

Dear u3a member,

Welcome to our September Newsletter.

Continuing with the theme of local historic buildings, I have carried out some research into the Wake Green Windmill that stood, until around 1830, on common land that is now Windermere Fields. To bring it to life, I have created a watercolour of what it probably looked like in its prime.

Please continue to send your letters, creative works and local photos to: [ken's email](#), putting the word 'Newsletter' in your email subject box.

With every good wish from Ken Fisher, Editor

### In this month's newsletter

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## Message from our Chair, Ray Tier

As predicted, August has been a quiet month from a u3a perspective, offering some of us (like me) the chance to catch up with family members who are too busy to see us during term whilst others brave the airport chaos and forest fires to visit foreign climes.

The Executive Committee awarded itself a holiday so I have nothing new to report on committee affairs. Some groups also took a well-earned rest but others valiantly carried on, sometimes with substitute leaders. I particularly enjoyed the games afternoon held earlier this month in our usual monthly meeting slot. After a very friendly, sociable afternoon, I now consider myself to be an expert at Rummikub, ready to take on all-comers! Our normal programme of talks resumes in September and we have an interesting schedule of speakers lined up for the months ahead.

You will find an article later in this newsletter about the activities of the Digital Photography group (of which I happen to be a member) with examples of their work, some of which I plan to add to the website. If any of you in other groups would like to publicise your activities in this way either here and/or on the website that would be a great idea. Not only is it very interesting to find out what is going on in our other 50+ groups, it also helps to stimulate new ideas and creative thinking and may encourage some members to follow new interests. All contributions will be welcome.

With the August Bank Holiday over, I look forward to the start of an exciting new "term" in September.

## Events and reminders

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



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of September. 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 disability access, but if required they can

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

Any questions call me, Tessa Bidgood or Jeff Baker

### Monthly Meetings

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

### August Meeting at The Shires

Our August meeting was a bring and play games session. Though only 17 turned up (several members sent their apologies) it was a lovely occasion: four people came who had not come to a monthly meeting since Covid, and some people learned new games. These two elements highlighted the success of the afternoon. And Rummikub was the clear favourite game played.

### September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting: 2-4 pm. at The Shires

In Kings Heath Park there is a group called Thrive which works with various groups in the community on gardening projects in the old BBC garden. Some members may have bought their produce from outside their office. Come and learn about this project from the manager, Sarah Bowers. There may well be a chance to buy some plants afterwards. Doors open from 1.45, but the Bistro is open for anyone who wants a light snack/lunch beforehand.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

## 'Keeping up appearances in Victorian Moseley'

The Moseley Society is organising a special event at this year's Heritage Open Days, to celebrate the research Dr Janet Berry has done on the history of Moseley over many years, before she moves away. The event is a Book Launch to mark the publication of her book "Moseley 1850-1900: Space, place and people in a middle-class Birmingham suburb."

The book launch will take place on Saturday 16 September between 10am and 4.30pm at the Moseley Hive, 93 Alcester Rd, Birmingham B13 8DD.

Those attending will have the opportunity to buy the book on the day at the special discounted price of £12.50 and Dr Berry will give a talk about writing her book at 2.30 in the afternoon, with refreshments.

Dr Berry is a leading authority on the history of Moseley particularly focused on the Victorian era, her PhD relates to that and she has published various academic papers on the subject. This will regrettably be the last opportunity to meet and speak to Janet in person before she relocates to the south of England.

You can find out more about the book and the event on the flyer here:

<https://moseley-society.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Moseley-1850-1900-Book-Launch.pdf>.

## U3a week 2023

U3A week is taking place 16-24 September and is an annual celebration of the learning and fun within the u3a movement. During the week the u3a Trust will be running a programme of online events that any u3a member can attend.

Included in the programme on Tuesday 19 September, is Heléna Horklots, Older People's Commissioner for Wales, to discuss how she is working towards a Wales where older people are valued, rights are upheld and no-one is left behind. Also, on Wednesday 20th of September, John Tucker from The Woodland Trust will lead a discussion on how u3a members can get involved in supporting wildlife and the environment. The talk follows on from the movement's achievement of planting almost 10,000 trees in our anniversary woodland last year.

The final speaker is award-winning writer, activist around ageing and TED speaker Carl Honoré. He will be giving a talk on Thursday 21 September about how to embrace ageing as a privilege and adventure.

To view these and book your place please visit their website:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/launch-of-u3a-week-online-events-programme>

## Interest Group Matters

### New interest group – French Reading



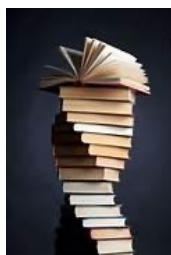
Jill Spearman is keen to set up a new Interest Group. Having lived in France for a number of years, (though she says that she is no linguist), she learned to speak and read French. Jill would like to keep those synapses firing! She is wondering if anyone would be interested in joining a group that would meet monthly, to operate like a conventional reading group, though the members would read and discuss a book written in French.

It would be up to members to choose whether to discuss the book in French or in English, but it would definitely be read in French. Perhaps, also, members of the group could occasionally watch French films or even a French DVD together, and then discuss what they have seen.

If you would be interested in joining this group, please let Jill know. She will then arrange a preliminary meeting to plan how the group might be run.

### Vacancies in groups

#### Book groups



Do you enjoy reading? Book Groups 1 and 5 each have a couple of spaces. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact the respective Group Leaders. Book Group 1 is led by Jude Williams. Contact her. They meet in homes on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am.

Book Group 5 is led by Rosemary Rivett,

Members of this group particularly enjoy contemporary fiction, including novels in translation, though they focus on books which have won, or have been put forward, for awards such as the Booker. They read widely and in different genres and all members contribute suggestions for books. This group meet on the third Friday of the month in the afternoon, again, in homes.

#### Circle dancing



This group has room for more members. It meets twice a month at the Friends Meeting House in Cotteridge. They dance in a circle to varied music, from different countries and times. Some steps are traditional, some modern, and dances are taught and walked through first. No partners are needed! This is gentle exercise at its best.

## Discussion of current issues



This is a strictly non-party-political group that explores current issues together in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere. Members volunteer to introduce the topic under discussion which is decided amongst the group.

They are taking a break over the summer and their next meeting will be on Friday 15 September, with the one after that on 6th of October. There are currently vacancies: please contact the Group Leader, if you are interested in finding out more.

## Digital Photography Group

This is a small group, made up of a friendly assortment of individuals. They meet monthly in the afternoon of the second Monday of each month. The group generally meet out and about with cameras, weather dependent! Their meetings usually start with a brief chat in a cafe or a pub, to focus on the current project and to ensure some social interaction, and they then meet again at the end of session. The group meets at least twice a year in a hired venue and there is a December social meeting.

A programme of projects is set, usually six months ahead, with simple challenges for individual self-development in the art of photography. Making pictures is the principal motive, through aspects of composition, and then editing to select a few examples to be shared for constructive comments between group members. The development of individual interests is encouraged! There is also a variety in the cameras and computers used by members: some use smart phones, or older, and newer, compact cameras, together with cameras with more functionality. There is no entry requirement; the understanding of digital technologies is developed as projects are experienced, with the considerable expertise and enthusiasm in the group being freely shared.

This group is quite different to most other u3a groups. If you would like to find out more or sample one of their meetings, please contact the Group Leader, Roy Stove, at Roy's email

Some examples of Roy's photos can be seen on the next page.

## Photographs by photography group leader Roy Stove



'Preparation' - for DPG location meet  
'People in context'



Dragon of the Wan Sheung Chinese Cultural Dance Group performance for the Birmingham Festival 2023 in Centenary Square, 3 August.



Broad Street tram - 'First September Evening'



Bee friendly border, Winterbourne House & Garden, summer 2023

## 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

A very warm welcome to our four new members:

Derek Duffield, Heather Holmes, Margaret Jacobi and Merryn Lloyd

## Help needed

### 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.

### Could you help a child learn to read?

Bookmark Reading Charity is a tech-led literacy charity supporting disadvantaged primary school children to give them a fairer chance in life. Our mission is simple: we want every child to read. The demand for our support in schools is higher than ever, and we need more volunteers to help children develop their confidence, enjoyment and skill in reading. We work actively with 10-12 schools in Birmingham, so although our reading sessions take place online you could help a child nearby!

Eight children in the average class in the UK leave primary school unable to read well. As a Bookmark volunteer, you can support children aged 5-10 one-to-one, reading together and playing games through our secure online platform. Each programme involves 30-minute sessions with the same child, twice a week, for six weeks. You can choose a programme based on days and times that work with your schedule.

Reading is more than an essential daily skill; it can develop creativity and empathy, introduce new worlds and possibilities, and be a joy! Early intervention for children that struggle to read can be life-changing.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can apply and find out more here, or email us at [info@bookmarkreading.org](mailto:info@bookmarkreading.org) with any questions.



## Local History The Wake Green Windmill.

Sadly, none of the ancient windmills of Birmingham now exist, and there are little or no graphic records of their former appearance. However, the Birmingham artist, David Cox, did do a sketch of the windmill that sat on what is now Windermere Fields, adjacent to Windermere Lane in Wake Green. This sketch was dated 1819, and by 1834 the mill had been demolished. Interestingly, David Cox's maternal grandfather was a miller, and David shows a fascination with windmills in many of his creative works.

The earliest known reference to The Wake Green windmill is in a deed of 1664 when it was in the possession of Richard Grevis. The structure was a postmill, which is basically a box-like structure that could be rotated around a central post in order to turn the sails into the wind. To do this the miller had to heave on a long beam projecting from the rear of the mill. This beam was known as the tail pole. In later years, the base of the mill was enclosed with a stone, roundhouse to protect the central pole and timber supports.

The watercolour illustration has been produced from evidential works by David Cox and illustrations of similar postmills in an attempt to help us visualise a local landmark, now lost in time. Specific guidance has been obtained from Joseph McKenna's booklet, *Windmills of Birmingham and the Black Country*.



Original watercolour by Ken Fisher

# Minutes of AGM of 14th of June 2023

Time: 14:00 to approximately 16:00

## Location:

The Shires Retirement Village, 218 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham B139PQ

## Present

Executive Committee:

Janet Burgess (JB), Faith Walsh (FW), Cormac Quigley (CQ), Carey Baff (CB), Anne James (AJ)

Chair: Ray Tier (RT)

## Minutes:

Cormac Quigley

## Apologies:

Ken Fisher (KF), Heather Lawrence (HL)

## Other Members

40 members attended. 21 members voted by proxy

## Minutes of AGM

The Executive Committee concluded that it was quorate given the number of members attending combined with the proxy votes received.

RT asked the attending members whether any had put in a proxy vote: 2 members had, their names were taken and removed from the proxy vote list so that they could vote during the meeting and their votes would not be double counted.

RT introduced the AGM advising that there were 5 resolutions to be voted on, but firstly asked whether the minutes of the previous AGM were accepted. RT invited questions from the attending members. None were received, and RT took the meeting through each of the resolutions and invited those attending to vote. The results are shown below.

## Agreement of Minutes of previous AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**All votes were in favour of agreeing the minutes bar 5 abstentions, so the minutes were accepted.**

## Resolution 1

This AGM approves Helena Mandelberg as Inspector of Accounts for the 2023/24 financial year.

**All proxy votes were in favour of this resolution. All present voted in favour. As such, the resolution was carried.**

## Resolution 2

This AGM authorises the Executive Committee to decide an appropriate membership fee for the 2024/25 year.

**All proxy votes were in favour of this resolution. Of those attending, there were 2 members who were against the resolution and 1 who abstained. As such the resolution was carried.**

### Resolution 3

The AGM approves the new Constitution of our u3a. There are only minor changes to the Constitution approved at our Special General Meeting on 30th of July 2021. The relevant pages with these minor changes highlighted can be viewed in Appendix F.

**All proxy votes were in favour of this resolution. Of those attending, all votes were in favour bar 1 abstention. As such the resolution was carried.**

### Resolution 4

The AGM approves the 'Object' and 'Dissolution' clauses in the proposed new Constitution as required by the Charity Commission. These remain the same as in the previously approved July 2021 Constitution, but with the wording in clause 3, 'Object' changing from, 'Moseley, Kings Heath and District' to 'Moseley, Kings Heath and Surrounding Districts'. However, the Charities Commission require our Members to agree to the changes made since the adoption of the 2020 Constitution, and these can be viewed in Appendix G

**All proxy votes were in favour of this resolution. Of those attending, all votes were in favour bar 1 abstention. As such, the resolution was carried.**

### Resolution 5

The AGM approves the proposed Trustees to serve on the Executive Committee. The nominations for the Executive Committee that have been received are:

#### Officers

Ray Tier	Chair
Ken Fisher	Vice Chair
Carey Baff	Treasurer
Cormac Quigley	Secretary

#### Non-Officers

Faith Walsh	Membership Secretary
Anne James	Interest Groups Coordinator
Janet Burgess	Social Secretary
Heather Lawrence	Non-officer member

**All proxy votes were in favour of this resolution. Of those attending, all were in favour. As such, the resolution was carried.**

RT then invited any questions or comments from attending members. One member asked whether the Committee was going to take those attending through the reports produced by the Chair, Treasurer, Social Secretary and Interest Group Coordinator. It was resolved not to go through these reports, but members were asked if they wished to make comments or raise questions on any of the reports.. No further comments or queries were received and, as such, RT concluded and closed the formal part of the AGM.

## Useful web sites for news and help

Please click on the blue headings to go to each web site.

### [Birmingham Council News](#)

This site provides useful information about council services.

### [West Midland Police](#)

Help and support in the local area.

### [Moseley Together](#)

Community support and news for Moseley and other general information.  
tel 07796 668257

### [WM Now](#)

WMNow is a free community messaging system that emails you up-to-date information from police and partners after you have registered.

### [Betel](#)

If you have furniture to dispose of Betel will collect it and relocate it to people in need.  
Telephone number 01564 822356

### [West Midlands u3a](#)

News and information from our regional u3a.

### [U3a Found in Nature](#)

Where members can share any photos which are 'wild and interesting'.

### [u3a free workshops and courses](#)

Details of free workshops/short courses available free to our members.

### [U3a Newsletters](#)

Link to the latest and previous National u3a Newsletters

## 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                          | 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    |
| ● Member                              | Heather Lawrence |