



Chairman's Remarks

As our membership has increased, the URC hall has come under pressure from the numbers attending. Other possible meeting places are either inconveniently sited or very expensive. Hence your committee has decided, from the June meeting, to restrict attendance to members of KU3A. This will involve you bringing your current membership card if you wish to attend.

As is mentioned elsewhere, we propose to put to the AGM in November a new model constitution as recommended. This is so that we retain our charitable status with the various advantages that gives us. The differences are comparatively minor. From the June monthly meeting a few copies of both the existing & the proposed constitution, together with an explanatory note will be available for those interested.

I wish you all a pleasant summer

Richard Hawkins

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
May 8 th (May 1 is a Bank Holiday)	Jonathan Fryer	The Life of a Foreign Correspondent Jonathan was a Reuters international press officer.
June 5 th	Major Lucy Smith and Staff Sergeant Anthony Burrell	Your Army This will be illustrated with film.
July 3 rd	Commander Peter Swan	Life on the Royal Yacht Britannia Peter was unavoidably unable to be with us in February.
August 7 th	Ian Currie	Droughts, deluges and dust devils Ian is an experienced author and BBC broadcaster with a special interest in the weather of the South East of England.

Group News

KINGSTON U3A SINGERS

Do you enjoy singing? Enjoy it more with the Kingston U3A Singers. We are looking to expand our numbers in all voice ranges, especially in the Alto and Tenor sections. The group meets on Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30 a.m. in the Shiraz Community Hall in Malden Manor Park. This park is near the A3 New Malden roundabout and has a large car park. The 213 bus stops outside.

Come along to meet us and make new friends. There is no formal audition and you do not have to be able to read music, just come along for a month to see if you would like to join. The work varies from Classical through to Folk music and is mostly sung in parts. The cost is £40.00 per quarter and the music is provided.

If you would like to come along and join in to see what it is all about, please contact any member of the singers or: Helga Randall: 8397 8712.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

BRIDGE FOR IMPROVERS

Christine Thompson has kindly agreed to start this new group. It will meet weekly in the Surbiton area. Please contact: Christine Thompson 0203 583 0638 or chris.cpt@tiscali.co.uk



CROCHET

Anyone interested in joining a crochet group, please contact: Sue Murray: 8977 6468 or johnmurray@btinternet.com



HERITAGE RAILWAYS

For information on setting up this possible new group please contact: Ken Frost: 8977 8976

NEW BOOK GROUP

Chris Cheek has kindly offered to set up another book group, which will meet in the New Malden area. For details please contact Chris Cheek: 07770 830083 or chris@cheekconsult.com

Further offers of new groups would be welcome; Please contact: Shirley Miller: 8940 8573 or shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

CONSTITUTION

We now have an updated draft Constitution to put before the membership at the next AGM in November 2017. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, it is 15 years since the Constitution was last revised. We have been advised by the Charity Commission and U3A National Office that our Objects and a few other items need updating.

All members who wish can have a look at both the old and new constitutions, but we do not want to overwhelm members not needing it with all the 11 pages of each. The current 2002 Constitution is available on our website

in the Archives section, and the revised draft will be available there shortly. I will send the revised draft to anyone who asks me. More information in the Autumn Newsletter.

In the meantime, the main changes are:

- A change to the Charitable Purposes (previously known as Objects) to make it clear we are an educational charity. This does not stop us organising social activities but these are not main purposes. In any case, many of our social activities have an educational aspect recognised by the Charity Commission, eg visits to galleries and performances, and physical activities of various kinds.
- Clarification of the number of Committee Members: not less than 5 and not more than 12 elected at the AGM (Annual General Meeting). The Executive Committee may, in addition, appoint not more than 2 co-opted members to have tenure until the next AGM.
- Tidying up references to obsolete laws and mentioning electronic communications. Rest assured we will continue to print the quarterly Newsletter for all who want this.

COMMUNICATIONS

We are delighted to welcome Susan Hinchliffe as our Communications Officer.

She will be circulating Bulletins by email between the quarterly printed Newsletters. These are for items and activities brought to our attention too late for printing, including opportunities from U3A HQ, U3A London Region and universities.

Please send any contributions for June's news bulletin to Susan at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by the end of May.

If you have not received the first 2 Bulletins recently, it means we do not have a working email address for you or you have indicated that you do not want circulars. Please let me know if your email or preferences change.

Linda Foreman

databasemanager@kingstonU3a.org.uk
8390 0109

A Walk Between Pimlico and Lambeth

Thursday 22nd June
Wednesday 28th June and
Tuesday 4th July 2017

The walk will start from Pimlico Station taking in parts of Cubitt's 19th Century estate, Tate Britain, MI5, the Doulton Pottery and finishing near Westminster Bridge. Large parts of this walk will be either close to or alongside the River Thames.

Although close to the heart of London, and with quite a number of well known buildings, this walk will nevertheless take the participants to some less well known areas. Topics will include history, geography, architecture, sculpture and even the colour of bridges over the Thames. The walk will be led by John King.

Dates: Thursday, 22nd June,
Wednesday, 28th June and
Tuesday, 4th July 2017

Meeting Time/Point: 10.15 a.m.
outside Vauxhall Mainline Station, at
the top of the stairs leading down to the
Underground Station

Cost: 50p Admin. fee payable on the
day

If you would like to join this walk please
complete the enclosed application form
(one application form per household or
individual, please) and send it to:

John King, 64, Alric Avenue, New
Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW

Tel. No.: 020 8949 7427

**If you do not give an e-mail address
please include a stamped addressed
envelope with your application.**

**Enjoy a Step Back in Time
in the
Sambourne Family Home**

Monday 10th July 2017

Between 1875 and 1910, 18 Stafford
Terrace, Kensington was home to the
Punch cartoonist Edward Linley
Sambourne, his wife Marion, their two
children and their live-in servants.

Originally decorated by the
Sambournes in keeping with
fashionable Aesthetic principles, the
interiors evolved into wonderfully



eclectic artistic statements, created
within the confines of a typically middle-
class home. Preserved almost entirely
intact, 18 Stafford Terrace is a unique
and exceptional resource, giving an
insight into the lives and the worlds of
art and journalism in late Victorian
times and beyond.

We start our guided tour with a 10-
minute introductory video before
following the guide around the house.
There are quite a number of stairs to
climb from the basement to the 4th
floor. The stairs are carpeted and there
are hand rails but if you need a walking
stick you may find them difficult. The
whole tour lasts approx. 1½ hours.
There is no café on site but there are
plenty in nearby High Street
Kensington.

Date: Monday, 10th July 2017 – 11.00
a.m. or 2.00 p.m.

Cost: £ 11.30

Meeting Time/Point: 10.15 a.m. or
1.15 p.m. - Wimbledon, at the bottom
of the stairs to the Underground. We
shall take the District Line to High
Street Kensington and walk
approximately 10 minutes to the house.

If you would like to join this visit please
complete the attached application form
and send it, together with your cheque
for £ 11.30 payable to Kingston U3A
(GAS) to:

Gisela Zürcher-Feiss, 37, The
Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT
Tel. No.: 020 83994990

**If you do not give an e-mail address
please include a stamped addressed
envelope with your application.**

The Ashdown Forest Explorer

Friday 8th September 2017

Join us for a gentle and entertaining day visiting beautiful places with minimal walking. This enjoyable day includes morning coffee, one-course lunch at Heaven Farm, and a guided tour and cream tea in a beautiful country house. We will meet our Blue Badge guide at Heaven Farm near Uckfield at 10.30am for morning coffee and biscuits and then set off on our Ashdown Forest Explorer coach tour.

Ancient forest once covered much of England but in Sussex the mighty oaks were felled for the iron industry, leaving the wild heaths and moors that we see today. On our tour we will pass through the ancient market town of East Grinstead, home of pioneering 1940's plastic surgeon Archie McIndoe and his Guinea Pig Club, see the longest row of mediaeval houses in the country and drive through Winnie the Pooh country before heading back to Heaven Farm for lunch. The lunch will be Steak and Mushroom pie, with an alternative for vegetarians or those with special dietary needs. Drinks may be purchased separately.



Fully refreshed, we visit Saint Hill Manor, a beautiful 18th century country

house. This is far more intimate than a stately home tour and there are no roped-off areas. A succession of distinguished and eclectic owners, including the Maharajah of Jaipur and the science fiction writer and founder of Scientology, L Ron Hubbard, have left their stamp on this interesting house. Cream Tea is then served on English Rose porcelain before we leave for home at 4.30pm.

Date: Friday 8th September

Boarding Time/Point:

- a) 09.05 High Street, Kingston – opposite the Rose Theatre
- b) 09.15 Ewell Road, Surbiton, bus stop “ Telephone Exchange”

Price: £42.81 per person including coach, guide, tips, morning coffee, one course lunch (excluding drinks), and cream tea.

If you would like to join this outing please complete the enclosed application form (one for each household or individual) and send it, together with your cheque for £42.81/£85.62 payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) to Barbara Leach, 10, Seymour Gardens, Surbiton, KT5 8QE 020 8390 7738.

If you do not give an e-mail address please include a stamped addressed envelope with your application.

The Class of 2016

An afternoon party was held on March 22nd to bring together the “Class of 2016”, i.e. all the new members who joined last year. Drinks, cakes and

sandwiches were provided and over 50 members sat at small tables with members of the committee and heard an opening address by Kevin Breach. He drew members' attention to the website, to opportunities for Shared Learning Projects, Study Days and Summer Schools. Questionnaires were given out asking for members to say what they had taken part in, enjoyed or found wanting. Several offers to help with groups or the organisation were recorded and the committee will be following these up. Complaints were few and mostly focussed on finding groups full. The committee will also be seeing what can be done about this.

In all over twenty groups or activities had been sampled or joined and monthly meetings were appreciated. Trips and outings were also mentioned favourably.

Asked if their expectations had been met, most replied that either it was too early to tell or, very enthusiastically, that they had been. Only one said "No"! There were lots of compliments, mentioning friendliness, and interesting, fun and educational experiences. The number of groups and the general organisation was appreciated.

This is the second such gathering and will be repeated next Spring for the "Class of 2017".

Dick Jahn's 90th Birthday

The Walking Group decided to make their refreshment break into a little party when they discovered that 15th March was Dick's actual birthday. A small side area of the Tiltyard Cafe at Hampton Court was reserved, the weather was

beautiful, and there was a good turn out. However, when it came to lighting the candles on the cake, only 9, the smoke alarms went off. There was a total evacuation of the restaurant and kitchens, even when they discovered what the cause was. It apparently happens frequently, but is usually caused by the kitchen. This time it was because of the low ceiling in the area we were using and very sensitive smoke alarms. The group picked up their drinks, the cake and snacks, moved to the outside tables and carried on with the party. It was therefore a memorable, if not slightly embarrassing way to celebrate Dick's landmark day. He has been a member of Kingston U3A since the beginning, and been involved in many groups and administration.



This photo was taken just seconds away from the alarms going off, and the candles being blown out!

*Shirley
Bolton*

Signing Up For Events

If you have missed out on a place at some of the events that we've publicised in this newsletter or the bulletin we send out, you might want to ensure that you can find out about them at an earlier date. Here are some ways in which you can do this:

- Go to the main U3A website at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/> and create an account so that you can get into the members' area. This gives you access to the Events and Offers for Members pages.
- You can find out about more local events on the SE Region's website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/south-east/events> and on our own Kingston U3A website at <http://www.kingstonu3a.org.uk/events/>.
- Visit Kingston University's Events page at <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/> which gives details of forthcoming events. You can join the mailing list at <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/enquiries/219/events-mailing-list/> to get early notification of their events. Keep your eye on the website <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> which lists all kinds of events and gives access to booking tickets.

We'll continue to let you know about events through this newsletter and the bulletin but as we publish these on a monthly basis only, keeping an eye on things yourself means that you won't miss out on those interesting seminars, exhibitions and visits.

On Not Hearing the First Cuckoo

Our thanks go to Pamela and Stewart Crisp, doyenne and doyen of Kingston U3A 'Silver Tops' Cycling Tours.

A ride the group did in March recently was a magical encounter with the

wonders of the East Sussex woodland countryside as we cycled the Cuckoo Trail. Following a former railway line (opened in 1880) that fell victim to Dr Beeching's merciless axe, the trail was all ours to enjoy.

Laid out like a north-south causeway, the woodland trail, carpeted with anemones and celandine, drew us mystically on our northbound journey from Polegate to Heathfield, passing sculptures, pastures, a renovated railway station and old bridges along the way.



Pamela Crisp and Sheila enjoying the woodland

It would have been even more special had the bluebells been in flower but we were a bit too early. While always accompanied by the twittering of woodland birds, unfortunately we were not to hear the cuckoo. Again, we were a bit too early for our spring-time visitor.

Out and back to Polegate station was 22.5 miles of leisurely cycling with the occasional gentle gradient. It was car-free and we shared the trail with only a few cyclists, horse riders and dog walkers.

Richard and Sheila, members of Kingston U3A Cycling Group

A View of the Poet

It was a dark Sunday evening in February, pouring with rain, and the urge to stay indoors and curl up with the papers and TV seemed just right. But four of us from Poetry Group 3 had bought tickets to hear the poet Lemn Sissay tell his life story at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond so we braved the elements.

Born to a single mother, she arranged for baby Lemn to be fostered while she finished her medical degree. But instead he was handed over to a pair of strictly religious foster parents with the assurance they should treat it as an adoption. He was named Norman Greenwood and accepted them, and their three children, who came later, as his family. When his birth mother tried to reclaim him the following year, she was told he had been adopted.

But when he was 12 his 'parents' decided they didn't want him any more and simply handed the boy back to social services. He had no contact with the mother, father, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and grandparents he thought were his from that day on. But he learnt one thing: as they drove to the first home (he was moved between four different ones over the next four years) - he was handed a form that showed that his real name was Lemn Sissay and that he was Ethiopian.

Telling his story (the first part about growing up in care was commissioned as a play by the BBC; the second part a documentary written for the BBC describing how he traced his real parents), it was hard to link this lovely man with the amazing gift for words and the huge smile to the traumatized child who for years knew no-one who had known him for longer than one year.

Yet the fairy-tale element is that from childhood Sissay knew he was going to be a poet. He published his first book of poems when he was 17, paying a local firm to print a thousand copies and selling it door to door to the miners and mill workers of Wigan, his home town.



Since then he has been the official poet of the 2012 Olympics, performed to thousands of football fans at the FA Cup final, had his poem Listening Post commissioned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and had his words sculpted in granite and set in concrete.

In 2015 he was elected Chancellor of Manchester University for a seven-year term.

The sold-out audience at the Orange Tree gave him a standing ovation at the end, acknowledging not just his poetry - which is wonderfully accessible - but also his radiant goodwill and humanity.

Afterwards, we were rather reluctant to let him go so he asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. There was the usual silence and shuffling of feet, then a girl at the back put up her hand. Can I marry you?" she asked.

Even The Poet was lost for words.