

Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Monthly Meetings

We hold our monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month in Pontyclun Community Hall starting at 1:00pm with tea or coffee.

April Meeting

On Monday 15 April Aidan Sheehan will be telling us all about the Ukulele

May Meeting

On 20 May our speaker Graham Watkins will be enlightening us with a talk entitled 'from novice wordsmith to published novelist'.

June Meeting

The 17 June sees Clive Williams return by popular demand to Pontyclun U3A. Clive will be enthraling us all once again with his Classical Music presentation.

Our new notice board

We now have our own notice board.



You'll find it on the side of the Credit Union building. We'll be starting to fill the board with news and events and are keen to publicise what is going on in Pontyclun U3A. If you have any news from your groups or ideas of what you'd like us to promote, please let **Sheila Gifford** know.

Pontyclun U3A becomes the latest U3A to sign up to Beacon.



We're the 292nd U3A to join Beacon!

What is Beacon?

Beacon is an online management system specifically designed to support the operation and administration of local U3As. It will help ensure we remain GDPR compliant and will mean a more efficient and joined-up way of running our U3A.

What does it mean to me?

It will not affect individual members, other than each member being able to access and update their personal contact details. Group Leaders will also have the opportunity to manage their group membership lists, use calendars and send group emails using the system.

Beacon is growing

Geographically Beacon stretches from Guernsey in the south to Perth in the north; from Lowestoft in the east to Preseli, St. Austell and Bushmills in the West.

The system is supported by a group of volunteers and there is a small cost for each U3A, which is currently £1:00 per member. Gordon Hill is our Beacon Site Administrator.

If you're interested in finding out more about Beacon you can visit the Beacon website [here](#).

Short Story Competition

Once again, the Wales U3A network are running short story competition. There are three categories; Welsh 2nd language, Welsh 1st language and English. Entries must be in by 31st August. You can find full details on the Wales U3A website [here](#).

AGM and Committee nominations

Monday 20 May 2019 sees our third Annual General Meeting. Once again, we will have to elect our committee officers and members.

This year 7 of our current 13 committee members will be stepping down! We'll be saying goodbye to Sarah Carmichael, Secretary; David Pryor, Deputy Chair; Kath Clarke, Membership Secretary; Margaret Griffiths, Monthly Speaker Secretary; Barbara Porter, Care & Well Being and Committee Members, Paul Griffiths and Jacky Pryor.

Fortunately, 6 of our existing committee members will be standing again for election. They are, Chris Dickson, Chair, Barbara Hancock, Treasurer and Paul Frowen Deputy Chair, supported by Sheila Gifford, Gordon Hill and Pauline Peck.

Ideally, we need another 4 members on the committee so please, please, do think about joining this small group of people who work to help improve our U3A and keep it going. Without its committee Pontyclun U3A will not exist.

Sarah will need your nominations for committee by Monday 15 April 2019. In the meantime if you've got any queries or just want to know a bit more about the committee just get in touch with Chris or Sarah.

Privacy and Data Protection Policy updates

We've updated our Privacy and Data Protection Policies. The Third Age Trust has advised U3As to change from using consent as our lawful basis for gathering and processing members' contact details to either Contract or Legitimate Interest. Your committee has agreed to use Legitimate Interest as our lawful basis.

You can find our latest Privacy and Data Protection Policies on our website [here](#) or you can request a copy.

Convincing win for Pontyclun at South Wales U3A Network

On Friday 25 January a team of 6 members from Pontyclun U3A joined 10 other teams at Brackla Community Centre for a quizzing afternoon hosted by Bridgend U3A.

Bridgend, Cardiff and Maesteg all fielded two teams, and Cowbridge, Porthcawl, Swansea, Tonyrefail and Pontyclun all fielded one. The opening round was a cryptic crossword's dream on the theme of parts of the body. Whoever would have thought that a "wine without the s" would be a retina!

Your Pontyclun team scored a healthy 19 out of 20 for this round! Shorter rounds on British Geography, General Knowledge, Human Anatomy, Music, Literature, Food and Drink were all scored out of 10, but teams had one Joker card each which could be played at the start of any of the short rounds to double that round's score.

Our team played their Joker after the tea break, and doubled their 9 out of 10 for Music to a fabulous 18! At the final reckoning Pontyclun were triumphant with 76 points out of a possible 90, or 84% - an excellent quiz score and well ahead of the nearest rivals in the high 60's.

Each member of the team was awarded a silver cup (real plastic!) and a sharing box of Celebrations was also awarded. The team agreed to donate the chocolates to Pontyclun U3A to use as a raffle prize for a future event.

Team members: Barrie Hamilton, Paul Frowen, Tessa and Paul Blissett, Rhian and Arnie Jones

Café 50 Quiz night

Following on the success of our U3A at the South Wales U3A Network quiz we entered two teams in the recent Café 50 quiz. The quiz was held on the evening of Friday 22 March in Café 50 and we came a very respectable 2nd and 3rd. Well done to all!

Porthcawl U3A study day 12 June

Porthcawl U3A are hosting a study day, open to all U3A members on Wednesday 12 June at the Hi Tide Inn. The theme for the study day is 'The Sea'. There will be no less than three keynote speakers and the cost is a very reasonable £12 per person which includes a two-course lunch. You are advised to book early as places are limited. You can find out more [here](#).

Our trip to Tyntesfield on 29 March



I was really looking forward to re-visiting Tyntesfield, having briefly visited last year to meet family for lunch. This time, I would be able to look around the house and the estate.

We were all very impressed with our first stop; The Cowshed restaurant. Its renovation; retaining many original features (fortunately not the smell!), and I can personally vouch for the excellent coffee cake!

The house itself is a Grade 1 listed Victorian Gothic mansion. It was purchased by the National Trust in 2001 following the death of the then owner, Richard Gibbs in 2001, the National Trust launched a huge fund-raising campaign to purchase Tyntesfield. They are rumoured to have been bidding up against the likes of Madonna, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Kylie Minogue!

William Gibbs purchased the house in the 1860s and four generations of the Gibbs family lived there. William was one of the richest men in the country having made his vast fortune from guano, shipped from Peru and used as fertilizer by the Victorians. He expanded and remodeled the house in a Gothic Revival style, adding a church in the 1870s. He also added an extra floor, two new wings and towers.

What a treasure is Tyntesfield. We were able to tour many of the rooms, and there are still more to be renovated and opened up to the public. The furniture is from the 1860s and early 1900s. The rooms are crammed with family paraphernalia. The Victorian en-suite bathroom was impressive with beautiful original wall tiles and the original stencilled walls!

Original carpets, fabrics, wallpapers and stencilling have survived because blinds and shutters were closed against the sunlight and objects were stored away.

I really enjoyed my visit to Tyntesfield and can't wait to return to see more of the beautiful estate and have more scrumptious coffee cake!

Oh, Nantgarw! You know, I have never been there?

Well, on January 16th, our Day Group visited Nantgarw and what an amazing visit we had!



After a most warm welcome, a most generous lunch, we had an in-depth insight into the history of the delicate, fine, beautifully decorated Nantgarw China. We also had a demonstration of the throwing and learnt of the unique properties of this special clay.

This local industry is going to begin re-firing within the next few months. Also, due to much improved security, there will be a larger exhibition of this beautiful china which is known throughout the world.

So much more for us to see, when we make our return visit in August.
Chris Dickson

Welsh Conversation



Ar ddiwedd mis Chwefror, dathlodd y grŵp Sgwrsio Gymraeg penblwydd yr aelodau Marg ac Annie. Cawsom amser da gyda theisen siocled, canhwyllau a sgwrs gyfeillgar gyda aelodau eraill.

At the end of February, the Welsh Conversation group celebrated the birthdays of members Marg and Annie. We had a good time with chocolate cake, candles, songs and friendly conversation with the other members.