



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

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 80 February 2020

Dear U3A member,

Welcome to the February newsletter! We hope you've been enjoying your U3A activities so far this year. We are now more than halfway through the winter, so the longer days should help to lift our spirits!

Our membership has been steadily growing; we now have 612 members, so we must be getting something right. However, there is always room for improvement, so we will shortly be issuing a questionnaire and will be grateful if you can get it back to us. We will be asking what things you like about U3A, what things you don't, what could be improved and what could be added. We will look forward to hearing your views.

We are still looking for more help on the committee by the way! You need not be a full committee member, we can use volunteers in a less formal capacity. Please get in touch if you have some time to spare.

Our speakers at the February monthly meeting on the 11th are Pam and David Humphries, and we'll be getting on the number 11 bus again to complete the route that we started in July 2019, and didn't have time to finish. The first part of that talk was very popular indeed.

And, as usual, the coffee morning at Kings Heath park will be on the second Friday in the month, the 14th. It starts at 10.30 am at the Victorian Tea Rooms.

That's all for now! If there's anything you feel we need to know please get in touch with us on:

[enquiries@mkhdu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mkhdu3a.org.uk)

This comes through to the chairs in the first instance, and we will redirect your message if it needs to go to anyone else.

Until next time!

Best wishes from Sara and Anne, Co-chairs.

## In this month's newsletter

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## January Monthly Meeting follow-up

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

As so many members came and enjoyed Tim Bridges' talk about the Victorian Society, there may be interest in the society's local activities. There is a day school planned for Saturday 28th March on Victorian Parks and Gardens in the West Midlands, and anyone interested would be most welcome to attend.

Anyone interested in hearing about future events or needing a booking form for the day school should email Helen Pursey on the email address below.

Tim also mentioned the book "Birmingham's Victorian and Edwardian architects" Members wishing to look at it or buy it at the price of £30 by contacting Helene Pursey at:

[brumvictorian@gmail.com](mailto:brumvictorian@gmail.com)

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

and the Birmingham Group at:

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

## February Monthly Meeting

### The number eleven bus route - part 2

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.

## Forthcoming Members' Meetings

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Speaker
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
Tuesday June 9th	2.00	All Saints Centre	Martineau Gardens	Gill Milburn
Tuesday July 14th	2.00	All Saints Centre	Kings Heath Garden	Mike Hinton

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

## Social Programme

### Social Activities from February 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 February 2020 coffee morning will be on Friday, 14th of February.

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

Bookings are being taken for two lunch outings, as follows:

#### 24th February 12.30pm at the Covered Wagon, Yardley Wood Road.

This will be a curry – a range of vegetarian starters and a mix of meat, fish and vegetarian mains will be pre-ordered, the cost is not yet certain, but it is suggested that members budget for £16 each plus drinks and service.

#### 23rd April, 12.30 at The Brasserie at the College of Food.

This is a 3-course meal plus coffee. The cost is £17.50 each plus drinks and service. There will be a choice of 5 starters and 4 mains and a dessert course. Preordering is necessary; so please decide before mid March.

If you would like to go to either, or both, of these lunches please contact Carey, details below.

If you would like to see the menus, please contact Carey and an email copy will be sent to you. Copies of the menus will be available to view at the Tuesday General Meetings. If you are not able to see the menus through either of these means, please contact Carey.

### Concerts

No further concerts are planned for this season: further ones after September 2020 will be looked at when the programme is published early in early summer.

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 currently exploring the possibility of a quiz night in May. If you would like to be involved in helping to organise the quiz night 2020, please contact Julie.

## Coach trips

If you would like to organise or help organise a coach trip for MKHD U3A members, please contact Julie.

## 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'.

## Contact Details

Carey:	<a href="mailto:careybaff@live.co.uk">careybaff@live.co.uk</a>	0121 472 6535
Julie:	<a href="mailto:julieallder@yahoo.co.uk">julieallder@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Mobile 07506 720 756
Tessa:	<a href="mailto:tessabidgood@btinternet.com">tessabidgood@btinternet.com</a>	Mobile 07941 641 799
Roy:	<a href="mailto:jroystove@googlemail.com">jroystove@googlemail.com</a>	Mobile 07786 267 682
Val:	<a href="mailto:envybaxter@hotmail.com">envybaxter@hotmail.com</a>	0121 444 7214

## University of Birmingham event

### Becoming Birmingham; History, Diversity and Collaboration.

An afternoon conference on 26th February, 2020 from 12.00 to 16.30  
more information from Ellen Smith.

[ecss3@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:ecss3@leicester.ac.uk)

Registration is essential through Eventbrite.

## Cryptic clue solving

### Last month's answers

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

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

### This month's clues

It goes round in circles just before twelve. (3,6,6).

His day is on the cards when evil tenants get drunk. (2,9).

## 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](mailto:jroystove@googlemail.com) .

## Interest Group of the month

### Crown-Green Bowling

This is a seasonal Interest Group, i.e. it exists when the Green opens.

**Venue:** Woodlands Bowling Club, College Road, Moseley. B13 9LH. (Just past the pillar box!) Car parking space is available through the gate, and the No.1 bus goes by.

**Day / Time:** Thursdays, fortnightly. 10am. – 12noon.

**First meeting:** Thursday 26th March.

**Additional Voluntary Contribution:** a contribution is suggested in respect of the hired venue.

**Dress Code:** something comfortable, flat soft shoes, preferably with covered toes..... and we do sometimes play in the rain!

### Interest Group Leaders:

- Diane Worland 07940 546361 [d.worland@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:d.worland@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Steve Wiseman [sandsjwiseman@hotmail.com](mailto:sandsjwiseman@hotmail.com)

(Many thanks to Richard Spiby who has led this Group efficiently and effectively in past years.)

This Interest Group meets through the generosity of The Woodlands Bowling Club, which allows our local U3A to use their facilities, the Green, and the newly refurbished Clubhouse. We are able to borrow bowls, and also to avail ourselves of qualified coaches. If you have never played previously, or perhaps you played many years ago, do come along and 'have a go'! Obviously, there is a limit to the numbers we can have playing on the Green, so please do contact either Steve or Diane to indicate if you intend to join us. It would also be helpful if previous / present members confirm their continued attendance too.



## Interest group notices

### Coach trips

We would like to remind those of you whose groups may be planning coach outings that it is the policy of our U3A to use fully accessible coaches on all trips. The Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 ("PSVAR"), relating specifically to coaches designed to carry more than 22 passengers and registered before 2000, came into effect on 1st of January 2020. All coach companies have, by law, to comply with these requirements.

Also, we are still looking for a few members who would like to organise trips for our U3A. Please get in touch with Julie Allder if you can help.

### New Creative Writing Group

Expressions of interest in a new creative writing group are invited. Previous experience of creative writing is welcome although not required.

The group will meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month, from 2-4 p.m. in the Colmore Road Meeting House in Kings Heath. This is an accessible venue on good bus routes. As with all venue-based U3A meetings, a small voluntary contribution towards costs will be collected.

The first meeting will be on March 4th, when members will become acquainted, agree some 'ground rules', and discuss various ideas on how to use the two hours each month.

The joint group leaders are Ros Napier and Jenny Cousins. If you are interested and want to know more, please contact either or both of these using the email addresses below by the end of February.

[jennifermcousins@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermcousins@gmail.com)

[wilmet152@gmail.com](mailto:wilmet152@gmail.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](mailto:ken@ken-fisher.com)

### A piece and a puzzle from the Creative Writing Group

#### Games People Play by Janet Burgess

Last month's Newsletter gave the answers to the hidden sports and games. Unexpectedly, other answers were discovered by our readers! These were cross-country, hockey and angling, making a total of fourteen hidden answers!

## Contact information

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

- Brenda Bingham      0121 444 6295      [brbingham@hotmail.com](mailto:brbingham@hotmail.com)
- Roy Stove              0121 459 8604      [jroystove@googlemail.com](mailto:jroystove@googlemail.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 Allder              07506 720 756      [julieallder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julieallder@yahoo.co.uk)

### Newsletter

- Ken Fisher              [ken@ken-fisher.com](mailto:ken@ken-fisher.com)

**General enquires** - please contact:

- Sara Meyer              [sarameyer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarameyer@hotmail.co.uk)
- Anne Crerar              07881 702 305
- 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 Allder
- Interest Group Co-ordinators      Brenda Bingham and Roy Stove
- Membership Secretary      Jackie Spearpoint
- Monthly Meeting Co-ordinator      Sylvia Butler
- Advisory Member          Mike Clark