

# Pontyclun U3A Newsletter

Issue 5: July August 2017

## 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 17th May Peter Sampson will be presenting a talk about the island of Flat Holm

### August Meeting

There will be no meeting this Month. The next meeting will be on September 18<sup>th</sup> when Yvonne Peters will speak about the work of MacMillan

### August Interest Groups

Although there is no monthly meeting in August if your interest group wishes to meet in Cafe 50 during August please let us know so we can arrange access for you

## Pontyclun Stained Glass Window Festival

Congratulations to our Sewing and Craft Group on winning first prize in the Pontyclun Stained Glass Window Festival in June. All that hard work certainly paid off! The scenes in the window show the range activities available in Pontyclun U3A.

The Sewing and Craft Group have a wide range of activities planned through to next March. At their meeting on 19 July they will be looking at fashion embellishment.

So, if you fancy learning how to brighten up a plain top or pair of jeans why not join them?



## U3A Short Story Competition

There's still time to enter Wales U3A's short story competition. You can enter a short story of no more than 1500 words in either English or Welsh. Your story must start with the words 'On the coffee table in a blue and white bowl was .....'. The closing date for entries is 31 August 2017.

More details can be found on our website [here](#)

## Gardening Group visit Clyne Gardens



On 17 May we visited Clyne Gardens, Swansea which hold National Collections of various plants, specimen trees and many Rhododendrons and Azaleas. The gardens were developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the wealthy industrialist William Graham Vivian and then by his nephew who sent plant hunters out throughout the world to gather specimens for the garden.

We walked up through the Eastern half of the garden, over the Italian Bridge in front of Clyne Castle and although it was drizzling with rain the view over Swansea Bay was still a special one. A beautiful Lime tree which was planted in 1900 by Princess Mary of Teck (later Queen Mary) was in full leaf. We walked down to the stream and through groves ablaze with the blooms of rhododendrons and azaleas.

The rain became heavier so before we headed home we had a welcome cuppa and cake in a marquee staffed by volunteers raising money for West Glamorgan Guides. Clyne Gardens is a hidden gem and well worth another visit to view the streamside gardens in the Western part of the garden.

**Barbara Hancock**

## Malvern RHS Three Counties Show

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, a lovely sunny day, 15 of us went to the RHS spring show at the Three Counties Show Ground near Malvern. Set below the Malvern Hills with acres of space, there is room for a lot more than just gardening.



You may have seen the Gardener's World programs on TV that highlighted the show gardens and floral marquees and we can confirm that they were as good as they looked and gave us plenty of ideas for our own gardens. What you may not have seen is the vast number of stalls selling plants, garden tools, equipment and furniture, jewelry, clothes, shoes, food, bedding, hot tubs etc.

The flower-arranging and baking competition entries were on display in the permanent buildings and there were vintage cars, live music and a fair ground for children and birds of prey to view.

The beauty of going on the Sunday, which is the last day, is that the cut flowers used in the floral displays were sold off in the afternoon at very good prices. We came away with arms loaded with goodies and heads full of ideas. It was a great day out!

**Heather Robinson**

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## Welfare Office

Committee Member, Barbara Porter is our new Welfare Officer. Barbara will be the point of contact for any member who may be unwell and unable to get to meetings. If any member has difficulty in getting to monthly meetings or interest groups because of an immobility or transport issue (even if it's temporary) then please do let Barbara know and she will try and organise a lift for you. Barbara's email is [bjporter59@gmail.com](mailto:bjporter59@gmail.com) and her mobile number is 07788 164799.

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## Third Age Matters

You should have received your copy of Third Age Matters around 15 June, I hope you will find it interesting. The next issue will be sent to us mid - September. If you have changed your address please let the Secretary know so that we can update your contact details and make sure you receive your copy.

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## Art Group change of meeting time

From July, the Art Group will meet at the same time as the Sewing & Craft Group on the third Wednesday of the month in Café 50 at 1:30. The next Art Group meeting will be on Wednesday 19 June.

## Next newsletter

Please do keep us informed of what you've been up to in your interest groups so that we can share with everyone. If you have any ideas or stories for the next newsletter please let [Sarah Carmichael](#) know by 21 August.

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## Walking Group



Pontyclun U3A's Walking Group were rewarded with the sight of a vast carpet of bluebells in Brynna Woods during one of their recent walks. The Group meet every other Monday and walk for around 2 - 2.5 hours. From August 2017 they will walk on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. They're a very social group, talking as much as walking! The walks are not too strenuous; more than a stroll but certainly not a march. If you're interested and would like to find out more please get in touch with Chris Thomas, email: [christhomaseth@hotmail.com](mailto:christhomaseth@hotmail.com) or phone 07968 018870.

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## Lunch Group

The next Lunch Group's next lunch will be on Tuesday 18 July at The Barn, Mwyndy at 12:15

## Rhodri Morgan

At our AGM in May we were very fortunate to have Rhodri Morgan as our speaker in what turned out to be his last public speaking engagement.

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## Day Trip to Gloucester Christmas Market

All those who are going to Gloucester Market on 22 November please would you pay £20 deposit at the July monthly meeting, as we will need to book the coach well in advance.

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