



## Chairman's Remarks

I am coming to the end of my first year as Chairman and would like to pay a tribute to the committee who have given me unstinting support throughout the year. Kingston U3A has gone on from strength to strength, and we are all looking forward to the 25th Anniversary year in 2016. In the Newsletter we are including details of the special events we have in mind - we hope you will find them of interest.

Our monthly meetings have proved as popular as usual. We are looking for someone with the appropriate experience to help Diane Wilson with the computer/video illustrating the monthly talks.

Particular thanks to Gill O'Donnell and her helpers for taking over the tea/coffee duties at the monthly meetings.

*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
7 December	CHRISTMAS PARTY	
4 January	QUIZ	
1 February	Martin Heard	1066 and All That – The Secrets of the Bayeux Tapestry
7 March	Dr Kirsten Kennedy	From Winderkammer to Wellington: Silver in the new galleries of European Art at the V&A

## 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 you as much help as we can.

Can you ensure that any group news comes directly to us.

### AMERICAN HISTORY

Mark Frankel has offered to start this new group in the New Malden area.

Please contact him on 8288 9445 or email: frankem51@gmail.com

### FAMOUS WELSH MEN & WOMEN

This group restarts on Wednesday 20th January 2016 meeting fortnightly at 2pm.

New members welcome.

Contact Margaret Evans: 8546 8433 if interested.

### FAMILY HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS

Lesley Hodges has kindly agreed to run a second class on the second Wednesday in the month at 2pm.

Contact: 07768643663 or lesley.hodges@virgin.net.

### ITALIAN

We have 6 people on a waiting list for Italian. Would anyone be willing to

organise or host a self-learning group? This works very well for the existing group.

Please phone Shirley Miller: 8940 8573

### POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

#### BOOK GROUP

Lorraine Hellen has offered to set up a new book group in the Surbiton area.

Time and venue to be decided

If interested, ring Lorraine: 8390 5718

We also need people to lead more groups for Walks, Spanish, History, Literature etc.

The membership is increasing by leaps and bounds but we need more groups to satisfy the demand.

If you can help, please contact:

Shirley Miller 8940 8573 or shirley.miller4@btinternet.com



Ready for the 25th Anniversary? The Patchwork Group has already been hard at work with their project, depicting some of the many groups we run.



## OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

On the back page of this newsletter you'll find a list of the events we are organising to celebrate Kingston U3A's 25th Anniversary. Do keep it to remind you of what is happening when.

Obviously, we will be giving you fuller information nearer the relevant dates, however, there's a lot you could start planning or doing now. For example, the Autumn Fair, which will be open to the public, will showcase the work of all the groups. Poetry groups could start planning readings to take place during the day while art and craft groups can start looking out, or planning new examples of their work. We want to represent the diverse range of activities we offer.

## Christmas Day 25 December 2015



On Christmas Day you may be on your own, at a loose end or just do not fancy cooking!

Kingston U3A (GAS) is organizing a Christmas Day lunch at the Bishop out of Residence pub/restaurant by the Riverside at 1p.m. Please arrive at 12.30p.m.

The cost will be £65 per person and includes a glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival. Additional drinks will be paid for individually.

Applications accompanied by a cheque for £65 made payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) should be sent to Mrs Lesley Hodges, 3 May Bate Avenue, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5UR  
Phone 07768643663.

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



## Historical Experience in Benjamin Franklin's House

**Wednesday, 27 and  
Friday 29 January 2016**

In the heart of London is Benjamin Franklin's House, the world's only remaining Benjamin Franklin home. For nearly 16 years – from 1757 to 1775 – Dr. Benjamin Franklin, scientist, diplomat, philosopher, inventor, author, civic activist, statesman, diplomat etc., etc. lived in London. His colourful life and legacy of scientific and political achievement, and status as one of America's most influential Founding Fathers, have seen Franklin honoured in



various ways such as on coinage and the \$100 bill, and in the naming of warships, many towns, counties, educational institutions, corporations etc. The House in Craven Street near Charing Cross Station was built in 1730 and is today a museum and educational facility.

The 'Historical Experience' - which lasts approximately an hour - includes an actor portraying historical characters associated with the house along with dialogue, sound, lighting and special effects. The character used in the 'Historical Experience' is Polly Hewson, the daughter of Franklin's landlady who became a 'second daughter' to Franklin. Before starting the tour we will have a short interactive experience of the Glass Armonica, Franklin's musical invention.

**Please note:** Due to the House's narrow Georgian proportions and Grade I listing there is limited access for people with mobility needs. The show incorporates three flights of stairs and visitors must take care as the House's floors and stairs are uneven in places. Also, there are only a few seats available in each room, but lightweight shooting sticks are available.

**Dates:** Wednesday, 27 January and Friday, 29 January 2016

**Cost:** £ 5.50 - (£3.00 for NT members)

**Meeting time/point:** 1pm – outside Platform 1 at Waterloo Station.

If you are interested in joining this visit please complete the enclosed application form and send it together with your cheque payable to **Kingston U3A (GAS)** for £ 5.50 (or £ 3.00 if you are a NT member) to Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT Phone 8399 4990

**If you do not give an e-mail address please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.**

# Bletchley Park

**Monday 22 February 2016**

Bletchley Park was the central site of the UK's Government Code and Cypher School.

The ultra intelligence produced at Bletchley is said to have shortened the war by four years and without it the outcome would have been uncertain. It is now an educational and historical attraction.

There are many areas to explore with displays relating to wartime code-breaking and espionage generally. There are several huts to explore including Huts 3 and 6 which give an idea of how it felt to work here in top secret and Hut 8, the German Navy code breaking hut, featuring the wartime office of Alan Turing including interactive displays.

The Museum in Block B has Enigma machines and a reconstructed Y



station while Hut 11 houses the 'bombe' exhibition. A free multi media guide is available in the Visitor Centre.

On arrival at Bletchley Park a member of the group Bookings Team will join us on the coach and give out leaflets including entry tickets, which are valid for a year, maps and tickets for the guided tour which is included in the entry price.

We will split into two groups:

Group 1, Red Group, will go to Hut 4 café for coffee and then take the guided tour which lasts for about an hour and they can then have lunch. After lunch they can explore the site.

Group 2, Blue Group, will go to the Costa café and then look around, have lunch and then meet for the guided tour.

We will gather in the Costa café at 3.30pm for our return journey home. The cost includes the coach, the tip for the driver and the guided tour. Lunch and other refreshments are not included. There are facilities including picnic tables outside for those who prefer to take their own packed lunch.

On the same site there is The National Museum of Computing which is a separate entity and for which there is an admission charge of £5

The previous visit was heavily over-subscribed and so those on the reserve list will be given priority but will need to re-apply. Those who visited in November can have free entrance on a return visit as long as they have their entrance ticket with them. The cost of entry will be refunded to them.

**Date:** Monday 22 February 2016

**Cost:** £25.50

**Boarding time/point:**

8.45am - Kingston, High Street  
opposite The Rose Theatre

9.00am – Surbiton, Ewell Road, Bus  
stop ‘Surbiton Telephone Exchange’.

Please complete the enclosed  
application form and return with your  
cheque made out to **Kingston U3A  
(GAS)** to Mrs Lesley Hodges, 3 May  
Bate Avenue, Kingston upon Thames  
KT2 5UR.

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

## A Day in the East End

**Tuesday 15 March**

Join U3A members Stewart Keating and  
John King for a day in the East End. We  
take the bus from Waterloo to the  
Tower, for the 15 minute walk to  
Wilton’s Music Hall.



NEW MUSIC HALL, WELLOUSE SQUARE



Wilton’s started life as a pub in the  
1740s, and a century later a concert hall  
was established in the back garden. It

was extended into neighbouring back  
gardens, becoming one of the biggest  
music halls in London. Since then it has  
had many uses, including a soup  
kitchen, Methodist Mission and rag  
storage warehouse. It has had a major  
refurbishment and is now a performing  
arts venue.

Our guided tour lasts about an hour,  
after which you will be able to buy  
refreshments in the Mahogany Bar.



We leave Wilton’s and walk to St  
Katherine’s Dock, where, after stopping  
for lunch, we enjoy a walking tour of the  
area, led by John King. We learn how  
the site changed from being a medieval  
hospital to a Victorian slum, before  
becoming a dock. It now features  
offices, public and private housing,  
restaurants and a marina. The walk will  
end at approx. 3.30 – 4.00pm.

(Later in the year John King will be  
leading a walk in the Shadwell and  
Wapping area, to the east of St  
Katherine’s dock, which will extend the  
Dockland’s theme of this visit.)

**Date:** Tuesday 15 March 2016

**Meeting time/point:** 10.15am – outside  
Platform 1 - Waterloo Station

**Cost:** £7 (refreshments at Wilton's and St Katherine's Dock are at your expense)

Please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with your cheque (made payable to Kingston U3A GAS) to Stewart Keating, 17 Herne Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5BX  
Phone: 020 8397 5561

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

## North Yorkshire and the Dales

**6 days – Sunday 24 April  
– Friday 29 April 2016**

Day 1 – We set out in our private executive coach making a comfort stop en-route to our main stop, Calke Abbey (NT). As well as exploring the house and gardens, you can buy lunch. We leave in the afternoon, travelling to Skipton where we check into the 3\* Rendezvous Hotel for a five-night stay on a half-board basis.

Day 2 – Accompanied by our local guide, today we start with a short canal cruise from the hotel into the centre of Skipton during which morning coffee will be served. On arrival we will walk the short distance to the 900-year old Skipton Castle where a guided tour is included. There will be free time afterwards for us to purchase an early lunch and visit the traditional street

market before this afternoon's excursion to Bronte Country and the Pennine village of Haworth, where we visit the Haworth Parsonage, home of the Bronte family (entrance included).

Day 3 – With our local guide we travel by coach to Ripley Castle where entrance fee and a guided tour is included. The castle's history is one of political, military, religious and social turbulence, and also one of romance, courage and loyalty. We continue on to the nearby spa town of Harrogate, famous for its horticulture, historic buildings, stunning scenery and natural springs. There will be free time to purchase lunch here before our afternoon's included visit to RHS Harlow Carr Garden, located on the town's outskirts.

Day 4 – Today is dedicated to historic York, where on arrival we will start with an included guided tour of the city on foot. The rest of the day is free to explore York's Roman, Viking and Medieval heritage, including JORVIK, the Castle Museum, Clifford's Tower (EH) or the famous Minster (entrances are all payable locally), or the National Railway Museum (free entry).



You can enjoy a stroll around York's unique alleys (The Shambles) and passages which link up the medieval streets or take afternoon tea in the famous Betty's Café Tearooms. You will be provided with a map of the city centre showing the location of various places of interest.

Day 5 - Today is a leisurely day as (accompanied by our local guide), we travel by coach to the market town of Settle where we join the Settle - Carlisle railway for a scenic train journey through the Yorkshire National Park region, over the Ribbleshead viaduct to Appleby. Here we re-join the



coach for the journey to Hawes, Yorkshire's highest market town which lies on the Pennine Way. Lunch can be purchased at the Wensleydale Creamery where the famous local cheese is made, or in the town itself, before we continue through the spectacular Dales. There will be some free time in the village of Grassington in the heart of 'Calendar Girls' country, which is a well preserved village with an old style square and cobbled streets. An afternoon cream tea is included whilst here, after which you

can explore a little at your leisure before we return to Skipton.

Day 6 – We check out of the hotel after breakfast and head for Chatsworth House (entrance included). The house has over 30 rooms to explore, and houses one of Europe's most significant art collections. We leave in mid-afternoon, and make a further comfort stop en-route, returning to our original departure points in early evening.

**Departure time:** 9am Kingston and other pickup points (full details to be advised later)

**Cost:** £599 per person sharing a double/twin

**Single room supplement:** £35 (these are twin /double rooms for sole use)

**Deposit:** £75 per person (non-returnable) payable on booking

**Balance:** payable by 7 March 2016

**Insurance:** £30 per person if required (no upper age limit, but conditions apply)

For more information and detailed booking form, please complete the enclosed application form, and send it **with a stamped self-addressed envelope (large enough to take 2 -3 sheets of A4 paper)** to Stewart Keating, 17 Herne Road, Surbiton, KT6 5BX  
Phone: 020 8397 5561

This holiday is organised by Simply Groups, and your contract will be with them. Full information is given on the booking form.



## Our Choir

One of the first groups to be founded when Kingston U3A started up in 1991 was the 'Kingston U3A Singers'. They



will be celebrating the 25th anniversary in 2016 with a concert. Date and venue to be arranged.

Glyn Harvey, the current conductor, has invited members of the choir to choose songs from their past performances to form the centre-piece of the celebration concert.

This year they are performing in the New Malden Methodist Church on December 12th at 7.30 p.m. The programme will include 'Sing', accompanied by the Widor organ work, played by Peter Bullett, and "Blest Pair of Sirens", together with seasonal Christmas works.

## South East U3A Forum Conference and Summer School

The next Conference will be held in the Meridian Hall, East Grinstead on Wednesday 20 April 2016.

The South East Forum Summer School will be held at the University of Chichester from 27 to 30 June 2016.

More details were not available by the time this newsletter had to go to press but will be in the next newsletter as well as at Monthly Meetings and the Surrey Network website [www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork)

## Central 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 9:30am with registration and finish at 4pm. 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](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork)

## Turning points in 20th-century painting - Breaking the mould

**Friday 19 February**

Presented by Barrie Garnham, this study day will explore the new ideas and concepts in painting in pre- and post- First World War Europe. Topics will include German Expressionism, Cubist Revolution with Picasso and Braque, Italian Futurism and Art and Revolution in Russia.

## Spying through the Ages

**Friday 18 March**

Presented by Hugh Davies, former Bletchley Park guide.

## The Theatrical Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan

**Friday 15 April**

As well as considering the works of the writer, W.S. Gilbert and composer, Arthur Sullivan, Bernard Lockett, trustee of the international Gilbert and Sullivan Festival and a life-long enthusiast of Gilbert and Sullivan, will look at their individual attributes which led to their highly successful collaboration. An important element of their work is their reflection and comment upon the social conditions of the mid/late Victorian era.

More details can be obtained from the Surrey Network website [www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetw](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetw) ork and will also be available at our Monthly Meetings.

## Book Exchange

Do you have any spare books?



Bring them along to U3A Monday meetings and put them on the Book Exchange table.

You may find books there that you would like.

There is no charge for the Book Exchange.

Surplus books are donated to the URC bookshelf at the end of the meeting.

## 1st Shared Learning Project at WWT London Wetland Centre

### The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust – WWT London Wetland Centre

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is one of the world's largest and most respected wetland conservation organisations working globally to safeguard and improve wetlands for wildlife and people.

WWT London Wetland Centre (LWC) is an award winning visitor attraction bringing the countryside to London. The site supports a wealth of wetland

wildlife. It is also a haven for people, whether relaxing watching the wildlife from one of the special viewing hides, enjoying a walk around the reserve or having a meal in the Water's Edge Cafe.

A large portion of their visitors is made up of group days out, which offers discounted rates to groups of 12 or more people. These group visits largely support the conservation work they do.

### **For further information see:**

WWT London Website:  
<http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london/>

WWT London Facebook page:  
[https://www.facebook.com/wwtlondon?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/wwtlondon?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

### **The Project for 2016: Local groups across multiple boroughs to LWC**

There are two main aims to this project. The first is to research local groups, from special interest natural history groups to university biodiversity courses to identify how the centre can advertise and market their group bookings to increase visitation from a wider audience. In addition to this help create a database for LWC of these local groups so they can deliver informative talks and presentations in the future.

The second objective is to research and identify tour coach companies in and around London to identify how we can target them to attract further visitation. This study will consist of researching what these coach companies are looking for when planning their itineraries and what offers can be presented in order to

compete with other visitor attractions around the London area.

### **They ask SLP volunteers to:**

- Be available between the months of January 2016 – March 2016.
- Come to the preliminary meeting: Tuesday 15 December 2016 from 11am – 1pm
- Be available to attend all meetings
  - Fortnightly on Tuesday's from 11am – 1pm (starting on Tuesday 5 January, 2016)
  - 6 – 8 meetings in total
- Be available for final presentation in March (date tbc)
- To work on the project in pairs between meetings.
- Be computer literate: Microsoft Office. Use the internet and email.

### **What's in it for you?**

- You will be signed up as a WWT Volunteer during the duration of the project
- A discount is available in their cafe and shop on the day of volunteering
- An induction and training opportunities will be provided
- To make a contribution to LWC. Research will be used to reach out to local and international groups and will be kept in databases for future use/researchers.

### **Location for meetings**

WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Barnes, London, SW13 9WT. Free parking.

### **To Apply:**

For an application form contact: Sue Leigh: [smleigh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smleigh@hotmail.co.uk)

**Closing date for applications:  
29 November 2015**

# OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

## Events in 2016 celebrating Kingston U3A's 25th Anniversary

Date	Event
19 January	Planting of birch tree on Queens Promenade by the mayor with a plaque commemorating the event.
Date TBA	Presentation to senior Kingston U3A members at a monthly meeting.
7 March	(Monthly Meeting) Speaker from the V & A to speak on silver
11 May	Tea at Warren House 3.00pm
10 and 16 June	River trips: starting at Kingston, lunch at Thames Ditton, then by boat from Windsor to Runnymede
14 July	Lunch at Warren House 12.30 for 1.00pm
6, 7 and 8 September	High-speed boat trips on the Thames
14 September	Walk, (one long, 5hrs+; one medium, 1hr+; and one short, 45mins) in Richmond Park
26 October	Kingston U3A fair at United Reformed Church – a day event to show Kingston what we are up to
5 December	Retrospective slide presentation of the year's events at the December monthly meeting
Date TBA	Kingston U3A Singers concert