

Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 14: July - September 2019

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.

July Meeting

On Monday July 15th Dean Powell will give a presentation on the subject of Welsh Male Voice Choirs

August Meeting

There will be no Meeting Summer Break

September Meeting

On Monday September 16th Ian Cross will join us to speak on the subject of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Pétanque Group



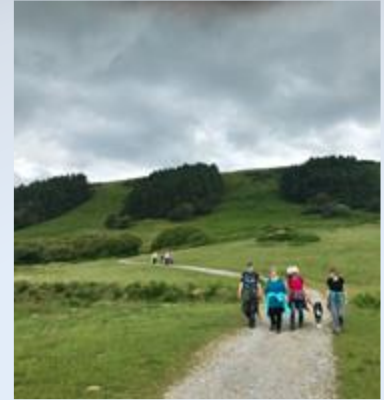
Pontyclun U3A's group will be participating in the U3A National Weekend of Pétanque which is effectively the U3A National Championship. It will be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants.

It is a triples competition, that is three players in any match, and Graham Atfield will be leading a squad of six to play in this event.

We wish them every success in this event

Walking in Margam Park

On a Monday morning when rain was threatened the Walking Group meet to enjoy a walk through Margam Park following the "Pulpit Trail" which went up a steep track behind the Castle.



We were able to see the last of the rhododendron blooms and were able to stop to view the valley beyond the park this was appreciated as we needed to catch our breath. The climb was more than rewarded when from the top of the ridge there was a stunning view over the coastal plain and to the Somerset coast.



On returning to the Castle for a well earned stop at the cafe, an essential to our walkers, we passed a herd of deer complete with stag and fawns. The rain fortunately did not start until we were leaving the park!

Wales Short Story Competition 2019

The Wales U3A Short Story competition for 2019, which is already running, has the opportunity to include a reference to a Welsh castle, which would then qualify the story to be included as part of the Castles SLP

Policy on new members

The Committee has reviewed the Policy for non-member attendance at meetings and Groups so that we can meet our insurance requirements.

If you introduce a friend to Pontyclun U3a they can enjoy a one-month **Taster** period where they can attend one meeting and as many group meetings as they wish or can manage during that month. They will be asked to complete a Membership Application where they can state they would like to be part of the Taster. At the end of the month, they can either pay for the year or decide not to join.



Future Walks 2019

July	August
8th. Salmon's Leap	12th. Cefn Onn Park
22nd. Castles of Cowbridge	26th. Bank Holiday
29th. Oxwich	
September	October
9th. The Garth	14th. Pentyrch Walk
23rd. Clydach Vale	28th. Beaupré Castle
November	December
11th. Rhondda Heritage Park	9th. Loaner House Vineyard
28th. Cardiff Park and Castle	

Castles in Wales

Chris Dickson, Sarah Carmichael and Sheila Gifford attended the Wales U3A Conference on May 8th 2019.



Llantrisant Castle

At this event, the Shared learning project of Coastline and Borders of Wales was presented with contributions from a range of U3As throughout Wales. Pontyclun was well represented with details of how the walking group embraced the challenge with their series of historic pub centred walks.

At the conference a new theme of The Castles of Wales was launched to celebrate the fact that Wales has more castles than any other country in the world.

There are a number of ways to join in:

As a Group: Pontyclun U3A will be organising a series of walks associated with nearby castles

Individually: You can contribute to the online collection of data of castles in your area by going to this website: <https://forms.gle/BynUzKZlt5DaDnMBA>

Submit a photograph: To the Wales Region Photography Competition 2019/2020 Competition Rules The theme for the 2019/2020 competition is 'The Castles of Wales' and images may be in colour or monochrome.

Details may be found here:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/walesu3a/docs/walesregionphotographycompetition2019rules.pdf>

Porthcawl U3A Study Day

Chris Latus, Enid Rees and Gordon Hill attended this event on the 12th June. The subject was "The Sea"



It was a very informative fascinating & enjoyable day. Covering Marine Molluscs, Plastic Pollution, Beaches & Tides and Coastal Change & Management.

Our trip to The National Botanic Gardens Of Wales

The Trips group in June visited The National Botanic Gardens of Wales despite the rather more autumnal than summer temperatures it was a very pleasant day. We did enjoy the warmth of the world's largest single-spanned glasshouse, designed by Lord Foster, with its display of Mediterranean climate zone plants.



Being sturdy folks in Pontyclun U3A we braved the cool day and thoroughly enjoyed exploring all that was on offer. The gardens have considerably developed since opening and there was lots to see and gave us ideas for our own gardens if on a smaller scale.



Thanks go from the group to Chris Dickson who arranged the day but who unfortunately was not able to come.

Book group

The book group meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm in Cafe 50. Each month we select a title to be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. Over the past year we have read a variety of books, new best sellers, biographies and members favourite authors these have included 'The Silent Patient' by Alex Michaelides, 'The Trouble with Goats and Sheep' by Joanna Canon and the challenging 'One Hundred Years Solitude' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. If you are interested in joining the group why not email the group leader Chris Latus

Chris.latus@sky.com to be put on the mailing list so you can join in the discussion in September of our summer holiday reading choice.

Other Group News

Gordon Hill is looking into the feasibility of a Tennis Table group and will report at next month's meeting.

The Gardening group visited an open garden in Llanishen in June.

The Music Appreciation continues strongly. In early July we are meeting to listen to Acapella music (including choirs)

Visit to Dewstone Gardens 8th May

These photographs were taken by Peter Hughes on our visit to Dewstone Garden, near Caldicot, in May.

The first photograph shows the unique shape of a part of the subterranean garden which was created in the 1890s out of Pulhamite, an artificial stone. The subterranean gardens of grottoes, waterfalls, streams and pools were filled in in the 1950s.



They were Re-discovered and restored twenty years ago and now provide a microclimate for the fine display of plants that now grow there

Photographs two and three capture the beauty of the surrounding

landscaped gardens which include lakes, ponds and many fine trees and shrubs



This was the Group's second visit to Dewstone in two years but this hidden gem

of a garden never fails to delight us.

Barbara Hancock

Maesteg U3A Quiz

Two teams from Pontyclun U3A took part in this event that was held in the Coytrahen Community Centre on 18th June.

Of the 11 participating teams Pontyclun U3A finished in second and third places. Our thanks are offered to Maesteg U3A for their organization and hospitality