



Dear u3a member,
Welcome to our June Newsletter.

What wonderful weather we are having, but a few showers would be welcomed by the gardeners amongst us.

Our Annual General Meeting is on 14th of June, and this Newsletter includes pen-portraits and photographs of the people who have offered to serve on our new Executive Committee. Nominations have not closed; so do let me know if you would like to be considered.

Please continue to send your letters, creative works and local photos to:
[ken's email](#).

With every good wish from Ken Fisher, Editor

In this month's newsletter

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Message from our Chair, Ray Tier

Last month we held another successful monthly meeting at our new venue The Shires, which was well attended and seemingly enjoyed by everyone present. The previous technical problems had all been sorted out and the missing blind is being replaced. Our next meeting there will be our AGM on Wednesday 14th June, to be followed by an interesting talk by Biddle and Webb. I hope as many as possible of you will attend (or vote by proxy if you cannot be there in person as described later in this newsletter). We need a good attendance to ensure we have a quorum.

Details of committee members standing for election are given later in this newsletter. Heather Lawrence is standing for the first time and our Vice Chair (Cormac Quigley) and Secretary (Ken Fisher) are swapping roles to overcome the problem that would otherwise have arisen with the Secretary post unfilled, in breach of the constitution.

Looking back on the past year as I write my Chair's report for the AGM, I think we can say that we have had a successful year, emerged from the restrictions of Covid without any loss of membership, restarted our groups meeting in person again and revived our monthly meetings in a new venue. I look forward to another good year ahead!

Events and reminders

Drop in for a coffee and chat at Fletcher's Bar



Friday 9th of June. from 10:30 to 12:00 at Fletcher's Bar in York Road in Kings Heath.

We have the front room to ourselves. You just need to pay for your own drink at the counter in The Kitchen Garden café, cost will depend on your choice of drink. We will provide biscuits. All access is through the Kitchen Garden Cafe, this includes Disabled access but if required they can

also put up a ramp at the front door of Fletchers provided you let them know in advance.

Any questions call me, Tessa Bidgood on ?????????? or her email or speak to Val Baxter

Monthly Meetings

[A message from Janet Burgess, our Social Secretary](#)

May Monthly meeting: at The Shires

May's monthly meeting had a good turnout to hear our own member, Jane Colbourne, and her colleague Shashi Ramsey, who is a Canal and River Trust employee , deliver a fascinating, entertaining and informative talk about the very many different jobs that volunteers undertake to keep our many miles of canal locks, banks and paths fit for purpose. Several questions from the floor showed keen local knowledge of the canals and buildings and I'm sure Jane would be very happy to chat with any prospective volunteer who couldn't make the meeting. Jane will henceforth be known as 'Otter spotter' following her delight in seeing one on a recent volunteering session!

AGM Wednesday June 14th at The Shires

(Please note this is a 2nd Wednesday, not 3rd.)

Our speaker is Mr Jeremy Thornton from the famous Biddle and Webb Auctioneers.

Future Monthly Meetings

Future monthly meetings will occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting with Tuesday 11 July when we will hear David and Pam Humphries take us on the Inner Circle bus route. Some of you will remember their entertaining Outer Circle presentations a few years ago.

If any member has expertise in an area that would be of general interest, please do contact us if willing to deliver a talk in the future

Interest Group Matters

Italian Conversation 1



This group meets on the first Monday and the third Tuesday of each month in the morning and take it in turns to host meetings in homes. Group members have varying levels of experience in speaking Italian, some have done more formal learning in the past, others have dipped into Duolingo. What they have in common is an interest in Italy, some having relatives living there, while others simply enjoy the scenery, art and food of the country. They may just chat, or listen to an audio or watch a programme in Italian. This may sound quite formal, but it isn't! Sessions are relaxing and sociable, allowing the group to get to know each other better and develop friendships - and yes, they do lapse into speaking English from time to time – well, quite a lot really! This is a group of 7, and they currently have one vacancy. If you'd like to join, please get in touch with Ros, the Group Leader, at her email

Talk Film



This group has moved venue. They will now meet at the Shires on Wake Green Road, more or less weekly, on Wednesday afternoons in term time. This term will finish on 12th July, though please take note they are not meeting on 14th and 21st of June. The group watch a film together and then discuss it, looking at its historical and political context. They also consider its cinematic quality.

Contact this email if you would like more information.

Circle Dancing



This group also has spaces. The group meets twice a month at the Friends Meeting House in Cotteridge on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. Email the Group Leader at her email for more information.



Our Choir is performing in a concert at St Mary's Church, Moseley, on Saturday, 24th June. Doors are open at 10.30, with coffee and cake to enjoy.

The Choir will sing at 11am, and at 12pm the Craft Fair will be available.

Why not come along and enjoy some refreshments, an eclectic mix of music from Choir together with a browse around the stalls. We look forward to seeing you there!

South Birmingham Network News

Set up with Kings Norton and Harborne/Edgbaston u3as, this gives the opportunity, where there are spaces, for MKHDu3a members to join groups within those u3as. Also, Dr Peter Rookes, of Kings Norton u3a, organises a comprehensive programme of Ballet, Opera, Music and Theatre. During May, for example, there were opportunities to listen to the Estonian Symphony Orchestra playing Rachmaninov and Dvorak, watch a graduate performance at Elmhurst Ballet School, together with free Friday Jazz to mention but a few. Should you wish to be included in information about these events, please email Peter at his email and ask to be included on his mailing list.

Members' Portal a further reminder

This can be found through the MKHDu3a website, <https://u3asites.org.uk/mkhdu3a/groups>.

The way in which information about the various groups can be accessed has recently changed. When you go to the portal, you are asked to input your membership number (you can find this on the email you were sent inviting you to renew your membership) and a few other personal details. This generates a new login, inviting you to put in your email address and you then create your own password. In future this will be the way in which you get into the members' area. If you forget your password, you will have an opportunity to reset it.

If you change your email, however, you will need to contact our membership secretary, Faith Walsh, and she will change it for you on the system. Hopefully this will provide a more straightforward method of accessing information!

Health and Safety

Please inform your Group Leader or a member of our Executive Committee of any H&S concerns that you may have, so that these can be fully addressed as soon as possible. Risk Assessment documents can be found on the [National u3a site](#) by following the menu link – Support for u3a's. However, you will need to log-in (and create an account if you do not have one) to enable you to search for relevant information.

Membership matters

A message from Faith Walsh, our Membership Secretary

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership. If you haven't renewed your membership lapsed from the 1 June 2023. This means that you are no longer entitled to attend monthly meetings or take part in interest groups. You can still renew your membership either online via the members' portal or by a cheque for £18 made payable to MKHDu3a and sending it to the Membership Secretary, Faith Walsh at 28 Moseley Court, Wake Green Rd, Birmingham B13 9PU.

A big welcome to our new members

Dermot Carney, Donald Cox, Chris Fitch, Martin Hyde, Susan Hyde, Maggie Leaver, Linda Noon, Ann Osgathorp, Aamir Syed, Rosemary Syed, Graham Stephenson, Helen Wheeler, and Stephanie Willmore.

Eric Skidmore (1926–2023) A message from his daughter, Emma

The family of Eric are saddened to announce his passing at the age of 96 years.

Eric was born in Sparkhill, Birmingham in 1926. He trained as a draughtsman before becoming a Production Controller in Birmingham's precision tool manufacturing industry. Notably, he played a role in producing the widgets for Wotsits crisps!

Eric did his National Service in the Coldstream Guards where he acquired various skills, including boxing, shorthand, and marching on parade (in his Busby). He was posted to Wakefield in Yorkshire where he met his wife, Edna. They shared a long and happy marriage raising a family in Moseley and later moving to Kings Heath.

Eric had a creative side, designing and flying large model aircraft as a young man. He also enjoyed making furniture, carving wood and became skilled in silver smithing.

He pursued an active lifestyle, swimming well into his late 80s and enjoyed walking with the U3a Wednesday Group at Kings Heath Park. He often walked on the Lickeys with Gwen, his close friend in later life.

Eric will be remembered fondly by his extensive family, including three children, ten grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren.

His positive 'can-do' attitude, humour and artistic endeavours made a lasting impact on those who knew and loved him.

In his words...

Do what you can
Whilst you can
For as long as you can
But, don't do the Can Can!

A new minutes-taker needed

Your Executive Committee continues to seek a new minutes-taker for 2023. This would involve attending each monthly meeting, held on the final Tuesday of the month at 14.00, and typing up the minutes. If anyone is interested, even only for a trial period, please email Ray Tier, our chair, at Ray's email .

Scam Watch

Scam Interceptors

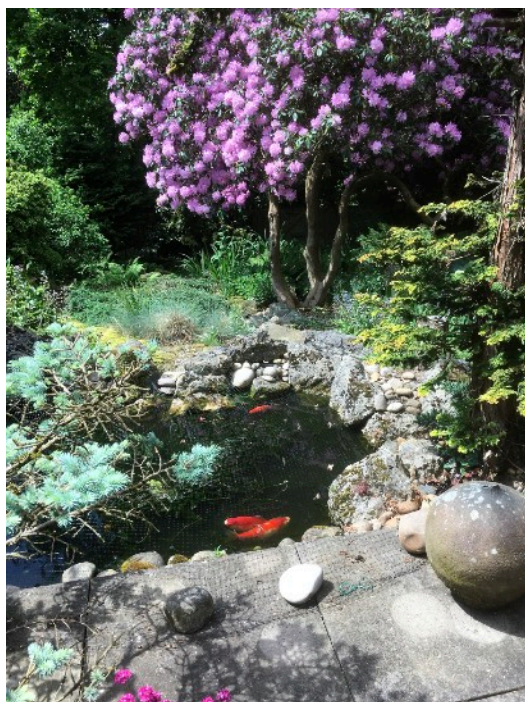
There is a very good BBC production where a team of computer experts locate telephone scammers in action, and usually manage to warn the victims before they lose these money. All episodes are on IPlayer or it can be watched on Mondays at 20.30 on BBC One. More information at [BBC web](#)

Ticket fraud

Criminals take advantage of people wanting to enjoy more live sport and music. You need to be wary of ticket sales from unknown websites or messages from people you do not know. Criminals may offer deals on sold-out or exclusive events. However once you have parted with your money, the tickets are either fraudulent or never appear at all.

It is almost certainly a scam., and you can report it by emailing a copy to Action Fraud at report@phishing.gov.uk

Local photographs from a member



Late May at Pool Meadow
by Ken Fisher



Quiet corner of Botanical Gardens
by Ken Fisher

Our Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be at the Shires on Wake Green Road at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 14th of June. The Agenda will be issued by Beacon email or with the posted copy of this Newsletter. A quorum of 10% of our Members is required; so please try to be at the meeting. Proxy votes will count towards the quorum, and the Agenda gives details of how to do this. Nominations for the new Executive Committee can still be accepted and should be sent to our Secretary at Ken Fisher's email. A nomination should be signed by a Proposer and Secunder both of whom need to be Members of our Moseley, Kings Heath and District u3a and not family or business associates. Alternatively, paper copies of a nomination may be handed to an Executive Committee member.

Nominations for our new Executive Committee.

Ray Tier, Chair

Ray has lived in southern Moseley since 1978 and, until retiring in 2009, spent his whole career in I.T. – for the last 30 years in senior management roles. He worked for local government in London and since moving to Birmingham held senior positions at Cadbury's, Aston University and most recently the University of Birmingham. He has two children and two grandchildren. Since joining the u3a in 2019 he has enjoyed participating in a range of interest groups including talk film, art appreciation, digital photography, architecture, bridge, scrabble and current affairs. He is also a member of the Moseley Society committee where he chairs its history group and runs its website. Ray is enthusiastic about the opportunities the u3a offers to develop members' knowledge, skills and social contacts later in life and would like to apply his considerable management experience for the benefit of the u3a and its membership.

Ken Fisher, Vice Chair

Ken is a retired Chartered Architect and Accredited Conservation Architect. Having run his firm of architects for nearly fifty years, he is able to bring considerable business management experience to our U3A Committee.

He has served on many charitable trusts including the Moseley Society, the Birmingham Conservation Trust and the Moseley Park and Pool Trust.

Living in Moseley since 1970, he has a strong interest in our local community, buildings, landscapes and wildlife. For the past four years, Ken has enjoyed editing our Newsletter, and is co-leader of a writing group.

Cormac Quigley, Secretary

I am originally from Northern Ireland (NI), moving to the West Midlands in 1987. Since then I have enjoyed a number of roles within the public sector including: enforcement, training, project management, policy development and corporate governance.

I have a number of relatives who are long-standing members of u3a in NI and have seen, through them, what a positive organisation it is. So, although I am a comparative newcomer to this u3a, I would like to contribute to its ongoing success.

I live in Kings Heath with my wife Jo, who is also a new but keen member of MKHD u3a.

Carey Baff, Treasurer

Hi, I'm Carey, known to many members of our U3A through the Lunches, General History and one of the Italian Conversation groups. Like many of us I am retired: I enjoyed work while I did it but have put it behind me now so don't need to go into it here. I enjoy travel: in the past have visited Italy many times, and also gone further afield, over the years to 5 continents (not Antarctica). Peru, Galapagos and Iran have been the highlights for me. As for many my travel has been curtailed in the last few years, but I've been exploring more of Britain, which I can enjoy with my 2 dogs. Other than U3A I enjoy cooking, walking, cooking, reading – and did I say cooking! My waistline is a bit of a giveaway there.

Faith Walsh, Membership Secretary

I'm a retired pension manager and moved to Moseley in 2001.

I joined MHKu3a in 2018 and I am a member of the French Improvers Conversation Group and was a member of the five-mile walking group and enjoy going on the lunch outings.

I've met new people, made friends, improved my French and wanting to give something back I took over as membership secretary in 2021.

Janet Burgess Social Secretary

I am thoroughly enjoying being part of the U3A and as a retired English teacher it is not surprising that my participation is with two book groups, Scrabble, Creative Writing and the Poetry group which I currently run. I have taken up Bridge too which is a great mental workout! I was part of the Christmas pantomime and enjoyed attending the quizzes.

I look forward to our monthly meetings and hope to meet many of you there.

Anne James, Interest Groups Coordinator

Anne joined KHMDu3a on retiring from teaching in 2015. She has lived in the Moseley/Kings Heath area since coming to Birmingham University to complete her education year. Having taught in a variety of different schools in Birmingham, she completed her career teaching Economics at a local secondary school, where she was also involved in helping with drama, though always behind the scenes!

Having initially joined our u3a choir, Anne also walks with one of the 5 mile walking groups, and is a member of one of the book groups. She has made lots of friends through our u3a. Having completed two years as an Interest Group Coordinator, she is

looking forward to continuing in the role for one more year, though, hopefully, this year, with help!

Heather Lawrence Non-Officer Member

Hi, I'm Heather Lawrence and have been a member of Moseley & Kings Heath U3A since the end of 2018. A significant part of my career pre-retirement was at management level, both in the civil service & teaching: latterly as an Assistant Head Teacher of a large 700 place primary school. I would bring a wealth of experience in public service, management, strategic planning, policy building, and improvement planning to a role on our committee. I also work & volunteer for Badminton England during the year, including being an elected member on one of their committees. I am a keen walker, 10K runner and badminton player. I am currently the leader of our 8 – 10 mile walking group. I am married with 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I am standing for election to the M &KH Executive Committee to support and build on the success of the first 10 years.

Contact information

Please ensure that emails sent to the addresses below include 'u3a' in the subject box. Clicking on the email title should open an email to the actual email address.

Interest Group enquiries

Anne James

Groups email

Membership enquiries

Faith Walsh

Membership email

Accounts enquiries

Carey Baff

Accounts email

Newsletter

Ken Fisher

Communications email

General enquires

Ray Tier

Enquiries email

Social events

Janet Burgess

Events email

Your Executive Committee

- Chair Ray Tier
- Vice Chair Cormac Quigley
- Business & Communications Secretary Ken Fisher
- Treasurer Carey Baff
- Interest Group Co-ordinator Anne James
- Membership Secretary Faith Walsh
- Social Events Secretary Janet Burgess
- Co-opted member Heather Lawrence