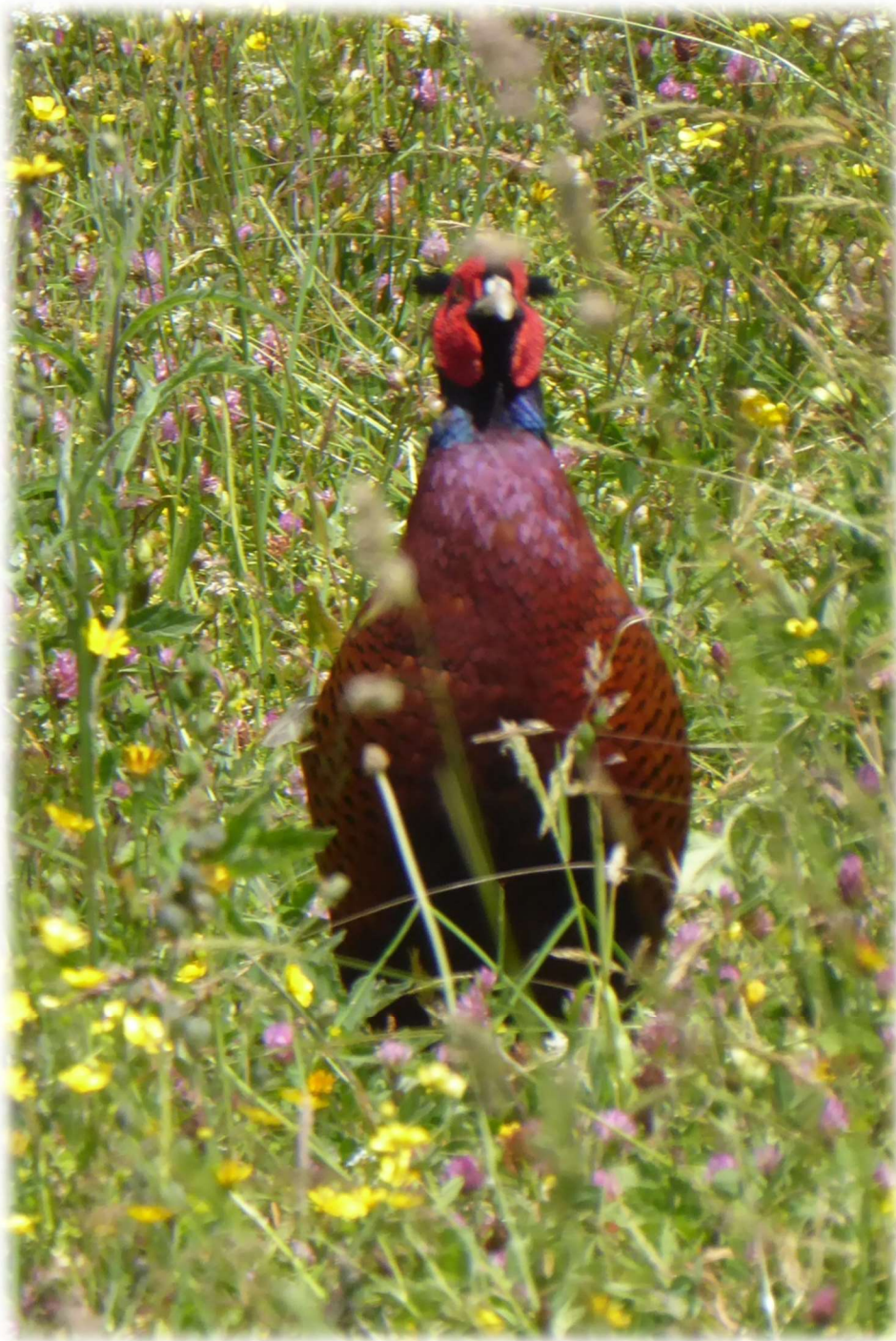


# Borderlines

Autumn 2023



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITORS

Hello and welcome to our Autumn issue of Borderlines

We would like to thank the members for their contributions because 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.

You can find additional information about the u3a online and on the notice board at the back of the room during the monthly meetings

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 since July: Maggie Clark, Lorna East, David Parker, Chris Almond, Sarah Tordoff, Liz Hancock and Lana Talbott.

We also have a returning member Marilyn Thomas.

We hope you all enjoy your time with u3a.

## U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas will be here before we know it! Our annual Christmas Lunch will follow the main monthly meeting on December 11th. It's time to choose from the menu and book your place. Last date for booking is the monthly meeting on November 13th. The Christmas Menu and Booking form is available to download from the u3a Llandrindod website and available at the monthly meetings. Please follow the instructions on the booking form for ordering and payment.





## **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUPS**

The two Sunday Lunch Groups have decided to have a joint Christmas lunch on December 3rd. The venue and times are being arranged.

### **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP 1**

Sunday Lunch Group 1 member Cllr. Marcia Morgan is Mayor of Llandrindod Wells. After an official invitation she came to the September lunch at The Golf Club wearing her chain of office accompanied by her Consort for the day Marion Sadler. Photograph of Lunch Group members was taken outside the Club House just before the rain set in for the day. What did it matter? We had a lovely carvery lunch and some great companionship.



### **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP 2**

The Sunday Lunch Group 2 is still going well visiting various eateries in the local area, such as Golden Lion, Newbridge, The Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells and the Bell at Llanyre. All the venues that we have visited have supplied excellent meals with good company.



## **GARDEN VISITING – AULDEN FARM GARDEN**

The July Garden Visit saw 24 members meet mid-morning on 28 July with low clouds that threatened rain before setting off to travel over the border once again into Herefordshire heading for Leominster and the lunch venue at The White Lion Inn in the town by which time the clouds had disappeared and the sun came out being the first time all week. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by all who had varied choices and the service exceptional with all 24 being served at the same time. It's definitely earmarked for another visit in the future.

We then proceeded to the garden to visit and meandered along country roads into the unknown for approximately 4 miles South West of Leominster into the heart of the Herefordshire countryside where on arrival at Aulden Farm Garden, Aulden. We were made to feel very welcome.

The garden covers approximately 3 acres in a large L-shape with an emphasis on structure split into various rooms which were a delight to meander through and planted with wildlife in mind. Features include a magnificent giant Ash, a peaceful yew circle, a hornbeam tunnel and a wildlife pond which irises thrive around. Siberian Irises are a specialty.







After meandering and enjoying the various gardens in a garden we were all able to be seated outside in sunshine to enjoy tea/coffee and a variety of homemade cakes to the sound of birdsong before tearing ourselves away and continuing on through lovely countryside on a different route back to Llandrindod returning about 5:00pm after an enjoyable day in perfect weather.





## CAMERA GROUP

Instead of our usual meeting in June, at the Commodore Hotel we decided to go as a group to visit Llysdyham Gardens in Newbridge on Wye, as a photography outing.

As with all good outings a pub is on the agenda, and we met at The New Inn for lunch. Everyone enjoyed a hearty meal before heading off to the gardens.

At Llysdyham we were greeted by Becky, the Head Gardener, who gave us a brief history of the house and gardens. We were then free to roam the 20 acre gardens at our leisure. The Walled Garden, the Greenhouses, the Woodland Walk and the Shrubbery were among some of the favourite places to photograph.

Some of us did more roaming and photography while some of did more sitting, chatting and taking in the view of the Wye Valley, a more laid back approach to photography.

However, everyone enjoyed the day and came away with photographic memories and the odd plant or two!







## QUILTING GROUP

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:00am to 12.00 noon in a first floor room at The Hive (unfortunately there is no lift). The cost is £5 per session which includes a drink and a contribution towards the cost of hiring the room.

Susie Corke, an experienced teacher and quilter, is teaching us the seamed stitching technique for patchwork blocks and encourages us, and guides us, to draft our own designs and cut our own templates. She has also discussed with us the use of different types of threads, thicknesses and their properties. All extremely useful and interesting.

The group have hand stitched their individual patchwork squares with different designs which will eventually be made into cushions, bags, quilts etc.

If anyone would like to join please contact Carolyn – [carolyn@U3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:carolyn@U3a-llandrindod.org.uk) – who will let you have more details. You will be made most welcome.

If you are a novice to patchwork and any hand stitching, Susie will start with the basics so please don't worry as we are a very friendly group and everyone helps each other.



## READERS BOOK GROUP

The Readers Book Group recently discussed *The Luck*, a debut novel by local author Kathy Biggs. We were delighted to have Kathy join us. She was an engaging speaker, and we were astonished when we realised two hours had sped by. One of our members said “She was better than Deborah Moggach!”

She was too good for us to keep her to ourselves, so we are organising a bigger meeting. The other book group and Creative Writing group have been invited, but it may be that other members of the u3a would like to attend.

Kathy has worked at the Bracken Trust, Careers Office and Age UK, so some of you will know her.

If you are interested please let me know. At this stage you aren't committing yourself, but we anticipate tickets will be limited, so get in first!

Margaret Mason.01597 825365     [margaret@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk](mailto:margaret@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk)



Some of the Readers Book group with guest author Kathy Biggs.

Bottom L-R Kathy Biggs, Ian, Geraldine, Jan. Top L-R Ann, Norma, Margaret.



## **ZIMBABWE – DAVE AND JO WRIGHT**

An unexpected invitation to Wedding Celebrations at Lake Kariba saw us flying to Harare via Dubai in early April. Harare would not be high on most people's lists of holiday destinations! We arrived during one of the almost daily power cuts and being driven through Harare by our hosts during the evening rush hour with no traffic lights or traffic police was "interesting". Businesses and most private properties have generators and those who can't afford fuel have firelight. There was an amazing range of goods being sold on the roadside from food to household goods to kennels and sheds. Very much a cash and barter business model. The years of Robert Mugabe's corruption have taken their toll on infrastructure and most roads are more pothole than tarmac but there is evidence of the present government starting to improve things with, of course, Chinese finance. We were surprised how many Europeans still live in parts of Harare with well stocked supermarkets and other retail outlets we'd expect to see in UK towns. Most of what is in the shops comes up from South Africa.

We then flew up to Lake Kariba for the celebrations. What a change! The hotel we stayed at had recently been updated after years of neglect. Because there had been so little tourism animals had lost their fear and we had zebras and elephants wandering into the grounds and hippo and crocodiles at the water's edge. Lionesses and cubs had been seen the previous weekend close by. We were joined by a large group of South African relatives and a party atmosphere prevailed both on the lake and at the hotel with trips out on the lake on houseboats and speed boats ending with "sundowners" around six o'clock as the sun set and boats came together for drinks before heading back to shore. Being near the equator they don't have long, light summer evenings as we do. We went to Kariba Heights which has a viewpoint with views right across the lake and also saw the dam which is undergoing major reconstruction at present. Celebrations ended with Sunday lunch on a large houseboat out on the lake before guests prepared to leave early on Monday morning.

We flew from Kariba airport (with a terminal building resembling a cricket pavilion) to Victoria Falls with a recently completed new airport, again financed by the Chinese, and said goodbye to the South Africans heading home to Johannesburg. We were driven to our hotel in time for lunch and a relaxing afternoon by the pool. In the evening we went on a sunset cruise on the Zambezi where the river is wide above the falls. Next day we headed to the Falls which were magnificent. Fortunately we had gone prepared with ponchos as the spray got progressively more intense as we went from viewpoint to viewpoint. At times you couldn't see the falls across the gorge for the spray so we decided to view the falls from a helicopter the next day. Expensive but worth every US dollar it cost. Later we had afternoon tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel built by Cecil Rhodes.

Just like English afternoon tea but half the price! For our final evening we went on a game drive a few miles from Victoria Falls. We saw several giraffe and herds of buffalo, zebra and impala and finally a lion. We'd hoped to see rhino but they didn't put in an appearance.

We set off next day for home crossing into Zambia and headed for Livingstone airport to catch a flight to Lusaka to pick up our flight home. All in all it was a wonderful holiday helped by the friendliness of everyone we met. Hopefully tourism will grow and more people will see what a beautiful country Zimbabwe is.





