



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

mkhdu3a.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

No. 76 October 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to your October Newsletter. Our September meeting was well attended, and there was plenty of good advice on improving our green footprints.

If you have not done so, please have a look at our web site, mkhdu3a.org.uk where you can find lots of useful information, including downloadable, earlier Newsletters and even photographs of your wonderful committee members.

Please note that you should be able to click on any of the contents items below to go directly to the relevant page.

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October Monthly Meeting - the Coffin Works

Speaker, Sarah Hayes

Newman Brothers at The Coffin Works is a museum located on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter at Fleet Street, Birmingham. <http://www.coffinworks.org>

This grade II* listed factory and its contents tells the story of Newman Brothers, Birmingham's last coffin-furniture factory that operated from its Fleet Street premises for over one hundred years until 1998 when workers laid down their equipment, and walked out of the building for the very last time. Everything, including personal belongings were left behind.

Sarah Hayes will explore the history of Newman Brothers and its journey from a first-class coffin fittings manufactory, making fittings for kings, queens and prime ministers, via a derelict factory building to its current state as Birmingham's latest museum.

Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday October 8	2.00	All Saints Centre	The Coffin Works	Sarah Hayes
Tuesday November 12	2.00	All Saints Centre	Highbury Hall	Alison Millward
Tuesday December 10	2.00	All Saints Centre	Christmas festivities	
Tuesday January 14	2.00	All Saints Centre	Victorian and Edwardian Building in Birmingham	Tim Bridges
Tuesday February 11	2.00	All Saints Centre	Number 11 bus route. The second half	David and Pam Humphries

If members have any suggestions for future speakers, please contact Sylvia Butler at a monthly meeting.

Christmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting: Tuesday 10th December



A message from Diane Worland

I'm really sorry if the thought of Christmas, approximately 80 days away, makes you despair! I am planning our usual in-house December celebration with musical and other performances from our Groups and you, the audience. I would be delighted if any individuals, duos, ensembles could offer anything additionally as part of this celebration.

- You may have found a piece of writing or a poem you want to share with us?
- You may have instrumental talent (perhaps previously hidden?)
- You may have discovered some fascinating insights about Christmas, and previous pagan celebrations?
- You may have written something yourself?
- ..etc...etc.

I would suggest that any contributions are for a maximum of 4 minutes. We tend to be less than serious on this occasion, - but it is a time of all encompassing emotions. Obviously, should I be overwhelmed with offers, please be aware that there is a time limit to our afternoon meeting and some offers may need to be deferred!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Diane Worland: d.worland@blueyonder.co.uk 07940 546361

Social Programme

Social Activities from October 2019

This is a summary of events in the coming months that are already planned. New arrangements are made frequently. If you wish to be kept updated on any activities please contact the relevant group leader, (see the foot of this section.)

Drop In Coffee Morning at Kings Heath Park, Victorian Tea Rooms

Our coffee mornings are open to all our members to enable new and existing members to meet more informally.

Drop in for a coffee or tea and a chat on Friday October 11th between 10.30 and 12.00. On arrival pay £2.50 at the café's counter, and you can then drink unlimited tea or coffee which will be available for U3A members in the Conservatory. You can also purchase a lovely piece of cake in the café to go with your drink. The Conservatory will be reserved just for our U3A members. Parking is available, and it is fully accessible.

Any questions please contact:

Tessa on tessabidgood@btinternet.com

or Val on envybaxter@hotmail.com

Drop in coffee mornings are open to all MKHD U3A members. If you are aware of any member who does not have access to the internet and may be interested in the coffee morning, please let them know.

Lunches

Palmyra in Moseley

A visit to Palmyra (Syrian food) in Moseley is planned for 4th November. The food is Middle Eastern/Mediterranean, estimated cost is £16 - £18.00 for starters and mains. Drinks, dessert and service are extra.

If you are interested in this and not already on the lunches contact list, please get in touch with Carey.

Christmas lunch.

There are still places available at Bistro Pierre on Wednesday 4th December at 12.30; there is step-free access. Lunch at the Bistro Pierre last year cost £18.95 for a 3 course meal plus the cost of drinks and a 10% discretionary service charge. A £10.00 deposit needs to be paid to Carey in October.

Carey will be at the October General Meeting from 1.30 to collect deposits; or contact Carey to arrange payment. The deposit is refunded if the place is cancelled at least 48 hours before the meal. People will also have to give Carey their menu choices during November.

Those with internet access can see the menu through this link:

<https://www.bistrotpierre.co.uk/propeller/uploads/2019/06/Christmas-Party-Lunch-Menu.pdf>

Concerts

Birmingham Conservatoire

Papagena, performing with the Orchestra of the Swan, Wednesday 11 December, 2.30 pm. Carey is still taking bookings for this concert, tickets must be paid for before Carey books them. Tickets for this will be £20.00.

Papagena recently performed at St. Mary's in Moseley: they sang acapella, with a range of classical and folk songs.

There is step-free access to the Conservatoire.

If you want tickets for either this concert or wish to be informed of future bookings please contact Carey.

Theatre

All the tickets for The Belgrade Theatre Coventry - The Entertainer on Thursday 17th October 2019 and The Birmingham Rep - Pride and Prejudice* (*Sort Of) on 24th October, have now been sold.

A reminder to those who have bought tickets, we meet in the theatre foyer area, near the box office, half an hour before the play begins.

If you would like to join the theatre group or would like to know more, please contact Julie.

Joining the theatre group puts you under no obligation to join any or all theatre trips, but ensures you are notified of forthcoming trips.

Cinema

Due to time constraints if you want to be kept updated of arrangements for future cinema trips, please contact Roy who will add your name to the cinema group, and notify you directly of planned film trips. Joining the cinema group puts you under no obligation to join any or all cinema trips, but ensures you are notified of forthcoming trips.

Quiz Night

We are still looking for quiz enthusiasts to help organise future quiz nights. Please contact Julie if you would like to be involved.

Coach trips

If you would like to organise or help organise a coach trip for MKHD U3A members, please contact Julie.

Contact Details

Carey:	careybaff@live.co.uk	0121 472 6535
Julie:	julieallder@yahoo.co.uk	Mobile 07506 720 756
Tessa:	tessabidgood@btinternet.com	Mobile 07941 641 799
Roy:	jroystove@googlemail.com	Mobile 07786 267 682
Val:	enybaxter@hotmail.com	0121 444 7214

University of Birmingham event

The Hard Road to Everest talk by Doug Scott.

Wednesday 23rd October, 2019 at 7pm at The Bramall Hall

Legendary mountaineer Doug Scott gives a fascinating insight into how a lad born in Nottingham during the darkest days of WWII got into climbing on the Black Rocks in Derbyshire – aided with nothing but his mother's clothes line, and how this led him to Everest in 1975.

Book through website

www.bramall.co.uk/booking

Tickets £15 (£13 concessions) plus £1.50 booking fee.

Cryptic clue solving

Last month's answers

With legs akimbo, nag Spiderman to shift around. (12). **Manspreading**. Anagram.

Cheering up (8 , 7). **Standing ovation**.

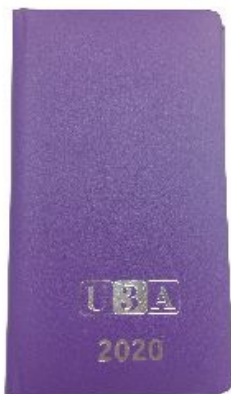
Latest landlord's bulletin (10). **Newsletter**. Latest = news, landlord = letter.

This month's clues

Our district ruler's former cabinet maker. (5,5)

Some half yellow confused fascist. (7)

Diaries for 2020



Diaries for 2020 are now available. Thirty have been ordered and will be available as soon as they are delivered, hopefully at next monthly meeting. The cost is £2.75 or you can buy them directly for £3.25 each via:

[Third Age Trust](#)

The diaries will be available from Tessa at the monthly meeting. Please bring exact money.

Interest Groups

Group of the month

If you would like to have information about your group included in a Newsletter, please contact either Roy Stove or Brenda Bingham, the Interest Group Coordinators (see contact information on last page).

Proposed new group

Advanced French Conversation

This group is aimed at people who aim to develop and sharpen their speaking and their comprehension skills by engaging in discussions/debates based on written topical articles, literary extracts/complete works of literature, films, audio documents... (to be discussed and agreed upon when the group is formed)

Members of this group are expected to be able to read and understand French and to hold a conversation comfortably. Vocabulary and grammar will be addressed as they arise.

The meetings will take place fortnightly in the Community Room at Middleton Road, Kings Heath B14 7HP.

If you are interested, please contact Chafika Gutknecht, chafikagutknecht@yahoo.co.uk or 0121 444 0448.

Book Group Vacancies

Book Group 6

There is a vacancy for another member. We are a friendly, democratic group looking forward to welcoming a new member. We meet monthly, third Friday afternoon of the month in members' homes.

Please contact Jo Taylor(taylorjo24@gmail.com or 0121 441 1703) if you are interested in joining.

Book Group 7

There is a vacancy for a new member. We read all types of fiction, with each member taking a turn to choose a book and host the group. We meet on the first Friday of the month at 2 pm till 4 pm in members' houses subject to their agreement. If anyone is interested they are welcome to come and try us out!

Contact Sheila Choudhury by email please (she91dc@gmail.com).

Interest group photograph

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum



In April, the Art Appreciation 4 group visited Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum to view the permanent exhibition and the Biennial Open exhibition - recent works by artists living and working in the West Midlands. There was keen observation and lively discussion before relaxing in the Hammam, the Turkish Bath in the Royal Pump Room. Then a walk through the splendid Jephson Gardens to another small gallery followed by a walk through the old town to the station and the train back to Birmingham. A good day out.

Contact information

Interest Group enquiries - please contact one of the Interest Group Coordinators:

- Brenda Bingham 0121 444 6295 brbingham@hotmail.com
- Roy Stove 0121 459 8604 jroystove@googlemail.com

Membership enquiries - please contact:

- Jackie Spearpoint 0121 439 5824 membership@mkhdu3a.org.uk

Social events enquiries - please contact:

- Julie Alder 07506 720 756 juliealder@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter

- Ken Fisher ken@ken-fisher.com

General enquires - please contact:

- Sara Meyer 0121 218 3759
- Anne Crerar 07881 702 305
- Mike Clark 0121 689 2765
- Or email enquiries@mkhdu3a.org.uk

Your Committee

- Co-chair Anne Crerar
- Co-chair Sara Meyer
- Business & Communications Secretary Ken Fisher
- Treasurer Tessa Bidgood
- Social Secretary Julie Alder
- Interest Group Co-ordinators Brenda Bingham and Roy Stove
- Membership Secretary Jackie Spearpoint
- Monthly Meeting Co-ordinator Sylvia Butler
- Advisory Member Mike Clark