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NEWSLETTER

No. 79 January 2020

Dear Member

Happy New Year and welcome to your January Newsletter. Our Christmas Festivities meeting was well attended in All Saints Church with delightful contributions from our Choir, Ukulele group and others.

We can now look forward to an interesting January talk about local Victorian and Edwardian architecture from our distinguished speaker, Tim Bridges.

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A New Year Message from our Chairs

Happy New Year! We hope that you have enjoyed the past year at U3A much as we did, participating in some of the many opportunities MKHD U3A provides for us to learn, to develop new skills and expand horizons in a friendly, sharing and supportive environment. Our U3A has nearly six hundred members and we welcome and encourage new members. The start of the new decade may be a good time to take on new challenges. In order for our U3A to continue to thrive, we need volunteers to come forward. Our U3A is run for our members by our members. If you are able to give some of your time, there are many ways you could help:

- We are always looking to add new committee members to ensure we incorporate fresh ideas and complement the experience of longer serving members.
- If you want to join an interest group, but there is currently no space, why not start a new group? Our interest group co-ordinators are on hand to help and encourage new interest groups.
- Or if you would like to get more involved in social events, but cannot commit much time, you could help organise a coach trip or a quiz night occasionally.

Our wonderful team of volunteers provides an invaluable service to our community of third age learners and we thank them for the help and support they provide. If you would like to know more about volunteering, in any capacity, please contact us, or any of our committee members. Your U3A needs you, so come and join the fun.

We hope that the year ahead will bring you new adventures, new discoveries, much laughter and companionship.

Very best wishes
Anne and Sara

January Monthly Meeting

Birmingham's Victorian and Edwardian buildings - a talk by Tim Bridges

Tim's talk will look at some of the buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries in Birmingham and the urban West Midlands, and the ongoing casework of the Victorian Society to preserve them. In particular Tim will be focussing on:

- Industrial and commercial buildings in the City centre, Jewellery Quarter, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.
- Public buildings, including schools, colleges and pubs.
- Domestic buildings noting some of the fine Arts and Crafts houses in the suburbs.
- Conservation Areas
- Churches and Chapels
- Success stories and Conservation Awards

There is information on the Victorian Society and its work at:

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/>

and the Birmingham Group at:

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/west-midlandsntertainment>

About Tim Bridges

Originally from Warwickshire, Tim was educated at the Kings School, Worcester, before reading history at Exeter and medieval studies at York Universities. For over twenty years he worked at Worcester City Museums, first as Keeper of Archaeology and then as Collections Manager. During this time Tim produced several exhibitions and wrote a number of articles on the history and archaeology of Worcester; he was also co-author of a book Worcester; A Pictorial History.

Since 2006 Tim has worked as part time Conservation Adviser to the Victorian Society covering casework on Victorian and Edwardian buildings in Birmingham and the West Midlands. Tim also lectures on architecture and history, mainly in the West Midlands and Welsh Borders, and leads guided visits to churches of all historic periods and denominations.

The author of books on Worcestershire and Black Country churches, Tim contributed the chapter on J. A. Chatwin to the Victorian Society's Birmingham's Victorian and Edwardian Architects. More recently he has written on Victorian churches in Herefordshire. Tim is a trustee of the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust, and serves on both Worcester and Birmingham Diocesan Advisory Committees.

Since March 2011 Tim has also worked part-time as Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese of Hereford, advising on the conservation, maintenance, development and reordering of historic church buildings across Herefordshire and South Shropshire, whilst continuing his work as lecturer and with the Victorian Society.

The meeting will be in All Saints Centre at the corner of Kings Heath High St and Vicarage Road at 2.00 pm on Tuesday January 14th.

Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
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 January 2020

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 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 or Val.

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

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 have email.

Cinema

Due to time constraints, 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

Mind the Gaps: UK Law after Brexit

Monday 20th January, 2020.

5.30 drinks reception Law SCR then Law Lecture Room 2 until 7.30.

What does Brexit mean for the environment, freedom of movement, and healthcare?

We know that leaving the European Union has significant consequences for our day to day lives, but who sets the agenda for negotiations, and to what extent can life continue as normal after Brexit?

Register through [Eventbrite](#) or the events page at [Birmingham University website](#) .

Cryptic clue solving

Last month's answers

Diocesan tactics include present day supplier. (5). Santa.

Mad mice pine for this seasonal treat. (4, 3). Mince pie. - anagram of mice pine.

This month's clues

A dwarf recently made time for this greeting. (5,3,4).

Celebrated strikes from this mountain of a man. (3,3).

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 .

Group of the month

Digital photography group



Some of the Digital Photography Group visited Compton Verney Art Gallery in Warwickshire on 15 December, the last day to view the exhibition Magnum Manifesto - Capturing the world through over 70 years of photography.

"In 1947, following the aftermath of the Second World War, four pioneering photographers founded a new legendary alliance, combining an extraordinary range of individual styles into one powerful collaboration: The Magnum Photos Agency".

After refreshments the group joined the exhibition tour with a knowledgeable and suitably festively dressed guide.

There was also an associated exhibition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948 in Paris.

In the splendidly restored Chapel, we enjoyed a small brass band, and a few of us stayed on for the fireworks finale. The gallery will now be closed until March.

Interest group notices

There are no new announcements this month, but do let Roy Stove or Brenda Bingham know if you have anything relevant to our interest groups that you would like publicised in future Newsletters.

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

Last month, Janet provided us with a story containing eleven hidden sports or games. The answers are now highlighted below.

"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