

# BORDERLINES

September  
2012

The magazine of Llandrindod and District USA



# Introduction from the Editor

Welcome to the September issue of Borderlines. The magazine has really taken off this summer. Not only were all the June copies taken immediately, but I have received so much material for September that this edition is really crammed to get everything in. Even so, I have not quite managed it. My thanks to all the contributors, and apologies to those who have had material held over, particularly if it is for the second time.

Please take a copy for anyone you think may be interested who is unable to come to the meeting. There may not be any left for October! Regards, Margaret

## Welcome!

We would like to welcome the following new members to Llandrindod and District U3A.

JANUARY: Joan Candlin, Michael Wilson and Sally Wilson.

FEBRUARY: Jenny Fox, David Gambles, Deryn Gambles, Joan Gander, Jon Hodges, Phyllis May, Mary Sterry and Roland Thomas,

MARCH: Jen Allan, David and Pat Barlow, Geoff Micah, Humphrey Morgan and Sue Parsons

APRIL: Karen Latham, Ted Lubran, Sue Nosworthy and Ted Shepherd

MAY: M. T. Gibson-Watt, Joy Hilsden, Betty Kinghorn, Kathie Richards-Jones, Muriel Tackley and M. Wintonton

JUNE: Rosemary Newman

## Useful contact numbers

Jane Malvern – Chairman (01597 823806)

Peter Dummer - Vice Chairman)

Ann Parkhouse – Secretary (01597 823515)

John Lewis – Treasurer (01597 829321)

Mai Ellis - Programme Secretary (01597 822710)

Catherine Clarke - Interest Group Coordinator(01597 811431) [catherine@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:catherine@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

Ann Morgan – Coordinator of Welcomers (01597 822082)

Barbara Warner – Web Editor(01597 825592)[barbara@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:barbara@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

Margaret Mason - Editor of 'Borderlines' (01597 825365)[margaret@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:margaret@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

## The readers

is a new book group which will meet on the **2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.00 p.m.** at the Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 October 2012 - please come along and join us if you are interested or contact Catherine Clarke for further information [catherine@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:catherine@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

The next two books will be (**9 October**) - 'Birdsong' by Sebastian Faulkes and **13 November** - 'Resistance' by Owen Sheers

**Cover: Margaret Eastal of the Garden Visiting Group. Photograph Fay Ramsden**

# “Didn’t we have a luvverly time, the day we went to ..... Ascot”

**Penny Everett reports on the trip to Ascot on 21st June, coordinated by Fay Ramsden**

To Ladies Day to be precise – and we certainly did enjoy the whole experience. We were a small, but beautifully formed, group of four and joined the coach in Llandod’ in our posh frocks and big hats – a quartet of understated elegance; namely Fay Ramsden, Betty Jones, myself and my sister, Dee.

No traffic jams on our approach to the Racecourse and, on arrival, we were soon organised with our alfresco luncheon – getting off to a good start with Champagne Cocktails and smoked salmon followed by a delightful cold buffet and the almost obligatory strawberries and cream.

With the sky looking threatening at times (we actually only had one shower of any consequence) we soon made our way to the Silver Enclosure for an afternoon spent admiring the horseflesh, the fashions and the associated festiveness, interspersed with our trips to the “tote” where we exercised our in-depth knowledge of the form by winning absolutely nothing – however, it was easy to console ourselves with a Pimms !



An overnight stay in an excellent hotel (supper consisted of the remains of our feast in the “girls dorm” ) was followed next morning by a trip into Windsor where we had a couple of hours of free time – in our case it comprised some retail therapy and a visit to a very fine patisserie for something to sustain us for the journey home.



Following this successful trip, Fay is hoping that more members will take up the invitation next year, so watch the Noticeboard and start planning your ensemble.

**Words: Penny Everett /  
Photos: Fay Ramsden**

# The Garden Visiting Group goes to:

## The Bannut



## Monkland



## Llangorse/Llangasty



Photographs by Wynne Evans and Fay Ramsden

# The Welsh History Group goes to:

Photographs by Mary Davies, Ann and Humphrey Morgan



Kidwelly Castle



L-R Richard Hughes, Pat Finnemore, Penny Everett, Margaret Mason and Gill Hughes



Antique shop at Kidwelly

Kidwelly  
and  
Ironbridge



Kidwelly Quay



Dinner at the Jolly Frog on the way home from Ironbridge: L-R Richard Davies, Humphrey and Ann Morgan, Ann Parkhouse, Penny Everett, Alwyn Batley, Barry and Pat Finnemore, Eileen and John Lewis.

# Natural History Group first event on June 14th 2012

Carole Taylor



On this lovely morning we started out with a stroll around Llandrindod lake, armed with binoculars, wildlife books and bags of enthusiasm.

A parade of splendid swan cygnets, cute coot chicks, gorgeous great crested grebes and other water birds kept us amused for a long time. Swallows, house and sand martins swooped low over the water, an excellent opportunity for comparing the differences between those three.

The nearby woods were full of bird song and wild flowers, great for listening and learning in the field and a wonderful relaxing way to spend time. Further up the hill we enjoyed close views of whitethroats and tree pipits gathering food for their young. The lovely trill of the rare wood warbler was also heard

not far away.

Some wildflowers we spotted included pink water avens, yellow pimpernel, various blue speedwells and greater stitchwort. In one of the woodland ponds swam tiny toadlets ready to explore the big wide world.

It took more than 3 hours to cover about 2 miles and there was also plenty of time for a nice open air picnic halfway. Nobody is in a hurry in this group!

## Future events

September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

A visit to Cors Llyn bog, a wonderful CCW nature reserve near Newbridge on Wye. Meet at the reserve car park (SO 017558).

October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am

A stroll along the Wye looking for river wildlife and enjoying tree colours, from the Groe at Builth Wells. Meet at the Groe car park opposite Wyeseide.

Text Martina Holmes [Martina@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:Martina@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

## Have your say!

Our website is two years old in September. Since it came online in 2010, it has grown and developed but now it is need of pruning to keep it in good shape and easy to use.

Over the next few months, between now and Christmas, I shall be reviewing the content but, before I do anything drastic, it would be very helpful to find out which pages members find useful and to hear of any difficulties you've experience in navigating the site or finding a particular item.

So, if you have any comments or suggestions about the website please will you do one of the following during September, October or November:

- Talk to me or email me direct - [barbara@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:barbara@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)
- Use our 'Suggestions and Comments Box'
- Sign up to take part in a survey about the website (17 questions)

Your comments can help make a difference! I hope you will take a few minutes to participate in this review.

Barbara Warner

## The recorder group – a progress report by Berwyn Woolnough

I met them for the first time at the end of January this year, a motley crew of aspiring tootlers whose past acquaintance with the recorder dates back several decades, usually to early schooldays. One of them had never played before; another admitted only to have had youthful experience with “some kind of whistle”. Raw material indeed!

Of course, the first piece we played together, an ancient dance number called “Bransle”, was a bit rough at the edges and, to be absolutely honest, in the middle as well. But at the end of the session we’d knocked it into some sort of shape and, most importantly, really enjoyed ourselves. Making music in a group is always fun, but what we discovered was that it was much more difficult than messing around on your own at home - not only do you have to play the right notes at the right time, but also watch the conductor and listen to what the other players are doing!

In the last six months we’ve tackled a variety pieces ranging in style from the very ancient to the modern and come across composers we’d never heard of before such as Antonio Gastoldi, Caspar Othmayr, Frank Loesser. Do you recognise the last in the list? He wrote the score for “Hans Christian Andersen”, and his well-known masterpiece “The Ugly Duckling” was for several weeks extremely popular with the ladies of the group and always featured strongly in our “requests” slot at the end of each playing session.

Since our first meeting we’ve gained both in confidence and competence. Perfection is still a little way off, of course, but the main thing is that we really get a kick out of playing together.

At the moment we’re working on the programme for our debut public performance in the “Live at the Canopy” series of events in Rock Park on September 29<sup>th</sup>. If this date isn’t already in your diary, now’s the time to make amends! I promise you won’t have to sit through *The Duckling*! The entertainment starts at 3pm and features not only ourselves but other local musicians. Admission is free; refreshments are available for a modest sum. Money raised goes towards the restoration of the Pump Room canopy.

After this, the next big event in our calendar takes place at the end of November when we get together with the Ludlow U3A recorder group for a day of music making under the direction of Steve Marshall, the U3A subject adviser for recorder playing.

Incidentally, we still don’t know how to pronounce “Bransle” but we do play it rather well, and this is a piece you will be able to hear in the Park!

# The Walking Group

## by Joan Annetts and Clive Barrett

The walking group was one of the first interest groups to be formed in the early days of Llandrindod Wells U3A. The facilitator of the group is Joan Annetts who leads some of the walks with



At the confluence of the Elan and the Wye near Rhayader

other walks led by Roy and Sue Margrave Jones and Robert Bevan. New walks and walk leaders are always welcome.

As can be seen from the photos, we walk in many different areas of Radnorshire and sometimes into

Brecknock. Some walks are more adventurous than others but they

are all easily accessible to the moderately fit walker.

Walks are generally about 4 miles, taking about 2 hours, and always end at a local pub for lunch.

We meet at 10am at the Lake, Llandrindod Wells on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. We then share cars to the beginning of the walk.

The walks are relaxed and sociable and taken at a pace to suit the group. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome. Just turn up at the lake a little before 10 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday and you will be sure of a warm welcome, or for further information contact

Joan Annetts 01597 824866

email [joan.annetts@talktalk.net](mailto:joan.annetts@talktalk.net)



Triumphant after a rather steep descent from Stanner Rocks



A chilly day on Gilwern Hill



Cwn Elan lead mine near Rhayader



A ruined house near Llanafan Fawr