

MALVERN NEWSLETTER

Nº 78 AUTUMN 2015



IN THIS ISSUE ...

Annual Report and AGM details

Haiku - In English and Spanish

Christmas Lunch form

...plus much, much more!

U3A Committee to November 2015 (AGM)

Chair:	Pam Stanier e-mail: chair@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 – 899 117
Secretary:	Sue Dalley e-mail: secretary@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 – 891 520
Treasurer:	Andrew Hague e-mail: treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01905 – 828 249
Membership Secretary:	Robin Clarke e-mail: membership@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01886 – 288 123
Groups Co-ordinator:	Val Holland e-mail: groups@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 – 563 531
Speakers Organiser:	Sue Lamberton e-mail: speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01886 – 830 050
Venues Co-ordinator:	Norma Braddock e-mail: roombook@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 – 574 025
Technical Officer:	Peter Corfield e-mail: technical@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 – 893 226
Co-opted:	Brian Chesney e-mail: brianchesney65@yahoo.co.uk Phone: 01684 – 891 999 Annette Maxted e-mail: nettm@mail.com Phone: 01684 – 566 208
.....	
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Owen e-mail: newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk
Website Manager	John Elkington e-mail: webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk

Cover photograph: Large Blue butterflies – Carole Newton

CHAIR'S NOTES

Another U3A year has started – I hope you have all managed to find groups that you will enjoy, where you can make friends, learn or develop skills and enjoy yourself.

There are so many groups in Malvern U3A, but there is always room for new ones: when I see other U3A's newsletters and the national magazine, I sometimes wonder why Malvern U3A doesn't yet have a cribbage group, a knitting group, a board games group, a woodwork group, or groups which work on an intensive study course.... The list of interests could be endless but our new webpage with its Forum section is one way people can find members who share interests, no matter how obscure they might be. If you need help in setting up a new group for your own interest, the Trustees can help.

Recently I myself started a fascinating online course called "William Wordsworth, Poetry, People and Place" via an off-shoot of the Open University called futurelearn. (www.futurelearn.com). This is well worth looking at as there are so many different topics offered. There are other similar sites such as Coursera, offered by American universities (www.coursera.org)

These courses of study are called MOOCs - Massive Open Online Courses - and are offered by various universities around the world and use video, online notes, online tests and online contact with other learners around the world. I was thinking how it would be possible to use our Malvern U3A website to set up small groups of interested members to follow other particular courses through futurelearn or similar sites. For example, if there had been other Wordsworth course students in Malvern U3A, we could have looked at the online material together and discussed what we had learnt, rather than my working on this alone. The Forum section of our website would be the way to make contact.

This kind of group would be a "pop-up" group, to use another modern phrase, which would just meet for the few weeks of the course, and would not become the permanent group of friends who meet with a shared interest, maybe for years.

Over



What do the Trustees get up to?

It appears that when not involved in U3A groups, or Trustee meetings, one of our Trustees has been found 'playing' with a soft toy, a bag of frozen peas and a roll of cling-film!

Who are these strange people called Trustees?

What do they get up to?

All will be revealed on the next few pages!

These musings about future possibilities do not take me away from more current matters. With this newsletter you'll find the papers for the AGM in November, and information about the Christmas Lunch. This sadly is limited for space so if you are interested you will need to respond quickly: it is a festive way to end the year.

Best wishes

Pam Stanier

From the Trustees

From Val Holland (Groups Co-ordinator)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL GROUP LEADERS.

In future all information for group leaders will be passed by e-mail.

If any group leader has no e-mail facility please nominate a person willing to receive messages by e-mail to pass on to the group leader.

REMINDER - The Group Leaders meeting will be held on Friday 12th February 2016.

An email confirming arrangements will be sent out, with a request for any agenda items, in January 2016.

GROUPS & IDEAS

On Registration Day members were asked for suggestions for groups they would like to start, groups they would like to attend if they existed or just some general queries.

Andrew Higginbotham is looking for fellow ACCORDION PLAYERS.

Anyone interested in starting a BOTANY group?

Mary Constable is offering PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR NERVOUS SPEAKERS. She will run 5 sessions in the January term limited to up to 10 people.

David Jones is interested in ITALIAN (BEGINNERS).

Jill and Martin Peer would like to start a SOLO card group. Anyone interested in joining?

Malcolm Porter is offering AIR SANCTION BUSTING as a subject.

Pat Wells would like to learn an INSTRUMENT. eg. guitar, keyboard.

Quite a few were looking for a group who gathered to do BOARD GAMES. I think they were looking for games like Monopoly or Rummikub.

Lynn Clearwaters would like to learn MAP READING.

Anyone interested in learning about SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS we have a possible group leader.

I have a person interested leading groups on MYTH & REALITY and UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITH DREAMS.

Enquiries were received about a CALLIGRAPHY group. Anyone interested in running such a group please contact Groups Organiser through the email address below.

To follow up any of these ideas e-mail groups@malvernu3a.org.uk and I will see what I can do to facilitate.

Val Holland

Do you remember having to do First Aid training as a Girl Guide or Scout leader, or for work? The experience might have put you off for life and left you, possibly decades later, feeling ill-equipped and without the confidence to try and help someone should an emergency first aid situation occur.

I certainly felt like this when I opted to go on the two-hour taster course offered to U3A members by the British Red Cross.

I arrived on the day desperately hoping that there wouldn't be a plastic "Resussy Annie" head and torso that we had to try and do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on.

Lo and behold – there she (or was it a 'he'?) was - lying on the table amongst a range of apparently random objects, which included a packet of frozen peas, a soft toy and a roll of cling film. My sense of trepidation increased as I took my seat.

After introductions, the trainer began the session by getting us to consider a very interesting question.

"Would we or wouldn't we help a stranger who appeared to be hurt or ill?"

I found the answers from the group quite surprising. We then went on to consider, in small groups, the reasons why we would or wouldn't help. There was then a very interesting discussion, before the trainer pointed out that if we wouldn't help, then we didn't need any First Aid training!

The rest of the session went by very quickly. We saw video clips of first aid situations and heard a story set on the golf course. There was also a question and answer session with the opportunity for us to choose the type of emergency we thought would be the most useful for us to know about. We received very clear and easy to remember information - firstly about how to recognise and, secondly, what to do in possibly life-threatening situations like choking, a stroke or a heart attack.

To round up and summarise what we had learned there was a brief light-hearted team quiz. We had to press farmyard animal buzzers if we knew the answers. How we did seemed to depend more on how quickly the buzzer was pressed, rather than whether you knew the answer or not! (Our team came last!)

Overall it was a most enjoyable and informative two hours. I really liked the common sense approach, and I found the training enabling, reassuring, and confidence boosting.

Throughout the session we were encouraged - but not compelled - to contribute. Thankfully, we weren't asked to practice mouth-to mouth on Resussy Annie – but I expect we could have if we'd really wanted to!

We were even given a card with information about a free app, which the technically minded among us could load on to our mobile phones. Apparently, the app outlines the basic first aid techniques - making them readily available in an emergency situation.

I would thoroughly recommend this training to anyone.

A course is planned for the Autumn. Please contact Pam Stanier: chair@malvernu3a.org.uk or ring her on 01684 - 899 117 to book your place.

Still wandering what the soft toy, frozen peas and cling film were for? Well, you'll have to sign up for the free training to find out!

Annette Maxted

A haiku in English is a very short poem following to a greater or lesser extent the form and style of the Japanese haiku.

Pansy prisoners peep prettily
Behind their dim dark palisade
On the town's roundabout

*A dried leaf on the kitchen floor
Beware, look closer, a moth.*

bibb black crow black
at dawn goes caw caw caw caw
to find a frail egg
(apologies to Dylan)

I like a slow walk
Out in the Spring countryside
Will the birds sing today?

*Black cat sleeping sound
On bright sunny windowsill
What is she dreaming?*

Devon coast in Spring
Pink flowers, blue sea,
grey rocks,
blue sky, white seagulls,
yellow gorse,
The bliss!

Malvern U3A
Enjoying each others company
Time out for ourselves.
Music in the
Malvern

Music in the air
Malvern celebrates its own,
Elgar's Birthday.
Purring ginger cat
Nothing could be sweeter
Claws are very sharp

Children in the back
Cars crawling towards the sea
Are we nearly there?
Hens in the

Hens in the garden
Clucking hungrily about
Stealthy foxes watching
pes on the vine
ching

Grapes on the vine
 Sunshine and bees
 surround their branches
 Now to taste the sweet wine

His grave stands silent
A Japanese musician
Comes to genuflect
Trees &

Trees, flowers and buds
The miracle of new life
Nature's wonderful gift
Third Age upon us
Forgetting names, places, and time
Inevitable

A typical haiku is a three-line observation about a moment in time involving nature.

News from Groups

Cryptic Crosswords

This group meets twice every month and in each session we work our way through three crosswords so that by the end everyone has completed them and understood how the answers have been reached. It's an unusual U3A session as we often sit in silence with furrowed brows, with occasional groans or mutterings of "Got it!" But it is a fun activity which exercises the brain – we usually need our cup of tea and biscuit at half-time.

Some of our clues from a recent session were:

- a) Playing Lydia, Glenda is a star (7,4)
- b) A country girl reading (7)
- c) Slippery customer pocketing ten pence in bar (5)

To help you: a) is an anagram, b) is what is called a "charade" clue where each part of the clue provides a part of the answer, and c) is a clue where one answer is put inside another word to create the final answer.

If you enjoy doing these clues, come along to our next session – we meet 1st and 3rd Monday afternoons; details are on the website.

Pam Stanier

PS. The answers are on page 15, but no cheating!

The Singers are recruiting new members

We are in particular need of basses and tenors and even our altos are in short supply although we never turn a soprano away.

Our members enjoy singing and learning songs from the shows and films but occasionally we break into classical music.

Reading music helps but is not essential as we "note bash".

Music and in particular singing has been proved to be good not only for the soul but also has benefits for the body and brain!

Cheers Ann Peach

Theatre Studies programme for Autumn 2015

September 30th ENSA- entertainment during WW2

October 28th Life and works of Lionel Bart.

November 25th History of the Theatre continued.

EAT Bridge

The picture show members of the newly created "EAT" Bridge club. We belonged to Audrey Turner's 2/3 years old Tues/Thurs morning Bridge sessions, hence the title "EAT" after Edith Audrey Turner, but sadly Audrey passed away earlier this year and we were not only devastated at the loss, but we were at a loss as to how we could keep together as a group, as it was more than a Bridge game it was a wonderful social occasion.

Two of our members, Andrew & Jill Cooper, came to our rescue, so for the last numerous weeks over this Summer we have been playing as a group of approx. 20 plus at their home in Alfrick. We have been able to stay together and keep up our Bridge skills, so we all thank them enormously.

We decided to have a lunch out at the end of this period at Alfrick and look forward to our new home.

We have found a permanent home thanks to U3A, as they will fund us at Holy Trinity

Church Malvern Link, on Tuesday mornings from September 1st 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock, so if anyone wants to have a fun game of Bridge and some social behaviour !! then come along or telephone Marg Aspland on 01684 - 565 956.



Welsh Culture Group

Visit to Dyffryn House and Gardens

We had an excellent tour of the house and separate guided tour of the gardens. The estate and Lordship of the Manor of Worlton was granted to the Bishop of Llandaff in 640 AD, the title being sold off to a local landowner in 2000. A family Button, which produced notable seafarers and explorers, is believed to have built a residence on the estate in the 16th century, but the first building known as Dyffryn dates



from 1749 when Thomas Pryce bought the estate, and built a Georgian manor.

The present house was built, starting in 1893, by the very wealthy, but we were assured unusually benevolent, steam coal baron and builder of Barry Docks, John Cory. After Florence, last of the Cory family, died in 1937, it was bought by the local council, from private ownership, to preserve for the public the special gardens created by John Cory and his nephew - now restored and Grade 1 listed. However, the council's care of the building was compromised by the scandal of a councillor selling off 17th Century floorboards for personal gain, after which the council lost heart and the will to invest. The house and gardens are now on a 50 year lease to the National Trust.

Though the inventory from the auction in 1937 showed the house in Cory family times as a treasury of fine furniture and collectables (including Chinese ceramics now in the Fitzwilliam Museum) and 5 pianos, it is unlikely it will be refurnished. The necessary blinds would make viewing the magnificent garden more difficult. In the house, following current NT policy, various stages of occupation and states are deliberately visible. We saw corridors unsafe



to enter and places where the plaster had to come down. The Great Hall contains splendid Gibbs and Moore stained glass from 1892 showing Elizabeth I at Tilbury and a notable chimneypiece of marble and wood and another room shows a beautiful

painted ceiling by Thomas Hay Gillow. A panelled drawing room with more fireplaces was a billiard room in the council era. A room was wallpapered by the BBC for the first episode in the last series of 'Doctor Who'. The Library (originally mahogany-panelled and only recently re-floored) is now a second-hand bookshop and was a bar though strict Methodist John Cory disowned his son for drinking.

Upstairs, in the room now used for flower painting courses, we saw the 1920s Edith Adie plant paintings used to restore the garden and a display of daffodil Narcissus Dyffryn 11a Y-O, specially created by Cambridge Botanic Gardens. In the small red sitting room the Trust could not install heating pipes to maintain the building because of hibernating newts. 17th century wallpaper and corning has been exposed in a corridor in the only part of the house dating from that time. Perhaps the loveliest room in the house was Florence's boudoir, where she spent her last ten years. It has a blue and white ceiling, a fireplace with a nature theme and stunning views from the windows.

There are plans to open the servants' quarters though the original kitchens were ripped out. The trust is actively researching the history of the house and welcomes the information which visitors and course participants can often provide.

Text & photographs from Rosemary & Fergus McNeil-Watson

Haiku A form of poetry originating in Japan, consisting of a three-line stanza with 5, 7 and 5 syllables respectively. Haiku poems date from the 9th century to the present day. Each poem represents a 'snap-shot' in time, a brief comment on a scene or situation. But Haiku is more than a type of poem; it is a way of looking at the physical world and seeing something deeper – the very nature of existence.

Poesía Española

Música de Desayuno

Linda Foxhall

La cocina, temprano de la mañana, reluzca vacía, estéril y hueca,
excepto el toque de tambor, haciendo eco de un grifo goteanda.

Ahora, agitan recuerdos de melodías del pasado....
la tostadora entra y contribuye su zumbido tranquilizador;
los huevos bailan alegremente en el agua plateada que hierve;
las notas musicales bajas realizadas por el fregadero gorgoreando
añaden profundidad y armonía - y el hervidor silba felizmente.

A veces, tapaderas se enfrentaron como platillos;
se escupió y farfulló la grasa rencorosa en la sartén de nuestras vidas.

Corro al grifo y lo apago. Se ahoga en silencio.
Y ahora está la orquesta de mi mente en silencio.

Enciendo la radio para compañía.

English translation:

Breakfast Music

The morning-empty kitchen gleams sterile and hollow,
silent except for the echoing drumbeat of a dripping tap.

Memories of melodies now past stir....
enter the toaster, contributing its reassuring hum;
and busy, boiling eggs dance energetically in silver water;
the bass notes of a gurgling sink
add depth and harmony - and the kettle whistles cheerfully.

At times, saucepan lids clashed like cymbals;
spiteful fat spat and spluttered in the frying pan of our lives together.
I wrench the tap, choking it into strangled silence.
And so the orchestra of my mind is hushed.

I turn on the radio for company.

El Sendero

Win Balgarnie

El sendero a través del bosque -
Una entrada en otro mundo de mágico y misterio,
Rodeado por una catedral de verde;
Los pilares de los troncos altos
Iluminados con astillas de luz del sol
Que filtra por el techo de ramas.
Un coro de los pájaros,
Las mariposas en asistencia,
Las velas del castaño,
Los sonidos de las campánulas azules
Las decoraciones de flores silvestres,
Y su perfume, incienso en este sitio suntuoso;
Entonces el desfile comienza,
Y yo, el gran sacerdote de lo todo!

English translation:

The Path

The path through the woods –
An entrance to another world of magic and mystery,
Encompassed by a cathedral of green;
The pillars of the tall tree-trunks
Lit by splinters of sunlight
Filtering through the roof of branches.
A choir of birds,
The butterflies in attendance,
The candles of the chestnut,
The chiming bells of the azure campanulas,
And their perfume, incense in this glorious place;
And so the procession begins,
And I, the high priest of it all!

Escarcho duro -
Cabezas de las flores
Suelo perforan.

Hard frost -
Heads of flowers
Pierce soil.

Coche limpio;
Charcos muy fangosos;
Dos se encuentran!

Clean car,
Very muddy puddles;
Two come together!

El despertador;
Cómoda en mi cama
Me doy la vuelta.

Alarm clock,
Comfy in my bed
I turn over

Tengo ahora sed;
En medio del día
Tomar un café.

I'm thirsty;
In the middle of the day,
Let's have a coffee!

Es primavera;
Las flores del manzano
Son rosas blancas.

It's Spring;
The flowers on the apple tree
Are white roses.

Win Balgarnie

Flores del jardín
Necesitan el amor
Si no morirán.

Flowers in the garden
Need love
If they are not to die.

Sol en las tardes -
Las mariposas bailan;
Paz y tranquilo.

Sun in the afternoons -
The butterflies dance;
Peace and quiet.....

Michael Lewent

Sendero Japón;
El shinkansen llega,
Espera, sale.

The way of Japan;
The bullet train comes,
Waits, goes.

Jardin japonés
Cerezas florecieron -
Pétalos caen.

Japanese garden
The cherries flowered -
Petals fall.

Me gusta mucho
el sonido de tambor –
llena mi casa...

I love
The sound of a drum –
It fills my house....

Linda Foxhall

Jasmin Bishop

SPANISH CONVERSATION

Both groups A and B have met regularly twice a month throughout the year, choosing a wide variety of discussion topics with the aim of improving fluency. Some members have been able to test these skills in face-to-face encounters with native speakers:



Market at Punta Arenas

about current problems such as unemployment in Spain when staying in Calpe, a charming coastal town south of Benidorm, which is dominated by the Penon de Ifach, a 335 metre high volcanic outcrop, now a nature park and home to many rare birds and plants.

Ruth went walking with friends in the mountains of near Seville, and off the beaten track had to communicate in Spanish when asking for directions, in small hotels, and buying food in the local markets.



Courtyard in Seville

In May, Diana and Judith visited Salamanca for a week's study at a Spanish language school, and explored the beautiful Renaissance buildings of golden sandstone with guided tours in Spanish, sampling the tapas bars in the evenings. They stayed with a delightful lady who spoke in rapid Spanish and is related to a family of famous local toreadors. The Salamantines pride themselves on speaking the most correct Castilian Spanish so they gained much from their stay there.

Anne visited various places in Argentina and Chile during a cruise to New Zealand, including a market in Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chile.

In early spring, Mary and David made their annual journey by car through Spain from Santander via Valdepenas in Castilla La Mancha to Andalucia to visit their son and family in Guajar Fondon in Granada province, Andalucia, and joined in the village activities.

Terry talked to hotel staff



Guajar Fondon, Andalucia



Facade of Salamanca University

Judith Taylor

Geology Group

We are coming to the end of an excellent summer of external field trips and visits. The major event during this period was a 5 day field trip to Anglesey attended by 24 group members and guests. Anglesey's geology is very complex and we were delighted to be lead by Rosemary Dartnall currently doing a PhD at Birmingham University. We stayed on Holy Island in the north of Anglesey where the coastal scenery is stunning and from where we were able to study the many interesting rock types and formations. Amongst the specific trips, the visits to the South Stack and Llanddwyn Island were particularly memorable. In addition we visited Parys Mountain, a huge, now disused open cast copper mine, once the largest in Europe. To cap a most enjoyable week, we were lucky enough to experience wall to wall sunshine!



Members of the Geology Group on their field trip to Anglesey with views from the trip.



Looking ahead, we begin our indoor programme in October with a 10 week series of lectures entitled 'The History of Geology' lead by Group members Richard Edwards and Alan Gray. There is still time to sign up for these lectures.

Registration morning was very successful for us with over 25 new members signing on, many of them planning to attend the lecture series.

We welcome new members at any time – contact Dick Harris on 01886 880699 or at richardangleyharris@gmail.com

PLODDING TO THE FAR NORTH-WEST

By Rosemary Fretwell

A few months ago I was leafing through 'Third Age Matters' (the national magazine for the University of the Third Age) when my eye alighted on a writing competition. Hilary Bradt, of the Bradt Travel Guides fame, declared that adventure travel was not just for the youngsters - older people can embark on adventure tours as well, often a little irresponsibly and going way outside their comfort zones. She invited anybody of 60+ in age, who had embarked on such an enterprise, to submit their story in a competition. The winners' tales would be published in a book called 'To Oldly Go' which was to be a compilation of a number of different expeditions taken on by the elderly.

As most of my friends know, my husband, Colin, and I have been walking the coastline of mainland Britain since 1998 as a retirement project. In 2009 we walked to Cape Wrath, the far north-west point of mainland Britain and perhaps the wildest area of our overcrowded isle. I submitted my story of that day's trek without much hope. After all, who would want to read about a couple of old codgers plodding over the moors in wildest Scotland?

But they liked it! In early July I was informed that my story had been selected. The e-mail continued: "We received a huge number of entries of a very high quality, so congratulations - it's quite an achievement making the final cut! " I was over the moon! It's the first time that any of my scribblings have been published.

To Oldly Go will be launched at the Women's Institute Centennial Fair, taking place in Harrogate from the 3rd to the 6th September. Bradt Travel Guides will be exhibiting at the event and showcasing the book at their stand across the show's four days. My story, 'Plodding to the Far North-West', is in there alongside such authors as Dervla Murphy, Matthew Parris and Hilary Bradt! Hopefully it will soon be for sale at our own local bookshop, Malvern Book Co-operative, in St Ann's Road.

Today I received the following e-mail from the marketing director at Bradt Travel Guides - "Scotsman Magazine would like to run your piece as an extract in their issue on 26th September. The piece will be accompanied by a discount code and I am confident that it will lead to a good number of sales."

I am ecstatic!

For more information about the book, go to <http://www.bradtguides.com/to-oldly-go-pb.html>



Cryptic Crosswords Answers (and deconstruction of the clues)

- a) Playing Lydia, Glenda is a star (7,4) **Leading Lady.**

This is an anagram from the words Lydia Glenda. The word that tells you it is an anagram is "playing".

If we deconstruct the clue it is: Playing/Lydia Glenda/is a star (most crossword clues can be broken up into three parts like that)

- b) A country girl reading (7) **Perusal**

This is a “charade” clue, where each part of the clue gives one part of the answer Peru + Sal = reading.

- c) Slippery customer pocketing ten pence in bar (5): **Expel**

The "slippery customer" is EEL, ten is X (Roman numerals) pence = p.

I read the clue as: Put an abbreviation for ten pence inside a word for something slippery, to find a word that mean "bar". The word "pocketing" tells you that part of the answer goes inside another part, so it is E-XP-EL.

If these clues have intrigued you, come along to our next meeting!



WALKING GROUP

26th October:

Castlemorton Church and Tump

On road parking at sides of Castlemorton Church (Exp 190 SO 795 373) for 10.00am start of an easy 5 miles walk via Druggers End. Lunch afterwards at The Plume and Feathers (Exp 190 SO 787 389).

Leader: Jeff Thorogood - Tel: 01886 - 832 764



30th November

P-shaped 5 mile walk along the canal and up to Tardebigge church

Meet at the Queens Head, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound , Bromsgrove B60 3AU by 9.45am to pre-order lunch, if required.

In view of the distance being travelled, it would be economical to car share, if possible, and it would be helpful if you could let Alan Bull know of your intention to walk a day or two beforehand.

Leader: Alan Bull - Tel: 01684 301033 e-mail: alan-bull@sky.com



Preparation for The AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2015
THE CUBE, ALBERT PARK ROAD @ 2:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Apologies and receipt of any proxy votes
3. Minutes of AGM 2014
4. Annual Report 2014-2015
5. Membership Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Auditor's approval and comments
8. Elections to Committee and to Principal Officer roles
9. Consideration of resolutions and amendments submitted within constitutionally required timescales

The constitution does not allow any other business.

Close of meeting, to be followed by a brief meeting of the newly elected committee.

Guidance regarding proxy votes and resolutions or amendments, and necessary dates for submission

- ▶ Any proxy vote must be advised to the Chair at the start of the meeting.
- ▶ Members may submit their proxy votes to the Secretary in advance of the AGM. These will be collated and passed to the Chair.
- ▶ A proxy vote must clearly state which way to vote on a specific motion or amendment and may vest the decision on how to vote with another member present at the meeting.
- ▶ Members wishing to submit a proxy vote should do so using the proxy voting form provided, and should clearly insert their intentions for each vote: trustee nominations, resolutions and amendments.
- ▶ Notice of AGM: The 2015 AGM will be held on Tuesday November 24th at The Cube, Albert Park Road Malvern @2:00pm.
- ▶ Members are invited to submit nominations for the Principal Officers and Trustees of the Committee using the form provided.
- ▶ Members are invited to submit motions for consideration by the AGM.
- ▶ Nominations and motions for consideration, duly proposed and seconded, must be in writing and received by the secretary by November 3rd 2015, i.e. 21 days before the AGM.

- ▶ Members will be informed of all nominations for trustees, and of all resolutions to AGM by November 10th 2015, i.e. 14 days before the AGM.
- ▶ Members may submit amendments to any resolution by November 17th 2015, i.e. 7 days before the AGM.
- ▶ Members who have not supplied current e-mail addresses may supply appropriately stamped addressed envelopes to enable them to receive communications in good time.

Malvern U3A Annual Report 2014-2015

I have been Chair of Malvern U3A for one year now: as I said when I was elected, the existence of the U3A in Malvern was one reason why we decided to move here on retirement, so it is a particular pleasure to be able to play an active part in such an interesting, friendly organisation. All the committee work hard in different ways to make sure that Malvern U3A fulfils its legal obligations as a charity and to do all the necessary work for running such a large group. We may not always get it right – as members are very quick to point out on occasion! - but we accept any such comments as a way of improving what we do. And of course, anyone who feels they themselves have something to contribute to the work of the U3A, is always welcome to stand as a Trustee or offer to do a particular job.

This is a report from the Trustees about our work this year to provide you, the members, with information about many different aspects of our work as trustees and to indicate some of the ways in which we plan to develop the organisation.

Our secretary Sue Dalley, writes: "The highlights of the last 12 months have been the increased efforts, and subsequent success, of trustee actions to involve and inform members. We now have the minutes of our trustee meetings on our website so that members can follow our discussion and decision making, and hopefully feel that with this information they can, if they wish, become involved in the discussion. We also sought to widen recruitment to the committee by direct approaches to some of the larger groups seeking nominations from their membership, and I am pleased that we have new faces on committee, bringing fresh ideas. Who knows, we may even have contested elections at the AGM! and certainly there is room in the future for debate about functions and responsibilities within committee."

The monthly lecture meeting is another aspect of Malvern U3A (held on the last Tuesday of each month except August and December, 2.00pm at the Cube).

Sue Lamberton, Vice-Chair and organiser of the monthly meetings writes: "Over the course of the year 2015 we have been fortunate in hosting a wide range of excellent speakers at our meetings. Hopefully all members should have found something to interest them among the very catholic list of topics.

January: "The Childline Foundation"

February: "The Dymock Poets"

March: "Bess of Hardwick"
April: "Gertrude Bell -- Edwardian Explorer"
May: "Problems with Parasites"
June: "The SS Great Eastern"
July: "Gilbert and Sullivan"
September: "Birds of the British Isles from Shetland to Scilly"

Still to come:

October: "Mount Athos, a unique Culture."

The numbers coming to the monthly meeting have been steadily rising and we hope they will continue to do so, as members have the opportunity to socialise after the talk, enjoying the free biscuits and coffee which give members a chance to talk to the speaker, (and to have a good chat)."

As a U3A we continue to thrive, with more members and new groups every year – membership in the year grew to over 1300 with possibly more to come in 2015/16. Malvern is lucky in that we have a range of venues that are suitable for group activities and we have a range of meeting spaces, so every group should be able to find an appropriately sized venue for everyone who is interested in their activities. In particular, the U3A has been developing our relationship with The Cube as a local community facility. One Trustee (Peter Corfield) serves on a liaison panel to maintain our links with its Trustees. 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.

Val Holland organises the Registration morning along with other Trustees, and we were pleased to see so many members there signing up for groups, and we are also pleased that more groups are being formed to cover members' interest. Groups are the backbone of U3A and our particular thanks go out to all those who lead groups. I know from my own groups, how much fun it is to be with people who share one's interests, but also know how much work can go into preparing a session, so the Trustees are very grateful to all members who take an active role in this. Group Leaders meet in February to discuss matters relevant to their role and the organisation of group activities.

The Newsletter and the annual groups' directory have continued to be the main media for getting information out to members, but the website is becoming increasingly important, and will continue to be so.

John Elkington, our Web manager, writes: "Following Trustees' approval, a new re-designed website went live in May 2015. The old website had served the organisation well, but had neither been able to keep pace with technological developments nor with Trustees' requirements for database developments - all of which were intended to provide a secure, accessible, central repository for all U3A Malvern information. The new site, which runs under the Wordpress content management system, has

been able to satisfy all these requirements and has thus incorporated features and facilities for the benefit of both members and Trustees alike.

The most notable change was the introduction of an online registration system, allowing returning and new members to pay their subscriptions via PayPal. By the time that Registration Day arrived (September 7th 2015) some 280 online payments had been successfully received and processed.

Numerous other database developments have facilitated the production of Newsletter and U3A Magazine distribution lists, as well as providing overall information about membership, groups, subscriptions and PayPal payments. The website seems to have enjoyed overall approval from members and group-leaders as well as from Trustees."

The website includes archive material as well as up-to-date information on groups and the monthly meeting, but we hope that the website will become a source of communication between members via its Forum section. This allows registered members to send message of interest to others.

Communication via e-mails to the full membership saves the U3A an enormous amount of money – which is why the annual subscription has not risen for a few years and will probably remain as it is for the next year, subject to approval at the AGM. Postage is expensive and of course there is a lot of work in addressing envelopes, and posting mail so it is inevitable that we will increasingly want to move to electronic communication. The Trustees are aware that this is not fully acceptable to all members, some of whom are not confident with using computers of whatever kind, although courses have been and will continue to be offered to those who are less skilled. Communication with group leaders is just about 100% by e-mail: the Trustees expect that all groups will have an e-mail contact to aid communication with the Groups Co-ordinator, as there are frequent contacts to organise the Registration morning and the February leaders' meeting.

The Trustees hope that Malvern U3A will thrive, develop and continue to serve its members over the coming year.

Pam Stanier

Chair

All papers relating to the AGM can be found on the Malvern U3A website

And to follow the AGM

‘Our Own Entertainment’

A chance for members to enjoy contributions from our ‘making music’ groups. Forget YouTube or the X-factor, you’ll find the top talent in this musical showcase!



'Spring' from Painting Group ²

Speakers for our Monthly Meeting - 2pm at The Cube

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 27 th October | Peter Bamford on 'Mount Athos, A Unique Culture' |
| 24 th November | Malvern U3A AGM (2.00pm)
followed by 'Our Own Entertainment' |
| December | No meeting - but don't forget the Christmas Lunch |

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@malvernu3a.org.uk

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Please note the deadline for the February edition is

Saturday 23rd January 2016