

# MALVERN **U3A**

Nº 79 SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



***Quiz Night - 24<sup>th</sup> February***  
***Details inside***

## U3A Committee (Trustees)

Chair:	<b>Pam Stanier</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:chair@malvernu3a.org.uk">chair@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 899 117
General Secretary:	<b>Sue Dalley</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@malvernu3a.org.uk">secretary@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 891 520
Treasurer:	<b>John Knee</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk">treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 - 565 378
Membership Secretary:	<b>Robin Clarke</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:membership@malvernu3a.org.uk">membership@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01886 – 288 123
Groups Co-ordinator:	<b>Val Holland</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:groups@malvernu3a.org.uk">groups@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 563 531
Speakers Organiser:	<b>Sue Lamberton</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk">speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01886 – 830 050
Venues Co-ordinator:	<b>Norma Braddock</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:roombook@malvernu3a.org.uk">roombook@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 574 025
Technical Officer:	<b>Peter Corfield</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:technical@malvernu3a.org.uk">technical@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 893 226
Trustee:	<b>Brian Chesney</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:brian.chesney@malvernu3a.org.uk">brian.chesney@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 891 999  <b>Annette Maxted</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:annette.maxted@malvernu3a.org.uk">annette.maxted@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 – 566 208  <b>Jenny Jackson</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:jenny.jackson@malvernu3a.org.uk">jenny.jackson@malvernu3a.org.uk</a> Phone: 01684 - 491 093
.....	
Newsletter & Calendar Editor:	<b>Richard Owen</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk">newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk</a>
Website Manager	<b>John Elkington</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk">webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk</a>

## CHAIR'S NOTES

Welcome to 2016 and the Spring edition of our newsletter, as usual produced by Richard Owen, who is indefatigable in supporting this U3A and doing useful things for it. Thank you Richard.

I have been reading a volume of autobiography by Rumer Godden – a rather neglected novelist now, I think, like Paul Gallico and Neville Shute, Compton McKenzie and CP Snow, DH Lawrence and Iris Murdoch...to cite a few – but that is an aside!

I was struck by her reference to an axiom from India, where she was brought up and which provides the title of this book: A House with Four Rooms.

This axiom says "Everyone is a house with four rooms, a physical, a mental, an emotional and a spiritual. Most of us tend to live in one room most of the time but unless we go into every room every day, even if only to keep it aired, we are not a complete person."

This has stayed with me as it could apply to us all and might even affect our choice of how we spend our time and our choice of U3A groups. So often we stay with what is familiar, that which is in our favourite room as it were, but maybe it would be helpful for us as individuals if we were to try a new group which is in an unfamiliar section of the U3A groups list.

So if your emphasis is on the mental, maybe trying a walking group or a different kind of mental activity; if your interests are literary, maybe a creative activity could offer something new to you; if you have been in the same groups for a long time, you could start to look at what else is on offer. Malvern U3A has twelve different categories of groups listed on our webpage – there should be something for everyone.

You should find a warm welcome in whatever groups you want to try.

Pam Stanier

## CHANGE OF TREASURER

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS

Please remember that our treasurer is now John Knee, and that all matters relating to finance should now go to him, (and not to Andrew H.)

John's contact details are as follows:

E-mail    treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk

Phone:    01684 - 565 378

Mail:      112 Fruitlands, Malvern Wells, WR14 4XB

## From Val Holland (Groups Co-ordinator)

### NEW GROUPS

We have interest in two new groups BUT no leaders.

Can any member willing to lead BOTANY or ITALIAN BEGINNERS please step forward.

If you feel this would interest you e-mail [groups@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@malvernu3a.org.uk) and I will put you in contact with willing learners.

And if you think that you would also like to join these groups if we find leaders then please give me your contact details.

Many thanks, Val Holland

### Virtual U3A

Some members might be interested in the national Virtual U3A, particularly if you are more house-bound or have a particular interest not available in Malvern. This information has come from their co-ordinator Verne Hardingham:

The Virtual U3A meets online so that by mastering simple skills and with help available if required, you can make friends all across the UK and sometimes further afield.



Do you presently have an interest which you would like to continue to enjoy, and perhaps share with others? You don't have to be learned in a subject so much as be interested in it and want to talk about it. Some examples from our current shared interests are a Jazz group, Current affairs discussions, and a monthly Mass Observation group where participants record what they have been doing on the particular day in question which is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month - not too dissimilar perhaps to your own group.

It is particularly nice if you have had a bad day to use our chat facility to get sympathy from other members.

Why not come and join us - you would be most welcome.

Membership costs £12 a year.

There is a link to the Virtual U3A on our own website - because of course you have to have a computer. Click on the Meetings tab and there is a little more information.

Pam

# **U3A QUIZ NIGHT**

**Wednesday 24th February**

7.30pm (Doors open 7.00pm)

at the

**United Reformed Church Hall**

**Malvern Link WR14 1SS**

Prizes for the highest scoring team

Price: £1.50 per person (U3A members and friends)

Come along and form a team (max. of 6 per team)

Ticket price includes tea/coffee/juice and nibbles.

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Admission is by ticket only, and numbers are limited.

Call Annette 01684 566208 or Brian 01684 891999  
for tickets/further information.

# News from Groups

Dividers are from the Painting<sup>2</sup> Group.

## Welsh Culture Trip to Abergavenny and Monmouth

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November the group had a trip to Abergavenny and Monmouth. The first stop was the Tithe Barn at Abergavenny which included a talk about the Millennium Tapestry which is housed there. It is a breathtakingly beautiful piece of work, embroidered by local ladies, most of whom are amateurs.



Afterwards, some of the group visited the Priory Church with its Jesse Tree, a thirteenth century carving of King David's father, Jesse. The carving is part of an altarpiece which shows branches of Jesse's family, and it is also depicted in the Millennium Tapestry. Abergavenny also has a small folk museum, housed within the castle.

After lunch and shopping, we continued to Monmouth with the Monnow Bridge, the only remaining fortified bridge in Britain. We visited the Shire Hall with its statue of Charles Rolls (half of Rolls Royce partnership) on the forecourt. Our visit included a conducted tour of the courtroom used for the Chartists' Trial in 1840, and the prisoners' cells below.

Afterwards there was time to visit Monmouth Museum in which there is currently an exhibition celebrating Monmouth's connection with the Battle of Agincourt (Henry V was born at Monmouth Castle and his statue is set in the façade of Shire Hall). There is also a permanent exhibition of Nelson memorabilia, and the Charles Rolls exhibition in the museum.

There is plenty to see in both Abergavenny and Monmouth which we would like to explore further, and many of us resolved to make a return journey.



Sue Price



# Astronomy

The astronomy and astrophysics class, is now running again after the Christmas break and will conclude at the beginning of March. It runs on Mondays from 15.00 for about 2 1/2 hours with a break in the middle.

Before Christmas we had a small party in celebration with Christmas food.



A group session with Chris.

four dimensions with red green glasses , and finally cosmology... The evolution of the universe from the very beginning.

Hopefully the course will repeat in October.

The recent sessions have been to do with the analysis of starlight by spatial and spectral interferometry, the nature of light and matter, electromagnetic theory, the periodic table, particle and nuclear physics, the four forces of nature, and the nature of reality.

We continue with the working of the sun, stellar evolution of all types of stars, the dynamics of the Milky Way, then on to other galaxies, including very active ones, and the structure of the universe. Then follows special and general relativity with simulations, the nature of black holes etc, the universe in

Chris Baddiley



A picture of the recent two-tailed comet Catalina taken by Chris.

# Recent work from the Camera Group



Joan Smith



Gwen Evans



Carole Newton



Neil Storey



Lorna Blackwell



Janet Farnes

The Camera Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month  
at 10am at Manor Park.

Recent themes have included 'Fall', 'Relax',  
'Super' and 'Times of our lives'. Some images  
from these themes are shown here.



# Painting <sup>1</sup>

## Help ..... Model needed.

We met recently on what had to be the coldest day of this winter, but with a good turn out of keen members. We really would like someone to sit for us, you don't have to be a model just able to sit a while (with plenty of breaks) and tea etc.

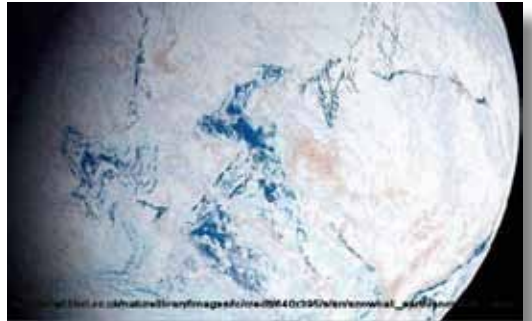
We are a friendly group more than willing to help anyone who might come along.

Please contact the group leader Jenny Bradford 01684574849



## Geology

The Geology Group moves into 2016 with a full and vibrant programme of lectures and visits. Our monthly programme of indoor lectures is underway and takes us through to May and begins again in October until December. Our first lecture in January covered the development of the latest research into the concept of 'Snowball Earth' by Prof Ian Fairchild – perhaps this is what it might have looked like!



During the summer months we embark on a series of outdoor trips both local and further afield. We are keenly looking forward to the visit in April to the mid Atlantic island of Sao Martinho in the Azores archipelago and are actively planning a UK residential trip in the Autumn, possibly to Cornwall.

Having recruited 29 new members so far this year, we are just beginning our new members introductory programme to help bring them up to speed on the basics of geology.



## Boules

I took over the leadership from Derek Mesure in August 2015 who did a sterling job for us. Since then we now have 40+ members who have to be split up between myself and my colleague Derek Carter on Monday mornings. We meet on Thursdays on the park by Great Malvern railway station at 10.30 weather permitting. On Thursday 7th. January we all met for a buffet at Lady Foley Tearoom, which was most enjoyable. At Easter time there will be an Easter bonnet competition. I will have a knockout competition throughout the year, with a small trophy for the winner which will be presented at our get together in the summertime.



For new comers we can always lend boules to them until they get fixed up. So, join to play either on Mondays or Thursdays.

My phone number is 01684 - 566 451 or e-mail [shenton000@gmail.com](mailto:shenton000@gmail.com).

Richard Shenton



## Croquet Group

Now that Christmas is behind us the start of the 2016 Croquet Season does not seem so far away. We have several new members joining us and expect to be at full strength with all four courts in action. This year we will strengthen our connection with the Worcester Norton club who warmly welcomed us on our visit there last autumn and we should have 7 or 8 opportunities to play there again this year. We will keep a close eye on the weather and as soon as the courts allow we will be ready to strike out. I hope we can play before the end of April and hopefully earlier still! We will organise a setting-up day at Millers Court to prepare the "Club House" and set out the courts as soon as the weather permits. We will e-mail or phone everyone to notify you in good time. All are welcome to participate and as soon as the lawns are laid out we can play.

Looking forward to seeing everyone before too long, Happy New year and Best Wishes to all,  
Regards Ken.

## **Lawn Bowling Group** (Summer season May to August 2016)

(Note: The dates and times of the bowling sessions will be announced in the online U3A Calendar.)

This coming summer season, the Lawn Bowling Group will continue to introduce and enhance the skills of U3A members to the game of outdoor lawn bowling – using the facilities of the Malvern Priory Bowling Club, Orchard Road. The emphasis is on friendly, competitive, games during 2-hour sessions on a Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons from the beginning of May to the end of August, depending on demand. Both beginners and more experienced bowlers are most welcome.



A qualified Coach will oversee the sessions. Bowling equipment can be provided (if needed) and dress code is informal – the only stipulation is that flat shoes/trainers with soft soles are worn.



Members will be able to flex their preferred attendance day between the two days when the occasion demands.

Leader: Wayne Braddock

Deputy: Dorothy Keeling

Phone: 01684 - 574 025

e-mail: [wayne.braddock@btinternet.com](mailto:wayne.braddock@btinternet.com)



## **Knitting and Crochet**

I am thinking of starting a U3A Knitting and Crochet group in September.

This would be for people of every ability. I propose to hold it on a Monday, morning or afternoon. Venue to be decided depending on numbers.

Would anyone interested (men included!) please contact Jeni Chesney on 01684 - 891 999 or e-mail: [jenichesney57@yahoo.com](mailto:jenichesney57@yahoo.com).

# Group Programmes

## Tuesday Garden Grop – 2016 PROGRAMME

Held on 1st Tuesday in the month

Group Leader: Cynthia Wolfendale

### February 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit to St. James Church, Birlingham, Nr. Pershore, WR 10 3AQ

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.15pm or the Church at 1.45pm.  
Refreshments will be available. The church will also be open to look round.  
Please let us know if you are coming.

If the weather is bad, contact Wendy or Janet to find out if the trip will go ahead.

### April 5<sup>th</sup> Visit to Whitcombe House, Overbury, Glos. GL20 7NZ

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

### May 3<sup>rd</sup> Visit to The Orchards, Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, WR6 5BN.

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.15pm. Refreshments available.  
Close to The Hop Pocket. (Please note earlier time)

### June 7<sup>th</sup> Visit to Eckington Gardens, Near Pershore, DY13 0RH

We will be visiting three gardens.  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 12 noon (Please note earlier time)  
Bring a picnic – teas available in afternoon.

### July 5<sup>th</sup> Visit to Overbury Court, Tewkesbury, GL20 7NP

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.15 pm (Please note earlier time)  
We will be shown round gardens by the head gardener – teas are available nearby.

### August 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit to Hidcote Manor Garden, Near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6LR (National Trust)

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 12 Noon (Please note earlier time)  
If there are high winds, Hidcote may be closed, like last year!

### Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> Visit to Conderton Manor, Nr. Tewkesbury, GL20 7PR

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1 pm (Please note earlier time)  
Admission includes refreshments

### October 4<sup>th</sup> Visit to Bodenham Arboretum, Nr. Kidderminster, DY11 5TB

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 12 noon (Please note early start as it gets dark early)  
Suggestion: Bring a picnic (or there is a restaurant)  
If anyone wants to go all day, we could arrange to meet there.

### November 1<sup>st</sup> Planning Meeting at Cherry Sprackling's house

at 21 Hornyold Road, Malvern, WR14 1QQ 560544 Time: 2.30 pm  
Charge 50p. Please bring a small plate of food and plenty of ideas for 2017!

Please telephone Wendy Davies (575996) or Janet Jackson (561902) re. attendance

PLEASE LET WENDY OR JANET KNOW IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO BE A MEMBER



## Theatre Studies

Last Wednesday of the month at 10am

- February 24<sup>th</sup> History of the Theatre: Part 5  
March 30<sup>th</sup> Theatre Censorship - discussion.  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Antony Sher - talk by Alan Starkey



## Driving Skills Revisited

We hold our meetings at The Cube on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. The same topic is presented three times in a month and members can attend any of the sessions if they can't manage their nominated day.

Dates for our Spring meetings are as follows:

February

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.15, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.15

March

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.15, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.15

April

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> at 2.15, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.15

May

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.15, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.15

Val Allen

## WALKING GROUP

**Contacts:** Roger Hales 01684 - 576 814  
Philip and Janet Uncles 01684 - 575 060

### Leaders for Spring walks:

February **Duncan & Jay Macrae** 01684 - 561 423  
March **Philip & Janet Uncles** 01684 - 575 060  
April **Megan Taylor**

Details of each walk will appear on the website calendar once they have been finalised.





# DID YOU GET AN IPAD FOR CHRISTMAS DO YOU NEED SOME HELP IN NEED OF A REFRESHER



The iPad has changed the way that many of us use computers; and in some cases has been our introduction to the world of computing and the Internet. Such is the range of software (apps) available for the system it means that many of us barely scratch the surface of what it can do. Which is a shame. Having invested in such a powerful computing device, (or, even better, having been given it), don't give up on it because you can't find how to do just what you want

Fear not ... help is at hand!

**Come along to Manor Park at 10am on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February** for a 'hands-on' session on using an iPad.

(NB: This session is purely about the iPad and not Android devices.)

The aim will be to make you feel at ease when using the iPad for a range of activities including e-mail, web browsing, downloading apps ... even playing games! Bring along your iPad and we will work together, using Manor Park's internet connection, to 'look and learn' about what the iPad can do for us.

If you want to contact me beforehand, please do so. Either e-mail me, or ring 01684 - 564 565.

I look forward to seeing you on the 25th.

Richard Owen

The **Music Appreciation and Opera Group** at a recent meeting.





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

23<sup>rd</sup> February      **Mark Wilkins** on 'Working with the Air Ambulance'

29<sup>th</sup> March        **Fran Sandham** takes 'The Sea Route to India'

26<sup>th</sup> April         **Gillian White** on 'Mary Queen of Scots'

**Come along for inspiration, and a chat and a drink with friends old and new.**

## 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](mailto:newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk)**

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Please note the deadline for the May edition is

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**