



Klarion

**Kings Norton and District
U3A**

Newsletter August to December 2023



Our Christmas Message

It's the season for love and companionship as we celebrate the Christ's birth. There's a lot of terrible things happening in the world so it's even more important for us to value family and friendship. Our meetings and Interest Groups are great ways to enjoy togetherness and we thank you for all your support over the year and look forward to live learn and laugh together in the year ahead.

**Wishing you all a very
Happy Christmas and New Year.**

Kings Norton Interest Groups

Crafternoon

“On the 3rd Friday of each month Crafternoon Group meet at Beryl’s home for a coffee/tea/biscuit (bargain at 50p) and a chat. We bring our own projects to work on and sometimes discuss these. Each month there is something different to learn about from each other. October we all had a go at crocheting a red poppy for Poppy Day. In the summer a member made bunches and bags of Lavender, in a unique way, to hang in our wardrobes. Late summer a member brought in loads of Crochet books and we all tried out different stitches.

Contact: Beryl 07957 200180”



Lunch Club

The Lunch Outing Group visited the College of Food Restaurant in Birmingham City on 23 November 2023.

3 tables of 10 were booked, 29 members were able to attend. The students look after us really well, we go a couple of times a year. The popular choice was - Duck, Pork and Apricot Flan, good value too, 2 courses £17 and 3 courses £20. The students also cook for the College shop, we came away with bread for Christmas, cakes and someone bought a large Chocolate and Cream Roulade for £1.50 - I regret not buying one to freeze for Christmas. Contact: 0798963299 Pauline George



Kings Norton U3A Architecture Group

Visit to Wroxeter Roman Town

26 September 2023

A small group made the journey to Wroxeter on a rather cool and cloudy day. Having bought our tickets, we walked out on to the site with our mini audio machines, which plugged in to the information boards and gave extra information. They were very easy to use and very helpful in terms of explaining the site.

The information boards themselves were very informative and very clear, giving relevant information about the different areas.

Only one substantial piece of wall is still standing (on the right of picture 1), but gives an inkling of how large the site was.



Picture 1 – an overview of the site

The Romans arrived in the area in the 40s AD and initially built a small fort for a cavalry unit of 500 men, but the site was soon extended and became a fortress, housing 5,000 or more foot soldiers, as well as the cavalry. After a relatively short time, however, the legions were relocated to Chester and the site was handed back to the local tribes in the late 80s AD. It existed as a large Roman town for the next 400 years, but was eventually abandoned.

Though a considerable amount of the town still lies buried in the surrounding area, the enormous bath house complex is very visible in the remains of its walls. Picture 2 is an information board with a mock-up of the baths, which were used by the whole community and also offered meeting places, with offices and shops and lots of places to eat.



The Bath House Complex



Inside the baths, also used as a community space

Adjacent to the Museum is an accurate reconstruction of a town house (Picture 4).



Picture 4 Reconstruction of a Roman Town House

We toured the interior of the building (Picture 5).



We had a very interesting and enjoyable couple of hours exploring the site, which is well worth a visit if you are interested in how the Romans lived in this area and the legacy they left behind. The Museum has a very good guide book and contains an exhibition on the history of the site as well as some interesting artefacts found there.

Picture 5 Inside the reconstructed Roman town house

Chichester u3a Summer School

I always fancied playing at being a student again at a u3a summer school. I finally got the chance in September. It was idyllic. Hot sunny weather, good food and lots of interesting people.

It was daunting. We had to prepare long works by Chaucer, Keats and Crabbe based on the theme of dreams. I am new to poetry, hated it at school but have been encouraged to explore it afresh through a u3a Poetry Group. In the event, these works were brought to life by reading them aloud and by interspersing them with lighter poems. Ask me about “Dreaming of Rubber Gloves”! I loved the Chaucer and was particularly taken by Simon Armitage’s translation of the fourteenth century “Pearl”. Here is a snippet – “At the water’s edge, ornamenting its depths, were bountiful banks of bright beryl.” I must try harder with Keats, who still defeats me, in spite of the kiss.



Kissing the Keats statue



Meeting Harriette

The highlight for me was meeting Harriette, a school friend I had lost touch with 60 years ago when she moved abroad with her family. Like many others, I thought back over the joys and regrets of my life when Covid hit and managed to reconnect with her. Now we are like sisters. We are looking forward to the u3a Festival in York in July and the 2024 Chichester Summer School.

Beryl Blood

Architecture

28th November : Illustrated talk by group member Judy Cottrell about the inspirational work of Architect **Francis Kere**.

Francis was born and grew up in Burkina Faso very humble circumstances, but worked very hard at school and won a scholarship to study architecture in Germany. Kéré has become the first African to win the **prestigious Pritzker Prize**, which is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.

Kéré's work is characterized by his use of local materials and techniques, as well as his commitment to sustainability and community engagement. [His projects include the Gando Primary School in Burkina Faso, the Lycée Schorge Secondary School in Mali, and the Xylem Pavilion in Germany](#)¹. [See more](#)



Gando Primary School



Serpentine Pavilion



Serpentine Pavilion

Museum Visits Outings

Over the last few months we have had visits to Haden Hill House Cradley Heath, Lichfield Cathedral and a tour of the graffiti in Birmingham city centre

Haden Hill House

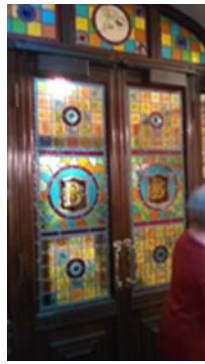
A Victorian House furnished in period style with fantastic original features and the Old Hall next door has medieval origins. Our group had a tour and talk by the two very enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. A great morning out enjoyed by all.

Lichfield Cathedral

One of only 3 Cathedrals in the UK with three spires and the only medieval one of the three. Our group had a very interesting visit and talk from the helpful volunteer.



Haden House House

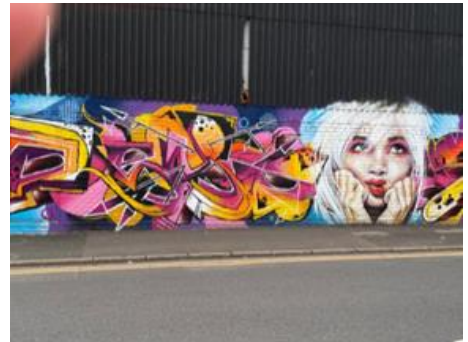


Lichfield Cathedral



Graffiti Tour

Something a bit different this time. We took a small group on the Trail of Graffiti Art around the streets of Digbeth where there is some amazing graffiti art by famous graffiti artists. Very much enjoyed by all.



Lunch Club Outing



Belinda from Kings Heath U3a With Norann



General conviviality at Karibunis

Wednesday 13th December 2023, 30 members of **Kings Norton and District u3a 'Lunch Outing Group'** had Christmas Lunch at Karibunis Restaurant in the Bourneville College at Longbridge. The Students and Tutors made us very welcome and were really attentive. The food was exceptionally good and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Play Reading Group

PLAYREADERS IN PANTO LAND

The Play readers Group have held their Annual Panto. In the past we've performed Cinderella and Aladdin and this year it was Mother Goose but with a magic cow as we couldn't find a goose. We had plenty of golden eggs though.



A great time-was had by all.

All our plays are the popular kind although we have tried our hand at Shakespeare , Chekov and Ibsen.
Come along to see what fun we have.





U3A Matters

The Third Age Trust has developed workshops in partnership with u3a members to provide support, information and advice for all u3a members. The workshops are delivered online using Zoom by Trust volunteers who bring their experience as Trustees, u3a Chairs and Committee members.

All u3a members are welcome to attend these workshops which are informal and informative and provide a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and share best practice with u3a members across the UK. If you are curious to learn and would like to join us at an upcoming workshop, please book your place using the links below.

u3as, networks and regions are also able to request specific workshops, if this is something you are interested in for your Region, network or u3a, please read the information at the end of this page to find out more. Additional information and support for your u3a can also be found on the [Advice and Guidance](#) webpage.

Our Workshops

Keeping it Legal

What does it cover? Information about the key areas all u3as need to be aware of and understand - insurance, data protection, equality and inclusion and safeguarding. It looks at practical steps to ensure compliance and where further information and support is available.

Date of next session:

Tuesday 23 January 10.00-12.30 [Book Now](#)

*There are more courses listed on the website .
<https://www.U3a.org.uk/advice/workshops>*



Eco Matters



It's not just about recycling your rubbish. You can take peaceful direct action.

Rosie Wrote:-

10th November 2023

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to enquire what sort of message you are taking to the COP 28 meeting in Dubai at the end this month.

The diluting of key policies on the phase out of gas boilers and petrol and diesel vehicles is a backsliding on climate commitments both domestically and internationally and makes this government look unreliable and untrustworthy. (The curious thing is that many car manufacturers want to stick to the 2030 deadline which they had agreed and are working towards).

The licencing of new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea and approval for the first new coal mine in three decades are all part of a picture that shows either a total unconcern or a total ignorance (or both) about what is happening to our planet.

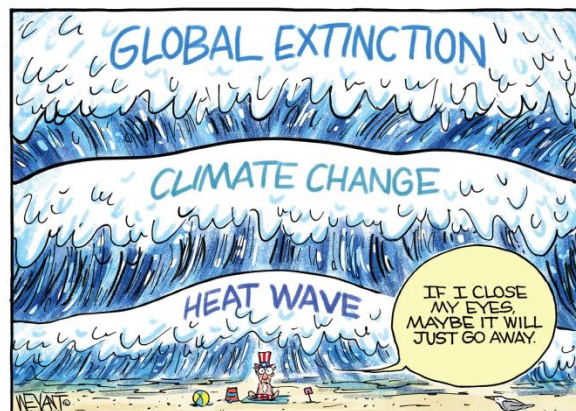
Profoundly worrying is the flouting of legal obligations to meet the interim emissions targets which puts the ability to meet the Net Zero 2050 goal in doubt. If Britain as a rich country cannot stick to these climate promises, what example or hope is there for poorer countries with less resources?

I have kept this letter short in the hope that you or someone in your office will read it and respond. But be in no doubt, the brevity does not minimise the extreme seriousness of the global climate crisis or the absolute need for the British government to respond with the utmost urgency. **BUT THAT IS THE MESSAGE THAT SEEMS TO HAVE GOT LOST.**

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Hogg

cc Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP, Edward Milliband MP.



Dates For Your Diary. 2024



SPEAKER PROGRAMME FOR 2024



JANUARY 2 nd	NO MEETING	
FEBRUARY 6 th	SCOTT JOPLIN	Roger Browne
MARCH 5 th	WHAT A CURRY ON	Andy Munro
APRIL 2 nd	HIDDEN DOCUMENTS of HANBURY HALL/COUGHTON COURT	Vanessa Morgan
MAY 7 ^{thvi}	tba	
JUNE 4 th	AGM	

And Finally

After 3 years of Covid and its aftermath we are finally back to NORMAL.

In the last few years we have had very slimmed down Christmas celebrations, due mainly to trying to keep some semblance of social distance. This Year we pushed the boat out and had a proper buffet, with 'waitress service'; members of the Committee served each table with its own selection of sandwiches, veggie samosas, and cake and vegetable crudités.

Entertainment was provided by ukulele band 'The Strummers', with some great sing-along numbers. We had a head stretching quiz, compiled by Monica Page and Roger Jones, who run the Quiz Group, and of course, The Raffle!

Most importantly we could all get together and have a good chat and a laugh!.



The Strummers.

