

Borders Bulletin

New Year ... New You!

2014 saw a flurry of early January committee, education and PR meetings as we continued to raise public awareness and, with it, our membership, and to develop effective ways to promote and present our meetings, events and group activities.



The New Year brought with it our eagerly-awaited presentation resources – a projector, compatible portable pull-up screen, costing £832, a laptop, case and controller/pointer for £336, plus a flash drive and HMI drive for £48.

The new resources offer a great speaker support package, adding to the lectern and lamp and wireless radio mike bought in September.

Helene Lindstrand and Adrienne Powell, pictured, were among the first members to learn how to connect the laptop to the projector for our Speaker and Members' meetings.

The equipment was bought with a grant in excess of £1000 from the Local Joint Committee (LJC) funding. Cllr. Vince Hunt, Oswestry LJC Chairman, is pictured left, presenting the cheque to our committee members, Jane Davies, Melva Duley and Dave Stirling. Many thanks to Melva, Pam Broomby and John Barrett for all their efforts in making this bid so successful.



Our PR team launched a 'New Year – New You' campaign, distributing posters throughout Oswestry Borders towns and villages, talking to local groups (Ellesmere Probus in January) and planning a 'hands-on' press feature of members learning how to set up the new speaker equipment.

March Members' Meeting will focus on U3A Technology. This will give members a chance to practise setting up the equipment and using both radio and hand-held microphones.

While several members are capable of hearing speakers without microphones being used, in organisations such as ours, catering for a specific age group, there will be some with poor hearing/disability.

The microphones and loud speakers put the sound into the Loop system for those members who would otherwise be excluded. So when we get the system working and you are going to speak, it's not a criticism of you when we ask you to use a microphone, but a courtesy to those members who have hearing loss.



Dave Stirling shows Eddie Anderson how to set up the wireless radio microphone for guest speaker historian Yvonne Mason.

Yvonne's talk in January on 'The History and Legend of the Tower of London' drew one of our largest audiences.



John Barrett, right, shows Dave Lowdon the ropes (or leads), connecting the wireless receiver to the sound system.

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Special points of interest:

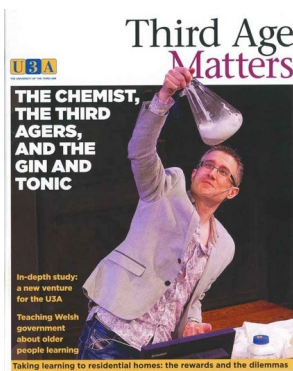
- Why Rail Rattlers?
- The Committee needs you — AGM, May 21
- How BT came to Oswestry
- Tower of London Ravens and the Mabinogion
- New locations for groups

Finances

We have received £1,113 in grants from four Local Joint Committees. This money has been used to buy presentation resources. We are exploring ways to store the new equipment in secure locations at The Centre.

We have also received a grant of £150 from the Third Age Trust and £25 from Ellesmere Probus, following a talk given by Wendy Lodwick Lowdon and Jane Davies.

We now have dual operation of our online account with the Co-op Bank, allowing two of our existing five signatories to make online payments from/to our bank account. This arrangement covers us with our Trustees insurance in taking appropriate measures to prevent theft.



Risk Assessment

A working party (Melva Duley, Avril Topham, Sally and John Barrett) will review the various national U3A Risk Assessment documents and make recommendations to the Committee and group leaders on Risk Assessment.

Chairman's message

New Year is a time of resolutions (but perhaps not always the resolution to carry them out) and a look ahead. As it's Oswestry Borders U3A's first New Year perhaps we should reflect briefly on what we have achieved, a great deal actually, with a new organisation that is growing healthily and many vigorous interest groups within it.

Like any voluntary organisation we are entirely dependent on our members' wishes, for nobody is obliged to come to our activities, so they have to be activities that members want to spend their time on. Nevertheless, there is also activity behind the scenes, and we should spare a thought for those who work in the less visible roles, such as providing the refreshments. Laura Powell has recently resigned her role as organiser of the refreshments at meetings and we need to acknowledge our thanks for what she, and those working with her, have done. The tea and chat after meetings is a binding force for our U3A. Fortunately Carol Fahey has agreed to take over Laura's role.

David Stirling, January 2014

STOP PRESS - Your committee needs you!

Election of a new Committee will take place at the AGM, scheduled for Wednesday May 21, 2014. It isn't that far away! We need YOU to give careful consideration about joining the 2014/2015 Committee in some capacity or other.

It doesn't have to be an onerous task but we can assure you that it will be interesting, a rewarding experience, and give you closer involvement in the day to day

management of the Group and the activities we offer members. Every post holder on the Committee has to be elected at the AGM so all posts are up for grabs! Some members of the Committee may stand again but we know that we need new volunteers to take on various roles.

More information later so watch this space. Please speak to any current member of the Committee if you would like to know more about his/her role.

National U3A news

Four issues of the national U3A magazine 'Third Age Matters', combined with 'three educational bulletins 'U3A Sources' are available each year for only £2.10 – amazing value for money.

The publications are distributed to around 200,000 members by direct mail. If you are interested in finding out more click on this [review of content](#) by Melva Duley.

Recent national office mailings are now available on Oswestry Borders U3A website's Members page. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Membership growth

The 'Bring a Friend' drive has proved very successful. Membership, after ten months, now stands at 117. With each meeting there are new members to meet and greet and always a couple of interested visitors to talk to.

Several groups are now finding they are reaching double figures and are considering different locations to cope.

In such cases we advise leaders to ask group members to pay money up front in advance for room hire charges, rather than meeting by meeting.

Keeping in touch

We recognise that some members prefer to keep in touch via phone and post. Membership secretary, Wendy Lodwick Lowdon has kept in regular touch via phone calls and post with 13 members who are not on email.

Summary print-outs of our quarterly Borders Bulletin are available for new members. These named copies are available at two meetings and, if not collected, are then posted to them. Information about interest groups, leaders, dates and times are included in members' packs.

Interest Groups and Meetings

We are starting 2014 with an excellent selection of vibrant Interest Groups. Please see Monthly Planner on Page 8 for specific information. Sixteen groups are up and running, two are slightly struggling, one is on hold and three new groups were announced at meetings in January.

One new group that met for the first time in January at The Centre's smaller meeting room is the **Rail Rattlers**. See Page 6 for more information. Wendy Lodwick Lowdon, who leads the Australian Studies group will lead this one.

We were introduced to Lorna Borland at January's combined speaker and members' meeting. Lorna is running an **Anti-ageing Aerobics** group at St Martins Community Centre every Thursday morning. We also heard of plans for a Craft group, led by Marie-Ann Fenna. Two members have offered to lead/start groups, one for Psychology and one for Stock & Shares/Investment discussions.

The two groups slightly struggling are:

Art/Collage: Sue Townsend, the group leader is willing to hold meetings at her Knockin home until there are enough members to hire a room.

Scrabble: There are two or three people interested who have met for the occasional game, but they could do with someone who would take over the organisational role.

The **Singing** group has met termly twice a month and members have loved re-learning some old songs. It's very informal with a complete range of ability and singing purely for enjoyment. In January sessions were put on hold while group leader, David Ryan, had heart surgery. Pianist, Margaret Hogg, has offered to run sessions in February. We all wish David a speedy return to full health.

To promote interest groups, leaders have been asked to organise small displays at our monthly members' meetings. Ideally, we are aiming at two stands per meeting.

If you are interested in any of these groups, or if you would like to start a new group, please contact either:

Anne Lynch anne.lynch2@btinternet.com 01691 657489

or Margaret Pritchard Margaret@margaret0.orangehome.co.uk 01691 654234

Anne Lynch, Education Group Co-ordinator

Meeting group leaders

The Committee recently met up with Interest Group leaders to celebrate their 'brilliant contribution to the success of our fledgling U3A'.

It was also a chance to listen to views/concerns about how the groups have been operating and an opportunity to exchange experiences and offer suggestions. Items discussed included:

- Different insurance policies provided by the Third Age Trust (TAT)
- Subject resources available for group leaders on the TAT website
- Group pages on our website
- Guidelines for organising group trips
- Information about the group leaders' workshop at Market Drayton in March.

Photography Group

The group made a tentative re-start in October, with two members attending. November and December saw numbers growing.

So far we have looked at getting everyone started with simple software.

When the weather's been good we've gone outside to take photographs from a nearby viewpoint.

This year we intend to go out whenever possible to photograph places of local interest and also to improve our photographing and editing techniques.

More Group News

There has also been a good response for a group to develop our trips and visits programme.

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If any member has an idea you would like to share to help improve the running of our U3A, either for general meetings, interest groups, or visits, there is a clipboard available at the back of the meeting hall for you to note any suggestions.

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We are currently following up risk assessment and copyright law with group leaders.

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Four members will be attending the forthcoming Group Co-ordinators' Workshop in Market Drayton on March 17.

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Plans for an Interest Groups' Fair will be discussed at the next committee meeting.



The Books & DVD stall at meetings in The Centre have helped to boost our funds. Pat Broadhurst and Pauline Vann-Wye are pictured browsing for a bargain.



Oswestry Cricket Club—the new meeting place for the Australia Studies group

Australian Studies Group

With a membership of 14 we have now outgrown meeting in members' houses. Not wanting to turn anyone away from the group, we have moved to a larger meeting place, Oswestry Cricket Club in Morda Road. We settled on the cricket club because of the cost of the venue and because the parking is free. We were very well looked after on our first meeting in January by the manager, Huw Roberts, and we were warm and comfortable and enjoyed the refreshments which were part of the cost of the venue.

Click on [Women in Australia prior to 1850](#) to find out more details about our last meeting.

Ideally, in future we will be aiming for six or seven presentations per meeting with members presenting together or electing to do one every second month. Also, we could have some debates or we could take the role of an historical personage and argue our case on an issue.

In February the group will be studying some pictures of Australian animals, taken by Celia Todd. Members can bring along poems or short snippets or scientific information or representations of one or more animals of Australia.

The following month, March, will be about the goldfields and the gold rushes. Members can pick their own area of study geographically or in terms of particular groups of immigrants.

Wendy Lodwick Lowdon, Group Leader

Visit to BT Whittington House



Members in the 'comfy' chairs in the viewing gallery at the New Wave Centre with its multi-monitored wall board behind the glass screen.

January found 15 of us securely seated in a £25m bomb and chemical warfare-proof New Wave Digital Centre, surrounded by more CCTV cameras than grass, intruder detector pressure plates, steel perimeter fencing (and probably more we were not told about).

Where on earth were we?

Well, it's a place most of you are all familiar with.... BT Whittington House on the outskirts of Oswestry.

We discovered from our BT host, Mike Davies, how BT (then the PO) had originally come to Oswestry in the cold war years, looking for a safe storage place for all its paper records for new telephone network circuits.

Apparently, they were offered a large country property, Brogyntyn Hall, for a not-to-be missed rental agreement, with building improvement conditions attached. The Postmaster General at the time, Mike informed us, was Lord Harlech!

In the 80's BT moved to its present location, the ex-MOD Whittington Road site, where buildings continued to replace buildings as the 'futurologists' mapped the way forward in hi-tech communications for BT.

The current building for BT 's team for Technology Services and Operations has a staff of 250 to provide, monitor and manage service platforms for:

- 0800/0845 and 999 calls
- RIDE advanced voice platforms handling televotes (Strictly, XFactor), and the Speaking Clock
- PEW planned engineering works, managing all network changes
- MEAS managed Ethernet access solutions
- IPS Intelligent Protocol Networks

The national and international Incident Management Teams at Whittington House use state-of-the-art technology like 'Traffic Hawk' to monitor and manage any congestions in call traffic by 'gapping' (similar to traffic light operation) and re-routing calls to other networks and platforms.

We were told the famous underground bunker was now obsolete, full of old pcs, snooker boards and gym equipment. But, with all that security, they would say that, wouldn't they?!

Many thanks to Melva Duley for arranging this very interesting visit.

Jane Davies

ICT Group

Now that our website is up and running, we have decided to put the web group on hold and have just one ICT meet each month on the first Thursday, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30.

We are aiming for a short ICT topic focus (Excel, Making a Video, My Favourite App, Online ICT Courses, Social Media, Photos)

We will set aside an hour for practical hands-on, following up the topic or developing skills with support from others.

Our members will be available in the café after general meetings to show you our website. We will also be helping with the U3A Technology Members Meeting in March.

Over the next few months we shall be arranging 1 - 1 sessions for newcomers to ICT. The group has agreed to support members with their home systems, for a limited number of visits. Please contact the group leader if you would like some help.

Jane Davies,
Group Leader



Bird watching at Wood Lane Reserve near Colemere, visited in November.

Family History Group

In September Carol Fahey, with the help of the Justice.gov website, took us through the process of researching Wills and Probates.

We then went on to discuss how useful local newspapers are for researching deaths and wills.

Oswestry Library holds many back copies of the Oswestry Advertiser on microfiche and hard copies.

In December Jane Davies led us on our first (of many) talks about on building a family history website.

We felt the need to follow this with a group of us going out for a meal and drink and this could well become a necessity after every intense session.

In January we discussed tracing Irish ancestors. With a bit of luck, in February we will show off our new websites!

It has been suggested that at one of our future meetings we ask the rest of the group for help with specific problems we are experiencing researching our family history.

Mine is that my ancestors were very poor and did not necessarily baptise their offspring especially in the 18th century. How else can I find people and their relationships?

Nicki Carmody,
Group Leader

Play Reading Group

In our autumn meetings we have read a series of comedies, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Billy Liar*, ending the year with a lively reading of Alan Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*, when we also enjoyed seasonal mince pies from Betty's in Yorkshire. Sue and Terry Goodridge chose an extract from this comic play about family tensions erupting at Christmas, which they read for U3A's Members' December meeting.

Our January play was *Sibylla* (by Brian Allison), an intriguing historical romance set in France and Cairo during the 11th century and based on true events culminating in the Crusades. Its themes (religious intolerance, mutual mistrust between Christians, Jews and Moslems) were strikingly contemporary. Our 2014 selections include some theatre classics, plays by Shaw, Ibsen and Chekhov, but also some light-hearted comedies.

Sandra Harvey



Walking Group

We all enjoyed a well attended group walk in lovely weather at Llechrydau in November. We circled the Pen Y Gwely Hill and the reservoir with fine views of the Gyrn and the Berwyns in the distance.

John Scorer

Bird Watching Group

The group has gone from strength to strength in 2013 and we now have 11 members. For 2014 we have planned the following:-

January
Pant Glas, Oswestry

February
Rhydygroesau

March
Venus Pool, Shrewsbury

April
Colemere

May
Ynys-hir Reserve
This will be with a mini-bus so there will be spaces for other members who may wish to join us for the day.

June
LLanymynech Rocks

July
Lake Vyrnwy

Venues may change depending on the weather and group members' choices.

Pam Broomby, Group Leader



The Cambrian Desert

Rail Rattlers

This new group of nine members met for the first time in January and decided to start by exploring how women's suffrage varies around the world, and how things have changed since women got the vote.

Another important decision was the name of the group. Everyone agreed to the suggestion 'Rail Rattlers', coming from the poem Warning by Jenny Joseph. The analogies of rattling the rails of a cage, suffragettes chaining themselves to rails, and the fact that Oswestry was once a railway town, also appealed.

The group meets every third Thursday of the month, 2 p.m. at The Centre meeting room in Oak Street, Oswestry. New members (female or male) are very welcome.

Wendy Lodwick Lowdon,
Group Leader



Plaster caste moulds, using float, pyrex and green beer bottle glass, for our first glass sculpture project, ready to be fired in the kiln.

Page 6

Garden Group

For more details and photographs of Sally Barrett's recent talk click [**Native Upland Trees and their Ecosystems**](#)

It was really nice to see so many of our group at the January meeting for the Bring-A-Plate lunch followed by a talk on 'Plants for Shady Areas' by Jeanette Bolton, Chairperson of Trefonen Garden Club. From your comments I know you enjoyed Jeannette's talk.

Our next few meetings are:

John Barrett talking about Soil, Monday, February 10, 2 p.m. at the Group Leader's home in Trefonen.

Margaret Pritchard giving a short talk on a Plant Collector, and asks that each of us prepare some information for a five minute contribution on a plant collector of our choice.

This will be on Monday, March 10, 2 p.m., venue to be arranged.

Members have been asked to do some research on visits to gardens and other locations from April.

New members of the Garden Group are always welcome; please contact me.

Sally Barrett,
Group Leader

Book Group

At our December meeting we talked about books dear to us, and ones read this year that had stood out. To illustrate their flavour, we read aloud passages from:

Cold Comfort Farm (1932) Stella Gibbons: Flora Poste, a sophisticated London orphan takes up residence with her cousins, the Starkadders of Cold Comfort Farm, whereupon she attempts to "fix" everyone's lives. A parody of certain literary views of rural life, this witty book continues to entertain.

Gilbert White: *A Natural History of Selborne* (1779). In a series of letters to friends, White described the behaviour of animals he observed through changing seasons in his rural Hampshire parish. The book is widely seen as a precursor to modern ecology, but is loved as much for his engaging style and personal observations.

Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China (2005) by Jung Chang. Both a moving family memoir and social history, it describes the massive changes experienced in 20th century China through the story of three generations of women in one family.

Parting Shots (2010) by Matthew Paris and Andrew Bryson: a selection of valedictory despatches from Britain's ambassadors leaving their foreign postings; often very funny, from indiscreet, score-settling to the occasional serious analysis.

Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp: by Helga Weiss (2013): a 12 year-old Czech girl, deported with her family to Terezin, the Nazi concentration camp, used as a "show camp" during WW2, describes daily life experiences, hopes and plans, through her drawings and paintings of camp life.

Two new members joined us in January, bringing the group number to nine. Our reading choice was *The Chrysalids* by John Wyndham.

Sandra Harvey

Sculpture Group

At our January meeting we decided that we would all do flat(ish) glass panels by the (rather strangely named) kiln-carving technique.

This project has the advantage of us being able to work mostly indoors, and as we're all doing largely the same technique, our work should not affect each other's while they are all being fired together.

Kiln carving makes a flat panel. The glass is heated up over a thin 'mould' of bas relief, on a flat bed in the kiln, and slumps over the mould. The 'mould' can be made of clay, which has been carved or impressed with objects. A plaster caste can be taken of the clay and used as the mould.

We can also use a soft white silica board to make moulds, either by cutting out an area or shapes.

We will use float glass, but very expensive bulls eye glass could be used. Our work can be coloured using coloured glass powder, glass frit, and those ground metals and minerals that do not give off toxic fumes.

The group discussed health and safety issues; masks and goggles against dust, supplied by Tony and leather gardening gloves to handle glass, or Kevlar gloves to handle glass shards.

Members agreed to pay £5 per meeting towards the cost of materials and electricity in firing.

Tony Roberts

What are Geodiversity and Geoconservation?

In October Professor Cynthia Burek from the University of Chester introduced us to her specialist subjects, geodiversity and geoconservation.

While many of us are familiar with biodiversity (the variety of living things on our planet) there is limited public awareness and virtually no legislation for the youngest conservation science, geodiversity (the variety of larger scale, longer duration, non-living rocks, soils, and settlement).

Professor Burek likened geodiversity to a stage on which biodiversity acts out its play.

We tested our new knowledge, identifying examples of natural and man-made geodiversity in photographs of North Shropshire sites.

Professor Burek stepped us through six major geological periods of the area, showing how plate movement had caused North Shropshire to move northwards.

We were shown how Oswestry was on the edge of an ice sheet with the kettle holes in the meres around Ellesmere.

Born out of Wenlock – the London 2012 Olympic Connection

Chris Cannon gave us a fascinating account of the achievements of Dr William Penny Brookes, the local doctor and surgeon who set up the Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS) and the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850.

In 1861 he was also instrumental in setting up the Shropshire Games and later in 1866 the National Olympian Games. Dr Brookes is credited as being the founder father of the Modern Olympic Games.

Chris brought along several versions of Wenlock, the Olympic mascot for London 2012, together with one of the Olympic torches, which was passed around the audience for a 'hold'.

Who was James? - How Welsh Names Came Into Being

Members of the Family History group, struggling with Welsh ancestors, all with the same name, with many others in the same community, also with the same name, were keen to listen to research tips given by Alister Williams in this talk in December.

The History and Legend of the Tower of London

We had a great turn out for Yvonne Mason's talk in January about the Tower of London.

Yvonne trained as a Historian at the University of London and was historical interpreter at the Tower of London for four years.

We heard about the Tower of London's different build stages, its gates and moat, the rulers through the centuries and its uses from conqueror's statement, to military garrison, to king's entertainment residence, to tourist centre.

He heard about the famous prisoners and Royalty seeking refuge in the Tower. Yvonne talked about the staff, the Yeomen warders (beefeaters) and their traditions,

We were introduced to ghosts, exotic animals who died because they were given beer and wine instead of water.

There was a fascinating link between the Tower's ravens and Bran the Blessed from the collection of the Welsh tales in the Mabinogion.



A touch of history as we pass the Olympic torch around



Cherished memories shared in Family Stories from Liz Curteis



Celia Todd talks about her grandfather's pottery designs with Lyn O'Connor

Members' Meetings

In October sisters Carol Fahey and Celia Todd brought fascinating pieces of pottery and talked about their grandfather, William Salter Mycock, a pottery artist in the early part of the C20th at Pilkington's Tile and Pottery Co. at Clifton Junction, Manchester.

Joyce Whitehead then led a session on the history of pottery and identification.

Several members had brought pottery to be viewed and discussed. Not quite Antiques Roadshow, but it was fascinating all the same.

There was a huge response to family stories for the following month's meeting. Members were queuing to share their stories, reading from diaries and letters and sharing treasured belongings like the blankets made by a grandmother.

In December we decorated the Christmas trees with baubles as we entered the meeting hall, and were entertained with a festive programme of music, singing, play reading, quiz and questions, and, of course, mince pies with the tea and coffee

Day	Morning	Afternoon
1 st Monday (Feb 3)		
1 st Tuesday (Feb 4)		
1 st Wednesday (Feb 5)		OSWESTRY BORDERS U3A SPEAKER MEETING , 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry, John Butterworth: 'The Hotel with a Famous Guest List'
1 st Thursday (Feb 6)	ICT : Jane Davies, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 group leader's home Anti-ageing Aerobics : Lorna Borland, 10.20 a.m. St Martins Community Centre	Art/Collage : Sue Townsend, 2 – 4 p.m. group leader's home
1 st Friday (Feb 7)	Play Reading : Sandra Harvey, 10.30 a.m. group members' homes	
2 nd Monday (Feb 10)	Archaeology : John Scorer, 10 a.m. Location varies	Garden : Sally Barrett, 2 – 4. p.m. John Barrett will talk about Soil, group leader's home, Trefonen
2 nd Tuesday (Feb 11)	Book : Sandra Harvey, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, members' homes	Australian Studies : Wendy Lowdon, Australian animals, 2 – 4 p.m. Oswestry Cricket Club, Morda Road
2 nd Wednesday (Feb 12)	Singing : David Ryan, 10.30 – 12.15 p.m. members' homes	Poetry Reading & Appreciation : Maggie Quinn, 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. group leader's home. Local History : Dave Stirling, 2 – 4 p.m. Family History : Nicki Carmody, 4 – 6 p.m. Oswestry Library
2 nd Thursday (Feb 13)	Anti-ageing Aerobics : Lorna Borland, 10.20 a.m. St Martins Community Centre	
2 nd Friday (Feb 14)		
3 rd Monday (Feb 17)		
3 rd Tuesday (Feb 18)		
3 rd Wednesday (Feb 19)		OSWESTRY BORDERS U3A MEMBERS' MEETING , 1.30 – 3.30 p.m., The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry, 'Winters in different parts of the World'
3 rd Thursday (Feb 20)	Anti-ageing Aerobics : Lorna Borland, 10.20 a.m. St Martins Community Centre	Art/Collage : Sue Townsend, 2 – 4 p.m. group leader's home Rail Rattlers : Wendy Lodwick Lowdon, 2 – 4 p.m. Meeting Room, The Centre, Oak Street
3 rd Friday (Feb 21)		
4 th Monday (Feb 24)	Walking : John Scorer, location and date varies	
4 th Tuesday (Feb 25)		
4 th Wednesday (Feb 26)	Singing : David Ryan, 10.30 – 12.15 p.m. members' homes	Bird Watching : Pam Broomby, 1.30 p.m. members' homes Art Appreciation : Led by group team, 2 – 4 p.m
4 th Thursday (Feb 27)	Sculpture : Tony Roberts, group leader's home Knockin Anti-ageing Aerobics : Lorna Borland, 10.20 a.m. St Martins Community Centre	
4 th Friday (Feb 28)	Photography : Celia Todd, 10.30 a.m. Whittington Castle, weather permitting	
	Scrabble : A couple of members meet, location and date may vary	Cycling : Sally Barrett, Date, time and location to be arranged

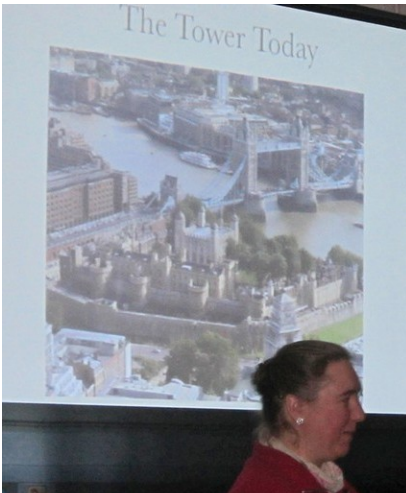
Speaker and Members' Meetings

Oswestry Borders U3A Borders Bulletin contact information

The Bulletin will now appear in four quarterly issues: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

All contributions to Editor, Jane Davies

jane.davies@soundstud.freemove.co.uk



Our new projector and screen gets its first viewing for Yvonne Mason's talk about the Tower.

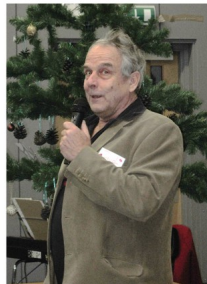
Members Meetings

March 19 U3A Technology
A chance to try your hand at setting up the projector, laptop and screen and connecting the mikes. Plus laptops and tablets at the ready to have a look around our website and the national TAT site.

We are planning to use our June Members' Meeting for debating. We are looking for interesting motions and will need two proposers and two opposers. We will have a suggestion sheet at the Centre on Meeting days.

Visit our website by clicking on this link:
[Oswestry Borders U3A](#)

February 5	John Butterworth: The Hotel with a Famous Guest List
February 19—MM	Winters in different parts of the World
March 5	Sara Downs: Oswestry Cemetery Project
March 19— MM	U3A Technology
April 2	Peter Gunn: Shropshire Astronomical Society
April 16 = MM	Tales of the Unexpected
May 7	Werther Ensemble. London branch of Leondaris: Schubert Musical Programme
May 21— MM	AGM
June 4	Dr Peter Chevins: Your Wonderful Brain
June 18— MM	Debate—tba



Oswestry Borders U3A Christmas 2013

Some of our more stalwart members provided a medley of very enjoyable entertainment.



Subject	LEADER	DAY, FREQUENCY, LOCATION
Anti-ageing aerobics	Lorna Borland	Weekly, Thursday, 10.20 a.m – 11.50. St Martins Community Centre (next to Stans)
Archaeology	John Scorer	Monthly, 2 nd Monday, a.m. Location varies
Art / Collage	Sue Townsend	Fortnightly, Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m. at group leader's home
Art Appreciation	Gina Pearson	Monthly, 4 th Wednesday, usually 2 p.m. Location varies
Australian Studies	Wendy Lodwick Lowdon	Monthly, 2 nd Tuesday, 2 – 4 p.m. at Oswestry Cricket Club
Bird Watching	Pam Broomby	By arrangement
Book	Sandra Harvey	Monthly, 2 nd Tuesday, 10.30am – 12.00 at group members' homes
Craft	Mari-Ann Fenna	tba
Cycling	Sally Barrett	Weekly, where possible, no regular day – arranged each time
Family History	Nicki Carmody	Monthly, 2 nd Wednesday, 4 – 6 pm Library (room hire charge)
Garden	Sally Barrett	Monthly, 2 nd Monday, 2 p.m. Group Visits, shared research on garden-related issues. Location and dates can vary
ICT	Jane Davies	Monthly, 1 st Thursday, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 at group leader's home
Local History	David Stirling	Monthly, 2 nd Wednesday 2 – 4 p.m.
Photography	Celia Todd	Monthly, 4 th Friday 2 p.m. at different locations, weather permitting
Play Reading	Sandra Harvey	Monthly 1 st Friday, 10. 30 a.m. at members' homes
Poetry Reading & Appreciation	Maggie Quinn	Monthly, 2 nd Wednesday, 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. at members' homes
Rail Rattlers	Wendy Lodwick Lowdon	Monthly, Thurs 20 Feb 2 p.m. The Centre, Oak Street
Scrabble		Regular meeting time may be arranged when group is larger
Sculpture	Tony Roberts	Irregular monthly meetings, Thursday February 27. 10 a.m. at group leader's studio in Knockin
Singing	David Ryan	Twice monthly, 2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays 10.30 a.m.– 12.15 at members' homes.
Walking	John Scorer	Monthly, 4 th Monday, a.m. Location varies