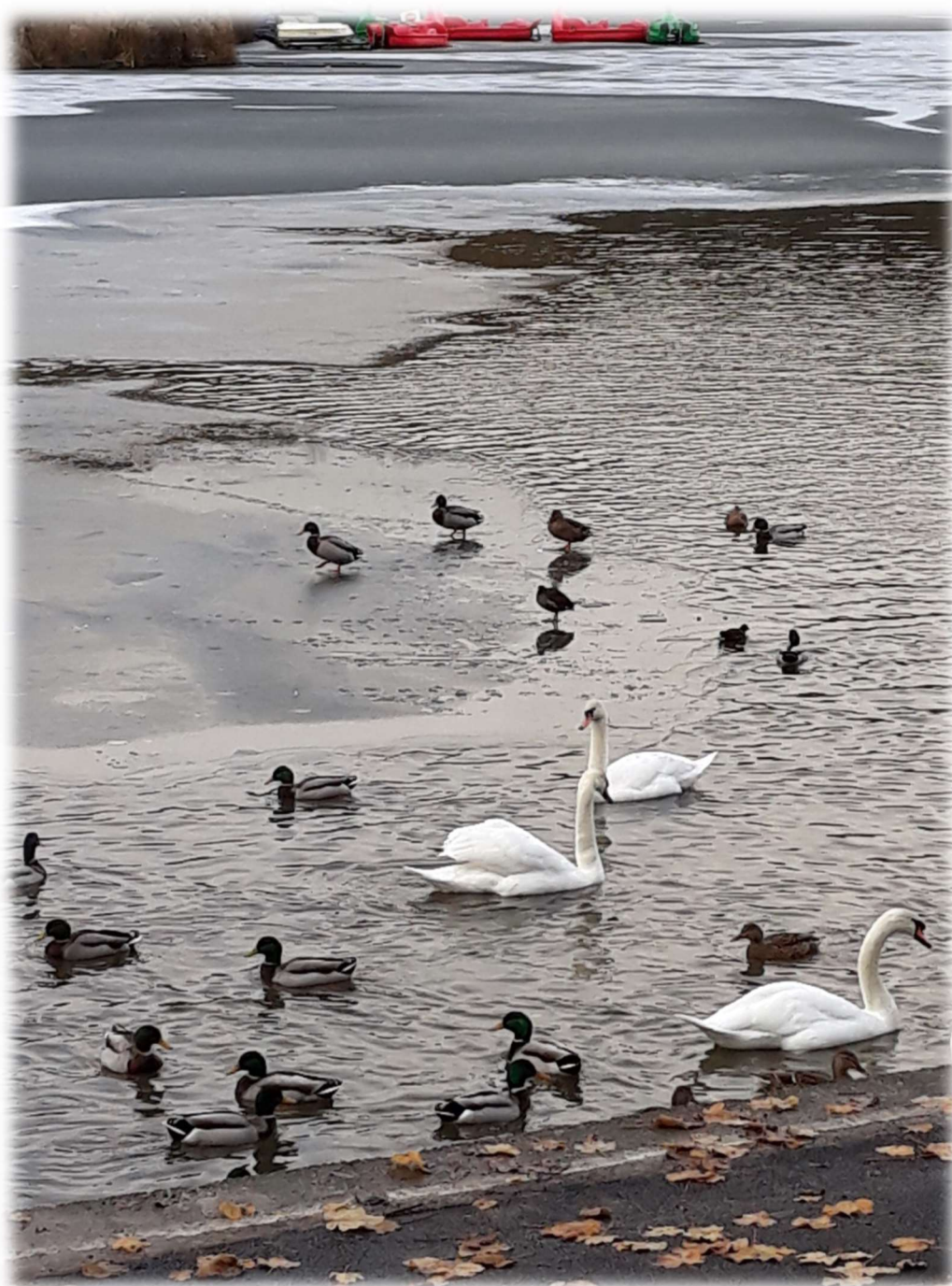


# Borderlines

Winter 2023



## Introduction from the Editors

Hello and welcome to our winter issue of Borderlines. We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

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

We would also 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](mailto:borderlines@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)

With thanks, Margaret and Bob.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us between October and December 2022

**October:** Stuart and Debbie Taylor.

**November:** David Fleming, Graham Holloway, Cathie Covington, Ann Bailey, Alistair Reid, Kate and Jeffrey Rees.

We hope you enjoy your time with u3a.

## Interest Group Leaders meeting

The Interest Group leaders held a meeting in November 2022 to discuss how the groups are running and any suggestions for improvements. It was a good meeting and all groups had an input to the members and had some useful information to go forward. There are some groups that are full but still some that have vacancies. Please check the U3a website for further information on each group.





## Patchwork and Quilting Group

Susie Corke and Carolyn Grinnell are starting up a Patchwork and Quilting Group on the first Tuesday of the month commencing on 3rd January 2023 from 9.30 am to 12.30pm upstairs in "The Hive". Unfortunately there is no lift. It will cost £5 per session which includes a drink.

If you are interested please contact Carolyn at [carolyn.grinnell@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.grinnell@gmail.com). You will need to bring your own basic sewing kit, paper scissors, 4 or 5 fat quarters, thread to match, pencil, rubber, 12in ruler and one A4 plastic envelope to keep your templates safe.

## Report from the U3a Walkers Group

September's walk saw us trailing up to Camlo Hill. We had caught a glimpse of the charming, whitewashed Carmel Chapel as we drove along the narrow lane between Gwystre and Nantmel to reach the start of the walk. A few days later one member of the group went with some friends to explore the graveyard and look at the chapel.

There is a fairly steep ascent to begin with, along the track to Camlo Farm, but this soon levelled out to a gentler climb. Passing the entrance to the farm we looked down at a series of ponds, and across the valley to the hills beyond. Continuing along the track we came to a stand of fir, or were they pines? We surmised that this would probably have been an old drovers' road. The ponds, though probably recently dug, were in a marshy area, which would have served to water the cattle.



The path continued upwards towards a forested area. On the other side of the fence was one of the tracks from Abbeycwmhir, and towards the top of the hill we came to one of their information boards. It was approximately 2 meters away from our path, so the angle was wrong, but we managed to read what it said:

"Camlo Hill – a hill of heritage.

You are standing on Camlo Hill, an ancient routeway and boundary between Nantmel Parish to the south and Abbeycwmhir to the north. From the Bronze Age (2500BC – 800BC) humans have recognised Camlo Hill as an important place. The series of Bronze Age burial mounds were created as memorials to the dead and the standing stones were perhaps astronomical or route markers. The prominence of this hill meant that it continued to be used as an important high-level route in medieval times and more recently, linking St Harmon with Penybont."



We climbed to a point where we could see a panoramic view all around, before retracing our steps back to the start of the walk.



In October we started our walk at Hundred House. We had hardly moved from the car park before we were looking at a tumulus behind the houses lining the road. We turned into the farm track that leads to Llanedw Farm, and before long we were admiring the remains of a spectacular Motte and Bailey castle known as the Mount, and sometimes referred to as the first of the Colwyn Castles. We continued along the track to Bryn-llwyd, which had once been a Quaker Meeting House.



The track climbed steadily upward, and we stopped occasionally to admire the views, looking back towards Hundred House and across the Edw valley. We reached the house with the strange name of Llwyn Pinch, neither Welsh nor English!



The road rose ever higher, passing the track to Ty'n y coed where we stopped to admire the view before the tarmacked road came to an end and we continued along a deeply rutted track. As we climbed, we admired the views that spread out before us.





Eventually we reached the cairn known as the Giant's Grave. Walking a little further along the track we looked down towards the village of Glascwm, before retracing our steps to the cairn and onto our return path, passing some bright yellow wax-caps and seeing the mournful looking wind turbines near Llandegley, which have yet to be activated. A most enjoyable walk.



Our November walk started at St. Bride's church, Rhayader. After climbing the hill beyond the graveyard, we turned around to look at the church and the view of the town spread before our eyes. Re-joining the road, we came upon some friendly horses.



Continuing along the road we came to the river Wye and, rounding a corner, the river Elan, which we crossed using the very shaky Glyn Bridge!





Once across the bridge we turned left, to follow the footpath beside the river Elan till we reached its confluence with the Wye.

Ahead of us, looking down the Wye towards Llanwrthwl, we could see the steep banks of Caerhyddwen with its forested cap high above the quarry and the busy A470.

Then we joined the road from Llanwrthwl. Turning right, we continued towards the Elan Valley, passing fields full of sheep.



Reaching Dolafallen Bridge we stopped to look upstream before returning on the cycle path to Rhayader. We saw a beautiful rainbow and took the group photos just before the end of the walk.



## **Garden Visiting Group Report from Jan Swindale Brobury House and Gardens, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

Under the efficient and guiding hand of Geraldine King, 18 intrepid garden fanciers set off for a booked lunch at Oakchurch Garden Centre where, in a full restaurant, we were beautifully looked after by the staff, a long table to ourselves, and enjoyed various meals. Full tummies later, we moved on to Brobury House and Gardens, Brentwardine and due to the rather lovely weather (a change from our last trip in a deluge!) we were able to wander at will around some 8 acres of some gorgeous grounds which were originally laid out in the 1880's. The gardens and house are set on the banks of the River Wye near the historic Bredwardine Bridge - the first brick-built bridge over the Wye.

David and I reached the water meadow alongside the river, rather muddy due to the previous rain storms, but enjoyed a lovely walk through some glorious shrubs and trees just beginning to take on their autumn colours. We wandered through a grove of Silver Birches, Paper bark which were delightful, found a red birch with some spectacular peeling red bark and a remarkable shrub which we think was called something like Cleododenrun. It has delicate white flowers in spring, a beautiful scent, and changes to some dark star shaped flowers with the most incredible bright blue button centres, I have never seen anything so stunning and unusual before. On returning to the house, we found everyone lounging under the gazebo eating again! Afternoon teas and cakes were now being consumed, where did they put it all?! I rushed off the Coach House Interiors Gift Shop as I heard that upholstery material was going for a song in their sale, grabbed Julia Evans, and we salved our cravings by buying some lovely material to add to our collections. The Coach House Interiors is now moved to Bagley Croft, Brinsop, Herefordshire HR4 7AT if anyone is interested. The gift shop itself was full of interesting gifts and many were purchased by our group. David and I were kindly treated to a lift by Kelvin and Julia and we enjoyed all their stories of their trip to Australia, on the way home. Thanks to Geraldine for all her arrangements, and we had a super day out in some unseasonably warm weather, which added to our enjoyment".

### **30th September Garden Visiting Group**

We left Llandrindod Wells, Rugby Club car park at 09.30. and travel to St Micheal's Hospice Hereford. The Hospice gardens were officially opened by Monty Don on the 11th September and were at their best. Ashley one of the staff members meet us and gave us an introduction to both the Hospice and gardens. The photographs speak for themselves. Seldom have we seen such a spectacular Autumn garden for colour, variety and vigour. The lay out and the garden design making the garden totally accessible. It started to rain the moment we entered the grounds but even the rain could not dampen our enthusiasm.

Lunch was at 'The Crown and Anchor', Lugwardine, a Grade II listed black and white timber-framed country inn dating from the 17th century which had good reviews and is just under 2 miles from the Hospice Gardens. I can certain recommend the Hot and Cold Sea food platter.



Then we travelled on to The Whittern Estate, Lyonshall, Kington. This is a private estate with a garden, only occasionally open to the public for fund raising events. The owner Jo Hilditch met us and took us to shelter under the grand house "porch" as by now the rain was torrential. In the family for four generations the house had been rebuilt twice. Traditionally the farm was mixed arable but over the generations they have planted 200 acres of fruit. This includes apples for Bulmers and blackcurrants grown for Ribena, around 5% of Ribena's fruit comes from the Whittern. We were invited to go to the office to try some of their own British Cassis, an invitation we finally decided we were too cold and bedraggled to accept. Shame. Jo said the garden was "getting a bit tatty" but we were welcome to explore on our own as she had an interview with the National Geographic that afternoon who are going to do a feature on the farm which also provides property accommodation to rent.

The two most amazing things in the garden were trees, a larch that was extremely rare only 5 in the UK with a large part of the root system above ground and a Beech which had large branches which had touched the ground then sent up new trees in a beautiful interconnected circle. We were invited to go back next Spring or Summer when the garden is at its best. An offer I would like to take up along with that Cassis.

### **Photos from the Garden Visiting Group**





**The following is a letter received after some money was raised for St Michael's Hospice by the Gardening Group.**

Dear Karen, Llandrindod Wells u3a

Thank you very much for your generous gift of £116.00 that we have received from you recently raised by visiting the gardens here at St Michael's Hospice. We, at the Hospice, will always be grateful for your continued support, and your thoughtfulness and kindness in thinking of us is very much appreciated.

This donation will help St Michael's Hospice to continue to provide our patients and their families with the best possible care for many years to come. Today there is a much greater need for all our services, and our expert palliative care team support patients in a variety of ways. By making this gift you have made a real difference to the work we do.

With our best wishes. **Francesca Taylor, Fundraising Administrator.**

## **Sunday Lunch Group 2**

There's going to be a new Sunday Lunch Group starting on January 22nd 2023. Please message Meg Lewis: [meg@u3a-landrindod.org.uk](mailto:meg@u3a-landrindod.org.uk) if you are interested. Couples & singles welcome.

Meg runs Sunday Lunch Group1 & is happy to set up Group 2 but it will need a leader, volunteer/s please!

Lunch Group 2 will meet regularly on the 4th Sunday of each month at a restaurant of choice by the group.

## **Sunday Lunch Group 1**

Your editors went out for a Sunday lunch at the Lakeside Café and on our way out we came across the U3a Sunday Lunch Group 1. We couldn't resist the temptation to take a few photographs.



## **Singing Group by Jane Stevens**

We are having great fun with our new percussion instruments. Hand drums, tambourines, maracas and jingle bells are now accompanying our singing, not just Sue on keyboards.

Two U3a members, Wendy Isle and Jane Stevens, dressed a Christmas tree for U3a singing for fun group as part of the Christmas tree festival at Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells.



## **Railriders and Charabanc Club outing to Birmingham Christmas Market**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 a group of U3a members met at Llandindod train station to get a train to Birmingham. We all got on the train at 8.45am with a train change at Shrewsbury. We arrived at Birmingham Station at approx. 11.30am where we split up into groups to tour the market and visit any shops that we wanted to see. We all enjoyed the trip where we sampled the food and drink at the market. We then left Birmingham at 5.00pm with a change again at Shrewsbury and arrived back in Llandrindod at 8.00pm.







## December Meeting and Christmas Lunch

The December meeting was started by the U3a Singing Group welcoming everybody with some Carols. This was a nice change to have some enjoyable music as we entered the meeting room. Then we had a presentation from James Cresswell called My Life at the Poles. This was very enjoyable and informative about his journeys which everybody seemed to enjoy. Following the presentation, we had some members put on a Cinderella Pantomime. This was not the usual Pantomime, it was a short comical adaptation of Cinderella which had the audience laughing and got everyone in the party mood ready for the Christmas Lunch.



## Photographs of the Christmas Lunch and Entertainment

