

# MALVERN NEWSLETTER

Nº 87 AUTUMN 2018

**Annual General Meeting**  
Tuesday 27th November  
The Cube, Albert Road North

**Christmas lunch**  
Friday 14th December  
Worcestershire Golf Club  
Menu and booking form enclosed

## U3A Committee (Trustees)

Chair:	<b>Sue Lamberton</b> e-mail: chair@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01886 830050
General Secretary:	<b>Jenny Jackson</b> e-mail: secretary@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 491632
Treasurer:	<b>John Knee</b> <i>Until November 2018</i> e-mail: treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 565378
Membership Secretary:	<b>Brenda Johnson</b> e-mail: membership@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 491524
New Members Secretary	<b>Linda Scott</b> e-mail: newmembers@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 569659
Groups Co-ordinator:	<b>Annette Maxted</b> <i>Until November 2018</i> e-mail: groups@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 566208
Speakers Organiser:	<b>Jeff Thorogood</b> e-mail: speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01886 832764
Venues Co-ordinator:	<b>Brian Chesney</b> e-mail: roombook@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 891999
Technical Officer:	<b>Peter Corfield</b> <i>Until November 2018</i> e-mail: technical@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 893226
Website Manager:	<b>John Elkington</b> e-mail: webmanager@malvernu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor:	<b>Tessa Hartog</b> e-mail: newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk Phone: 01684 562411
Trustee:	<b>Roger Hunt</b> e-mail: rmrhunt@sky.com Phone: 01684 565926

Cover photo: Gap Theme, Len Cornish, Camera Group

## CHAIR'S NOTES

The summer seems to have flown past and I suspect it will long be remembered as the one when the sun was always shining. Many of us will no doubt recall 1976 as the last comparable summer. Oh how we have all changed since then. I am certainly less supple, much stouter and possessed of a far worse memory. However the growing membership of Malvern U3A indicates that we are all still making the effort to remain well informed, alert and ready for new experiences and new friendships.

The Groups' Fair, otherwise known as Registration Day, was a tremendous success, a testament to the skill and forethought of the co-ordinator Annette. Well over 100 groups were represented, including several new ones which have started up since the last Fair. Many people, new and returning, commented on both the excellent organisation and the layout of the event. Our membership has now reached the rarified heights of more than 1700 and shows no sign of faltering. Malvern clearly has more than its fair share of lively minded residents.

The happy news is that we now have a replacement Treasurer for the Travel Group and at this point I must give heartfelt thanks to Sue Norcross who has filled this role with such efficiency for five years.

Our Annual General Meeting, on the last Tuesday of November, is rapidly approaching and I hope that a great many of our members will be able to attend, when the Trustees will attempt to clarify the mandatory changes to our constitution demanded by The Charity Commission, the National Body of the U3A and the Data Protection Act. The Agenda and papers for the AGM will be sent out during the next few weeks.

Meanwhile let us hope we all enjoy the last of the sunshine and have a golden October.

Sue Lamberton





# FROM THE TRUSTEES .....

## Malvern U3A Christmas Lunch

Hello everyone

This year's Malvern Branch Christmas Lunch is on **Friday 14TH December at Worcestershire Golf Club at 1.00 pm**. The menu/booking form is enclosed with this newsletter BUT PLEASE NOTE that this year you have a choice of having TWO COURSES (£20 per person) **OR** THREE COURSES (£23).

The booking form can also be printed from our website. The closing date for orders is Friday 30th November. There are 80 places available and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

***Could I remind you please that I send you your tickets and therefore, apart from your cheque in full payment, I require a stamped addressed envelope with your order form. (I was short of a few SAE's last year!)***

I do hope you will come and join us. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Jackson, Secretary Malvern U3A



## Dr Jan Long's Talk to our Monthly Meeting on 29th May

### ***Not a Tourist on This Passage to India***

Jan gave us a splendidly comprehensive and excellently illustrated talk, full of wit and humour, of her visit to India in connection with the Rotary International and Bill Gates Foundation for the elimination worldwide of Poliomyelitis. As you may know polio is a devastating life-changing and life-threatening disease. Some of the pictures that Jan showed us were heart-warming and heart-rending. The good news is that thanks to the Rotary/Gates endeavours polio has now been virtually eliminated throughout the world, so that's great news, isn't it? And Jan was able to join us after her talk for the regular (free!) tea and biscuits.

If you are not a regular attendee at the Monthly Meetings, why not give them a try? See the back cover of this Newsletter for details of forthcoming meetings.

Jeff Thorogood, Speakers Organiser



# News from National Office

## Appointment of New Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer

At the national annual conference and AGM in August, Ian McCannah of Potters Bar U3A in Hertfordshire was appointed as the new Chair of the Third Age Trust's Board of Directors, taking over from Pam Jones. Hilary Jones, from Flintshire U3A and formerly the Trustee representing Wales, is the new Vice Chair and Richard Teare, of Knole U3A in Kent, is the new Treasurer.

Ian McCannah, originally from Manchester, has lived in the South East since 1969. His career was in international banking, but he describes himself as "a frustrated historian". He became a national Trustee in 2014, representing London, and was appointed Vice Chair two years later. He describes his aims for his chairmanship as follows, "In the next three years, I hope to make more third agers aware of the benefits of joining the U3A, to meet as many members across the UK as possible, and to ensure that the Trust's finance and governance continues to be well managed."

For more information visit [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk)

## FROM MEMBERS .....

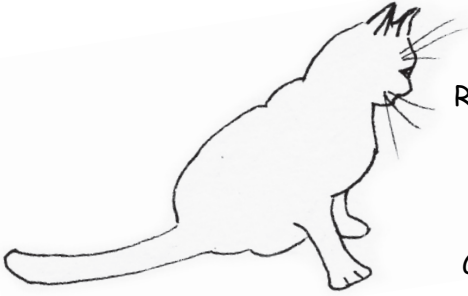
### The Good Beer Group



Group members, with Peanut the spaniel, at Highley Station on their Severn Valley Railway trip at the end of August.

## Cathedral Cat

By Shirley Vizard



In the dark reaches of the night,  
Two golden orbs are shining bright.  
Round the back of the Cathedral he stalks,  
Swishing tail and padding paws.  
Two more shapes flick tails and scamper  
By darkened walls and shadowy aisle.  
Away from danger,  
Giving up the chase on the cushioned pew,  
He relaxes and ponders  
On living in this vast domain:  
One more cat in a privileged chain.

Shirley is a member of the Travel Group and describes how she was inspired to write and illustrate her poem after their visit to Wells last year: "I got into conversation with one of the volunteers at the Cathedral and when I asked after the cat whom I had seen on a previous visit I heard that he had been retired from Cathedral duties, after 13 years! One of the staff had given him a home for his 'retirement'. What was amazing was that another stray had appeared a few days after and is now installed as official Cathedral Cat! On my return home the poem seemed to come about all on its own, surprisingly, as I'm not in the habit of writing verse at all! It is well known that most cathedrals have a 'guardian' cat".



*Wings theme, Angus McCulloch, Camera Group*

## Welsh Culture Group

Kate Jefferies reports on the Group's September meeting: in the first half, members David and Georgina James talked on "Hatched and Matched" in Wales. Georgina told us about the horrific statistics of infant and maternal mortality rates in the 1800s and why they were so much worse than those in England.

Then David spoke on a lighter note about Welsh courtship, including telling us all about 'Bundling'. After the coffee break, we enjoyed hearing the entries from our Eisteddfod and were amazed at how good and how moving they all were.

It was a very interesting and informative morning and our thanks go to everyone who took part.

### **Neville Mills describes the Group's voyage on the *Waverley***

Built in Glasgow in 1946 the paddle steamer *Waverley* was the second ship to bear this name, the first having been sunk at Dunkirk in 1940. Restored by a group of enthusiasts between 1974 and 2006 she is now the world's only seagoing paddle steamer in regular service.

The Welsh Culture Group decided that the visit of the grand old lady to Penarth was an opportunity not to be missed. Sixteen members therefore travelled by coach from Malvern on 4th September to Penarth Pier to meet the *Waverley* on her arrival from Cliveden where we joined a full complement of passengers for the return trip. We then set sail up the Severn estuary to view the Portishead and Avonmouth docks before passing under both Severn bridges and returning to Cliveden. Our return voyage to Penarth took us sailing down the estuary before passing between the islands of Flatholm and Grassholm.

For most members this was a voyage of nostalgia, some recounting trips aboard similar vessels on seaside holidays in the 1950s and 60s, and the engine compartment was well visited throughout the voyage by both male and female members of the party. The experience of sailing on this historic vessel more than compensated for the slightly inclement weather and the fact that the restaurant ran out of food. So our thanks to Sue Price for taking us on this memorable outing.



Group members sailing  
on the *Waverley*



## The Military History Group



Don Handy reports on the Group's recent trip to Belgium: Excellently organised by Jim and Joan Murphy, 26 of us were based at Ypres, where we had very interesting on-the-ground and in-depth talks by Mark Tovey and Alan Gray about some of the major battles and incidents that occurred around the Ypres Salient during the first World War.

The photo above shows the group at Messine by the statue to commemorate the Christmas truce of 1914. Little did anyone realise at the time that the war would go on for nearly another four years, and of all the horrors and deaths that would occur.

Each night at 8.00 pm at the Menin gate in Ypres the Last Post is played and we were fortunate that one of our group, Pam Turner, played *Going Home* on the bagpipes at the ceremony, a very moving and emotional moment.



## Estimations Group

Start your week with a laugh! A ten-week series of Estimations games began in September, and will run until Monday 26 November.

Estimations is a cross between whist and bridge, more interesting than the former and much less complex (or serious) than the latter. After the cards

are dealt, players estimate how many tricks they will win, which becomes more difficult as the number of cards given decreases in each round. After play a point is awarded for each trick gained, plus a bonus of ten for an exact call.

Beginners are welcome, the game is fun and easy to learn, and you will pick it up fast! Having a 'BAD' hand does not preclude anyone from winning, and there are no partners to get mad at you!

Join us at the Cube, Malvern from 10 am to 12 pm on Monday mornings.

To find out more please contact Ashley Butterfield at [butterfieldashley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:butterfieldashley@yahoo.co.uk), or phone him on 01531 650029, or simply come along on any Monday and give it a try!







Work by members  
of Painting 2 Group





## Quiz Group



The Quiz Group has been a success from its first meeting on a very hot day in June. Following the Groups Fair in September there are now over 60 signed-up members who are invited to take their turn as quiz masters for the monthly gatherings. Questions are on a wide range of subjects and, so far, have included the following (see answers below)

1. Who was Ronald Reagan's first wife?
2. What was Portugal's currency before the Euro?
3. Which musical instrument was on the soundtrack to the film Genevieve?
4. Which four UK cities have underground railways?
5. Which artist painted the portrait, Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy?

The meetings are held from 2.15 to 4.00 pm on the last Friday of the month (omitting December) at St Andrew's Church Hall in Poolbrook. New members are welcome - either with others or as individuals, as people are allocated to teams on arrival.

For further information please contact the Group Leader, Liz Daniels, on 01684 540904 or [elizabethdaniel274@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdaniel274@gmail.com) or visit the website, [malvernu3a.org.uk](http://malvernu3a.org.uk)

*1 Jane Wyman, 2 The Escudo, 3 Harmonica/mouth organ,  
4 Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Newcastle, 5 David Hockney*

## Geology Group

The Geology group continued its programme of field trips during the summer. These included a three-day trip and workshop session aimed at understanding the Malvern Hills, and a visit to the ancient river terraces of the Severn valley between Severn Stoke and Callow End. An added bonus on this latter trip included access to the Croome Panorama Tower which provides stunning views over the surrounding countryside.

More recently there were the ever popular walks to study the building stones of Malvern town and Ledbury. In September, members of the group travelled to the Little Doward which is a prominent feature near Monmouth and part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Here the group were able to identify a series of rocks laid down over a period of 50 million years when Britain was south of the equator and slowly drifting northwards. In addition, the opportunity to walk parts of the Wye gorge illustrated the unusual creation of the gorge known as 'superimposed drainage'. Meanwhile our subgroups also continue to be active. The Geopark Way walks have reached section 12 of 17, whilst the Landscape Appreciation subgroup recently climbed Caer Caradoc near Church Stretton (see photo below) where, from the summit (559 m) one can just about see ten of the twelve geological periods. We concluded our summer programme with a trip to the Hampton Bishop area near Hereford to study the River Lugg which is a small 'misfit' river in a very large valley!



We are pleased to have signed up a number of new members for this U3A year. Our winter programme of lectures began on the 10th October with a talk on the Volcanic History of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote to be followed in November by Borehole Technology & Concealed Coal Measures. Prospective new members are welcome at our monthly talks, so if you think you might be interested then come along (10.00 – 12.00 am, second Wednesday of the month at The Cube).  
Roger Hunt

## Literature Group



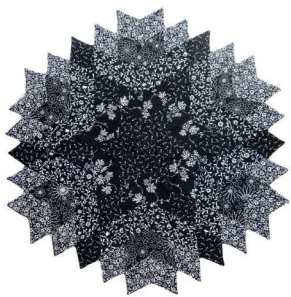
Last term the author Sue Gee joined the Group for the morning to discuss her novel, *Trio*. Here she is signing copies of the book.

## Boules Group



Members of the Group at their social evening in September  
The Awards were presented by Phil and Lyn Saunders, former members who have since moved away.





Examples of work by the Patchwork and Needle Skills Group

### Double or Quit

by Keith Bullock

Rupert and Rufus Root were twins born under the star sign of Gemini. 'Roots of a single vine,' father Reggie Roberto Root, rightly, regularly remarked.

Only old Mother Ruby Root could tell Rupert and Rufus apart. Other Root relatives ruefully reported repeated relapses in recognition and would resolutely resort to requests for re-appraisal. By repute, Ruby ruled the roost, but Aunt Rula Root rallied to the rescue by rapidly requisitioning red rompers - R for Rupert and R for Rufus; unsurprisingly, the rest of the Roots roundly rebuffed the results of this resolution to the riddle.

'Rupert's the one who repeatedly and revoltingly regurgitates his Ribena,' retorted Ruby, reassuringly - but regrettably, Rufus randomly resolved to regurgitate regularly too.

Schooldays provided parallel problems. Rupert soon rued and resented the ridicule raised by his name. Rufus reported regular ribaldry but Ruperts rank with Gilberts, Peregrines and St Johns - long-suffering legatees of preposterously posh pre-names pedantically picked by pushy parents with progeny, progression paranoia.

The twins mastered Maths, engaged in English, hid from History, shone in Science, fizzed at Physics, jogged through Geography, gurgled in German and sparkled in Spanish. Rufus loved soccer and hated rugby, Rupert hated rugby and loved soccer. They were talented wingers - Rupert was right-footed and took to the right wing; Rufus was left-footed and took to the left wing. Father, Reggie Roberto ruminated reverently on the resourceful Root-genes that had countenanced one winger per wing.

In manhood, the Roots followed remarkably related routes. They entered university united, chose the Law, and though double firsts were expected, they gained two, two-twos. Rufus joined Herbert Fitzpatrick Solicitors, Rupert was recruited by Solicitors, Patrick Fitz Herbert. Tennis doubles champions at twenty two, joint chairs of town twinning too, they were twins through and through.

On the very day that Rufus proposed to Tina Doppel, Rupert entered engagement with Nina Ganger. A joint wedding then did ensue, with honeymoons in two rooms with a view, in Salou. When Nina had twins, a boy and a girl, Tina had two too, a girl and a boy. Life, through and through was too good to be true.

Then came the fateful Christmas Eve, when Rufus and Rupert debarked for a double or two - hooch and cheroots at the Twin Feathers, their joint favourite watering hole. It was immediately clear to Rufus that his twin was singularly unaffected by the Season's sparkle.

'What ails thee, Rupert?' he requested, 'No double-talk will I truck.'

'I've nullified Nina,' came the shocking reply. 'I left her a box of her beloved Belgian bon-bons.'

'Wicked on the waistline, but far from fatal, faithful friend!' said Rufus, relatively relieved and reassured.

`Laced with poison - an untraceable veterinary drug, that can take out a rhinoceros.'

Now Rufus was verily amazed, for only that night, he too had despatched his Dearest - her brass bath tub being deftly wired to the mains supply. What rare and rancid ill-fortune, he fulminated - suspicions may not have surfaced from one fatality, but twin tragedies took credibility a tad too far...

On the car park, Rupert elaborated. `The thing is Rufus old chap, I've fallen hook, line and sinker for the bar maid at the tennis club - young Imogen Image. All is arranged for our getaway tonight, we fly to Toulouse, with too much to lose!'

The last vestige of blood drained vigorously from Rufus's visage.

`Not Imogen, Rupert?' he pleaded plaintively, whilst pulling a pistol from the pleat of a pocket. 'Please say it's not Imogen Image?'

Sounds of a heated argument were heard, then twin gun shots, then silence. Rufus lay with a pistol in the left hand, Rupert lay with a pistol in the right, together in death as they'd been in life. Tina and Nina were discovered in their respective homes, at Cotwall End and Wallcot End. The Coroner recorded a verdict of double murder/suicide. It seemed clear that in the midst of the Festive preparations, both sets of Roots had tangoed and tangled with tragic titanic domestic upheavals.

Identical flight tickets for two to Toulouse, were found in Rupert's pocket and Rufus's wallet, although the Coroner found it a considerable conundrum that neither dead wife had commenced packing. No root connection was ever made to the two empty suites at the Toulouse Savoy. No enquiries were made as to why Mr and Mrs Ben Johnson and Mr and Mrs John Benson had never checked-in.

As for poor Imogen Image, following her Boxing Day breakdown, she was diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic and never recovered. For ever more, she told anyone and everyone prepared to listen that she saw two of two, of everything of *everything*.



Brian Palmer, Cameral Group



## **"What With One Thing And Another"**

by John Bentley

"'arold ? ....'arold ! You getting up or what ? Only I've got to go to have me hair done an' you know what they're like at Georgio's if you're late. 'arold ? For Gawd's sake ! Your breakfast's getting cold already."

Exasperated, Mabel Riley left her husband to it, grabbed her coat and slammed the front door. It was the same most Saturdays in the Riley household.

It had been Harold's usual start to the week; Friday night at the dog track in Walthamstow; a skinful of ale; a pocket full of useless betting slips and not forgetting the chicken tikka masala. He'd tried to kick the habit, but with one thing and another.....

Spurs were playing Arsenal at home. It was the return match in the North London derby. In the bathroom, the Saturday match rituals began. Harold began shaving on the right cheek, never the left. That was strictly taboo. It was bound to bring bad luck to the team. He donned his XL sized team shirt bought from the club shop with the name of his boyhood hero printed on the back - JIMMY GREAVES. Only now did Harold Riley begin to feel like a real fan, an indefatigable member of the tribe.

Throwing his cold cooked breakfast in the bin, Harold made his way to his mate's greasy spoon cafe. The only trouble was he was an Arsenal supporter.

"Here he comes. Hello Harry boy," came the usual greeting.

"Mornin' Sydney, my son."

"Usual is it Harry ?"

"Please, Sid. Full English and a pot of rosy."

Harold and Sid had been sparring over their two teams for years. It didn't take long for another ding dong to start.

"I've got a feeling about today," said Harold.

"Oh yes," Sid replied, "you had that feeling when we beat you 4-nil at the Emirates. Didn't do you much good then did it ?"

"Fighting talk, Sydney, fighting talk. You wouldn't like to have a little wager on today's game would you ?"

"You still owe me from that last derby game, mate, don't forget. I'm a patient man, Harry boy, but a debt's a debt. Sure you can afford it ?"

"course I can afford it, Sid. Don't worry. I know I still owe you, but what with one thing and another....."

"All right then, Harry, £25 quid and you're on . It'll be like taking candy from a baby like I did last time."

The game was played in a deluge. It was a farce of a game pure and simple. Players were slipping and sliding all over the pitch; long passes stopped dead in their tracks or else bounced over the sodden grass Barnes Wallace - like

into touch. But it was Arsenal who adapted more quickly to the atrocious conditions.

When Harold Riley walked in to Sid's cafe, he looked like a drowned rat. He hadn't any money for a taxi or the bus fare and had to walk home. His mate Sid was standing there, arms folded grinning like the Cheshire Cat.

"Don't say it, Sid. I know just what you're thinking."

"What?" Sid said, feigning innocence.

"It was diabolical, that's what. That game should never have been played. And that sending off was a complete travesty of justice. That ref was blind. Even you've got to admit that, Sid."

"I'm admitting nothing of the sort me old cocker," Sid replied, pleased as punch with the result. "You lost two - nil, you played rubbish, we've done the double over you, you're soaked through and now you owe me fifty quid. It's a dog's life isn't it, Harold. A dog's life."

*John Bentley is a member of Creative Writing Group 1*

## Scrabble Group 1



Group members ready for their "Christmas Dinner" at the end of April - delayed by several holidays plus bad weather. Better late than never!

Sent in by Sandy Slater and Liz Daniel

## 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.**

### **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*.

### **27 November Annual General Meeting** - the Agenda and papers will be sent to members in advance.

The AGM will be followed with a talk by **Andrew Lound: *An Illustrated Informal Guide to Our Solar System***. With the solar wind in the sails and the ripples of gravity around you, the spaceship of the imagination takes you on a voyage to the worlds of the solar system. On the voyage we encounter volcanic moons, ice worlds, gas giants, ancient river beds on Mars, comets, asteroids – the magnificence that is the Sun's family.

**December** No meeting, but don't forget **Christmas Lunch** on the 14th, 1.00 pm at Worcestershire Golf Club, Wood Farm, Malvern Wells WR14 4PP.

The menu and order form are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Information about future monthly meetings will be available from November. Details of speakers and topics can be found on the website: [malvernu3a.org.uk](http://malvernu3a.org.uk)

All meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month (except August and December).

## NEWSLETTER

We welcome items from groups or individual members for the Newsletters which are published in Spring, Summer and Autumn. All written contributions should be e-mailed (preferably as Word documents) to **[newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk)**

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

**Please note that contributions may be edited.**

The deadline for the Spring edition is

**Friday 19 April 2019**