

Borderlines

Winter 2019



The Magazine of Llandrindod and District U3A





Introduction from the Editor

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Borderlines.

My thanks, as always, to our contributors. Even more Gold Stars this issue as everyone filed well before the deadline. (Months before in Clive's case!) I only hope I haven't forgotten to include any items. We are very grateful - we usually have some technical issue and having time to plot out the magazine beforehand lessens the pressure around publication day.

Kathie and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Please keep the contributions rolling in in 2020.

Best wishes, Margaret

Welcome

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

SEPTEMBER: Aileen Dempsey

OCTOBER: Judy Dennison; Paula Rolinson; Helen Skelton; Sheila Spurgeon; Pat Trafford; Barbara Waller and Tess Whitlie

NOVEMBER: Gwyneth Hopkins

Useful numbers

Chairman, Roger Malvern: 01597 823806 roger@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Vice Chairman, Nick Talbott: 01597 829072 nick@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Committee Secretary, Kathie Richards Jones: kathie@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Treasurer, Alun Thomas: 01982 554753 alun@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Membership Secretary, Chris Thomas : 01982 554753 chris@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Programme Secretary, Jan Willsher: 01597 502110 jan@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Interest Group Coordinator, Stephen Ashley: 822587 steve@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Website Manager, Nick Talbott 01597 829072 nick@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

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

Assistant Editor, Kathie Richard Jones: 01591 610538 kathie@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

Front cover: I think this is the first marriage amongst our members, so I couldn't resist making it our front cover!

Gillian Wall and past Chairman Bob Atkins on their wedding day. We wish them all the very best for their future together.

Photo Lloyd Power

New Members Coffee Morning

A successful meeting for all new members to the U3A was held on the 4th October at 10.30am in the Metropole Hotel. It was very well attended and new members were able to chat with Group Leaders and the Committee, asking any questions they may have had. Some new members volunteered to start new interest groups and it is hoped there may also be volunteers to join the Committee in March.

Chris Thomas (Membership Secretary)



The Scrabblers.

A new group set up in September for those who wish to learn or improve scrabble play.

Initially meeting on alternative Thursday mornings 10.30- 12.30

From Left to Right in the front row Kathie, Maureen (Group Leader), Cheryl.

From Left to Right in the Back row Jenny, Diane, David and Janice.

Photo Eirlys Hodges, Text Maureen Jones

U3A Railriders Group

Snowdon Mountain Railway. Llanberis

Wednesday 18th September 2019



Oh glorious sunshine!

If there is one railway journey that needs sunshine it has to be ascending the highest mountain in Wales. By golly did the weather deliver. Not just sunny but basking in late summer warmth.

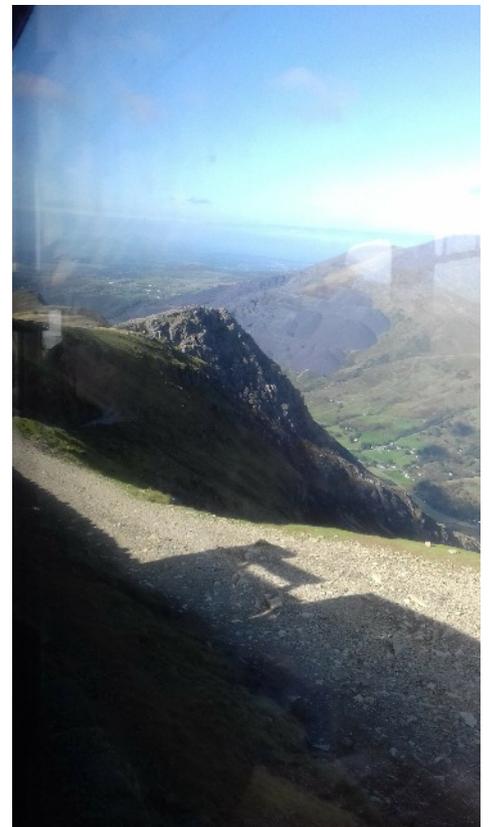
We started as usual at the Metropole car park at 6.30am. I have to give it to my companions, they are a dedicated lot and not afraid to put them-

selves out. If there was one slightly damp squib on the day it was the navigating skills of the lead driver and group leader. They nickname me Blue Leader One! If I had been a pilot in the Battle of Britain my navigation skills would have lost us the battle. Foolishly ignoring my own rules for travel I followed the directions of a wonderfully accented female person otherwise known as a Satnag (Sorry Satnav)

Having booked us an early(ish) train – 10am – it became clear that we would not make it in time. I was able to call ahead and alter the train time thus avoiding major embarrassment.

Once safely in Llanberis the good folk of Llandrindod went off on their own for food and exploration, agreeing to reconvene in plenty of time to get the allotted train at 1.30pm. The journey up Snowdon took 1 hour. The sky was crystal blue which afforded magnificent views all the way up. There were some feathery clouds at the summit but the views were still clear and spectacular. This is an oft over used superlative but to me it says exactly what was on the tin.

At the summit we were allowed 30 minutes before the descent. 6 of us climbed the 80 steps from the train station to the top. It was very busy with lots of people there including a rugby team doing a charity walk and everyone was helpful with each other.





We descended at 3pm arriving in Llanberis at 4pm then adjourned to the snack bar for a beverage.

We also decided that we would stop for a spot of supper on the way home. Having sampled the delights of The Blue Bell Inn at Llangurig on a previous trip we decided to go there. A reservation was made by telephone and we set off at about 5pm. No navigation problems this time and we duly arrived at on time.

This was one of those days you have when it could not have been more perfect. Even missing the early train meant that we had a longer and more relaxed day with a lovely meal to finish things off. The weather was perfect, the company good with some great repartee and banter. The photographs aren't bad either.

David Horne

Blue Leader One



THEATRE
GROUP VISIT
TO "OLIVER"
AT ABERYST-
WYTH ARTS
CENTRE. BY
CLIVE BAR-
RETT.

On the rather wet and misty morning of Wednesday August 28, which became drier and warmer later in the day, 51 U3A members of the Theatre Visiting Group, boarded a very comfortable Celtic coach in Llandrindod Wells. They then proceeded to travel across Wales to the west coast, passing some lovely upland scenery particularly Plymlimon. On arrival at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre the group enjoyed a pre matinee lunch, which had been booked by the organisers, together with a drink of the individual's choice at the interval.

The well known story of "Oliver" was admirably performed by the Arts Centre Youth Theatre, which also included other professional actors. Lionel Bart's classic musical was based on Charles Dickens' famous novel "Oliver Twist". The streets of Victorian England come to life as Oliver, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. Oliver escapes to London, and finds acceptance amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin. When Oliver is captured for a theft he did not commit, the rich benevolent victim Mr. Brownlow takes him in. Fearing the safety of his hideout, pickpocket leader Fagin employs the sinister Bill Sykes and his girl friend the sympathetic Nancy to kidnap him back threatening Oliver's chances of discovering the true love of his "adopted" family. In the story it is suggested that Oliver by pure coincidence is actually the son of Mr. Brownlow's deceased daughter.

All characters were excellently portrayed by the actors in what I thought was a very high standard musical, dare I suggest almost on a par with the London Theatre shows. Further the scenery was impressive, together with the quick changing of the moveable furniture by appropriate individual members of the cast. My final summing up, whoever said "live theatre was dead" was sorely mistaken. Finally what a clever composer and lyric writer Lionel Bart was because "Oliver" was premiered in the West End in 1960 enjoying a long run, plus tours and a similar successful run on Broadway, this musical has endured since and has been continually revived very successfully up to the present day. The party's grateful thanks are due and indeed were expressed on the coach journey home, to Ann Parkhouse and Dr. Ewart Hilsden, for some first class organising of such an enjoyable day out.

A Message from the Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our “U3A-ers” a very happy Christmas and a comfortable and exciting New Year. Our U3A goes from strength to strength, currently with close to 300 members, and I have stopped saying “we have a record-breaking attendance” in a given month, because we seem to be breaking the record every month. On December 9th we are planning a fun morning with a few surprises, followed by the U3A Christmas Lunch at the Metropole whose staff always give us its best on the occasion.

In the New Year we have some very good speakers, covering Titus Salt, who founded a whole town (Saltair), E.M Forster, “Whodunnits”., and Radio Caroline.

In January, we will begin to distribute nomination forms for new members of the committee. Being a member of your committee is most rewarding, and it makes you think you are really in the centre of things. With so many members, it should not be difficult to fill the various roles and would welcome the need to hold an election for some positions.

At the end of this U3A year (early March), several key members are leaving the committee, mostly having served for some time. I would urge any U3A member who feels they could serve on the committee to approach a committee member and ask what the job entails. The phone numbers of all committee members are on the back of your membership card. We can have members with no specific role, rather than a nominated role such as treasurer or speaker secretary. It would also be nice to receive nominations from newer members.

We all love our U3A, and it would be extremely disappointing if there were not enough officers for us to continue. Your U3A will need to close if there are no members prepared to stand on the committee to fill the key positions, and none of us want that to happen.

Roger Malvern, Chairman



The Art Group by Clive Barrett.

The Art Group started in 2015, with the membership numbers rising steadily from 13 through 17/18 until now there are 20 registered members. The venues have changed from the original Rock Park "home", with the Museum Exhibition room as a winter venue, and now also Celf O Gwmpas, the group going outside during the summer months. At the October meeting I attended members were engaged in one of their periodic painting by ink sessions. The group work in several different styles and media including formal drawing, images, various tones, ink blocks, water colours and life drawings. During the first year the Art Group also met a completely different challenge, namely scenery and poster production for the Christmas pantomime. More recently they did the illustrations for the Creative Writing Group's book, and they have exhibited at the local museum. Group tutor Karen Latham told me that they engage an art tutor when their funds permit.

The friendly group spend time as well as concentrating on their work, in good company, conversation, coaching and coffee!!!! The varied members attending include both experienced and new artists. On the morning I visited I spoke to one lady who was attending for her first session. She had been unwell, but when feeling better she decided to return to art work, which she had enjoyed previously. The prospect of joining an Art Group rekindled her enthusiasm, and she added that she was receiving guidance without being pushed. The idea is self help, improvisation, plus encouragement and help from other members of the group. On the day I attended the medium of ink seemed restrictive to me, however I was amazed by the varied subjects produced (see photo of paintings on table). As an overview to me the atmosphere of the class seemed very relaxing, restful, and enjoyable. Finally although the membership numbers are satisfactory organiser Karen Latham said she would like to see more males joining!!!!

