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NEWSLETTER

No. 77 November 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to your November Newsletter. Our October meeting was well attended, and we had an interesting talk from Josie Wall about the Coffin Works. Some of you expressed an interest in making a visit, and this has to be done through the booking system as all visits are guided tours. You can find information on line at:

<http://www.coffinworks.org/newmanbros/visit/>
or by telephoning 0121 233 4790.

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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November Monthly Meeting - Highbury Hall

Speaker, Alison Millward



We are very lucky this month to have Alison Millward as our speaker. Alison is a director of an environmental consultancy specialising in the strategic development of the environmental sector. In a voluntary capacity she is a former chair of the UNESCO UK Man and Biosphere Urban Forum and the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and is currently chair of the Moseley Regeneration Group and a trustee of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust.

In this month's talk on Highbury Hall, Alison will tell us about the history of the house and grounds and about the Chamberlain family. She will explain its use as a military hospital and a home for the elderly. Coming to more recent times, we will find out about the 1980s restoration for civic entertaining and the ongoing deterioration of the house and grounds. Finally, and more positively, there is the formation of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust and the plans for the next phase of restoration.

The talk will be at the All Saints Centre, at the corner of Vicarage Road and Kings Heath High St at 2pm on Tuesday November 12. We hope you are able to join us there.

An Additional speaker - Birmingham in Action

After the main talk there will be a short presentation by a member of staff from the University of Birmingham about their new community project, "Birmingham in Action".

We hope that within this project there may be activities in which members may wish to participate and benefit from.

Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
T u e s d a y November 12	2.00	All Saints Centre	Highbury Hall	Alison Millward
T u e s d a y December 10	2.00	All Saints Centre	Christmas festivities	
T u e s d a y 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.

Speaker for our AGM in May 2020

We are very pleased to let you know that we have arranged an exciting speaker on an important topic for our AGM in May. He is a local resident, Jon Bloomfield, who will talk about the research he carried out for his recent book, "Our City: Migrants and the Making of Modern Birmingham".

We will give you further information closer to the AGM.

Social Programme

Social Activities from November 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

Drop in for a coffee or tea and a chat on Friday 8th November 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 December coffee morning will be on Friday 13th. We also have the opportunity on December 13th to avail ourselves of their Christmas Brunch Offer. This is selection of sandwiches, baked sausage rolls (vegetarian available), chocolate fudge cake or a mince pie and tea/coffee all for £8.95 a head. We would like people who are interested to contact either Tess or Val to let them know if they would like to enjoy the brunch offer; so they can give the tea rooms rough numbers. Brunch will be at 11.30. However, if you prefer you can still come just for coffee from 10:30 as usual.

These drop-in coffee mornings are open to all MKHD U3A members to enable new and existing members to meet more informally. If you are aware of any member who does not have access to the internet and may be interested in these coffee mornings please let them know.

Any questions please contact:

Tessa on tessabidgood@btinternet.com
or Val on envybaxter@hotmail.com

Lunches

Sorry but we cannot take any more reservations for the Christmas Lunch this year: we have 45 on the list and are now taking pre-orders. Nothing else is planned for 2019 but further outings will be arranged for 2020. If you want to be kept up-dated please contact Carey. Updates will be sent by e-mail but you can be phoned if you wish. Information about lunches is also included in each newsletter.

Concerts

Birmingham Conservatoire

Tickets can still be bought for the concert on Wednesday 11 December at 2.30 pm at the Birmingham Conservatoire but you need to be quick.

The concert on 11th December is of a female singing group, Papagena, performing with the Orchestra of the Swan. Papagena sing acapella, with a range of classical and folk songs.

Tickets for this will be £20.00

The deadline for bookings is Friday 15 November and payment will need to be made in advance. If you want a ticket for this please contact Carey as soon as possible.

Theatre

We are currently investigating theatre trips for 2020. 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.

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
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Roy:	jroystove@googlemail.com	Mobile 07786 267 682
Val:	envybaxter@hotmail.com	0121 444 7214

University of Birmingham event

City of Birmingham Choir:

City of Birmingham Choir: Mass in Blue and Freedom! The Power of Song on Sunday 17th November, 2019 at 2.30 in the Elgar Concert Hall.

Two exciting and uplifting pieces of modern choral music both with a jazz and blues vibe.

Adults £18

booking at

<https://thebramall.co.uk/events/>

tel 0121 414 4414

Cryptic clue solving

Last month's answers

Our district ruler's former cabinet maker. (5,5). **Kings Heath** (King's and Edward Heath)

Some half yellow confused fascist. (7) **Moseley**. (Anagram of 'some' and 'yel'- Oswald Moseley - can be spelt with or without the 'e')

This month's clues

Questions asked about intended location of cross? (7,5)

Ten in mad tribe decide to leave the other twenty-seven. (6)

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.

Group of the month

Architecture and Walking

The Architecture and walking group, lead by Michael Harrison, meets every two weeks and periodically has a guided walk. On 2 October we met at Saint Laurence Church Northfield, which we had visited earlier, for the second stage of exploring Northfield. After viewing the historic buildings around the church the group made its way towards the High Street pausing to consider the design and details of the Library, adjacent 1920's housing, a fine brickwork chimney and Scandinavian influenced 1960's housing development.

The buildings in the High Street vary considerably and reflect the changes in prosperity over the past century or more and the accompanying changes in style and scale. There are some imposing frontages on the south side with Art Deco influences in the details of brickwork and windows above the shop signs and opposite there is a modest four storey 1950's redevelopment of shops with maisonettes above which is set back from the original street line to provide a public space. When taking the time to look, history can be revealed and the variety in buildings better appreciated.

At the western end on Bristol Road a supermarket, a new Leisure Centre and the imposing Black Horse public house. Designed by Francis Goldsbrough it is one of the largest and finest examples in the country of 'Brewer's Tudor' style. Built in 1929 and refurbished in 2010. The group briefly viewed the impressive interior rooms before settling in the rear garden on a warm sunny afternoon to discuss our observations, next to Rover the rusty horse made by Longbridge workers out of car parts.



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).

Interest group notices

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.

Interest group creations

A piece from the Creative Writing Group

The Decision by Kenneth Fisher

There is a road that leads through the Land of the Living. It is straight and narrow, and a traveller, Mr White by name, finds it easy to follow. On reaching a fingerpost at a fork in the road, White has a decision to make. To the right the sign says, 'Truth' and to the left 'Deceit'. The left fork looks the easier route, and so he sets off on the road to Deceit.

The road weaves its way through the Vale of Deceit until it ends at some flimsy fabrications on the side of a small tranquil river known as the Stream of Lies. The place looks deserted except for a jolly looking fellow called Connor who offers to ferry White downstream to the Promised Land for what seems like a small price to pay. So White decides to journey on.

Connor has brought some food with him and is happy to share his pork pies with White. Unfortunately, the river reaches some rapids known as the Stretch of the Truth, and after a traumatic few minutes the boat capsizes. Scrambling ashore, White finds himself in the ancient graveyard of Broken Promises. Although all the tombs are whoppers, they have not been maintained and tell a sorry tale of neglect. However, directly in front of him is a new tombstone. As he reads the inscription, White turns pale.

Making the decision to visit Deceit
And failing to see what he might jeopardise
He risked a journey he could not complete
So under this stone the body of White lies

