



Chairman's Remarks

Our 25th anniversary year has now started. I write this having returned from the first special event marking this. It is a cold, clear, crisp day. A band of intrepid U3A members went to the Queen's Promenade to await the arrival of the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston. A van was there with a birch tree and the borough's tree expert plus assistants. All was prepared and at 10.30am the Mayor arrived with ceremonial spade. After speeches on behalf of KU3A the Mayor planted the tree and we repaired to the Rose Theatre for coffee. The Mayor was very interested in our activities. An important aspect of this year will be to make us more visible as an organisation locally. I think it will be useful if, from now on, we send a copy of the newsletter to the mayor's office. My view is that such contacts can only have good consequences. Likewise we are looking to improve our contacts with the University.

As the days lengthen I hope you will be able to take part in some of our special activities for this year.

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 March	Dr Kirsten Kennedy	From Winderkammer to Wellington: Silver in the new galleries of European Art at the V&A
4 April	Elisabeth Sweeney	Europe – Who is making our laws?
9 May	Terry Johnson	The Profumo Affair
6 June	Leslie Pitcher	Drunks, gamblers and charlatans

Group News



Tree Planting

The first of our 25th Anniversary celebrations took place on 19 January when the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Roy Arora, assisted by his wife, planted a birch tree in Queen's Promenade.

The planting will be marked with a plaque acknowledging the gift from Kingston U3A.



One of our groups has now closed as members were not informing the Leader that they couldn't attend. It is very important that you always tell the leader if you are unable to attend a meeting.

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

SHORT WALKS

Philip Hellen has kindly agreed to start a second short walk group. Day and time to be decided. Please ring Philip: 8390 5718

PLAY READING GROUP

Sandra Krause has kindly offered to set up a Play Reading Group. If interested please ring her: 8949 4349 or sandikrause@gmail.com

POETRY WRITING

This new group will meet in the Teddington area on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2.00 pm. Contact Robert Sheed: 07768 [722199](tel:07768722199) or bobsheed74@gmail.com

HISTORY OF THE USA

This will be a Workshop-style group with members taking turns to contribute information on history, geography, politics etc. Day and time to be decided.

If interested please contact: Shirley Miller: 8940 8573 or shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

WANTED

We need more groups to satisfy the hugely increasing membership. Please think what you might do to help. Organizing a group is a lot of fun and the work can be shared among the members. The groups usually become friendship groups with a common interest.

There is a huge demand for **Walks, Bridge, French, Italian & Spanish.**

Any offers of help contact: Shirley Miller on 8940 8573 or groupcoordinator@kingstonU3A.org.uk

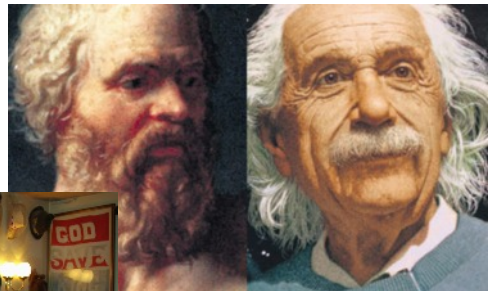
WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group (was known as Short Walks) had its 5th Birthday in February. From 8 members on the first walk, this popular group has grown to 35 with a waiting list. From 2nd March the walks will take place weekly, venue and time unchanged. Members enjoy the option of doing the whole walk, or leaving after the refreshment stop. Some longer day outings were also enjoyed, and the year was rounded off with a lively Christmas Party at a North Kingston tavern.

This group could do with more members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.00 am near Kingston Hospital. The discussion is led by one of the members on a subject of his/her choice. We all look forward to these meetings and it is an opportunity to widen our interests and engage with new ideas. However, now that there are only eight of us, our turn comes round more often and we would like more members.

Leading a discussion is not difficult. Material can be found from a general interest book. My first effort was an analysis of "Property and Freedom" by Richard Pipes. Another member talked about ocean currents and a third discussed the measurement of beauty. I have not known a meeting which did not give me new cause for thought.

Please contact me, if interested, on 8942 7387/
jenn.butterworth@virginmedia.com



U3A STUDY DAY

Local Scientific Pioneers

26 April 2016

Shadwell and Wapping Walks

Wednesday 27 April and
Thursday 5 May 2016

Who was Ada Lovelace? Who created London's sewer system? These questions and many more will be answered on a U3A Study Day jointly organised by Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham U3As.

Looking at the achievements of four local people, the programme begins with a talk about the development and management of Normansfield and the work of Dr. John Langdon Down who brought a revolutionary and enlightened approach to the care of those with all forms of learning disabilities.

A generously illustrated talk on the history of the aviation industry in Kingston follows.

Talk 3 looks at the life and achievement of Ada Lovelace, British mathematician and writer and generally regarded as the first computer programmer.

The day concludes with a talk on Sir Joseph Bazalgette. He was the man responsible for creating London's sewer system and many other local works.

Local Scientific Pioneers is being held in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston and costs just £8 for the day including coffee/tea on arrival. (First talk at 11.30am) Application forms and fuller details can be had at the next monthly meeting or via our website: www.kingstonU3A.org.uk

Join U3A member, John King, for a walk between Shadwell and Wapping. We will be taking the London Overground from Clapham Junction to Shadwell.

The walk will take in the History and Geography of an area just to the east of the Tower of London. (This is an extension of the Wilton's Music Hall/St Katherine's walk in March). The area has already undergone much change when the docks closed in the 1970s but is today changing once again. There is, however, much history still to be seen. Surprisingly, the walk will be through some remarkably quiet streets and open spaces ending by Wapping Station (London Overground). There are several eating places in the vicinity of the station.

Dates: Wednesday 27 April and
Thursday 5 May

Meeting Time/Point: 10.15am on the overbridge at Clapham Junction Station at the top of the stairs leading down to Platform 2 for London Overground services.

Cost: 50p collected on the day.

Please complete the enclosed booking 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.

Strawberry Hill House

Wednesday 18 May 2016

Join us for a guided tour of the magnificent Strawberry Hill House, known as Horace Walpole's Gothic Castle. Walpole intended a visit here to be a truly theatrical experience, as you will find when you enter a gloomy hall and pass up a staircase of grey stony appearance, before finally entering the sumptuous state apartment – a burst of crimson and gold, lit by a unique collection of Renaissance glass.



The house was designed in collaboration with a group of amateur architect friends based on the architecture of the great gothic cathedrals and abbeys, with books of prints as a reference point. Instead of carved stone, the rooms and ornament of Strawberry Hill are wood, plaster and papier-mâché. As well as the hall, there are 13 further rooms to be explored, all beautifully restored.

Our guided tour starts with refreshments at 10.30am and will last for 90 minutes. After this you will be free to leave or stay on to explore the gardens.

We will meet in the ticket hall at Kingston Station at **09.40am** and take the **09.59am** train to Strawberry Hill, then walk for 10 minutes to the House.

Date: 18 May

Meeting Time/Point: 09.40am Kingston Station ticket hall. Please arrive earlier than this if you need to buy a ticket.

Cost: £14.00 per person including guided tour and refreshments.

If you would like to join this outing please complete the enclosed application form and send it, together with your cheque for £14.00 payable to **Kingston U3A (GAS)** to: Claire Bletcher, 17, Lower Green Road, Esher, KT10 8HE Tel: 020 8398 7107

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

This Country Called England
Friday 10 and Thursday 16 June
2016

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations we have organised a coach/boat round trip from Kingston to Windsor – Runnymede – Kingston. KU3A will contribute 50% to the cost of the outing. It will take place on two different dates in order to give as many people as possible the chance to join and hear fascinating facts about our town quoted as 'the happiest place in London and where England began!' Our guide will join us in the Rose Theatre Café where we will take our morning refreshments of tea/coffee before a short walk around Kingston. We will then take the coach to Thames Ditton for a two course lunch. Please

make your choice on the application form.

After lunch we continue to Windsor where we board the ship to take us on a two hour cruise through three locks past the Queen's vast private parklands with marvellous views of the castle, through Datchet Mead and Edward the Confessor's Old Windsor to the famous meadows of Runnymede. Hot and cold drinks are available to purchase on the boat. We disembark at Runnymede and visit the striking new artwork in the meadows that commemorates Magna Carta. At 5.45 p.m. we board our coach again and head home to Kingston. The total walking involved on this outing is 800 metres.



Dates: Friday 10 and Thursday 16 June

Cost: £25.50

Meeting time/point: 09.45 a.m., Kingston High Street, opposite The Rose Theatre

If you would like to join this outing please complete the enclosed application form and send it together with your cheque for £ 25.50, payable to **Kingston U3A (GAS)** to: Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT Tel. No.: 020 8399 4990.

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

River Thames Rib Boat Blast

6, 7 or 8 September 2016

We will get the wind in our hair on this fast boat trip from the Tower to the Barrier and back – 20 miles in 40 minutes.



We meet at Waterloo at 10.30am and take the RV1 bus to the Tower for the short walk to St Katherine's pier. We will be provided with waterproof clothing and buoyancy jackets for the unforgettable ride on the rib (rigid inflatable boat) high-speed boat. The average speed is about 30 mph, and the journey will include some high-speed, high G-force turns. After the trip you are free to make your own way back to Waterloo, or you may prefer to wander round St Katherine's Dock and buy lunch in one of the many eateries there.

Please be advised that this stretch of the River Thames is exposed, and the water can be choppy.

You should not go on this trip if you suffer from any of the following conditions:

- a bad back
- heart problems
- epilepsy
- any condition that might be affected by jolts or adrenalin

Boats take 12 passengers only, and we have booked one boat for 6 September,

one for 7 September and one for 8 September.

Date: Tue 6 Sep, or Wed 7 Sep or Thurs 8 Sep 2016

Meeting point: Opposite Platform 1, Waterloo Station, 10.30am

Cost: £20 per person

To reserve a place on one of these trips, please complete the enclosed booking form, and send it, together with your cheque for £20 per person (made payable to **Kingston 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.

Visit to Switzerland The heart of Europe

Sunday, 18th September -
Saturday, 24th September 2016

Over the years we have visited many interesting European countries; it is time we paid a visit to the centre of them all: this most beautiful small country. 'Switzerland' offers so many varied experiences: mountains, glaciers, lakes, rivers, meadows, architecture, history, UNESCO world heritage sites, legends and indeed five languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh and Schwyzerdütsch.

Day One: We fly to Zürich where we meet our Tour Manager and transfer to the 3* hotel 'Bellevue au Lac' in Hilterfingen on Lake Thun

(www.bellevue-au-lac.ch). We stay there for six nights on half board-basis.



Day Two: we enjoy a guided tour of Bern, Switzerland's charming capital, with its magnificent Mediaeval town centre, clock tower and the famous bear pits. In the afternoon we explore the ancient lakeside town of Thun and take a cruise on the lake (SFr 30.00 (~ £21.00)).

Day Three: We take in the breathtaking surroundings of Meiringen where we have the option of taking an exciting saunter on the walkway over the torrent over the Aare Cleft and catch a short funicular ride up to the Reichenbach Falls where Sherlock Holmes met his untimely death (SFr 13.00 (~ £9.10)). In the afternoon we take a memorable excursion on the traditional mountain steam railway up the Rothorn from Brienz, SFr 70.00 (~ £49.00).



Day Four: This can be a day at leisure or we can take an optional wonderful train journey over high mountain passes, lush meadows and traditional Swiss mountain villages. The journey starts in the popular winter ski resort of Gstaad and takes us over several winter passes to Montreux, the Jazz Capital of the world. The arrival in Montreux is spectacular as you get some fantastic panoramic views of the town and of Lake Geneva. Coach and train: SFr 118 (~ £80.00). After some time in Montreux we return to Hilterfingen.

Day Five: Lucerne is our destination today. We tour the mediaeval centre, the lakeside promenades and the famous timber bridge spanning the edge of the lake.



The city and the lake provide one of Switzerland's most idyllic settings. In the afternoon we visit the charming mountain resort of Engelberg to see Switzerland's largest organ in the mediaeval Benedictine Abbey before taking a memorable ride up the 11,000 foot Mount Titlis in its unique rotating cable car, offering truly breath-taking mountain panoramas SFr 94.00 (~ £65.85).

Day Six: We visit Lauterbrunnen and take an exciting excursion on the

Jungfrau train from Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald SFr 190.00 (~ £133.00).

Day Seven: The first part of our last day we spend at leisure before transferring to Zürich Airport for our direct flight to London and coach transfer to our original pick-up points.

Cost: £1,379.00 (including coach transfer to and from the airports, flights, 3* hotel on half-board basis, tour manager throughout, guided tour of Bern and Executive coach for day excursions (except on day 4).

Not included: Admission to museums and places of interest, boat and train excursions featured in the itinerary, gratuities.

Single room supplement: £105.00

Deposit: £100.00 payable when booking, final balance due 56 days prior to departure date.

Insurance: £36.00 per person, if required.

For a detailed booking form please complete the enclosed application form and send it with a stamped addressed envelope (not too small, please) to Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT Tel.: 020 8399 4990



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 £10, though a visitor who is not a member of a U3A will be charged £12. 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

Spying through the Ages

Fri 18 March

Spying has been going on since wars and conflicts began. How have we coped with keeping secrets secret and finding out what someone else wants to hide? The human factor keeps changing and now, with the advent of the internet, its context has changed again and is within 'ELINT', electronic intelligence. From ancient skulduggery, and Elizabeth 1's' eavesdroppers – the first documented spy network - the programme looks at the past and future of the spying game.

Presented by Hugh Davies, former Bletchley Park guide.

The Theatrical Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan

Fri 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.

Fifty Years of Changing Britain – 1942 to 1992

Friday 20 May

Presented by Gill Pitt, U3A member.

More details can be obtained from the Surrey Network website www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork and will also be available at our Monthly Meetings.

Do you have any spare books?

Book Exchange

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.



SOUTH EAST U3A FORUM

One Day Conference
Wednesday 20 April

Open to members of all U3As in the South East region, this event gives members the opportunity to meet, exchange news and views and hear of innovations and examples of good practice.

Pam Jones, Chairman of the Third Age Trust, is one of the keynote speakers and will give an update on the national U3A scene, while regional trustee, Hilvary Robinson, will describe activities in the South East and Ian Funnell will highlight the benefits of international exchanges. Discussion groups will address subjects of importance to all U3As such as attracting a wider range of members; using IT for a range of activities; encouraging members to use a range of learning methods and attracting more group leaders and committee members.

To be held at the Meridian Hall, East Grinstead, attendance, which is on a 'first come, first served basis', is free to all members in the South East Region and includes a light buffet lunch.

More detailed information and booking forms will be available at our Monthly Meetings or via the Surrey website: www.u3sites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork

SOUTH EAST U3A FORUM

Summer School
Monday 27 June -
Thursday 30 June

To be held at the University of Chichester, this summer school offers you the opportunity to attend a choice of interesting courses, meet new like-minded people, enjoy evening entertainment with good food and accommodation.

The courses, run by U3A members, cover a myriad of subjects including the History of Aviation on the south coast; Jazz, Blues and Folk Music in the USA; Play Reading with discussion; Dutch Art and Psychology.

The School runs from the afternoon of Monday 27 June to lunch on Thursday 30 June. Costs range from £320 for en suite accommodation with full board to £150 for attendance at the Summer School only. Some courses will incur extra payments.

Full details can be obtained from the Surrey Network website:

www.u3sites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork

CALLING THE CLASS OF 2015

If you joined Kingston U3A last year, look out for your invitation to a reunion with your fellow 2015 members. It will be held on Tuesday 5 April at the United Reformed Church in Kingston, the home of our regular Monthly Meetings.

Apart from giving you the opportunity of meeting fellow members, it will also enable you to meet some of Kingston U3A's committee members and allow them to learn of your impressions of the organisation.

Committee email Addresses

We have acquired smart new email addresses for the Committee to go with our website name:
www.kingstonu3a.org.uk

They are listed in this Newsletter and on the website and include:
chair@kingstonu3a.org.uk
secretary@kingstonu3a.org.uk
treasurer@kingstonu3a.org.uk

They work by diverting emails to the person's private email, so that when a new person takes over a position, we can edit the destination and keep the U3A email address. This has several advantages for us and has also been requested by U3A HQ at Bromley to ease their mass mailings to nearly 1,000 U3As around the UK.

Members who wish to receive the Newsletter by email will receive it from me:
databasemanager@kingstonu3a.org.uk,
so please put that address on your list of contacts so it will not be bounced as spam. It is also a good way to advise us of changes of address, alterations to your preferences on emails, and whether or not you require the U3A HQ magazine 'Third Age Matters'.

Linda Foreman

Pat Higgins, winner of our quiz, receives her prize



Ann Rice, who for many years organised the refreshments at our monthly meetings, receives a bouquet in appreciation of her work



Christmas Day at The Bishop Out of Residence proved a hit with members of Kingston U3A



OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

A Flight of Fancy

Once I held a tiger by the tail
With trembling hands and face so pale
The power, the beauty, the eyes of fire
I felt myself consumed with desire

Once I spied a butterfly
Its patterned wings caught my eye
It fluttered here, it fluttered there
Its destination ? I have no idea

Once I saw a bed of flowers
With bejewelled petals from recent
showers
Alluring perfume filled the air
Enchanted I could only stare

Once I beheld a mermaid on the rocks
With pretty face and golden locks
She shed her scales and then her tail
And walked towards me as I set sail

Once I saw a maiden dancing by
With laughing face and smiling eye
But who's her partner, so debonair
I know that face but I don't know from
where

Who is her partner who can it be
Well of course I know him for it is me

Robin Clarke

Date	Event
7 Mar	(Monthly Meeting) Speaker from the V & A to speak on silver
11 May	Tea at Warren House 3.00pm
10 and 16 Jun	River trips: starting at Kingston, lunch at Thames Ditton, then by boat from Windsor to Runnymede
14 Jul	Lunch at Warren House 12.30 for 1.00pm
6, 7 and 8 Sep	High-speed boat trips on the Thames
14 Sep	Walk, (one long, 5hrs+; one medium, 1hr+; and one short, 45mins) in Richmond Park
26 Oct	Kingston U3A fair at United Reformed Church – a day event to show Kingston what we are up to
5 Dec	Retrospective slide presentation of the year's events at the December monthly meeting
Date TBA	Kingston U3A Singers concert