

Sully and District u3a Newsletter June 2026



GROUP NEWS

Geology

There is a field trip being organised by the SWN Geology group which is on 29th June = **The Geology of the Pontneddfechan area, Neath Valley**

more information is on the Sully website on the groups link page. Link below

https://sully.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/geology-group-link/

Message from Membership

Contact details

Reminder - if you change any of your contact details please let membership know.

Recently a number of emails have bounced back because they are out of date - then I have been unable to contact people by phone as the numbers are also out of date.

Click the link here to contact membership [Website Membership Page](#)

This link is found on the Membership page of our Website

u3a matters Magazine

If you wish to receive the magazine please contact membership via the link above.

Also if you have recently received the magazine but do not want it please let Membership know via the link above.

Membership Secretary changeover

Debbie Jones will be taking over as Membership Secretary later this month. Maggie is staying on the Committee and will be taking on a new role in the near future.

June Speaker's Report



Growth, Greed and Government seen through Glass

Sully u3a welcomed Mr. Alan Oliver whose talk gave a fascinating insight into the rise and fall of the British pressed glass industry which spanned a hundred years during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The “glass tax” of 1746 made Crystal glass extremely expensive and only owned by the wealthy. When in 1845 the tax was repealed this led to a number of entrepreneurs recognising an opportunity to provide glass products to the rising middle classes of the Victorian age. Three names were most prominent during this period and all set up factories in the North East of England. John Sowerby opened his factory in 1850 followed by Henry Greener, who had started as an apprentice before branching out on his own in 1859 and George Davidson who opened his factory in 1867. The process of the production of their glass was to pour the heated glass into a metal mould. It was then “pressed” into the pattern carved into the mould and allowed to cool before the mould was opened and workers would finish the piece by hand, adding handles or decoration. In this way hundreds of pieces of glass could be produced in a day at very affordable prices. Early moulds of 1870’s were in four pieces, then three and by 1950 just two sections. The three factories competed with each other over the decades refining techniques and experimenting with many creative ideas always looking for the next trend to capture the attention of the public and boost sales. In 1888 Henry Greener introduced his glass baskets in different colours. Then “white vitro” was introduced giving a porcelain look to items. Davidson produced Uranium glass which glowed green under UV light and “cloud glass” in 1922 which is opaque. Novelty items were made and often given away free with chocolates or as prizes at

fairgrounds because of this it never really lost the moniker of being “poor man’s crystal”. In the 1950’s and 60’s their popularity began to decline and one by one the factories closed. The Glass Centre in Sunderland now holds their legacy and a video can be watched here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl_ulwcPyms

At the end of the talk members of Sully u3a audience were able to view the examples Mr Oliver had brought from his personal collection and many commented that they had a piece at home.

Note the link shows the video Alan tried but was unable to show during his talk. (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click)

Next month’s speaker

Thursday 9th July 2026 at 2.00pm.



Join Phyllis as she takes you through the working lives of the footmen and housemaids of the Big House where she is upper housemaid. A light-hearted glimpse into the homes of wealthy Edwardians at a time when employment in domestic service was at its peak. Hard work, eccentricities and gossip are all featured in this costumed performance based on real life accounts from the Edwardian era.

The Sundaes bring Diva Las Vega to Penarth. Starring Penarth's very own Keis Lea



Keris Lea's The SUND AES **PWL MANAGEMENT** **As Seen on BBC ONE**

Diva LAS VEGAS

Scan for Tickets 

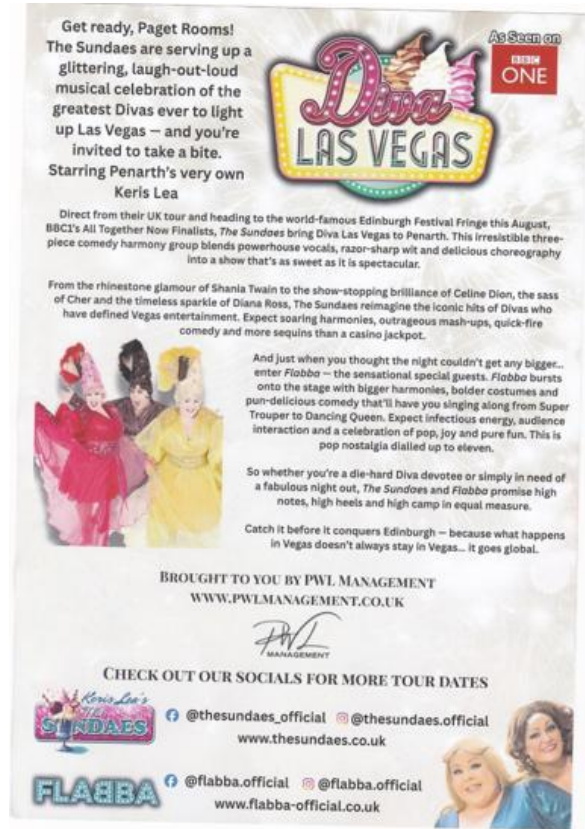
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **FLABBA**

www.ticketsource.co.uk/pwl-management

Saturday 4th July at 7.30pm

Page Rooms,
Victoria Road, Penarth CF64 3EG

PAGET ROOMS



Get ready, Page Rooms!
The Sundaes are serving up a glittering, laugh-out-loud musical celebration of the greatest Divas ever to light up Las Vegas – and you're invited to take a bite.
Starring Penarth's very own Keris Lea

Diva LAS VEGAS **As Seen on BBC ONE**

Direct from their UK tour and heading to the world-famous Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August, BBC's All Together Now Finalists, *The Sundaes* bring *Diva Las Vegas* to Penarth. This irresistible three-piece comedy harmony group blends powerhouse vocals, razor-sharp wit and delicious choreography into a show that's as sweet as it is spectacular.

From the rhinestone glamour of Shania Twain to the show-stopping brilliance of Celine Dion, the sass of Cher and the timeless sparkle of Diana Ross, *The Sundaes* reimagine the iconic hits of Divas who have defined Vegas entertainment. Expect soaring harmonies, outrageous mash-ups, quick-fire comedy and more sequins than a casino jackpot.

And just when you thought the night couldn't get any bigger... enter *Flabba* – the sensational special guests. *Flabba* bursts onto the stage with bigger harmonies, bolder costumes and pun-delicious comedy that'll have you singing along from *Super Trouper* to *Dancing Queen*. Expect infectious energy, audience interaction and a celebration of pop, joy and pure fun. This is pop nostalgia dialled up to eleven.

So whether you're a die-hard Diva devotee or simply in need of a fabulous night out, *The Sundaes* and *Flabba* promise high notes, high heels and high camp in equal measure.

Catch it before it conquers Edinburgh – because what happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas... it goes global.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY PWL MANAGEMENT
WWW.PWLMANAGEMENT.CO.UK

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS FOR MORE TOUR DATES

Keris Lea's The SUND AES  @thesundaes_official  @thesundaes.official
www.thesundaes.co.uk

FLABBA  @flabba.official  @flabba.official
www.flabba-official.co.uk

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)

SCAM Warning

Warning for online shoppers after spike in criminals gaining unauthorised access to retailer accounts

Report Fraud has warned online shoppers to watch for suspicious activity after a sharp rise in criminals gaining unauthorised access to retailer accounts, **particularly Argos**. Offenders often use login details stolen in data breaches, taking advantage of people who reuse passwords across multiple sites. Once inside an account, they place orders for expensive items and commonly use click-and-collect services to retrieve them in person. In some cases, payment details unrelated to the account holder are also used. Reports mentioning Argos rose dramatically in May, increasing by 323 per cent from April, with 652 cases recorded in one month alone. Since the start of 2026, 1,175 reports have mentioned the retailer. Authorities and Argos are working together to identify suspicious activity, contact affected customers and strengthen safeguards. Shoppers are advised to reset compromised passwords, avoid reusing them, enable two-step verification and refrain from saving payment details on retailer accounts.

If you have been a victim of fraud, you should tell Report Fraud by reporting it on the website at **reportfraud.police.uk** or by calling 0300 123 2040. Or if you live in Scotland, call 101.

Courier fraud alert

Over-70s targeted as losses top £21 million in 2025.

City of London Police have warned that courier fraud is rising across the UK, with losses exceeding £21 million in 2025. Reports increased by almost 10 per cent, from 1,721 in 2024 to 1,891 in 2025, and the average loss per victim was £15,311. Older people, especially those over 70, are most at risk, with people aged 76 to 96 making up around 62 per cent of reports. Fraudsters often pose as police officers or bank staff, claiming an account is at risk or that the victim is helping an investigation. They then pressure victims to withdraw cash, buy jewellery or gold, or reveal sensitive details before sending a courier to collect valuables. **Police stress that banks and the police will never ask anyone to move money, hand over cards, cash or valuables, and advise checking suspicious calls using trusted contact details or 159.**

Abbreviated by AI

Fun facts about July

July, the seventh month of the year, is named after Julius Caesar and is packed with historical events, summer fun, and unique cultural celebrations.

Origins and Name

July was originally called **Quintilis** in Latin, meaning the fifth month of the Roman calendar, which began in March. It was renamed **July** in Honour of **Julius Caesar**, who was born in this month and reformed the calendar to create the Julian calendar still influential today

Zodiac and Birthstones

July is associated with two **zodiac signs**: **Cancer** (June 21 – July 22), known for being nurturing and sensitive, and **Leo** (July 23 – August 22), known for confidence and

charisma. The **birthstone** for July is the **ruby**, symbolizing love and passion, and the **birth flower** is the **water lily**, representing beauty and rebirth.

Weather and Seasons

In the **Northern Hemisphere**, July is typically the **hottest month**, with record temperatures reaching **134°F (57°C)** in California in 1913. Conversely, in the **Southern Hemisphere**, it is the coldest month, with extreme winter conditions near the South Pole. The **Dog Days of Summer** begin in late July, named after the star **Sirius**, historically associated with heat and drought.

Historical Events

July has witnessed many significant events:

Apollo 11 Moon Landing: Neil Armstrong walked on the moon on **July 20, 1969**.

United States Independence Day: Celebrated on **July 4, 1776**, marking the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Bastille Day: France celebrates its national holiday on **July 14**, commemorating the French Revolution.

First Bikini Unveiled: On **July 5, 1946**, the world's first bikini was modeled in Paris.

Rabies Vaccine First Administered: Louis Pasteur gave the first successful rabies vaccine on **July 6, 1885**.

Cultural and Global Celebrations

July hosts a variety of **national holidays and festivals**:

World Chocolate day 7th of July world chocolate day is just a day for enjoying and celebrating the introduction of chocolate to Europe for which many of us are very grateful

St Swithin's day July 15th a traditional British folk day, according to legend whatever the weather is on this day it will continue for 40 days

Wimbledon the oldest tennis tournament in the world usually culminates during the second weekend of July

Canada Day on **July 1** celebrates the confederation of Canada.

San Fermín Festival in Pamplona, Spain, features the famous **Running of the Bulls** in early July.

Many countries in the Southern Hemisphere, like **Argentina** and **Colombia**, celebrate independence days in July.

Nature and Astronomy

Perseid Meteor Shower begins in late July, peaking in mid-August.

Fireflies are most visible during warm July evenings, and many butterflies reach peak populations.

In the **Arctic Circle**, the **midnight sun** phenomenon is observable throughout July.

July is a month full of **summer energy, historical milestones, and cultural celebrations**, making it a fascinating and vibrant time of the year.

Regards,
Paul Lister (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)