

Borderlines

June 2016

The Magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor

Hello and welcome to the June 2016 issue of Borderlines magazine. We have information on the new committee; the 10 year Birthday celebration and a selection of Group Activities. My thanks to the contributors, particularly the new ones. Without you there would be no magazine. I am grateful also to the committee, who have agreed to (and paid for!) extra pages for this issue.

Best wishes, Margaret

Welcome

We would like to welcome (or in several cases, welcome back), the following new members:

March: Pat and Barrie Finnemore; Gail and David McKechnie; Diana and Roy Thomas.

April: Annette Barrett; Bronwyn Curnow; Rosemary Flatt; Chris Pegrum and Don Warner.

We hope you enjoy U3A.

Useful Contact Numbers

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Cover photo: On behalf of Llandrindod and District U3A, Chairman Berwyn Woolnough accepts a congratulatory card from the Welsh Trustee Hilary Jones.

Photo by Nick Talbott.

Art History Trip to Cardiff Museum and Art Gallery

Text Ruth Brown, photos Jill Mouncer

It was raining when we left for our visit to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff but by the time we reached Brecon the sun was shining and we enjoyed a lovely journey travelling down through the valleys to arrive in Cardiff late morning.

Before lunch some of us explored the Natural History Museum's amazing display, 4,600 million years of the Evolution of Wales. Much more time was needed to fully appreciate this fascinating study.



After lunch we took ourselves to the upper floor of the museum to see the art treasures of the National Art Gallery of Wales. I especially enjoyed seeing the 16th to 18th Century Netherlands collection. There is at present a Rembrandt painting on display, the portrait of Catrina Hooghsaet. This very fine painting is on loan from Penrhyn Castle.

We are much indebted to the Davies sisters for their many gifts to the Gallery which include two well-known sculptures by Auguste Rodin, "The Kiss" and "Eve".

18th,19th and 20th Century Welsh artists are well represented and much social history can be learned with paintings by Thomas Jones (our Llandrindod painter), Kyffin Williams, Christopher Williams, David Davies, Augustus and Gwen John and Thomas Henry Thomas. I learned that Thomas Henry Thomas was not only a very fine artist, but was also a keen promoter and driving force for the creation of the National Museum of Wales.



The Walking Group on Hergest Ridge in May. Photo Elsa Harfleet

Could you serve on the next Committee?

Bob Atkins, Clive Barrett and Mary Davies did not stand for re-election, and we would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work. Ann Harvey and Sue Havard have now joined the committee and you will find a brief profile in this issue of Borderlines.

We will need a new Treasurer and Secretary at the next AGM as both Mary and Karen have done their three years. If anyone is thinking that they might like to take on one of the roles (and it's a particularly good way for new members to get involved and get to know people), both Karen and Mary would welcome getting them involved 'to learn the ropes' while they are still in position. Please contact Mary or Karen if you are interested.

Tiramisu

Ingredients

7 fl.oz. strong black coffee made with 4 dsp coffee;
3 tbsp Amaretto, brandy or Tia Maria;
8 trifle sponges;
8 ounces Mascapone;
10 fl. oz. whipping cream;
4 level tsp icing sugar;
Cocoa powder;
Marsala or sherry.

Method

Into a serving bowl put 4 sponges sliced in half horizontally or broken into large pieces and sprinkle with Marsala. Whip together Mascapone, cream, icing sugar, 1 tbs coffee and 2tbs of alcohol. Add rest of alcohol to the coffee and soak sponges with half, then cover with half of the cheese mixture. Repeat with the other 4 sponges. Allow to soak and just before serving sprinkle sieved cocoa over the top.

Recipe by Doreen Ilett.

(I've tested it for you - ever a slave to duty! It is delicious and authentically Italian! Ed)

Message from the Chairman, Berwyn Woolnough



“Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.” So reads Malvolio in Twelfth Night.

Well I wasn't born great, I certainly haven't clawed and trampled my way to the top, so I belong squarely in the third category. All I did was cast myself into the waters of the U3A and allow them to carry me along until I was, by chance, washed ashore in a place where greatness was graciously bestowed on me. I'm sure the Bard could have put it better, but I think you get my drift!

So here I am, just two months into the job and, I'm pleased to report, enjoying it. The highlight so far, of course, has been the excellent 10th anniversary lecture and tea which was attended by over 100 members and guests. Many of you will have seen the article in the County Times with a photo showing the Metropole's Powys Suite packed to capacity. The caption above it reads: “Club goes from strength to strength” and this really sums up our story over the last ten years. I'll certainly do my best to ensure that, at the end of my period in office, this story won't have changed.

The words immediately before the quotation I began with are: “Be not afraid of greatness..”

Well, I'm not, but I have to say that the prospect of being in charge of a committee made up entirely of women did give rise to some trepidation. I needn't have worried though – they're all very gentle and, more importantly, extremely energetic and efficient. The future looks good!



New Committee member Sue Havard

"As a fairly recent member of U3A I joined the committee to expand my knowledge of the workings of the organisation and to become more involved. I am a member of the theatre group and plan to join others when time permits."

New Committee Member Ann Harvey.



I have been a member of U3A for about 10 years and served on the committee for a 3 year stint some while ago. The only reason I have for serving again is because I was asked and persuaded, a weakness yet to be resolved.

I belong to the recorder group and have had a first outing with the theatre group, a most enjoyable experience which I shall repeat. A suitable foreign language group would be my next choice.

Past Committee member Clive Barrett receives award.

(The picture is reproduced by kind permission of the Brecon & Radnor Express & the article by the Mid Wales Journal).



Clive has done as much as anyone to raise the profile of sports in Brecon & Radnor after reporting on football, bowls and many other sports for the past 40 years mainly with the Mid Wales Journal, including a sports feature writer for the long running monthly supplement "Radnorshire Life", and the other local newspapers. He has been heavily involved in the administrative side of the sport, including stints on the Powys Sportlot Committee, a trustee of Llandrindod Wells Bowls Club, and Results Co-ordinator for the Mid Wales Bowling Association. Clive is currently working on an article and possible book to be entitled "A History of Sport in Radnorshire".

Mid Wales Journal Editor Mary Queally said after the ceremony " Many congratulations to all the award winners on their marvellous achievements, but particularly to our very own Clive Barrett. " Local sports in the Mid Wales area would probably not been as well recognised and as well followed over the last 40 years, if it wasn't for Clive. He has ensured that every goal, run and medal has been covered in the local newspapers. His talent for delivering top notch exclusives and in-depth features on the characters involved in Mid Wales sport is unrivalled. His award for outstanding contribution to sport is long overdue --- and hugely, richly deserved".

(The photo shows Clive proudly holding aloft his award for " Outstanding Service to Sport for Journalism and Administration following the annual Brecknock and Radnorshire Sports Awards in Brecon in March 2016).

The Theatre Group goes to Stratford upon Avon

As predicted it was raining as a small group of theatre goers, umbrellas at the ready, met outside the High School for our theatre visit to see Hamlet. Thankfully Vic, our trusted Celtic Travel driver, arrived promptly so getting wet was cut to a minimum. Our next pick up was at the Rugby Club- everyone looked in disguise wearing rain hats, coats and clutching umbrellas. Just a couple of pick ups outside Llandrindod and we were on our way, 41 seats taken up.

There was much chatter on the coach resembling the dawn chorus!

The journey was smooth with no hold ups.

It was interesting to observe the trees and vegetation greening up, much in advance of Llandrindod, as we travelled through Leominster and onwards.

We reached Stratford at coffee time and everyone darted from the coach, heading in different directions, seeking out their favourite coffee place. This was followed by pre theatre lunch and then on to Hamlet.

Enid Shaw

A review of Hamlet

Everyone knows the plot of 'Hamlet', so it seems sensible to comment only on the originality of Simon Godwin's production, beginning with casting the native population of Denmark as Afro-Caribbean, played brilliantly by all black actors. To his home, Prince Hamlet returns from the University of Wittenberg to be greeted by his murderous uncle in full military uniform preparing for the invasion of the Norwegian Prince, Fortinbras. From this explosive start, the graffiti Prince Hamlet, in his paint-daubed clothing, is disaffected and shows his contempt by pinning toilet signs above the throne.

The action continued in similar a vein. To loud percussive music, the all-dancing cast of the 'play within a play' intends to reveal the murder of Hamlet's father, the old King. After the accidental murder of her father, Polonius, Ophelia's mad scene is played aggressively, with little of the pathos usually identified with this scene. Her avenging brother, Laertes returns, flies in by helicopter, completing the military theme. The resulting duel scene leaves all the main characters dead. Finally, a returning Fortinbras claims the Kingdom and pays tribute to Hamlet's memory before clearing the stage.

Patsy Godfrey.

The Singing for Fun Group

Text: Jane Stephens and Barbara Warner.

Photos: Pam, Activity Coordinator at Wylesfield

The Singing for Fun group led a sing-a-long at Wylesfield and Fronheulog care homes, singing mainly old favourites from the 1950s, which the residents recognised, enjoyed and joined in with gusto.

The care homes rewarded us with tea, home made cake and biscuits. We really felt we had brought back happy memories for the residents.

At the end of the singalong at Fronheulog, one of them offered to sing to us. Although 85 years old and suffering from dementia, she sang the Welsh National Anthem in Welsh which she had learned over 70 years ago when she was evacuated from her home in England to Methyr Tydfil during the Second World War in 1944/45! Needless to say, we all joined in with her and It made a splendid end to the afternoon's singing!



The Art Group looks at:

Mandalas

Mandala is a Sanskrit word that means "circle".

The process of making a Mandala's is used to help encourage and inspire inward contemplation during the creation of artwork.

In the Buddhist and Hindu religious traditions their sacred art often takes a mandala form.

Picture monks creating mandalas in fine coloured sand and then destroying them to show transitory nature of all things

Anyone can have a go at making these satisfying patterns using pencil, ink or colours
Start with a dot in the middle of a piece of paper.

Then begin a tight spiral from that central point, opening the spiral as you work towards the outer edge of the paper

Then divide paper into quarters through the central point

Now begin to make a pattern ensuring what ever you do in one quarter is repeated in the other three

Have fun, relax and enjoy the process - you may be surprised at the result.

The April topic was "Still Life"

Ruth Brown, a U3A member, who received tuition in the past on painting in the renaissance style gave an interesting demonstration on the use of tone and building up under layers before applying any colour. Some of Ruth's Still Life work can currently be seen on exhibition in the mirco brewery Avon Ales
A challenging and enjoyable morning, time goes to quickly



Short Story Writing Competition

Any U3A member can enter!

The topic for Learners and First Language Welsh
is Bywyd Newydd - A New Life

The English Language topic is My Favourite Place

Max. 1500 words

Entries in by 31st August 2016

Winners will be announced by 1st November and each winner will receive a £25 book token

Competition details on the All Wales website:

www.u3asites.org.uk/wales

Creative Writing Study Day.

In May members of Llandrindod's Creative Writing Group were joined by other members from Hay and Kington for a Study Day on Creative Writing

The day was led by Peter Read, a fulltime writer for ten years who is also a Creative Writing Tutor for Swansea University. He had the happy knack of being able to put over information in such a lighthearted manner we didn't realise how hard we were working!

Much of the session was specifically targeted at our individual questions and requirements and Peter gave advice on such things as characterisation, dialogue and how to get published. His approach was pragmatic and it was good to get ideas from someone who had practical experience in the subject. He even gave out his email details for anyone to contact him with further concerns, which I thought well beyond the call of duty!

Our thanks to Penny Everett, who organised the event so well, and to Mary Davies who assisted her at lunch. It was a really good day!

Text Margaret Mason



The 10 year celebration!

Above - members enjoy afternoon tea after a fantastic lecture by Rami Seth.

Left: Llandrindod Town Crier and U3A member Janet Swindale announces the lecture.

See also front cover.

Photos Nick Talbott.

