

Borderlines

Summer 2022



Introduction from the Editors

Hello and welcome to our Summer issue of Borderlines

We would like to thank everyone for their positive feedback on our last issue of Borderlines, it is very encouraging to us.

Also we would like to thank everyone for the reports and contributions as without your efforts we would not be able to produce an issue of Borderlines.

If you would like to join any of the interest groups all details and contacts are on the u3a website.

If anyone has anything they would like included in the next issue please contact us at email address borderlines@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

With thanks, Margaret and Bob.

Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us between April and May 2022 are Elizabeth Newman, Annette Watkins, Christopher Pegrum, Karen Lewis, Carolyn Grinnell, Jan West, Michael Hart, Francesca Bantock and Lesley Fowler.

We hope you enjoy your time with u3a.

Chairman report

March 2022 marked the re-emergence of Llandrindod Wells and District u3a after all the ups and downs of the COVID 19 pandemic. The global event will go down in history, who ever thought we would live through such a life changing experience. Now our u3a is once again fully operational with our main meetings taking place on the second Monday of every month and I am pleased to report that all our speakers to date, have been excellent as evidenced by the positive feedback received after each meeting. The programme is so varied from Radio Caroline to living in Modern Japan, The Kinder Transport to Farming and Wild Life in County Clair each lecture has been characterised by the passion and knowledge of the expert speakers and has had resonance with other very current global issues in communication, environment, modern day refugees and global movement of individuals.

I wait the rest of this year's programme with anticipation.

Although I confess that when I was a member I never checked the programme to see what the speaker topic was before a meeting. Why? In case I decided I was not going to be interested in that particular topic and other things were more important. So I went along not knowing what the topic, or who the speaker, and never failed to be engaged by the passion and knowledge of the speakers. The printed Programmes now produced and available for members are valued by members and needless to say are now invaluable for me along with all the website information. The "hybrid" meetings now held both physically and virtually over Zoom, so more

members can decide how they attend, based on their own circumstances, is one of the “ups” of COVID in relation to our operations.

I am pleased to report that your new committee is fully operational. We have been blessed with dedication from retiring committee members who have ensured smooth transitions to those taking over especially in the key roles of Treasurer and Committee Secretary. The committee going forward is a strong one and it seems months of pleading has resulted in an outcome which is excellent. I really do look forward to working with and getting to know them all better, close friendships are made this way.

The work and contribution of all the committee and those many other contributors to the success of our u3a from the interest group leaders, welcomer's, Borderlines and Notice board contributors is appreciated.

As are you, the members who come along support and open yourselves up to learning, new experiences and new people. I am confident that while many other u3a's across the country are struggling the Llandrindod Wells u3a will continue to grow and thrive.

New Committee 2022 - 2023

On behalf of the new committee we would like to thank the previous committee for all their hard work over the last year.

At the U3a AGM the following members were elected as your committee:



Back row: Roy Blunden (Committee Member), Bob Wood (Committee Member), David Wright (Treasurer), Nick Talbott (Programme Secretary and Webmaster)

Front row: Martha Wooldridge (Committee Member), Janice Horne (Membership Secretary), Karen Latham (Chairman), Wendy Isle (Committee Secretary).

Meeting lecture May 2022 – Japan 1880 to the present day

On the 9th May 2022 Derek Beddow came to our U3a meeting to talk to us about Japan. It was very interesting to hear about the different cultures and experiences for the people in Japan. During his presentation he was talking about origami and his wife offered to show six of our members how to make some origami models after the meeting. Here are some photos showing some members having a go.



Railriders Group May 2022 Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway From Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway

Well, here we are again. Out on the open rails with the distinct whiff of steam locomotive in the air Ah nostalgia!

Buckle up and settle down. This is an epic tale of pleasure, joy and hope (hope that all will go swimmingly without any hitches) and the inevitable despair when hitches show up.

On Wednesday 4th May 2022 The Railriders group travelled the Cotswolds on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway from Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway.

We met up at The Metropole Hotel to begin a car share journey of 2 hours.

Having issued sat-nav instructions to each driver, the wrong ones as it turned out, we all set off in good time. More later.....

Of the 4 cars that left 3 arrived in plenty of time at Cheltenham Racecourse and waited, waited some more.....and waited for the 4th to arrive. Sadly the 4th car did not arrive.

I mean, did I not allow plenty of time? Did I not give out good directions? Had something awful happened?

One phone call later and I discovered my mistake. The sat-nav co-ordinates I had given to the 4th driver were for another station further up the line. They arrived at Winchcombe. Admittedly in plenty of time, just the wrong place.

All turned out well in the end as they were able to join the train from where they were and only missed a short part of the journey. Apparently the coffee at Winchcombe is very nice and the serving person there nearly had apoplexy when someone ordered 4 coffees.

After much ado and hale fellow well met the party became 14 strong and we journeyed on to our destination.

The Cotswolds has some of the most scenic views anywhere in the UK and the weather was dry and warm when we set off. We passed through several stations: Gotherington, Winchcombe, Hayes Abbey Halt, Toddington arriving in Broadway at 12.30pm. Neither weather nor scenery disappointed.

We agreed to catch the last train back at 3.30pm and went about our own business for the next couple of hours or so.

Now, anyone that has been on one of our trips or heard speak of one, knows that we like to round off our visits with a meal at a public house on the way.

I chose the Royal Oak Inn and Restaurant at Much Marcle just outside Ledbury.

Having never been there I hoped that the meal would be of good quality.

We met up back at the station, minus two who travelled back down the line earlier to visit an old haunt. These two would join the train later. The journey was uneventful and we all arrived back at Cheltenham Racecourse at 4.30pm, except for the 4 that started out from Winchcombe. They got off before the rest of us so arrived at our eatery quite a way ahead of the main group.

Visions of 'I spy' being played to pass the time away! I wonder how many different things there are to spy out in the open country. P for pub, C for car, B for bush, H for hill and don't forget that old classic T for tree.

I need not have worried about the pub or the food. The pub was a lovely building with picturesque surroundings and inside was just as good. All had ordered their meals in advance and the quality of the food was second to none.

Mistakes aside (only a minor one!!) we all had a superb day and are all looking forward to the next trip.

David Horne (Blue Leader One)
Group Leader

Railriders Trip Photographs





Sunday Lunch Group Report by Meg Lewis

Our u3a Chairman, Karen Latham, is hoping to visit all the interest groups before the end of her final year in office. She made a good start by choosing a beautiful day to join the Sunday Lunch Group for their meal at the Golf Club in Builth Wells.

Karen is pictured with the group enjoying coffee on the terrace.

Only another 20 plus groups to visit Karen.



The May Walking Group Report by Elsa Harflett

Only four of us this time, we started our May walk by cutting across the common behind the hospital. We walked past the two abandoned Llanfawr quarries and looked down into the dark, sinister waters of the pool that has filled the remains of the upper quarry. Retracing our steps for a short distance, we crossed the fields to the Noyadd Farm and walked along the track towards Dan-y-graig. Taking the left-hand fork before we reached the farm, past the little reservoir, we soon came across a profusion of bluebells.



The photo on the right shows bluebells and greater stitchwort mingled together in a charming cluster around a mossy stone. Next, the deep bronze colour of a copper beech tree made a delightful contrast with the other shades of green and the carpet of bluebells.



We continued along the track with more and more bluebells filling the woods, then we followed an ancient sunken green lane until we came out onto a grassy bank, carpeted with

yet more bluebells.

Next, we made our way through the fields towards Cefn Coed, with views beyond it towards the Gravel Road and Crossgates.

From here we followed another ancient sunken green lane towards Glanyrafon, before turning back onto the track leading to Dan-y-graig again. At this point we could see the remains of both ruined castles on Cefnllys Castle Bank, with a view of Llandegley Rocks in the distance behind.





Following well-trodden sheep paths, we passed more delightful bluebells in the woods beside the track.

As we approached Dan-y-graig we came across a field with a mixture of sheep breeds, some of which we think were Zwartbles, black sheep with a white blaze and white socks

There was also a black ewe who was very keen to have her photo taken and posed for ages while we all took pictures.

Our final encounter, after we passed the farm, was with a handsome horse who was also happy to pose for a portrait.

After this we made our way back to our car, past the Noyadd Farm and down Trefonen Lane.



Craft group

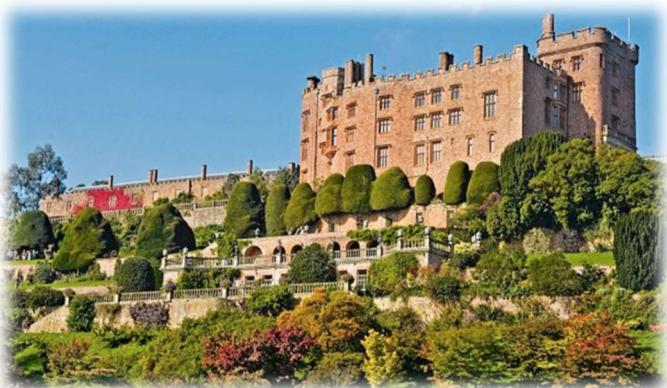
The craft group meet on the 4th Monday, every month. In May they met and had a lovely afternoon having tea, cake and a chat while making decorations.



Garden Visiting Group Powis Castle May 27th. Karen Latham

I now know why the organisation of anything in a school holiday is not to be recommended.

Several regular members of the garden visiting group were away looking after grandchildren, and/or dogs, cats and even horses. But as we all know – it is a ill wind.... result, three people who have been on the list wanting to join the garden visiting group were invited along to Powis Castle gardens on the 27th May. It had been arranged that a volunteer who gave talks on the history and development of the Castle gardens would give us a talk and maybe even a visit to the green houses not open to the public. For some reason I e mailed the contact at Powis Castle at 09.00 am on the morning of departure. Just as well, later I learnt the gentleman was actually down to volunteer in Machynlleth that day. He kindly and rapidly rearranged his schedule for us. Which was great, no disappointment. But there is a But, having rearranged his day he clearly felt that the whole afternoon was ours and we were going to get our monies worth. By four o'clock those who stayed the course were very well informed and totally exhausted and had had no time to even glimpse inside the castle. Cars required to ferry people back to the cafe for a much needed cup of tea. All in all not a typical garden visit. So I was very relieved to get this e mail the next day.



Hi Karen, just want to say a huge thank you for yesterday's visit to Powis Castle so enjoyed it, the gardens, the views, the castle and the company. And the beautiful weather. It was so fantastic. I'm sorry I chickened out on some aspects but boy I slept well last night. Joints groaning a bit this morning though!!!

Platinum Jubilee in Llandrindod



Earth Science Group

On Thursday 19 May 2022, Bob Loveridge gave us a very good talk on the Nördlinger-Ries Meteorite Impact Crater. This is found in Germany, in the area of western Bavaria and eastern Baden-Württemberg. It is about 24km (15 miles) in diameter, and the town of Nordlingen is situated about 6km (3.4 miles) from the crater centre.

Bob explained how the meteorite crater was formed about 14.8 million years ago, in the Miocene Age. The rock and sediments displaced by the meteorite impact formed very specific ejecta material, which is known as Suevite.

The Suevite is mainly breccia, formed from broken up rock pieces, which were fused together by heat and pressure.

Suevite was used to build some of the buildings in Nordlingen, including the 15th century St George's Church. Bob used to take students to Nordlingen in order to study the impact formations there, and has some wonderful photos of the views from the top balcony of St George's Church tower.

Interestingly NASA sent Apollo 14 astronauts for training to Nordlingen in 1970, to learn about the metamorphosed lithology there, so that they could recognise similar structures on the Moon.”



Earth Science Group Dates for your diary, with more coming:

21st July 2022 – Talk by Lorna Steel, Curator of the Radnorshire Museum – subject tbc but will be about Lorna’s palaeontological/archaeological excavations.

4th August 2022 – Field-trip tbc

18th August 2022 – Talk by Catherine Mascord, Assistant at the Radnorshire Museum – subject tbc but will be about Catherine’s PhD research into Ediacaran/Cambrian marine fossils.

6th October 2022 – AM Visit Big Pit in Blaenavon, PM Field trip to The Blaenavon with David Mitchell, Brecon u3a Earth Sciences.