

# Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 10: July - September 2018

## Monthly Meetings

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

### July meeting

On Monday 16 July our speaker will be the Rev Clive Williams who will be talking to us about and playing classical music from Vienna during the period 1750 – 1825.

**August** - there is **no** monthly meeting in August.

### September meeting

On Monday 17 September Full Stop Law will be talking to us about planning for retirement.

## Wales U3A short story competition

Don't forget that the Wales U3A short story competition is open for entries from 1 July to 31 August. Your story can be less than 100 words but no more than 1500 words. There are three categories: English, Welsh learners and First language Welsh. Your story must start with the words 'It was a beautiful stretch of Welsh coastline ...'.

Entry is free and is limited to one story per person. You can find more details about how to enter and how to submit your story on U3A's website [here](#). You can also find printed information sheets in Café 50 foyer.

## Craft Group's Winning Window

Congratulations to Pontyclun U3A's Craft Group who have once again won the stained-glass window competition at St Pauls Church, Pontyclun.



The winning window depicts the four seasons of the year, plus a knitted emblem and represents the four countries of the United Kingdom. The main part of the window consists of several different media including knitting, painting, collage, sewing, cross stitch and natural pressed flowers. The window involved a lot of intricate and delicate work which was undertaken by members of the Group spread over 4 weeks.

## National Eisteddfod - can you help?

This year the [National Eisteddfod](#) will be held in Cardiff Bay. Cardiff U3A are organising the U3A stand at the Eisteddfod and are looking for helpers. The rota is divided into three sessions each day, so it means helping for 2 or 3 hours a day.

Don't worry if you don't speak fluent Welsh as there will be two helpers on the stand, one of who needs to be a Welsh speaker or learner.

There are still a few vacancies during the week so if you would like to help out please email [Mary Allen](#). With over 150 exhibition stands and stalls to browse, it's good way to get free entry to the Eisteddfod!

## Gardening Group visit coastal Dunraven Gardens

Our first visit in Spring was to Dunraven Park Walled Garden near Southerndown.

This is one of the earliest walled gardens to be built in south Wales and its origins go back to 1543 when a walled paddock was created in a sheltered position north of the headland called Trwyn y Witch. A walled garden existed on the site by 1770 however it was in the early 1800s when a Mansion was built on the headland that work began to give the garden its current layout. It is divided into three parts and later in the 1800s the perimeter wall was increased in height by castellation.



A round stone tower built into a corner of the gardens was restored in 1980 and the "bones" of the garden buildings used by the gardeners can still be seen. Although the garden became derelict (the Mansion was demolished in 1962) some restoration work has been done; soft fruit bushes and fruit trees have been planted and volunteers help to maintain flower beds although a greenhouse built on the site of the original ones had recently been vandalised.

There is a dipping pool to supply water for hand watering all of the vegetables and flowers that were grown in the garden. The Dunraven pool is fed by a culverted stream that flows through the garden and then out to Dunraven Bay.

**Barbara Hancock (Gardening Group)**

## Ogmore by Sea

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> historic pub walk was Ogmore and a visit to the Pelican in her Piety pub. And just like the Jolly Sailor in Newton it was shut!

Anyway, undeterred we went on our way. **The Pelican in her Piety.**



This was first built on the present site by the Carne family some time before 1741. The unusual name can be attributed to the Carne

family coat of arms, which features a pelican pecking at her breast and letting the blood fall in to the mouths of her chicks; symbolising Christ feeding his flock. It is still known locally as just 'The Pelican'.

We then made our way across the road to look at the impressive ruins of the 12th century Norman built **Ogmore castle**. Built by William de Loundres who was one of the Twelve Knights of Glamorgan.



As the Normans expanded their hold over the Vale of Glamorgan, pushing well beyond the Rivers Ogmore/Ewenny, the strategic importance of the castle declined.

## The Stepping Stones

We also checked out the stepping stones across the ford of the rivers, Ewenny and Ogmore, only safely passable in summer. We were told there are 52 stones, but we counted only 49! The story behind the stones is that a love-stricken girl lived in the castle and her lover across the river at Merthyr Mawr and that the stones were built for them. It must have worked as apparently, they married in 1233!

We then continued our walk along the salt flats, taking advantage of the turning tide and made our way to Ogmore beach where we were welcomed with splendid views across the dunes towards Newton and Porthcawl.



We still managed a pub refreshment, just not the planned historic one!

## Nash Point to Atlantic College

Under a cloudless blue sky, 22 of us and one dog, Tippy, set out on our third U3A Project Walk, walking from Nashpoint Lighthouse, which was built between 1831 and 1832 to warn shipping coming up the Bristol Channel of the dangerous sand barrier.



The Lighthouse is now fully automated and can be booked for holiday stays and even weddings.

We walked along the Coast Path, through the woods with its abundance of wild orchids, to Atlantic College one of the world wide International Baccalaureate Colleges for young people between the ages of 16-18 years. To our great good fortune,

we met a young Swedish lady who had been a pupil at the College in 1990. In perfect English, she shared her happy memories with us. Her young sons wanted to see their Mum's college.



Returning by the same route, we made our way to our 'watering point' the Plough and Harrow Pub which dates back to the 13th century, where we enjoyed a Seniors' Lunch for £4.95!



Our next Project Walk is to Llantwit Major and The Swan Inn on Monday 23 July. Why not join us?

## Pontyclun U3A – Facebook page

We plan to soon have our own Facebook page! We hope this will be a useful resource for us all to share pictures and information about what's going on in our Interest Groups and meetings. More information to follow!

## U3A subject advisors

The U3A has a comprehensive list of Subject Advisors who offer advice on a range of topics from Cryptic Crosswords to Classical Greek and Puppetry. The full list can be found in your Third Age Matters Magazine. The subject advisors are on hand to help anyone starting up a new group or to offer help to established groups.