

Borderlines

Spring 2019

The Magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



Introduction from the Editor.

Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of Borderlines. My grateful thanks, as always, to our contributors, and to Kathie, who this month not only shared the editing, but also collected Borderlines from the printers and distributed it.

As we have many new members, I thought I would say a little about Borderlines. It comes out four times a year; in March, June, September and December. It is therefore not a newsletter – the website is much better suited to current events as most things will have gone out of date by the time we go to print. It is intended to be more of a magazine, to showcase the talents and interests of our members, and to enable us to share in the activities of the groups. With so many interest groups it is not possible to join them all, but Borderlines makes it possible for us to experience them vicariously.

We welcome contributions - our deadline is the 20th of the month before publication. This gives us time to compile the magazine and get it printed.

Borderlines is distributed at the monthly meetings, so please ask a friend to collect one for you if you cannot attend.

Best wishes, Margaret

Welcome

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

Barry Capsey; Jackie Cole; Gillian Coleby; Mary Couzens; Julie Jones; Maureen Jones; Elaine Partridge and John Rees.

Contact numbers

As this issue is distributed at the AGM, the Committee can't be listed. So it is just the three of us this time. Full details of the new committee will be in the next Borderlines

Nick Talbott, Website Manager: 01597 829072: nick@trosnant.net

Margaret Mason, Borderlines Editor: 01597 825365 margaret@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Kathie Richards Jones: 01591 610538 Assistant Editor: kathieerjones@btinternet.com

Front cover: Daffodils at the Weir Garden, by Isobel Wardley

The Garden Visiting Group

On February 15th the Garden Visiting Group had their first outing of 2019.

Following an exceptionally good lunch at the Old Salutation in Weobley we visited Ivy Croft in Ivington to see the snowdrops.

Ivy Croft has some 250 varieties of snowdrops, many of which they have developed themselves. Their most expensive variety is "Ivington Green" at £200 a bulb!

The weather was absolutely glorious, blue skies and warmish sunshine. A very good day, considering it was February.

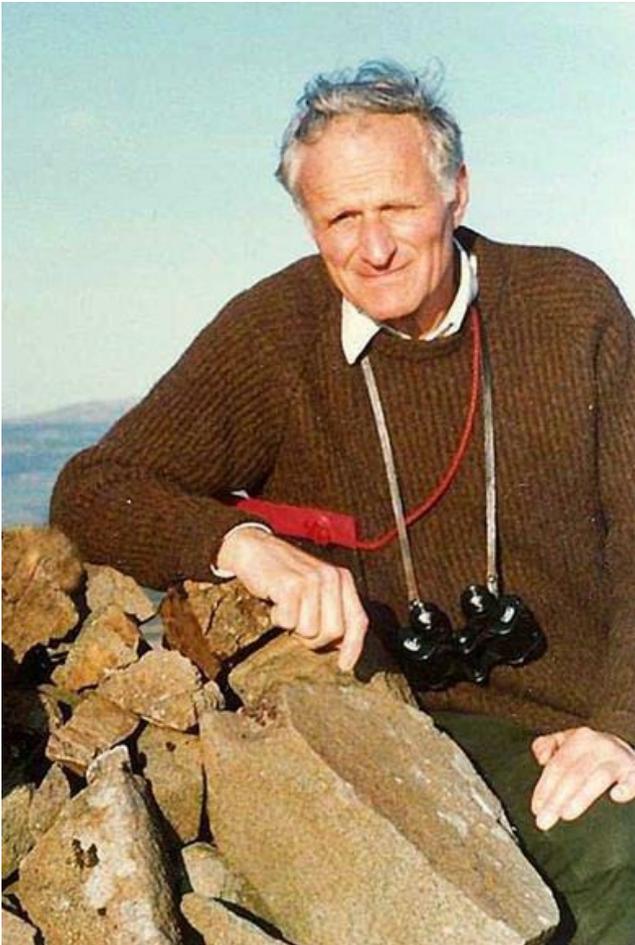


Contributed by Peter Dummer, Karyn and
Wynne Evans



DR. HANS LICHTENSTEIN

Remembered by Patsy Godfrey, Adele and Robert Bevan.



It is with sadness that we record the death of one of Llandrindod Wells U3A's founder members, Dr Hans Lichtenstein, on January 3rd, at 91 years of age. As a 12 year old child he escaped from Nazi Germany in September, 1939, to arrive in London on one of the last Kinder trains. There he was met by a wealthy American Quaker who sponsored his education at Gordonstoun School, leaving there to study medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge.

His army service in the S.A.S took him abroad to the then Malaya. His service at Kuala Lumpur was remarkable for setting up a medical service for the Aboriginal people of Malaya, which still survives, and for meeting his devoted, long-life partner, Beryl.

Together, they came to Llandrindod to his medical practice. Once again his concern for the care and protection of endangered people took him several times to Bosnia with other relief workers from the town. This humanitarian inter-

est and care for his patients made him highly respected and dearly loved by everyone. As an organisation we will miss him.

THE READERS BOOK GROUP

Some members of The Readers Book Group at their Christmas meeting, which was kindly hosted by Helen Wyton.

Photograph by Helen Wyton



The Walking Group

Contributed by Elsa Harflett and Julian Ravest.



The Walking Group
on the hills above
Llysdinam

Once again the Walking Group was blessed with glorious sunshine and warm weather, for our February walk in the hills above Llysdinam. As we climbed up to the heights, with blue skies all around us, we looked across the Wye Valley which was still shrouded in mist. Further on in a different direction, we could see the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains in the distance. For the naturalists among us, we were delighted to see a yellowhammer, meadow pipits and skylarks displaying (and singing), great tits, red kites, buzzards and ravens, several horses and ponies, as well as the inevitable sheep. We also saw many signs of spring, with snowdrops, crocuses and masses of catkins. For those interested in landscape history there were several cairns and other historical features to be seen, one of which may have been either a prehistoric ringwork or a medieval motte and bailey - more research needs to be done! We rounded off our walk with lunch at the New Inn in Newbridge-on-Wye.

Stephen on gate duty.





The Welsh Conversation Group

at their February meeting. The general topic was “Jobs” and the members discussed this, and spoke about their own careers.

Contributed by Eirlys Hodges and Tesne Davies.

THE LOCAL ORIGINS OF THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS

Prior to the opening of the Heart of Wales railway from Llandrindod Wells from Craven Arms and the enclosure of the local Commons, which led to the growth of Llandrindod Wells in the late 1860s and early 1870s, little organised sport existed for ordinary folk.

THE SPORT OF KINGS

It is true that a few towns in Radnorshire had their own annual Race Meetings, but contestants were the local gentry and well-to-do farmers. However the crowds got a lot of pleasure from the side shows and the ale booths attracted to the meetings.

Long before it was a town, reports suggest that racing started in Llandrindod in the 1750s and lasted until 1914, sadly a revival in 1949 proved short lived.

The races were held on a make-shift course near Llandrindod Hall and were notorious for prostitution, gambling and drunkenness. When the town started to grow they were transferred to a figure of eight course on Cwm Common behind the Llanerch Inn.

Later the Races were moved to a more convenient site on the Rock House Ddol, with a grandstand near the River Ithon. The

same area was also used for polo, quoits, cricket, and later for tennis and athletic sports.

THE LEWIS FAMILY

The town had its own cricket team in the late 1870s, and at athletic sports meetings notable contestants included the sons of Lewis of Noyadd Farm and later the Llanerch. John Lewis, later with his four brothers became prominent members of Llandrindod Wells Football Club, and was successful in the high jump and the egg & spoon race in 1881. Another brother Lewis Lewis, perhaps the most talented sportsman in the family was once described as the “fastest man in the Principality”.

FOOTBALL

Lewis was also a professional footballer with Aston Villa in the 1890s. Regarding

Association Football prior to then and the drawing up of its rules in 1883, football matches in Llandrindod Wells and district were confined to fixtures between teams representing local churches, of what can only be described as “Lewis family kickabouts”.

However football became much more organised in the town when on November 1st 1883 a regular football club was formed at the Pump House Hotel. Interestingly the first recorded captain of the team was H.J.S.Morrell, who was then living at Norton Terrace, but whose family (close friends of the famous diarist Reverend Francis Kilvert) lived in Caemawr House, Clyro.

The club’s first President was Walter Barnard de Winton, eldest son of Archdeacon de Winter, whose home was the Rectory he had just built near to Holy Trinity Church (later converted to become the Plas Winton Hotel and more recently the Commodore Hotel). The large room on the northside of the Rectory became the Parish Room; now - believe it or not - it is still the Log Cabin Bar of the Commodore!

ARCHERY

Archery became increasingly popular locally as a sport in the later decades of the 20th century and still is practised as originally on the Pump House Common.

BOWLS

Bowls had been popular for a century before Llandrindod’s famous greens attracted top players from all over the country from 1912 onwards, when the local bowls club was formed. In fact there are reports of a bowling green in use in the

1750s at Llandrindod Hall (then a large hotel, now Hall Farm), over a century before the development of the town.

GOLF

Golf commenced in Llandrindod Wells in 1889 when the owners of the Pump House Hotel (now Powys County Council Headquarters) appointed Alexander Patrick, of the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, to lay out a nine-hole course over the Common near the Lake for the entertainment of visitors to the Hotel, and for the use of such local people as might be interested in the game.

This course was advertised in the Golfing Annual of 1890, as being of nine holes with no crossing over moorland and with plenty of “whims and sporting hazards”. There was also a nine hole course between the farms of Rhyddllyndu and Dolberthog.

However the present 18-hole course between the Old Church and the Cairn was laid out in 1906, and at a Meeting held on 7th March of that year the Llandrindod Wells Golf Club was formed, with the official opening of the present course taking place on a gloriously sunny day, Saturday 18th May 1907.

TODAY

Today both local football and rugby clubs play alongside each other in the Broadway/Lant Avenue area, the latter club only being formed in 1972.

by Clive Barrett

May Day Medley

We invite you to a special event on May 1st featuring naturalist and TV presenter Iolo Williams; Steve Hughson (Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show); and performances by the Willow Globe Shakespeare Company and the Swansea U3A Ukele Band.

Wednesday 1st May 2019

10:30am for 11:00am until 4:00pm
The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells

Tickets are £15.00, including refreshments on arrival and buffet lunch, and can be ordered at the monthly meeting or from Sue Turner - sue.turner@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Final date for ticket orders: 1st April 2019



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