



**Monthly Meetings – Last Tuesday of
the month: 2pm at The Cube
See back cover for details of speakers
and topics**

U3A Committee (Trustees)

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Cover image by Lorna Blackwell, Camera Group

CHAIR'S NOTES

I had planned to begin my first contribution to the Newsletter by wishing you all a successful 2018, but the New Year now seems a distant memory. As we all battle with this unpleasant weather it's hard to remember that the days really are getting longer and Spring, in theory at least, cannot be long arriving.

With our ever expanding membership, and the wide variety of activities which are vigorously pursued both indoors and out, it is clear that Malvern U3A is on course for a very successful year.

Meanwhile the trustees have received a tidal wave of information, on a variety of subjects, from the National Office which cannot be ignored.

It therefore seems appropriate to take this opportunity to remind all Group Leaders about some of the rules which govern financial matters.

Happily some group leaders facilitate very enjoyable events away from Malvern, for example trips to the theatre or to concerts.

To ensure that these are covered by U3A insurance it is vital that all cheques should be made payable to U3A and passed on via the organiser to the Treasurer. If, unlike me, you are up to speed with technology, this may be done online. This ensures that events are then paid for by direct cheque from the Treasurer and not by personal cheques or credit cards. In the past, for the convenience of all concerned, Group Leaders have occasionally made payments using their own accounts and unfortunately this means that in effect the outing is not a U3A event and thus is not covered by our insurance. (For more information, see the letter from our Secretary, Jenny Jackson, at the end of this newsletter).

This may appear be an unnecessary complication to some and appear "much ado about nothing" for others, but for example, in the unlikely event of a fully paid event being cancelled then the personal cheque writer could forfeit their money.

Living in a world where we are constantly reminded how isolated and lonely many people are, it is cheering to see how open, welcoming, friendly and supportive U3A members are towards each other. In a global world perhaps a little friendship goes a long way and I hope to meet many of you at the monthly Guest Speaker meetings. At The Cube, last Tuesday of every month, free tea remember! Pop it in your diary now!

Sue Lamberton

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Monday Gardening Group

We aim to visit gardens during the year in the local area, where the owners support the NGS charity by opening to the public.

The photo is from our visit in September to a garden in Earl's Croome which proved a success in more ways than one. The gardens, meadow and woodland, were lovely and buzzing with insects. The owners provided refreshments and told us the story of the creation of what was, 30 years ago, a jungle with only brambles, large overgrown trees and shrubs. It is now full of flowers and plants to attract and feed insects of all kinds. Not only insects though. Whilst drinking a welcome cup of tea, the resident vole popped out to see what was going on.

Known to the owners as "Speedy", he comes to the food put down for him and the birds.

Nice to share our time with him and all the other buzzing life in the garden.

Carole Newton



Dawn's Dawdlers



Here are some of the Group on a walk last October at Martley – on the day of Storm Ophelia. We aim to keep walks to around three miles with few, if any, stiles or hills. We finish by midday at the latest, followed by a pub lunch for those who wish to stop.

Dawn Retout-Du-Trevou,
Group Leader

Photo of twig apples by Jeni Chesney

Boules/Petanques Group



We held our “Christmas” buffet at Lady Foley Tearooms in early December. Thirteen of us attended. It was a very enjoyable lunchtime. Here we are outside, before we went to eat.

Richard Shenton, Group leader

Estimations Group

Following a highly successful trial run, Ashley Butterfield will be leading a new series of this exciting new card game beginning Monday 26th February. Meetings will be held at The Cube from 10.00 am to 12.00 for six consecutive Mondays. There is a good café on site.



Beginners are welcome, the game is easy to learn and you will pick it up fast! Estimations is a cross between whist and bridge, being more interesting than the former and much less complex than the latter (or solo whist, its closest relation). It would appeal to those who take a light hearted approach to card playing, and enjoy playing as individuals rather than with partners. After the cards are dealt players estimate how many tricks they will win: this becomes more difficult as the number of cards dealt out decreases in each round. Play proceeds in the same way as whist, with a point awarded for each trick gained, plus a bonus of ten for an exact call. Having a ‘BAD’ hand does not preclude anyone from winning. And there are no partners to get mad at! To find out more please contact Ashley at butterfieldashley@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01531 650 029 after 20th February, or just come along and give it a try!

Painting 2 Group



Scotland and Burns night from Painting 2 group

Creative Writing Group

It was in November 2013 when Mo Brown started the group. From the start she made it clear that as Leader she would be a facilitator not a teacher.

At the end of a meeting we would decide on a subject and members would be expected to read out their contribution, either on the chosen subject or one of their own choice, at the next meeting. We were always surprised how varied the contributions proved to be and invariably each contribution provoked some interesting discussion.

When Mo sadly died in June 2016, the leadership of the Group was taken over by Jenny Jones who continued to run it on the same lines until recently. Leadership of the group has now been taken over by Ron Atkins. Since it was formed there has invariably been a waiting list of new members.

The talent for writing amongst the members varies widely. Some struggle to write up to a thousand words a month (maximum) but one member (Keith Bullock) has recently had his first novel published, "Winning Ticket". It is about a Sikh family in Dudley who find themselves in possession of a winning lottery ticket. Several of the group have read the book and declared it to be "A good read, interesting and informative".

Lawn Bowling Group

Summer season May to August 2018

The Lawn Bowling Group will continue over the summer period at the Malvern Priory Bowling Club, Orchard Road. A two-hour outdoor session is scheduled on Wednesday afternoons only this year - from the beginning of May to the end of August. The emphasis is on teaching the tactics of the game through friendly, competitive, team play. A qualified Coach will oversee the sessions. Bowling equipment can be provided (if needed).

Dress code is informal – the only stipulation is that flat shoes/trainers with soft soles are worn. Details of the start times of the sessions will be given in the online U3A Calendar. Beginners and more experienced bowlers are most welcome to attend.

For further details, please contact me on the number below.

Leader: Wayne Braddock

Phone: 01684 574025 Mob: 07555388618

e-mail: wayne.braddock@btinternet.com



Botany Group

At the beginning of April 2018 the Botany Group will have completed its first two years. In that time we will have discovered details of plant structure and function, got to grips with field guides and identification keys plus explored a number of local botanically interesting locations.

The group puts an emphasis on the practical aspects of botany with both indoor and outdoor meetings putting our hand lenses and observational skills to good use.

We welcome anyone with an interest in British wild plants, whether expert or complete novice. We learn together and happily share our knowledge and experience within the group. We meet at a good-sized venue and at the moment we can squeeze a few more members into the group. There is no formal programme as such; we like to adapt to the seasons, the availability of material and guest speakers.



Pictures (left and overleaf) taken during the last two field visits in the Malvern Link area and the Malvern Community Woodland.

The group “action photo” was taken on the October field visit starting from Morrison’s car park when we counted 56 species of native wild plants actually in flower!

Photographs by Ruaridh Macdonald.

Gerry Davies, Group Leader (gerrymiah31@gmail.com 01684 565843)



Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* Autumn berry display. Malvern Community Woodland in September.

Geology Group

The Geology Group's winter programme of talks is now well under way. So far this season we have covered subjects such as the Metal Mines of Spain, the science of Glaciology, the geology of the Malvern hills and the use of 'speleothems', deposits in caves, to study environmental conditions back in geological time. Upcoming talks include:

- February - the Devonian System by group member Richard Edwards
- March - Dating techniques by group member Alan Gray
- April – Plate Tectonics of Welsh Geological History by Dr Nigel Woodcock (Cambridge University)

Our summer outdoor programme has now been agreed, with a number of local and nearby field trips including a three day workshop on the geology of our hills. The programme culminates in a five day trip to the Jurassic Coast in October. We are also actively considering the possibility of a field trip to Fuerteventura in the Canary islands next year. Finally, our smaller sub groups are continuing their more focussed studies in more specific areas of interest; currently fossils, plate tectonics and the quaternary period. If you are interested in joining us, our summer programme is as follows:

April 17	Mortimer Forest
May 16	Welshpool & Newport
June 12-14	The Malverns (field trips & classroom)
July 4	River Terraces
July 25	Ledbury Building Stones
August 15	Malvern Spouts & Stones
September 5	Little Doward
September 19	Hampton Bishop

Camera Group

Clockwise from top left: *Ups and Downs* theme, Allan Collwill; *Ups and Downs* theme, Lorna Blackwell; *Round* theme, Phyl King; *Where Sea Joins the Land*, Janet Farnes; *Prague, Round* theme, Carole Newton



Drama Group

In November, Malvern's Mayor, Cynthia Palmer, joined the audience at The Cube to watch the Drama Group's first performance. The group, which came together in 2016, focuses on bringing modern play texts into performance. Group Leader, Marilyn Birks, says, "Our ethos is that age will not be a barrier to playing any character. When we started there had been no plans to undertake any public performances but when we received an invitation to take part in Malvern's Annual 'FEAST' (the Festival of Equality in Arts and Society through Theatre), group members decided to take the plunge. As you get older learning lines can become more of a challenge and I wanted to ensure this additional stress did not become a barrier to people taking part in performance. For our FEAST performance some actors chose to learn their lines while others performed 'text in hand'. The extracts were drawn from a number of plays, all located in the setting of a local public house, and provided a perspective on human behavior, communication and interaction.



Cynthia Palmer, Mayor, Rosemary Hopkins as Landlady, Doug Whittaker as Landlord.

The performance was followed by a workshop led by Marilyn. Audience members were invited to participate in a short scene from 'Oh What A Lovely War'. "The choice of this text, I thought was appropriate, as it is the Remembrance Day weekend" said Group participant Margaret Vipond. The Mayor joined in the workshop and performed alongside a variety of people, one of whom at 80 years old had never previously done any drama and said, "I feel so energised and stimulated, I just want to learn so much more about performing arts". The performance took place in The Cube café where the actors were embedded amongst the audience. As one member of the audience said "I felt the actors were like real people sitting next to me telling me their story, it was a splendid show."

Walking Group

February 26th : A five mile walk around Upton upon Severn and Hanley Castle. Meet at 9.45 for a 10.00 am start at the free car park opposite the church of St Peter and St Paul in Upton upon Severn, Church Street, WR8 0JQ. SO 850402

Lunch afterwards will be at The Swan, Riverside, Upton. The pub would prefer the pre-booking of lunches and in this connection I will send out a menu in mid February to those who would like to participate.

For further details and to register your interest please contact Malcolm Robinson (email: mtrobinson@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01684 567359.)

March 26th : A daffodil walk in Dymock, leader Mike Hayes - michaelhayes1001@gmail.com

April 30th : leader Maggie Radway - margaret.radway@btinternet.com

May 28th : Walk from the Bell, Bosbury (4.5 miles), leader Roger Hales - rogerhales26@gmail.com

June 25th : From West Malvern Church, through Elim Gardens and west along the hill. Lunch at the Brewers Arms, leader Maggie Rider - mrider355@talktalk.net

Details of walks are on the web page. We also direct mail those who are on our group list. If you don't have internet access and require any information about walks phone Roger Hales 01684 576814

New Group contact: Maggie Radway - margaret.radway@btinternet.com

Camera Group

The November meeting was a selection of 'Photo Essays' presented by members of the group. These sessions give the group a chance to see images from around the world. At November's meeting Richard Beach showed photographs taken on a Malvern twinning visit to Bagnères-de-Bigorre, a traditional spa town in the foothills of the French Pyrenees, and Rosemary McCulloch talked about her visits to Singapore.

The third speaker was Allan Colwill who has spent time in Dominica and was able to show images of the island before and after last year's hurricanes. It was very affecting to see the devastation caused by the storms to such an idyllic island.

The group will have another 'Photo Essay' session in April when we will 'travel' to the Arctic, Ireland and India.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Richard Owen at camera@malvernu3a.org.uk

Tuesday Gardening Group



We meet on the afternoon of the first Tuesday of the month. We enjoyed some unusual and stunning gardens over the course of 2017. Our travels took us from Gloucestershire to Ross on Wye to Kidderminster, but we also visited local gardens such as Little Malvern Court and The Picton Garden in Colwall - there is so much more to see than Michaelmas daisies. The garden at Pear Tree Cottage, Wichenford, was particularly imaginative and quirky. One tree is hung with teapots which apparently are good nesting sites for robins. We begin this year's visits on 6 February at Ivy Croft, Leominster to see snowdrops and early spring flowers.

Travel Group

In October Group members set out to visit six Herefordshire churches, led by Tim Bridges, the Church Building Officer for the Diocese of Hereford. If you want to know anything about churches ask Tim!

The churches were all so varied and each had its own outstanding features. At Marden's medieval church, after looking round, we were supplied with tea and a wonderful selection of homemade cakes

Then it was on to Moreton on Lugg, my personal favourite, with mosaics by Salviati and later mosaics of angels in the nave dating from 1890. Superb!

After time for lunch in Leominster and a look at St Peter and Paul Priory we travelled on to Eardisland and, despite the worsening weather, we were able to see some of the beautiful black and white houses as well as the church of St Mary the Virgin, with its 13th century nave. Kingsland was next with the church of St Michael and all Angels, built by the Mortimers.

Our final stop was at St Leonard's, Yarpole, a very interesting church with a separate bell tower. Here we were once again refreshed with tea and cakes and were able to buy locally sourced goods from the village shop and post office which is situated in the church. A wonderful and very interesting day out.

Can you identify the churches from the photographs below?

Jeni Chesney





**Examples of work from the Patchwork and
Needle Skills Group**

Dina Murdie is awarded the British Empire Medal

Our congratulations to Malvern U3A member Dina Murdie, who has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2018 New Year's Honours List for her services to visually impaired sport over 50 years. She was nominated for the BEM by Goalball UK – the national governing body for this sport which was originally developed for visually impaired World War II veterans. In the 1980's, Dina helped set up the first GB Women's Goalball team. Since then she has been involved in the sport both as a coach and as a referee. Now she trains and tests referees throughout GB and around the world. Dina says this sounds glamorous but can be quite taxing! The highlight of her refereeing career was to officiate in the Paralympic Games in London 2012 where she had both a women's semi-final and final.

In 2017, Dina also received a Torch Trophy Award – given to volunteers working in various sports to nurture youngsters in their local communities. As Leader of the Table Tennis Group, Dina is an active supporter of Malvern U3A. `And she reports that the size of that group just goes on growing!

*Mimosa tree in flower on
Wells Road*

Photograph by Richard
Winterton who sent it in
to show us that Spring is
on the way.



News from U3A Cotswold Link

Annual General Meeting

The U3A Cotswold Link AGM will be held on 22 March 2018. Droitwich U3A is hosting the meeting this year, and the main guest speaker will be Pam Jones, the National Chairman.

Study Day 2018

This year the Study Day will be held in Cheltenham on 3 July 2018 and will focus on "The Great Outdoors". Further details will be available later.

Committee Vacancy

U3A Cotswold Link is looking for someone to fill the post of Secretary on its Committee. For more information, contact the Chairman, Jane Flynn, via the website.

Malvern U3A

Charity number 1069591

Learn, Laugh and Live!



National Office amendments to the Articles of Association of the Third Age Trust

Hello everyone

On the 18th December 2017, National office sent all U3As details of changes to be made to the 'Object' clause of our constitutions – as National were changing their Articles of Association of the Third Age Trust in the same way. They state that "after consulting the Charity Commission we have been advised that all activity carried out by a U3A must be charitable and within the Object clause in its constitution". (The letter and attachments are available to you on our branch website. The Trust Articles of Association can be seen on their website).

The Trust is holding an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) at Birmingham University on 21st March 2018 in order to ratify their new Articles. The Trustees of Malvern Branch will at some point invite you to our own EGM to consider the wording of our Objects so that we're compliant with the request from National Office. In the meantime, National Office have referred this matter to a charity lawyer.

Following their discussion with the Charity Commission, National office, in their attachment “Financial Matters” (18/12/2018), have included procedures that all Branches are asked to have in place.

It is important to note that some of these issues, if not adhered to, may have consequences for insurance purposes.

The Malvern Trustees feel that we comply with most of their directives but we do need to ensure the following:-

- National have been advised by the Charity Commission that “only U3A activities that fall within the charitable object will be insured”. In other words, only activities included in a U3A account and report will be insured. (As secretary I am required to submit our accounts and a report to Charity Commission annually).
- Cheques must be signed by TWO TRUSTEES
- Banking arrangements MUST NOT be under the control of group conveners
- U3As must not make payments using personal credit cards or cheques because of the lack of Trustee control in relation to authorising expenditure.
- No U3A monies are to be paid into personal bank accounts and cheques to be made payable to Malvern U3A
- We are reminded again that no event organiser should benefit from any discount, eg a free place. Any discount etc is to be shared with event participants.
- All Group Leaders should I think, read the passage ‘Digression from Ethos’ and ‘Risks to U3A’ please. It is fundamental to the U3A ethos that teaching is by the members. Occasionally there are paid speakers eg. the monthly meetings, and this is acceptable. In other words, groups paying speakers on a regular basis are digressing from the U3A ethos.

Malvern Branch Trustees will endeavour to make any changes as appropriate and as easy as possible for Group Leaders and our members. If you have any questions, please contact a Trustee.

Jenny Jackson

On behalf of Malvern Branch Trustees

29 January 2018



Barry Barber, Camera Group

Speakers' topics for our Monthly Meeting - 2pm at The Cube

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

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

27 February	<i>Half-timbered Herefordshire</i> , by Penny Platt
27 March	<i>Medieval Hospitals</i> , by Tim Porter
24 April	<i>A Visit to India</i> Dr Jan Long will talk about her experiences in India, where she was immunizing children against polio
29 May	<i>Setting out an ambitious programme for U3A nationally - and in our region</i> , by Auriol Ainley, U3A National Trustee for the West Midlands.

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 that contributions may be edited.

The deadline for the May edition is

Monday 23 April 2018