



Report of Chairman 2016/2017

This is my third and final annual report as Chairman of Kingston U3A. After concluding our successful celebration of our 25th anniversary last year we started the year by searching for a replacement treasurer. This proved difficult but our secretary stepped forward. We are grateful to Joy Garvey. A new committee member, Frances Moody, has helped Joy with the secretarial work. It is proposed that Joy sticks only to the job of treasurer next year. Jane Hoyland has continued her very efficient work as membership secretary.

The experience of attempting to find a new treasurer emphasised to me how important it was for the continued health, and indeed existence, of KU3A for the Executive Committee to be renewed from time to time with new members full of fresh ideas. I have attempted to spread the word during my final year as Chairman. If Elinor and I are re-elected to the committee at the AGM we will resign from the committee next year.

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Monthly Meetings

Open to Members only, 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 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 4 th December | Roger Hind | A Christmas Sentimental Musical Journey plus festive refreshments |
| 8 th January | | Quiz set by last year's winners |
| 5 th February | Deirdre Sanders | One thing Led to Another (the agony aunt of The Sun) |
| 5 th March | Bernard Lockett | Social and Political Satire in Gilbert and Sullivan |

Our membership continues to grow. A series of New Members Meetings have been held. Lesley Hodges, who has looked after the new members, retires from the committee. We thank her for all her work. We have also held a meeting after one year of membership so the committee can hear how things have gone for the new members. This seems a good innovation, thanks to Elinor.

The monthly meetings have been well attended. Elinor has provided us with a great variety of speakers, each seemingly more interesting than the last. Ireni Esler, a new committee member, has helped Elinor with this work. Ireni has also attended various meetings on our behalf.

The newsletter continues to improve and provides full information on our activities. The monthly e-mail with news between the issuing of the newsletters has settled in well. Many thanks to all

those involved in keeping us up-to-date with our activities.

You can see in each newsletter the results of Shirley Miller, Group Coordinator, and her team's hard work.

The Web Site is another source of information. Diane Wilson continues to make the appropriate entries.

The General Activities section has been very active this year. The events have been over subscribed. Day trips & interesting holidays in the UK and abroad have been arranged. Many thanks to Gisela Zuercher-Feiss and her team for all the work this involves.

Linda Foreman has continued to maintain the database of members. She has also taken an interest in our constitution. The result of her work is the proposed new constitution. This is a model constitution recommended by the Third Age Trust.



Kingston was awarded a certificate celebrating our 25th anniversary at the recent U3A national conference. Photo shows our two delegates, Elinor Parker (holding certificate) and Ireni Esler on stage at the conference with representatives of other similarly celebrating groups.

Report of Chairman 2016/2017 cont.

Linda has given both our present constitution (dating from 2002) and the model constitution a very careful examination. The differences are limited but important. Our present constitution sets out the objects of our U3A which are to advance education and the provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities. The model constitution restricts this to education. This is because the Charity Commission will not allow any broader purposes. It is necessary that we be classified as a charity to be a U3A which provides obvious advantages to us in any event. Education should be construed in a very broad sense and implementing the new constitution will in no way interfere with the recreational activities we presently carry out. There is also an inconsistency in our present constitution. At one stage it refers to the executive committee having 12 members and at another point 13. Finally, the new constitution introduces time limits for members of the committee. (3 years for Chair and Secretary and 6 years for the Treasurer and a maximum of 6 years for all the committee). In the present constitution it is only the Chair/Chairman who has a time limit (3 years).

In past years we have held an annual lunch for the group leaders. The numbers have gradually reduced over the years. This year there was a very poor attendance. We are cancelling it for a year in the hope of instilling new life into it. Any thoughts about a new format would be welcome as I know there are some who enjoy the contact very much.

Elinor and Ireni attended the annual meeting of the Third Age Trust at Nottingham in August and came back

full of new ideas. Whilst there they were presented with a certificate to mark our 25 years of existence.

I conclude this review by thanking the committee and the members for giving me such support during my three years as chairman. I have found it very interesting and look forward to the continued success of KU3A.

Richard Hawkins

Group News

GROUP LEADERS' LUNCH

Last year only 50% of those invited to the lunch replied to the invitation. It has therefore been decided not to organise a lunch this year.

SINGING FOR FUN

This choir is giving an informal concert on Friday 15th December, in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church, at 10.45am for an 11.00am start. All welcome.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

DISCUSSION GROUP

A light-hearted discussion group based on the TV Frank Skinner Show,

Room 101. Each member would be given 2-3 minutes to say what annoys them about modern day life, and a group discussion would follow. Finally, there would be a vote as to which 'Grump' should go into the bin.

Monthly, Wednesday p.m. North Kingston area.

If interested please contact: Jacqui Hine: 8549 1924 or jacquihine@yahoo.co.uk

SCRABBLE 3



Theresa Cato has set up a new scrabble group in New Malden.

There is room for a few more

people. Please contact Theresa: theresacato@me.com or 8942 9548

MORSE CODE

We have had an exciting offer from a Licensed Radio Amateur (GOBQV) to run a group for us in The Tolworth area. Explore learning morse code to exercise your brain. Can you hear the difference between a dot and a dash? Have you any stories about morse to tell us? Have a go at "sending" morse and crack the code!

If interested please contact Mary Ashdown: 8330 6790 or m.ashdown@blueyonder.co.uk.

WALKS

There is a huge demand for short walks. Would anyone be willing to start up another group?

Further offers would be welcome: Please contact:

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

Visit to Westminster Abbey

Wednesday, 10th January 2018

Westminster Abbey, the resting place of kings and queens, poets, priests,

heroes and villains is a living pageant of British history. It has been the coronation church since 1066, has seen the weddings of sixteen kings and queens, is the final resting place of seventeen monarchs and contains memorials to some of our greatest citizens.



Join our Blue Badge-led group (one in the morning or a repeated one in the afternoon) for an in-depth guided tour of the Abbey. It will take you from the shrine of Edward the Confessor and the tomb of the unknown warrior to Poets' Corner and the sublimely beautiful fan ceiling of the Henry VIII Chapel. See how the medieval architects created a theatre for coronations and discover some of the Abbey's most curious secrets.

After meeting at Waterloo Station we shall take the Jubilee Line to Westminster where we will meet our Blue Badge guide. There will be time for you to buy coffee (or a light lunch if you are in the afternoon group) if you wish, before we begin our tour which will last for approx. 1½- 2 hours.

You will then be free (possibly to visit the nearby St. Margaret's Westminster, the parish church of Parliament) before returning home.

Date: Wednesday, 10th January 2018

Cost: £ 29.50 pp

Meeting time/place: 10.00 a.m. or 1.30 p.m. at Waterloo Station, outside platform 1.

If you wish to join this outing please complete the enclosed application form and return it together with your cheque for **£ 29.50 pp** payable to **Kingston U3A (GAS)** to: Sheila Evans, Apt 8, Maple Leaf House, 67-69 Maple Road, Surbiton KT6 4AG. **If you do not give an email address please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.**

Visit to Charterhouse

**Tuesday, 6th February and
Tuesday, 13th February 2018**

Charterhouse, in London's Smithfield, was founded as a Carthusian Monastery in the 14th Century, next to the burial ground for those Londoners who died as a result of the Black Death which devastated Europe between 1346 and 1353. The Monks' purpose was to pray for the souls of the plague victims.

During the Crossrail excavations several of these burials were recovered and one is displayed in the museum at Charterhouse.



After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, part of the monastery was converted into a luxury mansion house which was purchased in 1545 by the Duke of Norfolk. He was placed under house arrest there by Elizabeth I for proposing to marry Mary Queen of Scots.

In the early 17th Century a hospital was established on the site together with a chapel and a school. Charterhouse School became one of the most eminent public schools in England and at the end of the 19th Century it moved to Godalming in Surrey.

Nowadays, Charterhouse provides accommodation for about 40 Brothers. The tour of the complex will be led by one of these Brothers who will provide a history of Charterhouse and life there today.



Dates: Tuesday, 6th February and Tuesday, 13th February 2018 at 2.15 pm.

Cost: £15.50 Numbers are limited to 22 per tour.

NB: Please note that there are steps and stairs to be negotiated and some of the surfaces in the courtyards and gardens are uneven. It will not be suitable for those with mobility problems.

Meeting time/place: 11.45 am at Waterloo, platform 1. We shall then take a bus to Charterhouse Square where there will be time to find lunch either in the café at Charterhouse or nearby. There will also be time to visit the museum and the chapel before the tour.

If you would like to join this visit please complete the enclosed application form (one for each household or individual), stating your preferred date, and send it together with your cheque for £15.50/£31 payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) to: Moira Shearer, 35 St Andrews Square, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4EG. Phone: 8390 6356

If you do not give an email address please include a stamped addressed envelope.

All Our Waterloos

Friday 9th March 2018

Join us on our trip to London by coach, looking back at 1000 years of the influence of the French on London, with a guided visit round the European galleries in the Victoria and Albert Museum included in the day.



We will meet our guide at the Museum of London where we will have coffee, which is included in the cost of the trip. Throughout the day our guide will bring to life the history of the French in London, including the Huguenots who were given sanctuary by Charles II and mainly settled in the Spitalfields area, the aristocratic survivors of the French revolution, and the super-tax exiles making the French Quarter one of the most affluent neighbourhoods in the capital.

We will stop to buy lunch in the area of Thurlow Place in the heart of the French Quarter, which offers a good choice of restaurants and cafes where we can take a break.

In the afternoon we continue to the



Victoria and Albert Museum where we will be split into two groups, with one group touring the European Galleries with our guide while the other self-guides in the British Galleries, where the impact of French design on British manufacture is apparent. The two groups will then swap over.

The Morris designed café in the Museum offers a welcome place to buy tea before we head home at 4.30pm.

Date:Friday 9th March 2018

Boarding time/place:

- a) 8.45am High Street, Kingston – opp. The Rose Theatre
- b) 9.00am Ewell Road, Surbiton, bus stop “ Telephone Exchange”

Cost: £30.00 per person including coach, guide, tips and coffee.

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 £30.00/£60.00 to Claire Bletcher, 17, Lower Green Road, Esher, KT10 8HE
Phone: 020 8398 7107

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

Visit to Cambridgeshire and Suffolk

24th – 28th April 2018

In September this year Ron and Marie made sure we enjoyed a very pleasant five days in The Lake District. Well, next Spring they will take us for another five days to Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

Day 1: We board our comfortable Executive coach at the four pick-up points in the Kingston area and travel



to **Wimpole Estate (NT)**, a working estate with an impressive mansion and Home Farm. The mansion, at the heart of this estate, is evidence of Elsie Bambridge’s success in creating a home. We can purchase lunch here before continuing on to **Newmarket** and our hotel, the **3* Best Western Heath Court Hotel** where we will stay for four nights on HB basis.

Day 2: Our first visit today is to **Bury St. Edmunds** where we can wander through one of the most successful traditional street markets in the country with its most colourful history going back to the time before William the Conqueror. The town is one of the hidden gems of Suffolk and is probably most famous for the ruined Abbey that stands near to the town centre surrounded by the Abbey Gardens. We can purchase lunch here and then continue to **Kentwell Hall and Gardens** where a private guided tour



of the house is included. The house has essentially remained the same for 500 years as created by the Cloptons in the early 16th Century.

Day 3: Today’s first visit is to the city of **Ely** which is full of charm and beauty and is home to one of England’s most magnificent cathedrals (entrance not included) whose towers dominate the

skyline for miles around and is known locally as the '**Ship of the Fens**'. The



cathedral is also home to the only **Stained glass museum** offering a display of original stained glass panels dating from the early 13th century to the present. An audio guided tour is included.

Ely's most famous historical resident is **Oliver Cromwell**, Lord Protector of England. Apart from Hampton Court, his house here (entrance not included) is the only surviving former Cromwell residence and shows how his family would have lived in the mid-17th Century. We then continue on to the nearby University City of **Cambridge** where we begin with a 1 hour panoramic coach tour of the city and surroundings. For those who wish to partake, afterwards there will be an included brief walking tour which will cover some of the interesting sights and colleges, or you may use this time to explore at your own pace before we return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 4: Today we will visit **Saffron Walden**, a picturesque, medieval town with a rich heritage of old buildings reflecting its wealth as a rural market town. After some free time you will have a choice between two options (this needs to be pre-booked and

indicated by each person on the booking form):

1. An included visit to **Audley End (EH)** one of England's grandest



stately homes with an impressive formal garden. The house is truly magnificent and was built to entertain royalty.

2. An included visit to **IWM Duxford**



an historic airfield and museum of aviation history. Here you will discover the stories of people who lived and worked at RAF Duxford. Explore the new **American Air Museum**, now transformed. From privates to presidents, you hear about those men and women whose lives have shaped, or been shaped, by their experience of war, from the First World War to the present day.

Re-grouping later this afternoon we return to the hotel for our evening meal.

Day 5: Having checked out of the hotel after breakfast we begin with an included guided tour by coach of some of the famous areas of '**Constable Country**' which is characterised by open spaces and ever changing skies. The Dedham Vale and Stour Valley is full of picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows, ancient woodlands as well as a wide variety of local wildlife. We will visit **Flatford Mill (NT)**, a grade 1 listed watermill, built in 1733, and the attached 17th century



millers's cottage. The mill was at one time owned by John Constable's father and John Constable made the mill and its surroundings the subject of many of his art works. The tour will finish in the pretty village of **Lavenham**. You may choose to visit the **Lavenham Guildhall (NT)** of Corpus Christi, A visit to **Little Hall**, one of the oldest timber framed buildings is included.

Departing here mid-afternoon, we retrace our steps homeward to our original departure points later in the day.

Dates: Tuesday, 24th – Friday, 28th April 2018

Cost: £ 529.00/549.00 (depending on numbers) HB - sharing a twin/double room

Single room supplement: £59.00/39.00 (depending on size)

Deposit: £ 85.00 pp (non-refundable). Balance due in full by 09.03.2018

Optional Travel Insurance: £ 30.00 pp – 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 8399 4990
generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk

The beauty of Slovenia and Lake Bled

Many KU3A members have asked where our holiday abroad next year will be. Yes, you have guessed it: GAS is planning a trip to Slovenia in the last



week of September 2018. Unfortunately, at the time of going to press not all details have been

available – this is due mainly to the rather high proportion of single rooms needed. It will be a six-day-trip and we will visit Bled, Postojna, Portoroz, Piran and, of course, Ljubljana. Full details and a booking form will be given in the February/March 2018 Newsletter. If, in the meantime you have questions, please contact Gisela on gzuercher@btinternet.com or Phone: 8399 4990.

Lake District Tour

17-21 SEPTEMBER, 2017

When I was asked if I would submit a review of our trip, I thought "oh my goodness, how am I going to fit it all in a few paragraphs, we did so much", so here we go...

Our merry band of 32 boarded our coach and settled in for our journey to the Lake District. Our first port of call was a tour of Tatton Park (NT). A huge



estate with magnificent gardens, a fine Library and a collection of Gillows of Lancaster furniture.

After lunch we continued our journey through the beautiful countryside to Grange-over-Sands and our hotel, a location

with fabulous views over Morecambe Bay.

Day 2: Our guide, Geoff, took us on a tour of the lakes and the surrounding countryside. Passing through small, pretty villages and outstanding scenery we arrived at Hilltop (NT), home of Beatrix Potter and now a time capsule of her life and work as a children's author, artist and conservationist. We all surely know of her stories of Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddleduck. Did anyone else find evidence of Jemima's presence in the vegetable garden? There was some rain but our trusty NT brollies kept us dry. We continued on to Hawkshead, home to a gallery of original works by Beatrix and then, of course, a well-deserved lunch.



On to Dove Cottage next, home of William Wordsworth ('I wandered lonely as a cloud' - you

know the one!) and then, after a short walk into Grasmere with its delicious gingerbread, we headed back to our hotel.



Day 3: We visited Kendal, home of the notorious 'Everest conquering' Mint Cake and Sizergh Castle and Gardens (NT), home of the Strickland family.

On return to the hotel and after an evening meal, we were entertained by Steve with a good old sing song in the bar. Of course, Dolores the Dancing Diva was up to her old tricks. Her enthusiasm was infectious and a good jig about was had!

Day 4 found us on a cruise across Lake Windermere to Bowness. How serene the lake was. Bowness was, in contrast, a very bustling town. Plenty of shopping took place and also time for a coffee and lunch. On to Holker Hall next. A beautiful red stone house, home to the Cavendish family and formal gardens resplendent with some fine topiary and a huge record breaking lime tree.

Our last day saw a visit to Leighton Hall, home of the Gillows Reynolds family.

Our lively guide, Pam, took us on a tour of the house, including more Gillow furniture and a magnificent Steinway piano in the Music Room where Barbara tickled the ivories (what a treat for her and for us!). Whilst still humming Barbara's beautiful melodies we sipped tea from a proper tea cup and devoured our generous lunch before making our way back to Kingston, collect our luggage and disperse into the night.

What a trip! So full of history and beautiful scenery, and what a great way of connecting with U3A members and making new friends.

Pauline Dobbie

A Thankyou

Thank you everyone for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and of course for the lovely quite heavy little rabbit. I have a few cuddly animals already. They all have names which remind me of either my children or other good friends. When I thought about what name I should give to a friendly and helpful busy rabbit, 'Ron' came to mind. So now Ron is already very engaged in keeping down the 100s of KU3A applications the postman delivers!!! Thank you, Ron, for all your help.

Grisela

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. There is a good-sized car park for the Hall (note: not the school car park).

There are no study days in December and January. The next study days are on **Friday February 16** when the theme is the highly topical subject **Making Sense of Militant Islam**. It will be presented by Anne Davison, a Lecturer for The Arts Society.

Next there will be a study day on **Friday March 16** focusing on **Vincent van Gogh & Painting in Nineteenth Century France**. This will be presented by Leslie Pitcher, a U3A Member and Lecturer for The Arts Society.

Prior booking is essential and forms are available at the Monthly Meetings or from the Surrey Network internet site, www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetw.ork. Click on Events and follow the links for a programme and booking form.

Poem

Would the lady who wrote the poem 'At two o'clock' please contact Pam Durkie on 8949 1812.

Doing Their Own Thing

MOTO 1 isn't just about eating out and going to the theatre! Although we really enjoyed "Every Brilliant Thing" at the Orange Tree theatre recently - a one-man tour de force with lots of audience participation.

Three recent outings were more 'educational'. We visited the recently opened Turner's House in Twickenham, a pretty villa he designed himself. Then we went to Emery Walker's House at Hammersmith. This is full of original William Morris fabrics, carpets and



wallpaper and is just as it was left by Emery Walker who was a friend of Morris. It is a delightful spot on the riverside and we had a very informative guided tour.

The first of our three recent outings was to Dulwich Picture Gallery for a rare



and splendid showing of John Singer Sargent's watercolours. These were a revelation and we especially enjoyed the pictures he did in Venice of architectural details.

Upcoming activities include walks, lunches and more theatre!

Elinor Parker