

West Midlands Mensa Presents

Wonders

in worcester



18-20 June 2010

University Of Worcester

This year's West Midlands weekend is being held in the beautiful cathedral city of Worcester. In a departure from the usual hotel based, out-and-about weekends of recent years - and with the aim of combining a more affordable weekend with an intellectual theme - we have chosen Worcester University campus as our base. The university is on the west side of the River Severn, just a fifteen minute scenic stroll from the city centre. Our weekend, 'Wonders in Worcester', includes lectures, interactive workshops and talks around a variety of topics, as well as plenty of fun and games and opportunities to socialise. We have picked up on the paranormal theme from the Mensa at Malvern weekend but there is also a choice of more conventional topics for those who prefer these! Although there will be opportunities to visit Worcester with an informal walk on Friday afternoon for early comers, the format of the weekend will tend to keep members together on campus and to stimulate discussion and conversation throughout the weekend. Accommodation for the weekend is in modern halls of residence on the compact campus, in small flats of 7 to 8 people. Each room has it's own toilet, wash basin and shower facilities, then there is a kitchen/lounge area to share. Accommodation is strictly non smoking. You can request to share with specific people, or be allocated to a flat as bookings are made, but please make your preferences clear on the booking form! There are also plenty of local hotels and B&Bs for those who would prefer to stay off campus.

Meals will be served in the university's dining hall. Breakfast will be served from 8am each morning, lunch at 1pm and dinner at 7pm on Friday and at 7:30pm on Saturday. For early arrivals on Friday, there will be a PAYG pub lunch in Worcester, followed by an informal stroll around the sights of the town centre. For those arriving too late for lunch, but still wanting to join in with the walk, it will be possible to meet the lunchers after their meal. Teas and coffees will be served at the University at 5pm, and our bar will be opening at 6pm. The weekend will close with a PAYG meal in Worcester on Sunday evening, although an additional night's Bed and Breakfast is available for anyone not wanting to go home until the next day. Our main program runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. At most times there is a choice of talks, where one is of a paranormal nature and the other is more conventional. You may mix and match as you choose, but we ask that you indicate your preference in each slot, so that the people running the various workshops can tailor their talks to the anticipated size of their audience. We do hope you will join us in Worcester for our thoughtful and entertaining weekend. See you there!

Ann

Ann Rootkin, Organiser



the speakers



Lionel
Fanthorpe



Jackie
Lyndon



Lynn
Ashburner



Dr Jack
Cohen



Ann
Leonie



Glenys
Hopkins



Fiona
Hopes



Christine
Dold



Barbara
Harrison



Merry
Metcalfe

the programme

Friday 18th June 2010. TICK YOUR CHOICES ON PAGE 4.

Pub lunch hosted by Pete Tesseyman

12:30 – 14:30

For early arrivals, there will be a PAYG pub lunch in Worcester. Be at the University by 12 noon to walk into town (or arrange where to meet if driving).

Informal Tour of Worcester hosted by Pete Tesseyman

14:30 – 16:30

For early arrivals, depending on the weather, there will be an informal stroll around the sights of the historic and picturesque town of Worcester.

This follows on directly from the PAYG pub lunch, but anyone arriving later may join the tour as long as they are at the University by 14:00.

Returning in time for tea at the University.

Mysterious Codes and Alphabets hosted by Lionel Fanthorpe

20:00 – 22:00

Lionel will talk about a Mensan type mystery involving unknown codes and alphabets from Glozel and the strange watermark codes used by Francis Bacon and his brother, who seems to have been an Elizabethan spy! He investigated Glozel on his first visit to Rennele-Chateau in 1975 (mystery of the Priest's treasure there) and actually met farmer Emile Fradin of Glozel, then in his sixties. As a boy of 14 he had discovered the mysterious Glozel alphabet on its weird clay tablets!

Our own private bar will also be available from 6pm.

Saturday 19th June 2010. TICK YOUR CHOICES ON PAGE 4.

Dispelling the Myths of Witchcraft by Merry Metcalf

9:30 – 11:00

Witchcraft, also known as the Craft of the Wise, has roots that date back some 8000 years. In those days the knowledge of plants and herbs, and how to grow and prepare them, was a very important survival skill. Those who were more learned and experienced in medicinal herbal lore were respected and sought out for the help they could provide in these matters. These wise folk were the midwives, doctors, and pharmacists of their era. They often used natural elements (such as herbs, oils and minerals) for healing and also for divining future events. They eventually came to be known as "witches", derived from the old English verb "to wit", meaning to turn, bend or shape. This talk attempts to filter out the myths surrounding witchcraft and provide you with some answers about where and how these misunderstandings regarding the nature of witchcraft came about. Merry is a practicing hedgerow witch and, through her tools of the trade, she will show you what modern witchcraft has in common with the Craft practiced by our ancestors. And, yes, there *will* be a pointy hat and a broomstick, promise! :o)

Dyslexia by Ann Harris-Lock

9:00 – 11:00

'If you live in Acacia Avenue you are dyslexic, if you live in Gasworks Terrace you are thick' (T Crabtree, 1975, Letter to the Guardian 30 Dec) It is estimated that 10% of the population is dyslexic (4% severely dyslexic). This presentation aims to raise dyslexia awareness by clarifying what dyslexia is (and is not!) and how the characteristics of dyslexia impact on achievement in education and in the workplace. The audience will be encouraged to participation in activities throughout the presentation to demonstrate some of the difficulties dyslexia causes.

Dowsing for Beginners by Pete Tesseyman

11:30 – 13:00

A short talk about dowsing followed by a hands-on workshop in the University grounds. Albert Einstein said, "I know very well that many scientists consider dowsing as a type of superstition. According to my conviction this is, however, unjustified. The dowsing rod is a simple instrument which shows the reaction of the human nervous system to certain factors which are unknown to us at this time." Come and decide for yourself!

Origami - the ancient Japanese art of paper craft by Jackie

Lyndon 11:30 – 13:00

Learn how to crack the code of diagrams and instructions. Make useful and decorative items to keep or give as gifts. This session comes with a health warning ... it's addictive! **Small charge of £1.50, payable on the day, to cover the cost of materials.**

Sacred Geometry Workshop by Fiona Hopes

14:00 – 17:30

In this workshop we will explore the geometry of a Type B flattened circle, a very common design for stone circles that are not actually circular in shape, e.g. Bar Brook Circle, in the Derbyshire Peak District. In the first part of the workshop, we will draw the design on paper with rulers and compasses; after tea, we will set out the design on the ground with ropes and canes, using the same technology as Stone Age Man. Once we have created the 'circle', we can then explore how it feels, and any effects that it may have, using dowsing rods and pendulums.

Jewellery making by Chris Dold

14:00 – 15:30

Doesn't it take years of training and loads of expensive tools to make it? Not necessarily. Chris Dold will show you how to use a pair of pliers and a roll of wire to make complex designs incorporating stones, crystals or whatever takes your fancy. He will also discuss and maybe demonstrate more conventional silversmithing techniques.

There will be a charge for materials on the day, probably in the region of £5 - £10 depending on what you want to make!

Hedgehogs by Heather Singleton

16:00 – 17:30

Are you interested in learning about *Erinaceus europaeus*? An informative presentation by Heather Singleton. How can you encourage the gardeners' friend to come into your garden? All Ages welcome

Relaxation and mingling

Saturday evening

We will have our own private bar from 6pm and after dinner there will be the chance to chat with old friends and new whilst doing our special Worcester quiz (with prizes) and/or playing games.

Sunday 20th June 2010. TICK YOUR CHOICES ON PAGE 4.

Possibility of life on other planets by Jack Cohen

9:30 – 11:00

Arguments and evidence about alien life has been based in chemistry and naive biological philosophies; evolutionary biology can tell us the likelihoods of biological innovations on this planet, and we can use comparable argument about other evolutions. Life, and indeed intelligence, is common - but the peculiarities of our evolutionary history, like airway-crossing-foodway, and our kind of excretory/reproductive mix-up, will not be found elsewhere; they are parochial. Knees and elbows are also Parochial in (pentadactyl) detail, but joints-in-the-limbs are Universal; so are photosynthesis, life on land, flight and many other multiple inventions here. Jack will take us through the possibilities and probabilities.

Hypnosis by Christine Dold

11:30 – 13:00

Have you ever wondered about hypnosis? Seen it on the TV? or perhaps attended a show and wanted to know how it's done. Well now your questions can be answered. Christine Dold was 'Mystique' the lady hypnotist and gave performances on many stages in the United Kingdom. She is now retired from performance, but will be giving a demonstration/workshop on the mysterious subject of hypnosis.

Life story writing by Lynne Ashburner

11:30 – 13:00

Have you ever wondered about the lives of your parents and grandparents? By the time we appreciate the interest and value this might have for us, it is often too late. What of future generations? If the social environment continues to change at such a rapid pace, what we remember of our childhoods will seem quite alien to our grandchildren. What did my grandparent get up to when they were children? What games did they play and what did they do before television came along? Guidance will be available on how to start, how to organise and plan the work as well as discussion on the different approaches that may be taken. Recording, editing and structuring the work all need to be considered. This is an opportunity to consider writing about our own life or the life of a family member. If anyone wants to write something in advance that would be fine... we can discuss it. Constructive advice is available if it is requested. Help can be given in all aspects of writing. No life is ordinary, and we each have fascinating stories to tell which bring the past alive. We need to recognise the value of recording our memories both for future generations of our families and as a small part of social history.

How to channel healing energy by Barbara Harrison

14:00 – 15:30

Even if you only ever use it to help yourself relax, if you can set aside your skepticism (and I still struggle with mine at times) you will not regret learning to channel energy. I call it a skill because it is something that anyone can learn to do.

So, come and learn a little of the history of healing energy and its manifestations in different cultures, take a tour of the chakras, and hear some scientific (!) evidence. Move on through a short chakra meditation and then start to learn how to channel healing energy. If there's time, and if everyone feels like it, we will have a brief look at healing through Oneness (no channeling involved) and maybe give it a try.

Quiz by Glenys Hopkins

14:00 – 15:30

A general knowledge Quiz influenced but not dominated by the themes and location of this weekend. **May be team or individual depending on the numbers. Prizes for the winners.**

Ghosts, Ghoulies and Goblins! By Anne Leonie

16:00 – 18:00

Honestly, I know about the first and last ones but, to my knowledge, have not run into one of the middle ones! Then, of course, there are Spirits, Angels and Fairies and the list goes on. Do you know the difference between ghosts and spirits, I wonder? Do you watch those certain programmes on television and find them riveting, factual, sheer entertainment or just plain ludicrous? I have been a clairvoyant, clairaudient, clairsentient psychic all my life - hereditary on my father's side - and have been a professional consultant for many of my adult years. Come and listen and then, hopefully, join in a lively discussion! See you there!

Treasure hunt by Ann Rootkin

16:00 – 18:00

This is a chance to explore Worcester while trying to solve clues. Go in groups of up to four people or on your own. **There will be prizes for the winners.**

Sunday evening – PAYG meal in Worcester from 19:00

Wonders in Worcester Booking form notes

The weekend starts on Friday afternoon June 18th and goes through to Sunday afternoon June 20th.

Prices

Full weekend price including all talks, two night's accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals and tea, coffee and biscuits morning and afternoon. (This is for arrival Friday afternoon/evening and departure Sunday afternoon/evening) - £150

Single day (from Friday evening meal to end of events on Saturday

OR from Friday accommodation to Saturday evening meal

OR from Saturday morning events to Sunday breakfast

OR from Saturday evening meal to end of events on Sunday) - £80.00

Full day – no accommodation or meals (Saturday or Sunday) - £20.00

Half day – no accommodation or meals (Saturday or Sunday, am or pm) - £10.00

Friday or Saturday evening meal (2 courses) - £12.00

Saturday or Sunday lunch (2 courses) - £10.00

Additional day bed and breakfast (i.e. Sunday night) - £40.00

Reserved Car Parking Space - £2.50 per car per day

Short Term Car Parking is available at 60p per hour and long stay at £1.30 per day (However spaces are not guaranteed)

booking form

IMPORTANT!

Please tick your booking option and also tick which presentation you would like to attend.



Accommodation for the weekend is in modern halls of residence on the compact campus, in small flats of 7 to 8 people. Each room has its own toilet, wash basin and shower facilities, then there is a kitchen/lounge area to share. Accommodation is strictly non smoking. You can request to share with specific people, or be allocated to a flat as bookings are made, but please make your preferences clear on the booking form! Please use one form per person.

Option 1 - £150.00	Option 2 - £80.00	Option 3 - £20.00	Option 4 - £10.00	Option 5 - £10.00	Option 6 - £12.00	Option 7 - £40.00	Option 8 - £2.50
Full Weekend Price including all talks, two night's accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals. Also tea, coffee and biscuits morning and afternoon. (This is for arrival Friday afternoon/evening and departure Sunday afternoon/evening) <input type="checkbox"/>	Single Day (including all talks, one night's accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meal tea, coffee and biscuits morning and afternoon. SATURDAY <input type="checkbox"/> OR SUNDAY <input type="checkbox"/>	Full Day - no accommodation or meals Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> AND / OR Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Half Day -no accommodation or meals Saturday AM <input type="checkbox"/> OR Saturday PM <input type="checkbox"/> OR Sunday AM <input type="checkbox"/> OR Sunday PM <input type="checkbox"/>	LUNCH (2 courses) Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> AND / OR Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Evening Meal (2 courses) Friday Evening <input type="checkbox"/> AND / OR Saturday Evening <input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to book an additional day bed and breakfast (i.e. Sunday night) <input type="checkbox"/>	Please reserve a Car Parking Space for me. (Cost is per day) Friday £2.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday £2.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday £2.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Total £	Total £	Total £	Total £	Total £	Total £	Total £	Total £

Please add up your total spend AND place a tick in the box of your chosen option(s). My total booking fee is £ _____

CHOOSE YOUR EVENTS. PLEASE REFER TO THE START AND END TIMES ON PAGE 2 + 3 FOR EACH EVENT YOU TICK

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
PAYG Pub lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informal Tour of Worcester	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mysterious Codes & Alphabets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening Meal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Dispelling the Myths of Witchcraft <input type="checkbox"/> OR Dyslexia <input type="checkbox"/> Dowsing for Beginners <input type="checkbox"/> OR Origami <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> OR Jewellery making <input type="checkbox"/> AND Hedgehogs <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Meal <input type="checkbox"/>	Possibility of life on other planets <input type="checkbox"/> Hypnosis <input type="checkbox"/> OR Life story writing <input type="checkbox"/> How to channel healing energy <input type="checkbox"/> OR Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Ghosts, Ghoulies and Goblins! <input type="checkbox"/> OR Treasure hunt <input type="checkbox"/> PAYG meal in Worcester <input type="checkbox"/>

To validate your booking, please read the following terms and conditions and sign:

Whilst all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the safety of those attending this weekend's events, British Mensa Ltd. accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused except that imposed by law. Parents are reminded of their responsibility for attendees under the age of 18. Parental consent and adult supervision during the weekend must be provided at all times. British Mensa Ltd accepts no additional liability for members under the age of 18 who wish to attend any part of this weekend's activities. All booking forms must be sent to British Mensa. The closing date for bookings will normally be **7th June 2010**. We do, however, reserve the right to close bookings before that date for whatever reason. After this date, bookings for events will only be accepted at the discretion of the organisers. In the extremely unlikely event that the whole weekend is cancelled a full refund will be given. Refunds under any other circumstances will be subject to the organisers being able to sell on the place to someone else.

YOUR DETAILS

Membership Number: Preferred Name on Badge:
 First Name: Last Name: 'From' on Badge:
 Address: Post Code:
 Daytime Number: Mobile Number: E-mail:

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for the sum of: £..... **OR**
 Please debit my Card (circle) **VISA / MASTERCARD / DELTA / MAESTRO / SOLO / VISA ELECTRON** for the sum of £
 My Card number is: Start Date: / Expiry Date: / Issue No:
 Name on Card: The 3 digit security number on the back of the card:

Special Requirements

If possible I would like to share my accommodation block with:
 Please list if you have any special dietary requirements:

I have read and accept the terms and conditions as described above
PLEASE SIGN HERE:

Thank you for your booking. Please post this form to: Diane Salter, British Mensa Ltd, St John's House, St, John's Square, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AH OR fax on 01902 392500. Email: diane@mensa.org.uk

