



mkhdu3a.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

No. 78 December 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to your December Newsletter. Our November meeting was well attended, and we had an interesting talk from Alison Millward about Highbury Hall.

This month we are meeting in All Saints Church ([not the Hall](#)) for Christmas Festivities. More information is provided later in the Newsletter.

Please note that you should be able to click on any of the contents items below to go directly to the relevant page.

This Month

December Monthly Meeting - Christmas Festivities	2
Forthcoming Members' Meetings.....	2
Social Programme	3
University of Birmingham event	5
Cryptic clue solving.....	5
A New Website for our U3A.....	5
Diaries for 2020	5
Group of the month	6
Interest group notices.....	7
Interest group creations.....	8
Contact information	9
Your Committee	9

December Monthly Meeting - Christmas Festivities

This month our regular monthly meeting is our festive Christmas celebration. Once again we are pleased to welcome our excellent Choir and Ukulele group to provide our programme of musical entertainment.

Diane Worland is working on a mixed bag of offerings provided by our members to ensure additional entertainment. However, she tends to keep this very close to her chest and it will be a surprise for all of us on the day.

The programme will start with the serving of mince pies (including gluten free) and hot drinks at 1.15pm, and the programme of entertainment will begin at approximately 2.00.

The meeting will be in [All Saints Church](#) at the corner of Kings Heath High St and Vicarage Road at 1.15pm on Tuesday December 10.

Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday December 10th	1.15	All Saints Church	Christmas festivities in the church	
Tuesday January 14th	2.00	All Saints Centre	Victorian and Edwardian Building in Birmingham	Tim Bridges
Tuesday February 11th	2.00	All Saints Centre	Number 11 bus route. The second half	David and Pam Humphries
Tuesday March 10th	2.00	All Saints Centre	British Girl Guiding overseas	Lesley Knighton
Tuesday April 14th	2.00	All Saints Centre	Six thousand lost children	Val Hart
Tuesday May 12th	2.00	All Saints Centre	AGM Talk - Migrants and the making of modern Birmingham	Jon Bloomfield

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

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

The December coffee morning will be on Friday 13th, when we also have the opportunity to avail ourselves of their Christmas Brunch Offer. This is a series 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 Tessa 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 to come just for coffee from 10.30 as usual.

The January 2020 coffee morning will be on Friday, 10th of January. This is the Friday before the Members' Meeting on 14th of January.

The coffee morning is 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 is available and the venue is fully accessible.

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

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

If you want to be informed of bookings in 2020, please contact Carey. Updates will be sent by e-mail but you can be phoned if you wish. Information about concerts is also included in each newsletter.

Theatre

There is one ticket still available for A BUNCH OF AMATEURS by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman on 26th May 2020 at 19.00 at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of Shakespeare, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of starring alongside Kenneth

Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from ruthless developers.

Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner Lear!

<https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/a-bunch-of-amateurs.html>

The ticket costs £15.25 (this covers the cost of the ticket, booking fee and postage costs). Further details concerning payment will be sent to those requesting tickets.

All the tickets for TARTUFFE on 2nd April 2020 have now been sold.

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. Information about theatre trips is also included in each newsletter, however members of the theatre group receive updates by email (or phone, if they do not use email).

Cinema

If you want to be kept updated about arrangements for future cinema trips, please contact Roy who will add your name to the cinema group list, 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 help.

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
Tessa:	tessabidgood@btinternet.com	Mobile 07941 641 799
Roy:	jroystove@googlemail.com	Mobile 07786 267 682
Val:	envybaxter@hotmail.com	0121 444 7214

Important Notice

It is stated in the MKHD Social Account Policy that 'Members who book a place for a social event/trip are responsible for full payment, regardless of attendance, and no further bookings for a member can be made until any outstanding payments are made'.

University of Birmingham event

Truly Bright and Memorable

Jan de Beer's Renaissance Altarpieces
Free exhibition at Barber Institute of Fine Arts
until 19th January, 2020.

Cryptic clue solving

Last month's answers

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

Ten in mad tribe decide to leave the other twenty-seven. (6) Brexit - anagram of tribe with x included.

This month's clues

Diocesan tactics include present day supplier. (5)

Mad mice pine for this seasonal treat. (4, 3)

A New Website for our U3A

We are looking to create a new website for our U3A in the coming period. Currently, we are entering the design stage, and are setting up a working group to consider what should be on the website and what it might look like.

We would be interested to hear your views on the current website and any suggestions you might have for improvements or additional information you would like to see there.

If you feel able to contribute comments or ideas, or if you have any appropriate skills that might enable you to contribute towards this process, please get in touch with Roy Stove on:

0121 459 8604 or

jroystove@googlemail.com

Diaries for 2020

A few Diaries for 2020 are still available. 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.

Correction

For those of you who have been lucky enough to purchase a 2020 U3A diary, please note that there is an error. Like many diaries which were created before the change of the Early Spring May Day holiday date, the U3A diary gives the date as Monday 4th May 2020. The actual date of the public holiday is Friday 8th May 2020 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Group of the month

Five-mile walking group

A good turnout for our November 5th walk around Alvechurch. Some great views and a lot of mud! Much enjoyed by all 18 who came along. A good lunch later in the pub, now that could be why they all came!



Interest group notices

Group offers from Kings Norton and District U3A

As you may know, some of our members already attend the Kings Norton Bird Watching Group and their Table Tennis Group. They have now opened two more groups to our members:

Barn and Country Dancing

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall, Firbank Close, off Oak Tree Lane B30 1UA.

The sessions are for one hour from 2.30pm at the cost of £2.

There is a multitude of folk dance CDs to pick from to suit the number of people present. It is not too energetic, but does get you moving, sometimes at a sedate pace à la Jane Austen, and sometimes galloping (albeit gently) down the set. All are welcome.

Exploring World Faiths

The Kings Norton U3A Exploring World Faiths Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10.0-11.30am. Frequently we visit different faith buildings for our sessions. On other occasions, we meet in someone's house in Bournville or Kings Norton. Another option is that we meet at St Joseph's church on Northfield Road in Cotteridge.

In terms of costs, there is no charge for our sessions, except we encourage a non-mandatory donation of £3 when we visit faith buildings.

We have just completed our exploration of the Buddhist, Jain, Hindu, Hari Krishna and Sikh faiths. In terms of our future programme, we have a session on the SACRE religious curriculum in December, and then plan to explore the following faiths: Zoroastrian, Pagan, Humanist, Spiritualist, Baha'i, Scientology, Judaism, Islam, Christianity.

Contact

If you are interested, please contact Beryl Blood, The Kings Norton Interest Group Coordinator.

blood.bj@blueyonder.co.uk

Possible new Interest Group - Greener Gardening

One of our members has suggested that she might start a group to give practical ideas for gardening organically and using methods which might help to save our planet. This is intended to be different from our existing gardening group which mainly has speakers and visits. She would be happy to receive initial expressions of interest. Please contact Ruth Tetlow on 0121 449 4892 or:

ruthtetlow@btinternet.com

Interest group creations

If any of our interest groups have examples of their creative efforts to share with our members, do please email them to:

ken@ken-fisher.com

A piece and a puzzle from the Creative Writing Group

Games People Play by Janet Burgess

Hidden within this story are twelve games/sports. Can you find them all? Answers in next month's Newsletter.

"Twenty quid, Di. ' Tchaikovsky ' at 20 to 1."

To his utter astonishment Roger was £400 richer after the 2.40 at Warwick races. Gleefully he envisaged the following celebratory evening. Rosemary would look so chic, a gorgeous vision, her dress a gentian shade of blue; her hair freshly coiffed, each curl in graceful yet artless fronds framing her elfin face.

When he got home after an expensive shopping spree, he had to lug everything up three flights as the lift had broken down. He put some music on but the stereo would only work in mono! Pol yawned, her body stretched as she rolled onto her back, inviting her 'tin-opener' to tickle her.

He put the TV on but became cross. 'Country File' was on instead of the new quiz, 'Clue Dominoes' in which he prided himself on scoring highly.

What was for supper? He fetched the chilled bottle of hock, eyed up the fridge's contents. Ugh! The fish was off - the smell awful, pungent. BAD. Mint? O, no - the lamb wasn't defrosted yet. Soup it would have to be. Tomato and basil, his favourite. But he couldn't reach the can. Tall as he was, his groping fingers could not quite grasp it. Even tin grabbing was beyond him tonight!

His thoughts drifted back to Rosemary as he played with Pol, dangling her preferred toy 'Chuck' (a rat) enticingly above her paws. She loved this game. What games could he and Rosemary play tomorrow?

Contact information

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

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

Membership enquiries - please contact:

- Jackie Spearpoint 0121 439 5824 membership@mkhdu3a.org.uk

Social events enquiries - please contact:

- Julie Allder 07506 720 756 julieallder@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter

- Ken Fisher ken@ken-fisher.com

General enquires - please contact:

- Sara Meyer 0121 218 3759
 - Anne Crerar 07881 702 305
 - Mike Clark 0121 689 2765
- Or email 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 Allder
- Interest Group Co-ordinators Brenda Bingham and Roy Stove
- Membership Secretary Jackie Spearpoint
- Monthly Meeting Co-ordinator Sylvia Butler
- Advisory Member Mike Clark