

Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 18 : July 2021



Hello everyone,
I am so looking forward to seeing those of you who are able to come to our first meeting on Monday, the 19th. It will not have the same format as our usual meetings but a wonderful way to have 'a catch up' after such a very long time. Unfortunately, we cannot use the kitchen, so I hope you have all had a drink before coming!

Many of our Groups have restarted and I know you are enjoying those. The remainder will restart in September.

Enjoy the warmer weather that we are forecast to have and take care.

With love
Chris.



Groups

Groups are opening steadily. At present there are four using Café 50 – Ukulele, Book club, History and Spanish. Outdoor groups are doing well the walking group (Walk and Talk) venturing out twice a month and a new group on a Tuesday that is a little more ambitious both with the distance walked and the travel time to the start.

The Gardening group have meet and have visited places of interest.

Others to be relaunched in September will be:

Cryptic Crossword

Welsh (combining both existing groups)

Art Group

Theatre/Day trips – September/October – dependent on restrictions

Lunch Group – possibly not starting again but we are open to suggestions.

Other groups with no plans at moment – Music Appreciation, Table Tennis due to venue restrictions. If you have not been in a group before or find you now have more time on your hands and wish to join a new group please contact the group leader through the website or by contacting the U3a Secretary .



A change for September! If there is sufficient interest, we hope to extend the scope of the Art group to include history and appreciation.

The choice of study to come from the interests of the group, it is hoped that visits to exhibitions galleries can be arranged in the future.

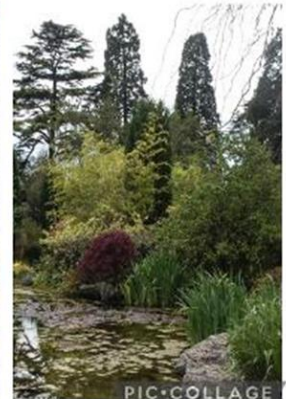
Please contact Sheila Gifford for further information

Gardening



Our Spring and Summer programme of visits to gardens of interest had to be cancelled in 2020 but in August we were able to hold a socially distanced meeting in a Group member's garden. In September we visited the Secret Garden plant centre this was just before Rhondda Cynon Taff went into local lockdown.

Our October meeting had to be held within the RCT so we visited Aberdare Park. This is a good example of the type of designs commissioned in rapidly growing industrial towns during the Victorian era. Aberdare Park was designed in the 1860s by William Barron. Additions have been made to the park since it was opened in 1869. These include a Pavilion by the boating lake, and the elaborate Coronation Fountain donated by Lord Merthyr to the people of Aberdare in 1911 to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. The fountain and pavilion are shown in the photograph.



We also visited the nearby Dare Valley Country Park. This 500-acre Country Park is a good example of more recent landscape restoration undertaken after the closure of the four collieries and two railway lines that served the area. The Park now has two lakes, a Visitor Centre, walking and cycling routes and monuments to the coal mining industry that operated in the area from the 1850s to 1977.

The photograph shows the Garden Group by one of the lakes in the Country Park.

Both photographs were taken by David Grain

Walking



The walking group have been able to take advantage of the ability to meet when restrictions have allowed and have had several very pleasurable walks.

Recently we have been able to put together a programme for the coming months fingers crossed we will be able to fulfil it. In addition to our regular Monday, Walk and Talk group, we have started a Tuesday group. The photograph shows our first walk in Aberdare we hope in this group to do slightly more challenging terrain and travel a little further. This was a very enjoyable walk despite the summer deluge we experienced.

