



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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



## NEWSLETTER

No. 73 July 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to your July Newsletter. Your new Committee has had its inaugural meeting and we aim to continue providing an excellent service to our many members.

As an added bonus, I plan to include a small section in our Newsletter just for fun, and this month I have given you a couple of cryptic crossword clues to chew over. The answers will be included in the August Newsletter.

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## July Monthly Meeting

### A Virtual Tour of Birmingham's Outer Circle - Summary

Birmingham's Outer Circle is said to be the longest urban bus route in Europe, and it has fiercely defended this accolade for over 90 years. The bus route threads its way around the city through areas that were largely sparsely populated countryside at the time of its inception.

Even though the Second City is relatively young (it only became a city a hundred and thirty years ago) the outer suburbs have surprising histories, stretching back to the 10th century. In addition, there are tales about the residents who found fame as philanthropists, rock stars, industrialists and suspended from the end of a hangman's noose to keep you on the edge of your seat on the top deck.

David and Pam Humphries (Brummies born & bred) have created this illustrated "Virtual Tour" of the Outer Circle from the places visited along this 26-mile route. "Tickets please!"

### About our speakers

David & Pam Humphries have had experience over the years in diverse roles involving telecommunications, childcare, training and record shop ownership. Upon retirement they devised and conducted tours on Birmingham's famous Outer Circle bus route and have joined the ranks of volunteers at a number of Birmingham heritage attractions as tour guides and trainers. They also now conduct heritage talks including the Outer Circle, Back to Back Housing and the Hippodrome - the most visited theatre in the land.

The meeting will start at 2. 00 pm on July 9th at the All Saints Centre, Kings Heath

## Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
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	Local history A story to tell	Andy Bishop
Tuesday September 10	2.00	All Saints Centre	'How to go Green'	Harriet Martin
Tuesday October 15	2.00	All Saints Centre	Birmingham in Action: Working with Birmingham University	To be confirmed
Tuesday November 11	2.00	All Saints Centre	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
December 2019	2.00	All Saints Centre	Christmas festivities	
January 2020	2.00	All Saints Centre	Victorian and Edwardian Building in Birmingham	Tim Bridges

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

## Social Programme

### Social Activities from July 2019

This is a summary of events in the coming month/s which are already planned. New arrangements are made frequently and if you want to be kept updated on any activities please contact the co-ordinator, (see the foot of this entry) or check the monthly newsletters.

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

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 July 12th 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 available and it is fully accessible. 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 them know.

### Lunches

If you want to be kept informed of future meals please contact Carey.

### Concerts

Reservations have been made for a CBSO matinee concert on Wednesday 30th October at the Symphony Hall when the programme will be:-

Bizet Carmen: Suite No. 2, 20'

Chausson Poème for Violin and Orchestra, 16'

Ravel Tzigane, 9'

Dvořák Symphony No. 7, 38'

The exact price of the tickets is to be confirmed but it is expected that they will be £31.00 per person.

The reservation is held with the Box Office until late August so places will need to be reserved with Carey and ticket paid for by Sunday 11th August: you will of course know the exact price before you have to commit to buying the ticket.

Also tickets will be purchased for a concert at the Conservatoire, near Millenium Point, for a female singing group, Papagena, with the Orchestra of the Swan on Wednesday 11 December at 2.30 pm. Tickets for this will be £20.00, and payment is required in advance.

Papagena recently performed at St. Mary's in Moseley: they then sang acapella, with a range of classical and folk songs. If you want tickets for either of these concerts or wish to be informed of further bookings please contact Carey. Carey cannot guarantee step-free access to seats for the concerts, but if anyone needs step-free access please let Carey know and she will try to arrange it.

## Theatre

Theatre Tickets for the following performance have been booked and paid for: 18/7/19 Measure for Measure, 13.15 performance at the RSC Stratford.

We usually meet in the theatre foyer close to the Box Office half an hour before the start of a performance and tickets are 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. 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 he will 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.

## Coach Trips

Rita Menezes and Ruth Livermore have volunteered to help organise a trip. We are, however, still seeking one or more volunteers to work with Rita and Ruth in organising a trip or trips. If you would like to be involved in organising coach trips please contact Julie.

## Contact Details

Carey:	<a href="mailto:careybaff@live.co.uk">careybaff@live.co.uk</a>	or 0121 472 6535
Julie:	<a href="mailto:julieallder@yahoo.co.uk">julieallder@yahoo.co.uk</a>	or 07506720756
Tessa:	<a href="mailto:tessabidgood@btinternet.com">tessabidgood@btinternet.com</a>	
Roy:	<a href="mailto:jroystove@googlemail.com">jroystove@googlemail.com</a>	
Val:	<a href="mailto:envybaxter@hotmail.com">envybaxter@hotmail.com</a>	

## University of Birmingham Events

### Lapworth Museum Sphere Science.

Join us on the 31st July for a fun and dynamic science show filled with “science tricks” with unexpected and surprising outcomes! Use the evidence of your eyes to work out how it all happens! Sphere Science will be presenting two shows:

11:30-12:30 and 14:30 - 15:30 This event is free of charge and based on a first come, first served basis. There is no need to book. We expect to be busy on the day so please arrive early in order to avoid disappointment. <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum/visit/index.aspx>

## Picture Postcards for Charity Appeal

Our member Elisabeth Leicester is collecting picture postcards (new & used) to help with fund-raising for Mission Aviation Fellowship (M.A.F.), which is a Christian organisation working in remote areas in some 26 developing countries. It uses about 135 light aircraft to transport relief and medical workers, food, educational supplies etc. etc. and to effect medical evacuation. If you have postcards to donate please bring them along to the July Meeting, when you will find a box for them on the Enquiries table.

## Table tennis opportunity

Kings Norton and District U3A have a Table Tennis Group which meets at Stirchley Baths on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2.45. – 4.45pm. You are welcome to join us. For further information, please contact Jenny Snashall at:

[jennifer.snashall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.snashall@yahoo.co.uk)

## National Summer School at Aston University, Volunteers Appeal

When all the U3A members arrive to be registered on Monday 12th August it is very busy and some local U3A volunteers to help with the registering of the students is being looked for. Approximately 8 volunteers are needed to assist with :

Registering of students on their course and handing out their registration documents and name badge etc

Taking U3A members to their accommodation blocks

Directing U3A members from the University Car Park and the Millennium Car Park (nearby) to Aston Conference Centre

Two people to be stationed at Birmingham New Street station to greet members and escort to taxi rank

The registration is from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm the volunteers would arrive at 1.30 pm at Aston University for a quick briefing. If you can help, please contact Julie Travers on:

[julie@u3a.org.uk](mailto:julie@u3a.org.uk)

## Cryptic Clue Solving

Oscar Peterson's walk-on part. ( 6 )

Silver-mounted star for western hero. ( 3, 4, 6 )

Answers will appear in next month's Newsletter.

## Interest Group of the Month - Poetry and Plays

The group has thirteen members, its size limited by the venue in a private house. We assemble at 2.00 pm on the first Friday of the month and the meetings end by about 4.15 pm. In each session, we usually discuss the work of a single poet, although we have considered selections of Elizabethan sonnets and First World War poems; we pause for an interval of refreshments, during which we choose the topics for next time; and then we discuss a play.



The poetry is usually a selection of shorter poems, but from time to time we have tackled a longer work, such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'The Ancient Mariner' or Tony Harrison's 'V'. We have ranged widely over the centuries since we began in 2013, from Thomas Wyatt in the sixteenth, John Donne, Aemilia Lanyer and Robert Herrick in the seventeenth, John Keats, John Clare and Matthew Arnold in the nineteenth to Robert Frost, Robert Graves, e.e. cummings, Philip Larkin, Stevie Smith, Seamus Heaney, Carol Ann Duffy and Wendy Cope in the twentieth and twenty-first.

The play is usually by an English language dramatist — from Christopher Marlowe and Shakespeare to George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, John Osborne, Harold Pinter, Caryl Churchill and Timberlake Wertenbaker — but we have also read plays in translation, from the Oedipus Tyrannus of Sophocles and Chekhov's Three Sisters to Jean Anouilh's Antigone and Václav Havel's Temptation. When possible, we conclude a session by watching the performance of a scene recorded on DVD or video.

Debate can be vigorous, taking in aspects of genre, form and content, and we welcome the opportunity to look again at familiar texts and to open up work by poets and playwrights that are new to us. In July, we shall be discussing the later poetry of Ted Hughes and Shaw's Major Barbara.

Dr Robert Wilcher. Group Convenor

## Contact information

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

- Roy Stove                      0121 459 8604                      [jroystove@googlemail.com](mailto:jroystove@googlemail.com)
- Brenda Bingham              0121 444 6295                      [brbingham@hotmail.com](mailto:brbingham@hotmail.com)

**Membership enquiries** - please contact:

- Jackie Spearpoint            0121 439 5824                      [membership@mkhdu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@mkhdu3a.org.uk)

**Social events enquiries** - please contact:

- Julie Alder                      0750 672 0756                      [juliealder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliealder@yahoo.co.uk)

**General enquires** - please contact:

- Sara Meyer                      0121 218 3759
  - Anne Crerar                      0788 170 2305
  - Mike Clark                      0121 689 2765
- Or email                      [enquiries@mkhdu3a.org.uk](mailto: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