Sully and District u3a Newsletter October 2026

Group News

Apologies for any confusion over the picture published in the September newsletter after the congratulations to Deborah, it was not meant to be attributed to Deborah but was included as an example of the projects that Knitters and Stitchers achieve during their meetings.

Open Day.
Thanks to everyone who came to the Open Day last Thursday and made it such a success. We had about 17 people join as new members. Maggie (our Membership Secretary) was kept very busy all afternoon taking money! Many groups had good interest shown in them so I hope all the Group Leaders were happy with the outcomes! I didn't hear any complaints. I would like to increase the range of Interest Groups we have on offer. Please tell me if there is anything you would like to learn or pass on your knowledge of something you know a bit about, I'd love to hear from you. I know other U3As play sports like Pickleball and Walking Football (I don't know anything about them but there is a lot of help out there!).

Gill
(Groups Admin)

Craft Group
We have 8 members interested in forming this group, so a meeting has been arranged for 10.30 am Thursday 22nd October at Sully Old School.
Anyone who has an interest in being a part of this group are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Helpers
Two of our new members have put their names down immediately to start us off but we are looking for more to join them.
We hope to have a "pool" of members that we can call upon whenever we need a helping hand. That might be welcoming people at our monthly meetings or making tea on our open Day or putting out plates of sandwiches at our Christmas Party. If you feel you'd be able to help out occasionally, please sign up for this group.

We also had new members asking for **Beginners French** and **Theatre/Drama** so are there any other of our members interested in making up a new group with them?

Gill
(Groups Admin)

CHRISTMAS PARTY
On Thursday 10th December we will be holding our CHRISTMAS PARTY! This has been a popular event over the years. The List of names has started, so if you want to come, please email me on groups@sullyu3a. co.uk. Or put your name and email address on the list on our notice board in the Old School. It is free of charge again this year. I would like to make it more special by having your input of ideas. It was great last year when a couple of people came forward and gave us some lovely readings and poems. This year I am giving you a longer window for you to think up something to do at the party, e.g., a reading, a poem, a sketch (with someone else perhaps?) or maybe a song. We will hopefully, be having the help of the Singing for Pleasure group to lead us with carols and Christmas songs again. If anyone has any ideas for the party, please contact me. Thanks in anticipation.

Gill
(Groups Admin)

Next month's speaker

Thursday 12th November 2026 at 2.00pm.

The Life and Times of

Captain Richard Wain VC

with

Dr Jonathan Hicks

This month, as part of our Remembrance Sunday commemoration, we welcome back Dr Jonathan Hicks, military historian and novelist, to tell the poignant story of Captain Richard Wain VC of Penarth who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his actions during the First World War. Dr Hicks will also tell the rags to riches story of his family, from agricultural labourers to prosperous local business owners.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them"

R. Binyon

Sully u3a Members' Survey for 2026

Thank you for your fantastic response to our members' survey. 26% of you have responded, significantly over our target.

We originally announced the survey would stay open until the end of November; however, so we can get to work on the results and deliver them to you faster, committee has decided to close the survey by 31st October.

So there is still time for you to complete the survey if you haven't done so already, but we will close it on 31st October.

Here is the link to the survey again: Sully u3a Member Survey 2026 – Fill in form (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click)

We'll send you headline results in the Christmas newsletter.

Best regards
Paul Lister (chair) and Sarah Williams (committee member)

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)

u3a getaways

To see what's on offer, follow the link below
explore the full schedule of future getaways. (place cursor over the link and press ctrl + click)

Fun facts about November

November is the 11th month but was originally the ninth month in the Roman calendar, with its name derived from the Latin word novem, meaning nine.

November 11th is a very important day where we remember those who lost their lives in past wars.
November 11th is known as Armistice or Remembrance Day in the UK. Wreath-laying ceremonies, usually organised by local branches of the Royal British Legion, are observed on Remembrance Day at most war memorials across the UK at 11 am on 11 November, with two minutes of silence observed; So, wear your poppy with pride in November!

It is a month associated with harvest storage and preparation for winter, sometimes referred to as the start of human "hibernation".

November marks the **transition from autumn to winter** in the UK, with falling leaves creating picturesque landscapes and temperatures beginning to drop, signalling the start of winter preparations.

Traditionally, it was called **"Blotmonath" or "blood month"** in Old English, referring to the slaughtering of livestock for winter provisions, also **"Windmonath"** due to the strong winds typical of the month.

A key cultural event is **Guy Fawkes' Night (Bonfire Night)** on November 5th, commemorating the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Celebrations include **bonfires, fireworks, toffee apples, and Catherine wheels**, making it one of the most distinctive November traditions in the UK.

Famous UK figures connected to November include Edmond Halley, the astronomer, and Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet, who both have notable life events in this month.

November also features **astronomical events**, such as the **Taurid meteor shower** in early November and the **Leonid meteor shower** in mid-November, offering spectacular celestial displays.

November in the UK is thus a blend of historical significance, seasonal beauty, and cultural celebration, making it a uniquely fascinating month.

Regards,
Paul Lister (Sully u3a Newsletter editor)