

Newsletter Pontyclun



Jan/Feb 2017

Issue 2

Monthly Meetings

Pontyclun U3A hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month in Pontyclun Community Hall at 1:30 pm

January Meeting

Monday 16 January

At January's intriguingly entitled talk 'When Wales Was', we'll hear speaker Welsh historian Professor Gareth Williams entertain us with a fascinating talk on the most significant years in the making of modern Wales.

Gareth is an acknowledged authority on the popular culture of Wales and has written and broadcast widely on the social history of sport and choral singing. His most recent book *Do You Hear the People Sing? The male voice choirs of Wales* came out last year.

February Meeting

Monday 20 February

Liz Matthews of Barry RNLI will be the speaker at our February meeting. Liz will be telling us about the history of the RNLI, the work they do in rescuing from the sea and from floods and about how to stay safe and enjoy the sea.

Pontyclun U3A website goes live!



Thanks go to U3A member Peter Cox who has been busy uploading content to our new website. As well as advertising our presence to the wider world we hope the site will become a useful resource for members. But we do need your help.

Please take a look at <http://u3asites.org.uk/pontyclun> and let us

know what information you think would be useful; perhaps links to other sites or a member's area?

We'd also love to feature some of your photographs; whether from your interest groups, or of Pontyclun and the surrounding area.

And we desperately need your help to find a better cover picture for our website! Any photographers among you please send your photographs by email to Sarah Carmichael.

If you'd like to know how to edit your group page Peter and Sarah can show you how - it's really easy! They'll be giving a short presentation on the web site in the new year.

Walking Group ventures out of the county

According to a recent U3A survey the most popular Interest Group among U3As in the UK is Walking. And Pontyclun U3A is no exception with a thriving Walking Group. At least 16 of us meet and walk twice a month .

We began our walks back in April staying fairly local around Pontyclun and Llantrisant. Seven months on and we are venturing further afield into the neighbouring counties of Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.

We walk for around two hours, sometimes longer, often finishing at a cafe for a welcome cup of coffee.

Walking Group contact: Chris Dickson

Events

Saturday 28 January Vintage Fair at Wales National Botanic Gardens.

Cost: £3.00 entry, coach £20 (approx). Payment by 19 December
Contact: Chris Dickson

Wednesday 15 March Tour of Llanelly House, Llanelli.

£3:00 deposit by 16 January
Contact: Enid Rees

News

15 May 2017 Pontyclun U3A 1st Annual General Meeting

At the AGM we will elect our Committee members for the next year. Members of the current Committee 'stand down' and U3A members will nominate and elect candidates for the various Committee roles.

Present Committee members can be re-elected if they wish to stand again and are proposed.

Serving on the Committee can be a rewarding experience. If you think you might be interested or would just like to know more, please let Chris or Sarah know.

Subject Matter Advisors

From Art Appreciation to Crafts to Wine Appreciation, U3A has over 50 subject advisors to help anyone wanting to start up a new group or to give advice on problems in established groups. You can find out more in the members' area of the [national website](#) under Subject Advice.

Next Newsletter - if you have any news to submit to the next newsletter (March/April) please send to Sarah Carmichael **by 8 February.**

Members of the Walking Group at Penarth cliff top



Gardening Group visit Dyffryn Gardens

The Gardening Group visited Dyffryn Gardens for our November meeting.

We saw the various garden "rooms", comparing the layout with the original 1906 design by Thomas Mawson, the landscape architect. His design included a lake with an underwater observation room in a tower by the lake. His plan was abandoned when the filling of the lake resulted in the cellars of Dyffryn House flooding.

We saw the walled kitchen gardens and the new glasshouse containing magnificent cacti, succulents and orchids. Helpers in the kitchen garden include two Oxford sandy and black pigs. Dyffryn has not named them but we honoured them with the names, Margaret and Pauline. Nothing at all to do with U3A members Pauline Rackley and Margaret Hopkin of course!



Margaret and Pauline eating lunch

Gardening Group contact: Barbara Hancock