



Jacqueline Aviolet has been a nurserywoman and speaker since the last century. She has run her own nursery for very many years and encourages all things horticultural with humour. Jacqueline enjoys giving talks and her style is informative as well as light-hearted and she has spoken to many different groups over the years. She will be bringing plants for reference – and to sell – and there will be a display of photographs and books.

Derek Carpenter, Speaker Secretary

Monthly Talk, 2pm, Tuesday 25 October, Ryarsh Village Hall

The Short View



Thanks are due to Anne Sargent for organising the September open meeting – these events take a lot of hard work to set up and organise so thanks to Anne and also thank you to Christine Barrett and the Tea Team who worked so hard behind the scenes. It is this sort of commitment that makes our organisation a great one to be part of.

On the 6 Oct I attended the National AGM – the long meeting considered the Trust proposals to raise the capitation fee that each u3a pays to the Third Age Trust. The proposal was to link this increase to any increase in the state pension every year. This was firmly rejected by all present as were all amended proposals. The national board is rethinking its financial plans and discussions are now ongoing. I am sure that we are all aware that Covid is still here and rates are rising – at present we are not asking people to

wear masks at monthly meetings but any member who wishes to is welcome to do so and we will keep this under review. It is our intention to continue with our hybrid meetings over the winter but there may be some months that we are unable to do this. Sometimes speakers are not agreeable or a member of the technical team is not able to be present, but if anyone is prepared to volunteer to join the team this would help us maintain a consistent service

Chrys Short, Chair Malling u3a

Journey into Space – exploring worlds beyond our own

**A Study Day for Malling u3a members
Thursday 23 February 2023 at Ryarsh Village Hall**

To boldly go where no one has gone before...

Full details of the whole event, with programme and speakers will be in next month's Newsletter, but please reserve the day in your diary: an Astrodome in the hall means that we are limited to 80 attending, so it will be 'first come first served'!

Interest Groups: Latest news & views



Makers of History

Who would have thought that mayonnaise in your sandwich could save your life, or that a bottle of ginger beer led to a landmark law, probably taught to law students on their first day. These are two things that we recently found out in our Makers of History group.

During a talk about Marcel Marceau we learned that his skills as a mime artist were honed by quietly entertaining scared Jewish orphans as he escorted them to safety during the Second World War, posing as a party of scouts or school children. False papers were hidden in their sandwiches and they found that if there was plenty of mayonnaise oozing out of them the Germans were reluctant to handle them and get their uniforms messy.

The case of the ginger beer arose from Mrs Donoghue being treated to a bottle of ginger beer by her friend in a cafe. After consuming half the contents she discovered a decomposing snail in the drink. Until then she would not have been able to sue the manufacturers as it was her friend who had bought the drink, and not herself.

We have also covered a diverse selection of history makers this year; Walt Disney, Maria Theresa, the only female ruler of the Habsburg empire, Cardinal John Morton, one of the most powerful men in the reign of Henry VII and Marie Colvin, the intrepid war correspondent. We have enjoyed two and a half summer outings this year, the half being a trip to Ightham Mote when we were diverted from visiting Polesden Lacey when a lorry caught fire on the M25. We did eventually make it to Polesden Lacey and the next month went to Titsey Place.

Beth Minall, Convenor



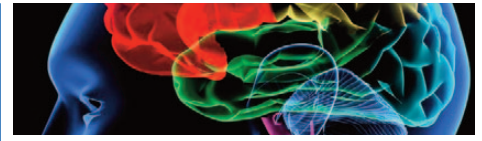
Mahjong

Do you enjoy meeting others in a non-competitive but friendly atmosphere? Then Mah Jong might be worth a try. It is one of the original groups from when Malling U3A was set up. Two people joined last month at the Signing-in Day, so now the group counts 20 members. We meet in the Davison Room at Ryarsh Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10 – 12 in the morning with a small charge for room hire and refreshments. Mah Jong is similar to the card game rummy, with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. It is not too difficult to master and studies have shown it is a great game to keep the mind sharp. We are a mixed ability group and beginners are always welcome. Tuition will be given. It is very easy to find more information on line how to play the game.

Mrs Gerry Hunt convenor

What's in a name?

Our speaker this month on all things horticultural is Aviolet (A-violet). My GP is called Dr Payne. Derek Carpenter once knew a chap whose surname was Butter and his parents had given him the Christian name of Roland (Rol-and-Butter, geddit?) As a bit of fun we would love to hear from you about any amusing examples that you may have come across. Please email the editor at: newsletter@mallindistrictu3a.org.uk



French Conversation (redux)

Why is learning a language better for our brains than something like Sudoku? Sudoku is like going to the gym and using one machine to repeat one movement. Learning a language, on the other hand, is like using 20 different machines which require lots of different movements. That's because language learning engages a number of different parts of the brain and boosts the connectivity between these different areas. In turn, this improved connectivity improves your higher mental function. (Taken from BBC, Trust Me I'm a Doctor)

French Conversation Group (redux). If you have a reasonable level of French and would like to meet new people and improve your brain function then this might be the group for you! The emphasis will be on conversation with the aim of broadening your French vocabulary and support can be offered in grammatical areas as and when the need arises. If you would like to know more please contact me via the website.



Make Tea not War

October Tea Rota:

Helen Strotton, Ruth Brind and Beth Minall

Christine Barrett

Fill your own:

Help the environment & our volunteers by bringing a reusable cup.

Kynren: chugg-a-puff-puffs & pyrotechnics

Photo credit: Anne Sargent

Malling u3a Kynren & North East Trip

It was quite a trek north, almost to the Scottish border, but it was a chance to enjoy some beautiful scenery; to stand beneath the iconic Angel of the North; to wander around Durham cathedral; to enjoy the tranquility of Lindisfarne and its Priory, and, of course, to marvel at the spectacle of Kynren.

Many thanks to my fellow travellers for their company, and to all those who have contributed their thoughts and impressions and photographs to help give all members a snapshot of five enjoyable days in kind September weather, all superbly organised by Simply Groups who entrusted us to the care of our excellent driver, Gary.

Belton House is a National Trust property near Grantham Lincs. which we visited on our way to Northumbria, described by many authorities as a perfect example of an English country house estate. Built between 1685 and 1688 by Sir John Brownlow, 3rd baronet, it is a lovely house surrounded by formal gardens and acres of parkland which are ideal for children to run and play.

The Brownlow family was closely involved with an attempt to stave off the abdication of King Edward VIII. the short-reigned monarch who chose love before duty. Does that sound familiar? Before his accession to the

throne, Belton House had been one of his favourite hideaways and he was very close to the Brownlow family, with several photographs in the rooms testifying to that fact.

The delightful highlight of this trip was the presentation on a damp Saturday evening of Kynren, an open-air spectacular pageant of 2000 years of British history and myth. From Boudica's losing battle with the Romans to 2 world wars, via Vikings, Tudors and the demise of Charles 1, our history was presented on a huge seven and a half acre stage by 1000 or so volunteers with amazing equestrianism; water jets, special effects and pyrotechnics plus a well controlled gaggle of geese and some running sheep. We wondered how that gaggle of geese were on such good behaviour, but learned afterwards that the man in front of them had their food. It is impossible to avoid this sounding like a 'puff' for Kynren (possibly an old Eng-

lish word for generation, kin or family). The production was simply staggering and apparently one of the most highly rated outdoor attractions in the UK. Since its opening Kynren has attracted over a quarter of a million visitors, and one can see why. The spectacle certainly did not disappoint.

We could see Bamburgh Castle from Lindisfarne, on the spectacular coast, high on a plateau of the Whin Sill hard rock running cross country from High Force waterfall in Teesdale. Fortunately our coach driver expertly negotiated the steep approach, so we alighted at the castle gates. Bamburgh is occupied by the fifth generation of the Armstrong family, who restored it after the Wars of the Roses and its cosy feeling belied its formidable appearance as we wandered through the many rooms with views to the surf on the shore below. The nearby St Aidan's church features the memorial to Grace Darling whose heroism rowing against wind and tide saved nine shipwrecked sailors from the rocks of the Farne Islands.

After our visit to Lindisfarne and Bamburgh some of us went on a boat ride around the Farne Islands. We were a bit surprised when we saw our boat, it was not what we expected, it was just an old fishing boat!

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Photo credit: Mike Rowe

Farne Islands: spectacular views & grey seals



Photo credit: Anne Sargent

Malling u3a Kynren & North East Trip

Continued from page 3/ The weather was lovely, apart from a rather stiff breeze, which made the boat roll a great deal, but luckily none of our group showed signs of being ill. We were rocking and rolling for a couple of hours, passing rocks that were white in places, signs that many birds had been there, but we didn't see many as bird flu had decimated the bird population. We passed the Longstone Lighthouse, famous for Grace Darling's heroic rescue of shipwrecked sailors and passed rocks where many seals were lazing or swimming off shore. It was difficult to see them as they were perfectly camouflaged against the rocks! On our way back we picked up six National Trust Rangers from two islands who had been attending to the dead birds. They were on a rota of five days on and two days off, going back to the mainland to wash and clean up as there's no running water on the islands. They said their job would be much nicer in October when the baby seals were born. A lovely day altogether.

On our homeward journey, we followed a quiet road through lovely countryside to the market town of Thirsk for the final visit of our holiday.

23 Kirkgate was the home and sur-

gery of Alf Wight, the veterinary surgeon who wrote the books about the fictional vet, James Herriot, from stories based on his own life. The books were made into a popular TV series and film, as many of us will remember.

The various rooms in the house are laid out as they would have been many years ago. The dining room also served as the practice office, which held a typewriter to type the bills, while further along the corridor was the sitting room, which had 1930s clutter. Further still was the dispensary, which was like a broom cupboard

with the obligatory paraffin heater.

The breakfast room was the family's favourite room, as it was the warmest in the days before central heating. Alf had been known to perform surgery on the dining table (not during meals of course).

The kitchen was our favourite room with artefacts that reminded us of our mothers' kitchens. In the long, narrow garden at the side of the house was a statue of Alf.

This was an interesting visit and worth going to if you are in the area.

Dianne White, Outings Group

Tracy Crouch Over 55s Fair: Friday 28 October 10am – 1pm

Anne Sargent, with volunteers, will be representing Malling u3a at the Over 55s Fair. Please see attached flyer for further information.



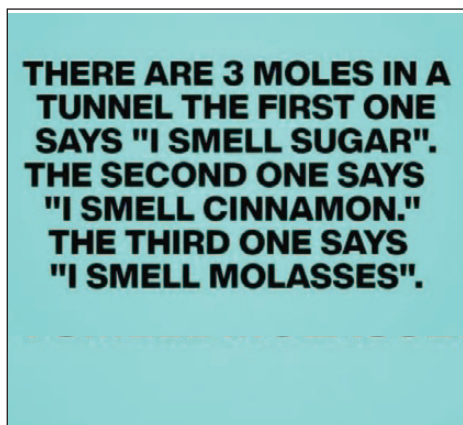
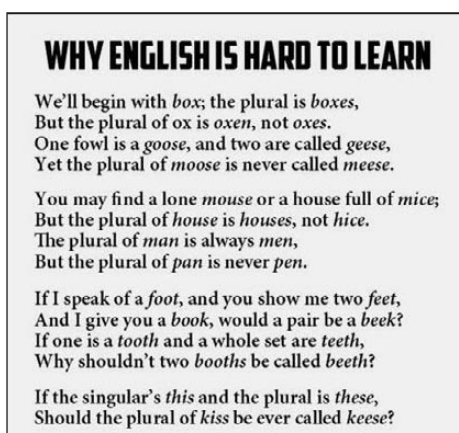
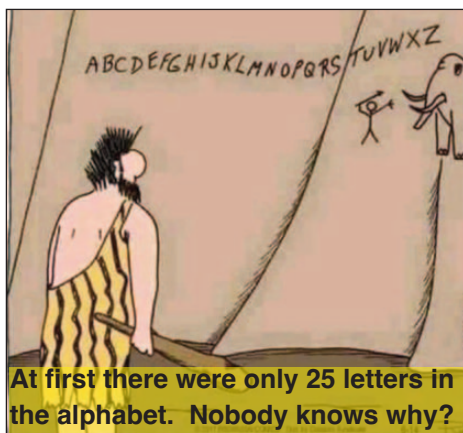
Puzzler

I spotted this on our last London walk which took place in October

**Mike Rowe,
Walk London
Group 1**



Anne's knee slappers



Funnies supplied by
Anne Sargent