

MALVERN u3a NEWSLETTER

Nº 96 AUTUMN 2022



**AGM - Tuesday 29th
November
2.00pm at The Cube**

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Cover photo: *The Darrens in the Black Mountains*, Roger Hunt, Geology Group

CHAIR'S NOTES

I started the Spring edition with a quote from Joseph Chamberlain about living in "interesting times." The year has continued to be full of major change events. In one week we have seen the installation of a new Prime Minister and the succession of a new monarch. For the first time I find that I am older than the Head of State and my children are older than the Prime Minister!

After an extremely hot summer we were approaching Autumn with some optimism. Life was returning to normal after the strictures of the covid pandemic. We were able to hold a very successful Groups Fair on 5th September and most of our groups have now re-started their annual programmes on a more normal basis. I am pleased to say we also attracted a large number of new members through the year and our finances are once again on a sound footing.

Our planned Picnic in the Park was a new venture to celebrate the u3a 40 years' anniversary. Because of the lateness in the year for this we adopted the theme, "Last of The Summer Wine." We had musicians booked, fliers were printed and bunting was ready. Sadly the week before the event Queen Elizabeth, our Queen, died and there was a national period of mourning declared. The Trustees made a difficult decision to postpone this event. Malvern Council had also decided to cancel events booked in the park either side of our picnic and that the central feature of our day, the bandstand, was to be used for floral tributes to the Queen.

I'm sure all of us have been moved by the scale of the public's reaction to the Queen's passing and the feelings that have been evoked in so many by the ending of such a momentous reign, and the changes that have taken place during it. I recall one of the most poignant of the queen's speeches in which she said: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

The Trustees have now organised an alternative event to celebrate the u3a's 40th Anniversary (see the next page for details).

This year we have moved substantially towards the ability for members to renew their subscriptions online, and using a credit or bank card. I am pleased to say that over 97% of last year's members have been able to do that. We do however wish to make it clear that the Trustees do not want to lose any members because they are having difficulty with using this method. Help was provided on this at the Groups Fair and the September Monthly Meeting and will also be available to any other members who need it at the next two Monthly Meetings at the Cube.

Our Annual General Meeting is being held this year on 29th November. Papers relating to this will be sent out towards the end of October. Please put this in your diaries and come if you possibly can. Sadly, four of our current Trustees

come to the end of their term at that meeting. All of them have made major contributions to the life and success of Malvern u3a.

We need other members to come forward now to help with the running of our marvellous organisation. If you think you might be able to help, even for a period, either as a Trustee or providing support in some other way, please give me a ring, talk to me at any of our public meetings or contact any Trustee.

I hope you really enjoy your u3a year and that the groups you have joined have fun and prosper through, and with, your active participation. For that is so much the essence of u3a.

Bill Culshaw, Chair

FROM THE TRUSTEES

“Picnic” at The Dome (Imperial Road, Malvern WR14 3AW) Thursday 3 November (15.00-1700)

We have now organised a “Picnic” at The Dome in Malvern to celebrate the u3a’s 40th Anniversary. Tea/coffee and cake (probably carrot) will be available to buy during the afternoon, but you are invited to bring your own choice of food and drink (alcohol-free, as the venue is unlicensed). There will be live music at the event – and it will be a great chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

There is no onsite parking, but there are usually plenty of free spaces in the surrounding streets, including Imperial Road itself.

Coffee Mornings for New Members – 31 October and 2 November

If you joined Malvern u3a since January this year, you should have received an email inviting you to a Coffee Morning, from 10.30am to 12 Noon on either Monday 31 October, or Wednesday 2 November. Coffee/tea and cake, will be served, and you’ll have the chance to meet other new members and some of the Trustees.

These events will be held at Victoria Park Bowling Club, Victoria Park Road, Malvern WR14 2JY. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Scott, New Members Secretary at newmembers@malvernu3a.org.uk or on 01684 569659

Help with using computers

At the Groups Fair in September, we invited members to put forward suggestions for new activity Groups they’d like to join or lead. The long list of ideas included Computer Basics and Computer Basics Plus - offering help to members who are starting to use computers or wanting to develop their skills. We are looking for someone who could lead, or assist in running such a Group. In the meantime, there are two places in Malvern where you can find this support:

Malvern Library, Graham Road, Great Malvern WR14 2HU

The Library offers one-to-one assistance with using your own personal device – phone, laptop, tablet. There are half-hourly slots from 10.30 am till noon on Thursdays. The sessions can be booked by phone, 01905 822722m, during opening hours: 9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday-Friday

Age Concern, Great Malvern Station, Station Approach WR14 3AU

Age UK/Age Concern Worcester & Malvern Hills provides one-to-one computer classes for the over 50s in Worcester & Malvern. For a fee of £5 they offer classes for older people who are wanting to start using a computer for the first time or are looking to further improve their skills. The classes are held from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm, Monday - Friday, For more information, phone 01684 560666, or visit the Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/malvernanddistrict

West Midlands u3a Newsletter

We have set up a page for the newsletter on the Malvern u3a website and you can access it by following the link: <https://malvernu3a.org.uk/wm-u3a-newsletter/>

National u3a

Get Your u3a Diary for 2023!

**The u3a diaries are now
available from The Brand
Centre
for £3.50 each**

**Go to
u3abrand.org.uk**



FROM MEMBERS



Theme: *Colours of Autumn*, Derek Robson, Camera Group

Bridge Duplicate 3

We are now very well established in our new home, Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Malvern, where we meet every Thursday, 14.00 – 17.00.

It has recently been reported to me that some people thought that the venue was full. This is incorrect, there is plenty of room for more tables while retaining comfortable distancing.

Thanks to the proprietor we also get the best cakes in the county at teatime, come along and try, you will be welcome.

For more information, please contact Andrew Hague at andrwhg@aol.com or on 07795 018238

Poetry Please

Group member, Jean Parrott, has written this poem in memory of Queen Elizabeth II

In Memoriam...

Next to a glittering crown
a hand picked wreath..
symbols of long dedicated years...
soft tears...

Steadfast as oak, myrtle, heather, rosemary..
Lifetime of service born with grace,
so faithfully..
flowers, symbols of love,
amid the beat of marching feet..
the muffled sound of drums...

A simple wreath, expressing love
next to symbols, of might..
Gentle among the marching feet...
muffled beat of drums..guns salute
bells toll..
Uniforms strut ..glitter reds ..and gold..

The pomp and glory..Marching army..
Gentle flowers, picked with care....
The symbols go, ending a reign...
the flowers remain..
a simple wreath ..
Love and Grief..

Garden Visits

We have had a very successful season of garden visits in our local counties from March-September and since this was our first season since the pandemic we have all enjoyed getting together again.

We had quite a lot of interest at the Groups Fair in September and consequently a number of new members will be joining us for our Planning Meeting in October 2022 where we ask members for suggestions in order for us to put together another interesting and colourful programme ready for March 2023.

For more information, please contact:
Wendy Davies on 01684 575996 or at geoff.wendydavies@hotmail.co.uk
or Janet Jackson on 01684 561902 or at janeteleanor5@gmail.com



Travel Group

Have you been to Weston-Super-Mare?, Jodrell Bank?, Coventry Cathedral? We have, we are The Travel Group, which is open to all members of Malvern u3a. You do not have to register, you are automatically a member, just turn up on the second Tuesday in the month at 2.00pm at Malvern Rugby Club, Spring Lane, Malvern WR14 1AJ. We warmly welcome new members and please contact Hazel Haslam 01684 563172 if you require further details.

This year we have enjoyed day coach trips to the Helicopter Museum and Weston Super Mare on a very windy day! We went next to Wales to the Nant Garw Porcelain works in the morning and "The Collections" in the afternoon. This is an amazing array of large items needing conservation too big to be in the regional museums.

It was nearer home to go to Kidderminster on the Severn Valley Steam Railway to Bridgenorth and we called in at the railway museum on the way back.

In July we went to Clevedon Court – a beautiful medieval manor house and stopped on the way at Sanders Garden Centre for lunch. We always stop for excellent lunches!

Trips in the planning stage are to Packwood House and a 'Church Crawl' with Tim Bridges, an eminent historian on Victorian churches.

Please come along to this friendly group and help plan its future. Suggestions and assistance would be much appreciated.

For further information, contact Peter Dennis on 01886 880838 or pnjd46@sky.com or Hazel Haslam on 01684 563172



All around my hat, Neill Lewis, Camera Group

Ukulele Groups

With three different groups now meeting regularly there is a ukulele group for everyone!

The Strum & Sing group meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and includes both complete beginners and experienced players. Along with the chance to have a good sing the group is a teaching group for those who are new to the ukulele or are aiming to improve their technique. The first half hour of each session is given over to learning, before moving onto the playlist for that month. Beginners will always find a more experienced player to sit next to for extra encouragement. Our songbooks and playlists can be found on our website.

There are two instrumental groups, each with four/five members, who work on a range of pieces in various musical styles. Examples of the music used can be found in the 'Library' section of the group's website.

Examples of work done by the groups can be experienced by using a phone or tablet to scan the QR codes below. These are examples of a solo piece, a group instrumental and a strum & sing session. We hope you enjoy them.

Our website is at <https://malvern3a.org.uk/ukulele/>

If you would like to join us contact Richard Owen on owen.r@lineone.net.



When I'm 64 (Strum and Sing Group)



Arkansas Traveller (Solo)



Danse Macabre (Group)

Solos



Solos Group members on a visit to Hampton Court Gardens in Herefordshire.

The Group's monthly walk in the Malvern Hills



The Solos picnic in Priory Gardens - celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

There's a happy side-effect in our Solos groups - you can often find someone to join you to go to a function you want to attend, knowing you will enjoy it more with a friendly person to share the experience - and we're all very friendly.

Mary Barrett. Group Leader

For more information, contact Mary at marybarrettis@sky.com or on 01684 566264

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Astronomy and astrophysics is not being run as a full course this year, due to lack of students. In recent years it has been by Zoom only.

The basic course has a complete set of recordings available through the Malvern u3a website, following the link: www.malvernu3a.org.uk/groups/astronomy. These sessions (about 18 in all) can be viewed by anyone at any time, each lasting about 90 minutes, and available as a series of links to PowerPoint presentations on the topics of astronomy and astrophysics as described on the site.

For new students or anyone interested this is the way to do it, watching the video set in sequence through the links.

I am going to have some Zoom question and answer sessions driven by students as a supplement. Also, later, with additional new material: including the James Webb telescope, Artemis mission around the Moon, new international research, current and future facilities. Further thoughts on the real nature of the universe and cosmology etc. Any common questions answered.

The Zoom sessions, which started in September are on Thursdays from 16.30 and lasting for up to 90 minutes.

Remaining dates are November 10,17,24; and December 1, 8.

Just to confirm, these sessions are not the course itself, but to allow questions, and interactions with students, for those watching the videos - or for anyone else who has done the course and wants a follow up.

We may not use all these live Zoom dates. This will be a matter of discussion To match up with the sequential topics you will need to at least follow the individual link sessions at a rate of about two a week.

For those registering an interest I will send the ID code and general link for the Zoom sessions when I have them.

Please get in contact with me if you are interested and haven't done so already.

Chris Baddiley, Group Leader cjbaddiley@gmail.com 01886 880047 or 07956 449233



Liz Galloway, Theme: Little Things,
Camera Group

Boules and Petanque 1



Group Leader Richard Shenton reports, "We don't let a little drop of rain deter us as you can see. Here is our "hardy" gang of players at our recent social gathering." The Group meets every Thursday from 10.30 am to 12 noon, in the park opposite Malvern Cetral Station. For more details, contact Richard on 01684 566451 or at shentonrichard241@gmail.

Badminton Group - NEW

One of the ideas for a new u3a group is that of badminton. Some progress has now been made. The usual problem is to find court facilities during a morning or afternoon at a reasonable cost.

We have now managed to secure two courts at the YMCA Hill Centre on the outskirts of Upton on a Tuesday morning from 10.00 to midday (meeting weekly). There is plenty of free parking space. In order that players are not sat out too long, each session will be restricted to 14. The date of the first meeting is Tuesday, 1st November. The group is suitable for those who have played the game before (albeit some time ago) or who have experience of tennis or squash. On the other hand it is not suitable for reasonably accomplished badminton players whose needs can be catered for by the different badminton clubs in the area. Basically it is a 'middle of the road' grouping. We will only be playing doubles, either mixed, men's or women's. You will need a racquet (although you can borrow one for the first session) and shuttles will be provided. The charge per session is £2

I have offered to organise the group for the first six months while we try to get it established, after which it will probably become self-managing. If you would like to join us on November 1st then please send me an e-mail to that effect at rogkeeling@gmail.com If you have any further queries then please feel free to e-mail me

Roger Keeling, Group Leader

Geology Group

This newsletter coincides with the group's change from outdoor to indoor programmes. During the summer months, we organize a series of field trips to provide a varied set of visits and experiences. In this, I want to recognize the work of group member Peter Bridges who is responsible for arranging and managing our programme and has led more than one of the trips himself.

We try to ensure we have a mixture of trips reasonably close to home as well as a little further afield in order to appeal to as many members as possible. This year, because of the obvious restrictions, we have not arranged a residential trip either in the UK or even abroad as we have done often in the past. We hope to get back to these next year. We also try and ensure that the physical side of our trips varies from easy to not so easy! We also have to restrict the numbers on each trip to ensure that they are manageable – there's only so many people who can easily cluster around a rock!

The pictures below, and on the cover of this newsletter, give a flavour of some of the trips, varying from walking on our own hills, visits to Hereford beauty spots, a hard climbing trip to the Black Mountains in Wales and a bus trip to the Loughborough area. At the time of writing, we have one more trip planned to the Lapworth geological museum at Birmingham University.

Our attention now turns to our winter programme of lectures which begin in October at the Cube. If you are interested in joining the group, then our website provides much more information, including details of our monthly talks. We are always open to new members – contact Roger Hunt at rmrhunt@sky.com

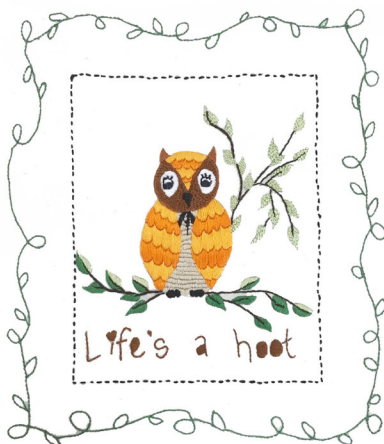


Altar Stones, Charnwood Forest



Southstone Rock, near Shelsey Walsh

Patchwork and Needle Skills - Samples of members' Work



Monthly Meetings

All the talks take place at 2.30 pm at The Cube in Malvern on the last Tuesday of the month.

Speakers and Topics

Tuesday 25 October

The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward, with Peter Gill

Born in 1899, Noel Coward was an actor, composer, director, producer, and in later life a painter - and he excelled at them all. He said of himself, "I am an enormously talented man, and there is no use in denying it".

Peter Gill will remind us of that talent and some of the wonderful songs and wit of the 'Master' including *A Bar on the Piccola Marina*, *Don't Let's be beastly to the Germans*, *Mrs Worthington*, *There are Bad Times just around the Corner* and *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*.

Tuesday 29 November

MALVERN u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 2.00 pm

The AGM will be followed at 2.30 pm by:

Local Place Names in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, with Richard Churchley

Richard is a musician and historical researcher, who has published many articles and booklets on local and family history. He was awarded the individual prize for Promoting the History of Worcestershire in 2018 and he will talk about the fascinating history and origins of many local place names.

There is no monthly meeting in December

NEWSLETTER

All written contributions should be e-mailed (preferably as Word documents) to
newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk

Photographs should be sent separately as .jpg files (no smaller than 1Mb)

Please note that contributions may be edited.

The deadline for the Spring edition is

Monday 20 March 2023