

Borderlines

December 2015



The Magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor

Hello and welcome to the Christmas edition of Borderlines. My thanks as always to my contributors. Please keep the material coming in!

You will get this issue just before the pantomime and Christmas dinner. The pantomime started with Barbara saying "why don't we do a 10 minute pantomime for the Christmas meeting? The Creative Writers could do the script, and Singing for Fun could perform it." From that it has spread to encompass many more individuals and groups, and can act as an example of how well U3A members work together on a project. As a member of the back row of the chorus, I have found the whole thing great fun, although I suspect those with more responsibility may feel differently! Anyway, we hope you enjoy the show.

Merry Christmas to everyone, Margaret

Welcome

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

September: Jenny Bowman; Ann Chandler; Sandra Chapman; Eleanor Cuddy; Sandra Gayther; Brenda and Robert Hickerton; Janice and David Horne; Gill Hughes; Eric Jenkins; Richard Martin; Pamela Sherwood; Victoria Terrell; Chris and Paul Vaughan.

October: Joan Gregory; Julian Ravest and Leigh Spicer.

Nov: Connie Carvill; Jacqueline Hankey; Denise Krusche; John Mabey; David Parsons; Jan Swindale and David Ward

Useful Contact numbers

Bob Atkins, Chairman: 01597 823292

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Front cover: The walking group at the Elan valley. Photograph by Barbara Warner

EXCURSION TO OXFORD

42 of us were on our way promptly at 8.30am with Celtic Travel and all went well until we neared the foot of Air Balloon hill outside Gloucester where traffic crawled past a car that had stopped diagonally across the road. That delayed us by half an hour but we arrived at the Ashmolean Museum in good time for lunch and a (free) look around the various floors and galleries of exhibits and artefacts from around the world – antiquities, Eastern Art, coins and medals, Western Art, stringed instruments, jewellery, textiles, paintings of all kinds including J.M.W. Turner's iconic 'The High Street, Oxford' 1810 recently offered to the nation in lieu of inheritance tax of £3.5 million. There was something for everyone, and as with all museums, far too much to see in one visit.

Do look at the website www.ashmolean.org before your next trip.

Patsy had prepared an excellent information sheet for us all and early afternoon her son, Jim, led us from The Martyrs' Memorial [Ridley, Latimer and Cranmer 1555] into Broad Street noticing one of Gormley's statues high on a parapet, past the colleges (dating from 1282) Balliol, Trinity, Exeter, Hertford, All Souls, Merton and The Bridge of Sighs into Christ Church meadow and then to Christ Church College itself under Tom Tower archway.

We split into three parties for our guided tour across the quad into The Great Hall and on to the Cathedral. There we heard about the history of the site which dates back to 1122 and the discussions between Cardinal Wolsey and Henry V111 about how much of the building should be demolished to make way for the college. Fortunately further demolition was abandoned and now we can admire the architecture, the carvings and wonder how



it was built in those days.



The tour finished in The Great Hall of Christ Church College where we enjoyed a most welcome tea of sandwiches and cakes prepared on the long tables that you might have seen in the Harry Potter films. The Great Hall is the inspiration for the film set reproduced in the Pinewood studios. We were under the gaze of the portraits of many famous and illustrious figures who were tutored here.



Bob Atkins thanked Patsy and Jim for organising a wonderful day. We saw and learned so much and are most grateful. The weather was kind; we managed the traffic - only just scuttling past moving buses – there are considerably more than in Llandrindod. He also thanked Ann Parkhouse for looking after the finances but who was unwell and unable to join us.

Oxford reeks history and culture; there are 38 colleges; the maintenance of the old buildings must be colossal and continuous. It's well worth another visit in your own time.

Text and photographs by Humphrey Morgan



The Garden Visiting Group went to the Old Rectory at Thruxton in the Golden Valley. Jill and Val are clearly enjoying the September sunshine.

Photos Fay Ramsden



The Art Group.

Text and photographs by Karen Latham.

The Art Group has had a very interesting and challenging few months. Moving from the Rock Park venue as the weather got colder and more inclement to take up residence in Celf o Gwmpass. The first two meetings in Celf, the group concentrated on life drawing with advice on hand from the professional artist and tutor David Ward who volunteered to advise those in the group who requested help. I can honestly say everyone in the group gained in confidence and it showed in the work produced.



Then came a completely different challenge - the scenery for the Christmas Pantomime. Denise Thorne had done an amazing job as artistic director giving us detailed, models, drawings and the basic screens to work on. These were transported with good humour and a large van by Jenny to

Celf.

Scenery and poster production, provided quite a new learning curve, as many of the group had not worked on that scale before and scenery painting is an art form in itself. Enthusiasm and a will to get "stuck in" was not an issue. There was the added challenge of others working on the back of the screens and the fact that for the screens to be turned around successfully, the paintings for one group were always out of synchronization



Painting by numbers is not something artists do easily and with 14 brains interpreting and pairs hands at work mixing and painting, it is a credit to those involved that the end result is so close to the given brief!

Thank you all for your patience, contributions and work, those who gave up additional time outside of the normal art group to finish the scenery and posters and especially Ann and David who had painted scenery professionally and were on hand with calm voices, good advice and the unifying brush strokes. A couple more pantos for practice and we can go into serious scenery production.

The New Year will see another change of pace and venue as we move to the Museum Exhibition room as our venue for January, February and March.

POEM

By a disgruntled U3A member

I woke up this morning feeling glum
Unsure what had caused my mood.
A vague idea at the back of my mind
Says it's something to do with food.

Oh yes – it's the Christmas dinner,
Anticipated with glee.
I'd been looking forward to some coq au vin
And I've paid the £18 fee.

So what has upset me if it isn't the lunch
When I haven't chosen the soup?
It's the dreadful panto dreamt up by that bunch
From the Creative Writing Group.

I mean – I've got talents – I can sing and dance
I've played many roles in the past.
But apparently, it's a fait accompli
And I simply haven't been asked.

I've done Am Dram for 30 years
My Titania was a wow
I used to play all the female leads
Though I've put on a bit of weight now.

So how can I face my public
If I haven't been given a part?
I should have been the star of the show
I'd have outshone **that** lot for a start !

At the risk of this editorial note sounding pompous, I should point out that this is a spoof. The author produced this poem as a joke at the Creative Writing group, and the rest of us felt it should be included. Spare your sympathy for this ageing diva - she has got a part! Ed

Speakers wanted!



Hi my name is Helen Wyton & I'm the Programme Secretary for Llandrindod U3A. It is quite a challenge to find good speakers on a range of subjects so if anybody knows of any suitable speakers please let me know! I would be extremely grateful.

A message from the Chairman....

Another year has simply flown past, once again, and from a U3A perspective your committee trust that you have enjoyed the wide and varied programme that has been organised, on your behalf over the past twelve months.

Looking forward to the new year, which for us is a particularly special occasion. I refer, of course, to the fact that 2016 is the 10th anniversary of the formation of the U3A here in Llandrindod Wells and District. A special event is being planned to celebrate this important milestone, watch out for more details as they become available.

Our monthly Guest Speakers for 2016 are already in place. However if you have a suggestion for 2017 and beyond, do please let us know, that includes you ,our members, should you feel that you are able to contribute and present an item of interest.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of your committee, to wish each and everyone of you a most joyous Christmas wherever you will be, and sincerest greetings for the new year.

Bob Atkins - Chairman

All change

Margaret Easteal has moved away from the area so the leader of **The Book Circle** is now Joan Annetts. Joan has been in the Circle since the beginning and is well known as the leader of the Walking Group. The Book Circle became so popular we had to start another reading group! Margaret was one of the founders of Llandrindod U3A and our first Treasurer. She will be greatly missed, We wish her well in her new life.

After about 9 years leading the **History Group** Mary Davies has decided to call it a day. She will remain a member of the group which will now be led by Martha Wooldridge. Under Mary's direction the group has flourished and become one of the most popular groups in the U3A. Her excursions are second to none! She will be much missed, but we are delighted to welcome Martha, a longstanding member and contributor to the group, as the new leader. As well as being the Coordinator for Interest Groups, Martha already leads the Military History Group.

Nick Talbott is taking over from Barbara Warner as **Web Editor**. Ian Paget remains as Assistant Web Editor. Please continue to send any news items, photos, updates to Barbara until 10 January 2016 and to Nick Talbott nick@trosnant.net 01597 829072 or Ian Paget from 11 January onwards. As the first web editor, Barbara has made the web site hugely influential. We are fortunate that Nick, as leader of the Computer Groups has volunteered (?) to take over, and look forward to seeing how he will develop the site.

I am struck by the fact that all the incoming leaders already lead other groups. Well, they say if you need help, ask a busy person! Ed

The Singing for Fun Group at the 1940's weekend



The group at the Bandstand. This photograph is the copyright of Marina Gallery Photography. The others are by Mary Davies and Barbara Warner.



The Lady and the Landgirl.



The Doctor and the Munitions Worker



The Spiv and two more Ladies.