u3a Moseley, Kings Heath & District

MKH&D web

N E W S L E T T E R *No.164* November *2026*

Dear u3a member,

Welcome to our November Newsletter.

Members who visit the Shires for our Monthly Meeting may be interested to hear that the Shires has received two outstanding awards this year.::

- Retirement Village of the Year – West Midlands at the Prestige Awards.
- Retirement Housing Scheme of the Year 2026 at the Health Investor Seniors Housing Awards, where we were also finalists in a further five categories.

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 our December Newsletter is Friday 27th of November..

Ken Fisher, Editor.

In this month's newsletter

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A Message from our Chair, Carey Baff

Good day,

I hope you are well – Autumn has come upon us, but we are having some lovely sunny days, and we can look forward to cheaper gherkins! Long may it continue.
Our committee has recently updated a number of our policies and procedures – special thanks to Mark Sharp who has an eye to match his name for detail and also to Sue Charvis who contributed significantly to the Finance and Venue policies in particular.

Some changes were necessary to accommodate HMRC rules in respect of Gift Aid under which we have to separate our subscription between the basic cost of membership (75% of the subscription) and an additional fee (25% of the subscription) to cover costs associated with attending interest groups and meetings (other than monthly general meetings). In future Gift Aid can only be claimed on the basic fee, but based on previous claims we can expect this to still boost our income by over £900. I should clarify that the same subscription is payable by all members.

Another change is that we have altered the term for the person who co-ordinates your interest groups from leader to facilitator. This may seem of little significance but we believe it better describes the role we need people to fulfil, in that they may administer membership, room bookings and schedules but for most groups many members contribute to content, the facilitator is not expected to be an expert in the subject. Quite a few members have been reluctant to take on the Interest Group Facilitator role and we hope that clarifying what is needed of them will encourage others to volunteer for the role when needed.

Wishing you well

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: 13th of November 11th of December and 8th of January

Any questions, please call:

Tessa Bidgood or email her or contact Jeff Baker

Monthly Meetings

October meeting at the Shires on Tuesday 13th

A Glass and a Half. David and Pam Humphries

At a well-attended meeting, David and Pam delivered a entertaining talk with a look at the village of Bournville and the Cadbury family who created it. This was set against the background of numerous other chocolate manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic. It left some of us 'flaked' out trying to assimilate so many brands of chocolate

November meeting at the Shires on Tuesday 10th

Brum versus the World, Ian Binnie

Ian Binnie, a well known local historian and member of our own History Group, will give us a talk 'Brum versus the World' telling the military history of Birmingham through fifteen monuments. It won't just be about military history, but will review the social economic and political history of the city and its citizens.

Local photographs

A local hairdresser's Halloween window display

Hairem Scarem by Ken Fisher



Interest Group Matters

Coffee morning

A message from Liz Rasheed and Ros Napier, our Interest Group Co-ordinators

Just a reminder that there will be a coffee morning with mince pies for current group facilitators and anyone interested in facilitating a group at 10.30 am on 10th of December at The Shires.
Looking forward to seeing you there!

Scam Watch

38 Degrees scam

38 Degrees is a legitimate, British, not-for-profit, political activism organisation.
https://home.38degrees.org.uk/

Unfortunately scammers have replicated the email address and sent messages purporting to be from friends and family to WhatsApp addresses. A recent one concerned the late Cambridge professor Jason Arday. However, this was never a 38 Degrees petition: it was fake. If you receive one of these messages it is best to log on to the real address before you add your name to a petition and give your email address, rather than clicking the link in the WhatsApp message.

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	Jude Kearns
Newsletter	Ken Fisher