

Dear u3a member,

Welcome to our August Newsletter..

This Newsletter is **hot** off the press, and you will need to let it cool down. As there has not been much news in July, our August Newsletter is much shorter than usual.

Please let me know of any outstanding achievement you would like to share with our members, and send your letters, creative works and local photos to: [ken's email](#), putting the word 'Newsletter' in your email subject box. The deadline for receipt of information or articles for the September Newsletter is Friday 28th of August..

Ken Fisher, Editor.

In this month's newsletter

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A Message from our Chair, Carey Baff

Good day,

A few months ago we'd have said we hope you are keeping warm. Now we hope you're keeping cool!

I was very pleased to see many of you at the AGM and thank you for electing me for the third year as Chair – it is a privilege, especially as I am well supported by very helpful and able members of the committee.

Beyond our branch u3a has much to offer. You can sign up for the u3a newsletter which shares news, learning opportunities and member stories from across the u3a movement. It also enables you to keep up to date and in touch with all that's happening across the movement as it happens and gives exclusive access to the Friends Extra website with a range of offers, discounts and services. Now I can't be sure of this, but I think members who do not have email themselves could access it via a friend or relative who does use email, on signing up you are not asked for your membership number or even your branch – so anyone can give it a go. Here's the link to join it [u3a – Newsletter](#) or google "u3a newsletter".

There are also Interest Groups Online: this isn't part of your MKHDu3a membership, there is a charge of £12.00. There are well over 100 groups, some have waiting lists, but over 90 have vacancies, so plenty to choose from. Here's the link to this [u3a – Interest Groups Online Groups](#).

There have been recent elections to the u3a Council which aims to connect more with grassroots (such as us). No-one from the West Midlands put themselves forward for this role, so there are 2 vacancies – if anyone is interested in undertaking this role contact me and I'll put you in touch with national u3a.

Also this month there are elections to the Board, who deal more with the business side of things. Nominations for the board positions closed this week and voting opens in late August: I do this on behalf of our u3a consulting with other committee members on who to vote for. If you would also like a say get in touch, and I will add you to a mailing list for circulating information and garnering views.

Best wishes

Carey

Events and reminders

Drop in for a coffee and chat



For members of Moseley and Kings Heath u3a or anyone interested in finding what the u3a has to offer, join us in Fletchers Bar in York Road, Kings Heath on the second Friday of each month from 10:30am to 12:00pm. Access is through the Kitchen Garden Café. You just need to order and pay for your own drink at the counter in The Kitchen Garden

Café and then make your way to Fletchers Bar.

The next dates are: August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th and December 11th.

Any questions, please call:

Tessa Bidgood or contact Jeff Baker.

Monthly Meetings

July at the Shires

Steven Bruce: Buying and Selling at Auction with tales from the sales room

Following the AGM a turnout of 49 members heard from Steve who has 50 plus years of experience with the world of antiques. A large part of his work involves visiting homes to either value items for eg probate or insurance but especially with the aim of selling them at auction. His knowledge was very wide ranging from Ceramics, paintings, treen ware, medals, jewellery and much else. Sometimes people are totally surprised by the value of their pieces and it really does pay to have an expert cast their knowledgeable eye over an item. Research by the auction house can also be crucial in determining the true worth of an artefact.

Following his interesting illustrated talk, Steve then valued and described most of the varied items members had kindly brought in. His experience was evidenced in his analyses of cigarette cards, a wooden games compendium, a hair choker, an amber necklace, silver plated spoons and some ceramic bowls to name a few. It was almost our very own Antiques Road Show!



August meeting: 14.00 on Tuesday 11th at the Shires

We'll be having a games session, you can bring your own games or join others and maybe learn a new one. We'd be very pleased to see you for a relaxed and sociable afternoon.

Interest Group Matters

Gardening Group

A message and photographs from Barbara Ashworth

Pictures of the Garden group's annual garden party. This was held by a long standing member who held this event in her lovely garden in Moseley. Everyone enjoyed the event, good company, refreshments and a wonderful garden. Makes us all very envious!



Healthy Aging Group

A message from Liz Rasheed

There is a space in the new Healthy Ageing group that starts September 7th at 2pm. Meetings are once a month on the first Monday of the month. If interested please contact Liz Rasheed .

Scam Watch

Currys air-conditioner scam

A scam email claiming to be from Currys says that you're eligible for a free air conditioner and dehumidifier. It tells you that to receive the item, you need to complete a short 'survey about home comfort needs' and that your 'free reward' is 'reserved for a limited time.' You're encouraged to follow a dodgy link to start the survey, which will lead to a website that will grab your personal data as you enter it in.

Amazon email scam

A scam email impersonating Amazon uses accurate logos and branding and tells you that unusual activity has been detected on your Amazon account. It goes on to say that your account is 'temporarily on hold.' It provides a dodgy link to follow to sign into your account to restore access. However, this will likely lead to a copycat Amazon website set up to steal your personal details.

Reporting scams and fraud

Before making any investment, use the FCA's [firm checker tool](#), to confirm whether a firm or individual is authorised. The tool can be accessed via the FCA website and is one of the most effective ways to avoid cloned firms and bogus advisers.

To report scam emails or texts forward them to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Report Fraud. <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

Report suspicious web sites by visiting [National Cyber Security Centre](#)

Suspicious calls received on an iPhone can be reported to your provider by texting the word 'call' followed by the suspicious phone number to 7726.

On an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726. You'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number.

Useful web sites for news and help

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

[Moseley, Kings Heath and District u3a web site](#)

Our u3a's own 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

[AbilityNet](#)

Free online resources and a network of over 450 community-based volunteers to help individuals with any disability and of any age to use all kinds of digital technology.
Helpline 0300 180 0028, 9-5, Monday to Friday. Email enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk.

Contact information

You can send a message to the Committee Members below via our web site at:

<https://moseleykingsheath.u3asite.uk/>

Postal address

Moseley & Kings Heath u3a, c/o The Shires, 216 Wake Green Road, Birmingham, B13 9PQ

Your Executive Committee

● Chair	Carey Baff
● Vice Chair	Mark Sharp
● Business Secretary	Ray Tier
● Treasurer	Sue Charvis
● Interest Group Co-ordinators	Ros Napier & Liz Rasheed
● Membership Secretary	Judy Kearns
● Newsletter	Ken Fisher
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