



Borderlines

December 2013



The Magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor

Hello and a very Merry Christmas to everyone.

My thanks to all the contributors. It is good to see the success of new interest groups, such as the Film Club and the Military History Group. I have high hopes of being able to tap into the talents of the Creative Writing Cooperative when it gets going. The next issue of Borderlines will be in March 2014, so I would be grateful for any contributions by the 20th February, if you please.

I hope you enjoy puzzling out how to make Eileen's cake, and manage to pass the quiz. Believe me, it is not as easy as it looks!

I quite like getting reports of mistakes as it just proves someone reads the magazine. I regret I transposed 2 digits of Ann Morgan's telephone number in the last edition - see the correct one below. My apologies, particularly if anyone did try and phone her.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret

Useful contact numbers



Jane Malvern: Chairman (01597 823806)
Bob Atkins: Vice Chairman (01597 823292)
David Gambles: Treasurer (01597 823940)
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Welcome

The following new members have recently joined Llandrindod Wells and District U3A. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

September: Norma Williams

October: Mary Evans and Chris Pegrum.

The Silver Line Helpline

The Silver Line is the national confidential and free helpline for older people open every day and night of the year.

- No question too big
- No problem too small
- No need to be alone

Call the helpline on 0800 4 70 80 90

Chairman's Notes

Writing the Chairman's notes for the last Borderlines of 2013 reminds me that we are also approaching the end of the U3A year.

According to the Constitution, at least two members of the Committee must stand down every year, and this time we will be losing at least four.

The Committee consists of eight members, - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Membership Secretary, Programme Secretary, Treasurer, plus three others, with the option to co-opt another two. We meet every few weeks, not necessarily monthly.

At the AGM in March we will have to have nominations for a new Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and at least one "other", but you can stand for any Committee post if you wish.

Please think about whether you would like to stand for Committee in March. You will need to get another member to nominate you, and if there are more nominations than vacancies, there will be an election at the AGM. Nomination papers and the minutes of last year's AGM will be distributed to all members at and after the January meeting, and nominations must be submitted by the February meeting.

All that will be after New Year - in the meantime I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

Jane Malvern

Military History Group

The second meeting of the Military History group will be held on 17th December. After deciding on the approach the group would take at meeting one, they decided to investigate the Napoleonic Wars and the second meeting was spent looking at recruitment. They found the army had very devious ways of getting you to accept the King's Shilling!

Please contact Martha Wooldridge (829252) - martha@u3a.llandrindod.org.uk for further details.

New Senior's Exam.

Contributed by Patsy Godfrey

You only need to get 4 correct answers out of 10 to pass – but do not think this is easy!

How long did the One Hundred Year's War last?

Which country makes Panama hats?

From which animal do we get cat gut?

In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?

What is a camel's hair brush made from?

The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after which animal?

What was King George VI's first name?

What colour is a purple finch?

Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?

What colour is the black box in a commercial aeroplane?

Answers on p 7



Favourite carols as interpreted by the Health and Safety Executive.

This spoof is taken from www.guy-sports.com

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.



Navigation by yonder stars is not advised and we would politely suggest that traversing kings make use of satellite navigation or a recognised internet route-finder prior to commencing their journey. This will ensure the quickest route and most optimal journey with regard to fuel consumption is identified. In addition, whilst the gift of gold is considered acceptable, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of allergic reaction caused by such oils and fragrances. A suitable alternative may be a gift voucher.

While Shepherds watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.



Requiring shepherds to watch their flocks without appropriate and flexible seating arrangements is a contravention of health and safety regulations and human rights. The provision of benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs is recommended. The angel of the Lord is also reminded that before shining his or her glory around it must be ascertained that all shepherds are issued with suitable eyewear conforming to British Standards for filtering the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and glory.

Jingle bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way.



A risk assessment must be submitted before the open sleigh is deemed safe for members of the public. It must also be considered whether it is appropriate to employ only one horse for this activity, depending on size of sleigh and the persons upon it. Note that permission from landowners must be gained prior to entering fields. Please also consider those who choose not to participate in Christmas festivities, and keep laughter to a moderate level not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Little donkey

Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.



Strict guidelines issued by the RSPCA [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] must be adhered to at all times in relation to the heaviness of the load that Donkey is permitted to carry. A twenty-minute uninterrupted rest break is a statutory requirement per six hours of plodding. It is considered unlawful and an infringement of equine rights for said Mr. Donkey to be referred to in terms bearing relation to his stature which may be perceived to carry negative connotations by Mr Donkey or a third party. Please also note that due to the risk of pollution from the dusty road, Mary and Joseph are required to wear face masks to prevent inhalation of any air-borne particles.

The Recorder Group

Berwyn Woolnough

The Recorder Group has been on its travels once more – this year to Knucklas – for a day of music making with fellow tootlers of Ludlow U3A. Once again our conductor was Steve Marshall, the U3A adviser for recorder playing.

Three things were different on this occasion. I remember well the trepidation felt by the group as that first gathering in November 2012 approached. “What if the music is too difficult? Will we be shouted at / publicly shamed if we hit a wrong note / mess up the timing / play out of tune?” Of course, none of those fears had any foundation, so everyone was really looking forward to meeting Steve and our Ludlow fellow musicians again.

Then there was the quality of the playing. It was a year on; both confidence and competence had improved, and it showed. Steve said he’d noticed this as we launched into our first piece. Great feeling of achievement all round.

And finally there were the refreshments. Last year I took the responsibility of the catering upon myself and served up a selection of Aldi special purchase biscuits with tea, coffee and a sprinkle of fruit juice. This time it was the ladies of Ludlow in charge, and it showed – luxury biscuits (including Jaffa Cakes and Wagon Wheels), home made scones with jam and cream plus a massive ginger cake. Most of the drinks came with a decaff. alternative and, to make things even worse, there was a carton of soya milk. I’d been massively outdone and felt a little embarrassed.

However, the main thing was the music and, on that score, the day was a tremendous success. We’re about to fix a date for the 2014 event.



The Virtual Travel Group...

went "Around the World in 80 Minutes" at the November meeting.

Several members gave a short presentation - Mary Davies, Tess Davies, Ann Wheatley & Jane Malvern.

Mary spoke about her childhood holidays in Penybont, where her grandparents kept what is now the Thomas Shop.

Tess told us about a visit she & Gareth had made to India, and particularly to the Taj Mahal.

Ann showed photographs of a trip to the Canadian Rockies and Jane showed her photographs of an Alaska Cruise, including video of a glacier calving.

The next meeting, on January 9, at the Drama Centre, (10.30 to 12.30) will be another "Around the World in 80 minutes" trip with four more members telling their travellers' tales.

Jane Malvern

U3A CINEMA GROUP

This newly-formed group has made a very good start. Our first film to be shown was "Genevieve" and then in October, "The Italian Job". Both very well-received British classics, which was the most popular category in a members' survey. About 20 people have attended each "show", which is just enough to break even on the costs.

We changed venue for "The Italian Job" to the Dance Centre in Arlais Road (near Holy Trinity), because the Drama Centre was not available. However, it was preferred by those members present, so we expect to keep to that venue in the future.

Our next film will be "WHITE CHRISTMAS" with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, on 20TH DECEMBER. All members are very welcome, whether they have previously indicated interest, or not. Cost is £3.00, including mince pies and tea or coffee. There is even talk of (non-alcoholic) mulled wine. Doors open at 2.15pm and lights dim at 2.30 pm.

Sue Nosworthy has also taken on the unenviable task of arranging occasional trips to a "proper" cinema. The first was on 19 November, to Wyese to see Judy Dench in "Philomena", which we all enjoyed. We do get an extra discount for booking a group. More trips are envisaged for the New Year.

Dates of the next few cinema shows are:

January 16

February 20

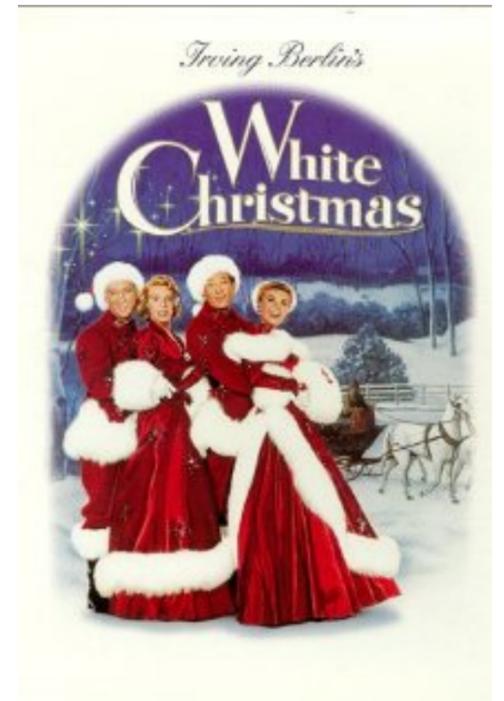
March 20

April 17

May 15

June 12

Roger Malvern



Bible cake

Ingredients

1. ½ lb. Judges, Chapter 5, v.25 (last clause)
2. ½ lb. Jeremiah, Chapter 6, v.20
3. 1 teaspoon I Samuel, Chapter 14, v.25
4. 3 of Jeremiah, Chapter 30, v.12
5. ½ lb. I Samuel, Chapter 30, v.12
6. ½ lb Nahum, Chapter 3, v.12 (chopped)
7. 2 ozs. Numbers, Chapter 17, v.8 (blanched and chopped)
8. 1 lb. I Kings, Chapter 4, v. 22
9. ½ teaspoon II chronicles, Chapter 9, v. 9
10. A pinch of Leviticus, Chapter 2, v. 13
11. 1 teaspoon Amos, Chapter 4, v. 5
12. 2 teaspoons Judges, Chapter 4, v.19

Method

Beat 1,2,3 and 4 well. Add 5,6 and 7 and beat again. Add 8,9,10,11 and 12. Mix well. Bake in slow oven for 1½ hours at 300 F or Gas Mark 2

Contributed by Eileen Lewis.

Strictly Come Dancing

Alwyn Batley

I vowed to give P E up as soon as I could. Imagine me in “Daps” and shorts and P E vest. Lo and behold, when I went to college in Bristol, they had me running on the Downs in atrocious weather. I was caught again in spite of my resolve “never to put on a P E vest again.”

The matter came to a head when one Friday morning we had “Ballroom dancing” What has that to do with PE? You may well ask! Mrs Twinkle Toes, the tutor in charge, decided we should have to dance, doing the correct steps, across the room. She chose me as her partner. Half way across the room, she stopped and asked, “Where are you going. Alwyn?”



“I'm going over there, “ I said.”I don't know about you.”

She looked at her feet and then at me. She was black and blue. That was the end of my venture into ballroom dancing. Apparently if you have a rainy afternoon and you don't know what to do with the little charmers, you can give them “Ballroom dancing! “

I gave up any idea of Teaching in Secondary School and chose Further Education as a safer bet. You don't have to do anything like P E. One of the tutors happened to be an International Rugby Referee, name Mike, (I forget his surname) who had awarded Wales a drop goal, when the ball had narrowly missed the corner flag. Every time we had the opportunity to pull his leg, we did.

How does one keep fit these days? I'll tell you, and its the one thing I do appreciate. Walking every day. No shorts and vest, just me and my memories.

Creative Writing Cooperative

The first meeting of the Creative Writing Cooperative will take place at the Quaker Meeting Room, Tremont Rd., Llandrindod at 10.am on Tuesday 10th December. Although Penny Everett has offered to lead it to get it off the ground, she sees it very much as being a combined effort - the hint is in the name!

Answers to the New Senior's Exam.

How long did the One Hundred Year's War last? 116 years

Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador

From which animal do we get cat gut? Sheep and horses

In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November

What is a camel's hair brush made from? Squirrel fur

The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after which animal? Dogs

What was King George VI's first name? Albert

What colour is a purple finch? Crimson

Where are Chinese Gooseberries from? New Zealand

What colour is the black box in a commercial aeroplane? Orange



Digital Photography Group

By Jane Malvern

Have you seen at the Digital Photography Group's "Photographs of the Month" which are displayed on the Notice Board at the main meetings?

These are the winners of an informal monthly competition between members of the Group. Each month we all submit prints of a set subject and also of "something else", taken during the past month. The winners are chosen by those members present. We hope you enjoy seeing them.

Whatever your level of expertise, you are welcome to join the Group. We usually meet at the Drama Centre at 10 am -12 noon on the 1st Monday of the month.

The photograph to the left was taken by **Tony Hodges** and is of the door handle in St Mary's church, Bicton. It won the picture of the month competition in October 2013 when the subject was "handles".

Rosemary Maling Lecture Day at Brecon

On 10th October four of us went to the annual lecture day at Brecon. This was a first time for me and the attraction was David Crystal. I knew he is regarded as one of the foremost experts in Linguistics (he is always being interviewed on Radio 4) and I was really looking forward to seeing him. His talk was entitled "How to be an English Language Tourist" and promoted his new book "Wordsmiths and Warriors –the English – Language Tourist's guide to Britain." It was a good presentation which posed some interesting questions. Why is it that we put up statues and plaques to soldiers of fairly minimal importance when the great heroes of the English Language remain uncelebrated?

It was, however, the afternoon lecturer who really excited me. This was Dr Mererid Hopwood, a Welsh poet who made history by becoming the first woman ever to win the bardic chair at the National Eisteddfod of Wales. I am ashamed to say I had never heard of her before, but her talk on "Words as Windows" was enthralling. I have never been so inspired by the passion and insight of a speaker. If you ever have the chance to see her – go! I promise you will not regret it.

Margaret Mason

