

## Subud Britain Family Holiday and Congress 2010 – The Venue!



We're very pleased to announce that for 2010, we have found an exciting new venue in **Great Malvern, Worcestershire**. The dates are from the **1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2010** so book it in your diaries now!!

We have certainly felt supported in finding this venue so quickly and everything about it seems to have that 'yes' feeling.

The venue is a girls' school called 'Malvern St James', which used to be the largest hotel in town when Malvern was in its heyday. Malvern as a Victorian spa town has traditionally been visited as a place of healing and recuperation, where people drank the spring water, and enjoyed fresh air and exercise walking on the Malvern Hills.

Within 10 minutes walk of the school you can be on the hills, enjoying the stunning views over the Worcestershire countryside and the Vale of Evesham. The town itself is only 5 minutes walk away, and has plenty of interesting little shops, small cafes and restaurants. In the surrounding areas there are many possibilities for day trips - for extended scenic walks or visiting the nearby cathedrals and other attractions. The area has been a tourist destination for years, so offers plenty of leisure opportunities for our children and partners who may not be involved in the latihan side of congress. Transport-wise, Malvern is off the M5, and the railway station is directly opposite the school, with direct links to London Paddington, Birmingham and Bristol, for those travelling without a car or from abroad.

As the venue was an old hotel rather than built as a school, it is ideally suited to our type of event. It has a wide range of modern accommodation, and many of the rooms have wonderful views over the trees and local countryside. There are rooms suitable for families, as well as 125 single rooms and some fun circular rooms that the teenagers may enjoy sharing. In the camping area the school has offered to take up some turf so we can have bonfires at night!

The main school area is situated around a lovely open quad with a beautiful beech tree in the centre. We have visions of meeting each other between workshops and kejiwaan sessions, and on light sunny evenings visiting the youth café for home cooked snacks and cakes, and watching a performer on the outside stage.

There are several options for the main Latihan venues. The Great Hall already feels like a well loved and happy space, as they regularly hold orchestral and drama performances there. We are welcome to use all the large stage facilities for our opening ceremony and any music or drama throughout the week.

There is also a separate drama studio for smaller performances, with a mini cine-theatre that we could use to watch Bapak and Ibu Rahayu's talks or members' films from the past, comfortably and quietly.

Excitingly, in the grounds of the school, they also have a large domed building which is actually Grade II listed as its construction is now unique in the UK. It is surrounded by water and a private lawn, and was originally a sports hall, but is now rarely used. The

acoustics are amazing and it feels as though it is just waiting to be filled with the Latihan - we have nicknamed it the Kejidome!!

There are plenty of break-out rooms for meeting and testing; most of them look out onto trees and hills which gives them a very free and expansive quality. We can also use a lovely arts studio and several other large rooms for workshops.

For the active, there is a swimming pool on site, and a brand new sports hall which also has a licensed Juice Bar which is open and available till 10 at night.

For the younger members there is a dedicated large lounge area with comfy chairs, separate from the accommodation (so late night noise is not a problem), and we have arranged for a sound system and table tennis, air hockey and table football etc. to be included. For the children there is one building which is ideal for a crèche facility; it has a kitchen area for creative work and cooking, and access to a safe outside space. Parents also have the option of paying for the children to join in on a privately run children's activity camp.

Food-wise, the week after we are there the Macrobiotic Society is going, so the school is happy to look at providing us with high quality, fresh and varied food and to accommodate special diets.

Our vision for this congress is to enjoy ourselves and have fun together in this lovely space we have been given; to allow space for the Latihan; space for creativity to flow; space for all age groups and families; space for those who want a holiday, and space for those who purely want some peace and quiet. We feel this venue will accommodate all of that and we will work hard to provide that for you!

Anyone who feels inspired to help or run a workshop, please get in touch with Paul Gawen via [subudpaul\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:subudpaul[at]hotmail.com)

Booking forms are available:

- To download from this website
- From your group secretary (by email or ask for a paper copy)
- In the centre of the December Journal

Book now to reserve your space!

More information will follow on this site and in future Journals.



The Kejidome



The Pool



The Quad