

# Borderlines

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The magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



## Introduction from the Editor.

Not much room for an introduction this time, so I will just thank all my contributors for their articles. We couldn't have the magazine without you, so please keep sending them in.

Particular thanks to Kathie and Nick. One day, Nick, we will produce an edition that uses all the techniques and professional expertise you are teaching us. Unfortunately this isn't it - but we are getting there!

With best wishes, Margaret

## Welcome

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

Philip Banks; David Brook; Julian Lovell; Judith Stafford and Colin Williams

## Useful contact numbers

Just the three of us this time as all post holders have to stand down for the election. We have tasks rather than positions!

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## New Members Meeting

On Valentine's Day we held a New Members Meeting at the Metropole. New U3A members from the last eighteen months were invited to attend to discover information about the organisation that they might have missed and to get together with other new members. It was felt that newly-joined members, and in particular those new to the area, might benefit from meeting others in the same position as it is sometimes difficult to feel part of a group with a large membership.

Our Chairman, Secretary and Programme Secretary attended together with Group Leaders. We sat in a large circle and enjoyed coffee and biscuits while Group Leaders described the activities of individual groups. New members offered feedback on their welcome to U3A and suggested various ideas for new groups. Two members volunteered to join the Committee. Our retiring Secretary, Karen Latham received great interest in a new Charabanc Club that she is hoping to run.

It was felt that much had been gained from this well-attended meeting and the Chairman suggested that there should be a similar event in the future.

*Cover photograph: The Art Exhibition, by Ernie Husson of Marina Gallery*



Text : Betty Jones Photo: Fay Ramsden

## ART HISTORIANS MEET ART STUDENTS

On 17 January, at the invitation of the Art History Group, five A level art students from Llandrindod High School, accompanied by their teacher, Kathryn Vaughan, talked to the Group about their art. They had brought their sketch books and individually showed how they were encouraged to choose their subject, develop their style by experimentation and work towards their A level final pieces.

Group members were amazed at their confidence, the current method of teaching art - a very different approach from when were students - and above all the high quality of the students' work.

Following the presentations, over tea and coffee members then chatted informally with the students who made their sketch books available to be looked at more closely and answered any questions. Jill Mouncer then thanked them for such an enjoyable morning, before wishing them all the best for their futures.

Ross Bennett, Head of Department, later responded: "A massive THANK YOU to you and your group for the experience. It has given them an opportunity they would normally only find at university. Your Art history group has now given them a huge advantage over others and a boost to their confidence. I was just sorry I couldn't make it there myself".

It's good to hear that a meeting of different generations with similar interests can have such a positive effect.

## Helping with BORDERLINES



Assisting Margaret Mason is Kathie Richards-Jones. She joined our U3A three years ago, and is a member of both Virtual Travel and Creative Writing, and is best known for producing the pantomime "What Cinderella Did Next" last Christmas.

Originally a secretary Kathie trained as a journalist at night-school, then spending 18 years travelling the UK and abroad with John Laing Construction .

In 1990 she was elected to be National Chairman of the British Association of Industrial Editors and 1991 saw her appointment as Secretary General to the Federation of European Industrial Editors Associations.

For the last 13 years of her career she returned to the BAIE, becoming Chief Executive, and managing the Association's transition to Institute-status.

Now freelance, her work includes proof-reading space and aeronautical magazines and being the Press Officer of the BUILT Male Voice Choir.

Kathie has been married to ex-bank manager John for 52 years and they live in Llanwrtyd Wells with their labrador Barley. They have a son, a daughter and six grand-children.

**“A super exhibition - easily one of our most popular!”**

**says Will Adams, curator of the Radnorshire Museum**



The preview was attended by the Mayor, the Chairman of Powys County Council, the head of Adult Education at PCC, and Robin Gibson Watt representing Friends of the Museum.

The Exhibition of art, photography, sculpture and craft work previewed on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and was extended, closing on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. We received good press coverage and excellent feedback - and most importantly the exhibition was well supported by U3A members, families and friends. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



The representative of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales came along on 6<sup>th</sup> December to see the works and joined the art group session for the morning.



Above: Kirsty Williams, AM and the Cabinet Secretary for Education, visited on the 21<sup>st</sup> December and was really interested in the works



Words and pictures by Karen Latham



## Enjoying part of the Wye Valley Walk

Enjoying some pleasant January weather are Joan Annetts (Walking Group leader), Barbara Warner (with black labrador Llewellyn), Ann Wheatley (with spaniel Cariad), Penny Everett, Meg Lewis, Jill de Gray Birch, Stephen Ashley, Pat Borland and Jackie Hankey

Elsa Harflett

## Double or Drop U3A style

This year's light relief at the Christmas meeting was based loosely on the "Double or Drop" competition from the children's TV programme "Crackerjack". We invited four contestants to Round 1, (Richard Davies; Roy Palmer; Sue Parsons and Jan Swindale) and they dressed for the part as a motley collection of school-children. Answering questions put to them by our Quizmaster, Mary Davies, they were piled high with a collection of ill-assorted items as rewards. The penalty for dropping anything was a cabbage. Jan Swindale won through to Round Two, where she was joined on the podium by Kathryn Hunt, Wendy Thomas and Berwyn Woolnough. Jan emerged as the overall winner and claimed first prize, but all our brave contestants were awarded "Crackerjack" pencils for sportingly taking part.

Special thanks to Kathie Richards-Jones who set the questions, Denise Thorn and Cheryl Davies, who did the staging and were our "glamorous assistants" and to the other members of the group who masterminded the organisation as, having come up with the idea, I departed to Florida for a month and left them to it!

Penny Everett

# The Theatre Group visit to Stratford upon Avon: The Tempest, by William Shakespeare.

Very few, if any, of those who have made the several journeys to Stratford upon Avon can fail to have been impressed by the quite imaginative and creative scenery for each production. The Tempest did not disappoint, the backdrop for the entire performance was the shipwrecked hull of a sailing ship, this was augmented by the most advanced reimaging three-dimensional technology for this magical play.

The plot: some years ago Prospero, the Duke of Milan, was usurped by his brother Antonio with the support of Alonso King of Naples and the king's brother Sebastian.

Prospero and his baby daughter Miranda were put out to sea, eventually landing on a distant island once ruled by the witch Sycorax, but now inhabited only by her son, Caliban, and the spirit Ariel. Since then Prospero has ruled the island by the use of magic arts derived from his studies. His daughter Miranda has grown up seeing no other human beings.

Prospero divines that his enemies are close to the island and sees an opportunity for revenge. Using his powers he raises a storm that shipwrecks them.

The shipwrecked travellers are separated. At Prospero's bidding the invisible Ariel directs their wanderings. He leads Ferdinand, Antonio's son, to Prospero's cell where he and Miranda fall instantly in love. Prospero sets heavy tasks to test Ferdinand.

The King of Naples searches for his son, fearing him to be drowned. Sebastian plots to kill him and seize the crown. The drunken butler, Stephano, and the jester, Trinculo, encounter Caliban who persuades them to kill Prospero so they can control the island. However, with a little intervention from Ariel they are soon bickering amongst themselves.

Satisfied that Ferdinand has met all his challenges, Prospero blesses his marriage to Miranda with a betrothal masque. He is, however, distracted from this when he discovers Caliban's plot.

A particularly memorable experience was the Spirit Ariel singing "where the bee sucks there suck I"

Bob Atkins

## A farewell to three committee members.

On the facing page you will find parting messages from the Treasurer, Secretary and Programme Secretary. They have all served for three years and the place won't seem the same without them! I would like to say thanks on behalf of the committee and the membership as a whole, for their hard work and commitment. The U3A doesn't just run itself but depends on the dedication of officers, Group Leaders and members to continue. From a personal point of view, I am grateful for their support and also their readiness to write an article for Borderlines on top of their other work load.

Thank you.

# And it's "Goodbye" from:

## **Karen Latham:** Secretary

Three years is what I contracted to do when I took over from Ann, the previous secretary. I was really grateful for the initial "hand holding" and advice I received from her. And how lucky was I, to be working with Mary as Treasurer and Helen as Programme Secretary supported by a very competent and often lively committee. I have made some good friends within the committee, membership and interest groups (including my own art group). Nick and Margaret also deserve a special mention for all the work they put in and support they have given me. I never cease to be surprised at the talents, skills and interests of the membership. No wonder U3A has such a good and growing reputation as it has some very seriously "smart" ambassadors!

What three things would I pick out from the last three years which might make you smile? Covering the Metropole dining room every year in glitter; having to improve my punctuation and spelling (sorry Berwyn, it is still not up to standard);- memory training I am still working on. As a member, I can work even harder on putting names to faces, and maybe even hold a conversation rather than just bombard individuals with tasks and information. Thanks to everyone for your smiles, patience and good humour. It has been a good learning curve.

Here's to the next stage of Llandrindod Wells U3A's development!

## **Mary Russell:** Treasurer

Well, I must say that I have generally enjoyed being treasurer for the group and feel quite sad handing the job over – but, after three years, the time has come. I took on the role from a very competent treasurer, David, because Llandrindod U3A was 'stuck' but I did see it as a way of getting to know more people in the area – and it certainly gave me that opportunity. Kevin and I have lived here for nearly 14 years but, as we were working away a lot, we hadn't really had the chance to meet a lot of people. We both think that U3A is a marvellous organisation and cannot imagine a more friendly group of interesting and enthusiastic people. I feel honoured to have had the chance to 'do my bit' for the group and hope that people were happy with the way I handled our funds. I now look forward to a period of just coming to the meetings and enjoying myself with no responsibilities and being able to chat to people without mentioning money! If everything goes to plan, I will be handing over the ropes to a person better qualified to do it than I am and I know you will be in good hands.

I wish you all the very best for the future and will see you in person soon.

## **Helen Wyton:** Programme Secretary

It has been a pleasure & privilege to have served on the U3A committee for the past three years as Programme Secretary. It has proved to be a very fulfilling role in which I have met some interesting and delightful people and am very grateful for all the suggestions for possible speakers that have come my way. I am sure that whoever takes on this responsibility will find it very rewarding and I wish them every success.

# The Classical Mythology Group

Take the head of the Gorgon Medusa,  
Known to all as the Greek Abuser  
One look from her was most unhealthy  
Especially if you tried to take a selfie

Patsy Godfrey



The CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY Group, under the leadership of Patsy Godfrey, meets on the last Thursday of the month at Montrose, Cefnlllys Lane at 2.30pm.

So far the group has dealt with the capriciousness of the Gods and Goddesses of Greece and Rome, their activities and status in the world of classical mythology, and how they have inspired authors and artists. At present they are dealing with the main protagonists and events of the siege of Troy from Homer's "Iliad" and "The Odyssey".

Due to the restriction of accommodation they are limited to 12 members, but are happy to take names for a waiting list.

Clive Barrett



## Death of Rami Seth

Those of you who attended the wonderful Llandrindod 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration lecture given by Rami Seth will remember he mentioned his long fight against cancer. I am sorry to tell you this is a battle he has now lost.

Helen Wyton, Programme secretary, shown at the lecture with Rami Seth