

Borderlines

Winter 2024



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

With thanks, Margaret and Bob.

Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us between October and December 2023

Gwyneth Rose, Shanaz Dorkenoo, Eve Davies and Jonathan Copus Rachel Palmer, Maureen Taylor, Andre Gallagher Vladimir Bogdan.

We also have two returning members Terry Couzens and Barry Capsey.

We hope you enjoy your time with u3a.

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group (formerly the Patchwork and Quilting Group) has been renamed in order to embrace all styles of creative sewing.

Over the past year the group has been led by Susie Corke who is an experienced textiles artist and teacher. Over past years Susie has made many beautiful patchwork quilts. So far we have enjoyed making a number of items using just a few of the many patchwork techniques. We have made and cut templates and embarked on the basics of rotary cutting fabrics. We have also discussed the availability of various threads and their uses. It can be so difficult to choose the correct one especially when buying online.

We meet on the first floor of "The Hive" on the second Tuesday of each month 10.00am - 12.00pm. Please note there is no lift. The cost is £5 per session to cover room hire and includes a tea/coffee and plenty of chatting! If you would like to join the group please contact

carolyn@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk. All are welcome including those who are beginners to sewing and keen to enjoy stitching.



Art Group – Weatherman Walking – Karen Latham

Chance meetings can sometimes bring totally expected outcomes.

While out walking with my dog over Shaky Bridge at Cefnlllys, I meet a couple who turned out to be the producer and researcher for Weatherman Walking, who were considering the area for a programme to be filmed in the following two weeks. The conversation naturally turned on the history, of Saint Michael's Church and Cefnlllys Castle, then on to the natural beauty of our surroundings. Never one to miss an opportunity I suggested it would be an ideal venue for our u3a art group.

The Art Group meets once a month at Celf o Gwmpas in a studio environment with all facilities to hand. The intrepid members of the group also have the opportunity to work outside "en plein air" at different venues during the summer months.

The researchers took my details and rang the next day. Result.

I contacted our local u3a historians Julian Ravest and Julian Lovell for their help.

Then the art group members, who have shown interest in working outside, nine artists Judith, Susie, Helen, Dave, John, Roger, David, Kathryn and I meet at Shaky Bridge at 11.00 on the 18th October the morning of filming. Starting our different sketches, at first by the bridge looking over to the church, then asked to move into the Church yard for filming.



I was touched and totally surprised that Patricia Munroe's memorial stone had been newly placed in the church yard by where we were working, appropriate as Patricia had been instrumental in setting up the u3a art group in the first place.

Derek Brockway and the small crew were charming and interviewed us all in turn. It got a bit cold and there were a few spots of rain – but overall the experience was most enjoyable. I am sure they will edit down to a few minutes but hopefully the "plug" for our u3a will remain in.

The programme will go out next Spring, rest assured you will be alerted as soon as I am to its time and date.

Garden Visiting Group.

Our September Garden Visit, the last one for 2023, took place at the end of the month with the weather being very kind to us once again. We set off from Llandrindod in the middle of the morning to head off for our lunch venue at The White Lion Inn, Leominster, revisiting there following on from our July visit where we once again had an enjoyable lunch before travelling on to our designated garden being Old Court Nurseries and The Picton Garden on the edge of the village of Colwall situated on the lower slopes of the Malvern Hills.

On arriving at the Garden in lovely sunshine we were warmly welcomed by Helen, a third generation of the Picton family, who gave us an introductory talk on the history of the garden and how it has evolved and developed over the years since being established in 1906. Helen, with her husband, Ross Barbour, are now the curators for the Plant Heritage National Collection of autumn flowering asters and related species.



We were then invited to stroll through the gardens at our leisure and we were able to view the wonderful colourful collection of Michaelmas daisies which did not disappoint in addition to the other plants that we were able to see on walking the winding paths that took us around the garden which is full of unusual plants and trees with something different around every corner.



After spending a very pleasant time exploring and trying to recognise the many interesting plants and finally the purchasing of plants, it was time to leave for our next venue, The Colwall Park Hotel just a short distance from the garden, where we enjoyed tea/coffee and cakes before returning through lovely countryside with the sun still shining and thoughts for other gardens to be visited next year.

Report from the U3a Walkers Group

Our November walk took us along lanes and bridleways all around Cefnlllys Castle Bank in somewhat mixed weather. Starting from Shaky Bridge we walked along the lane past Cwm-brith Bank and Farm. We looked across towards Llandegley Rocks, shrouded in mist and looking very atmospheric (the photo doesn't do it justice)! Next came Brickyard Cottage with all its ponies, then on to the T-junction by Brynthomas. We headed towards Penybont for a short distance, before turning left at Tycoch towards Neuadd Isaf and Neuadd Farm. From there we followed the grassy track down to Cefnlllys Church and back to Shaky Bridge. Our walk was followed by lunch at the Llanerch Inn. Some photos taken during the walk





Camera Group

At our December meeting we invited Jeff Dixon and Hilary Hambidge, long time friends of Steven Harris, to come along and tell us about Steven and show us some his work.

Steven was the grandson of Henry Elmer Riehl, who was the Luna Park, Coney Island, and the designer of the amusement ride - The Virginia Reel.

Steven was born in Cardiff and brought up in Bristol. After a brief spell working on the trawlers, he travelled overland to India in the mid-Seventies. On his return to Britain, he moved to Llandrindod Wells, where he lived for the rest of his life. He was a keen cyclist in his youth, he even built his own racing bike.

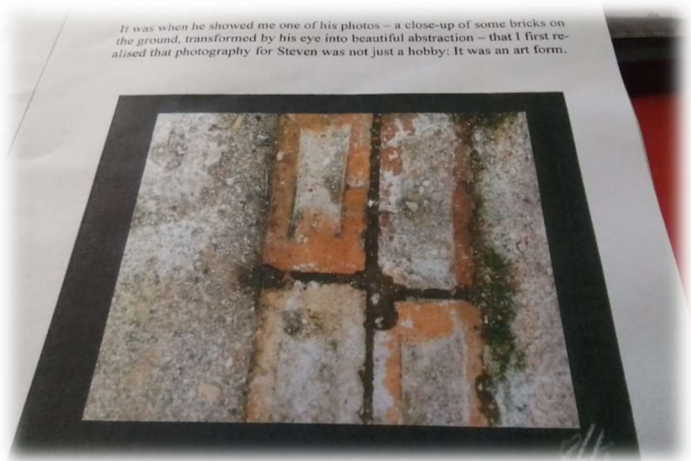
Later, Steven was obliged to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle as a result of an inherited progressive muscle-wasting disease, which increasingly impaired his mobility. He then devoted his time to his other love, photography.

Steven loved abstract photography and looked for patterns in everyday object, which he was able to continue his flat and balcony.

After Steven passed away in 2022, Jeff found boxes of photographs belonging to Steven, and while sorting through them he was inspired to exhibit the photos for others to see.

Jeff tells us there are still a number of boxes to be sorted, so we look forward to seeing him at a future meeting.

The Camera Group meets at the Commodore Hotel, first Tuesday each month at 2pm.



Sunday Lunch Groups

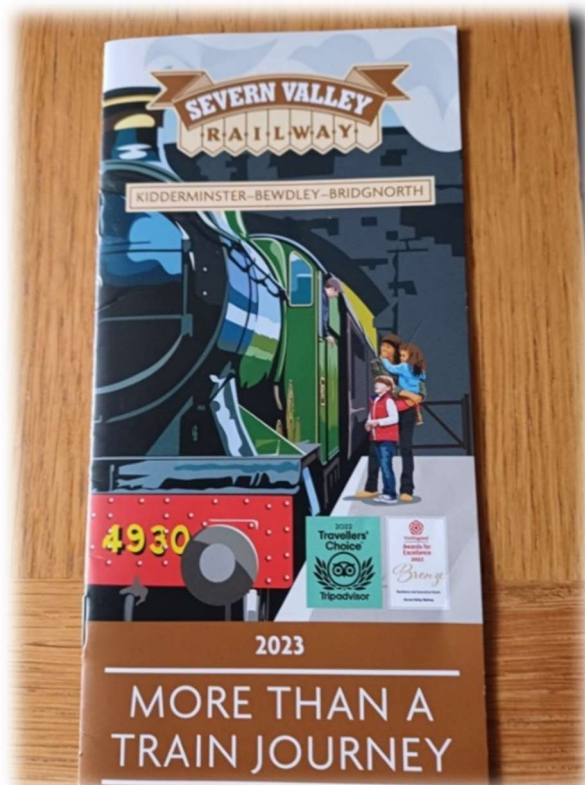
Both Sunday Lunch Groups, 1 and 2, decided to have a combined December meal at the Llandrindod Golf Club on Sunday 3rd December. Someone suggested that we wear something glittery or shiny as it was near Christmas. Everyone looked sparkly for the occasion. A carvery was provided with a lovely selection of vegetables. This was followed by a choice of desserts. A good time was had by all and a special thankyou goes to Jenny Davies for organising the joint lunch.



Railriders - Severn Valley Railway

13 intrepid travellers set off from The Metropole Hotel, car sharing to Kidderminster on the Severn Valley Railway. Arriving in plenty of time we found there to be a lot of passengers on the same journey. with long queues for tickets. I had e-tickets but had to queue to get paper ones! Everyone arrived on time and nobody was missing. Blue Leader was delighted.

The authenticity of the heritage railways is awesome. The lengths they will go to make our experience authentic! There were not enough seats on the train so there were passengers standing in corridors for the journey. Oh how reminiscent.



Even the train was late leaving Kidderminster. Just like the old days of British Rail. Remember the old British Railway days when trains ran late and were over crowded? It was a bit like that.

The journey was fabulous with plenty of lovely scenic views of the Worcestershire countryside as we passed through Bewdley, Arley, Highley and Hampden Loade before arriving at 11.10am.



Everyone was free to do their own thing in Bridgenorth. Sadly the Cliff railway was not available owing to overhauling works. Funnily enough we all decided to frequent the same Wetherspoons establishment for lunch, not all at the same time I hasten to add but at some point we were all in there at the same time.

Everyone returned to in time for the journey back began at 4.10pm and we arrived back at Kidderminster by 5.20pm for the return car journey to Llandrindod.

Railriders – Christmas Meal at the Armoury Shrewsbury

For a change the Railriders group decided to go to The Armoury in Shrewsbury for their December trip!

What can I say? It is tried and trusted and the food and service was up to the usual excellent standard.

There is little to write apart from this. We had problems with timings on previous visits due to train timetables but this time Blue Leader selected a lantern train from Llandrindod and a later dining time. We had less time to hang about after our meal before returning home. People still had time to explore shops so everyone was happy.

December Meeting and Christmas Lunch

This years Christmas meal was held at the Metropole Hotel and followed the December meeting. The speaker was local historian and author Philip Hume on the subject of The Welsh Marcher Lordships. The talk he gave was very informative and entertaining. Following the speaker we had entertainment from the creative writing group, songs from the singing group and a short performance from Jan Swindale and her Grumpy Gnomes with a script written by Brandy Clarke.

Following the entertainment we moved through for the lunch. After collecting our place cards we all took our seats at a table where there was a quiz that was prepared by Nick Talbott. We then had a very enjoyable meal followed by the results of the quiz.

Photographs of the Christmas Lunch







