

# Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 4: May June 2017

## Monthly Meetings

We hold our monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month in Pontyclun Community Hall at 1:30pm

### May Meeting

On Monday 15 May we have our first AGM. The agenda and papers have been sent out and are available on our website, our speaker in May will be Rhodri

Morgan talking to us about his time as First Minister for Wales.

### June Meeting

Mike Chubb will be our speaker for our meeting on Monday 19 June. He will be telling us the fascinating story about the WW2 Bridgend Munitions Factory and the people who worked there

## Third Age Matters publication

All members who have paid their subscriptions by 8 May will receive their June copy of Third Age Matters publication. This will be sent directly to your home address (one per household). It is published on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, June, September, November and February. As new members join they will be added to the database for the next mailing.

## U3A Short Story Competition

Feeling creative? Then why not enter Wales U3A's Short Story competition?

You can enter a short story in either Welsh or English of no more than 1500 words. But your story must begin with the words 'On the coffee table in a blue and white bowl was ....'

More details can be found on our website [here](#).

## Pontyclun U3A meet Sara Rochira Older People's Commissioner for Wales

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On 8th March, Pontyclun U3A provided a display and information about the aims of U3A and our programme of activities at an event in Llantrisant leisure Centre, organised by Geoff Bell, the chair of the Rhondda Cynon Taf, Older People's Advisory Group

Sara Rochira, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales addressed the meeting. This was a fascinating summary of what she has been doing and who she has been meeting. As a result she continues to make services and government aware of the fact that people over 50 are an asset to our communities and not a burden.

*"We need to acknowledge that we are old and proud and still contributing"*

## Member's subscription

Thanks to those of you who paid your membership renewal subscription by the 1 April. We now know that we are viable for yet another year!

### U3A Quiz invitation

**Maesteg & Llynfi U3A** have invited us to take part in a U3A quiz on **13 June**. The quiz takes place in Coytrahen Community Centre. Teams will be offered tea/coffee and light refreshments from 1:30 pm, with the Quiz starting at 2:00 pm and finishing at 4:00 pm. A charge of £3.00 per participant will be made on the day. If you're interested please let Sarah Carmichael know.

### Getting involved in research

U3A has produced a guide to 'Getting Involved in Research'. It's been written for U3A members who may be interested in getting involved in research, including those who feel they

have no research experience. The most important quality for a researcher is curiosity – a desire to find out more about something – and that initial spark, shared with other U3A members, could lead to discoveries no else has had the time or interest to make. If you would like a copy of the guide you can download one from U3A's website or contact Sarah Carmichael  
To find out about current research projects visit U3A's National Research Database <http://u3aresearch.org.uk>.

### Pontyclun Stained Glass Window Competition and Festival

Our Sewing and Craft Group are still busy creating a stained glass window for the [festival and competition](#) held in St Paul's Church, Pontyclun on 28 & 29 June. Their next project will be

willow weaving. As they prepare for the festival and competition they are meeting in Café 50 at 1:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of May. So if you fancy getting involved or have ideas for future projects, please come along to one of their meetings or get in touch with Jackie Pryor.

### Gardening Group

The Gardening Group will be visiting Clyne Gardens, Swansea on 17 May not the 10 May as previously publicised . If you're interested in joining them please get in touch with Barbara Hancock.

**Next newsletter – please send your news and updates to Sarah Carmichael by 23 June 2017**

## Art Appreciation and History



Using Stella's well-researched and comprehensive guide to artists and artistic genres over the centuries, we are picking which artists we want to research month by month and having a really good discussion about them at the meetings. Research needn't be hard work (Internet), and the libraries are pretty obliging with books.

We've been looking at the work of Edward Hopper (use of light), Salvador Dali (what a character), Caravaggio (not his real name), Gustav Klimt (adored women!) and Hogarth (obsessed with suffering?) to name a few. The atmosphere is very informal and relaxed and it's an easy, sociable way to increase artistic appreciation and knowledge.

Of course, often the artists and their lifestyles are pretty interesting and frequently flamboyant or eccentric, so we are led into some lively discussions about their personalities as well as the work they've produced. This particularly applies to the Bloomsbury group (post-impressionist) who we've looked at most recently.

Everyone is welcome at our next meeting on Thursday, May 18th, 1.30. when we'll have a go at the Renaissance period, particularly Raphael and Titian.