



NEWSLETTER

No. 74 August 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to your August Newsletter. All of you that attended the July talk about the number 11 bus route will, certainly, have enjoyed it. As the talk only covered half of the circuit, we shall be inviting Dave and Pam Humphries back to complete this wonderful trip down memory lane.

Please be aware that the August meeting is in All Saints Church and not the Centre

It would be good to have news and feedback from our readers; so do, please, send [Ken Fisher](#) an email if you have anything of interest and directly relevant to U3A. As space is limited in the Newsletter, a selection process may be needed.

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August Monthly Meeting

About our speaker, Andy Bishop

Our speaker for the August meeting, will be known to many of you. He is the Chair of Kings Heath Local History Society. He has spoken to us on two previous occasions about the local history of Kings Heath, engaging us with interesting memories which included a wealth of photographs from his collection. Andy is passionate about showing and sharing old photographs of Kings Heath with the public. He helped to set up the “Kings Heath Goes Digital Project” at Kings Heath Library which encouraged members of the public to bring their old photographs and documents of Kings Heath to be scanned digitally; so that they could be easily seen by the people of Kings Heath.

He has also co-authored a book with Bob Blackham entitled “Kings Heath High Street – A nostalgic journey” which featured hundreds of old photographs of Kings Heath High Street, and showed the changes that have happened over the years.

His topic this time is a little different!

Murder at Weatheroak Hill, A real Victorian murder story

Two men walk down the same deserted country lane in the darkness of the early morning. Only one is seen alive again. A shocking murder is soon discovered. The investigation that followed had links to Birmingham, Redditch and Kings Heath too. Even the Home Secretary himself was involved at one point. It was a story covered in depth in all the newspapers of the day. Sadly, the story is now largely forgotten.....until now!

The meeting will start at 2. 00 pm on Tuesday August 13th at **All Saints Church** and not the usual location in the Church Centre.

Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday August 13	2.00	All Saints Church	Murder at Weatheroak Hill	Andy Bishop
Tuesday September 10	2.00	All Saints Centre	'How to go Green'	Harriet Martin
Tuesday October 15	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

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

Social Programme

Social Activities from August 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

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 August 9th 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.

The September coffee and chat meeting will be on Friday September 13th.

Any questions please contact:

Tessa on tessabidgood@btinternet.com

or Val on 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

Harborne Kitchen, Thursday 12 September at 12.30 pm.

Some of you came to Harborne Kitchen when we went there about 2 years ago, shortly after it opened and since then it has gone from strength to strength, having been named Best Local Restaurant in the West Midlands in the Good Food Guide and being mentioned in the Michelin Guide.

Lunch is a fixed 4 course plus sourdough and snacks, though the offer will be varied to meet dietary needs. A sample menu can be found on their website, here: <https://www.harbornekitchen.com/lunch-express-5> - but note this is a sample as it changes with the seasons.

Access to Harborne Kitchen is step-free.

If you want to join us for this lunch please contact Carey.

Future lunches

An outing in Moseley or Kings Heath will be arranged, probably for late October. Watch this space!

Christmas lunch.

Although a long way off, and seems even more so if you're enjoying this hot weather (or not as the case may be!), however we think it would be good to take a straw poll on preferences for venue for our Christmas meal, from 2 options, as follows:

- Bistrot Pierre in Gas Street, where we went last year. Lunch then was £18.95 for 3 course meal plus drinks and a 10% discretionary service charge. There were about 6 choices for each course. We had 2 dates for this and in total around 40 people came.

- Tally Ho, where we went the previous year. The cost of this last year was £25.00 for 3 courses and again there was a good range of choices for each course. To book this we would have to have a minimum of 30 people, so would there would be a single date for the outing.

Both venues have step-free access.

If you have a preference for which venue you would prefer please let **Carey** know - bookings will probably be made in late August to secure good dates for us.

Concerts

Symphony Hall

Reservations have been made for a CBSO concert on Wednesday 30th October at 2.15pm 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 (dependent on how many people are going) 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.

It has not been possible to secure any seats with step-free access for this concert.

Birmingham Conservatoire

Also tickets will be purchased for 2 concerts by the Orchestra of The Swan at the Conservatoire, near Millennium Point.

Wednesday 9 October, 2.30pm (with a free pre-concert talk at 1.30pm). We have been offered tickets on a 2 for 1 basis for this concert, for which the programme is:

Rossini The Barber of Seville, Overture

Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue

Copland Quiet City

Mozart Symphony No.38 'Prague'

Tickets on a 2 for 1 basis would range in price from £9.00 - £12.50, but if an odd number of people come the whole cost will be divided between those attending, so it may work out a little more than this.

Wednesday 11 December, 2.30 pm. Bookings are also being made for a concert with a female singing group, Papagena, performing with the Orchestra of the Swan.

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

Tickets for this will be £20.00

All tickets for concerts at the Conservatoire have to be paid for at purchase, so you will need to arrange payment to Julie Alder in advance.

There is step-free access to the Conservatoire.

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

Theatre

We have identified 2 productions you may be interested in seeing. Please can you let me know asap whether either or both productions are of interest. Tickets sell out very quickly for some theatres and productions and consequently we cannot guarantee getting tickets for everyone for every production, so in the interest of fairness it will be first come first served. The productions are: -

The Belgrade Theatre Coventry - The Entertainer on Thursday 17th October 2019 at 14.00hrs. Tickets will cost £16 each.

[Click this link for more details](#)

Reviews

"One of the most iconic roles in theatre" - Daily Telegraph

"If there was ever a state-of- the-nation play, this is it." - The Guardian

"The Entertainer is as British as a seaside postcard with as much to say today as it did then." - Evening Standard

"A landmark state-of-the-nation play." The Observer

Address:

Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square, Coventry, CV1 1GS. The theatre is a 15-minute walk from the station. A senior bus pass will get you to Coventry free of charge.

The Birmingham Rep

Pride and Prejudice* (*Sort of)

Written by Isobel McArthur after Jane Austen on 24th October 2019 at 19.30hrs. Tickets will cost £15.20 each

[Click this link for more information](#)

Reviews

Unfettered joy from start to finish - The Herald

Clever, funny, feminist, and not even shy, in the end, of a few powerful moments of true romance - The Scotsman

A have-your-cake-and-eat-it adaptation in which the gags are plentiful even when the stakes are high - The Guardian

A killer karaoke soundtrack encompassing everything from Pulp, to Candi Staton, to The Divine Comedy and Etta James - The Stage

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

Quiz Night

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

Contact Details

Carey:	careybaff@live.co.uk	
Julie:	julieallder@yahoo.co.uk	Mobile 07506720756
Tessa:	tessabidgood@btinternet.com	Mobile 07941641799
Roy:	jroystove@googlemail.com	Mobile 07786267682
Val:	envybaxter@hotmail.com	

Interest Group of the Month - Creative Writing

Formed in May, 2018, the group meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the Friends' Meeting House in Colmore Road, Kings Heath. At the meeting, each of the nine members reads out an original piece based on a particular word agreed at the previous meeting. Having started with 'A' for Apple the group is working its way through the alphabet, and is currently at 'O' for Opportunity. With a restriction of around two hundred and fifty words, members find the exercise good practice in concise, creative writing.

The ethos of the group is to enable writers to share ideas and discuss the wordsmith's art. Constructive criticism and advice flow naturally, encouraging some members in their ultimate goal of having their work published. At the last meeting, one member was delighted to announce the acceptance her children's story for publication.

The group is currently at capacity, but would like to hear from U3A members who might like to be on a waiting list. Sufficient numbers could open the possibility of a second group being formed. Please email [Ken Fisher](#) to express an interest.



Interest groups - general Information

Book group vacancy

Book Group 6 has space for a new member. Please contact Jo Taylor if you would like to join.

Contact details are: taylorjo24@gmail.com or 0121 441 1703

Spanish intermediate level group

We are a small, friendly group meeting alternate Tuesday mornings in members' homes. We are following the BBC Suenos Intermediate course for learning Spanish. This covers many aspects of Spanish and Latin American life, art and culture. Our sessions usually start with Spanish discussion on topics of interest. This is followed by some grammar and comprehension, listening exercises and translation work. We all feel that we have gained confidence in speaking and understanding Spanish and find this a very enjoyable way to learn.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Marion - marionbyr@hotmail.com or 0121 459 2834

Group membership

From time to time a member may wish to introduce a friend, who is a fellow member, to one of our Interest Groups. If you plan to do this, will you please ensure that you contact the group leader first to make sure that there is space for a new member.

Many of our groups have restricted availability for a number of reasons – space in the venue, need for group discussion (for example in language conversation), health and safety (for example in walking groups). Group leaders may keep waiting lists of those wishing to join.

Your Interest Group Coordinators are always happy to help with group information.

Committee Transparency

In the interests of transparency, we make the minutes of our committee meetings and AGMs, once they have been approved, available for members to view.

However, so that they are only available to members, they are password protected.

If you wish to view the minutes please click on the "members" area of our [website](#) and log in using the password: [pineapple](#)

University of Birmingham event

Life, Death and Meaning. Eastern and Western perspectives.

Profound philosophical questions from multidisciplinary perspectives.

Monday 9th September, 2019 1.00 - 5.15 in Hospitality Suite, Muirhead Tower.

No need to register just turn up!

Interest group photograph

If you have been out and about and taken photographs of a U3A activity, do please email [Ken Fisher](#) a copy of the best one with an appropriate caption. Space is limited; so a selection process may be needed each month.

This month we have Roger McFadden's photograph of the Science Group by the river. It's not to be mistaken for the weight-watchers' group delving into their minuscule picnic lunch box.



Dr Ellen Pisolkar, a locally-based environmental scientist demonstrating sampling techniques and how to identify the invertebrates that indicate the relative health of a water course.

Cryptic clue solving

Last month's answers

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

Silver-mounted star for western hero. (3, 4, 6) The Lone Ranger (horse called Silver)

This month's clues

Man in chef's coat. (6)

Pain in French capital. (5)

Contact information

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

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

Membership enquiries - please contact:

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| ● Jackie Spearpoint | 0121 439 5824 | membership@mkhdu3a.org.uk |
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Social events enquiries - please contact:

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| ● Julie Alder | 0750 672 0756 | julieallder@yahoo.co.uk |
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Newsletter

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| ● Ken Fisher | ken@ken-fisher.com |
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General enquires - please contact:

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| ● Sara Meyer | 0121 218 3759 |
| ● Anne Crerar | 0788 170 2305 |
| ● Mike Clark | 0121 689 2765 |
| Or email | enquiries@mkhdu3a.org.uk |

Your Committee:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● 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 |