

Borderlines

Winter 2018

The Magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor.

Hello, and welcome to the winter edition of Borderlines. Most of you will get this magazine on the day of the Christmas lunch - I hope the weather is better than last year. Kathie and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

My thanks, as always, to the contributors, without whom there would be no magazine. In this context I would like to pay a personal tribute to Alwyn Batley, who died in November. Alwyn was always ready to help me with material for Borderlines, even when he had but lately suffered a stroke. I am very grateful for his support, although, good as it was to read his words, it wasn't a patch on hearing Alwyn delivering them in his own inimitable way. His sense of comic timing was incredible! Borderlines (and indeed Llandrindod) will be the poorer without him.

With best wishes, Margaret

New Members September – November 2018

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

Dina Aird; Tina Basner; Maggie Clark; Diane Clement; Wendy Donovan; Barrie Edmunds; Alice Kirby Jones; Elizabeth Lorusso; Anthony Millard; Jane Mills; Elizabeth Newman; Megan Paton; Marion Pocock; Karen and Roger Salt; Mary Sim; Ann Smith; Valerie and Clive Sparshott; Heather and Cyril Tuffs; Isobel and Mark Wardley; Diana Wharton; Jill Willey and Margaret Wyn Rees.

New Members Event.

New members are warmly invited to a coffee morning on 21 January at 10.30 at the Herb Garden. This is your chance for coffee and a chat with some of the group leaders and committee members.

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Cover photo by Judith Stratford. Sheep in the snow at Abbey Cwmhir.

Garden Visit to Cwm Weeg near Dolfor by Tony Hodges

Our garden visit in May was to Cwm Weeg near Dolfor. This is a garden of 2.5 acres set in 26 acres of wildflower meadows, bluebell woods and streams. It is a formal garden in the English Landscape tradition with vistas, grottos, sculptures, lawns and extensive borders. At the centre is a very interesting 15th century grade 2 listed open-hall medieval farmhouse.

Cwm Weeg has been owned and developed from farmland by Dr Wolfgang Shaefer and his partner Kingsley George for thirty years.

The morning was blessed by steady rain. The group met as usual at the Lake before proceeding to the Dolfor Inn for lunch.

After a good lunch, there seemed to be some reluctance by some as they exited the Inn into the rain. We proceeded to Cwm Weeg which was not far and we were pleasantly surprised by a spacious parking area.

Wandering down to the house, we were greeted by Dr Wolfgang Shaefer, who welcomed us and gave us an introductory talk before inviting us to look round the gardens.

By now the rain had reduced to a steady drizzle, so most proceeded to try and see as much as possible, although I believe only one member made it into the bluebell woods. The gardens were a revelation, with wide borders to the numerous lawns and pathways. We passed a large greenhouse with outside staging for plants. From here you could look over much of the garden. As we proceeded around the garden, various interesting vistas opened up, and we were most impressed by the very tidy and weed free borders. After our trip round the garden we were invited into the conservatory for cake with tea or coffee. We were invited to look round much of the very interesting house, and Wolfgang and Kingsley explained some of the features.



I think that a very dreary day turned into quite an experience enjoyed by all. We were told that the garden is open several times a year, including the NGS scheme. We look forward to another visit when the weather is better.

Details can be found on the internet and on facebook – I would highly recommend a visit.

The Battle's Over

Text by Jane Stevens and Jan Swindale

More than 200 people from Llandrindod Wells participated in a worldwide tribute commemorating 100 years since the end of World War One. Despite the rain, lanterns were eventually lit for all WW1 names on the memorial. The choirs from Cefnlllys and Trefonnen schools sang and Llandrindod Silver Band played the Last Post, during which the Royal British Legion flag was lowered to remember the millions lost in World War 1. Then the bells of Holy Trinity rang out and Town Crier Jan Swindale gave a moving "Cry for peace", a set piece which was echoed all over the world. Our own U3A Singing For Fun group gave a rousing rendition of A Song For Peace, joined by a few from The Pales Peace Choir. This finished the evening on a positive note, singing "Oh hear my song, thou spirit of all nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine".

Jan was one of only three town criers in Wales to participate officially in this event. The core of the ceremony was devised by the queen's pageant master Bruno Peek (namely the Last Post, church bells ringing and the set town crier's "a Cry for peace"), and these were repeated nationwide by over 180 town criers, also spreading worldwide starting early that morning in New Zealand, moving on to Australia and the rest of the world in their time zones.



The U3A Singing for Fun Group.

Photograph by Ernie Husson, reprinted by permission of Marina Gallery



Above: The scene at Llandrindod War Memorial.
Right: Jan Swindale, Town Crier.

Photos : Jane Stevens and Jan Swindale.

Liverpool ‘Sleepover’

On 25th June, a group of U3A members joined the Probus trip to Liverpool, to see the Terracotta Army Exhibition. This trip was again arranged by Richard Davies ably assisted by Mary.

We arrived at our hotel about 4.00 pm where we had time to sort ourselves out before our evening meal. The Radisson Blu Hotel has an impressive atrium and many of the rooms look towards the Mersey. Walking towards the Mersey was not as easy as it appeared from our rooms, but many ventured out after our meal.

The next morning, Peter our Blue Badge Guide came to meet us before we set out for the Port Sunlight Village (built for the workers with plenty of open space and good quality houses), and the Lady Lever Art Gallery. The coach took us around the village before we alighted at the art gallery. The Gallery had a selection of Chinese artefacts, some of which were relevant to our visit to the Terracotta Army Exhibition. We were given a detailed and interesting talk about the Chinese artefacts (which included Chinese history) before we were free to wander the rest of the gallery.



Liverpool 'Sleepover'

Both the gallery and the village were well worth the visit. Of particular interest was the painting entitled 'Salem' (1908) – set in a small chapel near Harlech. Prints of this were given away for tokens collected with Sunlight soap and could be seen in many Welsh homes. It was said that you could see the devil in the shawl. Mai Ellis was particularly interested to see the original as she had known the boy who appears in the background.

After a short period to admire the village, we rejoined our coach to head for the Liverpool waterfront for a long lunch break. People could visit three museums if they wished, but we opted for lunch in the café of a museum before looking at the waterfront.

It was then time to be taken to rejoin the coach to go to the World Museum where we were pre-booked for the Terracotta Army Exhibition. After a short wait we were allowed into the exhibition. There were many artefacts recovered from the site including a number of the soldiers. Replicas of carriages and horses were prominent. Much of what we saw was astonishing – the actual site must be quite something.



The next day we boarded our coach again for our guide to give us a tour of Liverpool stopping off at both cathedrals and places of interest relating to the Beatles. We were taken past both football stadiums on our way to Crosby Beach. Here Richard really let us down, *because he had not arranged the tide to suit our schedule*, and only a few of the statues in the sea were visible, part of the famous installation 'Another Place' by Sir Anthony Gormley. We walked along the beach to see the statues nearest the edge but none of our members would wade out to have their photos taken alongside the statues.



Following our walk on the beach, we had an afternoon tea at the Royal Hotel, before boarding our coach for the return trip home. It was a very interesting and thought provoking trip and it was hard to believe it was only for three days. Richard and Mary must be thanked for their brilliant organization (including the lovely weather) – Thank you very much.

Text and photos by Tony Hodges

Interest Groups

Three new Interest Groups are on the horizon. It would be most useful to have a gauge of interest as we plan their nativity.

French Conversation.

We did have a group but it had to fold as the leader moved away. A few people have already expressed interest, by way of the notice-board, on resurrecting this Group. More please! Hopefully the Group will be up and running in March.

German Conversation.

This is a new venture for Llandrindod and we have no idea how many German speakers, or would-be speakers, we have. We do have a potential leader and it would be excellent to be able to start up a German Group. A notice inviting interest will be on the notice-board at the December meeting. Do sign up if you wish to support this venture.

Landscape History.

This is an exciting new idea. This area is crammed full of landscape interest; much of which is barely known. Again, we have a potential leader but no idea on the level of interest. There will be a notice on the notice-board at the December meeting. Clean your boots and sign up!

You can also email your support to Stephen Ashley on steve@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

A message to all attendees of the Film Group from Roger Malvern.

As announced at our last group meeting, due to increased numbers, we are changing the venue. From January 18th the Film Group will meet at Celf O Gwmpus, Tremont Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5EB. Same time, 2.15pm for 2.30 pm, and same day, 3rd Friday of the month. The December meeting will be at the Dance Centre as usual.

Programme:

December 21st Passport to Pimlico

January 18th: African Queen

February 15th: The Sting

March 15th: Eye in the Sky

Well done Jenny!

Congratulations to Jenny Bowman from the Creative Writing Group. Her story, Hiraeth, was shortlisted for the U3A Short Story Competition. Although Jenny did not win, it was a very strong field and to be shortlisted was a great achievement. This is clearly Jenny's year - she has already won the Powys Radnor Federation silver salver for her entry in the WI Poetry and Prose Competition. Next year the Man Booker, Jenny?



Displaying our diversity

by Berwyn Woolnough



Our Open Morning took place on September 24th and was well attended, both by U3A members and others who just wanted to find out what we get up to. Interest groups put great effort into creating displays showcasing their activities with live performances by the Recorder, Singing for Fun and Armchair Exercise groups. There was even an artist in residence!

In the last two months we have welcomed 16 new members, of whom 12 joined us as a result of attending the event. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success, and to Colin Williams for these photographs.

