

# MALVERN NEWSLETTER

N° 88 SPRING 2019



*Spring is Nature's way of  
saying, "Let's party!"*  
Robin Williams

## U3A Committee (Trustees)

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**Cover photo:** Theme, *Crossing*, Neill Lewis, Camera Group

## CHAIR'S NOTES

I'm actually beginning to believe that we have finally escaped the icy blasts of winter and that Spring really is approaching. Members who have slogged on through the dark days are now finding they can go home from meetings in daylight, what a pleasure that is.

Looking back to December, many thanks are owed to Jenny Jackson as our Christmas lunch was both a sell-out and a great success largely due to her sterling efforts. Happily Jeff Thorogood has picked up the baton of organisation for this event in 2019.

All is thriving on the Malvern U3A front and I am delighted that come the Autumn we will be able to facilitate a group for members who are partially sighted. I would welcome any suggestions to help this project blossom.

Meanwhile a new group offering guidance on DIY has been started by Richard Southall and it would seem that he has been inundated with takers anxious to learn new skills and perhaps save some money. Would it be too politically incorrect to observe that some are women, like myself, incapable of operating an electric drill and keen to fill this void in our knowledge?

I am optimistically looking forward to a serene year free of new complications such as Data Protection legislation etc, and I'm confident that Malvern U3A will continue to grow in numbers and diversity in 2019. I trust that we will all continue to enjoy life, expanding our knowledge with like-minded people.

Sue Lamberton



Jeni Chesney, Camera Group

# FROM THE TRUSTEES .....

## Malvern U3A Trustees

At the Annual General Meeting in November, we said farewell to three retiring Trustees: Treasurer, John Knee; Groups Co-ordinator, Annette Maxted; and Technical Officer, Peter Corfield. At the AGM members agreed to the Committee's proposal to raise the number of Trustees from twelve to fifteen, in recognition of the large increase in Malvern U3A membership over the last few years. Thankfully, volunteers were found to fill the spaces left by the departing Trustees, together with two of the new vacancies, and we welcomed David Oliver as our new Treasurer and Jenny Clayphan as Groups Co-ordinator. We also welcomed Angie Cantrell, Richard Phillips and John Price in the new roles of Projects Co-ordinator, Travel Treasurer and Equipment Co-ordinator. Having additional Committee members has meant that we've been able to share some responsibilities more equally. A list of Trustees and their contact details can be found on page 2 of this newsetter.



Theme: *Crossing*, Len Cornish, Camera Group

## U3A Music, Art & History Afternoon in Cardiff

This first U3A national lecture outside London was held at the National Museum of Wales last November. There were 250 U3A members there, mostly from Welsh branches, and we were welcomed by Julie Travers from U3A National Office.

Anne Pritchard, a curator at the museum, started the afternoon with a very interesting talk on Gwendoline (1882-1951) and Margaret (1884-1963) Davies. Their grandfather had made the family's fortune from deep pit mining and the railways. His son died young and, unusually for the time, he left the business equally to his two daughters and their brother. They donated part of their legacy to Aberystwyth University in their father's name, but the Davies sisters became art collectors, guided by Hugh Blaker, former curator at The Holbein Museum in Bath. They offered their collection to The National Gallery in London who weren't interested and suggested that it be offered to The Tate Gallery. The Tate replied that they didn't have space, and that such modern art wasn't appropriate for them! They eventually passed their collection to The National Museum of Wales.

Thus the museum in Cardiff has a priceless collection of works by Turner, Millet, Mauve, Corot and Monet - also one of my favourites, *Nocturne in Blue & Gold* by Whistler. The sisters also donated Rodin's *The Kiss* (the only life size sculpture cast in his lifetime), which involved the museum in a lengthy debate in 1912 about censorship of the sculpture. The sisters also were heavily criticised as they were Methodist Calvinists. They argued that as Wales was so industrialised they wanted to encourage education in art.

The sisters lived at Gregynog Hall in Powys, but during WW1 they volunteered to work with the Red Cross in France. On their return to Wales Margaret continued collecting art, but Gwendoline stopped as she felt that her resources could be better used to help refugees and injured soldiers.

The next speaker, Dr Mark Redknap, told us about a new building that had been discovered which would join the collection at the Museum's St Fagans site on the outskirts of Cardiff (which holds historical buildings from all over Wales). They were also opening a new gallery which focuses on the earliest times of habitation in Wales, especially the crafts and skills of early Welsh people.

Finally we heard briefly about the Welsh National Opera production of *Rhondda Rips It Up* 'based on the life of Margaret Haig Thomas, Lady Rhondda, and her time as a suffragette. Zoe Milton-Brown, a soprano with WNO, accompanied by Helen Woods, sang four songs by Welsh poets and composers.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

You can find out about similar events by visiting the National U3A website: ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk))

Jenny Jackson, General Secretary MU3A



# News from National Office

## National Summer Schools 2019

Aston University, Birmingham, 12 - 15 August

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 10 -13 September

For more details and to book places, visit [www.u3a.org.uk/events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events) or phone 020 8466 6139

## Some Statistics

The National magazine, *Third Age Matters*, recently announced that there are currently 420,000 U3A members, forming over 1,000 branches throughout the UK. It is estimated that there are between 30,000 and 40,000 group leaders working with thousands of interest groups. Malvern U3A is one of the largest branches with 1,651 members and 118 activity groups.

## National U3A email Newsletter

The monthly email newsletter has gained nearly 10,000 readers in its first year of existence. It provides all kinds of news and helpful information from across the U3A. To sign up to receive future issues visit <https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

# From Members .....

## The Boules 1 Group



Group members about to enjoy their “Christmas Party” in January, at Lady Foley’s Tea Room at Great Malvern Station

## The Travel Group



On a beautiful day last autumn, forty of us went to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. We had a fifty minute road train journey around the site to see the various memorials to the military personnel that have given their lives to our nation. Not just the main forces (Army, Navy, and RAF,) but others like the Ghurkas, Showmen's Guild, railway workers etc. The main memorial was huge, with steps leading up to a monument with over 2,000 names inscribed there (see photo above). These also include servicemen that had been killed in peacetime, such as Lee Rigby, the off-duty Fusilier who was murdered in Woolwich in 2014. A very moving place and well worth a visit. On the way home we called in at Lichfield, where some of us visited the three-spired cathedral. Richard Shenton





# Knitting and Crochet Group



The twenty-two members of the Knitting and Crochet Group have been very industrious over the last twelve months. Items that have been produced include mythical unicorns, blankets for babies and grownups, knitted and worked in Tunisian crochet. Beautiful bags and sexy socks have appeared, shawls and jackets and many smaller items. We are sending one hundred Innocent Smoothie hats, both knitted and crocheted, to BBC Hereford & Worcs who are collecting them to raise money for the blind.

This is a very friendly group, who share knowledge to increase their skills.

For information contact: [jenichesney57@yahoo.com](mailto:jenichesney57@yahoo.com)





## Estimations Group

The 2019 Estimations Group meetings started at The Cube at the end of February. We welcome previous year's players and any U3A member who fancies a card game with a bit of a difference. No league tables or prizes, just a bit of fun to start the week off. If you know your hearts from your clubs - then come along and try a session any Monday, from 10.00 am till 12.00. For further details contact Ashley on 01531 650029 or e-mail: [butterfieldashley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:butterfieldashley@yahoo.co.uk)

## Genealogy Group



### A Surprise for Eugene!

The photograph shows committee member Brenda Johnson presenting Eugene Colwell with an inscribed salver - a gift from the members of our Genealogy group. Our scheduled programme of a talk and discussion in January was followed by an unexpected event for Group member, Eugene. The committee knew that Eugene had founded our club in 1995 - the year in which U3A started in Malvern. Although he relinquished the leadership of our Family History Group three years ago, he is still a very active member. We have come to rely on his wide knowledge and his contributions to our meetings, lately giving nine short talks called "Eugene's Story" about his family history within the London region. With his inspiration and long-term help and support for other researchers in mind, the committee decided to recognise Eugene's work, coming into its 25th year, by bestowing on him our own unofficial title of "Founder and Honorary Member" as a thank-you for his efforts over the years.

The meeting was followed by a most enjoyable Genealogy Annual Lunch celebration.

Margaret Vipond, Committee Member

## Lawn Bowling Group

Come along to the beautiful setting of the Malvern Priory Bowling Club, Orchard Road, on a Wednesday afternoon, from 2.00-4.00 pm during the summer - from 1st May to 28th August (weather permitting). We will teach you the art of lawn bowling and the tactics of team play through competitive games. There is no age barrier to this challenging sport, which provides gentle outdoor exercise in a friendly environment. All bowling equipment can be provided (if necessary) and the dress code is informal – the only stipulation is that soft, flat, shoes (trainers/pumps) are worn on the Green.

If you are interested please call (or email) one of the contacts below for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wayne Braddock (Tel: 01684 574025; email: [wayne.braddock@btinternet.com](mailto:wayne.braddock@btinternet.com))

Lorna Rodway (Tel: 01684 563352; email: [lorna.rodway@btinternet.com](mailto:lorna.rodway@btinternet.com))

Rupert Thomas (Tel: 01684 563777; email: [rupert@rupertthomas.plus.com](mailto:rupert@rupertthomas.plus.com))



## Understanding Ourselves

Joyce Sutcliff reports on an Understanding Ourselves Workshop which took place last November:

John and Elizabeth Staley warmly welcomed us into their tranquil home where we were regularly given delicious refreshments. The empowering weekend was held in an atmosphere of gentle and professional guidance. It was an intriguing and fascinating journey of self discovery leading to greater self knowledge.

The insights gained here enable further development which will result in improved understanding and therefore better communication with friends, family and business associates. The participants found the process enlightening, inspiring and very worthwhile.

## Spanish Improvers Plus

Group Leader Linda Collins has sent in some limericks composed by the Group members. She writes, "Limericks – a note on writing and translating in other languages! The limerick is not a poetry form which is common in Spanish. When writing our limericks we had to observe the particular stress patterns and accents in Spanish words and of course it is almost impossible to transfer the strict rhythm and rhyme of a limerick from one language to another. Hence the arrhythmic English versions! When reading these limericks, to preserve the rhythm it is sometimes necessary to "lose" a syllable, by running the end of one word into the next, as in ".....l(a) estrada!".

Había un chico de Granada  
Que negó comer ensalada.  
Comió todo que vió;  
Dijo - ¡Oh, Dios mío!  
¡No puedo pasar por la estrada!  
**Linda F**

*There once was a boy from Granada,  
Who refused to eat salad.  
He ate all he saw, And said "Oh, my  
God! I can't get down the street!"*

Amo a una chica de Ronda  
Que baila mucho en la rotonda.  
Gira con bravura  
En cada temperatura -  
Mi amor para ella ahonda.  
**Richard**

*I'm in love with a girl from Ronda,  
Who dances a lot on the roundabout.  
She whirls with spirit in all  
temperatures; My love for her grows  
ever deeper.*

Había una chica de Cadiz,  
Tenía muy grande la nariz;  
Un día en Oporto  
Un doctor la acortó -  
Ahora es modela en Paris!  
**Win**

*There was a girl from Cadiz, Who had  
a very large nose;  
One day in Oporto a doctor  
shortened it, And now she's a model  
in Paris!*

Había un hombre de Ávila;  
Le gustaba mucho tequila.  
Bebía como una cuba,  
Pero vió un monstruo;  
Repensó que se mejoraría  
**Kate**

*There was a man from Avila, Who  
very much liked tequila;  
He drank like a fish, But then saw  
a monster; And thought he should  
better himself!*

Había una mujer de Valencia  
Que sufría de gran insomnencia.  
Condujó su coche  
Por día y por noche,  
Y dijo - ¡No hay diferencia!  
**Linda C**

*There was a woman from Valencia,  
Who suffered greatly from insomnia;  
She drove her car both by day and  
by night - And said, "There's no  
difference!"*



## Theatre Studies

The Theatre Studies Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month (10.15 to 12.15) at Manor Park Tennis Club. Here are details of the next two meetings:

Wednesday 27 March - talk by guest speaker, Nigel Mott: "How the theatre has changed over the years."

Wednesday 24 April - talk by Alan Starkey on "Orson Welles, his life and work."

All are welcome to attend.

Further information from Alan Starkey at [a.starkey924@btinternet.com](mailto:a.starkey924@btinternet.com) or Ann

Colwell at [eac1931@btinternet.com](mailto:eac1931@btinternet.com)



Theme: *The Rough & the Smooth*, Liz Galloway, Camera Group

## Advice needed

MU3A member Bill Morgan has a quantity of old family movies on 8mm film which is in a fragile condition. He would like some guidance on how to safely clean and restore the film and transfer it to a digital format. If you can help, or know someone who can, please contact Bill on [wgmorgan65@btinternet.com](mailto:wgmorgan65@btinternet.com)

## Patchwork and Needle Skills

samples of members' work



# Notice Board

## Creative Writing 3

Please note the following changes to the Group Leaders' contact details:

Dorothy Meredith: 01684 310401  
email: [brianemeredit@gmail.com](mailto:brianemeredit@gmail.com)  
Jane Guinery: 07773777953  
email: [jguinery@gmail.com](mailto:jguinery@gmail.com)

## Literature Group

### New contact number

Group Leader, Janet Oliver, has a new telephone number: 01684 572711.

Her email address is unchanged:  
[janetrevilo@icloud.com](mailto:janetrevilo@icloud.com)

## Croquet Group

It is hoped that the new season will begin on Thursday 2nd May. Full details will be circulated to all existing and new members in April.  
Brenda Spragg  
[brenda.spragg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brenda.spragg@hotmail.co.uk)

## Country Dancing Group

The Group has recently ceased activities as one of the two joint Leaders has had to retire. The remaining Leader may be able to carry on if someone can be found to share the load. Please contact Jenny Clayphan, Groups Co-ordinator at [groups@malvern3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@malvern3a.org.uk) or phone 01684 574731 if you think you can help.

## A request from International Inner Wheel

Joan Gibson has contacted us to ask if MU3A members have any unwanted double knitting wool they could pass on to the charity. Volunteers knit the wool into blankets, which are then sent to a charity in Romania. Any odds and ends of wool are welcome, but it has to be double knitting as this is the right weight for the blankets. Joan is happy to collect donations.

If you can help, please contact her on [gibmalvern89@gmail.com](mailto:gibmalvern89@gmail.com) or 01684 563429



Gwen Evens, Hay Bales in Hungary,  
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 meetings**

### **26 March    *Charles Dickens: his story and his message* - with Dr Keith Hooper**

A new insight into the soul of one of our greatest writers. Drawing on his recent biography of Dickens, Dr Hooper will explore aspects of the writer's life and work. Having established a reputation for being both informative and engaging, Dr Hooper is currently undertaking a speaking tour across the country.

### **30 April    *Four Seasons and a Festival* - with Adrian James**

Adrian will be giving a talk with illustrations about four brilliant UK gardens, one for each season, and a Festival. Lots of colour and outstanding pictures.

### **28 May    *And how does a Regional U3A Trustee keep out of mischief?* - with Auriol**

How complex and varied is West Midlands U3A? What are its demographics? What do U3As want to know? How does the National Board of Trustees work for all U3As? ..... by listening to them, guiding and advising .....

### **25 June    *Adventure on Puffin Island* - with Matt Adam Williams**

Being scratched by puffins, dive-bombed by predatory seabirds and entertained by leaping dolphins - just a few of the highlights of this presentation. Matt Williams' talk is packed with rip-roaring adventures from his trip to one of Scotland's remotest islands in 2018. A wildlife photographer and nature writer, he spent three weeks wild camping on the uninhabited Treshnish Isles, with only a handful of teammates and surrounded by tens of thousands of seabirds.

Speakers and topics for all meetings in 2019 can be found on our website:  
[www.malvernu3a.org.uk](http://www.malvernu3a.org.uk)

All talks are held on the last Tuesday of the month (no meetings in 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 Summer edition is

**Friday 3 May 2019**