

# MALVERN **U3A**

No 75 OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

**ALL YOUR PAPERWORK FOR NOVEMBER'S AGM**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU & APPLICATION**

**GROUP PROGRAMMES AND NEWS**

## U3A Committee to November 2014 (AGM)

Those shown with an asterisk will not be continuing after the AGM, having completed their term on the committee.

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## From the Chairman

It was good to see so many of you at Registration Morning at the beginning of September. People that I spoke to commented on the positive and friendly atmosphere in the hall. There was a real 'buzz' about the morning and I must thank our Groups Co-ordinator, Pam Stanier, for all her hard work in preparing for the event. The new layout of the hall seemed to go down well and there was more of a feeling of space compared to previous years. New groups were well supported, with some even being set up on the fly where it was realised that waiting lists had grown too big.

The National AGM was held a few weeks ago in Cirencester and was an event that I again found both enjoyable and inspiring. As well as the standard business matters of an organisation's AGM the event always attracts keynote speakers of the highest calibre. This year's speaker was Professor Richard Faragher who is Chair of the British Society for Research on ageing, (amongst many other roles), and his theme was 'What is ageing, and what can we do about it?' He views ageing as being when the processes that keep you in good health start to break down, and so the 'what can we do about it?' comes down to looking for treatments that help maintain the healthy state. Mechanisms to combat the ageing process have been tested, and found to have positive effects, in mice - but don't hold your breath, it is highly unlikely that anyone will be offering such treatments in our lifetime!

The treasurer, in a highly entertaining presentation of the accounts, tabled data on U3A membership history, and although numbers of both U3As and members continue to grow in all parts of the country the percentage of members compared to the eligible population remains very low. For the West Midlands it is just 2.6%. (Highest is the South East at 4.8%)

After a question time session in the afternoon, Barbara Lewis (the National chairman), asked that we take away the following thoughts on why U3A is so important to so many of us ...

**U3A is an organisation of men and women who regularly gather together to share their experiences, knowledge, philosophies, values and ideas.**

**It is a forum for the growth of the human spirit, the development of friendships and the exploration of ideas to enrich the quality of life in the Third Age.**

I commend these thoughts to you, and hope that you will find the coming year both enriching and hugely enjoyable.

Richard

## Could you be a Trustee?

Malvern U3A has well over one thousand members attending over eighty interest groups; some weekly, some monthly, but all (hopefully) running smoothly through the year. In the background, making sure that groups can concentrate on providing a stimulating experience for their members, are the Trustees (committee). Malvern U3A's constitution states that we will have a maximum of twelve Trustees, and that these are elected each year by the members. (If not enough members are elected at the AGM then the Trustees can co-opt members to fill vacancies where they see a need.) There is a maximum continuous term that Trustees may serve and this year sees two Trustees reach the end of their terms on the committee.

So now it's over to you ...

With this Newsletter is a nomination form for the election of Trustees. Nominations are invited for Trustees and, where appropriate, nominations for particular executive rôles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer). Other committee rôles such as Groups Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary and Venues Co-ordinator are decided on by the Trustees once the committee has been elected. This year both Richard and Roger will have reached the end of their terms as Trustees and so we know that there will be a need both for a new Chairman and Membership Secretary.

As membership secretary Roger has kept the database of members up to date and provided membership lists, (and e-mail lists), to the Trustees and to our printers so that this Newsletter can be mailed directly to you. The names and addresses of members taking Third Age Matters is also sent to National U3A. The membership secretary's main work clearly comes at the beginning of each new U3A year when records are updated and new membership cards are issued to members. Registration morning is a team effort with Roger organising memberships, (and Pam organising the hall and group leaders.) Could you take over from Roger as membership secretary? If you are interested please talk to Roger about exactly what is involved. Full training given!

The Chairman's rôle is a delight. Yes, there is the task of chairing the cycle of Trustee meetings, but the real joy comes from meeting members and seeing all that is going on across our U3A. I have also enjoyed meeting with U3A chairmen across Worcestershire and the Cotswold Link to find out what is going on in wider U3A circles. In the normal course of events it might be expected that the new Chairman would be someone who has already served on the committee, but that will not always be so.

Malvern U3A has grown remarkably from the early years and, although much of this is down to the enthusiasm of members and group leaders, it has been important to our success that we have always had a positive and forward-looking group of Trustees. If you think that you could be a Trustee talk to myself, or one of the current committee members, and get yourself nominated.

Richard

# News from Groups

## Boules / Petanque

The Petanque group played its first ever match in August. Ten members of the Evesham U3A came to play against us. We won! Our guests were entertained to a light lunch at the Lady Foley tea room on Great Malvern Station to round off their visit. They enjoyed the occasion so much, they have invited us to play a return match in October.



### STOP PRESS

#### The winning run continues!

The Malvern U3A Petanque group was not put off by a bit of rain when it went to play an Away match against Droitwich U3A on 19th September. The match was played on a boulodrome at The Old Chequered Inn at Crowle (a delightful pub). Despite the weather, we managed to win the match 5 games to 1. We very much enjoyed our first ever away match and we plan to play a return match against Droitwich next year.



Please note that the contact number in the directory is incorrect. If you are interested in joining the victorious Boules group please contact Derek on 07506 - 470 230.





# Geology

During the summer our main group has enjoyed a series of walks and other activities and our new fossil Subgroup has started to do some field trips both locally and further afield. We are now looking forward to 30 members going to see the geology of Cyprus next March.



Over 20 new members have just joined us and we are about to start a series of 6 sessions with them to introduce them both to some aspects of local geology and to our wider group.

Garden Cliff,  
Gloucestershire  
Jim Handley

Our normal monthly lecture series at the Cube on the second Wednesday of each month gets under way at 10.00am on Wednesday 8th October when Dr. Jon Clatworthy from the Lapworth Geological Museum in Birmingham will be speaking on 'The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa and the 1902 eruptions of Mount Pelée and La Soufriere'.



Purlieu  
Richard Newton

On the 12th November we shall be welcoming David Siveter, an emeritus Professor of Paleontology from Leicester, to talk on The Silurian Herefordshire Lagerstatte: soft-bodied sensations released from the rock. David is a leading researcher in his field of examining the perfectly preserved soft tissue remains of animals over 400 million years old.

On the 10th December Alan Gray will be speaking on The Hawaiian Seamount Chain; Hot Spot, Igneous Province or Plate Tectonics – A Personal Experience.

New members are always welcome – just get in touch with Dick Harris on 01886 880699 or at [richardlangleyharris@gmail.com](mailto:richardlangleyharris@gmail.com)



Hidcote Stone Wall

## Painting 2



We welcomed four of our new members to our Painting group, and have several more who will be joining us next month. We enjoyed a relaxed and friendly meeting, getting to know each other and sharing painting tips.

We currently have a waiting list, but would still like to hear from anyone interested in joining us. We anticipate having a tutor for the group very soon.

The contact person is Val Bruton on 01684 - 575 383 or e-mail [vandgbruton@gmail.com](mailto:vandgbruton@gmail.com)



# Welsh Culture

"Croeso" (A warm Welsh welcome.)

At the end of April the Welsh Culture Group enjoyed a visit to the Llyn Peninsular in North West Wales. Our base was the Lion Hotel in Criccieth. Criccieth is still a small, traditional seaside town perfectly situated on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. Thirty three U3A members absorbed much 'Welsh Culture' during four days in an area steeped in Celtic history and heritage and a stronghold of the Welsh language.



The Lloyd George memorial at Llanystumdwy museum

Richard Lloyd was a shoemaker and Baptist minister as well as being a strong Liberal. He encouraged David Lloyd George to work hard at school, to study Law and to get involved in politics.

We were happy with the Lion Hotel; a family friendly establishment known as the 'Inn on the Green'. An ideal centre for our excursions.

On Saturday morning our coach was ready to drive us to Porthmadog for a journey on the famous Ffestiniog Railway through spectacular scenery to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Blaenau was known as 'the slate capital of the world' and still has a strange compelling beauty that draws tourists both for the culture and for various adventure sports. (We were there for the former - not the latter!) Town centre improvements have revitalised the shopping area with words, sayings, quarrying terms and local poetry inscribed in the streetscape.



Blaenau Ffestiniog



A visit to Portmerion, the unique Italianate village, with famous coastal gardens provided a real contrast in the afternoon.



'All castled out!'

Sunday was definitely an education day. Martin Remfry, a well known historian who specialises in the history of Welsh castles, guided us around Harlech and Criccieth castles.

The steep climbs at both castles meant that by the end of the day sampling Criccieth's famous ice creams was much enjoyed.

The Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth was our lunch stop on our way home. The seven acres of hands-on displays and gardens have been developed over the last thirty five years as a test-bed and demonstration area for new and not-so-new technology solutions to our modern life.



A cram-packed cultural trip - enjoyed by all.

# Social History



Member of the Social History Group launching the new year's activities after recruiting lots of new members.

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## Northern Heritage

We are pleased to announce that the Northern Heritage group has really hit a chord with members and has arranged for meetings to be held on the **last Monday of the month at The Cube in Albert Road NORTH at 2pm.**

**The first meeting will be on Monday 27th October.**

Peter looks forward to seeing you all there.

## Christmas Lunch

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Worcestershire Golf Club**

The menu and application form for the lunch is included with this Newsletter. If you would like to go please send the form, with payment, to Sally Corr as soon as possible. First come, first served!



# Patchwork and Quilting



Joan Thompson (left), with members of the group shows off the quilt that she has made.

## WHERE HAS YOUR GROUP BEEN?

## WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN DOING?

Thank-you to all the groups that have sent us news and pictures of their activities over the last few months. Don't forget to let us know about your group's activities. Our Newsletter is read far and wide and what your group is doing or producing may be of interest beyond the membership of Malvern U3A.

Take your cameras to your groups (just like Social History) and let us see your happy smiling faces!



# Camera Group

The theme over the summer for the Camera Group was 'Fun In The Sun' and the images on these pages are a selection of those submitted by the group for the September meeting.

Our theme for October is 'Monochrome'. At the October meeting we will be having a basic introduction to Photoshop Elements.

Rosemary Romans



Kate Jefferies



Rosemary McCulloch



Jeni Chesney

Morris Portsmouth



Joan Smith



Lorna Blackwell



# GROUP PROGRAMMES



All walks are on the second Monday of the month.

## Monday 13th October 2014

Leader: Ann Martin Tel: 01684 - 563 833

Meet at 10.15am at The Crown pub (WR2 4SF), on the right hand side of the A449 towards Powick from Malvern for a walk around Collett's Green area.

Lunch at The Crown.

## Monday 10th November

Leader: Ann Martin Tel: 01684 - 563 833

Meet at 10.15am at Perdiswell Sports Centre car park. Bilford Road A44812 off the A38. The post code is WR3 8DX for a walk along the canal.

Lunch at Blooms Garden Centre

## Monday 8th December

Leader: Ann Martin Tel: 01684 - 563 833

Meet at 10.15am at The Manor Farm Carvery car park, which is off the A449 Malvern Road towards Worcester (Post code: WR2 4BS) for a walk over Sabrina and Diglis Bridges along the River Severn.

## Annual General Meeting of the Strollers Group

Held on 23rd June 2014 at The Cube

Ann Martin opened the meeting by thanking those members in attendance.

Items discussed:

1. 2015 possible walks.
2. Pat Hague stressed the importance of all members who own a mobile telephone to have in their directory an I.C.E. contact number. (In Case of Emergency)
3. A First Aider for the Group is required, the U3A would fund the necessary course. Volunteers please contact Ann Martin on 01684 - 563 833
4. For those members who do not drive or who wish to obtain lifts to venues please contact Pat Hague on 01905 - 828 249 or e-mail: andrwhg@aol.com. The Group may require to have a set meeting point and then lifts could be arranged there on the day. The Group would require the person having the lift to pay the driver 12p per mile and to provide a waterproof bag for muddy boots etc.
5. Any member not having a computer, please find a fellow member in the group who will act as your "buddie" to keep you updated with any new information regarding forthcoming walks etc.

Pat Hague

# WELSH CULTURE

Proposed Programme November 2014 - August 2015

Meetings are on the first Friday of the month.

Meetings with a Guest Speaker will cost an additional £1 to cover their expenses.

## **November 7<sup>th</sup>**

'The Evans Family of Ysgwrn' with Doreen Howes, followed by 'The Great War 1914 -1918'

## **November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Trip to Swansea Grand Theatre to see 'A Child's Christmas in Wales'

## **December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Celebration - A Panto - 'Ifor and the Significant Pepper Plant' by Ken Hart with Group Members followed by Christmas Music

## **February 6<sup>th</sup>**

'Hedd Wyn' - The Film

## **February 27<sup>th</sup>**

St David's Day Celebratory Meal at the Abbey Hotel

## **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Our Eisteddfod

## **April 10<sup>th</sup>** (April's meeting will be on the second Friday as April 3rd is Good Friday)

'Druids and Romans'

## **May 1<sup>st</sup>**

'Welsh Quilts and the Lampeter Quilt Museum' with Jen Jones

## **May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Proposed Trip to Dyffryn House and Gardens

## **June 5<sup>th</sup>**

'The Abersoch Inventor' with Ken Hart & Jenny Taylor  
plus Terry Taylor, 'I was born in Rhymney' - an audio / visual presentation

## **July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

A Musical Event- 'The Pirates of Penarth' (with apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan)

## **August 7<sup>th</sup>**

Proposed Trip to Talgarth Mill and Hay on Wye

## **NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT**

Updates for the monthly supplements to  
[supplement@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:supplement@malvernu3a.org.uk)

## **WEBSITE**

Updates for the website should be sent to  
[webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk)



# Walking Group Programme

Following Registration, we now have 90 members signed onto the Walking Group.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will participate in leading walks, and if you wish to volunteer please contact the Group Leader, Roger Hales, on 01684 - 576 814. A list of proposed walks has been drawn up for which details can be provided, but if you wish to lead a walk of your own choice then please contact Roger to discuss.



## Walks Programme:

- 27 October** Leaders: Phil & Janet Uncles Tel: 01684 - 575 060  
Marlbank/Upper Welland - 5 miles Please note that there are 10  
stiles on this walk, but they are all in good condition.  
Meet at Marlbank Inn (GR SO786404)
- 24 November** Leader: Volunteer please  
Upton on Severn Hams - 5 miles
- 29 December** Leader: Volunteer please  
Hanley Swan - 6 miles
- 2015**
- 26 January** Leader: Volunteer please  
Kempsey Common - 5 miles
- 23 February** **Leader:** Maggie Rider Tel: 01684 - 568 800  
Swan Inn, Newland - 5 miles
- 30 March** Leader: Roger Hales Tel: 01684 - 576 814  
Hallow - 4.5 miles
- 27 April** Leader: Volunteer please  
Spring Walk, Marcle Ridge - 6 miles

Further details will be provided in future updates.

## Walking Group Contacts

Roger Hales: 01684 - 576 814

Phil and Janet Uncles: 01684 - 575 060



# Preparation for The AGM

**Tuesday 25th November at 2pm in The Cube**

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting of Malvern U3A the Trustees need to bring certain papers to the attention of all members. In this mailing, along with the Newsletter, you will have received the agenda for the AGM and a nomination form to allow you to nominate members to serve as Trustees for the coming year. The timetable leading up to the AGM is as follows:

## Early October

Members receive notice of the AGM along with an invitation to all members to submit nominations for the Principal Offices and for other members of the Committee and to submit motions for consideration by the AGM.

Nomination(s), duly agreed by the nominee(s), and Motions for consideration by the AGM, shall be proposed and seconded and delivered in writing to the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the AGM.

**The deadline this year is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.**

The Newsletter will also contain the Annual Report to members.

## Two weeks before the AGM

Deadline for informing members of all nominations for the committee and motions to be put at the AGM. This will be done by placing them on the Malvern U3A website by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. (Members who have not supplied current e-mail addresses may supply appropriately stamped self-addressed envelopes to enable them to receive communications in good time.)

## One week before the AGM

Deadline for receipt of amendments to motions.

All nominations, motions, and where appropriate amendments to motions should be delivered in writing to Sue Dalley (Secretary). Note: For address see nomination form.

## Proposals:

The Trustees will be putting a proposal (in three parts) to members relating to changes to the Constitution and Standing orders. The proposal is set out below:

### **Proposal for the changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders.**

#### **Constitution - Correction**

When we updated our constitution two years ago we tripped over clause 10 which made some amendments impermissible. Since all changes were on a clause by clause basis nothing material changed but, in error, the final version of the constitution submitted to the Charities Commission was an earlier draft version of

the constitution than the one we published.

This error was only discovered this year and the easiest way to correct this error is to re-make these changes this year. To that end we propose the following changes:

5 (ii) after the words “no one shall serve on the committee for more than” “three (3)” shall be replaced by “five (5)”

7 (ii) delete the word “Committee” from the last sentence of this clause and after the word “members” add “of the U3A duly authorised by the Committee to sign against the specific account”

7 (vii) delete the words “made through properly authorised” and replace with “recorded in the” and after the word “accounts” add the words “of the U3A”

These bring us back to what we believed we had agreed.

### **Constitution - Clarification**

In working under the terms of the amended constitution we have found a few areas we believe need changing and propose the following amendments:

5 (iv) remove the words “not more than two (2)” and add the words, “to a maximum committee of twelve (12) members” to the end of this sentence.

5 (vi) Remove the last sentence.

The reason for this change is that it is not always easy to get committee members to stand and we may need more than 2 new committee members in a year to get back up to strength. If this change is agreed the fairly ambiguous sentence in 5 (vi) is no longer needed.

7 (iii) Remove the last sentence “No form of permanent trading shall be undertaken in the raising of funds.”

We sell diaries each year and make payment for the U3A magazine optional by paying an additional sum, both possibly interpretable as trading. In the future we may wish to buy an item of equipment and recover some of the cost by hiring it to another organisation when we do not use it. This clause is an unnecessary restriction.

### **Standing Orders**

Remove clause 2 altogether and renumber the other clauses accordingly.

Unnecessary bureaucracy. If any member wishes to challenge a quorum they can do so and attendees checked against the list of members.

The trustees believe that there are issues on which the whole of the membership should be able to cast their vote, not just those able to attend the meeting on a specific day. To do this we will need to introduce proxy voting and, to do this, we need to change the Standing Orders by replacing Clause 2 Voting as below. We will also remove the words “who have signed the register” because there will not be one.



2. VOTING: If any matter is the subject of a vote, only current members who are present in person or by proxy may vote. A proxy vote must be advised to the chair at the start of the meeting and must be in writing and signed and dated by the member eligible to vote. A proxy must clearly state which way to vote on a specific motion or amendment or may vest the decision on how to vote with another member present at the meeting.

**Members can access the Constitution and Standing Orders through the website.**  
**(<http://www.malvern3a.org.uk>)**

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You will see from the agenda that there is also a proposal being put forward that we should, (from September 2015), change our subscription model. So that members have an idea as to the pros and cons of different models the Trustees have prepared the following notes:

### **Subscriptions - A new way forward?**

There is no standard way for U3As to fund themselves; all groups tackle the problem as they see fit. This needs to be done by a combination of annual subscription and meeting fees with a sliding scale of 0% to 100% of funds coming from either. Malvern has historically been about 50% from each with a low annual subscription and a rather cumbersome scale of meeting fees based upon where a meeting is held.

Here we consider two options for funding:

#### **Option 1 – Having an annual subscription which covers all membership activities.**

We could continue to meet all our expenses by increasing the annual fee to £24 and doing away with meeting fees altogether except for tea money etc.

Advantages of this model are:

- Malvern U3A can claim gift aid on this greater sum therefore doubling the contribution we receive from the Inland Revenue (about £2,000 per annum)
- A reduction in administrative effort for the group leaders (and some for the treasurer) as there will be no need for them to submit fees money to the Treasurer.
- The poorest members of our organisation are financially better off since anyone on Pension Tax Credit only needs to pay the £3.50 capitation charge and will not have to pay for meeting fees.
- Encourages member participation in more study groups and does not penalise more active members.

Disadvantages of this model are:

- Members will expect to get access to the interest groups they choose.
- Depending on the number of members the thresholds for Charity Commission registration and submission of accounts may be reached sooner.

**Option 2 – A small(er) annual subscription covering general meetings and newsletters with all other activities paid for separately.** (For Malvern U3A this is currently £12 + meeting fees.)

Advantages of this model are:

- Members having a reduced up front joining fee.
- Members who currently only attend one or two meetings per month at outside groups/private houses will not be disadvantaged – the breakeven point is 12 meetings per year in halls, 48 in private houses, 60 in outside trips or a combination of these.
- It avoids complaints from members who are not able to join a group they want due to waiting lists, group size restrictions etc.

Disadvantages of this model are:

- Group leaders have to deal with money which may lead to banking issues and more work.
- It may discourage member participation because it can become too expensive where members join a range of groups.

Under both options, Group leaders would retain the discretion to charge small additional sums for tea money, group consumables or a 25p “wear and tear” charge if they wanted.

A proposal to move to a subscription only model (Option 1) has been tabled and will be presented at the AGM. A proposal has also been put that if we vote not to move to a subscription only model we should drop the ‘home’ and ‘outdoor’ fees, (with the proviso as above ref. wear & tear etc.). The Trustees have the power to make this change, should they see fit, and could act to bring this in from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 whether or not Option 1 was passed.

Because of our constitution, Option 1 would not come into effect until September 2015 unless we take special measures to bring the change forward.

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## **Malvern U3A Annual Report 2013 /14**

May I start by saying what a privilege it has been serving as your Chairman for the past year. The overwhelming enthusiasm of both members and group leaders has been a joy, and the opportunity to visit groups and share in their activities, a real pleasure. I must also thank the committee for their hard work over the year that has helped to make my job so rewarding.

As a U3A we continue to thrive, with more members and new groups year on year. It is a sobering thought though, that in the West Midlands as a whole our membership amounts to only 2.6% of those eligible to join. I’m sure that Malvern runs ahead of that, but it means that the vast majority of our age group are not included in what we offer.

As in past years, new groups started up and some old favourites called time on their activities. Malvern is lucky in that we have a range of venues that are suitable for group activities and this year has seen much increased use of The Cube as a venue. We aim to work closely with the

management of The Cube so that groups can continue to meet there successfully and support its continued viability as a community venue. We have funded the 'silver screen' in the main hall and to the building of a store for U3A equipment in the hall. Manor Park continues to offer space for our groups and co-operative ventures with them mean that we have excellent facilities built in to the rooms. New retirement complexes built recently also have community facilities and it has been suggested that they may offer (smaller) groups meeting space.

Group Leaders are the backbone of U3A and our thanks go out to all those who lead, cajole, inspire and generally make groups such a success. There is a meeting for Group Leaders, held in February, where there is the chance to discuss matters affecting the organisation of group activities. This year Trustees tabled new guidance for Group Leaders with emphasis on three areas:

- The need to check that all attendees at a group are members;
- Record keeping for group finances;
- Health & Safety issues.

Leaders asked the Trustees to consider the issue of visitors to groups, the position of carers who may accompany a member and the difficulties of managing 'full' groups. It was particularly pleasing at the very successful Registration morning to have a member offer to host a second group when the one he wanted to join already had a waiting list.

Groups are certainly becoming more adventurous! Climbing volcanic sites for Geology or touring European battlefields seems to be par for the course nowadays and planning continues apace for visits to all corners of England and beyond.

The monthly meeting has settled in to The Cube and numbers are slowly increasing again. The standard of speakers this year has been very high and members have enjoyed talks including ones on The Titanic, the Mitford Sisters, Mountaineering – with our own Roger Smith – and Stanley and Livingstone. The refreshments at the end give members a chance to talk to the speaker, (and to have a good chat).

The Christmas Lunch returned to the Worcestershire Golf Club and their expertise in putting on such events meant that members shared a much better experience. We shall be going back to the club again this year. Some groups still use The Abbey Hotel for similar functions and their smaller numbers seem to be accommodated more easily.

The Newsletter, and its monthly supplement, continues to be the main medium for getting information out to members, but trustees are also looking at ways that the website can be updated to include a message board for members and also a 'What's On Today/This week' link. E-mails to the full membership reach around  $\frac{2}{3}$  of members and until this rises significantly there will always be the need for 'hard copy' communications. The cost of postage means that the cost to the U3A of sending out the Newsletter goes up relentlessly, but it is an expense that we can, at present, afford. Communication with group leaders is just about 100% by e-mail and it is hoped that this year all groups will have an e-mail contact to aid communication with the Groups Co-ordinator.

The committee now meets on a fixed pattern of meetings that aim to cover the requirements of our academic year and its key points. We have discussed our financial procedures and changes needed to our constitution, both issues eventually moving forward to proposals at

the 2014 AGM. Our relationship with The Cube has also been a regular topic for discussion.

The minutes of Trustees meetings can now be found on the website and we aim in the future to make more Malvern U3A documents available through this section of the site.

The Chairman attended the National U3A AGM in September 2014 and also attends meetings of the Cotswold Link and Worcestershire Network. In 2013 we successfully hosted the Cotswold Link Autumn meeting. Members of the Cotswold Link group share Newsletters and this has led to initiatives to share the expertise of group leaders across U3As.

On an individual level, we must congratulate Brian Chesney on reaching the final of Mastermind where he just lost out to the winner on passes. What quality we have amongst our group leaders!

Malvern U3A continues to offer wide-ranging opportunities for enrichment which members enthusiastically involve themselves in. As our National chairman says, "It is a forum for the growth of the human spirit, the development of friendships and the exploration of ideas to enrich the quality of life in the Third Age." Long may it continue.

Richard Owen on behalf of Trustees

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## You might enjoy ...

The following events have been brought to our notice and may be of interest to members ....

### **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

Linda Collins e-mailed to say that this exhibition at Nature in Art at Twigworth is well worth a visit. The gallery houses a range of art styles and hosts the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition each Autumn. The event runs until 16<sup>th</sup> November.

### **English Touring Opera**

Roger Hunt has been contacted by English Touring Opera with a special ticket offer that may be of interest to U3A groups.

They are at the Forum Theatre on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, with Haydn's farcical comedy *Life on the Moon* and Handel's romantic tragedy *Ottone*. The Haydn is directed by Cal McCrystal, the comedy director for the West End smash hit *One Man, Two Guvnors*, and the Handel was one of the most popular operas of its composer's lifetime.

If any of the Malvern U3A music groups, (or anyone else), would like to take a group then Malvern Theatres are offering a 25% discount for groups of 20 or more.

### **NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT**

Updates for the monthly supplements to  
**[supplement@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:supplement@malvernu3a.org.uk)**

### **WEBSITE**

Updates for the website should be sent to  
**[webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk)**

# Interested?

We regularly receive flyers like this from the National office and will endeavour to get them out to members as soon as possible.

If, as individuals, or as a group you are interested in these events it is important to 'get your skates on' and book your places.

Recent flyers about the Cheltenham Literary Festival gave priority booking for members and I'm pleased that Malvern U3A members have taken up the offer and will be visiting lectures of their choice.

Expect to see more offers coming out with the Supplement.

## Speakers for our Monthly Meeting - 2pm at The Cube

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 28th October  | The speaker is <b>Archie Miles</b> who will talk about <b>'Heritage Trees of Worcester, Gloucester &amp; Hereford'</b> . |
| 25th November | <b>Malvern U3A AGM</b><br>plus a speaker from <b>Médecins Sans Frontières</b>  |
| December      | No meeting   |





Examples of Silk Painting from Jean Franks

## NEWSLETTER

We are always looking for contributions from groups or individual members for the Newsletters which are published in October, February and May.

All contributions should be e-mailed, (preferably as a Word document), to **newsletter@malvern3a.org.uk**

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Please note the deadline for the February edition is

**Saturday 24th January 2015**