



MOSELEY, KINGS HEATH & DISTRICT U3A

NEWSLETTER no.22 March 2015

Dear Member

Now is the time for you to sign up for another year of activity, excitement and learning! There is information below on membership renewals and also about our AGM (p.2), which is due in May. Please keep reading to the end of the Newsletter, where you will find (p.6) that Valda has been busy in booking us some more speakers for the second half of the year. We also have a lot of news this month about interest groups (p.3&4) and social events (p.3).

First however, this month's meeting:

March Members' Meeting

Our speaker at this month's members' meeting is another returnee. Paul Harding was one of our earliest speakers two years ago on the topic of 18th century medicine. Paul is part of an organisation called "Discover History", which aims to make History interesting and accessible, particularly through working with schools. His topic this month is "Crime and Punishment in History". We look forward to being entertained and educated, as we were two years ago.

The meeting will be at the All Saints Centre at 2.00pm on Tuesday March 10.

Membership Renewals

Your committee met this week and agreed that the incredible bundle of stimulus provided each year (for and by you the members!) will again be available at the amazing price of £20 for the year beginning April 1, 2015.

Chris and Greg will be in the meeting hall **from 1.15 onwards before the March and April monthly meetings** (March 10 and April 14) to provide new membership cards to members renewing their subscriptions. The preferred payment method is by cheque, payable to MKHD U3A, though cash can be accepted at the monthly meetings.

If you prefer to renew by post, there are two important things to note:

- please include a **self-addressed stamped envelope** for your membership card to be posted to you
- please send **only cheques** by post – **no cash**

Cheques should be sent to the Membership Secretaries, Chris and Greg Bellamy, at:
25 Highfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9HL,

If any of your details – address, phone or email - have changed in the past year and you haven't informed us, this is a good time to do so.

AGM

1. This year's AGM

Our AGM in May is a very important component of our U3A year. The committee voted in a year ago serves for one year only and, if the committee members wish to serve for another year, they must again stand for election.

We are always looking for new blood on the committee and encourage members to stand for one of the positions on the committee. This year, for the first time, two committee members are standing down (Chris and Greg, our diligent duo of Membership Secretaries). We are looking for members willing to stand for this and any other posts you may be interested in.

Members of the committee (other than the Treasurer) can only stand for a maximum of three years in their post. A year from now many of the committee members, if re-elected this year, will have served 3 years and will be standing down.

We are therefore also looking for members willing to support particular posts on the committee, perhaps with a view to standing for that post in a year's time.

2. Entertainment

We are pleased to let you know that, after the formal part of the AGM, we will have performances from both our Choir and our Ukulele group. Some members are showcasing their multiple talents by performing in both! Further details of the performances will follow later.

3. Nominations

Members wishing to stand for a committee post need to supply us with their own name and that of a proposer and seconder (as well as the name of the post they are standing for) by the end of March. As will be obvious, the proposer and seconder must both be members of our local MKHD U3A. Details of the posts are below.

There will be nomination forms available at the March monthly meeting. Alternatively, please send the same details by email to Mike at mikehclark@hotmail.co.uk

4. Committee Posts

There are 11 posts on the committee, as follows:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Business Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Interest Group Co-ordinator (3)
- Membership Secretary (2)
- Venues Co-ordinator

Role descriptions of these posts are on our website in the Admin section (click on the link at the top of this newsletter).

5. Support Roles

- It is our intention to co-opt a member who is interested to develop a Communications role on the committee. This, essentially, is about improving the way we as a committee communicate with you the members, supplying you with the information you need, as well as collecting and responding better to your views.
- We hope that a member may be interested in supporting John Beavan in developing and updating our MKHD website.

- We would also hope that a member may come forward to support and work with our Interest Group Co-ordinators.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please talk to Mike or Jude, who can give you more information or direct you to the appropriate people.

6. Resolutions for the AGM

If you have any resolutions you would like to be discussed at the AGM, please send them to Mike at the above email address.

7. Refreshments

We have found it difficult to provide refreshments in a way which is conducive to the flow of the event. This year we are going to provide refreshments before the AGM, from 1.30 – 2.00. As you arrive you will be given a ticket which you will hand it to get your tea/coffee and cake.

Social Events

The next meal is at Sabai Sabai Thai restaurant, Woodbridge Rd, Moseley on Tuesday April 21 at 12:30pm . There will be a set meal of 4 appetisers, 3 mains and rice for £18. Vegetarian options are available. The food is very good.

The Bletchley Park trip on Friday April 17 is full, but places can only be guaranteed once payment of £23.50 per person has been made. If payment has not been made by mid-March the seats will be offered to those on the waiting list.

As you may be aware, 2015 is the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. On Sunday June 14 there will be national events to celebrate this event and we will be holding our Picnic in the Park (nationally named LiberTea!) in Kings Heath Park with a focus on Magna Carta (but in a fun way!) More details later.

Paul says: "I am in the process of arranging the next outing in July. I am planning to take us to Hidcote Manor Gardens and Moreton-in-Marsh (Tuesday is market day, I am told). This is in its early stages at the moment, but I anticipate that the cost will be around £20 including entry to the gardens."

If you wish to book a place or places, please email Paul on paulhunt2@btinternet.com

Interest Group Information

Sue Stokes writes:

"If you are interested in joining any of the full groups, please make sure you contact the Group Leader and add your name to the Waiting List. People do drop out for all kinds of reasons.

Beginners' Digital Photography Group

We had a long list of people who wanted to join a Basic Photography group. We are grateful to John Beavan, who has agreed to run four sessions on *An Introduction to Photography*. People on the waiting list have been contacted and the first course has been filled on a first come, first served basis. If you were contacted and have not replied please contact John, as he may be encouraged to run a second course!

It is hoped that the Beginners' Group/s will elect a Group Leader and continue to meet together as an Interest Group after the courses.

Digital Photography

The existing group has invited new three people to join it. Yes, they were on the waiting list!

Jazz Appreciation

There are two places in the Jazz group. If you are interested please contact Carol Miller by email doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com

Rowing

I have contacted the Birmingham Rowing Group to get some dates for a future taster...more news to follow.

Crown Green Bowling

I am pleased to say that the U3A Crown Green Bowling sessions will continue on a fortnightly basis commencing Thursday April 2, 2015 at Woodlands Bowling and Social Club Ltd, 126 College Road, Moseley B13 9LH, commencing at 10.30 am.

Contacts are Stan Witton 449 0555 (judystanwitton@gmail.com) and Don Stacey 444 2965 . It is open to new and past members.

German

Both German groups have spaces for new members.

Choir and Scrabble

Always room for more!

I hope there is something for everyone. If you fancy starting up a new group, remember it only takes two to form a group....and you could take it in turns to be leader! ”

Sue Stokes, Interest Group Coordinator

Thanks to Group Leaders

We would like to thank those Group Leaders who have handed over to others within their group (excellent succession planning here!): Barbara Tatton / Judith Warr-Arnold (Family History) and Joan Porter (Italian Conversation).

It is vital that we have people willing to oversee the organisation, and often the formation, of their groups. You are the essential links that make our Moseley and Kings Heath U3A so successful. Many thanks for your commitment and enthusiasm - and also for your initiative in finding your own replacements!

Information about the new Group Leaders will be added to the next Monthly Sheets.

Free 24 hour Legal Advice

FirstAssist can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A-related ones.

Simply phone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500, quoting the following details:

Name: The Third Age Trust

Number: 70494.

Our Website

The address for the website is below. You may click on this link if viewing the newsletter online.

mkhdu3a.org.uk.

Science Group taste Astronomy

Ten hardy souls from the Science group took part in an Astronomy evening at Birmingham University on February 25. There were interesting lectures and information, particularly about the forthcoming Eclipse on March 20, but the conditions were not ideal for observing the stars.



U3A National Meetings

March 23: The Royal Institution annual “Explore Science” meeting in Mayfair, London. Cost £20 per person. Fascinating line up of speakers. There is also an optional RI Heritage talk.

March 25: RAF Museum, London. “Early Flight and WW1 in the Air”. £10 per person, including talks, tours and refreshments. There is heavy demand and there are extra dates on September 30, October 14 and November 18. Apply directly to: learning-london@rafmuseum.org

April 22: Design and production workshops at the Royal Opera House in Thurrock. Cost £18 per person. 11am – 3.30pm.

April 28: U3A Spring Concert at Temple Church, London at 3pm. Cost £18 per person. For further information and booking forms contact the National Office on 0208 466 6139, by email at info@u3a.org.uk or via the events page of the members’ area on the national U3A website at www.u3a.org.uk

U3A Summer Schools

The national U3A is running a number of Summer Schools in July and August 2015. The list of topics includes:

July

Art History
Creative Writing
France
Film History
Philosophy/Literature
Practical Theatre Project
Recorder Ensemble
Shakespeare and the Supernatural

What is this thing called Mathematics

August

Drama
Garden Design
Golden Age of Rome
La Bella Italia
Literature
Music
Scandinavian Noir

Science

Singing for Pleasure

The July ones will be held at Harper Adams University in Shropshire from July 13 to 16 and the August ones at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester from August 17 to 20.

For further information, look at the U3A website, www.u3a.org.uk or contact the National Office on 020 8466 6139.

2015 Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday March 10, 2015	2.00	All Saints Centre	Crime and Punishment in History	Paul Harding
Tuesday April 14, 2015	2.00	All Saints Centre	European Union – take it or leave it!	Graham Stroud
Tuesday May 12	2.00	All Saints Centre	Annual General Meeting	
Tuesday June 9	2.00	All Saints Centre	Art Deco	Chris Morgan
Tuesday July 14	2.00	All Saints Centre	The Work of the Magistrate	Chris Kent
Tuesday August 11	2.00	All Saints Centre	The Amish people	Ron Gallivan
Tuesday September 8	2.00	All Saints Centre	To be arranged	
Tuesday October 13	2.00	All Saints Centre	Old Kings Heath High Street	Andy Bishop

All the meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month.

Equipment Available for Interest Group use

We have recently purchased a portable screen and a sound system which will connect to a laptop. These, in addition to our digital projector, can be borrowed by Interest Groups for specific meetings.

If you are interested, the Group Leader needs to get in touch with Mike Clark on mikehclark@hotmail.co.uk

Contact Information

For Interest Group enquiries, please contact one of the Interest Group Coordinators:

Sue Baker, sue.baker@blueyonder.co.uk 0121 449 5737,
Sue Stokes, suestokesie@hotmail.co.uk 0121 441 3052, or
Diane Worland, d.worland@blueyonder.co.uk 0121 684 3763

For membership enquiries, please contact:

Chris and Greg Bellamy, gcbellamy@hotmail.com 0121 449 2470

For general enquiries, please contact: Jude Williams, 0121 443 3645 or Mike Clark, 0121 689 2765

