

Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 11: October : December 2018

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.

October Meeting

On Monday 15 October our speaker will be Ritchie Wood talking to us about women before, during and after World War 1.

November Meeting

At our meeting on Monday 19 November Pontyclun U3A member Peter Cox will be telling us about his 'Life as a Spy – Inside the secret world of British intelligence.'

Visit to American Museum Bath

On Wednesday July 18th we visited Bath's American Museum. Our original intention was to combine this with a visit into Bath but we found the museum and gardens so interesting, with so much to see, that we spent our whole visit there.



The museum takes you on a journey through the history of America from its early settlers to the twentieth century, something unusual to see outside the USA. It had an excellent collection of American folk and decorative art. We particularly loved their wonderful display of traditional American quilts. We also enjoyed seeing how their home interiors had evolved from the very rustic style of the early settlers.

Alongside this was another exhibition entitled 'Side by Side' marking the 100th anniversary of America's first major military engagement in the Great War of 1914-1918, celebrating the relationship between the USA and Europe. It explored life in the USA; recruiting, training, a Red Cross Hospital and a reconstruction of a Renault FT tank used by the Americans on the Western Front.

We also learned about famous people who had served on the home front and some who had seen active service, including Ernest Hemmingway and President Woodrow Wilson.

Then out we went for a walk around their lovely gardens, with even more improvement works being carried out there. A very successful visit; thank you again to those who organized the trip.

Linda Smith

Don't miss out last theatre tickets available

We have just one ticket left for Nightingales at the New Theatre, Cardiff on Tuesday 20th November at 7:30pm cost £31.50. And we have one ticket left for Matilda on Wednesday 5th December at WMC at 7:30pm cost £53. Contact Jennie Jorgenson for Nightingales and Chris Latus for Matilda.

December Meeting

Our last meeting of the year on Monday 17 December will have a Christmas theme as John Sheen returns to entertain us with his 'Christmas Crackers'.

Christmas Lunch

Pontyclun U3A's Christmas Lunch will be held on Tuesday 18th December 2018 in the Miskin Manor at 12.30 for 1pm. The price is £30 per head and there are just a few places left. If you'd like to attend contact David Pryor.

October Lunch Group

The October lunch group will meet on Tuesday 23 October at The Farmer's Arms, Aberthin and not 18 October due to staff holidays.

National Eisteddfod



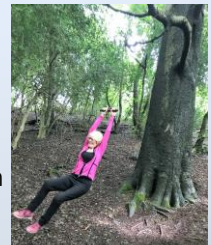
The National Eisteddfod was held in Cardiff Bay at the beginning of August. Paul and I offered to help for a couple of hours on the U3A stand. It was a great experience for many reasons since we had to use our Welsh. We both have been learning Welsh for many years and are not yet fluent, but we try. As visitors came to our stand we asked if they spoke Welsh. If they did we used our learners Welsh to explain about U3A, the location of groups across Wales, (we had a map), what local branches do and distributed information from some South Wales groups.

It was hard but worthwhile and Welsh speakers were complimentary of our efforts. We also met up with friends and acquaintances who we had not seen for some time. We even met the organiser of a "Cylch ti a fi" a Welsh playgroup we go to with our grandson in Bristol. It was a great experience as this was the first time the National Eisteddfod was open to all. It gave people a flavour of what it would be like to live in a truly bilingual country.

Margaret Griffiths

If you go down to the woods today

Here's our Chair Chris Dickson, during a recent walk in Radyr Woods who couldn't resist swinging through the trees. As many of you know Chris



celebrated her 80th birthday this summer and is living proof that we're never too old to laugh and have fun.

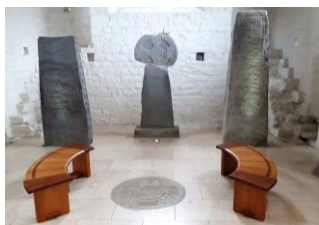
Wales coast and border celebration walk - Llantwit Major

On 23 July we visited the historic coastal town of Llantwit Major for the 4th of our Glamorgan Heritage coastal pub walks. I think many of us were surprised just how 'historic' Llantwit Major is. St Illtyd founded a monastery and college there in around 500 AD. The college was called Cor Tewdws and was the earliest school in Britain.



We started our walk at the impressive Town Hall which was originally a Norman manorial courthouse. We then continued our circular walk across open fields and through country lanes towards the medieval dovecot before making our way back to visit St Illtyd's church.

Inside the church we saw beautiful medieval wall paintings and a newly renovated space housing tenth century Celtic Stones.



We then made our way for a welcome lunch at our historic pub, The Old White Hart. The pub was the first known domestic residence built around 1440 following the destruction of the manor of Boverton and Llantwit Major during the revolt of Owain Glyndwr about 1405. In the 18th Century as an inn, it struck copper coins and hosted monthly manorial courts formerly held in the town hall.

Aberthaw 24 September 2018



It was a beautiful sunny morning for the 22 of us who set off from the car park opposite the Blue Anchor Inn in Aberthaw. We were grateful to have plenty of local information to hand thanks to Paul Frowen who had provided us with handouts detailing interesting historical and geographical points.

After admiring the thatched roofs on the pretty cottages by the pub, we set off towards the coast. This circular walk was easy, being on the flat and the scenery was spectacular. There was time to enjoy the quiet beach (nobody else in sight!) where we spotted a heron on the lookout for a tasty snack. After a wander along the sandy beach, we headed back to the Blue Anchor Inn for refreshments – cold drinks were especially welcome as we sat outside to make the most of the late September sun.

The nearby coal-fired power station towers above the beach and produces enough electricity to meet the needs of some three million households. Yet the area is part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and provides a conservation area with protected habitats for many wildlife species. We walked past several signs warning us to "Beware of Snakes" but didn't meet any basking in the sun as we passed.

For what is now such a peaceful location, it is hard to imagine that Aberthaw was once the site of a busy port and that in the early sixteenth century ships regularly called from France, Spain the West Indies. It has also been known for the production of hydraulic lime. As we walked by the derelict lime works (now a grade 2 listed building), we couldn't help thinking how the area has changed since its heyday. Now this once busy and industrial port is a serene spot popular with walkers, fishermen and surfers. This was the last of our walks as part of the Wales Coastline and Border project.

Over the summer this project has taken us exploring various parts of the coastline and collecting information and photos for the national project. The walks are always interesting and have taken me to places I would not have found on my own. As well as being good exercise, they are easy going, and a great way to meet people.

Janice Cox

Facebook Group update We launched our U3A Facebook page on 23 July and it is being regularly used. We have 30 people who have joined the page covering 34 of our Membership.

To date over 20 people have either raised a post or have commented on one. Photographs have been added from our walks, day trips, gardening group visits and our history group.

We'd like more members and interest groups to get involved, post updates and photographs where possible to let us see what you are doing. This is a great way of promoting interest in Groups to attract new members. If you've not posted news and information about your group, why not give it a go?

We hope to add updates on new Groups as they are formed. If you've got any questions about our Facebook page, please get in touch with Gordon Hill

Sewing & Craft Group

There will be no Sewing & Craft Group meeting in October due to holidays. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 November.

Welsh Conversation Group

We would love for some more members to join our group. We meet in Marg's lovely welcoming kitchen and chat informally twice a month.

There's no need to be totally fluent - we have dictionaries at the ready! There's no pressure and it's an easy way to practise, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at **2 p.m.**

National/Regional news

The Third Age Trust's Resource Centre is being updated and expanded. Feedback from U3As across the country strongly indicated that a wide spectrum of learning resource was required. The service will be expanded to provide online learning and educational downloads.