



Notice of 2016 AGM

In accordance with the constitution of the U3A, notice is hereby given that the AGM of Kingston U3A will take place at the Mayo Hall, The United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston, KT1 1HZ at 1.30pm on Monday 7th November 2016.

Joy Garvey Secretary

Nomination of Committee Members

We welcome applications from current members interested in joining our active Executive Committee to help run our highly successful U3A. A form is available on our website www.kingstonu3a.org.uk, or you can just send the following information in writing:

Full name of Nominee, Proposer and Seconder with membership numbers and signatures of all three, to: Joy Garvey KU3A Secretary, 5, Dennan Road, Surbiton KT6 7RY, or hand it to a committee member by noon on Monday 24th October 2016.

Monthly Meetings

These are usually held on the first Monday of the month at the United Reformed 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
5th September	David Jones	How Tropical Rainforests Work. They are the most biologically diverse and complex habitats on the planet.
3rd October	Tracy Borman Joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces	The Real Wolf Hall – the life and death of Thomas Cromwell NOTE: This talk will begin at the specially early time of 1.30pm
7th November	Mike Harris	Christmas on the Home Front. With a selection of artefacts from World War 11, illustrating how we celebrated including typical cards, presents, decorations and recipes.

Advance notice for the December meeting – there will be a mix of old and new with entertainment from Rupert Matthews giving us a biography of Father Christmas, in costume.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME See page 2

Chairman's Remarks

These remarks are devoted to a very important appeal to our membership. It is of obvious importance that your management committee should be refreshed from time to time with new members. Our Treasurer has to retire in November when our next AGM is held. I am asking for a volunteer to step forward by then. Our present treasurer has put the system in good shape. The job consists of administering our subscriptions which amount to some £15,000. It needs no special skills. You will understand how important it is that this vacancy is filled. Please contact me and I will arrange for you to meet Martine who will explain everything to you.

Gisela who has dealt with our Group Activities for many years needs two helpers. Please step forward two helpers and contact Gisela.

Our membership is now over one thousand. In the circumstances I am sure I can rely on three persons from that number to answer this appeal.

Richard Hawkins

Membership Renewals

The green renewal form is enclosed for 2016-2017. Please fill in and post with a cheque right away, or bring to the next Monthly Meeting. This eases our

administrative task. Those who have not renewed by the next Newsletter have to be sent a reminder, and those not renewing by 31 December are assumed to be no longer with us in one way or another.

Your membership number is on the envelope, eg K4545.

There are now 80 members renewing by Standing Order, and they don't have to bother filling in forms every year and sending stamped addressed envelopes, because we send their membership cards with the Autumn Newsletter.

There were a few bank and admin errors and some members created their standing orders for dates other than 1 October, but we have learned and the process should run smoothly this year. If you wish to join the scheme please read the instructions on the green form, inform your bank, and send the form to Jane Hoyland to let us know.

Linda Foreman

database@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Open Day Showcase October 26th

The Mayor will open Kingston U3A's Open Day and Fair on October 26th in the Richard Mayo hall of the United Reformed Church. The day will run from 10 am to 4 pm and there will be performances by Singing for Fun in the morning and the U3A Singers at 2 pm and the Line Dancers during the day. Come at 10 am for the opening if you

want a piece of the special celebratory cake the Mayor will cut and then stay on to look at the stalls.

Open to the public, there will be stands showing the activities of the Art Groups, Women in History, Science and Philosophy, Family History, Poetry Groups, Book Clubs and many others. The Bridge and Scrabble Groups will be playing and the cycling group will be represented by at least one bike!

The hall will be open the previous afternoon and evening for groups to set up their displays. If you want any help with printing or reproducing photos, or the design of your display, please contact Diane Wilson or Martine Roscorla. Please tell friends and family about the day and encourage them to pop in.

Group News

POLISH

Barbara Ayres has kindly offered to set up a Polish Language Group.

Contact Barbara Ayre on 01372 464105 or kenayre@talktalk.net

SPANISH CONVERSATION

Carmen Lawrie has offered to run this new group.

Contact Carmen Lawrie 8390 3254 or carmen.lawrie@hotmail.co.uk

PIANO GROUP

This group would like more members, preferably Grade 11 standard. It meets monthly in central Kingston.

Contact Wendy Mullen on 8547 1404 or wham.mullen@gmail.com

MORE WALKS

Ireni Esler has offered to lead walks on the first Monday in the month at 10.00am.

Contact Ireni Esler on 8390 0581 or ireni.esler@gmail.com

OCCASIONAL WALKS

Jeanette Hobson has offered to lead occasional walks.

Contact Jeanette Hobson on 07759 837053 or jeanetteeh1@virginmedia.com

PLAY READING

This new group has started with Frances Leifer as leader. However, there is a waiting list of 7 people. Would anyone volunteer to host a second group on a different day. This should not be difficult.

Contact Shirley Miller on 8940 8573 or groupcoordinator@kingstonU3A.org.uk

ART GROUP 2

There are 9 people on a waiting list for this group. If we can recruit 6 more people we can start another group. We have a teacher and a venue but need the extra people.

Contact Carolyn Forsyth on 82355 1746 or caro15@blueyonder.co.uk

MORE GROUP LEADERS

We are delighted with all these offers, some from very new members but would still like more Group Leaders, especially for languages, e.g. French and Portuguese.

Anyone with offers of help should contact Shirley Miller on 8940 8573 or Shirley.miller4@btinternet.com.

Transports of Delight Around London by road, rail, river and air

**Wednesday 12th October and
Tuesday 18th October**

U3A members Sheila Evans and Claire Bletcher will be leading the round trip from Waterloo to the O2 Arena by bus, DLR, cable car and Riverbus on 12th and 18th October. We will travel by public transport, but the cable car and riverboat cost about £3.50 each with an Oystercard/Freedom Pass, and a bit more without.

We go by bus to the Tower of London where we visit the Timeline and Sundial before having a coffee break at the Minorities pub. We then take the DLR to Royal Victoria, and go via the cable car to the O2 Arena, where we stop for lunch in whichever of the 30 or so eateries takes your fancy. After lunch (and an optional visit to the free Sky Studios), we take the Riverbus for the return 40 minute journey back to Waterloo.

There are steps from Waterloo station to the York Road bus stop at the beginning and end of our trip and steps up to the Timeline, but the rest of the journey is on the flat or has escalators/lifts.

To reserve your place on one of these trips, please complete the Booking Form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Date: Wednesday 12th October or
Tuesday 18th October.

Meeting place: Opposite platform 1,
Waterloo station, at 10.15 am

Cost: Free, but 50p contribution
collected on the day.

Pay as you go for coffee, lunch, cable car and riverbus.

Duration: Walk ends between 3.30 and 4 pm back at Waterloo station.

Please complete the enclosed booking form, and send it to Claire Bletcher, 17, Lower Green Road, Esher, KT10 8HE.

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

Richmond Park Walks

Wednesday 14th September

As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations we have organised three walks, of different lengths, in Richmond Park. They all take place on Wednesday 14 September starting from Kingston Gate.

The longest walk, of about 6.7 miles starts at 9.30am with stopovers at Roehampton Café and, perhaps, Pembroke Lodge. You can bring your own lunch and drinks or buy what you want from the cafés we will be stopping at.

If a long walk does not appeal, you could opt for a medium length walk which will take about 1½ hours, probably through the Isabella Plantation to the Pen Ponds and back via Ham Cross. This also starts at 9.30 am.

The third option is a short walk from Kingston Gate to Pembroke Lodge and back. This will start at 10.30 am.

Date: Wednesday 14 September

Where: Kingston Gate of Richmond Park

Time: 9.30 am for the long and medium walks and 10.30 am for the short walk

British Museum and the Sunken Cities Exhibition

Wednesday 9th November

A day at the British Museum combining a visit to the exhibition *Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds*, plus a Blue-Badge-guided galleries tour (*Lost & Found*) highlighting little known treasures of the Museum's collection.

We meet our BB Guide in the Museum's Great Court, and after a brief introduction, we will be divided into two groups. One group will visit **Sunken Cities** and the other will enjoy the **Lost & Found** tour. After lunch, the groups swap activities. The rest of the day is free for you to do as you wish, before you make your own way back home. The Museum closes at 5.30 pm.

Sunken cities Over 1,200 years ago, two cities sank into the Nile Delta. Now, thanks to an amazing underwater excavation, we have the chance to get up close with some remarkable artefacts. The exhibition opens with a stunning 5m tall statue of the river god Hapi, and it doesn't let up from there. Each item includes a picture of it in situ on the sea bed, with divers next to it.



Lost & found From the Great Court at the heart of the greatest museum in the world we slip away from the crowds. Without walking you too far, our BB

Guide will take us to discover some of the lesser known treasures of the collection. The tour lasts just over an hour, and is light on the feet but very rich on the senses. Each gallery has some seating for those who would like to rest.

Date: Wednesday 9 November 2016

Meeting point: Opposite Platform 1, Waterloo Station, 10.15 am for onward travel to the Museum by bus; however, you may prefer to make your own way to the BM, in which case you should meet us in the Great Court of British Museum (near Ticket Office) at 11.00 am.

Cost: £30 per person, to include admission to *Sunken Cities*, BB guided tour (*Lost & Found*) and tip for guide. Refreshments and lunch are not included in the price; the day's schedule includes a break for lunch, and a comfort stop between meeting our guide and the first activity.

To reserve a place, please complete the enclosed booking form, and send it, together with your cheque for £30 per person made payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) to Stewart Keating, 17 Herne Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5BX
Phone: 020 8397 5561
email keating2610@gmail.com).

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

What A Swell Party This Is

Saturday, 3rd December 2016

We have celebrated our 25th anniversary in various ways: walks, boat trips, afternoon tea and even a talk on 'silver'. Why not finish this special celebratory year with a

delicious Christmas lunch at The Mill at Sonning and then enjoy Cole Porter's classic, feel-good musical 'High Society' in the adjacent theatre. A Christmas extravaganza not to be missed!

We aim to arrive at Sonning by coach at 11.45 am A typical Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings and coffee will be served between 12.15 - 2.00 pm. There are vegetarian, gluten-free and lactose-free options available. The show starts at 2.15 pm and finishes at approx. 4.30/4.45 pm. Humming all those familiar tunes, traffic permitting, we should reach Kingston again by 6.30/7.00 pm.

Date: Saturday, 3rd December 2016

Boarding time/place:

9.45 am at Kingston, High Street, opposite The Rose Theatre
10.00 am at Surbiton, Ewell Road, Bus stop 'Telephone Exchange'

Cost: £ 59.00 – this includes Christmas lunch with coffee, show, transport and gratuities.

If you would like to join the party, please fill in the attached application form and send it with your cheque for £59.00 - payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) - to:

Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton, KT5 8HT.

Phone: 020 8399 4990

If you do not give an e-mail address please also send a stamped addressed envelope.

River Douro Cruise

8 - day cruise – 14th - 21st June 2017

In a sun-drenched corner of Europe the Douro has created a spectacular valley as it wends its way from Spain across Portugal to meet the Atlantic Ocean. It is

here in the colourful city of Porto that we join our ship and set off through miles and miles of rural scenery swathed with endless rows of neatly terraced vineyards and clusters of almond and olive trees, with tiny villages dotted here and there along the steep slopes.

On reaching Spain we turn our course back to Porto to explore the place that gave Portugal – and port wine – its very name. With sightseeing opportunities each day and the chance to experience local traditions aboard our ship, it is a summertime cruise that will lull you into the relaxing rhythm of the Douro, the river of gold.

Day 1: We fly from Gatwick to Porto and are transferred to Vila Nova de Gaia where we board our ship.

Day 2: We sail from Vila Nova de Gaia to Pinhão and in the afternoon pay an optional visit (€38.00) to Lamega, an elegant city filled with Renaissance and baroque mansions. We return to the ship and in the evening undertake another optional excursion (€48.00) to the little village of Favaio, at Quinta Aversada, where we enjoy wine tasting and dinner with live entertainment.



Day 3: After a leisurely morning there is an optional visit (€35.00) to Castelo Rodrigo which ranks among 12 historic villages in Portugal and has landmark status. Here you can admire the

medieval treasures and panoramic views. This evening the captain joins us for dinner.

Day 4: We sail from Vega de Terrón to Barca d'Alva and pay an optional visit (€85.00) to the Spanish city of Salamanca where you can enjoy lunch and a flamenco show. A traditional barbecue on board is planned for this evening.



Day 5: We relax on board this morning while sailing to Cais Espinho where we pay an optional afternoon visit (€50.00) to the Quinta do Seixo winery and the Mateus Castle and garden near Vila Real before joining the ship again in Régua. A folk show takes place this evening.

Day 6: In Régua we have an optional visit (€20.00) to the Douro Museum, a fantastic representation of the history of the Douro wine region, the first protected wine growing region on earth. In the evening we enjoy a sunset harbour cruise with traditional fado music on board our ship.

Day 7: Our optional excursion (€45.00) this morning explores Porto's secrets, leading you from the historic square to the waterfront and then to a local port winery for a tour and tasting. In the afternoon we have the option (€41.00) to explore Guimaraes, culture city of Europa in 2012 and often referred to

as Portugal's birthplace with its medieval houses and an old castle complex set against the deep green hills surrounding the Pena Palace.

Day 8: After breakfast we say goodbye to the team on board our ship and head to the airport for our return flight to London and coach transfer to our original pick-up points.

Our ship: Douro Sprit is a new 4* vessel of modern design with a lift between the lower and upper deck. All standard cabins have floor to ceiling French balconies, en suite shower, air conditioning, hairdryer, safe and TV. From the sun deck and the lounge bar you can enjoy a drink and the splendid scenery passing by. The restaurant serves delicious international cuisine as well as special diets - (vegetarian, gluten-free etc.). There is also a 24-hour self service station for tea and coffee.

Dates: Wednesday, 14th –
Wednesday, 21st June 2017

Cost: £1,519.00 pp sharing a Middle
Standard 2-berth cabin

£1,719.00 pp sharing an Upper
Standard 2-berth cabin

These prices include coach transfer to and from the airport and ship, full board, entertainment and English-speaking tour guide on board.

Single occupancy is available at 50% extra cost, although the tour operator has promised to negotiate a better deal with the ship company. Unfortunately at the time of going to press this has not yet been finalised.

A special pre-book package price for all the optional excursions is available at £ 230.00. Individual excursions are

bookable once on board but are subject to availability.

Deposit: £275.00 pp payable when booking

Insurance: £39.50 available through The River Cruise Line

For a detailed booking form please complete the attached application form and send it together with a stamped addressed envelope – not too small please- to:

Gisela Zürcher-Feiß. 37, The Byeways,
Surbiton KT5 8HT
Phone: 020 8399 4990

The Beautiful Lake District

17th – 21st September 2017

Day 1: We board our Executive coach at the four pick-up points in the Kingston area and make our journey north for our lunch stop at Moseley Old Hall (NT) – an atmospheric Elizabethan farmhouse that saved a King. Find out about the dramatic story of King Charles II hiding from Cromwell's troops after he fled the Battle of Worcester in 1651. After lunch we continue to Cumbria where we check into our 3* AA Cumbria Grand Hotel at Grange over Sands for four nights on half-board basis.

Day 2: Today is dedicated to a guided tour of the stunning Lake District. We will visit many areas of outstanding beauty and small villages, steeped in character and history: Hawkshead and Beatrix Potter Gallery (NT) and Hilltop (NT), Beatrix Potter's 17th century farmhouse, Grasmere and 400 year

old Dove Cottage, once home of the famous poet William Wordsworth.

Day 3: This morning we will board the Windermere Lake Cruise for a 40 minute cruise to Bowness. After lunch we visit Holker Hall & Gardens, the family home of Lord and Lady Cavendish. This is a delightful family home with fine displays of antique furniture and art.



Day 4: Today we start by visiting Kendal with its many historical buildings, castles, bridges and a street market on a Wednesday. In the afternoon we visit Sizergh Castle and Gardens (NT).

Day 5: This morning we check out of the hotel and on our way home we stop at Leighton Hall. Stepping inside this house is like taking a step back in time, but it still retains the atmosphere of a family home. An enthusiastic guide will reveal the Gillow Reynolds' family history and habits. Each room from the Gothic Hall to the principle bedroom and the charming library has some interesting secret to reveal or tale to tell. Why is there a lock of James II's hair in the Drawing room, and why is the table in the hall shaped like a daisy? A light lunch is included here before we retrace our steps homeward.

Date: 17th – 21st September 2017

Boarding:

- 8.30 am. – Kingston, High Street, opposite The Rose Theatre
- 8.40 am. – Surbiton, outside Coronation Hall Pub
- 8.50 am. – Surbiton, Ewell Road, Bus stop 'Telephone Exchange'
- 9.00 am. – Tolworth – Bus stop 'J Princes Avenue' – outside 'Our Lady Immaculate'

Cost: £499.00 pp Half-board, sharing a twin/double bedroom

Included: All entrance fees (except to NT properties) plus 1 light lunch on day 5

Single room Supplement: £39.00 (4 nights)

Deposit: £85.00 pp (non-refundable)
Balance due by 04.08.2017

Travel Insurance: £30.00 (No upper age limit - conditions apply)
For a detailed booking form please complete the attached application form and send it together with a stamped addressed envelope – not too small, please – to Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT – Phone 020 8399 4990

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

**Our Holiday In North
Yorkshire**

On April 24th 37 of our members set off for Skipton and a return to winter!

We enjoyed a comfortable coach journey, with hot and cold drinks served in transit, and an interesting lunch stop at Calke Abbey – a largely

un-restored house crammed with the eccentric collections of previous owners.

Our base for the week was the welcoming Rendezvous Hotel outside Skipton, next to the Leeds-Liverpool canal, and with a pleasant view of the Dales from the dining room.

On our first full day, Monday, we relaxed on a short narrow-boat trip to the centre of the attractive town where our guide led us to Skipton Castle. There we discovered the fascinating history of the Clifford family's medieval stronghold. The afternoon was taken up with a drive through lovely scenery to Howarth and the Bronte Parsonage. We got a very strong impression of how cold and bleak it must have been in the winter but the house itself was cosy, with an excellent collection in the museum giving a unique insight into the lives and interests of the Bronte family.



Ripley Castle

Tuesday dawned cold and wintry but we were soon to get used to this weather as we headed to Ripley Castle.

This was a wonderful place, continuously occupied by the Ingilby family for 700 years and sitting in the centre of a French-inspired model village. Lunch was taken in Harrogate, with pubs and cafes offering a welcome shelter from the hail and sleet, then on to RHS Harlow Carr. There was much to explore there but the weather drove many of us to spend most of our time in Betty's tearoom!



Wednesday was given over to a whole day in York. Luckily the weather held for the two hour guided walking tour of this beautiful city, and we discovered many sites and buildings that we might not have found without our guides – notably the Assembly Rooms, now an Italian Restaurant, and the roman walls and ruined Abbey. As the hail began to pelt down we once again found shelter in restaurants and cafes.

By Thursday the tops of the Dales were snow covered and looking very beautiful as we drove to Settle to join the train to Appleby. Settle station itself was worth the visit and the hour long journey took us through the remote Dales and over the Ribbleshead viaduct. The scenery was awe-inspiring in the rare sunshine, with the snow glistening on the summits

of the Three Peaks. Our coach met us at Appleby, a pretty little town, and we drove on to Hawes, through the picturesque "hidden valley" of the river Eden. Our coach driver was extremely skilful in negotiating the winding roads and narrow bridges and David, our guide, was very entertaining and also an expert on sheep breeds. He gave us many interesting facts about the geology of the area, dry stone walling and barn repair. Should we wish to become sheep farmers I think we now have all the information we need.

Lunch was taken at the Wensleydale Creamery and the coach was well stocked with cheese on our return journey, with a stop for a delicious cream tea in the attractive village of Grassington. We might have spent more time exploring there but the weather had closed in again, so it was off to the hotel and a welcome final supper.

We were sorry to leave the beauty of the Dales but our final treat was to be the lunch stop on our way home – the magnificent Chatsworth House. We had enough time to explore the impressive state rooms and admire the collections of porcelain and sculptures before the last leg of our drive back to Kingston. The whole week was a wonderful chance to experience a different part of England and to see it in all weathers. It certainly made me appreciate how tough the sheep and the farmers have to be to survive in the Dales and opened my eyes to new and interesting attractions.

Many thanks to Stewart for organising a most enjoyable holiday.

Uaire Biecher

MOTO Celebrates Silver Anniversary

The three MOTO (Members On Their Own) groups joined together for a silver themed lunch to celebrate Kingston U3A's twenty-fifth anniversary. A small planning group co-ordinated the event, which was hosted by kind invitation of Mary Tucker, leader of MOTO 2.

Silver clothes, a tiara and a silver wig complemented the silver serving dishes and napkins. Silver themed food included silver-topped meringues, chicken drum sticks in silver foil and a silver decorated cake. Starting with a fruit punch and nibbles, members moved into the garden for a group photo.

They then tackled a wonderful spread. This had contributions from everybody,



including two Japanese specialities, various salads, quiches, coronation chicken, cheeses, sandwiches and eggs.

Puddings followed and then everyone tackled a quiz set by Dizz Sagar, the winners receiving a U3A notebook each. The cake was cut and members enjoyed tea and coffee before a willing gang set about the clearing up.



Cycle Group

Following a ride around Bushy Park, members of our Cycle Group, led by Pamela and Stuart Crisp, crossed the Thames via Hampton Ferry before making their way – on two wheels of course – to 'Thyme by the River' at East Molesey. Then it was time for a coffee break.



Choir

Financially self-supporting, the Kingston U3A Singers (the Choir) recently held their AGM and heard from their treasurer that there is a small surplus after putting on two concerts this year. Expenses include the hire of rehearsal and concert hall and the services of the conductor, Glyn Harvey. Income is from subscriptions and concert tickets. Chaired firmly by Val Meredith, there was spirited discussion about attendance, timekeeping, remuneration levels, repertoire and membership. The group is planning to perform at the October Open Day in October and hopes to recruit more singers. There is



no audition and all voices are welcome. There is an informal buffet in the New Year preceded by entertainments from members. Member David Barker agreed to take rehearsals if Glyn is ever away, but was very firm that these would not be "sing songs".