



BORDERLINES

The magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

June 2014

Introduction from the Editor

Hello and welcome to the June edition of Borderlines.

I have now been editor for 3 years, and, whilst I am happy to carry on, I think it would be a good idea to involve someone else. Is there anyone who fancies working with me in the same way Ian Paget does on the website? You don't have to be an experienced graphic designer (although do not be put off if you are!) and I have very little technical expertise to impart. I enjoy it because it is fun to do, and there are few time constraints. Please contact me to talk it over.

Now it is the summer many groups are going out and about to make the most of the good weather (joke!) Please remember an article in Borderlines enables the rest of the membership to share in the experience. My thanks to the contributors this month.

Regards, Margaret

Welcome

A very warm welcome to those members who have recently joined Llandrindod and District U3A. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

March - Nicola Colston.

April - Pat Howard, Eileen Edwards, Michelle Damsell, Caroline Dean and Anne Shergold.

Reminder from Karen Latham

Visiting U3A members from out of the area are welcome to attend our meetings. We would expect other U3A's to extend the same courtesy to our own members, so please remember to take your Blue Programme as proof of your membership.

Useful Contact numbers

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Cover photograph: Bluebells in Happy Valley. Margaret Mason.



Llandrindod Owls at the Mid Wales Quiz.

L-R Ted Lubran; David and Elaine Blackman; Margaret Mason and Terry Barry.

Who became the first Prime Minister of India in 1947? The last Harry Potter book was published in 2007 – what was it called? Richard Fosbury won a gold medal in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City but for what sport?

These were some of the questions asked in the third Annual Quiz hosted by the Mid Wales Committee in April. It followed a different format this year. I was strenuously campaigning for us to play our Joker in Literature undeterred by David saying mildly “Hadn’t we better find out what the rounds are first?” – when Will announced the rounds would be specific years. This was surprisingly disconcerting as we found we were frequently better on a year in the nineteenth century than one we had lived through. One difficulty with a five man team is that we go for the majority decision – which isn’t necessarily the correct one. So apologies to Ted Lubran, who rightly identified the space station launched in 1973 as Skylab – we thought it was Mir; to Terry Barry who knew it was Volvo founded in 1927 when the majority thought it was Saab and to everyone else in the team when I persuaded them that it was the Crystal Palace that Queen Victoria opened in 1871 (It was the Albert Hall).

Seven U3A’s took part - Brecon; Crickhowell; Dyfi; Llandovery; Llandrindod Wells; Newtown and Welshpool. The team for Brecon won and we were second (as we were last year). Thanks to Jane for the Owls, Berwyn for the photos and our loyal supporters who came to Cae Beris to encourage us.

Photo Berwyn Woolnough, text Margaret Mason.

Welsh History Group visit to Llanelly House

Text and photos by Gill and Richard Hughes

We arrived at Llanelly House after a train journey and a brisk walk in time for lunch at the highly recommended cafe situated on the ground floor. Our very informative and lively guide brought some of the previous occupants to life for us and explained the work and problems that had been overcome to restore this magnificent Georgian mansion to its present state. The craftsmanship and eye to detail was superb. We were encouraged to feel and look in detail of the exhibits on show.

Llanelly House is still developing itself. Grants have been approved to set up facilities for everyone to study their family trees.

We all had a very interesting and enjoyable day and look forward to returning at a later date.





Your Committee for 2014/15

L-R Karen Latham; Fay Ramsden; Berwyn Woolnough; Bob Atkins; Helen Wyton; Mary Russell; Clive Barrett and Mary Davies.

Bob Atkins. Chairman

Bob Atkins made aeroplanes for 37 years and then worked as a civilian for the police force. He retired to Howey 11 years ago. He has always liked working with and for others and playing a full part in the community. He was heavily involved in the friendly society The Foresters for many years, and is churchwarden and treasurer for Diserth and Howey. Bob joined U3A about 6 years ago and is a member of the Church Visiting, Sunday Lunch and Theatre groups.

Berwyn Woolnough. Vice Chairman

I originally stood for committee because I was already a group leader [Berwyn leads the recorder group] and further involvement in the organisation seemed to be a natural and attractive proposition. What I like about U3A is that it brings together like-minded people so that they can share and develop their particular interests and skills. It's a simple aim and it works well.

Karen Latham . Secretary

It is with some trepidation that I take on the role of Secretary, Ann is a difficult act to follow, thank goodness for her thoroughness, administration systems and kindness. It would seem I still have much to learn on the "spreadsheet" front, but U3A is about learning, new experiences and challenges. I am looking forward to working with the rest of the Committee and getting to know more members. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Mary Russell. Treasurer . As you know, I have just taken over as treasurer from David Gambles. David did a very thorough job as treasurer and made the takeover very easy for me. I have lived in Nantmel for just over 10 years but I am very new to U3A and so I am sorry that I don't know many members – but I hope to rectify that very soon. I will do my very best for the organisation but I am always open to ideas and suggestions and so please get in touch if I can help in any way.

Helen Wyton. Programme Secretary. Thanks to Mai for all that she has done during her 5 years in the role. Having had the responsibility for just 2 months, I can already appreciate what is involved in recruiting suitable speakers for your entertainment & enlightenment! If any members know of, or hear a potential speaker, please let me know. I only moved here from Nottingham about 18 months ago and have been in U3a just over a year. I have joined various groups including theatre, cinema, reading and walking and am really enjoying meeting new people.

Clive Barrett. Committee member. For many years Clive has written up the reports on the U3A lectures for the local newspapers and latterly, the Llandrindod U3A website. Readers of Borderlines will remember his features on the Interest groups. Clive hopes the skills and contacts he has gained will continue to benefit the U3A. Last month he deputised for the new Treasurer, but this is not something he fancies doing permanently!

Mary Davies. Committee member

I joined our U3A in 2006 and helped establish the Welsh History Group that year. So I found new friends and hope that by joining the committee I can encourage others to enjoy this excellent organisation.

Fay Ramsden. Committee member. I became a member when lectures were still held at the Bracken trust. I was invited on to the committee after being involved with the organisation of our first keynote lecture with Sir Roy Strong. I thoroughly enjoy our U3A because it is a coming together of like- minded people, but who have such varied interests and the monthly lectures offer a rare insight into so many different subjects.



Martha Wooldridge. Interest Group Coordinator.

(Martha was coopted on to the committee at the first meeting, and consequently is not on the photograph taken at the AGM)

I belong to the Singing for Fun and Welsh history groups and I lead the Military History group.

My aim as a Committee member is to ensure that the Committee are aware how they may impact upon the groups' activities and to draw to their attention any significant issues which arise within the groups. Also to

act as a link between Llandrindod U3A and the other Welsh U3As.

Chairman's report.

Bob Atkins

We have already made a very positive start to our new U3A year with two first class lectures so far.

May I, on your behalf, thank my predecessor, Jane Malvern, for the most diligent and dedicated way that she has undertaken the role of Chairman in the past two years. A quite significant number of the previous committee decided that they did not wish to stand this year. To them all, again on your behalf, I give sincerest thanks for all that they have done to contribute to the continuing success of our branch of the U3A.

Your new committee for this year readily appreciate the trust and confidence that you have placed in us.

You will know that we have updated the information regarding our ever increasing list of Interest Groups, more than twenty now, that everyone is most welcome to join in with. Where a particular Group on the list is indicating 'full' means that the capacity for it's venue has been reached, however that does not prevent another group for the same interest being formed at a different time or place.

Your Committee very much look forward to welcoming you at our monthly meetings throughout the year.

Report from the Interest Group Coordinator, Martha Wooldridge.

The Chairman has pointed out that a group's being full need not prevent the setting up of another one around the same interest. For instance, there are now two book groups meeting on different days and discussing different books, because the first one was full up. I am in the second group and just as happy as I would have been in the first group.

I think that second groups may not often be set up because no-one wants to lead them - a problem which we are currently having with setting up a (first) Spanish conversation group. We have members who want to practise their Spanish - but, apparently, no-one who wants to be responsible for the organisation of the group. I can't produce group leaders out of a hat - they must come from the group membership - but I can provide help and support to anyone who is thinking that the only way they may get their chosen interest group up and running is to take on the leadership. It need not be very daunting or time-consuming- you never know until you have at least thrown your hat tentatively into the ring. U3A only got where it is today by people being prepared to have a go.

I am ready to deal with the rush of volunteers to lead the Spanish conversation or any other new groups!

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Access to the full articles are only available from PCs in Powys Libraries, but you can search the title list from home and visit the library to view and print off the full article.

For more information contact the Library Promotion Officer, Rob Davies, on 01597 826884



The Walking Group at the Whimble, over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Photo Joan Annetts

Photos from the Garden Visiting Group's visit to Gliffaes Country Hotel and Gardens in April.

Fay Ramsden.

