



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

[mkhdu3a.org.uk](http://mkhdu3a.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER

No. 71 May 2019

Dear Member

After 71 issues of the newsletter, this is Mike signing off as Newsletter editor! At the AGM we have a member standing for the new Committee to take over the role for our June issue – but only if you elect him. Another reason to come along to our AGM!

Of course you will also be able to listen to our nationally renowned speaker, Lucy Hawking. You will be able to hear a report from our Chair, the state of our finances, elect our new Committee, and much else.

### This Month

Our AGM Speaker: .....	2
Our AGM .....	2
Lucy Hawking .....	3
Interest Group Update including a new group for our more active members .....	4
Social Programme .....	4
University of Birmingham Lapworth Museum Tour .....	5
Picture of the Month .....	6
Interest Group of the Month .....	7
Our Web Site -a Request for Help .....	8
Forthcoming Members' Meetings .....	8
Contact information .....	9
Your Committee: .....	9

We remind members that the AGM will be starting early again this year, with refreshments at 1.05pm. The full schedule is on the following page.

We are asking All Saints to put out the maximum number of chairs, but encourage you to arrive early if you want to guarantee a seat.

## Our AGM Speaker:

We are pleased to let you know that Lucy Hawking has informed us that the title of her talk will be “Exploring the Universe through Storytelling”. In the talk Lucy will explain how she has used a series of adventure stories to introduce young children to science, and tell us about the scientists she has worked with, including we assume, her famous father. Her books are aimed at children in the 7-11 age range.

Lucy has won a number of awards for her work in popularising science to children and was recently a judge on the Royal Society’s Young Science Book of the Year competition.

After the meeting we hope that Lucy will take part in a book signing and that a range of Lucy’s books from her “George” adventure series will be available to purchase. However, Lucy’s publisher is organising this with a local bookseller and we cannot at this stage guarantee that it will take place. *We will send out an email to members before the AGM confirming what will happen.*

## Our AGM

### Schedule on Tuesday May 14:

1.05 – 1.35	refreshments
1.40 – 2.10	AGM
2.15 – 3.15 (approx.)	talk by Lucy Hawking followed by questions
3.30 – 4.00 (approx.)	book signing

### AGM Agenda:

1. Minutes of 2018 AGM
2. Report from Chair
3. Financial report from Treasurer
4. Resolution on Membership Fees
5. Approval of Examiner of Accounts
6. Reports from Interest Group Co-ordinators, Social Secretary and Membership Secretaries
7. Election of new Executive Committee
8. Talk by Lucy Hawking on “Exploring the Universe through Storytelling”

## Nominations for Executive Committee 2019/20:

Chair/Vice Chair: Anne Crerar, Sara Meyer  
Treasurer: Tessa Bidgood  
Social Secretary: Julie Alder  
Interest Group Coordinators: Brenda Bingham, Roy Stove  
Membership Secretary: Jackie Spearpoint  
Communications Secretary: Ken Fisher

The meeting will begin in the All Saints Centre, at the junction of the High Street and Vicarage Road in Kings Heath, at 1.05pm on Tuesday May 14.

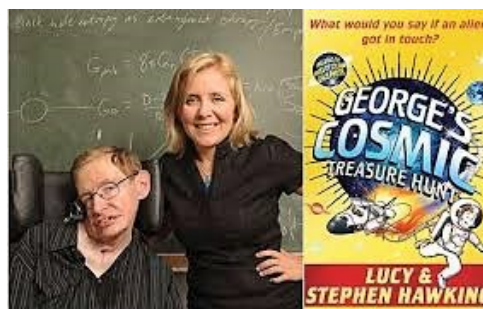
## Lucy Hawking

Lucy Hawking initially trained as a journalist, but then moved into writing books. She is best known for her George series of six adventure books, which are based on real science for young readers. They were written in collaboration with world-leading scientists and have been translated into over 40 languages.

A trustee of the Autism Research Trust, Lucy has developed a new virtual reality film that allows people to experience the world through the eyes of someone with autism. She developed the concept for the film and worked with the Guardian and writer Sumita Majumdar, who drew on her own experiences as a person with autism in similar social situations.

Lucy has not only won prestigious awards for popularising science, but recently become chairperson of the Stephen Hawking Trust.

*Lucy with her famous father and one of the "George" series books on which they collaborated.*



You can find out more about Lucy and the George series on her website, using the following link: <https://lucyhawking.com/>

### **Have you renewed your membership?**

Our AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month is your last chance to do so in person. Please bring cheques for £14 payable to MKHD U3A.

Otherwise you can pay via our website. Full instructions on ways to pay appeared in the last two Newsletters.

*We remind members that if you have not renewed by the end of this month your membership will automatically lapse and you will no longer be entitled to attend meetings, meals, trips etc.*

## Interest Group Update including a new group for our more active members

### For Group Leaders:

In order to make sure that the group information available via the website is up to date, we would be grateful if you would let one of the Interest Group Coordinators know if your group changes its venue or day/time of meeting. If you are a Beacon user you can make these changes yourself.

### Anyone for Table Tennis ?

In a similar arrangement to the Birdwatching group that we highlighted in the last newsletter, Kings Norton U3A have kindly invited our members to join a new table tennis group. The group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Stirchley Community Baths on the Pershore Road for two hours from 2.45 till 4.45.

Each session costs £3.

If you are interested please contact their Interest Group Co-ordinator, Beryl Blood, on: [blood.bj@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:blood.bj@blueyonder.co.uk)

She will answer any questions and liaise with the group leader, Jenny Snashall, as necessary.

## Social Programme

### Drop in Coffee Morning:

This is open to all members of our U3A to enable new and existing members to meet more informally.

Come and have a chat at Kings Heath Park Café on the second Friday of the Month starting on Friday 10th May from 10:30 to 12.00. Your tea or coffee and a lovely slice of cake to be purchased at the café.

Parking is available and it is fully accessible. We will be in the Conservatory, reserved just for us. If you have any questions please contact:

Tessa on  
[tessabidgood@btinternet.com](mailto:tessabidgood@btinternet.com)  
or Val on  
[envybaxter@hotmail.com](mailto:envybaxter@hotmail.com)

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 Tessa or Val know.

### Quiz:

The U3A quiz returns on Wednesday 15th May - again at the United Services Club on Church Road, Moseley from 7.00 pm (we'd expect to finish by 9.30 at the latest).

Team sizes will be strictly limited to 6 people. The entry fee is again £2 per person.

It helps to know in advance how many will be coming. If you want to come please let us know. You don't have to be part of a team from the outset - we have made up teams from people who have come in ones and twos before and some teams have spaces. In fact, it can make for an even better evening to meet different people

**So do put this in your diary and please let Carey, Julie, Paul or Roy know if you plan to come along.**

### Theatre:

Theatre tickets have been booked and paid for the July 18 performance of Measure for Measure at the RSC Stratford at 13.15.

We will meet in the Theatre foyer close to the Box Office half an hour before the start; tickets will be left at the Box Office for those arriving late.

We are currently looking at productions being performed in Birmingham theatres and will notify theatre group members of proposed trips.

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

### Lunches:

If you would like to be notified of future bookings please contact Carey .

### Concerts:

There are no more outings to concerts this season. When next season's CBSO programme is published in May/June Carey will look for further possible bookings. If you want to be kept updated of concerts please contact Carey.

### Cinema:

Roy Stove has taken over the running of the cinema group and is looking at possible screenings. If you want to be kept updated of arrangements, please contact Roy.

### Contact Details:

Carey: [careybaff@live.co.uk](mailto:careybaff@live.co.uk) or 0121 472 6535  
Julie: [julieallder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julieallder@yahoo.co.uk) or 07506720756  
Paul: [paulhunt2@btinternet.com](mailto:paulhunt2@btinternet.com) or 0121 449 8766  
Roy: [jroystove@gmail.com](mailto:jroystove@gmail.com)

## University of Birmingham Lapworth Museum Tour

Monday 5th August 12.00 to 13.00

Dumbfounded by dinosaurs, confused about clastics, puzzled by pyrite? Why not join this tour of the Museum and get the chance to see behind the scenes!

All tours are free of charge and are run on a first come first served basis - please meet at reception.

Contact Anna at: [a.b.chrystal@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.b.chrystal@bham.ac.uk)

Although this is some time away the tours fill up quickly and members are advised to book early.



## Picture of the Month

On Thursday May 2 our U3A Gardening Group had a coach trip to the Market Drayton area where we visited the Dorothy Clive Garden, a beautiful woodland garden, full of rhododendrons and azaleas in full flower, and Wollerton Old Hall Garden, a more traditional English garden with a striking formal structure of water rills, topiary and clipped hedges, softened by many different bulbs, perennials and roses that divide the garden into a number of contrasting “rooms”. Despite having to dodge a few heavy showers, this was a very enjoyable and successful trip, as the gardens were very different from each other and both were looking lovely. Ken Fisher’s photo shows the waterfall in the Dorothy Clive Garden, which is situated in an old quarry.



## Interest Group of the Month

Our second group of the month is *Faiths in Birmingham* and the following item has been submitted by group leader Ruth Tetlow:

Our group has been meeting monthly since April 2013 and has 10 members. We usually meet in members' homes, but also go on visits. We are all interested in the life and beliefs of the very varied faith communities of Birmingham and invite speakers of different faiths to explain aspects of their beliefs and activities.

At the moment we are focussing on festivals and hence our visit to Singers Hill synagogue (see picture below) as it was Passover recently. Last year's highlights included visits to the Karma Ling Buddhist Centre in Ladywood and the Nishkam (Sikh) Primary School in Handsworth. We happen to be an all women group but new members of either gender would be welcome.

Contact me for further details: Ruth Tetlow 0121 449 4892 or [ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com)



A recent visit to Singers Hill Synagogue when we were learning about the celebration of Passover.

## Our Web Site -a Request for Help

Our existing website was set up several years ago. We are eternally grateful to one of our members, John Beavan, who did the work for us.

We now feel that the website is in need of updating and wonder if there is a member “out there” who might have the requisite skills and experience to do it. We are quite happy to pay for the work involved in doing this.

Are you “out there” and looking for a way to use your skills? If so, please contact Mike on:

[mikehclark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikehclark@hotmail.co.uk)

Or chat to one of us at a monthly meeting.

## Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday May 14	2.00	All Saints Centre	‘Exploring the Universe through Storytelling’	Lucy Hawking
Tuesday June 11	2.00	All Saints Centre	‘Skulduggery at Soho’	Mary Bodfish
Tuesday July 9	2.00	All Saints Centre	“A Virtual Tour of the Outer Circle” (no.11 bus!)	David Humphries
Tuesday August 13	2.00	All Saints Church	tbc	
Tuesday September 10	2.00	All Saints Centre	‘How to go Green’	Harriet Martin

If members have any suggestions for future speakers, please contact Diane Worland at a monthly meeting or on 07940 546361.



