

Chairman's Remarks

Your committee is turning its attention to how we celebrate our twenty-fifth anniversary. We have formed a sub-committee and have formulated various plans. Please join the sub-committee if you have ideas, or certainly get in touch with me so they can be considered.

The committee has considered the troublesome topic of payment of tutors. The general rule we try to keep to is 'no paid tutors' and 'a token sum for refreshments (50p)'. However, for some groups a paid tutor is necessary. This we consider on a case-by-case basis. So long as it is made clear to participants that payment is involved

and if more elaborate refreshments are required, again, so long as that is made clear to those taking part, there is no objection.

It has been drawn to my attention that some new members may feel a little uneasy on first coming to a monthly meeting. I am looking for a few volunteers to look out for such new arrivals & make them feel at home.

I am writing this on a beautiful spring day & wish you all a wonderful summer

Richard Hawkins

Monthly Meetings

These are usually held on the first Monday of the month at the United Reform Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 2pm. If this falls on a Bank Holiday, the meeting will take place on the following Monday.

Date	Speaker	Subject
1 June	Terry Johnson <i>Retired Superintendent of Metropolitan Police</i>	The Great Train Robbery
6 July	Rachael Greening	Walking with Lions in Zimbabwe
10 August	Kevin Brown <i>Curator of Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum</i>	History of the fight against infectious diseases

OUTINGS Highlights of our forthcoming visits

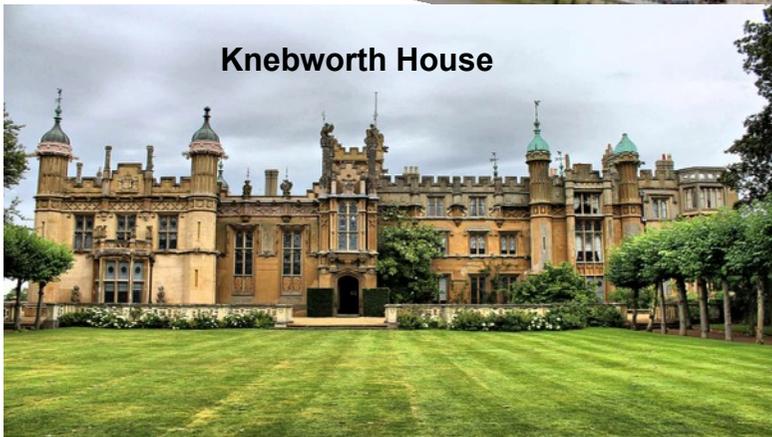
Guided walk through Middle Temple and Embankment Gardens



City of London Walk



Knebworth House



Group News

We are always keen to set up new groups or add to existing ones. If you have any ideas please contact us and we will give as much help as we can. Can you please ensure that any group news comes direct to the Group Co-ordinator
Shirley Miller 8940 8573 or
shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

FAMILY HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS

We now have a second Family History Group which will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, a.m. starting in September.

Please contact Alan Shelley:
8337 4969

NUMISMATICS (Coins etc.)

Money – we use it every day and most of us cannot get enough of it! We don't usually think about the design or history of our coins and notes; we just spend them. However, these miniature works of art are fascinating and can tell us a great deal about history, geography, economics and politics.

You may have noticed the dozens of variations in the 50p and £1 coins and the significant number of £2 and £5 coins.

This group will explore the history and background of these items. You may even spot a coin with an error in your change, or a rarer item like the Kew Gardens 50p (now changing hands for £20 to £120).

Medals (campaign and commemorative) and tokens will also be examined.

Thursdays monthly at 2.30 pm

Please contact Ron Williams:
8399 2063 or k.n.s.@heraldstar.c.uk

EXPLORING SHAKESPEARE

This is a new group starting in September. There will be theatre visits and discussion workshops.

Please contact Richard Hawkins:
8977 2293 or
richard_hawkeye@yahoo.co.uk

POETRY

If enough people are interested a new poetry group will start in the New Malden area, probably on Thursdays mornings. It will be a workshop with everyone taking turns to present a theme.

Please contact Jean Das:
8952 7455 or
bluehaven611@yahoo.co.uk

WELSH CONVERSATION

This new group will start September

Please contact: Margaret Evans:
8546 8433

DRAWING & PAINTING - Various Media.

This group would like to recruit more members. It meets weekly on Tuesdays at 2.00pm in The United Reformed Church, Kingston.

Please contact: Carolyn Forsyth:
8255 1746 or caro15@blueyonder.co.uk

SUGARCRAFT

This group will re-open in September if there is sufficient interest. Expert tuition in cake decoration and flower making.

Please contact:Maureen Hall:
8391 0014

Twenty Five Years!

Kingston U3A will be celebrating its silver jubilee, or twenty fifth anniversary, in 2016 and we will be marking the achievement in various ways.

A small subcommittee has been set up and is open to suggestions. Please send them to Richard Hawkins and think how any groups you are in can mark this. We are thinking initially of a tea party, a posh lunch, a boat trip, a walk round Richmond Park, possibly planting a silver birch somewhere in the borough.

We plan an Autumn Fair, open to the public, showcasing the work of all the groups. Book groups could plan a display of colourful covers of books they have read, with discussion questions attached, poetry groups could offer readings throughout the day, art and craft groups can show their work, singing and dancing groups could perform. Bridge, Scrabble and Mah Jong groups can demonstrate their skills, theatre groups could offer a display of programmes of shows they have attended. We ought to show the range of outings and holidays we organise.

Think silver, think twenty five! Get planning!

U3A National Conference and AGM 26 and 27 August

This year's U3A national conference and AGM takes place at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham on 26 and 27 August.

Open to all members, it will be a two-day mixture of workshops, discussions and opportunities to network with fellow U3A members from all over the country and promises to be great fun as well. There's even an opportunity to learn of life on Mars and post apocalyptic civilisation.

The AGM itself, for which there is no charge, takes place on the last day, Thursday 27 August while the full residential cost from Tuesday 25 to Thursday 27 August is £190. To register for the conference pack which will contain full details, go to www.u3a.org.uk

Central Surrey Study Days at Menuhin Hall

Surrey Network study days are open to members of all U3As in Surrey and the surrounding area. They are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon and normally start at 9.30 a.m. with registration, and finish at 4 p.m. The fee, including coffee/tea and biscuits, is £8, though a visitor who is not a member of a U3A will be charged £10. Attendees should bring a packed lunch. Prior booking is essential and forms are available at the Monthly Meetings or from the Surrey Network internet site, www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork

A Philosophical Romp

Friday 19th June

Presented by Marianne Talbot who will take us on a romp through the history and methodology of philosophy, this will be an interactive day when you will be expected to think for yourselves.

The programme will cover how and why philosophy got started, the birth of scientific method through to modern philosophy, the birth of computing and where philosophy currently is.

Director of Studies in Philosophy at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education since 2001, Marianne has taught for the Colleges of Oxford University for 30 years.

Music at the Menuhin School

- title to be confirmed
Friday 18th September

To be presented by Dr. Richard Hillier and Malcolm Singer, further details will be available in the next newsletter and at the monthly meetings.

London Region Summer School 28 - 30 July

There will be a wide range of subjects on the themes of Art, History, Literature, Music and Science. Each day there will be a choice from eight 1-hr talks and two 2-hr workshops (maximum 22 people for each workshop). Individual sessions can be chosen and attendance can be for one, two or three days.

Cost: £105 for the three days or £35 per day. This includes welcome coffee and tea, and a cold buffet lunch.

Venue: St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8EQ

The programme for the three days covers topics such as Great American Artists, Drawing Fossils from Dinosaur remains, A Snapshot of Post-Imperial Africa, Understanding Planetary Systems and Dickens and Women.

For full programme information, including details of the speakers and an application form, follow the link from our website, www.kingstonu3a.org.uk, or www.u3alondon.org.uk

Your New Look Newsletter

As you will have noticed, your newsletter has had a make-over with 4 pages of colour and a central section containing information on all the groups together with contact information. We hope you like it.

To keep it going we need your input. We need your photos. Shots of projects you are involved in such as paintings, drawings or needlecraft; pictures of interesting places you have visited, either as a group member or taken on one of the organised outings; group photos from Tai Chi, table tennis, dancing or other activity groups would all be welcome. In fact, they are essential if we are to make the most of our colour pages and illustrate the incredible range of activities Kingston U3A offers. So please send us your offerings to Pam Durkie by email – pamdurkie@hotmail.co.uk or by post to 16 Carlton Road, New Malden, KT3 3AJ.

As your newsletter editor I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mike Wilson. He's the man who puts the newsletter together ready for printing and has been key to our new look publication.

We look forward to hearing what you think of it.



(We will be catching the RV1 bus to Tower Hill)

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it to:

John King, 64, Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4JW. **If you do not give an email address, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for acknowledgement.**

A City of London Walk Between Tower Hill and Monument 1 July and 10 July

Although many people will be familiar with this area, the walk includes the famous sites as well as some unusual destinations hidden away in this part of the City. The walk will include a 'visit' to a closed Underground Station.

The walk will last approximately 2 hours and for the most part consists of easy and level walking apart from three sets of steps. The walk will start and finish at Tower Hill. It will be led by John King who – although he is not a professional guide – was a teacher of Geography and History in a local school and has led many different group walks in the City and other areas of London.

Refreshment stops are not included. At the end of the walk there are plenty of eating places available in the area around Tower Hill and towards Fenchurch Street.

Maximum numbers on each walk: 25

Cost: £ 0.50 will be collected on the day.

Meeting time/point: 10.15 am at Waterloo Station, outside platform One.

Guided Walk Through Middle Temple and Embankment Gardens 8 and 13 July

Join U3A member Stewart Keating for a guided walk round the Middle Temple and Embankment Gardens.

We meet at Waterloo at 10.15, and travel by bus to Fleet Street. We pop into Lloyds Bank to look at the décor before walking through Middle Temple to Middle Temple Hall, where we have coffee and biscuits in the gallery, followed by a guided tour of this historic Tudor building.

We continue our walk through Middle Temple learning about some of the buildings and grounds, before heading off to the Embankment. We walk through Embankment Gardens, learning a little about the 20 or so statues and monuments erected mainly by our Victorians forefathers.

The walk should end at about 1.30 pm at Embankment Tube Station.

Meeting place: All walks meet opposite platform 1, Waterloo station, at 10.15 am.

Duration: Walk ends at about 1.30 pm at Embankment Tube station.

Cost: £11.50 per person. This covers the cost of coffee/biscuits at Middle Temple Hall and the tour of the Hall.

Please make cheques payable to **Kingston U3A (GAS)**.

Please complete the enclosed booking form, and send it, together with a cheque made payable to U3A (GAS), to Stewart Keating, 17 Herne Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5BX (Tel 020 8397 5561). **If you do not give an email address, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for acknowledgement.**

Visit to Knebworth House 2 September

One of England's most beloved stately homes, Knebworth House is famous worldwide for its rock concerts and as the home of Victorian novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton. This beautiful gothic mansion is situated in an enormous park 29 miles north of London.

The romantic exterior of the house with its turrets, domes and gargoyles silhouetted against the sky does little to prepare the visitor for what to expect inside. The house has stood for many years longer than the Victorian decoration suggests, and the stucco hides from view a red brick house dating back to the Tudor times.

Every generation of the Lytton family has left something of its style and taste, making Knebworth House an extraordinary walk through 500 years of British history. Stories and heirlooms

reflect the family's contribution to literature, politics and foreign service as well as to visits by characters as diverse as Charles Dickens, Winston Churchill and Noel Gallagher.

On arrival at the House we are offered tea/coffee and home-made biscuits before starting a guided house tour in small groups. The house tour will last approx. an hour. We can then buy lunch in the refectory. Light lunches are available from £6.00 upwards. After lunch we have time to stroll in the garden before taking refreshments and then starting our homeward journey at approx. 3.30 p.m.

Cost: £35.50 includes transport, tip, guided tour of the house and refreshments, but not lunch.

Boarding times/points:

9.00 am – Kingston, High Street, opposite The Rose Theatre

9.15 am – Surbiton, Ewell Road, Bus stop 'Surbiton Telephone Exchange'

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it, together with a cheque made payable to Kingston U3A (GAS), to Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT

Tel.No. 0208399 4990
gzuercher@btinternet.com. **If you do not give an email address, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for acknowledgement.**

Cruise on the Danube

12th – 19th April 2015

Day 1: Off we went, all 32 travellers, for the next eight days, flying to Salzburg, then by coach to Passau where we boarded our cruise ship 'MS Serenity'. Its location is where the three rivers, the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz meet. Safely on board we met the crew and the other travellers (about 100).

Day 2: We sailed towards Melk where we disembarked to visit the Benedictine Abbey in the picturesque Wachau Valley in Austria. The Abbey is magnificent.

Day 3: We sailed on to Vienna for the next stop. We visited this beautiful city with its diverse architecture of palaces, castles and churches in Baroque, Roman and Art Deco styles. The weather so far had been good which made sightseeing a joy. In lovely sunshine we moved on to the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace where the guide showed us just some of its 1441 splendid rooms!

We could have spent a whole day in these beautiful surroundings without getting bored.

Day 4: Overnight we sailed towards Budapest which is said to be the most beautiful city in the world. On our city tour we understood why it has this reputation. The architecture of the Parliament building, Heros Square,

Fisherman's Bastion etc. etc. is stunning. Our boat was moored directly opposite the Parliament building and those who had their cabin on the right side could enjoy the splendid view even from the boat. In the evening we enjoyed a coach trip to see the town by night (it is magical) and then attended a musical evening with folk dancing while tasting the local wine and traditional Goulash soup. It was lots of fun and two of our group were even invited onto the stage to partake in the dancing.

Day 5: In glorious weather we visited a Puszta Farm, a traditional horse farm. After a welcome drink we were invited to a horse show where humans and horses showed their skills. After the show we all enjoyed a ride through the woods in horse-drawn carriages.

Day 6: Overnight we sailed towards Bratislava. Though a chilly day we didn't want to miss a guided walking tour through the town. We visited the museum and the impressive St. Martin's Cathedral. Again it is a beautiful city on the Danube which we were free to explore further in the afternoon before sailing towards



Dürnstein in the evening. Most managed to get on board before the rain arrived.

Day 7: This morning we joined a walking tour through Dürnstein, a small town with cobbled streets, pretty courtyards and the most beautiful view of the surrounding area. In between we tasted some more wine in one of the Wachau Valley's renowned wine cellars. Back on board in the evening we then enjoyed the Captain's farewell drink followed by the Captain's dinner while sailing back to Passau.

Day 8: We disembarked this morning to drive back to Salzburg Airport. Austria said 'goodbye' by showing us yet another beautiful part of its countryside. The journey by coach took us through green fields and charming little villages with quaint little houses set against the blue sky with bright sunshine and a row of snow covered mountains in the background. A fantastic picture!



Jacky

The Choir

It is regretted that the May concert has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The next concert will be in December.

Details will be available in the August newsletter so WATCH THIS SPACE.

Seminars

Liz Magennis has planned the Encore Summer School especially for U3A members. There are six seminars between 13–24 July 2015 under the overall title of The Pleasure of Professional Musical Performance with Charles MacDougall and Robert Mingay-Smith.

1. A Cappella Workshop

Join us in a cappella song.

Date and time: Monday 13th July, 11.00am-1pm

Cost: Earlybird: pay £13 by 13th June or £15 after 13th June.

Venue: (see below*)

2. Brahms Liebersliederwitzer

Lyrical masterpiece, 4 superb singers, 2 expert pianists; morning coffee and wine or juice plus lunch in a jewel of a Wren church.

Date and time: Tuesday 14th July, 12.30am-approx 3.30pm.

Cost: Earlybird: by 13th June £18 all incl. £20 after 13th June.

Venue: St. Mary-at-Hill, Lovat Lane, City of London/Tube-Monument- (District line) Or meet inside Wimbledon Underground 11.00am(see form).

3. Favourite World War songs

Our hearts have learned to sing again! Salon concert:

Date and time: Friday 17th July, 11.0am-1pm:.

Cost: Earlybird: pay £13 by 13th June or £15 after 13th June.

Venue: (see below*)

NB if all 3 events are booked together by 13th June, the Summer Sizzler price is £42 (save £2).

4. Shakespeare Transposed

Elizabethan Lyric in English Song: Readings and brief explication of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson, plus settings of lyrics to music by Vaughan Williams, Quilter et al.

Date and time: Monday, 20th July, 11.00am-1pm:

Cost: Earlybird: pay £13 by 13th June or £15 after 13th June.

Venue: (see below**)

5. My Dark Heart's Light

Songs of Longing and Passion for Voice and Violin. Solo works by virtuoso violinist Matthew Tosca and Charles Four Songs for Voice and Violin by Holst.

Date and time: Tuesday, 21st July, 11.00am-1pm.

Cost: Earlybird: Pay £13 by or 13th June or £15 after 13th June.

Venue: 35 The Ridings, Surbiton, KT5 8HG6.

6. Summertime and the Livin' is Easy

A Musical Soirée and supper: Bright and breezy classics to welcome summer!

Date and time: Friday, 24th July, 4.00-6pm.

Cost: Earlybird pay £15 by 13th June or £18 after 13th June.

Venue: (see below*)

NB Summer Sizzler. If events 4,5,6 are booked together by 13th June it is £40 (save £1) OR £80 (save £5) for all 6 events. Early booking is advisable as space is limited. Cheques payable to: Kingston U3A (Workshops). Please send to: Liz Magennis at 46, The Roystons, Surbiton, KT5 8HH (also VENUE* for events 1, 3, 4, 6).

Enquiries: Tel 8241 5513,

email: gillyvor@hotmail.com

Confirmation by email where possible.

If you do not give an email address, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for acknowledgement.

The Impact of WW1 on
Surbiton
Shared Learning Project

Some members of Kingston U3A have recently been involved in a Shared Learning Project in collaboration with Hillcroft College, looking at the impact of the First World War on the residents of Surbiton. Some of the areas we researched included the Armed Forces, Belgian refugees, Belgian soldiers, the sinking of the Lusitania, enemy aliens, voluntary organisations and charities, medical care and hospitals, the changing expectations of women as well as food shortages and rationing. An enormous amount of information was gathered and a presentation of some of the results was given at Hillcroft in April.

The work was very rewarding and it is clear that there is still much more that can be done to tell the story of

Surbiton's experience during the War. Hillcroft has successfully applied for a Heritage Lottery Grant which will allow further research and will mean that the results can be made available to the wider public in Surbiton and Kingston. If you have family memories or even

objects relating to WWI in Surbiton, the team would love to hear from you. It is planned to continue the work later in the year and further volunteers would be very welcome. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Anning
Tel: 8330 6931



Are **YOU** in this?

The Day We Went To

Sheila Evans tries her hand at dowsing for ley lines during our recent visit to Stonehenge.



Not something to try at home – the waiters at this traditional Budapest restaurant have a novel way of filling customers' wine glasses!



Some of the Roman Archaeology Group at the Roman Arch near Lincoln Cathedral. Was it fish and chips for lunch?

The Family History Group find a very fitting tribute to a musician at Highgate Cemetery

