



Llandrindod Wells and District U3A

Dear Llandrindod U3A Member

Welcome to our October newsletter!

I am finding this Newsletter the hardest so far to write. The rain beats down on the window and I sadly turn off the lunch time news ... Corona virus health and economic impacts; social restrictions; the unbelievable run up to the USA elections; wild fires in California and floods on the continent. The street corner preachers cry "end of times". But I will not believe it because I experience on a daily basis the strength, fortitude and optimism of others, many of whom are U3A members.

Of the examples I could have given, all very different but illustrating perseverance finally rewarded, I chose this one: Our Secretary, Kathie Richards Jones, was without her Internet connection for over a month. In the end, she wrote a chronicle of the failures of BT to reinstate her service which she agreed we could share with you. You can read it in the attached file "The Trials of Internet Connection". Has anyone had a similar experience to Kathie's?

U3A Monthly Meetings

The Committee has looked at a number of options for bringing you talks and presentations which could be watched on the second Monday of the month at the time of what used to be our regular monthly meeting. If you like the idea of getting into a routine you can watch them at the usual 10:30am slot. If not, you can watch at a time to suit yourself.

We plan to feature new talks each month. As a trial, and before we spend too much money buying in talks, we are starting with two free TED talks. The first, broadcast in 2006, remains in the top ten TED talks of all time. The second is on a similar theme. Each talk lasts 15 -20 minutes

The October talks can be accessed from our website. You can either [follow this link to the talks](#) or just look on the home page of the website.

So I hope you will settle down on Monday morning at 10.30 with a drink and enjoy. If you can, talk about what you have seen with other U3A members or your extended households even better.

We would like to know what you think of the talks, so please [drop us an email](#) after you have watched so we know whether to carry on or not.

Interest Group Meetings

I had hoped when I wrote the last Newsletter that we would be moving towards small groups being able to meet together but as Covid cases begin to rise again, any group intending to meet face to face should do the following:

1. Adhere to the Welsh Government Guidelines

We are currently in an unrestricted area of Wales but that still means only meeting socially indoors with the people you live with or members of your extended household.

As of 14th September this is limited to 6 people from a maximum of 4 households. Social distancing, not sharing materials or refreshments, wearing masks. There is an ongoing need to monitor the Welsh Government restrictions as they will keep changing.

2. Complete the [U3A Covid Risk Assessment Form](#) which is needed for Insurance cover and to ensure every action has been taken to ensure the safety of members. It is required over and above any Risk Assessment a venue may have carried out. The completed Risk Assessments must be retained by the Group Leader in case they are needed.
3. Record the name and contact phone number of everyone who attends a meeting for NHS Contact and Trace purposes

Congratulations

- Welcome to Susie Corke the latest new member to Llandrindod Wells U3A
- To Margaret Mason our Borderlines Editor who was selected as one of the Judges for the National U3A short story competition this year. Margaret writes:

I was invited, (as a judge) to attend the Zoom meeting to announce the winners of the National Short Story Competition (mentioned in the Third Age Newsletter). Odd experience to have a sort of virtual Oscars, but they kept the tension up well and the stories were really good. They were hundreds of entries, (probably because of lockdown) and I knew from my batch how many superb entries didn't even make it to the top 3 of their regional list because of the high standard. The Welsh regional winner was from Crickhowell

- To Humphrey and Ann Morgan on their recent Golden wedding anniversary

Third Age Trust News

The **Third Age Trust AGM** was held virtually on September 29th 2020. Kathie, our secretary, had registered to vote on our behalf regarding member levies. The resolution passed is to raise the individual levy per member to be paid to the Third Age Trust by 50p but not until 2022. We think this is the best result we could have got from the resolutions put forward.

The **Retail High Street Project** was mentioned in the last newsletter and has involved a lot more work and form filling than had been originally anticipated but Llandrindod Wells and District has done its bit with Karyn and Wynne Evans completing the survey for Rhayader. Meg Lewis was the photographer and I the administrator for the survey of Middleton Street and Station Crescent, Llandrindod Wells. No-one came forward to cover Builth Wells or Knighton. The survey will be repeated in 2021/2020 looking at the longer-term impacts of the pandemic on the shopping areas surveyed. The final report will form part of the Trusts 40 year celebrations. You may recall that in the last newsletter we expressed concerns on the structuring, content and final use of the results of this project. The comments we made were not reflected in the Third Age Matters article on the project, but they have been recognized and the wording altered in the final press release. This may have been because the TAM article had already gone to press before we submitted our comments.

The Third Age Trust is doing a **rebranding** exercise we look forward to receiving the new brand information, logo and so on.

Book Reviews

These have proved very popular with members and we are pleased to be able to include another set of reviews with this newsletter.

"A String of Pearls"

With this month's newsletter we are including Sue Turner's poem "A String of Pearls".

Aberystwyth U3A talks

Some of their recent talks can now be seen on YouTube:

["The Medieval Art of Wall Painting in Welsh Churches"](#) By Marianne Pateman

["The Surrealist Paintings of Magritte and de Chirico"](#). By Nigel Humphreys

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Newsletters and the Website. Please continue! Contributions from all members are welcome especially those which strike a chord, make us smile, allow us to share experiences.

The committee send their best wishes to you all.

Karen Latham

Chair, Llandrindod Wells and District U3A

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