

Borderlines

June 2015



The Magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to the June edition of Borderlines. My thanks to my contributors Bob Atkins; Adele and Robert Bevan; Penny Everett; Tony Hodges; Jane Malvern; Fay Ramsden; Ann Wheatley; Martha Wooldridge and Berwyn Woolnough. Grateful thanks also to everyone who sent in material which has been held over – I had so much this month I could have almost doubled the size of the magazine. Thanks also to Sheila Roberts and Kathie Riches- Jones for their interest and help.

Best wishes, Margaret

Car sharing

We often use shared cars for group activities. With many new members, and summer upon us , it seems a good time to remind people of the U3A policy regarding sharing the fuel cost.

To calculate the cost per person: take the number of miles travelled (don't forget to allow for the return journey!), multiply by 30p and divide by the number of people in the car (i.e. passengers AND driver)

Welcome

The following new members have joined U3A. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

March: Jo Caryl, Merle Christie, Sue Ginger, Collette and Neil Glasper, Richard Griffiths, Brian Guest, Sue Harvard, Anne Hill, Christine John, Vicki Morrell, Pauline Pritchard, Kevin Russell, Jane Stevens, Jan Willsher.

April: Collette Gwyn, Emm Hardy, Elsa Harflett.

May: Francesca Bantock, Janet Tully, Heather Weisse.

Useful Contact numbers

Bob Atkins, Chairman: 01597 823292

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Cover photograph by Fay Ramsden. The bridge at Cae Beris

The Recorder Group Berwyn Woolnough

Those of you who were at the Christmas lunch or AGM will have had what we hope was the pleasure of hearing some of our latest repertoire, ranging from 15th century dances to George Gershwin.

Most recorder music was written between the 12th and mid 18th centuries, during which time the instrument was played not only by the common man but also kings, queens and “gentlefolk”. Henry V had a large recorder collection and wrote a considerable amount of music for it.

With the development of the modern orchestra, the recorder gradually retreated into the shadows, but in recent times it has enjoyed a considerable revival, in no small part due to the efforts of the Society of Recorder Players, which now has over 50 branches throughout the UK. The success of recorder players in the last two BBC Young Musician competitions has also added to its popularity.

And it's not just the recorder and its music - our U3A group too has enjoyed a boost to its public profile. Since the AGM, we have played for an hour as part of a Medieval Day at Ashfield House, appeared in a concert in Holy Trinity Church and entertained at the Llandrindod May Fair. Our first appearance at the Proms has yet to be confirmed!

The photo shows us at the May Fair. Several regular players are missing due to the bank holiday, but we were fortunate that Nick Marchmont (who spoke at a recent main meeting on Sacred Geometry) and Jess Hill were able to come along to fill some gaps.



Photo Copyright Marina
Gallery Photography

AGM and Open Day

Committee.

Longstanding Committee member Fay Ramsden stood down, and was replaced by Penny Everett. I think most people know Penny as she has been a past Editor of *Borderlines*, a past Chairman and is currently the Leader of the Creative Writing Group. For those who don't, here she is!

"Apologies that the picture is so formal - I was trying out the delayed shutter thingy on my camera! Happy to be involved with your Committee once again and look forward to our activities for the year ahead."



A selection of the Interest Group displays at the Open Day.

Photos by Tony Hodges



The Classical Mythology Group



The Creative Writing Group



The Digital Photography Group



The Military History Group



The Readers



The Unfinished Objects Group



The Virtual Travel Group



The Welsh History Group

The Garden Visiting Group go to Cae Beris.

Photos by Fay Ramsden



The U3A All Wales Conference 2015. Jane Malvern

The U3A All Wales Conference 2015 was held in Llandrindod Wells on April 8th. This was the second time that the Pavilion has been the venue.

As in 2014, about 73 delegates attended from U3As all over Wales, and the meeting was chaired by the current Wales Trustee, Anthony Hughes. Five Llandrindod U3A members attended and acted as Stewards when and where required.

After coffee, Anthony gave an introductory presentation. He started with news on the current state of U3A in Wales - for instance that three new U3As had been set-up in the past 12 months and that over 1000 people, including First Minister Carwyn Jones, had visited our stand at the National Eisteddfod - and then spoke about the theme of the Conference - Growth.

Anthony introduced the Keynote Speaker, U3A National Chairman Barbara Lewis. Barbara's very interesting talk was on the subject of 'Change Matters'.

After a Buffet Lunch in the conservatory, which gave us all an opportunity to mix with delegates from other U3As, we returned to the hall for a Workshop session on "Growth: in our U3As, in our Networks and at the Third Age Trust"

We were seated at tables of ten, and asked to discuss possible ideas and problems regarding Growth in the areas specified, e.g. In 'our U3As' our topics included Committee, Interest Groups and Membership, in 'our networks' we discussed the Value and Organisation of Networks, in 'Third Age Trust' we talked about possible actions the Trust could take and how we, the U3As, could make more use of the Trust.

It was interesting to exchange ideas and discuss solutions to problems with those from U3As of different sizes and in different areas, and we were required to read out our ideas and solutions to the rest of the delegates at the end of the session. These remarks have now been collated and published on the U3A Wales website (see below)

Altogether, a very informative day - attendance is open to any U3A member for the modest cost of lunch, so do keep a look out for the publicity about next year's Conference if you would like to go - although, sadly, it probably won't be in the Pavilion, perhaps the organisers can find another venue in Llandrindod Wells.

N.B. The URL for the conclusions from the Conference is

<http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=295&page=10318>

Messages from: The Chairman, Bob Atkins

We have begun another year of our branch of the U3A in a very positive way, not least with the Interest Group presentations at the Annual General Meeting. We have had excellent feed back from you the members on how much this was enjoyed and to to be found most informative. As a result we hope that parallel groups will be set up as well as new ones. It is really up to you, and me, to have the willingness to build on the firm foundation that we now have.

One change to your committee this year, as I had announced at the AGM, Fay Ramsden had decided to stand down, and you have elected in her place Penny Everett, a previous chairman, and we look forward to having her valuable U3A experience and input. Although Fay has stood down you will know that she is continuing with being on the door to welcome you all as you arrive at our monthly meetings, for that we are most thankful.

All the Committee, including myself, readily appreciate the trust that you have placed in us for the coming year.

The Interest Group Coordinator, Martha Wooldridge

There was an article in a recent edition of *Third Age Matters* about the role of the Interest Groups Co-ordinator which many of you have seen and which may have raised the question why your co-ordinator is - shall we say - less hyperactive than groups co-ordinators are supposed to be !

I am very lucky in that groups here seem to set themselves up with little help from me and operate independently and successfully. I would never dare to interfere with any of them, although of course I am available should any of them have a problem they wish to discuss.

I have one concern however and that is the shortage of leaders for the new groups which we might otherwise set up. We were looking for a leader for the Spanish conversation group for quite some time before Berwyn Woolnough kindly said he would take it on and some of the most popular groups could be duplicated if only we had leaders. Having said that, I believe that a new dining group may be on the cards and I am ready to lead a German conversation group if there is enough interest - please see the notice board at the next meeting.

Being a leader need not be demanding and it can be fun - I know, I run the military history group and I get a great deal of pleasure out of doing the preparatory work as well as running the meetings. Unless we have new leaders we cannot increase the number of groups and meet in full the varied interests of members. So, if you think you might be prepared to run a group or if you have any particular interest for which we do not currently cater or which is oversubscribed, please let me know and we can see what can be done to offer an even wider choice of interest groups to members.



The Walking Group enjoying a lovely walk from Pilleth Church

Ann Wheatley

The Church Visiting Group goes to Llananno

For their February excursion the Church Visiting Group ventured only as far as Llanbister and Llananno. The church of Saint Anno is situated on the bank of the Ithon just below the main Llandrindod to Newtown road so that passing motorists would hardly notice it. Approached through a small yew tunnel its chief glory is the splendid screen which dates from about 1500.

The screen survived the Victorian restoration who sensitively preserved and re-erected it in the new church so that although some new woodwork was used to repair it what remains is chiefly as it would have originally appeared.

The twenty-five figures are replacements of 1880 - Apostles and Prophets with Christ in the centre. Altogether a superb work of art and much admired by the sixteen members who braved the cold February weather.

Robert Bevan

