.

So it behoves us all to play the game by the University and stick to the rules, not exploiting our good fortune, not parking on the campus for example, and remembering always that we must not interfere with the functioning of the University.



*The 10th Anniversary of U3A in UK The reception at County Hall.  
(Front) Chairman of County Council, Brian Ludlam, Mrs. Ludlam, Vice-chairman of Swansea U3A, Marjorie Vanston and President, Professor Maurice Broady.  
(Back) Swansea U3A Chairman, Richard Lillicrap, ex-Chairman, Edwin Lewis, ex-Vice-chairman, Margaret Hammond, and Donald Anderson, MP.*

## Contact with Local Authorities

In Swansea, the first opportunity to involve the Education Authority, then West Glamorgan County Council, came when Swansea U3A hosted the Annual Lecture of the South Wales and Severnside Network at Tycoch College in July 1991.

There was no charge for the room since the college was being paid to provide coffee, lunch and tea and, as it was held on West Glamorgan premises, the Chairman of the Council was invited as a guest. He declined but sent his Deputy who turned out to be the Chairman of the Education Committee and over tea the retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Swansea U3A, who had organised the event (Dr Edwin Lewis and Margaret Hammond) spent a very useful hour making Councillor Vernon Davies fully aware of the charms and attractions of the U3A ethos. He expressed great interest and asked whether the Council could help in any way. He was told of the abiding need for accommodation for group meetings and an impending need for somewhere to hold a reception to mark the tenth anniversary of the advent of U3A in Britain in January, 1982.

Soon after this event, contact was made by Mike Hughes, then Community Education Officer, who said he had been told by his Chairman to offer help in any way he could. A good start was made by the offer of two adjoining committee rooms in County Hall for the reception in January 1992.

This was an opportunity for Swansea U3A to make itself known to the organisations of the city - from MPs and Councillors to Rotary, commercial firms, the clergy, the press and many other individual contacts. The evening was a success and well reported.

In that same year we planted a flowering cherry tree in the grounds of the University with a plaque alongside to mark the occasion. At the time it was just a sapling, but now



*University Principal, Brian Clarkson, accepts the cherry tree from the President.*

is a great deal more resplendent, especially during the flowering season. Perhaps in 2002 we shall mark the 20th Anniversary, maybe in a different way - what about a bench for students to sit on, the dedication on the back of the bench ensuring that we are not forgotten?

The question of accommodation was taken up by the Working Party referred to elsewhere and, by 1993/4, a good regular contact had been formed with the Community Education Officers who by then were under a statutory obligation to assist in all aspects of Lifelong Learning. They referred to U3A as a "Jewel in the Crown" because members counted on official statistics, yet U3A "did its own thing" and only needed, from them, somewhere to do it.

In May, 1993, Swansea U3A mounted a display in the foyer of County Hall at the exhibition there to mark Adult Learners' Week. Members of U3A were on hand to speak to interested members of the public and to hand out literature. It was not possible to judge if this exercise had enhanced our image or drawn in more members but the interest shown by young people who spoke to us augured well for the future when they would be old enough to join our movement. We took a stand, too, in the Leisure Centre on 8th March that same year at the International Women's Day Exhibition.



*The Chairman of the County Council welcomes U3A Chairman, Richard Lillcrap to the Adult Learners' Week Exhibition at County Hall.*

Preparations were already afoot however for the big upheaval in Local Government; the responsibility for education was to be transferred from West Glamorgan County Council to the new City and County of Swansea. After a long settling down period, contact has been re-established fortunately with the same Mike Hughes in a rather more elevated position.

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This was at a meeting in March 1999, set up by Margaret Hammond, the chairman having expressed concern that, following local government reorganisation, there was no longer any contact with the local authority.

At that time Swansea City Council were preparing a policy document in response to a government White Paper entitled *In Touch With The People*. The White Paper, set out the strategic agenda for the reform and modernisation of local government in England and Wales. The Government's view was that local government ought to be more in

touch with people and provide better and higher quality service, vision and leadership with the overall objective of improving the quality of people's lives.

A part of Swansea City Council's policy document in response was to be a reference to lifelong learning, and, at the meeting with the Education Authority, Swansea U3A was asked to submit a paper on the subject. The paper was written by the then chairman, Derrick Jenkins, and duly presented and, apart from setting out the objectives of U3A, it also touched upon the subject of mentoring of young people, stressing the fact that people within U3A had a wealth of experience in a wide range of subjects which would be wasted if it were not passed on to the younger generation.

The paper was accepted by the authority and, it was learned, submitted in its entirety as part of the council's response to the Government's White Paper.

The subject of mentoring came up again a year later when Swansea U3A was asked by the Education Authority if their members would be willing to be involved in the mentoring of young people. Although the reply was in the affirmative, nothing else was heard on the subject, but it is understood that members are nevertheless involved on an individual basis.

In February 2000, Swansea City Council made an application to the European Social Fund for funding into the research and development of lifelong learning. Swansea U3A were again asked by the council to provide a paper to identify the barriers against access to lifelong learning within the city and county areas, and also make suggestions for means of overcoming such barriers. Following the submission of the paper, some early contacts were made with the personnel assigned to the development project but little, if anything, has resulted from those contacts to date.

Because of the good relationship with the Education Authority in West Glamorgan, when Swansea U3A set about starting to establish new U3As in Llanelli and Carmarthen, Dyfed County Council Community Education Officers were approached and provided accommodation which is still being used by both U3As.

### **Contact with the Wider Community**

Many members are individually involved in various types of charity work and community activities. These range from compiling talking books for the blind and working in charity shops and hospices through to helping literacy and numeracy groups. Seven members form the nucleus of a group, covering the whole of South Wales, which is involved in the design and manufacture of equipment (commercially unobtainable) to alleviate problems for people with unique disabilities.



## Looking Outwards from Swansea

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### The South Wales and Severnside Network and the NEC

The inauguration of the South Wales and Severnside Network of U3As in January 1990 occurred when members from seven U3As met in Abergavenny at the invitation of Dr Rosemary Maling, then Chairman, and later President of Brecon U3A. The two Vice-Chairmen who attended from Swansea (Bart McCarthy and Margaret Hammond) had, in the summer of 1989, met two ladies from Cardiff U3A at a recording of a discussion programme at HTV studios in Cardiff. Apart from that encounter, there was no knowledge of the prevalence of U3As in South Wales or anywhere else, and the meeting in Abergavenny became an expedition into unknown territory. To compare notes, exchange organisational details, discuss programmes and enjoy the meeting of like minds, was an exciting voyage of discovery from which evolved the decision to set up an informal organisation, meeting two or three times a year around the area.

The Welsh U3As present were Abergavenny, Brecon, Cardiff, Chepstow, Monmouth and Swansea, but Gloucester had also been invited since they had recently helped to set up Chepstow U3A, hence the title South Wales and Severn-side Network of U3As. The subsequent addition of the Forest of Dean and Ross-on-Wye branches fully justified the "Severnside" in the title.

Swansea U3A Committee members attended the first Network meeting (after the inaugural one) in Gloucester in March 1990, and hosted the second in Swansea in



*Swansea U3A hosts a Network Meeting at the Scout Headquarters in Bryn Road*



*Cardiff hosts a Network Meeting at County Hall  
Swansea representatives—John Best, Betty Walker, Margaret Hammond, Barbara Brimfield,  
Roger Knight and Derrick Jenkins (behind the camera)*

June of that year. Professor Brian Clarkson, then Principal of the University College, was a guest at the buffet lunch in the Bay View room, joined by Professor Broady, President of Swansea U3A. At these early Network meetings, members from other U3As were expressing concern and doubts about the activity of 'headquarters' and the request for a capitation fee, at that time £1.30 per member. Swansea members, tiring slightly at the constant complaining, took the initiative in pressing for representation on the National Executive Council (NEC) which manages the Third Age Trust, the official body of U3A, and persuaded one of their new members, Idris Davey, who had been an Under Secretary at the Welsh Office, to accept nomination for election to the NEC. Idris himself, with his CV, was presented at a meeting of the Network and readily obtained the support of all U3As present. He was duly elected despite earlier claims that 'You'll never get a Welshman on to the NEC', and served with distinction for three years.

During his service there were three major happenings which brought Swansea and South Wales to the forefront of U3A matters. These were: Development of new U3As, Regionalisation, and the coming of the National Conference to Swansea.

## Development of New U3As in Wales

U3A nationally and internationally was growing at an intense pace and, as a member of the NEC Development Committee, Idris was keen on spreading the benefits to other parts of Wales. Audrey Cloet of Bath U3A had been awarded a Fellowship by an industrial firm to encourage the setting-up of new U3As and with the help of Swansea U3A, organised meetings in Pontardawe and Llanelli to that end. Llanelli U3A was set up in June 1992 and has flourished. The Pontardawe meeting was well attended but there was no successful follow-up. Whereas Llanelli had established a steering committee to progress the launch, Pontardawe was left in the hands of one person who did not live in the village. In all further developments concerning new U3As it was regarded as essential at an inaugural meeting to aim for a steering group of at least six people. It was also suggested later that Clydach would have been a better choice of venue for the meeting since Clydach people would not go "up the valley" to Pontardawe (the next village) whereas people from Pontardawe regularly travel through Clydach to go to Swansea and the sea, at least they did then before the by-pass. Llanelli was soon followed by Burry Port (now called Cefn Sidan) during the Audrey Cloet fellowship, and Swansea members also attended a successful launch at Mountain Ash where Cynon Valley U3A was started.



*Getting the new U3A at Neath off the ground.  
Clive Roberts & Edna Bladen (Neath) with Idris Davey,  
Margaret Hammond and Marjorie Vanston (Swansea)*



When Audrey Cloet's fellowship ended, the NEC obtained a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation for the development of U3As in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. (Missionary work in the Celtic backwoods?) The allocation to Wales was £2,000 and Swansea was instrumental in setting up Carmarthen, Porthcawl and Neath U3As from this fund. At the same time Rhondda, Caldicot, Newbridge and Blackwood were helped to get started by other U3As. An attempt by Swansea, encouraged by BP Chemicals, to start a U3A in Port Talbot was unsuccessful.

The beginning of Teifside deserves special mention, because that same "lady with the historic dolls" referred to previously, had been interested in starting a U3A in the region of Llandyssul or Newcastle Emlyn for many years but her efforts had failed. Friends that she had made from her visit to Swansea persuaded her to become an individual U3A member and she did this for a few years. At the time of the Gulbenkian money, Swansea U3A members made a point of inviting her to the Carmarthen launch where she told Idris Davey and Margaret Hammond that she had fourteen people now interested in U3A but they would not come to Carmarthen. They were living around the area bounded by Llandyssul and Cardigan and it was suggested that Newcastle Emlyn might be a good centre and that the name of the U3A be Teifside since members would be all bordering the River Teifi. With the help of Llanelli and Swansea U3As, Teifside U3A was born and, after a rather shaky start, is now going well. Madge Thomas, the founder and original secretary, is a keen historian and the local history group which she set up has won an award for its publication and an exhibition held at the Woollen Museum at Felindre.

There are now twenty-six U3As in the South Wales and Severnside area and new starters still receive help from the more established ones in addition to the support given by the NEC.

### **The Network Annual Lecture Day**

Meetings of the South Wales and Severnside Network involved the attendance of only 4/6 members from each U3A, therefore, to give others the experience of meeting members of other U3As, it was decided to hold an Annual Lecture Day. This would be open to all members wishing to attend subject to availability of space. U3As would volunteer to host these meetings, and the first was held in Cardiff in 1990, followed by Swansea in 1991.

This joint activity, like the conference, needs much careful planning. Morning activities have to be arranged and a good speaker for the afternoon's lecture has to be found. Guides for the morning's activities have to be provided, as well as a good buffet lunch to follow, and the venue is a matter of negotiation between the U3A concerned and, in Swansea's case, the University authorities.



*Swansea hosts the Annual Lecture Day at the Taliesin Theatre*

Identity badges and a supply of relevant literature need to be planned well ahead and, on the day, reception arrangements have to be well organised so that no visitor gets lost.

Hosting of this occasion comes around more frequently than the hosting of the National Conference and Swansea has been the venue for two Annual Lecture Days. Swansea U3A's President, Professor Maurice Broady, delivered a learned and entertaining lecture on the first occasion, speaking about Swansea itself. Visits to places of interest were arranged for the morning and, after the lecture, The *Dylan Thomas Society* entertained with readings and songs.



*The President leads a walk on Gower on the Annual Lecture Day*

The second Annual Lecture that took place in Swansea was in the year 2000, when Donald Anderson, the MP representing Swansea East constituency, gave a brilliant lecture on ethics in foreign policy that have to be faced by any government. Again a variety of entertainment was provided for visitors during the morning - a walk in the Gower Peninsula, a visit to the Botanical Gardens in Singleton Park, a visit to the excellent Egypt Centre on the campus and an entertaining presentation by the Research Group.

### **Towards Regionalisation - or Not?**

Due to the success of the South Wales and Severnside Network of U3As, Idris Davey was asked by the chairman of the NEC to chair seminars on regionalisation at two consecutive National Conferences, Keele University in 1993 and Lancaster in 1994. From subsequent discussions it became clear that the informal pattern of the South Wales and Severnside Network appealed to delegates who had not till then thought of making links with other U3As but could feel the pressure of the NEC to do so. After the 1995 Conference, Idris Davey and Margaret Hammond were invited to speak at a one-day seminar in London at which there were representatives from all over the UK and when Idris had to cancel at the last moment, John Bolingbroke of Brecon took his place. The South Wales delegation was well received and again was clearly representing the sort of linked Network which appealed to those who were prepared to join others, but there was tremendous resistance from those U3As who would not wish to be linked with any other. Indeed, during the last four to five years, up to the turn of the century, much time was increasingly being taken up by the politics of reorganisation of U3A nationally. A minority of U3As were pressing for a more formal multi-tiered organisation, at a time when public and private industry recognised that such pyramid structures were out of date and were changing to flatter and leaner organisations.

At a special meeting held after our normal Wednesday afternoon activities the Swansea members unanimously rejected the proposals but at the same time recognised that as U3A grew some reorganisation was inevitable. A working party had been set up nationally, under the chairmanship of John Bolingbroke, to consider setting up of regions and the whole future structure of U3As. Their eventual proposals required U3A to be split up into regions and controlled by four levels of management and a national committee of 36 elected members plus the National Officers.

Apart from increased costs and longer lines of communication, it was felt that U3A would lose its character of informality, helpfulness and friendliness and the structure would be cumbersome and unmanageable.

Although these proposals were rejected at each of the three or four national annual

conferences held during this period, the minority group kept up the pressure for reorganisation. This pressure eventually caused some U3As to change their minds and caused many U3As to review their positions within the organisation.

Swansea was, and still is, part of the South Wales and Severnside Network and it appeared that we were fighting a lone battle within the network, let alone nationally, to reject the proposals. Gradually it became clear that many of the local U3As across the country were prepared to drop out of the national organisation if the proposals were agreed and eventually it was accepted that a large majority of local groups wanted to retain the loose, flatter informal structure they had become used to. A form of regionalisation was eventually and inevitably accepted as being necessary if the organisation was to grow. However, the cumbersome pyramid structure and the enlarged committee was eventually totally rejected. Now, since the new structure of regions was agreed at the London Conference in 1999, it is to be hoped that the politics have been put to bed for a few more years.

### **National Conference comes to Swansea**

When the NEC members learned of Swansea U3As connection with the University, Idris Davey was asked to begin negotiations for holding the Annual Conference and AGM at Swansea in 1995. As well as the contact with the NEC through Idris Davey and John Moyses, other members have shown interest in the national organisation by attending the National Conference either as our official delegates or independently, at their own expense. Their reports convey the interest and pleasure in Meeting members from across the country and in hearing about the activities of other U3As. Since 1989 when Luke and Florrie Toft had attended the National Conference at Colchester, our delegates had built up contacts with members throughout the UK so when the call came to host the conference in Swansea, there was considerable enthusiasm for it. Jean Thompson, Chairman of the NEC at the time, came to Swansea in 1994 to finalise the contract. A local committee was set up with Idris Davey as Chairman, John Moyses as Treasurer and Margaret Hammond as Secretary. Other members were Richard Lillcrap, Betty Lowe, Roger Knight, with Pat Nevin later co-opted to deal with publicity. The task of Registration Officer fell to Margaret Taylor who soon discovered it to be a full-time job.

The greatest surprise to Committee members was the extent of delegation handed down to them by the NEC. It was the first time that a local U3A had been so heavily involved in the running of Conference, with so much of the work being put into the hands of local members. Noel Martin of the NEC was the official Conference Co-ordinator and he came to the first meeting in December 1994 to outline the programme

and financial structures, then twice more during the following year, although in constant touch by telephone. The National Chairman, Alan Willey, came to one meeting in June 1995, expressing every confidence in the Swansea Committee but also raising quite alarming possibilities of the financial outcome, which would not be resolved until the final attendance figures were known. The main burden fell on the Treasurer, John Moyse, since the task of fixing charges had to be accomplished early in 1995 without any knowledge, and only an intelligent guess, at numbers attending, while the University charges were fixed and committed.

There was much to do: organisation of premises and residential accommodation, catering arrangements for (hopefully) large numbers of people, registration of members on return of completed application forms, obtaining sufficient local street plans, information leaflets, bus timetables, tourist brochures and so on.

The Saga organisation took over the arrangements for transporting members from the four corners of the UK supplying bus and rail tickets and timetables to suit those attending. Once the visitors arrived on the campus, however, they were in the hands of the Swansea Committee and the stewards and guides drawn from among local U3A members, all of whom wore distinctive arm bands specially produced to aid identification.

The Catering Department at the University was supportive in accommodating requirements as near as they were able in incorporating special preferences and diets, which made the business of feeding several hundred hungry people a smooth operation.

The application forms, trickling in at first and then arriving in a flood, gave multiple options concerning accommodation, functions, outings, and weekend entertainment, with particular heed to disability. The Conference and Annual General Meeting were held in the theatre at the Taliesin Centre, and with a loop system and several roving microphones, members who wished to speak were well served.

For the AGM Swansea U3A provided tellers for collecting voting cards, scrutinising and counting votes for resolutions under discussion, and for elections to the National Executive Committee.

Outings arranged for visitors included following the Dylan Thomas Trail, walking in Gower, visits to the Swansea Art Gallery and Museums. Farther afield, two oversubscribed coach loads visited the Dylan Thomas Boat House at Laugharne and the Graham Sutherland exhibition of paintings then at Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire. The entertainment on campus was similarly varied. The Industry and Life Group performed a sketch about the rise of industry in the Swansea Valley, singers from several of the Network U3As formed a choir and gave a performance of songs in Welsh and in English.

Pembroke U3A Jazz Band set feet tapping another evening and Scrabble was available on request. The Lord Mayor of Swansea was the guest of honour at the Conference Banquet and, at a formal dinner the next evening, the Vice-Chancellor of the University was the guest of honour and spoke of his continued pleasure to be able to offer a home to Swansea U3A on the campus.

One afternoon at Conference is always taken up by the Conference Lecture with a renowned speaker and, on this occasion, Elaine Morgan, author and broadcaster, was given a standing ovation for her address on The Third Age.

For some, particularly the Treasurer, the tasks did not end with the Conference. Tying up loose ends, making reports, submitting accounts, required a few months more, and the last meeting of the Committee was not until December 1995 when the final settling up had been done and a small profit was declared.

The whole thing was a tremendous responsibility although an interesting and enjoyable experience, and the hard work was amply rewarded when Conference was deemed the most successful ever and, even better, was deemed the happiest by several members when expressing thanks vocally or in writing.

A fortunate outcome for U3A nationally has been that John Moyses, having done such an excellent job as Conference Treasurer, accepted the office of National Treasurer of the Third Age Trust. Since then, Graham Goodeve, one of the founders of Pembroke U3A, volunteered to fill the vacancy for Secretary of the Third Age Trust, so, following closely on Idris Davey's involvement on the NEC, South Wales continues to be well represented in the persons of John Moyses, Graham Goodeve and John Bolingbroke performing key functions within the organisation.

## **Subject Networks**

Some Study/Interest groups throughout the UK had set up informal links with others following the same interests, and networks were set up to give each other mutual support.

Complementing local effort, the growth in National resources and communications has improved dramatically in recent years.

1991 saw the first national Subject Network, instigated by Jean Thompson, then NEC Chairman and a distinguished linguist, attempt to link U3A members interested in languages. For some years this group also provided a translation service, now discontinued, to which some Swansea members have offered some contributions. As the National Organisation strengthened and communications improved, these subject networks expanded. With grants from the National Lotteries Charities Board and other funding agencies, a Resource Centre was set up at the London Office and a permanent

officer appointed to manage it, with its own publication, an educational bulletin entitled Sources, available free to all U3A members on request.

Apart from general news of new study subjects and co-ordinators, Sources aims to cover one specific subject in depth in each issue. In November 2000 it dealt with Religion and Philosophy groups.

Subject Networks have grown to such an extent that there are now 27 Subject Network Co-ordinators who aim to link U3A groups or individuals with their common subject and to assist with ideas for materials and study programmes.

Many Subject Networks arrange their own summer schools, seminars and conferences and some of the larger U3As arrange study outings at home or abroad.

With the improvement in telecommunication, the backing of the National Office Resource Centre and the inspiration of the Founders' passion for lifelong learning, the future for U3A study groups has never looked brighter as can be seen from the subjects listed below:

Antiques and Collectables	Genealogy	Philosophy
Archaeology	Geology	Photography
Architecture	History	Physical
Art	History-oral	Activities
Bird Watching	Internetwork	Science/Tec
Classics	IT Awareness	hnology
Creative Writing	Jazz	Sport
Cycling	Languages	Storytelling
Drama	Law	Textile Crafts
Environmental Issues	Literature	Travel
European Studies	Music	Walking

The names and contact numbers (telephone and, where appropriate, electronic address) of the co-ordinators of these Networks are published in the Autumn issues of U3A News and updated in SOURCES.

## **What U3A Means To Me**

Good companionship, new 'windows on the world' - and never an idle moment.

MEV



## Overseas Contacts

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### AIUTA

Early in the life of British U3A, an International Organisation was formed. Past National Chairman, Jean Thompson, now Coordinator U3A Internetwork, writes:

"Our name, U3A, comes from the first Université du Troisième Age, founded in Toulouse in 1973 by Professor Pierre Vellas. The idea of University provision for older people spread rapidly throughout Europe and French-speaking Canada and in 1975, AIUTA, (L'Association des Université du Troisième Age) was founded.

Its statutes limited membership to UTAs with a written convention with a university or college, (similar to our colleagues in ILRs (Institutes for Learning in Retirement) in the USA.

In the UK in 1981, our founders were Peter Laslett, Eric Midwinter and Lord Michael Young, all well-known figures in the Third Age field. As no support was forthcoming from UK Universities, their self-help model was adopted with Cambridge U3A as the prototype. Peter Laslett wrote the original *Aims and Principles*, which have continued to guide us. In 1992, AIUTA amended its statutes so that the UK model and other similar groups could be admitted. We have been members ever since with an official representative on their Board and our U3A members attending the biennial international Congress. The next one will be in Geneva in October 2002 and the Travel Network are already planning an accompanying tour. U3As on the 'modèle Britannique' began in Australia in 1994 and in New Zealand in 1989.

The name U3A denotes a self-help group while UTA is the name for university-based groups. Some of these, e.g. Sherbrooke in Quebec, now have more than 8,000 members, while in China there are more than 18,000 local groups. Whatever our differences, we work together in AIUTA for the good of Third Agers everywhere."

### **The UK Travel Network**

Quite separate from the formal organisation of AIUTA, U3A members have joined together to take holidays overseas under the organisation of the Travel Network. This involves a tremendous amount of work for the organisers and Swansea's Margaret Harris has played a very active role in this.

She told us:

"The majority of U3A members are over 50 years of age. We are considered 'to be getting on'. No doubt this shows outwardly but inside many of us still have that spirit of adventure and inquisitiveness that drives us on to discover more about the world we live in. Some are quite happy to do this on familiar ground but there are others who are attracted further afield to countries often differing in physical and climatic aspects, culture and language.

Unfortunately, as we grow older, some of us become apprehensive about travelling alone, especially to countries abroad. This is where the Travel Network steps in and offers that essential support, catering for singles and couples and, at the same time, giving members the opportunity to travel with companions with similar interests.

The Travel Network is made up of U3A members from all parts of the British Isles. At present we have a membership of 740. Any U3A member can join by paying a fee of £4. Travel Network members can take part in any tour he/she chooses; receive four copies of the *Travel News* and attend the Annual Travel Meeting. The *Travel News* booklet gives a list of the tours organised, names and addresses of tour organisers and interesting articles on members' opinions and experiences of tours in which they have participated. The network is managed by a committee of twelve members under the auspices of NEC.

I became a committee member more through ignorance than good judgement. My interest was kindled when I joined a U3A coach tour to Italy in 1994. Quite a large number of Swansea members were on the tour and we were joined by U3A members from various parts of the British Isles. It really was a most pleasurable experience travelling with friends, enjoying the wonderful scenery and the interesting historical towns in France and Switzerland as we headed towards our destination in Italy. The great advantage of this type of holiday is that there is always someone you can turn to either to express your delight at a beautiful view or to have a grumble with when things go wrong. The sharing of opinions and feelings is so important and travelling with U3A companions gives you this opportunity. When I returned home I was fired with enthusiasm and was keen to know more about the Travel Network. Later in the year I attended the Annual Travel Network Meeting at Bath. When a plea was made 'for help' I was ready. I expected to help on the administrative side. Imagine the shock I received, at my first meeting, when I was asked: 'What tour are you organising, Margaret?' That was in 1994 and since then I haven't looked back.

I enjoy all the varied tasks involved in organising a tour - gathering information, planning itineraries, contacting and visiting travel agents, getting the required group number, a nucleus of which is generally made up of very supportive U3A members from Swansea and its environs and, finally, meeting the new group and taking the actual tour. I enjoy meeting people and getting to know people and this coupled with the

opportunity of visiting other countries, makes organising a tour a wonderful experience.

We have seen so many magnificent sights on our tours that I have great difficulty in deciding on a highlight to share with you. Should it be that awe-inspiring *Great Wall of China*; the moon-like landscape with its attending underground cities around Goreme in Turkey; meeting the members of Prague's U3A; the wonderful mosaics in Ravenna in Italy; the monasteries built on rock pinnacles in Meteora in Greece; or the impressive Abu Simnel temple in Egypt? I could go on but I have decided to give pride of place to the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru.

The journey to Machu Picchu is almost as exciting as seeing the actual Inca ruins. We took the narrow-gauge railway out of Cusco, making several zigzags to negotiate the steep slope. Soon, all that could be seen of the town were the roofs and towers shrouded in the early morning mist. Our journey continued through a fairly broad and level valley but soon descended into a dramatic steep, narrow gorge leading into the Urubamba Valley, the sacred valley of the Incas. At kilometre 88 we left the train and continued our journey by bus along a narrow zigzag road up to the Inca Ruins, 312 feet



*The Great Wall of China*



*Enjoying the splendour of Machu Picchu*

312 feet up the mountainside, surrounded by the mist shrouded Andean Peaks. (Machu Picchu actually stands 7,740 feet above sea level). It was a most wonderful sight. The rocky pinnacles, soaring high into the bright, blue sky formed a type of hollow and there, standing on a sloping apple-green mat of grass, were the individual, grey stone-built Inca buildings. It was hard to understand how or why the Incas chose such an inhospitable site. The Inca ruins were first discovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911. Nowadays, it is thought Machu Picchu was used for ceremonial and spiritual purposes and it also had an important agricultural function.

Taking a tour with U3A Travel Network has been, for members and myself, a most enjoyable and enriching experience. Our circle of friends is widening and the original Swansea nucleus is extending and becoming a familiar presence on many of our tours. However, the advantages gained from travelling with a U3A group does not stop at the end of the tour; they have far wider implications. Many firm friendships have been formed between Swansea members and those from other U3As and these have continued over the years. Travelling together gives the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions and many discussions are held on the running of the individual U3As.

These exchanges are not only interesting and informative for the individual but also permeate back to the various U3As. We have held many enjoyable reunions in

Swansea and, after our Cyprus tour, Swansea members were hosts to those members who lived further afield. I greatly appreciate the support I have had from a number of Swansea members who regularly travel with me. Numbers vary according to the destination. Our tour to American Parks in September will have ten Swansea members whilst the tour to Galapagos and Ecuador in April will have two. From a personal angle, I find that having a group from Swansea U3A makes things easier for me. They are people I know, quick to show their appreciation and equally quick to tell me when things are not going quite right. This is how it should be and I enjoy their openness and humour and all the help they give me.

I hope that I have portrayed successfully the support and enjoyment that Swansea members have derived from travelling together and that other members from our U3A will feel sufficiently confident to join us in our explorations."

[Shortly before publication, we had the sad news of Margaret's death after a short period of illness. She will be greatly missed both locally and nationally.]

### **Individual Initiatives**

In addition to these organised tours some of our members have made contact with U3As in far-flung places across the world, travelling independently.

Margaret Taylor writes:

"Holidaying in Australia, and staying with relations at Frankston, near Melbourne, I joined the Frankston U3A one morning to take part in a discussion session. Later in the day, having shared a buffet lunch with some of the group, I attended a meeting of the Bushwalking Group who were planning a short camping holiday. Arrangements and chores were shared out among those taking part and willingly accepted - buying some of the food, collecting together sufficient crockery and cutlery, providing transport and so on. Non-walkers were also invited to join the party to follow their own pursuits such as painting or embroidery. Previous expeditions of this sort had been very successful and all looked forward with enthusiasm to this latest holiday. During the meeting plans for the approaching Christmas celebrations were also discussed and it was agreed that a barbecue party in The Melbourne Botanical Gardens would appeal to all U3A members. Of course, it would be high summer in December.

I was surprised to find I was billed as a speaker for the afternoon and, off the cuff, spoke of Swansea U3A and some of its experiences. A battery of questions followed that, happily, I was able to answer.

I also called on the Melbourne City U3A who enjoyed free use of an office, the

telephone and a photocopying facility. This U3A ran a great many groups and in addition put on weekend seminars for those living alone. This service they extended to members of other U3As in the Melbourne area. The following year a small group from the Frankston U3A visited the UK and I was able to repay some of their hospitality by acting as guide in London and, later, using my own car by taking them on a tour of the Gower Peninsula, ending with a meal in my home."

Back in 1994 when Idris Davey led a holiday to Normandy, he had in advance contacted the Rouen group of the UTA and we were welcomed by them and given a conducted tour of the city centre. We reciprocated their hospitality by giving a drinks party in the evening.

Looking back even further, Amy Hore of Llanelli U3A, who was a Swansea member at the time, tells us:

"In January 1993, I had the great good fortune to be able to accept an invitation to visit cousins in New Zealand. There were four of them - two living in the Auckland area and two in the Bay of Plenty. My visit was divided between them and whilst in Auckland I attended one of the city's U3A groups.

Before I left the UK our Swansea Chairman, Idris Davey, had kindly given me an introduction to a member of an Auckland group whom he had met at the U3A Conference held in Exeter University the previous year and from whom I had subsequently received the invitation to attend. It was a pleasant, heart-warming experience.

I was staying with my cousin in Devonport, North Shore, at the time and was taken to Remura Road, Auckland where the meeting was being held. I met the Secretary, Mrs Wardrop, who in turn introduced the Chairman, Tony Laity, who made a formal introduction to members present. We were in the Victoria League Rooms, reminiscent of Empire and Commonwealth, with a portrait of the Queen flanked by Union Jacks decorating the wall facing as one entered the room. I was warmly welcomed by everyone - many of whom were Welsh - and spent much time talking to a lady from Neath. They were all eager to learn about what was going on at home, especially to hear about U3A.

The format of the meetings was similar to our own except that they started at 9.30 a.m. The Guest Speaker that day was Professor Russell Stone, a retired history lecturer, from Auckland University. He gave us an interesting talk and the many questions from the floor were treated to interesting and humorous replies. Tea and biscuits were followed by the business content of the agenda.

It was a very rewarding and informative experience which made me realise that U3A is the same the world over - a friendly, caring organisation ready to extend a helping

hand whenever necessary. This has been borne out over the intervening years by hearing interesting experiences of members being entertained and enjoying the friendship and hospitality of U3As globally."

Betty Walker's contact is by letter writing and she tells us:

"In the millennium year Derrick Jenkins and Roger Knight were contacted on the Internet from Sweden, asking if any of our members would be pen pals to a group of Swedish members, 'The 12 Happy OAPs in Uddevalla', all of whom are in the English language group. I gave my name and received a reply from Ingrid Andersson, aged 69 years, from Uddevalla, West Sweden. Ingrid was pleased to receive the information sent her on Swansea U3A, our Chynicle and Swansea tourist information. She said: I understood the mostly of it."

In addition, Derrick Jenkins has had numerous contacts, mainly supplying information about Swansea and Swansea U3A, with Fred Parr, an Englishman living in Uddevalla, who appears to be the leader of the group and the only one amongst them who has a computer and is computer literate.

\*

So we have looked back over the first fifteen years of Swansea U3A from its early beginnings in 1986 through to the new millennium. We have seen the vision lifted outwards from Swansea to establish wider contacts in Wales, the UK and overseas. We have mentioned many individuals by name who have played their part in building the group but credit is due, and must be paid here, to all our members who, over these fifteen years, have given such loyalty and support to our successive leaders.

### **What U3A Means To Me**

A weekly refreshing walk, with other members, through Singleton Park by way of the Botanical Gardens, to witness the delights of the ever-changing seasons before entering a roomful of people enjoying each other's company. What more could one ask for a mid-week treat?

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## Looking Forward

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What of the future? Are we going to be able to carry on indefinitely as we have in the recent past? What will we do if our membership rises to the level where we cannot all meet in any of the University rooms? Or now that the Arts Hall seems no longer available? Can we make these so-called problems into opportunities? Can and should we continue our weekly general meetings - an aspect in which Swansea differs from the vast majority of U3As? Should we be concerned that about a sixth of our membership do not rejoin each new year? How can we extend our group activities to encompass more of our members?

Your Committee is already thinking about some of these aspects of the future shape of Swansea U3A. On several occasions over the past few years, we have expected the University to warn us of the imminent demolition of the Annexe as a part of the continuing development of the campus to accommodate more and more departments and ever larger numbers of students. This is one reason why we have felt it necessary to keep a healthy bank balance in case we are suddenly faced with the need to pay for a meeting room on a Wednesday afternoon. Even if we were in a position to lay a claim to facilities, it would be quite wrong of us to argue for our own needs if this were to reduce the ability of the University to serve today's and tomorrow's students who have more of their lives ahead of them than we have.

Above all we cannot allow ourselves to fall into the trap of saying "We cannot change; what was good enough for Swansea five years ago should be good enough for the future." Any organisation which does not adapt to changes (within or without) is doomed to dwindle and expire. Let us all take on these challenges; even though you may delegate them to your Committee, it needs to know your thoughts before it can sensibly act on your behalf.

I leave these questions hanging in the air. Perhaps when this Story is next updated, there will be a few answers. There will no doubt be some new questions. Let us resolve to continue to act with warmth and friendliness towards one another and we will be sure to build on the firm foundations laid by those who have worked so hard for Swansea U3A in the past.

*Roger Knight*  
*Chairman 2000-2002*

# Appendix 1

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President	Professor Maurice Broady	1989-2002
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## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE OF SWANSEA U3A

Chairman	Dr. Edwin Lewis Richard Lillicrap Idris Davey Marjorie Vanston Derrick Jenkins Roger Knight	1986-1991 1991-1994 1994-1995 1995-1997 1997-2000 2000-2002
Vice-Chairman	Margaret Hammond/Bart McCarthy Marjorie Vanston Bill Massey Roger Knight Barbara Brimfield	1988-1992 1992-1995 1995-1999 1999-2000 2000-
Secretary	Mollie Harris/Lena Parry Margaret Taylor Dr. John Moyse Roger Knight Betty Walker Margaret Winter	1986-1989 1989-1993 1993-1994 1994-1998 1998-2001 2001-
Treasurer	Betty Bevan Florrie Toft Dr. John Moyse Margaret Massey	1986-1989 1989-1994 1994-1999 1999-
Membership Secretary	Luke Toft Margaret Massey Beryl Thomas	1989-1994 1995-1999 1999-
Network Secretary	Idris Davey Margaret Hammond Bill Smith Pat Nevin Barbara Brimfield John Best Richard Lillicrap	1989-1992 1992-1994 1994-1996 1996-1998 1998-2000 2000-2001 2001-
Programme Secretary	Margaret Taylor Joan Potheary Marjorie England Audrey Standish	1989-1993 1993-1997 1997-2000 2000-2002

## Appendix 2

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### STUDY/ACTIVITY GROUPS AS AT OCTOBER 2001

Armchair Travel	Play Reading
Art (Painting)	Reading
Bowls (Short Mat)	Recorder
Calligraphy	Research
Creative Writing	Scrabble
Discovering Music	Singing for
Discussion	Pleasure
Economics and Finance	Sunday Lunch
Gardening	Theatre and Film
History	Travel (National)
Home Computing	Walking
Languages	- French Conversation
	- Welsh Learners
	- German Conversation
Literature	
Local History	
Music Appreciation	- Mayals
	- Nomads
	- West Cross

Some hibernating groups may be reactivated when demand increases. The Committee is keen to support new groups provided that a minimum of five members are prepared to give their consistent support

## Appendix 3

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### VISITS AND OUTINGS (THOSE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS)

#### 1988

Museum of the Welsh Woollen Industry, Felindre.  
National Museum of Wales, Cardiff - "Geraldus Cambrensis Exhibition".

#### 1989

Aberdulais Industrial Basin.  
Aberystwyth - Library of University of Wales.  
Gower - to study Sculptured Stones.  
Police Headquarters at Bridgend.  
Second tour of Gower - Sculptured Stones.  
Clack's Farm - arranged by Gardening Group.

#### 1990

The House of Commons - The Rt. Hon. Alan Williams in attendance.  
Carmarthen Museum and Gelli Aur.  
Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells - organised by Gardening Group.

#### 1991

Neath Canal.  
Swansea Churches to study Stained Glass.  
Brecon Cathedral and Tretower Court and Castle. Gregynog and Powys Castle.  
Westonbirt Arboretum.  
Hay-on-Wye.  
Caerleon and Caerwent.

#### 1992

Laycock Abbey.  
Garden Festival at Ebbw Vale. Llancaiach Fawr.  
Big Pit.

#### 1993

To Bath to visit the "Building of Bath" Museum.  
Llyn Brienne Dam, Nantgaredig Pumping Station and Felindre Water Treatment Works.  
Tretower Court - Talk on herbs and the medieval garden - arranged by Gardening Group.

**1994**

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.  
Scolton House near Pemberton, and Chocolate Factory. Tredegar House.  
Gelli Aur.

**1995**

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff and Maritime Quarter and Techniquest. St. Fagans  
Welsh Folk Museum.  
Pencoed College - arranged by Gardening Group.  
St. David's Cathedral and Picton Castle.

**1996**

Cardiff Museum.  
Bristol Exploratory.  
Aberdulais Falls and Cyfartha Castle. Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells.

**1997**

Turner House Gallery, and Harry Ramsden's. Cosmeston Medieval Village and Castell  
Coch. Laugharne - Castle and Port Reeve's Chambers.

**1998**

Llandaff Cathedral and Cardiff Castle.  
Llancaiach Fawr.  
Pembroke Castle.  
Fishguard to see The Last Invasion Tapestry, and to St. David's. St. Fagans for special  
event day (pre Christmas).

**1999**

National Museum, Cardiff.  
SS Great Britain at Bristol Docks.  
Talley Abbey, Nevein and Newport, Cardigan.

**2000**

Llantrisant and Caerphilly Castle.  
Centre for Visual Arts, Cardiff and Llantwit Major Visitors' Centre. Tinsplate Museum and  
Mining Museum at Kidwelly.  
Carmarthen Heritage Museum and St. Stephen's Church.

**2001**

National Museum, Cardiff. Chepstow Castle and Church. Tredegar House and Park.

## Appendix 4

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### TALKS GIVEN TO SWANSEA U3A MEMBERS

*Complete records for the first years were not compiled.  
Where possible the name of the Speaker has been given.*

#### 1987/1988

##### *Topics discussed and led by members*

Tracing One's Ancestry	Mrs. Margaret Hammond
Translating the Bible into Welsh	Dr. Edwin Lewis
The Bahai Basic Beliefs	Mrs. Gladys Parker
Contributions Senior Citizens can make to Society	
19th Century Report on Welsh Education	Dr. Edwin Lewis
The Why and How of Preparing for a Global Journey	Mrs. Margaret Taylor

##### *Talks Given*

Historic Costume Dolls	Mrs. Madge Thomas
Proposed Changes in the Education System	
History of Old Swansea Market	
Civic Interests	Mrs. Susan Jones (ex-Mayor)
Dating Arthur's Stone	
Music Appreciation - Handel	
Travels in Patagonia	Mrs. Phyllis Fisher
Stocks and Shares	Member of Allied Dunbar
T. E. Lawrence	
A Journey to Russia	
Slide Tour of the Holy Land	
Jewish Customs	Mrs. Norma Glass Professor T. R. Owen

#### 1988/1989

##### *Talks*

Six Lectures on the Geology of South Wales	Professor T. R. Owen
1588/1988 - Years to Remember	Rev. Wyn Griffiths
Toulouse 1988 - U3A International	Professor Maurice Broady
Aspects of Anglo-Welsh Writing - 2 lectures	Mr. Gilbert Bennett
Ulster - A Place Apart	Dr. D. G. Boyce (of UCS)
Globetrotting Tube Worms	Professor E. W. Knight-Jones
Noble Ladies of Snowdonia	Mr. Alun Richards (Member)
Vegetables in a Small Garden	Mr. Alex Matthews
Adult Education a la Carte	Dr. Edwin Lewis
A Walk Around Old Swansea	Dr. Rhidian Griffiths
Poetry	Mr. Andrew Varney
Non-Verbal Communication - Body Language	Mr. Adrian Williams
Sculptured Stones of Gower	Mr. Luke Toft
Contemporary British Politics	Dr. D. G. Boyce
Welsh House Names	Dr. Edwin Lewis



**1988/1989(continue)**

Pyramids of Egypt  
 Aspects of Writing  
 The National Trust  
 D. H Lawrence  
 Silver  
 The Novel  
 The Glamorgan/Gwent Archaeological Trust  
 Jewish Family Life

Dr. Alan Lloyd  
 Mr. Alun Richards (UCS)  
 Mr. Donald Stewart  
 Mr. John Blake  
 Mrs. Nansi Mascetti  
 Mrs. Iris Gower  
 Mr. Dowdal  
 Mrs. Norma Glass

**1989/1990**

Welsh House Names (2)  
 Reflections  
 Geology and the Search for Fuels - Coal  
 Geology and the Search for Fuels - Oils  
 Geology and the Search for Fuels - Gas  
 The Story of 'Peace'  
 International Affairs  
 Water A Historic Review  
 'E Minimus Maxima'  
 Aspects of Planning in Swansea  
 History of Record Keeping in Swansea  
 Development of Swansea  
 Poll Tax  
 Community Service for Offenders  
 Travels for Early Childhood Education Overseas  
 Travel Slide Talk  
 Around the World in 108 Days  
 Art - Rubbish or Masterpiece? T  
 he Worst Place on Earth  
 Development of Music in Swansea  
 The Art of the Biographer  
 Education for All

Dr. Edwin Lewis  
 Rt. Hon. Alan Williams, M.P.  
 Professor T. R. Owen  
 Professor T. R. Owen  
 Professor T. R. Owen  
 Mrs. Margaret Taylor  
 Dr. George Boyce  
 Mr. R. J. Lillcrap  
 Mrs. Margaret Hammond  
 Dr. Dave Grace  
 Dr. J. Alban (City Archivist)  
 Mr. Gerald Gabb  
 Mr. D Matthews (Asst. City Treasurer)  
 Mr. M. C. A. Horn (Probation Service)  
 Mrs. Betty Lowe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Sparkes  
 Mrs. Margaret Taylor  
 Mr. Ivor Spencer  
 Mr. Alex Matthews  
 Mr. John H. Thomas  
 Mr. Alun Richards (NCS)  
 Dr. Noel Davies

**1990/1991**

Swansea Castle  
 Archaeology and Conservation  
 The Delight of Stained Glass  
 The Salt House at Porteynon  
 The Role of the Ombudsman  
 Adapting the Environment  
 The Romans in South Wales  
 The Role of the Consumer Protection Officer  
 The Neolithic and Bronze Age in South Wales  
 The Welsh Office  
 'Yes, Minister'  
 The Importance of Oral History  
 Looking at a Church  
 Pollution - The Biological Problems

Dr. Edith Evans  
 Mr. Henry Owen John  
 Professor Maurice Broady  
 Mr. Paul Wilkinson  
 Mr. Hywel F. Jones  
 Mr. Jonathan Parkhouse  
 Mr. A. Marvell  
 Mr. T. Southern  
 Mr. P. Wardle  
 Mr. Idris Davey  
 Mr. Idris Davey  
 Dr. Hywel Francis  
 Mr. Luke Toft  
 Dr. John Hayward

**1990/1991** *(continued)*

Humour in Music

Dylan Thomas

Mr. Bill Martin

Mr. Gilbert Bennett

**1991/1992**

Wales &amp; the Tudors

(i) Politics and Government

Professor Glanmor Williams

(ii) The Reformation

Professor Glanmor Williams

Education and the Welsh Renaissance

Professor Gordon Roderick

Social Security Benefits

Mrs. Lynn Turner

Rhossilli One Hundred Years Ago

Mr. R. L. T. Lucas

The Lighter Side in Court

Mr. Vernon Rees Davies, J.P.

Flowers of Gower - A Phenological Approach

Mr. Lewis Spolton

A Scientist Abroad - personal reminiscences

Professor Emeritus Frank

Llewellyn-Jones

Mr. Roberti. Howells

Birds of the Burry Inlet (Slides)

Mr. Brian Garnham

Illustrated Talk on The National Trust

Mr. Glyn Davies

Sounds Unfamiliar (music)

Mr. Martin Lewis (Penyrheol Theatre)

The Work of an Arts Officer

Professor Maurice Broady

European Union

Mr. Nick Carter (S. W. Evening Post)

The Work of a Local Paper

Professor Ieuan M. Williams

Jordan Revisited (illustrated)

Mrs. Margaret Hammond/

Fox Talbot and the Swansea Connection

Mrs. Margaret Taylor

Sea, Science and Scenery

Dr. C. Woodridge

The Rise of the Extreme Right

Dr. Jeremy Jennings

An Exploration: Religious Belief without God

Professor Maurice Broady

How to Achieve a Lasting Peace

Mr. Sadeq Mehreban

Education - More Means Different

Dr. Noel Davies

Deeds not Creeds - A Humanist perspective The First

Mrs. Eileen Jones

Elizabethans - a portrait in words and music

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Alan Broome

The Open University

Mrs. Marjorie Vanston

**1992/1993**

What is Sociology?

Dr. Keith England

Music by Arrangement

Mr. Bill Martin

Stony Stories

Mr. Robin Campbell

There's Gold in Them Thar Hills

Mr. Alun Richards (member)

Money Management in Retirement

Mr. John Bradshaw

(Knight Williams &amp; Co. Ltd.)

Impressions of Japan

Mrs. Kathleen Davies

The Swansea Stained Glass Tradition

Professor Maurice Broady

In The Red

Mrs. Gladys Parker

The Work of H.M. Customs

Mr. Gareth Lewis

Science and Society

Mr. Idris Davey

Crime and Place

Professor David T. Herbert

H.M. Coastguard

Mr. Kenneth Hardcastle

Jane Austen - Punctuating Some Myths

Dr. Russell Stephens

Early Views of Swansea (slides)

Mr. Bernard Morris

**1992/1993 (continued)**

Medical Research  
 Beautiful Island - (Taiwan)  
 Lexicographer's Lament  
 The Work of Amnesty International  
 Sounds Unfamiliar (2)  
 Negotiations  
 The Council Tax  
 The Marriage of Two Superlatives  
 (Thomas Baxter —the years 1816-1819)  
 Research Problems in Swansea Stained Glass  
 Electric Times  
 Dr. Barnardo's

Professor Gordon Roderick  
 Dr. Derwent Maude  
 Dr. Edwin Lewis  
 Mrs. M. Harris  
 Mr. Glyn Davies  
 Professor David H. Farmer  
 Mr. Derek Wolley  
 Rev. J. O. Wilstead

Professor Maurice Broady  
 Mrs. Enid Jones  
 Mrs. Barbara Way

**1993/1994**

The *Glynn Vivian* and its Friends  
 The Story of the Mumbles Train (film made by  
 Swansea Sound' and 'Swansea Little Theatre')  
 Life on the '*Queen Mary*'  
 Swansea Civic Society  
 Tales of the Unexpected  
 New Borders  
 Returning to Poland after 50 Years  
 The '*Orpheus*'  
 No Man is an Island  
 St. Clement Danes  
 Travels in China  
 Development of Swansea National Health Trust To  
 Be a Registered Charity

Mrs. Hilary McKenzie  
 Mr. L. Painter

Mr. E. L. Thomas  
 Professor R. Steel  
 Mr. Glyn Davies  
 Mr. Idris Davey  
 Dr. J. Lister  
 Mr. R. Landry

Mrs. Gladys Parker  
 Rev. L. Thomas  
 Mr. J. Bihari  
 Mrs. M. Lewis

Mrs. Jean Thompson (Chairman of  
 National Executive Committee)  
 Mrs. E. Mascall

Professor Maurice Broady  
 Mr. Luke Toft

Mr. Ivor Spencer  
 Mr. John Archer-Thomas  
 Mr. J. Williams

Mr. T. Bullingham  
 Mr. T. Brissenden  
 Dr. C. Wellington  
 Dr. J. Ballantyne

Dr. Hugh Williams  
 Mr. Gilbert Bennett  
 Dr. Keith England  
 Mr. Meadowland

Mrs. Rhiannon Walters

Surnames

Reith Lectures 1993 and the Swansea Affair

Gower

Parallel Universes (E.S.P., etc.)

Patagonia

Yeomen of the Queen's Guard

St. Dunstons and Related Issues

A Brilliant Light, A Dreadful Storm

A Chemist Under the Weather

When Not to Choose the Fish Course

Locum in Ghana

Welsh Writers in English

More about Sociology

Welsh in China

These I Have Loved

**1994/95**

"Land of the Thunder Dragon"/ "At the Throne of the  
 Mountain Gods"

Mr. Alf Webb

**1994/1995 (continued)**

The Lighter Side of a Parson's Life

Crosswords

The Trans-Siberian Express

Victorian Humour

Swansea Glass in Canada

Cultural Tour of the Eastern States of America

Romania

Old China

Swansea's Heritage

The Versailles Story

History of Clyne Castle

19th Century Parliamentary Elections

"Oi, Oi, der ist ein echter Mensch"

The Magic of the Voice

The Mysterious Universe

Operation Overlord

Brecon Beacons National Park

Broadcasting in The Gulf

The Marriages of Some Great Composers Guarding

Gower for all its worth

Work of Stained Glass Group

Museums in Swansea

Friends of The Glynn Vivian

**1995/1996**

Peru

Norway

Butch Cassidy &amp; Llwyd ap Iwan

So You Think You Know What A Postcard Is!

A Naturalist in New Zealand

Drivers, Other Drivers and Pedestrians

Yes, Minister!

Waterfalls in The Neath Valley

The History of Marie Curie

China, Ancient and Modern

A Year in a Small Garden

Towards a Federal Europe

Bread

The Houses of Singleton

A Thousand Centuries of Language

Solving Problems in Monitoring Our Environment

The Evolution of Wales

Music Presentation

Culture Shock - The Sociology of Change

Paper Weights

Taste and Smell

Swansea Markets

Hong Kong

Rev. G. Bennett

Mr. Arthur Baulch

Mrs. Marjorie Vanston

Mr. Malcome Parr

Professor Maurice Broady

Mrs. J. Thomas

Sgt. Thomas

Dr. C. Austin

Industry and Life Group

Mrs. K. Davies

Mr. E. It Thomas

Professor Glanmor Williams

Professor Maurice Broady

Mr. J. Bihari

Dr. P. Walters

Mrs. G. Thomas

Mr. David Brinn

Mrs. S. Vaughan

Mr. It H. Davies

Mrs. M. Hammond, Mrs. A. Hore

and Mrs. B. Lowe

Professor Maurice Broady

Mr. Gerald Gabb

Mrs. Hilary McKenzie

Mr. Jon Gruffydd

Mr. Roger Stephens

Mrs. Marjorie Vanston

Mr. Brian Cripps

Dr. H. Rose

Professor Maurice Broady

Mr. I. Lightman

Mr. Luke Toft

Mr. Idris Davey

Mr. S. Brailsford

Mr. Arthur Tickner

Professor Maurice Broady

Mrs. Heenan

Mr. Bernard Morris

Dr. A. F. Bissell

Dr. J. Ballantine

Dr. Bassett

West Cross Music Group

Dr. Keith England

Mrs. Margaret Massey

Mr. J. Bihari

The U3A Research Group

Mr. I. Russell

## 1996/1997

A Swansea Econium  
Postal History of Llanelli 1795-1840  
Democracy and Populism  
Lady Charlotte Guest  
Music and the Brain  
Supporting Local Businesses  
Swansea and the 21st Century  
Egypt and The Pyramids  
Wales and The Sea  
La 'Femme Fatale'  
Brains Trust  
Plan for International Work in Thailand  
British Infantry Weapons  
Sixty Years of Swansea Stained Glass  
The Dinner Suited Wanderer  
Sustainable Tourism, Opportunities and Challenges  
Arts, Crafts and Hobbies  
No Occupation for a Gent/Story of Sub Mariner  
In The Footsteps of Robert Louis Stephenson  
Fox Talbot and the Swansea Connection (repeat)

Indo European to Modern English  
Yugoslavia in the Sixties  
Marie Stopes  
What Is So Special About Flowers?  
Streets of Swansea  
Taste and Smell

## 1997/1998

Matthew Flinders - Navigator  
Fit For A Queen  
Britain's Role in the European Union  
Some Aspects of Western Art  
The Whitechapel Murders 1888 (Jack the Ripper)  
The Emergence of Swansea Bay City  
Fads and Fancies in Management  
The Fiji Islands  
Reassessing Churchill  
Environmental Health in the 1990s  
Warfare in the Middle Ages  
Archives in West Glamorgan  
Swansea 100 Years Ago  
Jewish Customs  
Anxieties about British Democracy  
The Tradition of Saint David  
You Have Heard This Song Before  
Art Appreciation - A Miscellany

Professor Maurice Broady  
Mr. Brian Cripps  
Dr. Keith England  
Professor Sir Glanmor Williams  
Mr. R H. Davies  
Mr. R. Churchill  
Mrs. V. Sugar  
Mr. Clive Tomlinson  
Dr. D. Jenkins  
Mrs. Kate Wedd  
Mr. R. Lillicrap  
Mr. Tony Searle  
Mr. Tremelling  
Professor Maurice Broady  
Mr. Alf Webb  
Professor T Stevens  
Mrs. Eileen Jones  
Commander R. Compton-Hall  
Mr. Robert Walker  
Mrs. Margaret Hammond  
and Mrs. Margaret Taylor  
Dr. A. Bissell  
Mr. F. Sneed  
Mrs. Margaret Taylor  
Mr. Arthur Tickner  
Mrs. Rona Ray  
Mr. J. Bihari

Mr. Les Tubb - Llanelli U3A  
Rev. John O. Wilstead  
Professor Maurice Broady  
Dr. Alan Marriott  
Mr. Bob Hinton  
Dr. Graham Humphrys  
Dr. Keith England  
Mrs. Christine Ryland  
Mr. Peter Stead  
Mr. John Spence  
Dr. John France  
Miss Sue Beckley  
Mr. Gerald Gabb  
Mrs. Norma Glass  
Professor Maurice Broady  
Sir Glanmor Williams  
West Cross Music Group  
Art Appreciation Group

**1997/1998 (continued)**

The Face of Egypt in Swansea	Dr. David Gill
Atmospheric Pollution - A Global Problem	Dr. J. B. Lewis
Who Was Tatyana's Creator?	Mrs. Marjorie Vanston
Magic of the Mountains	Mr. Bryn Jones
Anthropology and the End of the World	Dr. Keith England
The Four Faces of China	Mrs. Barbara Willis
Where Did You Get That Plot?	Mrs. Kate Wedd

**1998/1999**

The Costifines of Jane Austen's Day	Miss Joan Wilton
Words at Play	Dr. Derek Bissell
Public Transport into the Millennium	Mr. Piers Marlow
For King and Country - Military Memoirs	Professor Maurice Broady
The Equal Opportunities Commission	Ms. Val Feld
Battle of Waterloo	Mr. Bob Hinton.
Now You Have Heard This Song Before	West Cross Music Group
Patagonia	Mr. Jon Gruffydd
Dylan Thomas	Mr. Jeff Towns
The New Welsh Centre for Lifelong Learning	Professor Michael Williams
The National Botanical Gardens of Wales	Mr. Ivor Stokes
What is Leadership?	Dr. Keith England
Paper given to London Welsh Society	Professor Maurice Broady
Pwlldu Remembered	Mrs. Heather Holt
National Parks of Western America	Dr. Arwel Edwards
Hokkaido - Japan's Northern Frontier	Dr. Graham Humphrys
The Medieval Welsh Wars	Mr. John Tremelling
New Directions for Higher Education	Professor Robin Williams (Vice Chancellor)
City Centre Regeneration	Mr. David Wilson
Family Matters	Mrs. Kate Wedd
Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela	Mr. Bob Walker
A Sojourn on a Pacific Atoll	Mrs. Margaret Garel
Orpheus Down Under	Mr. J. Bihari
Silk and Gold - The Courtaulds of Spitalfields	Mrs. Marjorie Vanston
Public Awareness of Science	Professor Graham Williams
Alternative Energies	Dr. John B. Lewis

**1999/2000**

The Zinc Families of Swansea	Dr. Lawrence Holt
Swansea Hustings	Mr. Ivor Ress
Wales and the French Revolution	Mrs. Hilary MacKenzie
The American Civil War - Did Brother Really Fight Brother?	Mrs. Margaret Williams
Work : A Blessing or a Curse?	Dr. Keith England
Women in Fascism	Dr. Anthea Symonds
The Sleuth in the Chancel	Professor Maurice Broady
The Setting up of the National Assembly	Mr. John Lloyd.
The National Trust on Gower	Mrs. Sian Jones

**1999/2000** *(continued)*

Wetlands for the Millennium  
 Adventures of an Extra-Mural Lecturer  
 Slippers and Ceilings  
 The Great Travellers  
 Glimpses of Malaysia  
 The Happiest Days of Your Life? - Schools Past & Present  
 Looking at the Two Literatures of Wales this Century  
 Update on Developments at the National Botanical Garden  
 The Swansea School of Art  
 Music Presentation  
 As Things Are Now  
 New Age Travellers  
 Suicide at the Mackworth  
 Opera Singles - Popular Gems from Forgotten Operas  
 Revisiting Some Italian Battlefields  
 Revival of Jewish Religion & Culture in Post Communist  
     Hungary  
 Life on the Sea Shore  
 Lost Empires

Dr. Jeff Proffitt  
 Dr. Neil Harding  
 Professor Valerie Randle  
 Mr. Peter Stead  
 Professor Brian Clarkson  
 Professor Gareth Jones  
 Professor Wynne Thomas  
 Mr. Ivor Stokes  
 Professor Maurice Broady  
 Nomads Music Group  
 Dr. Edwin Lewis  
 Mrs. Heather Pudner  
 Mr. Gary Gregor  
 Mrs. Kate Wedd  
 Mr. Julian Bihari  
  
 Dr. Leonard Mars  
 Dr. Michael Isaac  
 Mrs. Julia Evans

**2000/2001**

Citizens Advice Bureau  
 Living in Thailand  
 Watermills of Gower  
 Swansea School of Arts and its Stained Glass  
     Tradition (part II)  
 400 Years of Aberdulais Falls  
 Israel Revisited  
 Treasures from the Egyptology Centre  
 Treasures from the Tombs of China  
 Plant Introductions  
 Life on the Mary Rose  
 1940 - A Takeover  
 Music and Poetry for Valentine's Day  
 DNA Repair and Cancer  
 Setting up the Cardiff Centre for Visual Arts  
 The Suffragette Movement in Swansea  
 Rebuilding Dresden after the War  
 A Holiday with a Difference  
 Genetic Engineering and its Implications  
 Music to Your Ears  
 Innovation in Fact and Fiction  
 Popular Gems - Mark II  
 Risks in Everyday Life  
 Mumbles Marble and the Swansea Connection - Updated  
 A Musical Presentation

Clair Withey  
 Morlais Williams  
 Bryan Taylor  
  
 Professor Maurice Broady  
 Vic James (Nat. Trust)  
 Janet Neilson  
 Caroline Graves-Brown  
 Ena Niedergang  
 Dr. John Haywood  
 Philip Bowen  
 Marjorie Vanston  
 Members  
 Professor Ray Walters  
 Sally Medlin, Director.  
 Ursula Masson  
 Professor Maurice Broady  
 Mary Greaves  
 Dr. Paul Dyson  
 Wendy Sadler, Techniquist  
 Professor R. Singer  
 Kate Wedd (NEC)  
 Dr. John Lewis  
 Dr. Ronald Austin  
 Mayals Music Group



# Appendix 5

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## **The CONSTITUTION of the SWANSEA UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A) a member of the Third Age Trust, as an Unincorporated Association. Adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 30th June, 1993.**

### **1. NAME**

The name shall be "The Swansea University of the Third Age" (in this Constitution called "the U3A").

### **2. OBJECTS & POWERS**

#### **2.1 *Objects***

- [i] To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and older people who are not in full-time gainful employment, in Swansea and its surrounding locality.
- [ii] The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

#### **2.2 • *Powers***

- [i] In furtherance of the above, the U3A may purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire and otherwise acquire and sell or dispose of real or personal property and any rights and privileges which the U3A may think necessary for the promotion of the objects, subject to such consents as may be required by law.
- [ii] Publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, films, videos and instructional matter.
- [iii] Found and carry on schools and training courses and run lectures, seminars, conferences and courses.
- [iv] Encourage and assist in the formation and operation of area and regional groupings of other U3As.
- [v] Receive donations, sponsorship fees, subscriptions and legacies from persons desiring to promote the objects of the U3A or any of them and to hold funds in trust for the same.
- [vi] Do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1** All persons interested in supporting the Objects of the Third Age Trust shall be admitted to membership on the approval of the Committee and upon payment of the annual subscription as determined by the Committee provided that they agree to abide by this Constitution and any conditions properly imposed by the Committee.

**3.2** The Committee may terminate membership of any member if:

- [i] there is any money owed to the U3A in respect of membership or other fees after a time-lapse approved by the Committee.
- [ii] that member acts in a way which is prejudicial to the U3A or brings it into disrepute; PROVIDED THAT the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee before a final decision is made.

#### 4. MANAGEMENT

The management of the U3A shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the U3A.

- 4.1 [i] The Committee shall consist of six (6) members (excluding those that are co-opted) together with the principal officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Network Secretary). **Network Secretary post will be open to election from the AGM June 2001** (text in bold added June 2000 ).
- [ii] Not more than two (2) ordinary members shall be co-opted to the Committee: they shall have full voting rights and their term of office shall expire at the next following Annual General Meeting. **No one may serve as an ordinary member for more than three consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year, except that they may stand immediately for any post as a principal officer** (text in bold added June 1997).
- [iii] The Immediate Past Chairman shall serve for one year as an ex-officio member of the Committee with full voting rights.
- [iv] Persons, who need not be members, may be invited by the Committee to serve because of their special expertise; they shall not have voting rights and their term of service shall expire at the next following Annual General Meeting.
- [v] Any member holding an elected position in the Third Age Trust be ex officio member of the Committee (added June 1999 ).
- 4.2 The election of members of the Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the U3A.
- [i] The principal officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and serve for one year.
- [ii] Other members shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and shall serve for three years, one third retiring each year.
- [iii] Nominations to the Committee duly agreed by the nominee shall be proposed and seconded and delivered in writing to the Secretary at a date specified by the Committee.
- [iv] The newly elected Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- [v] There shall be no less than four (4) Committee meetings a year.
- [vi] Retiring officers may stand for re-election, provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than three (3) consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year, except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman.
- [vii] Committee members may resign office by giving not less than twenty-one (21) days notice in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman. The Committee has power to fill casual vacancies from the membership. Such an appointee shall complete the term of service of the member he or she is replacing and shall be eligible for re-election.
- [viii] At Committee meetings matters shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of Committee members present. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- [ix] The quorum for any Committee Meeting shall be five (5) of which three (3) shall be ordinary members.

- 4.3 A special Committee meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two (2) members of the Committee, upon seven (7) clear days notice being given to all the Committee members of all matters to be discussed.
- 4.4 The Committee may appoint Sub-committees to which it may from time to time and for such time as it determines, delegate such of its powers and functions as it thinks fit. Sub-committees shall report back to the Committee as soon as possible on action taken under delegated powers.
- 4.5 The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of any member of the Committee or Subcommittee.
- 4.6 The Secretary shall ensure that minutes are kept of all Sub-committee, Committee and General Meetings.
- 4.7 The Committee may from time to time recommend to an Annual General Meeting the election of a President who shall serve for three (3) years but may be nominated by the Committee for immediate re-election.

## **5. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held once in each year and not later than fifteen (15) months after the preceding Annual General Meeting. At least twenty-one (21) days notice shall be given to all members. A quorum shall be twenty (20) percent of the paid-up members. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:
  - [i] Receiving and approving the Annual Report.
  - [ii] Receiving and approving the Examined Accounts.
  - [iii] Election of President, if appropriate.
  - [iv] Electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Network Secretary and members of the Committee.
  - [v] Appointment of Examiner for the Accounts.
  - [vi] Consider proposals to alter the Constitution subject to the requirements of Clause 9.
  - [vii] Consider any other business which has been published in the Agenda.
- 5.2 A Special General Meeting of the U3A may be convened at any time by a resolution of the Committee or upon a requisition signed by one-fifth or more of the members stating the object of the meeting. A meeting held on such a requisition shall be called by the Secretary of the U3A giving the other members fourteen (14) days notice of such a meeting. There shall be a quorum when twenty (20) percent of members are present.
- 5.3 [i] The Chairman of the U3A shall be the Chairman of any Committee or General Meeting at which he/she is present. In his/her absence the Vice-Chairman shall chair the meeting, but if he/she is also absent the members shall elect a Chairman for the meeting and the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
  - [ii] Notwithstanding anything in 5.3 [i] above, the President, if present, shall be Chairman at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.4 Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting.

## 6. FINANCE

- 6.1 All the income and property of the U3A shall be applied solely towards the Objects of the said U3A and none of it shall be paid or transferred in any way to its Committee members provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the said U3A (other than a Committee member) and repayment of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses to Committee members or members, incurred in the course of the work of the U3A.
- 6.2 A bank or building society account shall be opened in the name of the U3A and withdrawals shall be made on the signature of two Committee members, one of whom is a principal officer.
- 6.3 The U3A shall have power to collect and accept donations and to issue appeals for donations and to raise money by bequest or otherwise. Any money raised and received may be retained by the U3A and be used at the discretion of the Committee. No form of permanent trading shall be undertaken in the raising of funds.
- 6.4 The financial year of the U3A shall end on the 31st May in each year, and not more than eight (8) weeks later the Annual General Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and Accounts.
- 6.5 The Committee may appoint employees either permanently or on a fixed term contract, who are not members of the Committee, as may from time to time be necessary for carrying out the work of the U3A and may fix their terms and conditions of employment. For purposes of employment law the Committee shall be the employer.
- 6.6 All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of the U3A and membership of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of the U3A.
- 6.7 The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all the monies received and expended on behalf of the U3A and shall prepare and publish such accounts duly **examined at** the Annual General Meeting. All monetary transactions shall be made through properly authorised accounts in accordance with the directions of the Committee. **Change of Constitution in line with the Charity Commissioners recommendations to replace the term audited with examined** (*text in bold added June 1998*).
- 6.8 No Committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by anything or act done or omitted to be done by him/her or any agent employed by him/her or by any other Committee member, provided reasonable supervision be exercised over any such agent, or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Committee member or by reason of any other matter or thing other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the Committee member who is sought to be made liable.
7. **PROPERTY** Any property of the Swansea U3A shall be vested in Trustees appointed for this purpose or, where appointment of Trustees is not appropriate, shall be deemed to be jointly held by all members of the Committee.
8. **POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE**  
All matters not provided for in this Constitution relating to the U3A and not involving an amendment to this Constitution shall be dealt with by the Committee.

## 9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution other than clauses 2 and 10 and this clause, may be amended with the assent of not less than two-thirds of the members of the U3A present and voting at a general meeting of the U3A. Twenty-one (21) days of notice shall be given to the members stating the intention to put forward such a resolution. No amendment may be made which would cause the Swansea U3A to cease to be a charity in law.

## 10. DISSOLUTION

The Swansea U3A may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a three-quarters majority of those present and voting at any meeting of the said U3A of which at least twenty-one (21) clear days notice stating the intention to put forward such a resolution shall have been sent to all members of the U3A. If any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and other liabilities, such assets held by or in the name of the U3A shall be transferred to such charitable institutions or institutions having objects similar to the U3A as the U3A shall decide.

*July 1993*

### **Amendments:**

1. Special General Meeting on 16th February, 1994
2. Annual General Meeting on 25th June, 1997
3. Annual General Meeting on 24th June, 1998.
4. Annual General Meeting on 29th June, 1999.
5. Annual General Meeting on 30th June, 2000.

### **What U3A Means To Me**

U3A gives me the chance to explore new subjects, things I did not have time to do whilst raising a family and working. New friends from different walks of life who were outside my working environment, all learning from each other. My being in the Research Group showed me the way to research and complete a book for my school, which had taught my family for four generations.

*BW*

U3A

