

MALVERN NEWS

Nº 89 SUMMER 2019

U3A NEWSLETTER



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Cover photo: Theme, *Vintage & Retro*, Richard Owen, Camera Group

CHAIR'S NOTES

After that glorious weather at Easter I suspect that all our hopes were high for an early start to summer, however this country is adept at providing something totally unexpected and I trust that U3A members suffered no significant damage from the recent gales.

On a more positive note the work of restoration in the Cube is proceeding as planned and indeed the invitation to the grand re-opening of the Green Room has arrived. After the devastation of the fire it would appear that the facilities there are going to be much improved and U3A is only too eager to make use of them.

Meanwhile I would like to thank the Cube café for being so helpful to us at the Speakers' meetings in enabling the flow of tea and coffee to be maintained. Serious thanks are also due to the teams that make this work. Jeff has arranged some wide-ranging topics for these meetings and the number attending continues to increase. The most recent talk, with glorious slides opening the gates to some fantastic gardens, was spectacular.

We were also given advance notice of the Christmas lunch, coupled with a dire warning that the number of seats will be very limited so, "book early" (see details on page 4).

The Geology Group is involved in a highly interesting venture to facilitate access to information about the geomorphology, petrology, stratigraphy, palaeontology and metamorphic history of the Malvern Hills. What a splendid selection of words! See page 10 for more information, or come along to the group!

Happily the majority of our groups appear to be flourishing, although a small number are having difficulty replacing group leaders. The appearance of "waiting lists" is to be deplored but they do confirm that Malvern U3A continues to provide a massive stimulus to lively minds. It cannot do this however without a sturdy body of Trustees. Two dedicated and efficient Trustees, Jenny, our General Secretary, and Brian, Venues Co-ordinator, retire at the next AGM and it is never too early to start looking for replacements, so please start searching. Perhaps you?

Would it be unrealistic to hope for a serene summer, with blazing sunshine, even though this is usually followed by gloomy warnings of drought? Torrential rainstorms with attendant flooding are often the order of the day after a glorious summer, but please, no mention of political cyclones.

Here's hoping.

Sue Lamberton

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Staley

It was very sad news to hear that Elizabeth Staley, co-founder of Understanding Ourselves, had died at the end of January. Elizabeth and her husband John started the annual workshop in November 2001, hosting it over a weekend each year in their own home. During the following seventeen years they introduced their philosophy to 142 members of MU3A. They held their last weekend gathering in November last year. At present, John has no plans for continuing with the annual workshop.



First Light, Marie McCurry, Camera Group

Malvern U3A Christmas Lunch 2019

This will be held at Worcester Golf Club on Friday 13 December and is limited to 80 places. Prices per person are £22 for two courses, or £26 for three. Full details and Booking Forms will be circulated in the Autumn Newsletter, and will also be available online (malvernu3a.org.uk). However, you can reserve your place now by contacting this year's organiser, Jeff Thorogood, by email at speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk or phone 01886 832764.

Possible Discounts for U3A Members

Malvern U3A is sometimes contacted by various organisations offering discounts to members on goods or services: 5% off the price of a holiday cruise perhaps, or a reduction in the costs of plumbing or building work. We're not able to advertise details of these opportunities, but when you're thinking of booking a trip away or planning a costly purchase or project, it might be worthwhile to ask the supplier if they offer a discount for U3A members.

U3A Cotswold Link Study Day

A Special Interest Day, ***Engineering the Future***, is planned for 11 July 2019 (9.45 am - 3.45pm) at The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6PN. Topics and speakers are:

Powertrains for Vehicles 2025-2050 with Dr Claus Goersmann, Technology Support Manager, Johnson Matthey

From 3D printing to 4D printing: to Design, to 3D Print, and to Move with Professor Moataz Attallah, Advanced Materials Processing Laboratory, Birmingham

Origins - How The Earth Made Us with Professor Lewis Dartnell, Department of Life Sciences, University of Westminster, London

For further details visit www.u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link

News from National Office

U3A Science Network Annual Meeting, 5-8 August 2019

This year's U3A Science Network event will be held at Aston University in Birmingham. All of the topics are new, although some speakers may have been heard at previous Network events.

More information and details of how to book can be found on the website: www.u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork/welcome

National Summer Schools 2019

12-15 August and 10-13 September

Details of the two National U3A Summer Schools are now available.

The event in August will be at Aston University, Birmingham. Subjects include art history and archaeology; creative writing; international films; Italian language and culture; linguistics; literature/philosophy; ukulele; music – jazz; singing for pleasure.

The September Summer School will be at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Subjects include cryptic crosswords; drama; garden history; history; Latin; literature; mathematics.

For further details and booking information visit: www.u3a.org.uk/events

From Members

Lawn Bowling Group – Summer 2019

This summer, the Lawn Bowling Group meets each Wednesday (2.00 pm start – weather permitting) at the Malvern Priory Bowling Club ground (Orchard Road) until 28th August. If you are thinking of taking up an outdoor sport, then lawn bowls could be your answer – providing gentle exercise in a friendly competitive team-play environment within a beautiful setting next to Priory Park. The sport has no age barrier to what can be achieved, and could open up new opportunities for you.

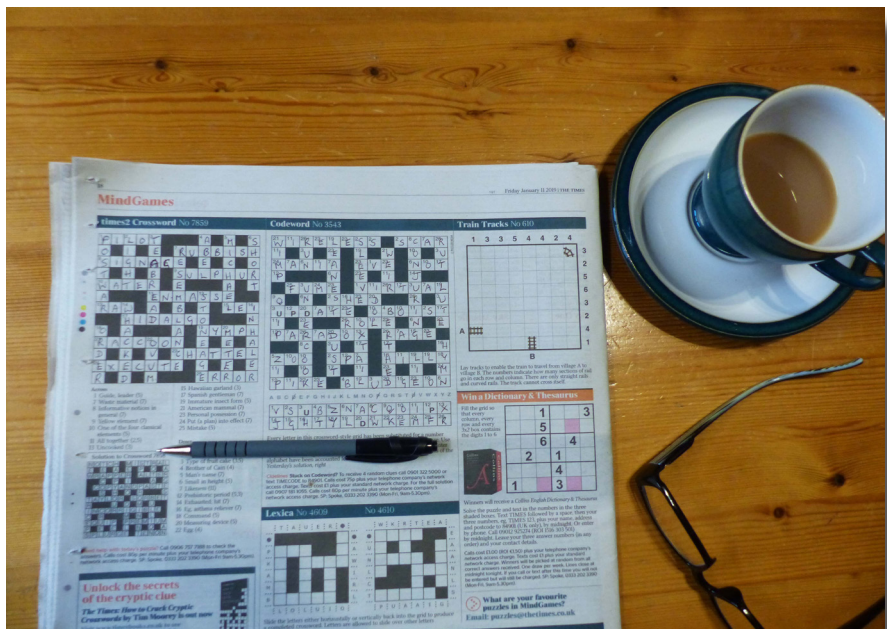
This year, Lorna Rodway (Ladies Captain, Priory BC) and Rupert Thomas (experienced bowler) will be leading the sessions over the summer season. If you are interested in this challenging and social sport, please call (or email) one of the contacts below for more information. The sessions are open to both experienced and 'aspiring' bowlers alike.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Wayne Braddock Tel: 01684 574025; e: wayne.braddock@btinternet.com

Lorna Rodway Tel: 01684 563352; e: lorna.rodway@btinternet.com

Rupert Thomas Tel: 01684 563777; e: rupert@rupertthomas.plus.com



Theme: Crossing, Angus McCulloch, Camera Group



Theme: *Crossing*, Phyl King, Camera Group

French Conversation 1

Alison Shearsmith reports that she and Jean Robb are taking over as Joint Leaders of the Group from Keith Jackson, who retired earlier this year, and from Maurice Almond, who will be handing over at the end of the summer. Alison has also sent confirmation of the following details about the Group:

- Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.
- Meetings are held at the Cube 10.00-12.00.
- The group is at advanced level.
- Maximum numbers are 12 (there may be a couple of places available).
- The first hour is spent in conversation, each member talking about something that interests them or that they have experienced since the last meeting.
- The second hour is spent translating an extract from a newspaper or journal, which is sent to members a week in advance.

For further information, contact Jean at jeanrobb10@hotmail.com or Alison at alisonshearsmith@hotmail.co.uk

Travel Group



On a fresh springlike day a coachload of Travel group members set off for Wells, Somerset. As we arrived the sun came out to reflect on the honey coloured masonry of the cathedral. It looked “splendid” alongside the ancient Bishops palace, with its moat, swans, and beautiful gardens. A good day was had by all. Also we were lucky enough to go on a Wednesday as the weekday market was in full swing.

Richard Shenton (trip organiser)

Geology Group

Following a very successful indoor lecture programme during the winter, the group began its programme of outdoor field trips. The first, at the end of March, was a trip to Fuerteventura which was a great success – good weather, good geology and good company. We had a party of 26 altogether and were hugely grateful to Alan Gray, one of our members, who took the lead on the geological aspects of the trip. Fuerteventura, one of the volcanic Canary Islands, has plenty to interest the amateur geologist with evidence of the original volcanoes to be found which are thought to date from about 70 million years ago, with the tops first poking above sea level about 20 million years ago! There are, in addition, plenty of cinder cones on the island resulting from more recent (125,000 years plus) eruptions. It is hard to appreciate that such is the extent of subsequent weathering, that back in geological time, the tops of the original volcanoes were over 2km above the current ground levels! During our week's visit, most of the group also took a trip to Lanzarote where we were able to view the results of the more recent eruptions of 1730–36 and 1824. The Volcanic National Park there has preserved the lava flows and multiple cinder cones.



In April, a party went to Dudley and enjoyed a lovely spring day visiting the new and developing geology section of the Dudley Museum followed by a walk around the Wren's Nest nature reserve, famous of course for its fossils and particularly the Dudley Bug trilobite. Unfortunately, no one found one! The day concluded with a visit to the Dudley Canal Trust and a boat trip through the old, underground limestone mine workings.



Group members at the Dudley Canal Trust

Finally, at the end of April, a bus party visited the Big Pit National Coal Museum near Abergavenny where we particularly enjoyed the underground tour. The museum there is excellent and well worth a visit.

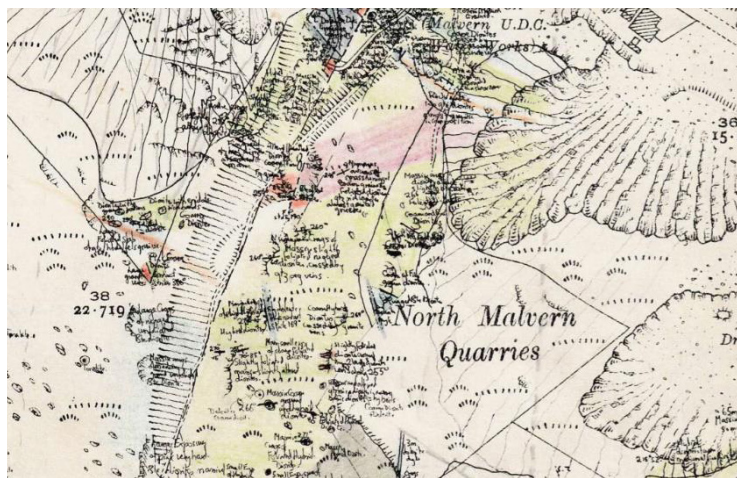
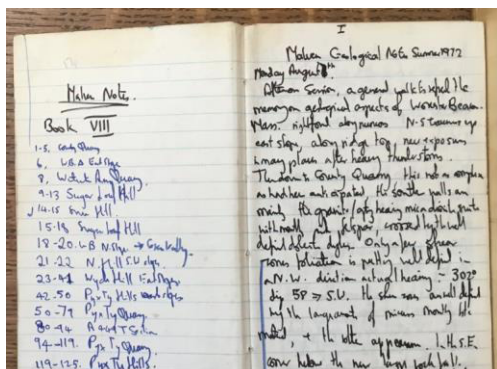
The Malvern Hills Geology Project

Over the last couple of years, the Geology Group has developed a working association with professional geologist and teacher Dave Bullard. In the 1970's, Dave was studying the geology of the Malvern Hills as part of his PhD thesis and has become one of the foremost experts on the subject. In 1989, he was contracted by the then National Conservancy Council, to produce a booklet entitled "Malvern Hills: A Students guide to the Geology of the Malverns". This booklet was originally produced in fairly small numbers and is no longer available, but is still the only comprehensive guide on the subject. While working with Dave on lectures and workshops arranged for our members, it became apparent that all the data collected during this period exists only in his handwritten library of notes, maps, drawings etc. These are the original documents and there are no copies! The realisation that all this data could so easily be lost convinced Alan Hughes, one of our members, that something needed to be done and so the Malvern Hills Geology project was born.

Since last autumn, a working group comprising members from the MU3A Geology Group has been busy finding, indexing, filing, copying, digitising and protecting all the records, notebooks (see below), maps, photographs and anything else we can find associated with Dave's thesis. The aim is to

create a knowledge base which will be freely available to all, in hard copy format and via a website. We want anyone researching the geology of the Malvern Hills to have a resource base immediately to hand. We plan to extend this website to include either copies of papers relevant to Malvern geology or links to those papers so that the knowledge base is a 'one stop' Malvern geology site. The idea is that it will be a legacy that can be added to easily. We have, of course, suffered 'project creep' and extended ourselves to republishing the Nature Conservancy Council's booklet, with revisions. In the future we will probably extend our remit to cover the whole of the Malvern AONB.

Clearly, we cannot operate in isolation. The project is being run in association with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust; Malvern College have kindly given us access to their local fossil collection; and there has been interest from the Malvern AONB, the Malvern Hills Trustees and many individuals, not least Dave Bullard himself. Naturally this is costing money. The U3A Geology Group steering committee has agreed to defray the initial minor expenses from its funds but serious money will be needed in due course and we are preparing a project plan to support our applications for funding from other sources.



This image shows a detail of one of Dave Bullard's large scale maps (25in to the mile), hand-coloured and covered in notes

The Good Beer Group

Nine of us set off set off by train to explore some of the delights and pubs of Bristol city centre. The picture shows us at our first stop, the Cornubia. In fact we liked it so much that we stopped there again on our return journey! The centre at lunchtime was surprisingly active and had an eclectic mix of historic inns and new pop-up bars. The variety provided by the craft beer revolution was very evident, and perhaps not always to the taste of the old school real ale purist. New breweries are being set up faster than you can say punky hipster, and it will be interesting to see just how sustainable many of them are in the longer term. In the meantime they provide a large and diverse selection for those of us who enjoy a beer in good company.

Advance notice of our forthcoming meetings.

Tue 25 June - visit and beer sampling in Malvern Cellar

Tue 23 July - summer barbecue at Mike's house

Tue 27 Aug - all day trip to the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter

Richard Newton (richard@renewton.plus.com) and Roger Hales (rogerhales26@gmail.com)



Botany Group

Ruaridh Macdonald sent in these photos of some recent “finds” by the Group.



Birds'-foot, *Ornithopus perpusillus*

The flower is about 3mm across

**Taking photographs
In Colwall Coppice**



Herb Paris, *Paris quadrifolia*

Spanish Improvers Plus

Here are more samples of limericks composed by Group members, followed by the English translations. As explained in the last Newsletter, this is not a poetry form which is common in Spanish. Therefore, when writing the limericks it is necessary 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 this verse form from one language to another. Hence the arrhythmic English versions.

Richard

Había una mujer de Valencia
Que perdía sus dientes con frecuencia.
Probó pegamento
Como experimento -
La boca quedó en impotencia.

*There was a woman from Valencia, Who frequently lost her teeth.
She tried glue as an experiment; Her mouth still didn't work.*

Win

Había un hombre de Caracas
Le gustaba comer muchas tapas.
Él nunca pagaba,
Y sangría tomaba -
Ahora vive con las vacas.

*There was a man from Caracas, Who loved to eat all kinds of tapas;
He never would pay and he drank Sangria - Now he lives with the cows.*

Michael

Una mujer de noventa años
Contaba a todos sus daños.
Y para mejorarse,
Quizas juventarse,
Tomó cada día tres baños!

*There once was a lady of ninety, Used to tell everyone all her woes.
And so to improve, Maybe regain her youth, She took three baths every day!*

Painting 2 Group

Samples of members' work



The Group is happy to welcome new members.
For more information, contact Val Bruton on 01684 575383

Welsh Culture Group

It was fortunate that our March meeting fell on the 1st – St. David's Day. As usual we held our own Eisteddfod which was chaired by Rosemary McNeil-Watson, last year's winner of the Bardic Chair. We started the morning with a play "Aunt Millicent Goes to the Races" which was masterminded by Ken Hart and performed by several members of the group. It was very amusing and enjoyed by all of us.

After the coffee break, Ken Hart announced the winner of the 2019 Literary Competition which was a short essay on "The Welsh Veneration of the Game of Rugby." The winner was Sue Price who told us a hilarious story of what happened in her childhood when her Dad and brother watched the Welsh Rugby on the television. Sue was duly put in the Bardic Chair and crowned with a wreath of daffodils which had been made by Hazel Haslam.

Then Hazel Haslam read Dylan Thomas' "The Outing" which made everyone hoot with laughter and the meeting ended with some communal singing.

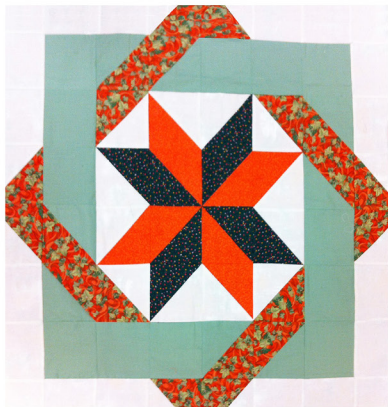
The following week we enjoyed a St. David's Day lunch at the Abbey Hotel.

Kate Jefferies



Theme: *Vintage and Retro*, Liz Galloway, Camera Group

Patchwork and Needle Skills
Samples of members' work



Learning to Dowse - New Group

MU3A member, Ced Jackson, has set up a U3A group on Learning to Dowse (as in Dowsing for water, although he explains that there are many other applications of the skill). The Group had its first session in May. The next two meetings are on Tuesdays 25 June and 23 July, 2.30 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 1 Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3DA. Doors open at 2.00 pm for tea and coffee. If you are interested in joining the Group, please take along your U3A membership number in order to register.

More information from Ced Jackson on info@cedjackson.org and www.cedjackson.org

Basic Computer Skills

The successful first run of seven sessions for the requested Basic Computer Skills group ended in April. What happens next is the obvious question. Are there enough U3A members who missed out last time who would be interested in a new series in the autumn? This would likely tackle similar content – getting to grips with your device, managing email, using the web/internet, security issues, rudiments of popular apps and programs etc – subject to input from group members and lessons learned. We'd still try to deal with all types of device – Windows, Mac, iPad or other tablet – but this could involve some separate sessions. There MIGHT be separate 'intermediate' level sessions too, if wanted. Please email John Howes at u3a@mega.org.uk with any interest and suggestions. With luck there will be a drop-in session at some point, which will give a chance to those not yet email literate!

The Wednesday Singers

Ann Peach is regretfully having to resign as Group Leader and piano accompanist from September this year. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact Ann at adp.2ndsoprano@btinternet.com or Jenny Clayphan, Groups Co-ordinator at groups@malvernu3a.org.uk

Walks with Dogs

Jules Turner is unable to continue leading the group from this autumn. Unfortunately no-one has been found to take over from her, so she regretfully reports that the Walks with Dogs Group will cease from September.

Boules and Petanque 2

Derek Carter will be resigning as Group Leader from 31 August this year and is looking for someone to take over from him. If you can help, please contact Derek at j4dcarter@gmail.com or by phone on 01684 577892.

Sponsored Skydive

MU3A member Grania Joinson is celebrating her 85th birthday this summer by doing a skydive in support of St Richard's Hospice in Worcester. If you would like to sponsor Grania you can do so online by visiting justgiving.com/fund-raising/grania-joinson, or send a cheque to her at 57, Meadow Road, Malvern, Worcs WR14 2RZ. CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE, NOT TO GRANIA HERSELF. She would also be able to collect donations at the MU3A Monthly Meeting on 25 June, when you might hear her account of the experience!.



Theme: Crossing, Dave Roberts, Camera Group

International Inner Wheel - Good Response from MU3A

In the Spring Issue of the Newsletter, we passed on a request from Joan Gibson at International Inner Wheel asking for donations of unwanted double knitting wool – this is used to make blankets for a charity in Romania. Joan recently sent us the following message: “Thankyou so much for putting my plea for wool in the U3A newsletter. So far I have had four responses which have provided me with wool, jumpers and bed linen for Hope Carriers Trust. I am going to take a load today to Hereford for transport to Romania. There is also one lady who is going to knit a blanket herself.” Joan has been in touch again to say she is still receiving offers of wool following our request to MU3A members. For further information, contact Joan on gibmalvern89@gmail.com or 01684 563429.

Speakers' topics for our Monthly Meeting

2.30pm at The Cube

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

Refreshments will be served after the meetings

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.

30 July *Electric Cars* - With Sheila Joynes

Everybody is talking about electric cars. Some like the idea, some hate it, and some are willing to be convinced. So what is it really like to live with a 100% electric car as your primary vehicle? Sheila Joynes and Stephen Bell have been doing just that since September 2014 and are happy to tell you all about it and answer your questions.

24 September *Pub Signs* - with Angela Panrucker

Have you ever wondered about pub signs? Angela, who is from the Inn Sign Society, will give us some amusing and surprising insights into the origins of the names of pubs and pub signs. Can you think of a really unusual pub name or sign to ask Angela about?

29 October *Trials and Tribulations as a Church Warden* - with Dr Jan Long

Jan returns to entertain us again, this time to recount some of her hilarious experiences over many years as a Church Warden.

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**

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Please note that contributions may be edited.

The deadline for the Autumn edition is

Friday 6 September 2019