

Bus Pass Thursday – 2019 Schedule

December 2018

Bath by train. Group booking for rail fare is £14. Morning coffee at The Pump Rooms. Many places to visit including the Bath Christmas Market. Lunch venue is Hall & Woodhouse.

Booking for this trip is NOW CLOSED.

2019

10th January

The January BPT will be to Pontypool Museum (£3 entry), on the 10th of January. We leave Cardiff around 9:45 and arrive at the museum at 11:00. We take tea or coffee in their rather quaint tea room serving delicious home made cakes.

The permanent collection reveals the rich and unique history of the Borough from Llantarnam in the south to Blaenavon in the north. It features prehistoric objects and medieval treasure troves, to industrial revolution items and cultural artefacts as well as fine and decorative art including the famous Pontypool & Usk Japanware. This collection tells the story of how events have helped to shape the valley, the landscape and its people. Inside the museum the Oriel Barker Art Gallery hosts both local artists and eighteenth century paintings by Thomas and Benjamin Barker and other artworks held by Torfaen Museum Trust.

We take lunch at the Greenhouse Inn in Llantarnam after paying a quick visit to St Michaels churchyard to find the grave of soldier John Fielding whose actions at Rorke`s Drift earned him a V.C. Look out for information about John Fielding at the museum.

We return to Cardiff about 4:30/5:00pm

You may book this trip no earlier than 8:00am on the 19th of December.

7th February

The BPT visits the National Assembly Senedd and Pierhead buildings. We make our own way to the Bay and meet at the Senedd for coffee. This is followed by a guided tour of the Senedd which is the main public building of the National Assembly, the main centre for democracy and devolution in Wales. It houses the National Assembly for Wales` Siambwr (debating chamber) and Committee Rooms. It is one of the most environmentally friendly parliament buildings in the world, where visitors can gain an insight into the workings of the Assembly.

Afterwards we walk across to the monumental Pierhead Building which houses a tribute to the history of Wales. A collection of artefacts showcase milestones in Welsh history from 950 to 1997. An Oral Histories room offers fascinating audio accounts of life in Cardiff Bay, told by a variety of contributors, from old Pierhead employees to senior statesmen. The Pierhead Suite gives us a window onto the past through a digital display that pays tribute to Welsh heroes who have made significant contributions to Welsh life and identity. Depending on the use of the building on the day, it may be possible to have

either an introductory talk or a guided tour.

Lunch will be taken at Signor Valentino a very short walk from the Pierhead building.

You may book this trip no earlier than 8:00am on the 6th of January

7th March

We travel to the famous Penderyn Distillery, in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons National Park, which produces one of the world's finest single malt whiskeys. Very limited numbers for this trip! More details to follow.

Numbers will be strictly limited.

You may book for this trip no earlier than 8:00am on the 6th of February.

11th April

We visit the old town of Chepstow complete with its Norman castle which started construction in 1067. We have free entry to the castle which is one of the finest in Wales. We also visit Chepstow museum which is opposite the castle, here, entry is also free.

The museum's exhibits reflect the development of Chepstow, once an important port and bustling market town. The displays show the growth and decline of the port with its valuable wine and timber trades. Shipbuilding and salmon fishing and many other aspects of working life in Chepstow with settings which recapture the essence of original scenes. Pleasures and pastimes are recalled in original photographs, programmes and posters. Whilst at the museum please look out for something that may link my family to the area.

The venue for lunch is to be decided.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 6th of March

16th May

Margam Park will be our trip for May. In its grounds is the 19th Century Margam Castle, This Tudor Gothic Mansion was designed by the architect Thomas Hopper for Christopher Rice Mansel Talbot, and built between 1830 – 40. A fire in 1977 gutted the interior but the Great Hallway is on display to the public. Of course its 17th Century Orangery can be viewed as well as monastic ruins set within the Park. You will have time to wander some of the extensive grounds and perhaps even a trip on the miniature 24" railway (£1 concessionary fare). Look out for the fairy tail village (for children aged 6 to 10, but hey!!), it will bring a smile to your face!

Lunch Ye Olde Wine house or Braseria (sic) El Prado, near Bridgend.

You may book this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 10th of April

13th June

One of the most exciting heritage projects in South Wales, Cosmeston Medieval Village lets you step back in time to see, touch, and even smell how life was in 14th century Wales.

We meet the villagers, all dressed in period costume, and experience how they lived. Our guided tour costs £3.50 (concession).

Coffee at the cafe in the park and lunch afterwards at the The Mint and Mustard Indian restaurant which has 25% off food on the lunch menu!

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 15th of May

11th July

We go to Big Pit. This will be an early start and a bit later than normal finish. Big Pit needs very little introduction other than to mention it was a working colliery where you go underground and actually walk along the dramways to the coal face. Good shoes and suitable clothing are recommended!

Lunch venue to be decided

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 12th of June

8th August

Pontypridd, the home of the Welsh National Anthem and refurbished Lido! Coffee in the Muni Art Centre then a visit to Pontypridd museum and a walk through Ynysangharad Park to view the Lido and on to lunch at the Trattoria or Alfred's Bar and Grill.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 10th of July

5th September

For September we go to the Olde village of Llantrisant. Coffee will be taken at the Butcher's Arms Gallery and Coffee shop. Llantrisant has a long and interesting history. Many will know a little about the surgeon Dr Price. Following his famous trial of 1884 Dr Price saw the Cremation Society of Great Britain famously pass the Cremation Act of 1902. We may be able to have a guided tour as well as visit the church. In Llantrisant we find the Bull Ring once used for bull baiting as well as the opportunity to visit the Model house. This has three levels packed with interesting craft shops and studios. Lunch will be in Talbot Green.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 7th of August

Numbers will be strictly limited.

10th October - date may change

We visit New Tredegar. Only ever heard of Tredegar, well it's new to a lot of people! Further details to follow.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 4th of September

14th November - date may change

Swansea is our destination with its famous indoor market and of course we will take coffee at the last remaining Kardoma Cafe complete with 1960 decor and waitresses wearing aprons. Lunch is likely to be at the Meridian Tower famous for its vertigo inducing views over Swansea and Swansea bay. Among the places to visit are of course the Waterfront, Swansea museum, Dylan Thomas centre, the Egypt centre and the National Waterfront Welsh Industrial museum. Plenty to do then! Lunch will be at the Meridian Tower.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 9th of October

12th December - *date may change*

Our now established December train trip is to Bristol and we get a group rate for the train with reserved seats both ways.. We have of course travelled there using a bus but getting there by train gives us a lot more time to eat, drink and visit Bristol's many attractions.

Numbers are likely to be strictly limited.

You may book for this trip no sooner than 8:00am on the 1st of November