

"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." Stephen Hawking

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Cover photo: *Andromeda,* by Chris Baddiley, Astronomy and Astrophysics Group

#### **CHAIR'S NOTES**

Finally, finally, it looks as though the bitter weather has loosened its grip and it is just possible we may enjoy some glorious weather in the weeks ahead.

I must start by sending congratulations on behalf of us all to the 2018 Mastermind Champion: Brian Chesney. Many of us will have watched awestruck as he sailed through the Final with an outstanding score of 32. His quiet demeanor hides a prodigious knowledge and we are extremely fortunate to have him as a trustee.

Now however to more official matters. We are about to be assailed by an attack of bureaucracy, brace yourselves, namely: "Data Protection." Due to a forthcoming change in the law we, as trustees, are required to ask, in due course, each and every one of you to confirm that you give consent to the information you supply on your membership application to be held on our database. The 2018 application form will be modified so that on joining you will be signing to give this consent. We cannot contact you about any Malvern U3A events without this information and it goes without saying that we do not share this information with anybody other than the facility which addresses our envelopes.

After several years of stirling work, Annette Maxted is retiring as Groups Co-ordinator. Annette has done a fantastic job keeping tabs on the many thriving and varied groups and their leaders and I cannot thank her enough, but we are now looking for someone to step into her shoes and take on the role of liaising with and supporting Group Leaders. If you could possibly be that person, or suspect you might know someone who is, please step forward. Annette is the first port of call for anyone wishing to start a new group. She also writes a super informative monthly bulletin but she assures me that the web manager does all the computer stuff.

Jeff Thorogood has some excellent guest speakers lined up for the forthcoming monthly meetings. Remember they are on the last Tuesday in the month at 2.0pm at The Cube. I do hope to meet many of you there, also attracted no doubt by the biscuits, tea and the post talk chat.

Stop Press: Spring really is here. Four swallows have just arrived and are considering renovations to their nests.

Sue Lamberton

# FROM THE TRUSTEES ...

#### Brian Chesney - Mastermind Champion

Many congratulations to Brian Chesney who has won the title of Mastermind in the 2017/2018 season of the challenging BBC quiz show. His specialist subjects during this series were: The Life of Harold Wilson, The Giordano Bruno Novels of S J Parris and The Revolt in the Netherlands 1568-1609. This was Brian's second bid for the title - in 2014 he also reached the Final, achieving the same score as the winning contender, but gaining one too many passes. He has been in many other contests on radio and television – a runner up in Brain of Britain 2015; World Quizzing Champion in his age group the following year – but winning Mastermind is a high point. Many of you will



know Brian as a Malvern U3A Trustee and through his involvement with several Groups, and perhaps will have followed his progress through the contest to his impressive performance in the Grand Final in March.

Jeni Chesney's photo shows Brian with the famous Mastermind Trophy.

# A Day in the Life of a Technical Manager

As I approach the end of my term as a Trustee responsible for U3A equipment, I thought it might be useful to give my successor a heads up on what the role involves. It is far from onerous as I get to mess about with computers, projectors and amplifiers and make sure that groups using U3A equipment are able to illustrate their talks and presentations – I also give a little computer support here and there, and that's basically it. I am sure there is someone out there in our membership who, like me, enjoys tinkering with equipment. Just drop me an email to peter@thecorfields.com and we can get together for a chat.

Peter Corfield

#### **Newsletter- opt in or out?**

When you renew your membership this autumn, either online or at the Malvern U3A Groups Fair on 3 September, the registration form will ask if you want to continue receiving the Newsletter by post. If you decide you no longer want to be sent hard copies, you'll still be able to find the Newsletter, together with back numbers, on the website (malvernu3a.org.uk)

# **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Further to the Chair's Notes on page 3, many of you will be aware that from 25th May 2018 the new GDPR legislation becomes effective. This has implications for how U3A branches obtain, process & manage information from their members. I attended a workshop in Birmingham in April and this subject was the main item so I was able to get advice relevant to Malvern Branch group leaders and members which I will pass on to you as soon as I can. As they say – 'watch this space'! One item I have been asked about is email security and this is something the Trustees have advised on before. However, below is recent advice from National office as they too get lots of questions about the following:

"Email Security: When sending an email to a number of recipients, to avoid revealing their names and address to the other people in the email make sure you use blind carbon copy (bcc), NOT carbon copy (cc). This is an important part of the compliance with data protection"

Jenny Jackson, General Secretary

# **News from National Office**

#### A new constitution

Hundreds of U3A members took part in shaping the future direction of the national charity at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held at the University of Birmingham's Great Hall on 21st March.

The proposed changes to the constitution, which were passed by the members, included a strengthening of the charity's Object clause and a change to the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### **Motoring and Bikers**

Following a number of inquiries to national office regarding motoring insurance, Account Director of A J Gallagher, Tony Carlile says "Our usual insurance policies include cover for motoring groups which meet up in cars or on motorcycles and visit various locations although the primary cover is of course provided by the motor insurance.

"Under no circumstances does the U3A insurance cover extend to any form of driving instruction, vehicle maintenance or motoring advice".

#### Sign up for the U3A National E-Newsletter

Visit u3a.org.uk/email and fill in your details for news, events and national updates direct to your inbox.

#### **U3A National Summer Schools 2018**

#### 23-26 July and 11-14 September

**The July Summer School** will be at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire. Courses include: cryptic crosswords; France; garden history; literature; opera; maths; recorders; Spanish history and ukelele.

**The September School** is at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Courses include: art history; creative writing; classic albums of the 50s and 60s; drama; poetry; language; Latin; musicals; singing and the French Revolution.

For further information about current availability of courses together with booking details visit summer-schools.u3a.org.uk

# **Photography Competition**

#### Can you capture the spirit of the U3A?

Source, the educational journal of the U3A, is looking for some great photographs to showcase the U3A movement. They want pictures of members ".... doing U3A things - whether it's a shot of your family history group trawling local archives, or your kayaking group tackling a swirling brook...." Entries should be submitted via sources.u3a.org.uk, or on Twitter using the hashtag #u3a. Winning submissions will receive a limited edition U3A mug.

# **U3A Cotswold Link**

### Special Interest Day: The Great Outdoors

Tues 3 July 2018 - The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6PN Coffee will be served at 10.00am for a 10.30am start to the day which will finish at 3.45pm. Lunch and refreshments will be included. A day planned to show members the delights of the countryside from a variety of perspectives and interests with the following specialist speakers:

**Des Ong** - Professional photographer who has travelled widely, capturing locations and wildlife in all its variety

**David Viner** - Heritage Adviser for the Canals & Waterways Trust who will speak about his work and attractions in the southwest and the midlands

A speaker from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will talk about the latest developments within the work of the Trust and future plans for the local area

**Tim Barnes** - from the Cotswold Gliding Club will introduce us to the joys of seeing the outside world from a different position!

More information: www.u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link

# **News from Members**

# **Astronomy and Astrophysics**



The control room in Chris Baddiley's observatory

The Astrophysics and Astronomy course finished just before Easter. I am most grateful to everyone who attended for making it such a good and stimulating year. Topics covered during the year were solar and stellar evolution physics, the dynamics of the Milky Way and other galaxies, and we spent much time on instrumentation, atomic theory, the four forces of nature, particle and nuclear physics etc and the nature of quantum reality. The study of geometry of spacetime - special and general relativity, the universe in four dimensions, and cosmology... the evolution of the universe - came later in the year.

The same topics are covered each year and the course is all in Powerpoint, with many illustrative pictures and diagrams for each section. Some members re-join – perhaps for occasional sessions – to catch up with topics they missed or didn't understand the first time around. The course will start again in October. Please contact me for more information.

Chris Baddiley 01886 880047 cjbaddiley@gmail.com

# **Creative Writing Group 3**

#### The First Christmas in 1942, by Rosalie Evans

Monika has been trying to get the stove to light for the last half hour, there is soot everywhere and now the children are getting fidgety, so, she decides to leave it, she has done all she can.

The children's parents John and Mary are in Abergavenny getting rationed supplies and to queue for oranges brought by a boat which escaped German submarine torpedoes, they should be back soon providing weather conditions don't get worse.

She has been in Wales for a few months now seconded here by the Ministry of Ag Fish and Food, this will be her first Christmas away from her homeland.

She dresses Annie four years old and Will one year old in their warm coats made by their Mummy, and they go out into the falling snow to collect the eggs. They walk, leaving sooty footprints, run, laugh and fall in the snow, across the orchard to the hen house. Annie tells Monika that it is important to close and lock the door or the hens will escape and be caught by the fox, she has been shown she says.

They go back to the house across the orchard, they are walking around in the kitchen looking at the soot and mess when there is a knock at the door. The Vicar's wife has come to see them, they love Helen and rush to her to be hugged.

John and Mary arrive and come into the very messy kitchen and little sooty footprints everywhere, but where is Monika? Annie says 'She is with the Chickens' - Will nods his head.

(Rosalie is also a member of Creative Writing Group 1)



*Round* theme, *Falkirk Wheel at Night* Colin Davies, Camera Group

# **Genealogy and Family History Group**

On a cold wet Tuesday in February, the Group did not meet as usual at the Baptist Church Hall, Great Malvern! Instead, a group of us met in the nice warm confines of the Worcester Hive library and research centre, on a visit organised by member Carol Addison. She had arranged for us to have a guided tour with Paul, a member of the library staff. He welcomed us and explained the concept and lay-out of the library, itemising useful areas for our research (see photograph). He then led us to where we could find life stories and social history through census returns, the IGI, and the Registry of Births Marriages and Deaths - using the library's FREE programmes of "Ancestry. co.uk" and "Find My Past". Paul showed us where to locate records of local newspapers, wills and probate records, as well as journals, trade and clerical directories, and also historic Ordinance Survey records and digitally-accessed archaeological sites, for our research studies. Lastly, he took us to the secure underground vaults to see the ancient manuscripts and rare precious records from centuries of history. Our visit provided a glimpse of the wealth of collected historical documents, now freely available to us, and of which early genealogists could only have dreamt!



Our group is informal and enthusiastic, comprising experienced researchers to absolute beginners. We cover a wide range of topics which can be viewed on the webpage. New members are always welcome and help can be given with research if required. Please contact Gwen Evans on 01684 491564 or email at gwene97@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

# **Creative Writing Group 2 - The Conservatory Group**

In 2013 we became the 'Overflow Group' for Mo's first group. Initially we met at Maisie Smith's, a graduate from that group. After she moved away we decided to carry on meeting at my home, in the conservatory. Since then we have become a gathering of eight regular enthusiasts, which is just the right size.

Following the U3A mantra we democratically learn from each other. I'm only the group convenor/coffee provider not the teacher! Members will agree that what keeps us motivated is good humour, open mindedness and an ability to share lots of our life experiences. We don't have a structured programme but each month choose a random topic (like Gardens, The Scream, Away with the Fairies or Spies). Then we go away and create our own short stories/ poems which we present as a ten minute presentation to our colleagues. We are always amazed by how differently and interestingly we have developed the same topic and what wide discussions follow. Positive feedback from members is reassuring and over time everyone's writing confidence has grown. Most of us are modest about our achievements, not desperate to be published. though several have successfully got their writing 'in print'. More, we enjoy the process of using our work to keep our brains 'in gear' and the fun of finding others listen eagerly to what we have created. If you feel the same way and are inspired to pen words then why not set up another 'overflow' group to stimulate more wordsmiths? I can guarantee there will not be a dull or boring moment!! Below are short examples volunteered by three of our members.

Heather Whatley, Convenor, April 2018

# 'Tis you 'tis you --- Mo

Dear Mo this is for you- where did you go?
You welcomed me in- you gave me a start
Now you've moved on but left no address
Take note one day soon we'll meet up again
Exchange our memories as we did 'back in't day'
When you helped me turn my thoughts into text
You helped me to live, my days came alive as I scribbled my stories
Tis true, I battle to keep a dry eye
Memories of you arise swamping my mind
Mo 'tis you 'tis you

Therese Fuerst (former member of Creative Writing Group 1)
June 2016

# Splash of Blood

The little boy had never seen red snow before. It was as if some great cosmic artist had idly swept his blood laden brush over the verge and into the ditch.

The colour reminded him of the jacket his mother had so carefully ironed the previous evening. He wanted to shout out, to show his dad, to share with him the great discovery. But it was too late.

The pack had destroyed the virgin crispness of the snow, and his father, resplendent in scarlet, high in the saddle, arm raised in triumph, was disappearing, over the brow of the hill.

Stuart Stockley March 2018

# My Cat

The sun raps at my door
I pick a handful of dandelions
For my cat

She is unimpressed Basking on a log pile She ignores me for the sun

Midges cluster overhead An angry bee drones away Showered in grass clippings

Beyond the pond
The stream gurgles downhill
And is lost in the river

My cat yawns
Oblivious and indolent
Punished by sun and love
Michela Wells April 1999



Gwen Evans, Camera Group

# **Understanding Ourselves**

This winter's Understanding Ourselves Group had some unexpected difficulties. First there was a cold in the head, which led to a postponement. Then there was cold in the weather – the 'Beast from the East' and its snow – which caused a second postponement. Then, just as we were launched on the work, there came the 'Mini-Beast', causing a third postponement. In the end the later part of the work had to be completed twice in two smaller groups. Finally we all got there. And by then there was general agreement that already we were understanding and appreciating ourselves better – and understanding and appreciating other people better too. 'Interesting and informative' one member wrote; 'fascinating' wrote another; 'enjoyed it very much'; 'we loved the course'

For more details contact John and Elizabeth Staley, 32 St Ann's Road, Malvern R14 4RG 01684 574392 js@cmail.co.uk



Morning, Noon & Night theme, Phyl King, Camera Group.

# **Travel Group**

On a fresh but dry day in April, the Travel Group went to Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, near Cheltenham. It was of great interest to us all. The photo shows a sculpture of the bull, Inspiration, which is 3.3 metres high, created by the artist Dave Danson Hall.



Richard Shenton

#### **Dawn's Dawdlers**

About fifteen members set off from Wynds Point,on a damp and misty morning in February to head downhill steeply, skirting the reservoir and following the stream on a rocky and slippery path to the open area of land surrounded by the hills. We came to Little Malvern, walking along the lane flanked by a high topiary hedge. We called in at the Priory and enjoyed the snowdrops and heather filled grounds, before climbing back up the steep and winding main



road to the British Camp carpark. After a few minutes to get our breath back we retreated to the Malvern Hills Hotel for a well-earned lunch.

Dawn Retout-Du-Trevou



### **Tuesday Garden Group – 2018 Programme**

Meetings held on 1st Tuesday of the month

Group Leaders: Wendy Davies and Janet Jackson

June 5 Visit to Aulden Farm, Aulden, Leominster, HR6 OJT

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 12.30

July 3 Visit to Grendon Court, Upton Bishop, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7QP

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1 pm

August 7 Visit to Shuttifield Cottage, Birchwood, Storridge, WR13 5HA

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.30 pm

September 4 Visit to Morton Hall, Morton Hall Lane, Holberrow Green,

Redditch B96 6SJ

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1pm for 2pm visit.

October 2 Visit to The Dell House and 223 Wells Road, WR14 4HU

Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1 pm for 1.30 pm visit.

November 6 PLANNING MEETING at Wendy Davies' house, 3 Lindfield, 12 Avenue Road, WR14 3AL - park in Avenue Road or Tibberton Road.

Please bring a small plate of food and plenty of ideas for 2019.

We will also be having a plant swap. TIME: 2.30PM CHARGE: 50p

PLEASE TELEPHONE WENDY (575996) OR JANET (561902) TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING OR NOT

Also bring ample money to cover cost of entrance, refreshments and petrol REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ALL VENUES



Spiral theme, Sand Art, Ludswigburg, Allan Colwill, Camera Group

# **Geology Group**

A group of our members recently continued their efforts to walk the complete length of the Abberley & Malvern Geopark, which takes in parts of the five counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The Geopark Way is a 109 mile route meandering throughout the Geopark taking in interesting geological features. Starting in Bridgeport and finishing in Gloucester, the trail covers 700 million years of geological history. The route is split into 17 one day walks and on 4th April the group walked the seventh section of the Way following the ridge line from Abberley to Martley. The weather was dull and wet (what else?) and the going underfoot was muddy and steep. The initial climb up onto Walsgrove Hill was challenging, but Woodbury Hill and Rodge Hill were easier. We passed Woodbury Quarry, now disused but providing stunning views of vertical Silurian rock formations (see picture overleaf) said to be unique and the best example of this period in the Welsh borderlands. Unfortunately for geologists, the quarry is no longer accessible.

Whilst the walk itself was worth the effort, the icing on the cake was a visit to the 161ft high Abberley Clock Tower (see photo below) in the grounds of Abberley Hall School. Built in 1884 by John Joseph Jones as a memorial to



his cousin, Joseph Jones, who had left Abberley Hall and many acres of land in Worcestershire to him. Sadly, the clock is no longer working and looks in need of serious and expensive renovation. There are currently only five bells remaining from the original 21.

The poor weather meant we could not take full advantage of the stunning views that the Tower commands. However, the trip to the top up a narrow spiral staircase to the fascinating clock and bell rooms was still worth it. To say it was constructed like a Heath Robinson machine is no exaggeration!

Roger Hunt



Woodbury Quarry, Roger Hunt, Geology Group

# **Creative Writing Group 3**

Creative Writing 3 meets monthly. We undertake short writing tasks during the meeting and share pieces, usually between 500 and 750 words, which we have written to a theme for the next meeting. Here is a series of poems that I wrote on the theme of 'The Seven Deadly Sins'

Kate Standish Hayes

#### The Seven Deadly Sins

#### Envy

"Why them, not me? I work hard, I try!"
Invidious, jealous thoughts have become
The apple of my jaundiced eye
My sad, resentful Schadenfreude
Leaves me spiteful, dog-in-the-manger.
Its piercing green eyes malignant amidst corrosive snarls

#### Gluttony

Voracious, insatiable craving Mouthwatering, succulent squandering "Eyes-bigger-than-stomach" grazing Binging on luscious delights Gorging, then wolfing down more

Obese, profligate indulgence; whilst the gaunt underbelly yearns

#### Lust

Hedonistic, carnal desires Unfettered licentious devotion Hot-blooded debauchery devours Leaving wanton, fleshly gains Karma Sutra, not Cupid, reigns Lechery overwhelms affection, true love and connection

#### Wrath/anger

Seethe, stew, scream, burn, bristle, boil! Flare-up, rant, settle the score! Flaming red mist, hate, bait, rile, Enrage, explode, madden - and more! "I don't care! They deserve it!" "Olive branch? Forget it! Vengeance is mine!"

#### Greed

The venal worshipper of Mammon Consumed by covetous desire Vainly attempts to fill the hollow, Bottomless pit of his own avarice "It's all mine, work harder" Rapacious, grasping, mercenary, the predator exhausts his prey

#### Sloth

Apathy, idleness, inaction Decisions made by omission Disengagement, "Not my problem!" Guilty through association Languid, torpid, slow, heavy, dull Laziness, indolence, passively trudging towards harm; hurt

#### Pride

Arrogant, haughty, self-satisfied The deadliest of all the sins is pride. Narcissism, distain, smug conceit Better, superior, vain - deceit! Hubris destroys the moral soul

You may shame, condescend, self-glorify; but in the end all must die



Examples of work from the Patchwork and Needle Skills Group

# The Wednesday Singers

The Wednesday Singers formerly, Malvern U3A Singers, urgently require a pianist who is able to attend meetings, if not every week, once a fortnight. We meet every Wednesday afternoon in the Upper Hall by Trinity Church. Contact Ann Peach, 01684 562718 adp.2ndsoprano@btinternet.com

# Notice Board

# Social Debate Group

The Social Debate Group has changed its venue from Viscount Cobham Court to Church Meadow Court, Graham Rd, Malvern WR14

New Contact:

Ray Gardner, 01684 899366, raymondgardner1@sky.com

# **Carry on Computing**

It seems that everyone now has a computer or is required to get one, particularly to access the Internet. I joined a U3A computer group more than twenty years ago, initially meeting at John King's home. As the group increased in size, we moved to the Manor Park Sports Club, and renamed it 'Carry on Computing'. In 2014 I volunteered to lead the Group when John stepped down, although he continued to attend meetings and we have remained friends. I want to thank John King for starting the group and being such a good leader for so many years. I would also like to thank John Tuckey, for helping at meetings and collecting the money, and Richard Owen, who has helped people with Apple computers. Thanks also to the many U3A members who have loyally attended the meetings.

Unfortunately in 2015 I suffered a stroke and spent seven months in hospital. I was very well looked after by the NHS and have been since. John King took over the group while I was in hospital. Fortunately, I survived the stroke and my higher brain functions remain intact. My only problems are a lack of balance, speech difficulties and tiring more easily. I have struggled on as group leader but I am now finding it difficult to continue. I also feel that my interests in computing diverge from the majority of members as, unlike them, I do not use Microsoft Windows operating systems, nor Apple computers. I use the Linux operating system. If anyone would like to become leader of the group, or form a new one which is more in tune with other members' interests, please contact:

Annette Maxted, Groups Co-ordinator on groups@malvernu3a.org.uk Dave Wardle

## 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.

**29 May** *Not a Tourist on this Passage to India* - **Dr Jan Long** describes how she accepted the challenge from Rotary to visit Delhi for the purpose of immunising children as part of the global eradication of Polio, the killer disease. She recounts the highs and lows, colour and squalor, courage, tears and smiles – and what happened on her return!

**26 June** *The Tudor Bishops of Worcester* - **Philip Bowen** will talk about saints, sinners, heretics, refugees, exiles, four Italians and a poisoner. The 16th century Bishops of Worcester often played significant and even dramatic roles in the turbulent and religious history of the Tudors. It's a fascinating tale.

**31 July** *Why Your Posture is More Important Than You Think* - Karen Harris-Wakenshaw is a posture alignment therapist - and Pershore U3A has formed its own very well-attended group as a result of her talk to them. Karen says that the body works best as a unit when it becomes a sum of all its parts. Learn how these things affect you – and what you can do about it.

#### August No Meeting

#### 25 September A View from the Podium - with David Curtis

An exploration of the conductor's world – from ice-swimming in Finland and running the London Marathon to conducting in New York's Carnegie Hall and the Istanbul International Festival. Not forgetting conducting The Orchestra of The Swan many times in the Forum

**30 October** *Fifty Plants That Changed the Course of History* - with **Bill Laws** The opium poppy is a garden delight, but what did it do for India? Whatever happened to our magnificent corn halls? And is it time to legalise *Cannabis sativa* so that we can profit from it in our own back yards? Author Bill Laws reveals his top ten favourite plant stories, taken from the best-selling *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History* 

#### **N**EWSLETTER

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 October edition is

Friday 21 September 2018