

Dear u3a member,

Welcome to our July Newsletter.

It has been a quiet month for news, and our Newsletter is consequently shorter than usual.

Our Annual General Meeting was on 14th of June, and your new Executive Committee has had its first meeting. It's never too late to join. Additional Committee Members can be co-opted at any time.

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

For digital-version readers, clicking on these items takes you to the relevant page. Clicking 'main menu' at the bottom of each page will bring you back here

Message from our Chair, Ray Tier.....	2
Events and reminders.....	3
Interest Group Matters.....	4
Membership matters.....	6
Scam Watch.....	6
Contact information.....	7
Your Executive Committee.....	7

## Message from our Chair, Ray Tier

Thank you to all of you who attended the AGM and voted on the resolutions, which were all passed. It was great that we had such a good turnout and easily met the quorum requirement, and I was very pleased that you all seem to be satisfied with the way your u3a is run. Thank you too for voting for me as Chair and the rest of the Executive Committee - I am looking forward to serving in the role of Chair for another year!

Following the AGM, we enjoyed a talk about Winterbourne House and Gardens by Henrietta Lockhart who stepped in at very short notice after a late cancellation by the planned speaker. Thanks are due too to her and to Janet Burgess our Social Secretary for arranging this at the last moment! Next month on Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> (note the second Tuesday of the month is our new regular monthly meeting date!), we will have a talk by David and Pam Humphries about the number 8, Inner Circle bus route.

You will shortly be receiving (either with this newsletter or separately) a Code of Conduct recently drafted by the Executive Committee, which describes our ethos and how we should treat each other. It is a requirement of the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust that we should have such a document, but I hope you will all agree with the sentiments expressed and feel it is a useful reminder of what our u3a is all about.

Finally, can I remind you all not to pass on the email addresses and personal contact details of group leaders/members to friends who are not members of our u3a. If they are interested in joining our u3a they should contact Faith Walsh our Membership Secretary and join through the proper channels. Contacting a group leader directly causes confusion as to whether they are members or not and is of course a privacy issue, so your help in following this rule will be appreciated.

Summer is finally with us. We can no longer complain about the rain, although some of us would probably prefer rather less heat. That's British weather for you! In any event I hope you can all take the opportunity to get out and about and enjoy the summer.

## Events and reminders

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



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of July. 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 tessabidgood@btinternet.com or speak to Val Baxter

### Monthly Meetings

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

#### AGM June 14<sup>th</sup> at The Shires

June's meeting, which was also the AGM, was given a superb illustrated talk on the history of the house and garden at Winterbourne. Henrietta Lockhart was extremely knowledgeable, and we are most grateful to her for stepping into the breach when our booked speaker couldn't come.

I am also pleased that at least one person at the meeting subsequently became a member of Winterbourne!

#### July Monthly meeting: at The Shires

This will be on the second Tuesday at 2 pm. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July, we shall be welcoming the return of Pam and David Humphries who will entertain and inform us on the historic number 8 (inner circle) bus route. Many of you will recall they came twice to tell us about the number 11 route.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

#### Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> at the Shires

This will be a games session when members can bring their choice of games to play.

## Interest Group Matters

Book Group 5 have one vacancy.



This group generally reads fiction with a few exceptions. They particularly enjoy contemporary fiction, including novels in translation. They often read novels that have been long- or short-listed or have won the major book awards such as the Booker. Discussions are always lively, with all participating, and different views are welcomed. The group meet in homes on the 3rd Friday of each month in the afternoon. The next couple of books are *Grey Bees* by Andrey Kurkov, an Ukrainian writer, while in August they are reading *Free* by Lea Ypi, an Albanian writer.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Rosemary Rivett, who has just taken on the role of Group Leader

### Trip to RHS Wisley, Surrey

Those fortunate enough to go on the visit to Wisley, at the very beginning of June, were treated to a great day out. Though the weather appeared to be a little uncertain as we left Kings Heath, we were treated to a warm, dry day. As you might expect, the gardens at Wisley are exceptional, with something for everyone: fabulous borders, rose gardens, a wisteria walk, together with allotments to name but a few features. There is also a newly built lake which catches rainwater which is then used to water the extensive beds. This also, of course, provides a lovely vista, with a fountain in the middle of the lake.

Everything ran smoothly, and, although the M25 was slow on the return journey, it was worth being a bit late to reflect on what had been a fabulous trip. The whole visit was so well organised that it ran like clockwork, M25 excepted of course! Even the coach driver was great, making up some considerable time once the M25 had been left behind.

A massive thanks to Elaine Davis, Diane Worland, Sue Baker and Liz Black, who organised the visit, and thanks, also, to Heather Smithson who leads our gardening group.

Have a look at the virtual tour at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/social-media> if you were unable to join us on this occasion!

Look out for some photographs on the next page.

### Reminder to all members

Please do not share any contact information, such as email addresses or phone numbers with people who are not members of our u3a. If you know that someone who is not a MKHD member has an interest in joining a group, please ask them to contact the Interest Group Coordinator through the website.

## Some photographs from the RHS, Wisley trip



## 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

Eric Skidmore (1926–2023) A message from Faith Walsh

Eric's funeral will be on Friday 7th July at 2.30pm at Robin Hood Cemetery with refreshments afterwards at Moseley Cricket Club.

Anyone is welcome to attend. If you do intend to go could you inform our Membership Secretary.

Faith Walsh. - ?????????? Membership email

## 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

### Look out for the padlock

A padlock icon prior to a website's name in your browser's heading means it's encrypted. So when you browse, fill in a form or make payments, your details can't be intercepted by scammers.

Most legitimate websites have this feature, so if you notice a site doesn't have one, be suspicious.

Unfortunately, scammers are able to forge or buy these padlocks so seeing one doesn't necessarily mean a website is safe.

### Some Actions you can take if you suspect a scam

- Forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
- Forward suspicious text messages to 7726.
- If you feel you have been a victim of a scam notify your bank immediately and report it to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## 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

07789 253089

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                          | Ken Fisher       |
| ● Business & Communications Secretary | Cormac Quigley   |
| ● Treasurer                           | Carey Baff       |
| ● Interest Group Co-ordinator         | Anne James       |
| ● Membership Secretary                | Faith Walsh      |
| ● Social Events Secretary             | Janet Burgess    |
| ● Advisory Member                     | Heather Lawrence |