



Borderlines

June 2017

The Magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor.

Hello and welcome to the June edition of Borderlines.

My thanks to our contributors who have again come up trumps.

I was amazed to be asked by the Acquisitions Librarian at the National Library of Wales to supply him with a full set of Borderlines. He says he is “very impressed by the quality of the magazines. It [is] the type of material we should collect.” So my thanks to the brilliant contributors who make it what it is. Just think – one day the Charabanc Group trip to Chester may figure in someone’s PhD!

We are also to send a set to the British Library, and are legally bound to supply one to the National Libraries of Scotland and Ireland if asked to do so - but I can’t imagine they would ever be interested!

Any articles for the September magazine to be with me by the 20th August at the latest, please (although the earlier we get them the easier it is for Kathie and I).

With very best wishes, Margaret

Welcome

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

March: Rhian Hill; Thelma Mabey; Nick Marchmont and Roger Smith

April: Brian Bridges; Graham Davies; Heather Davies; Bob Hill; Pam Llewellyn and David Willsher

May: Linda Hawkes

Useful Contact numbers

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Cover: Doublegates, Cefnlllys Lane. Margaret Mason

Didn't we have a lovely day....

A Report on the Inaugural Outing of the CHARABANC CLUB. By Karyn and Wynne Evans

On Wed. May 10th we went to Chester – some to shop and enjoy the sights and the rest to “GO TO THE RACES”

The day started well, chilly but sunny and ‘The going was good’. We novice racegoers soon learnt the ropes. The numbers on the race card are NOT the starting prices but the jockeys weights!

The fillies around the paddock were a sight to behold and left little to the imagination – and I'm not talking about the horses. Not being a gambler (I have never ever bought a lottery



ticket) and having never been ‘To the Races’ previously, the whole day was very good fun. A very small financial outlay can cause an increased heart rate and lots of shouting. (We came back hoarse).

No-one won a fortune; no-one lost a fortune (I hope) some won a little; some lost a little, but everyone had a great day. Thank you Karen (Latham) and Mary (Russell)

Above: “We're here to lose our shirts!”

L-R Karyn; Kevin; Mary; Peter and Suzanne.

Right: Mine's the one on the left!”



Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Chester,

We had a drink on the way and had sun all day.

Some lost their shirts at the races, some walked the wall and took in the sights

Thank you so much, Karen, for an excellent choice of venue, looking forward to the next Excursion.

Mercia Dailey

MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

A new committee is now overseeing Llandrindod U3A - but how well do you know each member?

Borderlines invited committee members to introduce themselves, partly by answering questions such as *Why did you join the Committee? Which is your favourite interest Group? What other hobbies have you? Do you have a personal weakness? How would you describe our town:? And what is your most recent achievement?*

Some of their answers and comments are predictable - but some may surprise you!

BERWYN WOOLNOUGH

Chairman



Why did you join the committee?

I was in the right place at the right time (or the exact opposite!)

Favourite Interest Group?
Recorders

Other hobbies?

Music in general, bridge and crosswords

Personal weakness? Cake

Llandrindod? Did you see the movie "Cocoon"?

Recent achievement?
Cooking a dish that actually looked like the picture in the recipe book

PENNY EVERETT

Vice Chair

Why did you join the committee?

Basically because I believe in getting involved

Favourite Group? Creative Writing and Singing for Fun

Hobbies? Travel and grandkids

Pet hates? Gardening, ironing and cleaning windows

Personal weakness?
Impatience

Recent achievements?
Gardening, ironing and cleaning windows!



ALUN THOMAS

Treasurer



Why did you join the committee? I am a retired lecturer. When the U3A was looking for a Treasurer my wife volunteered the information that I had taught accounts and I found myself agreeing to take on the role

Favourite Interest Group? Botany

Hobbies? Gardening and playing bowls when time allows. Also football with my 6-year-old grandson

Chris and I also enjoy opera and reading

SUE PARSONS

Committee Secretary



I volunteered for the committee and ended up as secretary!!

Favourite Groups? Theatre visits and charabanc group

Hobbies? Grandchildren, holidays and supporting the Bracken Trust

Personal weakness? Reading instead of housework?

Llandrindod? Full of chances to become involved in the community

Recent achievement? I organised an Easter egg treasure hunt for six grandchildren

ELEANOR CUDDY

Membership Secretary



(Eleanor Cuddy continued)

I joined the committee because Karen caught me off guard!

Favourite group? Scrabble - wot... no Scrabble - will have to address that!

Hobbies? Grandchildren, walking - especially coastal

Personal weakness? Wine

Llandrindod? There's always something interesting going on in Llandrindod.

Recent achievement? Passing the intermediate Welsh examination.

SUE TURNER

Programme Secretary



I was 'volunteered' onto the Committee

Favourite Groups? Creative Writing and Recorders

Hobbies? Reading, music and dancing

Personal weakness? Alcohol

Llandrindod? Despite initial reservations I have come to love it.

I am blessed with a happy

head, and one friend describes me as a 'satisfied pig' rather than a dissatisfied Socrates' - which I think means I am not very bright!

SUE HAVARD

Committee Member



I do like to be involved and get a deeper understanding of the way things work

Favourite Group? Theatre

Hobbies: Gardening and cycling

Personal weakness? A glass of Merlot

Recent achievement? Growing ceanothus from cuttings

FOOTNOTE:

Lack of space precludes inclusion of committee member Delphine Carter and of the three co-opted committee members - Chris Thomas, Nick Talbott and Martha Wooldridge.

Watch out for their feature in the next issue.

International Happiness Day

The Creative Writing Group, Singing for Fun Group and Recorder Group got together to celebrate International Happiness Day on 20th March. Stories written by the Writing Group were interwoven with complementary music from the singers and recorder players. As a participant I learned a lot from the performance. The interaction with the audience showed me which bits of the writing worked, and which didn't. A one liner I felt really proud of sank without a ripple, whereas other phrases were getting a laugh I had neither intended nor anticipated. Above all, it was great fun.

Our thanks to Penny, Barbara, Jane and Berwyn for organising the event.



Pictures Penny Everett,

Text Margaret Mason



Smiley face cakes made by Barbara and Don were pounced on in the interval. Originally entitled "Happiness cakes" in honour of the day, they were hastily renamed when someone thought cannabis was included in the ingredients. Not a member of U3A, I hasten to add!

Do you like gardening to help wildlife?

You would be very welcome to join us. We are looking for more volunteers to help Carole,(a U3A member) and Doreen maintain the Pollinator flowerbeds in Llandrindod. They usually garden on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 pm unless the weather is poor.

For more information please drop into the Radnorshire Wildlife shop in the High Street on Tuesday or Friday morning between 10 am and 1.00 pm or give us a ring on 01597 823298

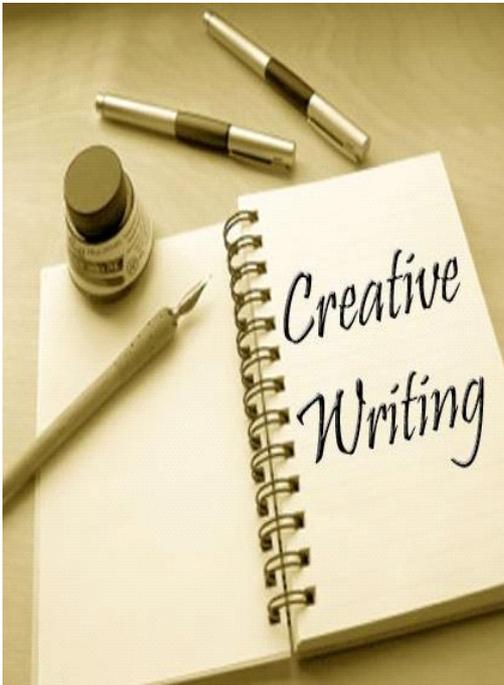
The Theatre Group visit to Stratford to see Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare on 28th April.

PREAMBLE: Although I usually do the reports on U3A lecture meetings, and articles about the various interest groups, I usually prefer that someone else “does” the theatre visits. However this time I volunteered, mainly because my favourite Shakespearan play is “Julius Caesar”, probably because I studied it for my “O’ (G.C.S.E.) levels way back in 1961, and at the performance I could recall a lot of the speeches and famous quotes!!!!

This production as part of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre's Roman season, was very pleasing and added up to three hours of pleasure for me. I thought it was excellently produced with tremendous acting by a high number of seasoned performers, together with an impressive Roman Senate House background, and some marvellous interchangeable scenery. The Senators and others in the cast wore the traditional tunic and toga style costumes, and used the old fashioned language. I must say that I prefer this version to the modern “Julius Caesar” production I saw on a previous visit to Stratford. Angus Jackson directed Shakespeare's epic political tragedy, as the race to claim the Roman Empire spirals out of control. The story details the conspiracy against Caesar, his assassination and the eventual defeat of the conspirators.

THE PLOT: Following Julius Caesar's triumphant return to Rome from the war against Pompey, the republic is prepared to heap on him new honours, but this causes concern and dismay among some senators who fear that too much power is being held by one man. Caius Cassius plots a conspiracy to murder Caesar, enlisting amongst others the support of the well-respected but idealist Marcus Brutus, who is persuaded that Caesar's death is necessary for the good of the republic. However he is against Mark Antony, a close friend of Caesar's also being killed. The conspirators stab Caesar to death at the Senate House on the Ides of March. At Caesar's funeral Brutus successfully explains to the people the conspirators' motives. However, speaking with the conspirators' permission, the more practical Mark Antony, speaks next and cleverly turns the mob against the conspirators, who are forced to flee from Rome. In the second half of the play, Mark Antony and Caesar's nephew Octavius take command of Rome and lead an army against the conspirators. Brutus and Cassius are defeated at Philippi, where they arrange for comrades to help them to die rather than be captured. The title role of Julius Caesar is played by Andrew Woodhall, alongside him, my favourite Alex Waldmann, who returned to the company to play Brutus. Alex last appeared with the Royal Shakespeare Company in “King John” in 2012 and “As You Like It” in the 2013 season. **CLIVE BARRETT.**

Editors note : Anyone who goes to the Willow Globe at Nantmel may recognise James Corrigan, who played Mark Antony in the production. His most recent appearance at the Willow Globe was as - Mark Antony in Julius Caesar! You saw it here first, people!
Margaret



SHORT STORY COMPETITION

U3A WALES

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR
IMAGINATIVE TALENTS

CLOSING DATE: AUGUST 31ST 2017

COMPETITION DETAILS CAN BE LOCATED AT
WWW.U3ASITES.ORG.UK/WALES

New Groups

Armchair Exercisers: Thurs 11-12 at Pump Room, Rock Park, Llandrindod Wells. (The Rock Park Cafe will be open for tea and cake afterwards.)

This will be a gentle exercise class. A fusion of yoga, physical brain gym and chi gong, it is intended to exercise the mind, stretch and tone the body and relax you. There will be no jumping around or lying on the floor. Wear loose fitting clothes and bring a drink of water. £2.50 per session.

The Singing for Fun group has proved so popular that a new one will be starting on Wed. June 7th 2-3.30pm at Holy Trinity Church and will meet on alternate Weds thereafter. You don't need to have sung in a choir before or be able to read music. Enthusiasm is all that is required! We will be singing Pop from 60s and 70s, songs from shows, traditional songs, Gospel. £2.50 per session and the pianist is Sue Turner.

Both groups will be led by Jane Stevens



The Singing for Fun Group performing at Howey Village Hall. An excellent performance rewarded with a delicious afternoon tea.

Jane Stevens