

June 2018

Issue 2

Welcome!

Since we started in January over 230 people have joined the Friends Group.

Awel Co-op Windfarm have given us a £10,000 grant.

A Survey to inform the future is launched.

Links

New Website

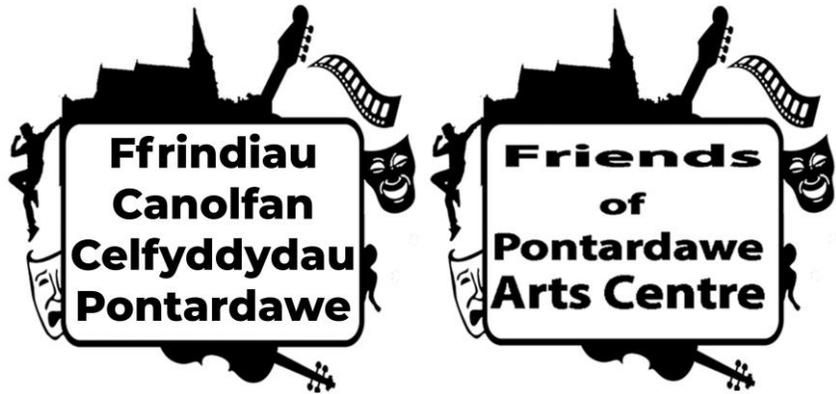
<https://fopac.org/>

General Email:

pacfriends1@gmail.com

Newsletter

230 Members working to help our Arts Centre thrive.



What's Been Happening?

A lot! We've held our first Annual General Meeting; met with senior Neath Port Talbot County Council officers on future plans; started raising funds and; we're planning a special Friends' Event in November.

We're also doing work with local businesses. We're hoping to land a high-profile person as a Patron.

We've been working on our social media. Check out our new website at <https://fopac.org/> and follow Friends on twitter @ArtsFriends.

Annual General Meeting

...in April agreed our constitution, elected Trustees, the overall shape of the steering committee, and our priorities for this first year. These are all on the new Website <https://fopac.org/about/>.

By way of introduction we are:

Grant Duncan (Chair); David Davies (Secretary); Anthony Harland (Treasurer); Michelle Davidson (Membership); Martin Davies (user); Jill Williams (user and user group); Sian Harris (user, business liaison). We look forward to working for and with you.

Membership queries:

pacfmembership@gmail.com

Twitter

[@ArtsFriends](https://twitter.com/ArtsFriends)

Arts Centre

Website

<https://npttheatres.co.uk/pontardawe/>

Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HBZ5HB2>

Autumn Programme

Will be out soon.

Visit

<https://npttheatres.co.uk/pontardawe/whats-on/>

We were delighted to announce that Awel Co-op Windfarm has given a grant of £10,000 to the Friends of the Pontardawe Arts Centre. They have also given us £20,000 shares which will generate an annual income. All this is to help the Friends develop our work to support the Pontardawe Arts Centre.

Dan McCallum, Director of Awel Co-op said “We’re delighted to be supporting the Friends. The Arts Centre is **so well used by lots of community groups. It’s vital** everyone works together to ensure its future. We live in a windy place and that was our idea to develop a co-op to harness that resource. We want to make our community more sustainable in every way. People can still invest in our co-op share offer which has a 5% interest rate. If we can get more members to join the co-op, this will increase local benefits– please visit www.awel.coop or phone 01639 830870 for more information.

Working with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Austerity means that funding from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, who own and run the Arts Centre, will reduce by £40,000 per year. We have met with them to discuss the future business plan, including the possibility of new investment to raise income. In being clear they see a positive future for the Arts Centre, they want our input: to shape ideas and access funds **they can’t. We hope the** business plan can be agreed over the Summer.

Marketing the Arts Centre

...is a key area, so it can grow its user base. Thanks to two of our Members for meeting with Angie and Lizzie to help shape a new marketing plan. If you have ideas, please use the survey to feed them in. **Survey?** We’ve worked with Liz in the Arts Centre on a far easier survey which takes **only** 5 minutes. Make your view count! What will really help is constructive critical feedback which includes what can be better. Follow the link (on the left) and make your views heard!

Dates

Committee Meetings

24 July 2018 13:00

14 August 2018 13:00

25 Sept 2018 13:00

23 October 2018 13:00

Special Friends Event

10 Nov 2018 19:30

All at the Arts Centre

Don't Forget..

The Pontardawe Arts Centre would love to have more volunteers to help them. Just contact Nick on: 01792 863722
n.voisey@npt.gov.uk.

What Happens Next?

Volunteers needed – As well as working as stewards for live events and film, the Arts Centre are seeking volunteers to staff the Reception desk from 10.30 – 1.30 Mon to Fri. It's a really nice thing to do –many people who come in love a chat. Just get in touch with Nick on 01792 863722
n.voisey@npt.gov.uk .

The Friends Committee welcome and need your help: e.g. Social Media, Youth, Funding etc. We welcome anybody who wants to contribute. Please contact us if there are things you think you can do or want to try. We also want to hear more from User Groups.

Donations, Sponsorship. All monies raised benefits the Arts Centre. Are you a local business who depends on the Arts Centre and want to help? We have a sponsorship prospectus that sets out how your business can benefit.

<https://fopac.org/join-in/sponsorship/>

Grow our membership. Do you know of someone or a group who wants to join? Share the membership links or just ask them to contact ourselves or the Arts Centre.

Pop Up Ponty – Street Food Markets. Responding to feedback from Friends on the need for a place to socialise with family that is not a pub – the Arts Centre are trying these on Fri 7 Sept, Fri 5 Oct and Fri 7 Dec from 4.30 – 9.30pm. There will be live music and food stalls with delicious food from around the world (including vegan options). Insanely good flavours at affordable prices. Bring the family, bring friends and join us for food, live music, conversation and fun.

19:30 10 November - We will be holding a Special Friends Event. Hold the date in your diary!

