

Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 16 : January to March 2020

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.

February Meeting

Monday February 17th Sally Mabey will present a talk about the Bayeux Tapestry

March Meeting

Monday March 16th, A presentation about the Glamorgan Canal by Keith Jones

April Meeting

On April 20th Sam Holliday will tell us about Maggie's Centre Cardiff

Walks Programme

Below are the proposed walks From January until the end of June.

Pontyclun U3A Walks Winter /Spring 2020

13 th Jan	Bedford Park	13 th Apl	Easter Monday No Walk
27 th Jan	Ogmore	27 th Apl	Cefn-Onn Park
10 th Feb	Newport Wetlands	11 th May	Castellau
24 th Feb	Merthyr Town Walk	25 th May	Bank Holiday No Walk
9 th Mar	Garwnant	8 th June	Iron Fort Llantrisant
23 rd Mar	St Brides Major	22 nd June	Hensol Woods
30 th Mar	Rest Bay	29 th June	Brecon Mountain Centre

Christmas Afternoon Tea

On the afternoon of December 2nd members of Pontyclun U3A enjoyed a seasonal tea at the community centre. A good time was had by all.



A Message from the Chair



A Happy New Year to everyone.

When it was first mooted that we start a U3A association, here in our busy village of Pontyclun, I thought that there was so much already going on, that there was no room for such an association. But how wrong was !!!

Our wonderfully, successful U3A is now in its third year, soon to enter its fourth year and continuing to grow from strength to strength. We have 192 members, with 19 groups. Some members choose to only attend the monthly meetings, on the 3rd Monday of the month, others, to only join a group/ groups of their choosing.

Whichever we choose to do, I think the thread which runs through our U3A is one of sociability. I have made so many friends since joining.

If you have a friend/ neighbour, whom you think might enjoy what we have to offer, please bring them along. Or, if you have any suggestions/ ideas for a new group, please let me know.

Our success is that we encompass all our variety of interests, however diverse!
Hope to see you soon.

Chris (Chair)

Garden Group

Members visited Westonbirt Arboretum on the 12th of October. They can be seen here admiring the Autumn trees



Photo taken by Peter Hughes.

Walking Group Visit to Bedford Park

The walking group made a recent visit to Bedford Park, Cefn Cribwr the site of The Bedford Ironworks, which was set up by John Bedford, who moved into the area in 1770.

John Bedford built a blast furnace in the 1780s and sank pits to extract the ironstone and coal needed. He also set up a forge and brickworks. The works declined in the 1830's but coal mining and brick making were continued until after World War 1



Also of interest is the Cefn Junction Signal Box which was built in 1898 and is one of only a few remaining in South Wales of that type.



Despite the very poor recent weather the luck of the group continues, and it didn't rain until we were returning to our cars



Walking group on Monday mornings is always a very positive start to the week and regularly attracts 25 + walkers

Christmas Meeting

Once again members attended our Christmas meeting where in addition to the wine soft drinks and mince pies a wonderful afternoon of entertainment was provided.

Pat Smith and Ned Clamp, as they have twice before, entertained us with a variety of seasonal songs and tunes which they used to illustrate the autumn and winter festivals and traditions that took place from Halloween until the celebration of the Old New Year (Hen Galan) which is celebrated on 13 January which was the old New Year as marked by the Julian calendar which held sway throughout Britain until the Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1752.



The entertainment was then provided by the U3A Ukulele group who imaginatively named themselves Uke3A

It was agreed by everyone that the much-anticipated debut performance by our Ukulele group at the December monthly meeting was an outstanding success. Being a relatively new group, the members were understandably rather apprehensive about their first public outing, but they put nerves to one side and rose to the occasion, wearing suitably seasonal headgear, to entertain and impress us with a wonderful selection of festive songs.



No doubt we all hope to see them become a regular feature at our Christmas meeting. Finally, a special mention must go to one group member who turned 90 on 6 December and who proved to all of us that you really are never too old to learn something new. Avis, you're brilliant. Congratulations to the whole group and especially to Ann for putting it all together.

Stella Reynolds

Pontyclun U3A

Information Afternoon for Older People.



Monday 30th March
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Pontyclun Community Centre

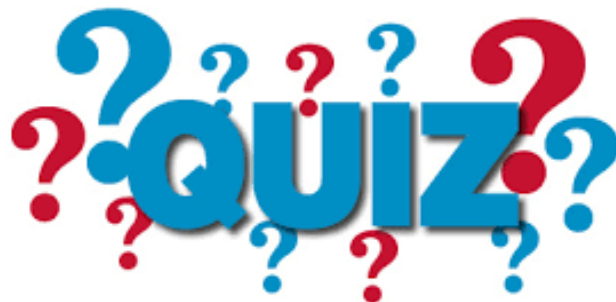
Organisations attending include:

- Cafe 50
- Maggie's Centre Cardiff
- Warm Wales
- Carers Wales
- Pontyclun Credit Union,
- Re-Engage (Contact the Elderly),
- Cwm Taff Care and Repair
- Rowan Tree Cancer Care

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided

Pontyclun U3A

Presents an Afternoon



Friday March 13th 2020 at 1:30pm

At the Pontyclun Community Centre

Admission £3 which includes refreshments

Teams of no more than 5 members additional parking will be provided at The Pontyclun Institute and Athletic club in nearby Castan Road