

Sully and District u3a Newsletter May 2026



GROUP NEWS

No new groups this month I'm afraid. But if you want ideas for new groups, you can look in the U3A magazine. There are lots of interesting articles from other U3As about what their Groups are doing. Towards the back of the magazine there is a list of Advisors for many groups. So, you if you're worried about starting up a new group there is a lot of help from the U3A. We are hoping to start a Craft Group after the summer. This could be geared towards making your own Christmas or Birthday cards and printing wrapping paper etc. Come and give us your ideas of what you'd like us to offer you at next month's AGM on 11th June.

Geology

Message from Teresa Jenkins

We have another date booked for a field trip, walking from Cosmeston to Lavernock. The leader will be Chris Lee and it will be on Monday 1st June. Details to follow.

please see Geology page on Sullyu3a website https://sully.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/geology-group-link/ (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click)

There is also a report there by Cindy Howells on the Geosciences Open Day that was held at Cardiff Museum in March.

2026 AGM

Just a reminder the AGM will take place on 11th June 2026 at 13:45 in the Old School Sully

May Speaker's Report



On May14th Sully u3a welcomed Mr. Nigel Bosanko, the Tower Captain of Llantrisant Parish Church as its speaker. Mr. Bosanko began his talk with a condensed 5,000 year history of bells, beginning with pottery hand bells found in China through to those rung by monks in the Campana region of Italy in the 4th century, which gave rise to the word campanology. By the 7th century the churches in Britain had bells which were initially rung to warn of invaders. The 11th century saw towers being built onto churches to house larger bells cast in bronze. The bell tower at Llantrisant dates back to 1490 and it is documented that 6 new bells were cast in 1718 and increased to a set of 8 in 1926. Throughout the centuries bell ringing progressed and Mr. Bosanko explained the development in the 17th century of Full Circle Ringing when bells were hung with full wheels in oak frames and able to swing through 360 degrees. This allowed the speed and order in which the bells were rung to be

altered now known as method ringing. During WWII the bells remained silent only to be rung if Britain was invaded. In 2012 the bells of Llantrisant were silent again, this time due to the poor condition of bells. 500 years of water penetration had wreaked havoc. In 2022 the gaps in the masonry of the 7ft thick walls was restored but what about the bells? Over a pint in the local pub members of the community discussed a new project – the re-installation of the bells. Fund raising began immediately and in May 2025 work began to remove the 8 bells that would be taken away, refurbished and tuned before being returned. The tenor, the largest bell weighed in at 9 ½ cwt. The restoration of the tower began which involved putting in steel beams to replace rotted timbers and lifting beams to help if the bells needed to be moved in the future. Two new bells were commissioned which are lighter and don't require so much physical strength to ring them so younger members of the community can learn to ring. Finally, St. Davids Day weekend 2026 saw the return of the bells to Llantrisant and the completion of a remarkable restoration project that saw the whole community come together.

Next month's speaker

The original speaker for June has cancelled – Details of a new speaker TBA

Sully u3a Needs You

Sully u3a committee would like to proceed with having a page on Facebook as opposed to being a group on Facebook. There is a fundamental difference – want to know what it is?

We're looking for people who are

- Not afraid to use their computer or are willing to learn skills.

You needn't be a tech wizard but are you interested in learning to do more on your computer?

- Have a creative side

Do you like taking photos? Do you like writing, would you be able to write interesting/witty posts?

- Are you able to commit a small amount of time regularly each week?

- Would you find it interesting to know not only about the newsworthy events that are happening in Sully u3a each week but also within Wales and even internationally?

If you have answered Yes to just one of these questions, please contact us to find out a little more about this project development that aims to

- Raise Public Awareness of what the u3a organisation is all about.

- Encourage potential new members.

- Keep existing members up to date and aware of all that is going on within Sully u3a.

You won't be asked to join the committee or commit to anything that you're unwilling to do – we would however welcome your thoughts. Please contact – facebook@sullyu3a.co.uk to find out more.

Don't forget to visit the Sully u3a website

There is a wealth of useful information on our website, it can be reached at [Sully](#) (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click) or use the QR code



Also check out the national website

[u3a - Welcome to u3a](#) (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click)

Here are some fun facts about June

Believe it or not, in both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June

June is named after Juno, the ancient Roman goddess of marriage and childbirth

June babies fall under two star signs: Gemini (until June 20th) and Cancer (from June 21st)

The month is represented by two beautiful blooms: The Rose (symbolising love and romance) and Honeysuckle (symbolising happiness)

Once, June was the 4th month of the year. A year had barely 10 months until Julius Ceaser came to power. By adding 2 extra months to the year in 46BC, he produced the Julian calendar, which made June the 6th month.

June the 4th National Cheese Day: June 11th Corn on the Cob Day: June 16th National Fudge Day (my favourite)

Regards,
Paul Lister (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)