

MALVERN **U3A** NEWSLETTER

No 73 FEBRUARY 2014



Diglis Bridge - Roger Dixon

Malvern U3A Committee

- Acting Chair: **Richard Owen**
e-mail: chair@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 564 565
- General Secretary: **Sue Dalley**
e-mail: secretary@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 891 520
- Treasurer: **Andrew Hague**
e-mail: treasurer@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01905 – 828 249
*Address for submissions of fees/expenses:
Andrew Hague, Clareland, Old Road South,
Kempsey, WR5 3NJ.
(Forms to be used are on the web site.)*
- Membership Secretary: **Roger Hunt**
e-mail: membership@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 565 926
- Groups Co-ordinator: **Pam Stanier**
e-mail: groups@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 899 117
- Speakers Organiser: **Sue Lamberton** (Vice Chair)
e-mail: speakers@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01886 – 830 050
- Venues Co-ordinator: **Norma Braddock**
e-mail: roombook@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 574 025
- Technical Officer: **Peter Corfield**
e-mail: technical@malvernu3a.org.uk
Phone: 01684 – 893 226
- Newsletter Editor: **Vacancy**
e-mail: newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk
- Other committee members
Sally Corr
Phone: 01684 - 568 717

Chairman's Chat

First things first, let me introduce myself ...

My name is Richard Owen and, until the next AGM in November, I have agreed to act as Chairman for Malvern U3A. (Some of you will know that I have been on the committee for the last few years as Technical Officer and Web Manager.)

At the end of the AGM in November you were left with a committee, but no Chair or Vice–Chair. Since then the committee has worked to rectify this. At the January meeting of Trustees (the committee) I was co-opted to the committee and then elected as Acting Chairman. I am pleased to say that Sue Lamberton has agreed to act as Vice Chair. Over the year I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible so that your views can be a part of how we become an ever more successful U3A.

I feel that the success of a U3A is measured in the enthusiasm of group members and that our eighty-plus interest groups reflect the willingness of members to become group leaders or co-ordinators. I hope that as many groups as possible will be represented at the group leaders meeting on February 14th at Manor Park. Even with so many groups there are still occasions when someone thinks ‘what about a group on ... ‘ and we are here to help you through the process of setting up a new interest group. Contact Pam Stanier (Groups Co-ordinator) in the first instance and she will help you get in touch with other like-minded members.

I would very much like to visit groups and meet members. If you would like me to visit your group please get in touch, (details on the committee page) or talk to me at our regular monthly meeting at The Cube.

Where else might you find me (apart from Waitrose café)? The interest groups that keep me hooked are computing, camera, ukulele and walking (must get back to that more regularly!) so perhaps you can be instrumental in widening my experiences.

Richard

Newsletter Editor: **Vacancy** newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk

News from groups

Shakespeare 2

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10am at the leader's house in Hanley Swan.

Contacts: Dorothy Meredith: Tel. 01684 - 310 401
Gill Ferris: Tel. 01684 - 892 887
e-mail gillferris@hotmail.com

The group, suspended for some time during the summer of 2013, is now fully functioning, as we continue to read and discuss aspects of Shakespeare's art. The group, who read fluently, have enjoyed our first choice, 'The Merchant of Venice' and are now discovering one of Shakespeare's later plays, 'The Winter's Tale'. When we have finished our study of this play we shall probably return to the Venetian setting of 'Merchant' by reading 'Othello'.

When we have full attendance we can find 'actors' for most of the parts. We would, however, welcome more members to join us.

U3A Maths Schedule

January - April 2014

(Session Leader in Brackets)

Tuesday February 4th :- Fractals (Roger Keeling)

Tuesday February 18th :- Sets and Venn Diagrams (John Knee)

Tuesday March 4th :- Pascal's Triangle (Russell Horton)

Tuesday March 18th :- Number Systems (Roger Keeling)

Tuesday April 1st :- Further Probability (John Knee)

Tuesday April 15th :- Miscellaneous Problem Solving (Open Participation)

Gardening Appreciation Group Visits for 2014

We meet monthly on the 3rd Friday of the month (except in December & January). Meet at Link Top car park at 10.30am unless stated otherwise.

✿ February 21st
Webbs Garden Centre, Droitwich

✿ March 21st
Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre

- ✿ April 11th - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
Hanbury Hall, Hanbury, Nr Droitwich
- ✿ May 16th
Meet at Great Malvern Station at 10.00am to catch train to visit Winterbourne Gardens, University of Birmingham
Anyone needing a lift to the train station please telephone group leader.
- ✿ June 20th
Meet at Link Top car park at 1.45pm to visit member Penny Redman's garden.
- ✿ July 18th
Witley Court and Gardens, Great Witley
- ✿ August 15th
Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucestershire
- ✿ September 19th
Old Court Nurseries & Picton Garden, Malvern
- ✿ October 17th
Bodenham Arboretum, Wolverley, Kidderminster



- ✿ November 21st
We will meet at Di Smith's at 2.30pm to arrange 2015 visits.
Tel: 01684 569503

Theatre Studies

Meetings @ 10am at Manor Park. All members welcome.

26th February 'Stage to TV'- the experiences of Hazel Sherlock.

26th March 'What do we want from our Theatre' discussion

30th April 'Bits and Pieces'- talk/discussion led by Alan Starkey.

Geology Group

By the time you are reading this our group will be midway through a series of 9 weekly lectures linking the geological and archaeological aspects of the British landscape. Our very grateful thanks go to Richard Edwards for putting together this fascinating course. There has been a very rewarding response with about 120 members filling the hall at The Cube.

To complete out spring indoor talks programme:

9th April Dr Paul Olver on Earth and Moon – history of a double planet.

14th May La Palma – feedback from the group visit

Meanwhile our outdoor programme will have got under way and will include:

Coach trips following Richard's lectures and to the British Geological Survey HQ.

Guided local walks and further afield.

A four day visit to South Devon in the autumn.



It's not always nice geology weather!

The group sheltering from the rain in Worcester Cathedral on a geology walk around Worcester Town Centre.

Photo: Richard Newton

Monday Gardening Group 2014 Programme

All dates are Mondays

28th April	Schofields, Newent
19th May	Stockton Bury, Kimbolton
16th June	Bourton House Garden, Ashton under Hill
21st July	Wolferlow House, Upper Sapey
18th August	Weston Mews, Weston under Penyard
15th September	The Tynings, Stoulton
20th October	Lower Hope, Ullingswick

Contacts: Janet Green - 01684 - 567 974; Pam Baker 01886 - 832 983

Creative Writing 2

This second Creative Writing Group meets on the first Friday of every month at 10am at the leader's home in Great Malvern. We have room for two more members.

This is not a tuition group but is for students who just want to experience the pleasure of writing, therefore people new to writing are most welcome.

Please phone Maisie on 01684 - 573 877.

Welsh Culture

The Welsh Culture group visited the Elan Valley Dams at Rhayader last November along with the house at Abbey-Cwm-Hir. It was such a great day out the dams were majestic and in full flow in the sunshine (a rare occurrence apparently) and with the backdrop of the autumn colours on the surrounding mountains we thought we were in Heaven. A long day, but a trip thoroughly enjoyed by



Photo: Sue Wheeler

all those who took part even those who got very wet feet inside the tunnel of the main dam whilst being led to a central viewing platform!!!!

History Through Art

Programme for Spring 2014

- ✎ 28th February
Gainsborough's Early Landscapes with Joy Bailey
- ✎ 28th March
The Artist in the painting with Jenny Purser

Study Opportunities

**An exclusive study day for U3A members
at The Sainsbury Wing Theatre, the National Gallery, London**

Best of British:

Exploring 18th century painting through The National Gallery Collection

Thursday 27th March 2014, 11am – 3pm

From Hogarth's satirising morality tales to the patronage of home-grown talent and the development of the grand manner portrait, the National Gallery invites U3A members to explore British painting at its best in the 18th century.

Join Gallery experts and invited speakers including Professor Vaughan, author of *British Painting: The Golden Age* and Jennifer Scott, Curator of Paintings, The Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace.

Tickets: £18 per person (lunches & refreshments not provided). Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis, maximum of 2 tickets per applicant. Should you be unable to attend, we cannot refund ticket money but may be able to offer your place to another U3A member if there is a waiting list.

Any queries should be sent to the U3A National Office: 020 8466 6139.

Apply in writing with your contact details to: The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE enclosing a sae. Cheques are payable to The Third Age Trust.

Malcolm Robertson



U3A Explores Science at the Ri (The Royal Institution)

'Science Lives Here'

Monday 24 March 2014 at the Royal Institution of Great Britain,
21 Albemarle Street, London W1

Programme

- 1.30pm Audience arrives
- 2.00pm Introduction by Barbara Lewis, (Chairman of The Third Age Trust), who will act as chair for the afternoon
- 2.05pm Helen Czerski 'Bubbles: the bath and beyond'
Physicist Helen Czerski will explore how the humble bubble is much more than a frivolous toy found in the bath and in champagne glasses. These little pockets of gas in liquid are the hidden physical heroes of our everyday world. Come and learn about why bubbles are so special and how they contribute to medicine, weather, taste and much more.
- 2.40pm Question and answer session (10 minutes).
- 2.50pm Elizabeth Stokoe 'The conversational racetrack'
Social psychologist, Elizabeth Stokoe, will talk about an analogy to understand our interactional encounters: the 'conversational racetrack'. She will describe how conversation analysts work scientifically with recordings of talk and then discuss her own research. Finally, she will show how she has used this empirical work to underpin practitioner communication training using the 'Conversation Analytic Role-play Method'.
- 3.25pm Question and answer session (10 minutes).
- 3.35pm Tea and coffee (35 minutes).
- 4.10pm David Whitmore 'Biological clocks, light and what happens in a cave?'
Each cell in our body seems to know the time of day. In some of the species we study, especially most types of fish, we find that not only does each cell have a clock, but they can also directly detect light. UCL chronobiologist David Whitmore will explore how cells and tissues can detect light why each cell would want to know the time of day, and what does this mean for animals that live in caves?
- 4.45pm Question and answer session.
- 4.55pm Close.

Places are limited. Admission is by ticket only at £20 each including refreshments. We cannot give refunds but may be able to offer your ticket to any waiting list if you are unable to attend.

Applications can be sent immediately. Tickets will be sent out from January.

Please apply in writing to: The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE enclosing a 2nd class stamp for up to 4 tickets or a large letter stamp if you require more (maximum 15 tickets per applicant) and a cheque made payable to The Third Age Trust.

Request from production teamworking on BBC2 documentary 'Britain's Greatest Generation'

Award winning history documentary company Testimony Films are making a new documentary series for BBC2 paying tribute to Britain's Greatest Generation.

We want to hear from men and women in their 80s, 90s and 100s who have vivid and interesting stories to tell from their past.

From childhood to war; romance to retirement - this generation has experienced the most radical amount of change within their lifetime than any other. Their memories and values are hugely important for educating and inspiring our future generations.

Do you have interesting tales of childhood in the 1920s and 1930s?

Did you serve during World War 2 or keep our home fires burning?

Have you found a new lease of life since retirement?

Are your children or grandchildren fascinated by your tales of the past?

If so we would love to talk to you about your story!

If you would like to share your memories with us please get in touch with Pete, Emily or Sara
Tel: 0117 925 8589



E-mail:
pete.vance@testimonvfilms.com

Not forgotten - Janet Farnes

Address: 12 Great George Street, Bristol, BS15RH

U3A Summer School

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, CIRENCESTER

Our 16th Annual Summer School

Monday 18th August to Thursday 21st August 2014

This is a National Event open to all U3A Members

Courses being offered for the 2014 Summer School are shown below. Full details are available on the U3A website. Early booking is advised as the Summer Schools are very popular.

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE of the Arts & Crafts Movement in Britain

"The House Beautiful" Tutor: Carol Burnett

The Arts and Crafts Movement was a short-lived although influential period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will explore the political and social climate which led pioneers such as William Morris, John Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood to reject Victorian mass production in favour of hand crafted arts and the vernacular architecture of bygone times. We will learn about the Movement's key architects and artisans and explore the main features required for a 'House Beautiful'. Armed with the theory we will visit an arts and crafts property in the vicinity.

Level of Ability: No prior knowledge is necessary, just an enquiring mind and an interest in the arts and crafts movement.

Teaching style: I encourage group participation and the sharing of knowledge and ideas. I will use Powerpoint to introduce and illustrate the theory and provide the information needed for the practical tasks to be undertaken at our visit. A preparatory reading list will be supplied.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Artistic re-interpretation Tutor: John Battison

The possibilities to be found in Photoshop are boundless. The objective is for each of us to produce pictures from photographs which can be considered an artistic endeavour, reflecting our varied interests and aspirations. The sessions will be similar to the successful 2013 course - new and previous students welcome - they will aim to introduce the techniques of combining images, together with the subsequent manipulation, in a wide variety of ways, to gradually convert the overall image to what might be considered artistic. Attention will be given to the advanced use of Resolution, Adjustments, Tools, Layers, Filters and so on. There will also be discussion about the essentials of composition, or what

makes a picture look interesting. Students may, if they wish, bring images they have already taken.

Level of ability: Students must be competent computer users and have a working knowledge of Photoshop or Elements. Students must bring their own laptop with Photoshop or Elements installed - a mouse or tablet is essential as the touch pad is not sensitive enough; please don't forget your charger/mains lead.

Teaching style: Various functions will be demonstrated to be followed by the use of these techniques by students on their own computers.



Carole Newton

DRAMA: Power and Cruelty

Tutor: Rosamund Hall

When James (I and VI) succeeded Elizabeth 1 in 1603, the theatre darkened. Violence, horror, incest and cruelty drove many of the plots. Shakespeare wrote his great tragedies - Othello, King Lear and Macbeth – and John Webster powerful revenge plays. I propose to study and act out scenes from these. They will be difficult. A diet of unrelenting horror would be indigestible and we will follow all this with a look at how 20th century writers were influenced by their and our world events.

Level of ability: Come prepared to both act and argue with enthusiasm. You will be asked to bring some scripts - about three plays. Modern excerpts will be provided. I will enclose, with the reading list, some speeches to be worked on in advance (optional but hoped for).

Teaching style: A short talk before each session, followed by small group work. Some mime and improvisation will be encouraged.

GARDENING

"How does your Garden Grow"? Tutor: Anthea Lock

We will look at making gardening even more of a pleasure (or less of a chore!) whatever the size or situation of your plot - from allotment to patio. We will explore planting for all-year round interest and colour; consider the more unusual varieties of flower and vegetable plants that are easy and fun to grow, propagate and care for and we will discuss vegetables suitable for growing in containers and small plots.

There will be a half day visit to The Botanic Nursery and Gardens at Atworth, near Melksham for a short talk and stroll through the display gardens to look at some of the unusual plants grown on site.

Level of ability. Suitable for anyone wishing to improve or alter their garden, also those wishing to experiment growing different plants that you might not have previously considered.

Teaching style: Seminars with plenty of time for discussion and participation including a Question Time session.

You will be asked to send your questions in ahead of the summer school so that duplicates can be avoided and the most relevant to the course chosen.

LITERATURE

Women's Voices of World War 1 Tutor: Dr. Yvonne Oram

Whilst their writing has not always been brought to the fore in the 100 years since the start of the First World War, many women recorded their experiences during that time of change and danger. This course looks at some of their writing including prose, poetry, letters and diaries from all sides of the conflict. We will explore the ways in which the war changed women's lives and expectations. Texts discussed will include *Scars Upon My Heart: Women's Poetry and Verse of the First World War*, ed. Catherine Reilly and *The Virago Book of Women and the Great War*, ed. Joyce Marlow.

Level of ability: Open to all who enjoy reading widely and are happy to share and discuss ideas. Students should bring copies of the two books mentioned above to the school. Photocopied extracts for discussion will be available at the school. It is unlikely that there will be a shortage of books about the War for background reading!

Teaching style: Discussion in large and small groups.

MUSIC

Making Friends with the Great Composers Tutor: Jack Wood

This new course will take a selection of classical composers - some of the really great ones - and will examine them in some depth: their lives, times and music. This is not an academic or technical course - there will be no delving into the depths of the 'diminished seventh' or 'chromatic chords'! It's about enhancing your interest in classical music and so increasing your enjoyment of it. If you know a little about the great composers, and want to know more, then this course is for you. You will hear plentiful examples of their works: about 60% of the time is filled with their music.

Level of ability: This course is for enthusiasts, not experts.

Teaching style: Lecture-style with time for questions, comments and discussion.

POETRY

The Transforming Language of Poetry Tutor: Mary. MacGregor

The course will explore how and why poetry works on us in a way that is different from prose. We shall look at the use of everyday language and figurative language in poetry from Shakespeare, Milton, the Wordsworths (Dorothy and William), Hardy, Emily Dickinson to T.S. Eliot and to living poets

practising their art today. We shall explore the connection between a poem and its form and how rhyme, non-rhyme and rhythm are used.

Level of ability: An ability to respond to poetry. Students are encouraged to bring their favourite poems, including CDs of poems that have been set to music. There will be photocopies of poems provided.

Teaching style: Discussion of poems in small groups in the first instance and sharing of discussions in larger groups.

SCIENCE

Light and Sound In Nature Tutor: John Naylor

The course is for people who are curious about, puzzled by, or just downright ignorant of the many arresting sights and sounds that one comes across in course of daily life. You will learn about phenomena such as rainbows, mirages, colours of the sky, echoes, singing sands and the sundry sounds of wind and water, the circumstances in which you are likely to encounter them, and how to improve your chances of doing so. The aim is to broaden your knowledge of natural phenomena and improve your powers of observation.



Antarctic ice - Rosemary Fretwell

The course will appeal to anyone who finds the natural world fascinating and inspiring, ranging from those who like to keep an eye on the weather or on the night sky to naturalists, photographers and ramblers.

Level of ability: The course involves some elementary science, but prospective students need not have a background in science because the handful of scientific concepts necessary to understand these phenomena will be explained as and when necessary. The key requirement is an interest in natural phenomena in the open air.

Teaching style: Illustrated lectures, demonstrations, discussions and simple, hands-on experiments (some of which will take place outdoors).

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Tutor: Ursula Steiger

As in previous years we will be singing a variety of music, ranging from classical pieces and popular tunes to spirituals and folks songs from different traditions and in different languages. What we will sing will in part depend on the balance of women's and men 's voices but the aim is to provide music for all tastes and moods. We shall also provide two sessions for those who wish to tackle some more demanding harmonies and those who enjoy singing from an easier repertoire. The emphasis will be on enjoyment and the course will be led in a light-hearted and inclusive manner. It is assumed that members will want to engage in learning and will be prepared to tackle a few challenges.

Level of ability: Those who can read music or at least recognise notes going up or down a scale will find this course easier than those who can't. However, singing is about opening hearts and minds to music and if you are willing to try and learn at a fairly fast pace you will be very welcome.

Teaching style: There will be 'jam' sessions in unison or harmony, allowing the music to invigorate us, lift our spirits and make us smile. We will also spend time learning one or two pieces in depth and with harmonies wherever possible. We shall also look at some theory in relation to the music we sing and, of course, we shall have daily 'warm-up' sessions.

.....

COSTS FOR COMPLETE SUMMER SCHOOL INCLUDING A WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION ON THE FIRST DAY FOR ALL DELEGATES

Full board residential in en-suite accommodation	£285.00 per person
Non-residential day delegate including lunches	£107.00 per person

Additional notes:

- ☞ Details of any preliminary reading/book lists, materials required will be sent when available.

- ⇒ Coach visits/entry fees (Art & Architecture, Gardening groups) there will be an additional charge of approximately £10-£17 per person. You will be notified how much to bring before the school starts and payment is made to U3A organisers on registration at the school.
- ⇒ Digital photography. If you wish to contact the tutor about this course, the details are: John Battison, Telephone 01803 – 690 592 or e-mail john.battison@googlemail.com
- ⇒ Science. Further information, including a detailed description of the aims and contents of the course, together with a list of suggested preliminary reading (print & web), is available from the tutor:
John Naylor, telephone 020 8946 7523 or email jcnaylor@blueyonder.co.uk
If you own a camera, binoculars or an iPad, bring them along.
- ⇒ Singing for Pleasure. If you wish to contact the tutor about the level of ability for this course, the details are: Ursula Steiger, telephone 01227–711 536 or e-mail ursulae@btinternet.com

Note: Contact National Office, NOT the University, if you have any questions about this summer school.



Members of the Patchwork and Needlework skills group with the quilt that was recently completed by Ingrid.

Photo: Sue Wheeler

GET AWAY WITH U3A

TRAVEL GROUP

Travel Group meet 2nd Tuesday of the month at 'The Cube'.

More details on Malvern U3A website.

Forthcoming trips:

Wednesday 19th March

Victorian & Edwardian Birmingham with Tim Bridges

Organiser: Peter Dennis 01886 - 880 838 (pnjd46@sky.com)

Full cost of trip: £13.00

Depart: 09.00 approx

Return: 17.00 approx

Thursday 27th March

Museum of London - Cheapside Hoard

Organiser: Dee Davis (deemdavis@btinternet.com)

Cost: £22 inc entrance + £1 on the day for locker

Depart Splash Car Park: 8.30am

Return: 7pm approx

Tuesday 15th April

Batsford Arboretum

Organiser: Dawn Trevou 01684 - 577 916 (yandadawn@yahoo.co.uk)

Cost: to be advised

Depart Splash Car Park: 10am

Return: Mid afternoon.



Somerset Levels - Arnold Penney

Lawn Bowling Group 2014

Following last summer's successful lawn bowling sessions, I am hoping to run them again this year starting at the end of April. If you are interested, please let me know by the end of March and tell me whether you prefer a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. The overall level of interest will determine whether I run one or two sessions a week. As before, the venue will be at the Priory Bowling Club in Orchard Road, Malvern. All equipment, and coaching as necessary, will be provided.

Group leader: Wayne Braddock

Tel: 01684 - 574 025

E-mail: nmandpw@nmbraddock.plus.com

NEWSLETTER

We are always looking for contributions from our members for the Newsletters which are published in October, February and May.

All contributions should be emailed as a **Word document** to
newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk

These should be typed or printed for clarity.

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Updates for the monthly supplements

should be sent to Richard Owen

supplement@malvernu3a.org.uk

Please note the deadline for the May edition is

Monday 21st April 2014

We are again looking for someone to edit our Newsletter. If you think that you might be interested please talk to Richard Owen who will explain what is involved. You will be provided with a U3A laptop with appropriate software to help you produce the Newsletter.

*Photographs by members of the Camera Group
(3rd Friday, 10am at Manor Park)*



Joan Smith

Speakers for our Monthly Meeting - 2pm at The Cube

- 25th Feb. The speaker is ANDREW LOUND who will bring us "The Titanic: A local perspective".
- 25th Mar. The speaker is ALAN ROGERS who will talk on "A Policemans Lot".
- 29th Apr. The speaker is DIANE ALEXANDER who will tell us about the lives of "The Mitford Sisters".