



Llandrindod Wells and District

Dear Llandrindod U3A Member

Welcome to our April 2021 Newsletter

As I write this the glorious afternoon sunshine beckons me outside. Life is buzzing in the garden and the fields. The birds are jubilant and just about able to compete with the increasing traffic noise. There are definitely more people about, the smiles and greetings are as welcome as the sunshine. The cold and frosty nights are holding up the emptying of the green house of the over wintering Mediterranean plants. I keep telling my family and friends I live nearly 700 feet above sea level on a slope which receives, as a farmer friend once said "the killing winds from Aberystwyth". But to no avail. The pomegranate tree will probably not fit in the greenhouse by next year. So the seeds grow on, on the window sills and I ignore the rampant ground elder, dandelions and little flowering weeds. It was a mistake to join the Botany group and look at these tiny flowers through a hand lens while Lucy helped us to classify and praise their characteristics. Now I feel guilty every time I pull one out. It seems I fully approve of the increasing trend for wild gardens and "native" plants.

With so much new life bursting around us and the promise of life once again opening up the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh is poignant. The funeral service of HRH gives us a National landmark in a year where there have been so few happy celebrations and landmarks at a personal or National level. HRH's death gave my family cause to recollect our own brief encounters with members of the Royal family. My youngest daughter (she was not very old at the time and is still somewhat prone to exaggeration) was "stabbed in the leg" by HRH's umbrella when the Royal couple visited Dolau Station, on the Queen's jubilee tour. She received a personal apology directly from the Duke, not heard of many of those, as a result he was always our favourite Royal.

Patrick Derwent has written his own recollections of HRH in "The Key" which accompanies this newsletter.

Thank you!

To those members who have paid their subscriptions for this year or got in touch with the Membership Secretary or Treasurer to say they will not be rejoining. Communication helps the committee plan for the future taking the members thought and views into account. We always want to receive your feedback.

For those who have not yet renewed, if you usually pay by cheque or cash, please post a cheque made payable to "Llandrindod Wells and District u3a" to:

Mrs Jan Willsher, Treasurer
Tir-Nant,
Llanyre
LD1 6EA

Please note that members who have not paid their subscriptions will be unable to vote at the AGM.

Data Protection

The committee has been doing some training and putting in place a couple of new policies, a Data Protection Policy and a Legitimate Interest Policy. These policies will be put onto the website for those of you who enjoy reading such documents.

Under the Data Protection legislation members contact details are removed if they leave. Janice Horne our membership secretary has been busy "shredding" any and all old papers and lists. But that means that any individual who has left and may want to rejoin, or anyone wanting to join for the first time will need to fill in a new membership application form. It is easier to pay your subs! Application forms can be found [on the website](#) or can be obtained in hard copy from the Membership Secretary Janice Horne.

An apology

Which leads me to an apology: When the mailing list for the last issue of Third Age Matters (TAM) was sent to the publishers ready for posting out, a tap on the wrong spreadsheet button meant that all the names from the letter "L" moved down a line. Third Age Matters was received by all our members, sent to the correct addresses. But I am sorry to say that if your surname begins after the letter "L" the name on the label might not have been correct. It is so easily done when working with spreadsheets. The error was picked up and reported by two members. Ten out of ten for observation ... I just ripped off the cover! The error is now corrected.

Llandrindod Wells and District u3a Annual General Meeting

The committee, which continues to meet monthly via Zoom, has decided that we should hold our yearly AGM postponed from March to June 14th "virtually". A number of factors have contributed to the decision, not least that in Wales we are only just moving towards being able to meet six people from six different households outdoors. Pubs, cafes and restaurants could be allowed to reopen indoors in time for the Spring Bank Holiday at the end of May - but the Welsh Government decision will not be taken until at least 17 May. So being both able and comfortable to hold a large meeting indoors by early June seems unlikely.

The fire at the Metropole, we are assured, should not delay the reopening of the hotel but the hotel bookings will come before any large indoor meetings.

The AGM papers will therefore be placed on the website and sent out to members via e mail. So please update your u3a contact details! If you have changed your email address in the last six months or you know of any member who has recently changed or acquired a new email address have them get in touch so we can update our records. For those members for whom we have not got email addresses AGM papers will be sent by post. So if addresses have changed please let the Membership Secretary know promptly.

Join our Committee! Election of members of the committee takes place at the AGM.

We are always looking for new committee members and would welcome individuals coming forward. If you wish to join or propose another member to join the committee the relevant nomination form can be found attached to this Newsletter and in the [Documents section of the website](#).

Please send nomination forms to the Secretary Kathie Richards-Jones by Friday 21st May.

Updating our constitution

The AGM is also an opportunity for amendments to our Constitution, a copy of which can be found [on the website](#). The committee has been following the interesting debate at National level on whether the organisation should encourage new members from younger age groups (aged 50 plus) and those who may have been made unemployed, possibly through the impacts of Covid-19.

You are invited to send any suggestions for amendments or additions to the Constitution to the Secretary Kathie Richards-Jones by Friday 21st May.

Llandrindod Wells and District u3a website

The work is progressing well on developing the new Llandrindod Wells and District u3a website, which we hope to launch in June when the national u3a recruitment campaign is launched. There will be a new look to the site, but more importantly the underlining software is being replaced which will mean the site is easier to maintain and update and will make the site work better on tablets and mobile phones.

Nick Talbott has done all the work to get a "Test Site" up and running and a few of us have tested using Desktops, Laptops, Tablets and Telephones, so far the new site works well on any and all devices including speech readers for those with impaired vision. Yes we are up to date on Diversity and Inclusion as well!

Can you help with the new website? No one has yet responded to our cry for someone to help work alongside Nick with the technical side of the website management which will be much easier with the new software. Please [contact Nick](#) if you would like to know more.

Interest Group News

It is hoped that as we are allowed to meet more people both outside and inside some of the interest groups will start up again in advance of the main meetings. Please let us know even if your interest group is meeting even if in smaller groups than usual. Keep checking the website for information.

If you have an idea for a new interest group or want to know what support there is from the Third Age Trust for interest group leaders check out [the Special Advisors page](#) on the National u3a website. The list is interesting and extensive ... over 70 national subject advisors are included ... and may give us some new ideas.

We are hoping to arrange a get together of all existing and potential Interest Group Leaders as soon as we are able. If you have an idea for a new interest group please get in touch with Stephen Ashley, Janice Horne or myself so we can ensure you get an invitation.

Theatre Visiting Group

For information, there is a performance of 'A Winter's Tale' by the Royal Shakespeare Company which members of the group had booked to go and see on 11 June last year, which has been adapted for the screen and which will be broadcast on Sunday next, 25 April, on BBC4 at 7:00pm.

Scrabble Group

Our best wishes go to Maureen Jones, leader of the scrabble group, who has been poorly and in hospitals.

Computing Group

The group are now exploring "cloud storage" services such as DropBox, Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive. New members are welcome to join the Zoom sessions which are held fortnightly on a Monday afternoon. Contact [Nick Talbott](#) for details.

Thank you to the **Readers** and the **Creative Writing Group** for this month's contributions to the Newsletter.

British Red Cross Support

Members may not be aware that the British Red Cross gives support for the first 24-72 hours to individuals returning from hospital and after that they may provide support for up to 6 weeks depending on individual case needs. Even if not discharged from hospital the Red Cross can help with door to door transport for essential health care journeys, everyday tasks, short term use of mobility aids, helping pay bills and emotional support and confidence building. Referrals or direct contact to [John Hartley](#), tel 07976 460873. John is the contact for Llandrindod Wells and Radnor.

There is also a British Red Cross COVID-19 Hardship Fund aimed at supporting 13,000 of the most vulnerable for 3 months, covering; food, shelter, access to tel and internet, fuel etc. If you want to make a referral to the Hardship Fund go to the [British Red Cross Hardship Fund website](#) for more information or contact [Laurie Wynne](#), tel 07803 661330. Laurie is the senior emergency response officer for Wales.

National Online Events

A number of workshops, webinars and interactive sessions for members, mostly accessed using Zoom, are regularly updated and listed on the National u3a website.

There is a project to bring together all support available through the Third Age Trust together on a members link site.

Aberystwyth u3a online talks

A full list of past and future talks can be found on the [Aberystwyth u3a website](#). Please contact [Roger Boyle](#) of Aberystwyth u3a for information and Zoom links. The next two talks are

Tuesday 27th April: Vince Howells on "Britain's Railways through Art" The talk won't focus on one particular artist but several who are well known for this particular genre.

Tuesday 4th May: "What? Where? Who?" A picture quiz, authored by Nigel H.

Beware of Scams

Finally and on a sad note there has been a criminal online scam which has specifically targeted u3as which uses committee members names taken from websites. If you receive any email request which involves for example buying vouchers on behalf of a committee member just delete them.

Keep smiling!

Karen Latham

Chair, Llandrindod Wells and District u3a

U3A Contacts

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The contact information for all Interest group leaders is available on the [Llandrindod U3A website](#).