

# Borderlines

September 2016



The Magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A

## Introduction from the Editor

My husband was sailing in Norfolk in the summer and I went along for company. We were having dinner with the other competitors after the race, and found that most of us were passionate U3A members. It reminded me how many people have benefited from U3A nationwide.

My thanks to all the contributors (who have as usual come up trumps) and to Stephen Ashley for distributing the copies in my absence.

May I have any material for the next issue (the Christmas one!) by 20th November, please.

Best wishes, Margaret

## Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members to Llandrindod and District U3A  
We hope you enjoy your time with us.

June: June Davis and John Mason

July: Alun and Christine Thomas

## Visitors

During the last 3 months we have welcomed a number of visitors from other U3A's, from as far afield as Somerset and London's SE branch and more locally from Brecon and Talgarth. If you have friends or people staying and they want to come along for any specific talk they are most welcome, the charge for visitors is £3.00 or if they are local and considering joining then one "taster" session is free. Karen Latham

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Cover photo by Elsa Harflett: The walking group at Boughrood on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

# The Art Group. Text and pictures Karen Latham

The art group congregated at the Lakeside cafe for the July meeting.

The weather was kind and we were able to work from the cafe balcony which gave a different perspective, while others chose positions around the lake.

As you can see from the pictures, concentration, was as always, interspersed with good company, conversation, coaching, and coffee!



## The Readers

Some members of the Readers Book Group at the August meeting. The book discussed was "When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit" by Judith Kerr.

## The Art History Group Visit. Text Patsy Godfrey, Photo Jill Mouncer

On Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>. August, the Art History Group and other interested members drove to Liverpool Tate Art Gallery for a viewing of the works of two of the foremost, controversial 20<sup>th</sup> C. painters of the human body, British artist Francis Bacon (1909-92) and Austrian artist Maria Lassnig (1919-2014). Born just 10 years apart, both artists devoted their careers to portraying the human figure as they perceived it.

There is some logic to the pairing of these artists. Both were strongly affected by W.W.2. Both portrayed the human figure as agonized, distorted and grotesque.

Bacon's work includes drawings and documents and around 30 pictures , the most well known of which is probably his version of Velasques's portrait of 'Pope Innocent X' ,where Bacon uses the recurring device of confining his subject within constricting thin, black and white lines to highlight and focus on the distorted figure, placed to vivid effect on a backdrop of a gloriously rich, red colour.

Maria Lassnig's 40 large paintings reveal the mordant humour of her experience of life, of sex and death. Her body-awareness, self portraits are arresting, portraying herself as a shrieking cheese grater or a saucepan head. In her later works, in paintings such as 'What Next' and 'Hospital' three heads lie on pillows beneath triangular lights , dozing, suffering and waking as tormented beings.

The exhibition is not for the faint hearted, but an experience worth enduring.

Finally, we need to give a special vote of thanks to Jill Mouncer for organising this remarkable visit. Over the past 10 years, Jill has taken us to many of the major Art galleries in Britain, to Birmingham, Manchester, Salford, Liverpool, Cardiff and Aberystwyth National Library. Thank you, Jill.



## FRENCH GROUP: Jane Page

The Group consists of half-a-dozen or so faithful followers and a sprinkling of extras, all of whom are very welcome *chez moi* on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon. Coffee, tea and biscuits (and occasionally something more exotic) accompany our monthly reunion before we get down to the job in hand.

The customary pattern is to read some passages in French, often a newspaper article (the Referendum provided excellent material) or a paragraph or three from a novel, each taking a turn to read and to translate into English. This leads to discussion of the contents and observations on translation, mainly using English but with smatterings of French. Yarns commencing 'when I was in France' occur quite frequently and all is conducted in an atmosphere of good humour and co-operation as this is as much a social event as an academic exercise.

New members are always welcome; there is no need to be 'good at French' as we are all pretty mediocre, but just enjoy pooling our knowledge and exchanging experiences and ideas.



### First Aid course: Helen Wyton

Karen Latham & Helen Wyton have attended an Emergency First Aid Course at the Pavo Centre, on behalf of Llandrindod U3a. This one-day course was excellent & covered topics such as adult basic life support, CPR, choking, minor burns & scalds & severe bleeding. Plenty of hands-on opportunities were given throughout the day including the use of a Defibrillator, (the nearest one being at Tesco's).

## Cinema Group. Roger Malvern

After a very successful season last winter, we plan to start this year's programme on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

We meet on the third Friday of every month from September to April at the Dance Centre in Arlais Road. Doors open 2.15 pm, for a 2.30 start. There is a contribution of £3 towards room hire and refreshments.

We are in process of finalising our 2016/7 Programme, but likely choices include:

- Woman in Gold (Helen Mirren )
- Brief Encounter (Trevor Howard, Celia Johnson)
- Before I go to Sleep (Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth)
- Second Best (William Hurt, made in Wales)
- A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur ( Bing Crosby, William Bendix)

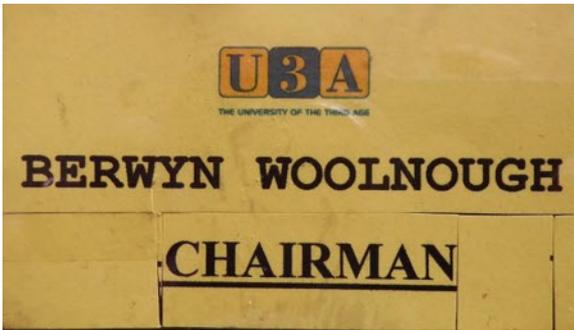
Plus 2 more titles.

# Message from the Chairman

If you were at the July main meeting you will no doubt remember my appeal on behalf of our sadly unused suggestions box. It turned out that very few of you knew of its existence, and that even fewer knew where to find it! So, from now on, just in case you have an idea to share, the box will be on a table at the back of the lecture room together with a pile of forms.

The ball has actually started rolling, because three suggestions materialised almost instantly – two of them proposing new study groups. I shall mention these at the September meeting. I suspect that the third one is a veiled criticism of myself, the writer pointing out that it would make life easier for everybody, especially new members if all officers and committee members would wear their name badge.

I have to admit that during my five or so years on the committee I haven't been particularly diligent in this respect, not because I'm reluctant to reveal my identity, but because I do tend to be absent-minded, a bit forgetful and prone to mislaying things. However, from now on, dear members, I shall turn over a new leaf! Never again will I appear on the second Monday of the month clothed in anonymity! To show willingness to change my ways, I've adapted my last year's "Vice Chairman" badge to read "Chairman". The workmanship is imperfect, but it



serves its purpose.

The more perceptive of you will no doubt be asking yourselves at this point what happened to my actual "Chairman" ID. The truth is I haven't been given one. I really must appoint a badge monitor!

So now you see the power of the suggestion box. Why not use it?

**Sue Turner** has been coopted on to the committee. She replaces Denise Krusche, who is moving away. Sue says "When I first went to a U3A Meeting in the Metropole I was immediately struck by the warm and vibrant atmosphere of this particular U3A. I have gained a great deal of pleasure from being a member and so, when asked to help out on the Committee, it seemed like the right thing to do."



# Beryl wins the Lottery!

Hi there folks,

My name is Ronald Hump and I have been commissioned by that cute little old lady Beryl. She has won 50 million big ones on your lottery and she would like me to help her with her project to make life happier for the citizens of Landod – a small town in a place called Wales, one of the counties of England.

Not a lot of money, I know, but I'm sure we can do something with it.

Now, I've spent a lot of time in this Landod place and it's clear to me that it needs a whole lot of livening up.

Firstly, there is the lake. Far too many ducks and things. We could have a one-off shooting contest and get rid of them, then drain the lake and fill it with chlorinated water. Oh and it's a bit irregular, so we could round it off. Then I'll put in some flumes and a pedalo station. There will be a tower for the DJs to play their music.

I've spoken to my mate the other Ronald (McDonald) and he's agreed to take a look at the restaurant. Probably not a drive through but proper seating, to give it a bit of class. It's important not to verge on the tacky side.

Moving on to the Rock Spa. I ask you – what is that! Something for the younger kiddies would be in order. We'll get shot of those weird wooden things and then I'm going to make a fairy grotto with loads of mechanical fairies and elves etc. Meanwhile the mums and dads can relax in the Roman baths nearby. I thought lots of marble, bit like Caesar's palace

Beryl said we need plenty of disabled access but hey do we really need wheelchairs etc cluttering up the place. Let em go someplace else instead of frightening the kids. Childhood should be fun.

One good thing I've noticed about the town, not too many foreigners around or funny coloured types. Keep Wales white is my motto.

Now where was I? Oh yeah, let's move on to the hotels. We need themes. I suggest something like smaller versions of that great city Vegas. Maybe recreate famous places like the Taj Mahal or Versailles in Spain. Casinos will draw people in from all over the county. Again, quite low key and not too ostentatious. I'll keep the bling to a minimum and cut down on the chandeliers.

It strikes me that you folks don't have too many places to go shopping. That Middleton street needs sprucing up. I've spoken to Starbucks and they are going to move into the empty shop – Bradley's or something. That'll mean closing the other eateries, but that's no bad thing. We can pay them off and then they can come work in the best Starbucks around. As for the other shops, well I ask you. Who needs book shops, knitting shops, health food for Chrissake. Get real the people of Landod. Books- haven't you heard of the internet?

Knitting? Clothes are real cheap ladies. Those sweat shops are fantastic. Health food, there's more nutrients in a burger.

I've noticed lots of hairdressers around. Forgive me ladies – without blowing my own trumpet, I think I can safely say I'm a bit of an expert on hairstyling. So I feel that I should have a bit more say on that. We only need one hairdressing salon and I'm prepared to donate some of my own money here to bring over stylists of my choosing to drag little old Llandod into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The salon will be decorated in Egyptian style and the stylists can wear togas.

The men can have their hair done here too and maybe pick up a little something for the weekend, if you know what I mean.

Speaking of which and there's no delicate way to put this but men have needs – know what I'm saying ? so I thought maybe a discreet little place where that old bike museum is. Nothing fancy, maybe decked out in red satin or something tasteful. I know just the lady to run it for you. An old flame of mine actually. It wouldn't be obvious from the outside, maybe we could black out the windows.

Now, that old garage in the middle of town needs shaking up.. I've looked at maybe a roller skating palais, or some kind of amusement arcade. Opposite the funeral parlour, I know, but again nothing too fancy and we'll keep the neon lights to a minimum. Maybe just a small display, with some kind of strobe effect.

Well ladies, that just about accounts for Beryl's winnings. I haven't put my business plan to her yet, but I know that she wanted to do lots of good for the town. I guess she asked me because I'm such an entrepreneur. Those Italians have a way with words, don't they?

Anyway, you gotta admit, we're going to spice this sleepy little old town up a bit and put it on the map. We can't have Wales going unnoticed. And what about all those sheep? Once they've all died off , we can do a lot with the land. Maybe a few more golf courses.

OK, I'm off back home now. Gonna slum it with ordinary folk – there ain't nowhere for my jet to land, although I'm going to be taking a look at Llandegly International airport.

Bye ladies, I've enjoyed listening to your ideas. See ya all soon!

*This was written for the Creative Writing Group for the theme "Winning the Lottery". I asked "Beryl" for permission to use it for the magazine, which she kindly gave. Topical and satirical - Borderlines will soon be the new Private Eye! Thanks, Beryl. (Ed)*