

# MALVERN U3A NEWSLETTER

N° 77 SUMMER 2015



*Images from the Painting<sup>2</sup> Group...  
... see inside for more*

## U3A Committee (Trustees)

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Other committee members	There is room for four co-opted members.

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## CHAIR'S NOTES

On July 17th 1995, there was a short piece in the Malvern Gazette, with the headline: "University of Life bids for a base in Malvern".

The article started by saying that The University of the Third Age was hoping to start a branch in Malvern, and there was to be a preliminary meeting of interested people on August 8th at Malvern Hills College. It explained that the U3A was a "growing network of self-help educational activities organised by and for retired people of all ages".

In our archive there is also a copy of a duplicated flyer which says "Are you interested in Music, Literature, Drama, Science, Art, Discussions, Research, Talks, Trips, Walking Etc? If so you may like to know that we are hoping to form a Malvern branch of the U3A. DO COME AND SEE WHAT U3A IS ALL ABOUT"

This flyer also gave the date and time of the meeting and was sent by Peter Asquith, Acting Chairman, and Mary Davis, Acting Secretary, both of whom are still active in our U3A. I understand that the first meeting was so well attended with 150 people there, that extra chairs had to be found, there was standing room only for latecomers, and the outcome was that there was sufficient interest to start a U3A locally.

By 1996 there were 325 members and eighteen groups, in 2002 there were 600 members, and now we have more than 1100 members and over eighty groups.

2015 is therefore twenty years since that first meeting of Malvern U3A and to mark this the Trustees have decided that the July Monthly meeting, on July 28th at the Cube, which is the nearest date we have to that first August 8th meeting, to celebrate the anniversary of its founding will include special refreshments including a celebration cake! We hope that as many members as possible will be able to come. We especially hope that many past Chairpersons and Trustees will be able to be there to share their memories of the early days.

We owe a great deal to those who had the initiative and energy to start our wonderful organisation here in Malvern and it will be good to celebrate this with them, as we move towards our Silver Anniversary celebrations in 2021.

Best wishes

Pam Stanier

# News from Groups

## Bridge

Following the sad death of Audrey Turner a meeting was held to see what could be done to fill the large void left by her loss.

Audrey had been teaching bridge for many years and was, at the time of her death, running four levels of teaching group and one playing group, an amazing level of commitment.

The experienced players have been invited to join the regular Monday afternoon session at Manor Park and the Thursday Duplicate Bridge Session on Thursday afternoon at The Cube. If they do not yet feel ready for duplicate they can play Rubber Bridge alongside the rest of the group. They have also been offered help if they wish to start their own playing sessions.

For the beginners a new training session was held on 13th of April mainly to review where they had got to in their training and the formal teaching sessions start on 20th April at 10:00 at The Cube.

From the start of the new academic year in September it is planned to run two courses, the Absolute Beginners Course and an Improvers Course. Details will be in the groups directory published later in the year.

## New Group

A Bridge group will be set up at Holy Trinity Church, Malvern Link on Tuesday mornings 10am to 12 noon starting from Tues Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

This will be primarily for Audrey Turners 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year bridge players, (there are around 20 of us), but of course it is also open to anyone who wishes to come along. It seems that there may not be an actual tutor available to us but we are hoping that someone will take pity and perhaps we will get a volunteer eventually, meanwhile obviously we are using our own resources.

Margaret Aspland has offered to lead the group and she can be contacted on 01684 565956 or by e-mail at [masugarloaf@tesco.net](mailto:masugarloaf@tesco.net)



Lorna Blackwell

Entry for 'monochrome' theme at Camera Group.

# Geology

Our emphasis at this time of year moves from our regular monthly talks and discussion groups to getting out and about.

Having heard from experts on fracking and on the Christchurch earthquake recently, our last morning at The Cube on 13th May will be a members' feedback session on the group's recent geology week in Cyprus and on what our specialist subgroups, eg on fossils, have been doing.

For the summer we have coach trips to Fforest Fawr Geopark in Wales and to the open day at the British Geological Survey HQ at Keyworth near Nottingham. Local walks will continue and we will even have a geologically themed Treasure Hunt in Malvern. In September 20 members will be exploring what the rocks of Anglesey have to tell us.

From early October to December we shall have a 10 week lecture course on 'The History of Geology' led by Richard Edwards and Alan Gray. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the first national geology map. To celebrate this and to bring mapping up to the digital age we will welcome a speaker from the BGS.

New members are always welcome -- please contact Dick Harris on 01886 880699 or at richardlingleyharris@gmail.com

## Our outdoor programme for the summer ...

Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Castlemorton Common walk with Moira Jenkins

Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> June – British Geological Society Open Day, Keyworth near Nottingham. (By coach.)

Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> August – Treasure Hunt around Malvern Town Centre

7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September – Fieldtrip to Anglesey

Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Black Mountains walk with Dick Bryant. (By car.)

## Play Reading <sup>2</sup>

The U3A Play-reading Group (Number 2) meets on the first and third Thursday mornings of the month at The Cube from 10am until 12 noon and would welcome new members.

We read a wide variety of plays with members recommending plays they would particularly like to read.

In recent weeks we have read *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, *Lady Windermere's Fan* by Oscar Wilde, *The Shewing-up of Blanco Posnet* by Bernard Shaw and *Toad of Toad Hall* by A.A. Milne.

If you like the theatre, then this is the group for you!

If you would like to know more, please contact me, David Martin, on 01684 577425 or email: davidandlizmatin@gmail.com.

## Welsh Culture Group

On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April we had an illustrated talk by Dai Price, the Manager at the National Roman Museum at Caerleon. He told us about life under the Roman occupation and its influence on Welsh culture.

Before the Romans arrive Wales was peopled by Iron Age tribes, but the Romans were a well-organised sophisticated imperialist society who enjoyed entertainment with gladiatorial conflict and parties, but they also enjoyed their gardens as places to relax and as status symbols.

Both the Welsh and Romans enjoyed music, the Welsh using harps and the Romans playing trumpets to lead them into battle, sometimes by misleading the locals with musical decoys. The Romans were artistic in that they carved masonry with the names of leaders on tombstones. In fact, the earliest evidence of writing in Wales is housed at Caerleon Museum. It has been suggested that the Welsh dragon has Roman origins because they carried an animal head with burning coals in its mouth into battle!

The Romans and the Welsh were both religious people, and stone altars which were dedicated to the goddesses of health and luck have been found at Caerleon. Statues of house spirits to protect their homes have also been found. Burials were in bath stone coffins and recently DNA was taken from a skeleton found in a stone coffin at Caerleon and this proved to be a 40-year old male. Also, the superimposed Greek symbols of chi and rho were found, indicating the evidence of Christianity among the Romans.

The biggest effect on Welsh life was the improvement in infrastructure, with the construction of the amphitheatre in Caerleon which provided entertainment and a leisure facility, and transport was improved by better roads. Excavations at Caerwent, near Chepstow, suggest that the small Roman town was intended as a settlement for the retired Roman soldiers, many of whom had intermarried, following the military exit.

This was a fascinating talk and we are grateful to Dai Price for coming to speak to us.

Sue Price

## Understanding Ourselves

Several of us met on a Friday afternoon at John and Elizabeth Staley's house in Malvern. After introductions and an outline of what the weekend would consist of, each of us filled out a questionnaire, choosing on each occasion from two statements concerning our preferences. There were 95 of these statements.

The questionnaires used the Myers-Briggs Indicator to show preferences on four scales:

intraversion/extraversion

sensing/intuition

thinking/feeling

judging/perceiving.

The basic idea of the MBTI is that certain differences between people can be recognised and understood systematically.

The following morning's work consisted of studying and discussing these preferences, after which John gave us our individual forms which showed each person's Reported Type, which was composed of the combinations of the four preferences. These combinations gave sixteen types. These types proved generally to be extremely accurate in defining our personal characteristics.

On the Sunday morning, we looked at advice for the various personality types and influences of the four functions: Dominant, Auxiliary, Tertiary and Inferior.

Interestingly, we discovered that the majority of the people attending the course had already attended it at least once before. The content of the course is considerable and it requires time to understand and assimilate.

We parted at the end of the Sunday morning session having spent a very interesting weekend and with plenty to think about.

Diana Walker

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## Ukulele – Strum and Sing

The Ukulele group holds a 'Strum and Sing' session on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 10.30 am We always include some songs suitable for complete beginners, who are more than welcome to join us. (However, you will need to buy a ukulele first!).

For more information please visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/malvernukes/home>.



# Creative Writing

The Creative Writing (Group 2) travelled to Shrewsbury early in April to catch up with Masie Smith who had previously set up this second group. After lunch and a catch up the group then read out their stories - the theme being 'Reunion'.

Maisie explains ...

"Just a bit about the history of the group. I attended the first group started by Mo Brown. Had it not been for her support and encouragement no words would have passed my finger tips and I would have missed 18 months of pure pleasure.

When the group grew too big I decided that I would open another group and host it at my flat. I don't profess to be a good writer and certainly not the best in class but I had found it very rewarding, so much fun and didn't want to deny new members the same opportunity. Writing 2 had only been running for about 6 months when we decided to move our main home to Shrewsbury which meant that I wouldn't be at the flat in Malvern very much. Fortunately Heather carried the torch and kept the group going. They had gelled together well and were very comfortable with each other by then, and it would have been a great shame for it to fall apart. We had a great day together when they visited my home last Friday and it was a thrill for me to hear all their stories once again. My thanks go to Mo Brown for her inspiration and encouragement, this lovely lady who started it all off, and to Heather for keeping my group going. Many tales yet to come."

## The Reunion

She looked into his face and racked her brain trying to find if it matched anything in the depths of memory. She thought there was something vaguely familiar about it, the long nose and the dark skin, sallow now with age. It was over 60 years since she had seen or heard from this man. It had been a fleeting, innocent fling for her in their youth, dispatched to a corner of her mind never to be searched for again, but he had searched for her. Searched in fine form indeed, with a big advert as large as an envelope in the local paper. Now they were meeting, two very different faces from those of 60 years ago. Lines etched on each, channels of joy and grief, like a road map with the terminus flying its flag. Why was she so important to him, she wondered, while she could barely remember any connection.. Hearts were so easy to break then, hardly a thought given to the sadness caused but she knew she would have to be gentle with him now. With two husbands dead and in their graves she had had her own share of sadness and loss and understood the pain.

They sat for coffee in a modern cafe, just newly opened on the high street. It was all glass tables with ghost chairs around each of them and walls full of mirrors, reflecting the mood of the years. She had wanted somewhere open and public, safer she thought, after all you never know! But this was a bit too open and she felt uncomfortable. It was as if her life was swimming round the room flashing at the mirror and echoing back for all to see. She gave a nervous little twitch and



shuffled in her seat as she looked around her to see if anyone was listening to their conversation, but they were all in their own little worlds and no one cared. Only this man cared and he cared very much, overjoyed that she had agreed to meet him he didn't seem to notice anyone else in the room. He started to tell her about his life, words spilling out of him, the vomit of half a century. He'd married, had two children that he adored but a wife that he did not. He'd moved from one end of the country to another and had lived on the coast for years. Many a walk had been taken alone on the beach with thoughts of her whispered in the wind. Never had she gone from his mind and the thought of what might have been. This overwhelming love he felt for her had taken charge of his heart and his soul. She found it all very strange, this romance from another life so clasped to his brain while she had never given him single thought since the day she dumped him. He rambled on about his golf, his life in insurance sales and his grown up children his face shining with joy at having found her. She, being more pragmatic than romantic, could only think what she was having for supper. After another hour of his life story, his coffee long since gone cold and he'd not even noticed, she realized why she'd parted from him all those years ago. He was so boring then and equally boring now. She pictured him as that young spotty boy tied to his mothers apron strings in his boring suit with his boring ambitions and knew she had made the right choice.

They agreed to meet again in a months time. She couldn't dump him again, not at this stage in life, but it could never be the love he wanted, just a friendship would have to do and as she made her way home with so many emotions and memories swirling around in her mind like little seeds sprouting everywhere she felt sad for him. He had spent his whole life in the hope that they were meant to be together. What a waste she thought and how glad she was that she had chosen a different path.

Maisie Smith

## Archaeology

The new Archaeology Group held its first meeting at the Cube on 25 March, at which Dr Bob Ruffle gave an introductory talk on Archaeology in Worcestershire. A number of visits are planned for the summer, including (6 May) the current excavation on the roundabout in front of Worcester Cathedral, in advance of the redevelopment of the area. This is showing up something of the medieval and post-medieval buildings which formerly lined Lich Street, swept away in the 1960s. We plan also to visit the hill-fort on British Camp (27 May) and the motte-and-bailey castle earthworks at Castelmorton (24 June).

An autumn programme is in preparation, and will hopefully include a meeting on the third Wednesday morning of the month, at the Victoria Bowling Club in Malvern Link.

Enquiries to Bob Ruffle (bob.ruffle@tesco.net, or 07866 703100)

# Croquet Group

The 2015 Croquet season is upon us and the excellent weather of the last few weeks has encouraged us to prepare for this year's games. We will start at 10am on Thursday 30 April at Millers Court, the lawns should be in good form with the dry spring weather. This year we have a change in our weekly charge, you will be pleased to know that the U3A has advised us to reduce our charge to just £1.



We hope to see new members this year and look forward to some excellent competition among our players. George Houghton has been working on some ideas for a Croquet Ladder, an optional competition which will operate throughout the season, more of this when the details have been worked out!

We will continue with our emphasis on "Association Croquet" (the full game) with our change to the standard rules for Doubles in favour of "alternate turns and choice of ball" rather than each player playing his or her own ball throughout. However games of Golf Croquet will be played, often when time is short and for fun element of the alternative game.

I look forward to meeting you on the lawn very soon!

Ken Potts

Joan Smith

Extract from image for  
'rainbow of colours' theme  
at Camera Group.



## Καλώς ήλθατε στο Κύπρος

Which, if the translation software has done its job correctly reads “Welcome to Cyprus”, the birthplace of Aphrodite and the recent expeditionary destination for the Geology Group. The temptation of fascinating geology and spring sunshine was quite irresistible.

Cyprus has been known as a source of valuable minerals, particularly copper, for many thousands of years. Romans, Greeks and many others have exploited its wealth and also appreciated its mountain scenery and warm summer beaches and seas. Spring is an ideal time to visit, with winter storms gone and wild flowers carpeting the valleys and uplands. But it was the remarkable rocks that we had come to see.

Paul, our wiry and enthusiastic leader sprang a surprise at our first site visit by producing bottles of chilled champagne and then proceeded to unfold for us the complex geological history of this remarkable island.

You probably know that there are huge ‘plates’ of solid rock that move slowly around the globe. Africa is one of these plates, and wandering gently northward, it came across an even bigger plate that makes up modern day Europe and Asia. This clash of titans, all very slow motion, resulted in the Alps being pushed up to their present height of nearly 5000 metres but in the eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus popped up like a giant carbuncle. Not only were rocks from the sea floor thrust into view, but the cataclysmic forces brought up rocks that are normally at least 20 000 metres further down. Cyprus is not unique in having these rocks from these great depths on view, but it is unique in having an intact sequence. The forces are so huge that the rocks are usually shattered and separated, but here the sequence is intact..

We visited a wide range of sites around the Troodos massif and saw rocks such as the rare Harzburgite and Serpentinite as well as the more common chalk and limestone. We looked too at the abandoned asbestos quarries and sites of former, hot ocean floor vents called ‘black smokers’. It is a truly fascinating box of delights for a geologist.

Mankind first came to the island over 10 000 years ago and we saw how they first began to exploit its wealth of resources. We saw too the influence of Greeks and Romans as they in their turn built early civilisations on a remarkable scale using the benefits brought about by producing copper.



Such an expedition leaves major problems – tearing yourself away and then deciding where to go next. Can we possibly equal or top this one for its breadth, quality and complexity? If only New Zealand were 10 000 miles closer!

Geoff Carver



The Geology Group  
Field Trip to Cyprus  
March 2015



# Military History

This year 34 of us are off to Crete on the anniversary of the Battle, when in 1941 German fallschirmjager were able to overcome a larger entrenched force of British, New Zealanders, Australians and Greeks, to capture the Island.



The Military History Group on a German tank in the Ardennes, back in April last year - Don Handy

We shall be staying on the very spot where the bulk of them landed and will be joined by three genuine veterans of the Battle.

This month we have talks by Alan Gray on the 1st and 15th May about the Battle for Crete, and on Friday 8th May by Eric Morris on "Why did the allies fight in Italy - was it worth it".

Our full revised programme will be ready shortly.

Malcolm Delingpole



Sue Kershaw - 'Mist on the hills' - Entry for 'monochrome' theme at Camera Group.

# Lawn Bowling

The lawn bowling group started its third season running from the end of April to the end of August with two afternoon sessions a week (on Wednesday and Thursday). This year, increased U3A member interest bodes well for the sport that includes the benefits of outdoor gentle exercise, competitive team play and congenial banter. All this is within the delightful surrounds of the Priory Bowling Club next to the Priory Park. A full programme for the summer is planned – to include the introduction of a short rink for those who find it difficult to bowl a full length, and coaching for those who wish to advance their bowling technique. New members are most welcome to come along.

Please contact Wayne Braddock (01684 574025, or at [wayne.braddock@btinternet.com](mailto:wayne.braddock@btinternet.com)).



Images from the 2014 season





Painting<sup>2</sup> Painting<sup>2</sup> Painting<sup>2</sup>



Painting<sup>2</sup> Painting<sup>2</sup> Painting<sup>2</sup>



Painting<sup>2</sup> Painting<sup>2</sup>



Needlework Group - Projects completed by some of our members



# GROUP PROGRAMMES



All walks are on the second Monday of the month.

## **Monday June 8th**

Meet up at 10.15am at The Wyche Inn on the A449, use the pub car park - if full drive past pub and park on your right on Wyche Road, B4218.

Walk along The Malvern Hills and lunch back at The Wyche Inn.

## **Monday July 13th**

Meet up at 10.15am at The Manor Carvery WR2 4BS car park on the A449 road, which is on the right after the roundabout on the Ring Road A4400.

Walk along the River Severn and River Teme. Visit the Old Laundry Building and ancient Teme Bridge.

Lunch at The manor Carvery.

**There is no walk in August**

## **Monday September 14th**

Meet up at 10.15am at The Marlbank Inn at Welland, WR13 6NA. Walk around Castle Morton Common.

Lunch back at Marlbank Inn.

## **Monday October 12th**

Meet up at 10.15am at St. Wulstan's Nature Reserve, WR14 4JA ,off the A449 Wells Road. Follow the brown tourist signs to the reserve. Park in the car park or on the road.

Lunch details: To be advised.

## **Monday November 9th**

Meet up at 10.15am at The Perdiswell Sports Centre, WR3 8DX. Go through the centre of Worcester on the A449. At the Toll House take the right turn onto the Droitwich Road. At the mini roundabout turn right onto Bilford Road. Turn right at the top of the hill onto Perdiswell Sports Centre car park.

Walk along the canal. Lunch at Blooms Garden Centre on the A38

## **Monday December 14th.**

Meet up at 10.15am at The Pavilion Pub which is in Cripplegate Park, Worcester. Approach by Tybridge Street (by MacDonalds and Homebase on your left and before The Severn Bridge) turn right into park. Drive past Cripplegate Park car park and into pub car park.

Walk along the River Severn, across the Sabrina Bridge and visit The Hive Library. Continue to The Diglis Bridge and back to The Pavilion Pub for lunch.



## Monday Group

- May 18<sup>th</sup> Hergest Croft Gardens  
By coach from Victoria Car Park, Malvern Link. 9.15 a.m.  
Coach and entrance approx. £15.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Mill Dene Garden, School Lane, Blockley, Glos. GL56 9HU  
2.30 p.m. £7. Tea and cake £3.50
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Hanbury Hall, Hanbury, WR9 7EA. National Trust  
2.30 p.m. Tea and cake £4. Non NT £7.50
- August 17<sup>th</sup> Hereford Cathedral Gardens, Hereford, HR1 2NG  
2.30 p.m. Guided Tour £5.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> Barnards Green House, Poolbrook Road, Malvern, WR14 3NQ  
2.00 p.m. £4 tea and cake.
- October 19<sup>th</sup> Croome Park, High Green, WR8 9DW. National Trust  
2.00 p.m. Non-NT £6.80

Enquiries to Janet Green 01684 567974 or Pam Baker 01886 832983

## Tuesday Group

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit to Astley Towne House, Astley, Nr. Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0RH  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1 pm (please note earlier time)
- July 7<sup>th</sup> Visit to Cowleigh Lodge, 16 Cowleigh Road, WR14 1QP  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.30 pm
- August 4<sup>th</sup> Visit to White Cottage, Earls Common Road, Stock Green, nr. Inkberrow,  
B96 6SZ  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1.30 pm
- September 1<sup>st</sup> Visit to Hanbury Hall and Gardens, Droitwich, WR9 7EA  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 1 pm (please note earlier time) National Trust
- October 6<sup>th</sup> Visit to Bodenham Arboretum, Nr. Kidderminster, DY11 5TB  
Meet at 1 Tibberton Road at 12 noon (early start as it gets dark early)  
Suggestion: bring a picnic (or there is a restaurant)
- November 3 Planning Meeting at Cynthia's, 1 Tibberton Road, Time: 2.30 pm  
Charge £1. Please bring a small plate of food and plenty of ideas for 2016.

Please telephone Wendy Davies (575996) or Janet Jackson (561902) if you are either able or unable to attend.

# IN BRIEF ...

## Theatre Studies

**27 May** Discussion led by Ernie Kay - 'Our Theatre'

**24 June** History of the theatre (1906/1989) audio presentation.

**29 July** T.b.a.

## Recorder Ensemble

The Recorder Ensemble was set up in November 2014 and comprises players who mostly learned to play recorder at school and can read music. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2.00 – 4.00pm at the Cube.

At present, we play purely for our own enjoyment, but who knows how the group might evolve!

We would welcome additional treble (or alto), tenor or bass players, as we are a little "top heavy" with descants.

The current group would not be suitable for complete beginners, but should there be enough interest, then a beginners recorder group might be a possibility.

Anyone interested in coming along and having a go or just finding out more, please contact Annette (Group Leader) on 01684 566208 or email [nettm@mail.com](mailto:nettm@mail.com).

## History through Art

On 29th May, Julia Elkington will talk on Visual Representation of Women in World War I and how it was used for the War Effort.

## Painting<sup>2</sup>

Painting<sup>2</sup> members continue to attend enthusiastically, responding each session to try their hands at new subjects and mediums. Some of the topics we have covered since the last publication have been Birds, portraits and mixed media, as well as reflections, water, still life and landscapes. We are able to take one or two more if anyone is interested in joining. We do not have a specific tutor but manage to help one another when needed.

Contact Val Bruton on 01684 575383 for more information.

# New for the Autumn

## FRENCH LANGUAGE through French Traditional Folk songs

The aim is to enjoy the French language listening to some famous French singers (Gilbert Becaud, Georges Brassens etc ...) with explanation of some grammar points and vocabulary in the song itself. At the end, we should be able to sing all together!

Best suited to people with some knowledge of French (intermediate level) and who like music! I would need to ask £1 for cost of photocopy (song). The place where the class would take place has yet to be decided depending on the number of people showing an interest.

Danielle Fatkin

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## New Perspectives on Art History

I would like to introduce an additional art history appreciation course to U3A members in Malvern, which, I hope, will complement those already in existence. I've been studying art history with the Open University for some years, and have enjoyed discovering and investigating diverse, sometimes controversial interpretations of art works and visual imagery, some of which are familiar to us all. The course will consist of a series of case studies including the three detailed below. These will explore particular images, themes or the work of specific artists, revealing compelling stories about the social context in which they were produced.

### Case Study No 1: The Visual Representation of Women during The Great War



Last year was the centenary anniversary of the start of the First World War. British men were urged to fight for King and country, but women too played a vital role. Not only did they fill the gaps in the workforce whilst their menfolk were at the front, but their visual representation in posters, photographs and fine art supported the war effort, sometimes in unexpected and ideologically manufactured ways. I will talk about symbolic female identities and explore whether or not photographs, film and portrait drawings of working women reflected the reality of their new

responsibilities and status. I will also look at satirical cartoons which mocked women's efforts, some of them beautifully drawn. Were these caricatures benign? What motivated them?



## Case Study No 2: Hogarth's Harlot

William Hogarth's mischievous pictorial stories and characterisations reflect his delight in, and prurient fascination with the complexities, follies and unwholesome aspects of urban life in eighteenth-century London. In his wonderfully detailed six engravings, *A Harlot's Progress*, he charts the downfall of innocent country girl, Moll Hackabout, into prostitution and a life of corruption and crime in London. Was Hogarth sending a stern moralising message to his viewers? Was he criticising public authority, or was he actually creating a female figure that he himself found physically alluring? Or all three !!



## Case Study No 3: The Dark Side of the Landscape



Artists such as Turner, Gainsborough and Samuel Palmer produced seductive and idealised depictions of English countryside, private estates and rural life. Did these atmospheric paintings reveal or conceal the reality of life for the working poor in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?

My objective, drawing on recent art historical scholarship, will be to encourage people to look at, and interpret art works in fresh ways. If you are interested in this course which will be held on a monthly basis starting in September, please contact me, and I can then look for the most appropriate venue and time.

Julia Elkington  
Tel: 01684 561565  
e-mail: [juliaelk@hotmail.com](mailto:juliaelk@hotmail.com)

Dorset early morning



## Memories Welcomed

Have you, or any of your family and friends been involved with New College, (the college for the blind in Worcester)? If you have, you may be able to help.



New College Worcester, the UK's college for students who are blind or partially sighted, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2016. Could your memories be part of the celebration?

In the Autumn of 1866, "The College For The Blind Sons Of Gentlemen" was opened at the Commandery in Sidbury. The school was founded by The Rev. William Taylor, and Rev. Robert Hugh Blair. In 1887, the college moved to Slaughter's Court, Powick. Slaughter's Court, owned by Earl Beauchamp, was more spacious (with four acres, including "pleasure grounds" and a garden, and was generally much healthier for the boys who passed through its portals.

It transferred in 1902 to its purpose-built site on Whittington Road, Worcester, where it remains today, though with many additions!

Over the years, the college has had many links with the local community, and many people have taken part in activities with students within the college or at other local venues. As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations, the New college Worcester Former Students Association (NCWFSA) is keen to hear of any recollections people have of their contact with the school.

If you worked at the College, had relatives who did (and may have had names like Bevan, Knott, Davis, Jones, Lawrence, King, Yarnold, Hughes, Hooper, Barrow, Saunders, or Yelfs), in whatever capacity, volunteered in some way, took part in sporting or other activities with the College, were related to any of the sighted pupils who went to the College between 1866-1889, or, came to our dancing classes please get in touch with:

David Scott, 38 Brocks Hill Drive, Oadby, Leics., LE2 5RD, email: david972scott@btinternet.com, or phone 0116-2715847. Whether memories or memorabilia everything will help us celebrate 150 years!

NCW logo is the property of New College, Worcester

## You may be interested

With this Newsletter you will find flyers for a range of National U3A activities. However, if you are interested it will be advisable to apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If you are interested in attending this year's AGM in Nottingham please talk to the Trustees about this.

## Speakers for our Monthly Meeting - 2pm at The Cube (Last Tuesday of the month)

- 26<sup>th</sup> May            The speaker is **Poppy Lamberton** who will talk about  
**'The Perennial Problem of Parasites'** .
- 30<sup>th</sup> June            The return of **Andrew Lound** who will deliver a presentation on  
**'Brunel's Levanthian- The Great Eastern'** .
- 28<sup>th</sup> July            The speaker is **Bernard Blockett** who will talk about  
**'The Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan'** .
- August no meeting.
- September and October - details to follow

Come along and listen to a variety of speakers on a wide range of subjects ...  
...and then enjoy a chat with friends over a drink and biscuits.

## Groups Directory

Just a reminder to all Group Leaders - and those thinking of starting a new group - that the Groups Directory for 2015/16 will be published in August.

I shall be asking groups to submit entries for the Directory in July and will e-mail each group leader with this year's entry for updating as required. If your group has changed leader over the year please make sure that I have the new contact details for the leader. If you plan to start a new group please contact me through the Newsletter e-mail address.

Thank-you.

Richard Owen

## NEWSLETTER

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

All contributions should be e-mailed, (preferably as a Word document), to  
**newsletter@malvernu3a.org.uk**

Photographs should be sent as .jpg files

Please note the deadline for the October edition is  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015**