

Borderlines

March 2014



The Magazine of Llandrindod Wells and District U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Introduction from the Editor

Hello and welcome to the March 2014 edition of Borderlines. You will get this at the AGM, when we will have several new officers. We are so fortunate to have such a skills base from which to draw, and that people are willing to volunteer.

From a Borderlines point of view, I would like to thank Ann Parkhouse and Jane Malvern in particular. Ann has assiduously and promptly provided me with the names of new members for the "Welcome" feature. Jane has not only written the Chairman's report, but also given me photographs and articles whenever I have complained about a shortage of material.

Best wishes, Margaret

Welcome

The following new members have joined since the last Borderlines. We welcome them to Llandrindod and District U3A and hope they will enjoy it.

November – Beatrice Deveaux

December - None

January - Susan Jones, Fay Howe, Martin Nosworthy, Davisee Pepper.

February - Mary Russell, Janet Edmonds, Bob Bach.

Useful contact numbers.

Only Barbara and myself this edition. There will be full details of the new committee in the next Borderlines.

Barbara Warner- Web Editor (01597 825592) barbara@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk

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Cover photograph by Fay Ramsden and shows L-R Bob Atkins, Betty Jones and Val Burrows of the Sunday Lunch Group. It was taken last year when Wales did rather better, but I thought it a lovely March front cover.

Interest Groups

The activity groups are the lifeblood of the U3A and we are fortunate to have a flourishing collection of groups covering a wide range of subjects. We benefit whenever someone takes the initiative in setting up a new group, such as the new singing group which enables members without choral training (as well as several with) to settle down over coffee and biscuits and sing folk songs, pop songs, hymns, rounds - whatever they fancy. Every new group creates more interests and activity for members and our list of groups, though impressive, is far from exhaustive. Where, for instance, is our swimming group, our baking group and new editions of some of the full groups? If anyone wants to start, or be a member of a new group (including a duplicate one) please get in touch with the Activity Groups Co-ordinator, Martha Wooldridge, on 01597 829252 or for any help or advice you may need, or contact her at martha@u3a-llandrindod.org.uk



The Singing for Fun Group

A small selection turned out on an atrocious evening to sing around Ewart's piano.

L-R Ewart Hilsden; Vic Everill; Ann Harvey; Penny Everett; Joy Hilsden; Margaret Mason; Dorothy Jones; Martha Wooldridge and Mary Davies

Photo Barbara Warner

The Readers

As a group we have been meeting once a month for nearly 18 months and have read and discussed some brilliant books. Not everyone will agree that every book was a cracking good read, but I think we all agree that we are pleased to have read and had a chance to discuss them. That's what a reading group is all about – reading authors we might not normally have read.

We usually meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Meeting Room of the new Fire Station from 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm. When the room has been previously booked for that day, we move our group to the third Tuesday.

Some of the books we have read are: Resistance by Owen Shears; The Divide by Nicholas Evans; Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson; The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald; Flight Behaviour by Barbara Kingsolver; The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal; Wild Swans by Jung Chang; Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier and Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

We have nominated books to read up until July of this year and these are:

Date Title Author

11/02/14	Suite Francaise	Irene Nemirovsky
11/03/14	The Bell Jar	Sylvia Plath
15/04/14	The Thirteenth Tale	Diane Setterfield
20/05/14	The Railway Man	Eric Lomax
10/06/14	Trustee from the Toolroom	Nevil Shute
08/07/14	Russian Winter	Daphne Kolotay

If any U3A member is interested in joining our friendly group you will be made extremely welcome. If you have a book you are desperately keen for us to read and discuss before September, we can be flexible and fit the book in before then.

Catherine Clarke

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Some of the group discussing Suite Francaise by Irene Nemerovsky

L-R Ian Paget; Catherine Clarke; Margaret Mason; Clive Margrave - Townsend; Norma Dunkerley; and Karyn Evans

The French Conversation Group

This group was established just a year ago. We include folk at different levels of knowledge, attainment and ambition as far as the language is concerned but all have experience of visiting, if not actually living in France, so we easily share views on the country and the culture. The membership now includes a native French-speaker who is very discreet in monitoring our use of her language, but is invaluable for pointing out the 'proper' French way of saying or doing things.

We meet once a month, for about two hours, usually at the leader's house in Dolau, where refreshments are provided. Each member comes with a sentence or two prepared in French, to read to the group who join in translation and discussion. To mark the anniversary of our founding, though, we are about to branch out. The January meeting celebrated the new year at a French café in Hereford where some scrumptious pâtisseries are served.(See photo). The next two meetings will include watching part of a French film together (with English sub-titles), followed by a discussion.



New members are welcome: we can squeeze a few more round the table at Jane's house in Dolau!

Text :Jane Shorter,

Photo :Jane

Malvern

Chairman's Report

Once again we are approaching the end of our U3A's year, and a change of Committee & Officers.

At the AGM, Bob Atkins – currently Vice-Chairman – will take over the Chairmanship, and five of this year's Committee will retire. I am glad to say that we have volunteers for the all the vacancies. I would like to thank the members of the 2013-14 Committee for their help & support throughout the past year.

We have a varied programme of lectures for the coming year – about 70% of the membership attends the monthly lecture, so it is a very important part of our activities.

Writing the "Chairman's Notes " will be Bob's job for the next edition of Borderlines, along with all the other Chairman's duties, so it just remains for me to say "thank you for having me" as your Chairman for the last two years. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

Best wishes – Jane

The Film Club

Roger Malvern 01597 823806

The next show will be March 21 and it will be "The Importance of being Ernest": Original 1952 adaptation with Michael Redgrave and Edith Evans. Dance Centre, doors open at 2.15, film starts at 2.30

The Creative Writing Group

Penny Everett

Please note the next meeting at 10 am on the 11th March will be in the Metropole.

There once was a lady from Powys
Who said that the one thing I know is
When creative writing
It's my pencil I'm biting
Lacking all of the necessary prowess.

Theatre Group Visit to see Richard II. November 5th 2013 by Mistress Hunt from Howey!

Remember, remember the 5th of November, treason, trickery and plot!!

“I really envy you going to see Richard II “, my friend Maggie said in an email. “Is that the one that David Tennant is doing? He must be the most hard working actor around - him and the delectable Bill Nighy, who I adore.”

Well, yes, it was David Tennant in Richard II, and yes, I now understood her envy although I am not so sure I share her feelings about Bill Nighy...

November 5th was cold, rainy and windy too, but the sky cleared the closer we got to Stratford and the performance of Shakespeare's Richard II. Last year was my first visit to the Theatre in Stratford with the U3A Theatre Group from Llandrindod Wells. My second visit did not disappoint. A little exploration of Stratford first with Linda to find Shakespeare's grave, (locked in the Church and unable to get in) then onto his birthplace (which we eventually found after walking past the house twice). Sadly this was closed too, so intrepid adventurers were we - although slightly unfulfilled!

I always take time to digest the visual and oral input of a play, and so it was over the days following this wonderful performance. Why did I enjoy it so much I wondered? Good company from Llandrindod Wells U3A? Yes, that almost goes without saying of course! The cast, certainly, the scenery, well yes, the costume, yes, the lighting, live singing, stage effects - the list goes on. I found the performance 'rounded'. It travelled at a pace with light and heavy scenes, gentleness and harshness, humour and anger mixed with treachery and betrayal. A good production by Gregory Doran I thought. Jane Lapotaire as the Duchess of Gloucester, set an intimate atmosphere in the opening scene at the coffin of her dead husband. For me Michael Pennington as John of Gaunt gave a commanding performance. Emma Hamilton as The Queen gave grace and gentleness to her character. Nigel Lindsey I was unsure of at first as Henry Bolingbroke, (later to become Henry IV) but as the play proceeded so his character grew with strength, as did the feeling of danger for the King.

Ah, the King! He played with my mind and so cleverly acted by David Tennant. His complex mind and thought patterns going round and round in his head...and mine! The scene that will stay with me was that of the King being lowered, golden and shimmering onto the set on his return from Ireland to face the growing threat to his Throne.

It also took me time to digest the lovely meal we had at Carluccio's Restaurant close to the Theatre, and it sustained me throughout the long play. Such a good idea! Thank you Patsy for booking it for us.

We arrived home in the early hours of the November 6th. Hooray, the car started! Thank you Ewart and Ann for organising such a successful day. I look forward to next year's visit.

Apparently dance is one of the best ways of keeping young. Not only have you got the exercise benefits, but remembering all those routines make your brain work too! For both classes phone Lucy Wills on 01597 860274

STARTING TUES MARCH 4th 10.30 - 11.30 am £3.80

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Lucy Wills in association with POWYS DANCE

New beginners class starting March 4th 2014

Pilates

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At the Dance Centre, Llandrindod Wells

£19.00 per 5 week course

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Pilates promotes flexibility, posture, stamina and strength. The exercises are suitable for all levels of fitness and are an excellent way to improve both mental and physical wellbeing.

Phone 01597 860274 Facebook: Lucy Wills

or email lucywills398@btinternet.com