



## Chair's Remarks

It is a privilege to follow on from Richard Hawkins as new Chair of Kingston U3A. Although a relative newcomer to U3A, I am enjoying the self-help and collaborative approach to learning and hope this ethos will assist me to come to grips with my new role. I am supported by an excellent committee which collectively holds many years of knowledge about all things pertaining to U3A.

This year started well with a fabulous quiz organised by Stewart Keating and his team. We have a great variety of monthly speakers organised this year, and the possibility of new groups starting, as offered at a recent new members meeting. It's wonderful to see new members volunteering to share their enthusiasm and knowledge.

I look forward to serving on the committee as the new Chair, getting to meet more people, and increasing my knowledge of the wonderful U3A organisation.

Wishing you all a busy and healthy year in 2018

*Areni Ester*

## 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.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Social and political satire in Gilbert and Sullivan. This takes a wry look at the vast amount of satire and social comment within the works, much of which has relevance to the present day. This is a return visit by **Bernard Lockett**, who last came to us about five years ago and was well received.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** **Richard Thomas** will tell us about Waterways and Canals, on which many of us may have spent boating holidays.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** **Louise Reed** will be arranging for us to "Meet" Mary Kingsley who was a charming and funny Victorian traveller in Africa. Louise is an experienced public speaker and an enthusiast for her subject.

## Group News

## Possible New Groups

### THINGS AND IDEAS

The former Science & Philosophy Group has expanded its remit under a new title, and welcomes new members to join in a member-led discussion of society, philosophy and more.

Please contact: Jennifer Butterworth 8942 7387 or [jenn.butterworth@virginmedia.com](mailto:jenn.butterworth@virginmedia.com)

### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP 2

This group urgently needs a new leader. If you can help please contact: Gill O'Donnell 8399 8125 or [gill.odonnell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gill.odonnell@blueyonder.co.uk)

### SCRABBLE GROUP 3

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



There is room for a few more people. Please contact Theresa: 8942 9548 or [theresacato@me.com](mailto:theresacato@me.com)

### FRENCH CONVERSATION

This new French conversation class will meet on Fridays, weekly at 2.00 p.m. in the Chessington area.

If interested please contact Pascale: 8391 0232 or [pascalestrudwick@hotmail.com](mailto:pascalestrudwick@hotmail.com)

### YOGA

Valerie Adams, a trained yoga instructor, has kindly offered to run a yoga class.

If interested please contact her on 07784 440606 or [hotval88@hotmail.com](mailto:hotval88@hotmail.com).

### OPERA

Paul Storm-Larsen has kindly offered to start this new group next September. However, we need a venue with a widescreen television for viewing DVD performances. If you are interested, or can help, please contact Paul: 8409 0354 or [paul.sto@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paul.sto@blueyonder.co.uk)

### ROOM 101

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

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](mailto:jacquihine@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:m.ashdown@blueyonder.co.uk).



Further offers of new groups would be welcome: Please contact:

Shirley Miller: 8940 8573 or [shirley.miller4@btinternet.com](mailto:shirley.miller4@btinternet.com)

## A Walk Around Albertopolis

Wednesday, 18th April 2018

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

If you are not sure where **Albertopolis** is located, it is in fact the museum and academic quarter of South Kensington, London.

The walk will take us through an area largely created by the initiatives of Prince Albert – an area which most people will think they know but which will reveal some hidden secrets, including a remnant of the Great Exhibition of 1851, a quiet tree-lined square, as well as a long closed Underground Station.



The walk will be led by John King and will take about two hours. Most of the walk is on the level but does include several sets of steps.

The meeting point will be Wimbledon, from where we will travel on the District Line to South Kensington.

**Cost:** 50p pp administration charge collected on the day

**Meeting time/point:** 10.15 am on the Underground concourse at Wimbledon Station

If you would like to join one of these walks please complete the application form (one per household or individual) and send it to:

Moira Shearer, 35 St. Andrews Square, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4EG – Phone: 020 8390 6356.

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

## Speakers Wanted

In July 2018 the monthly meeting will be breaking new ground by inviting a few members to step up and be our speakers. Among our over one thousand members we know there are lots of you who have done interesting, exciting or inspiring things in your lives. In July we hope to have four speakers in the hour and we already have two volunteers, a third having recently dropped out. Please let Elinor Parker know at [eshparker@aol.com](mailto:eshparker@aol.com) or 07973 673209 or 8949 2596 if you would agree to tell our members about something which you would like to share. Help is available if you would like to use slides or video, but these are not essential.

## Walmer Castle and Gardens

**Friday, 22nd June 2018**

Recently the venue for the Antiques Roadshow, Walmer Castle was built during the reign of Henry VIII and is one of the most fascinating visitor attractions in the South East. Originally designed as part of a chain of coastal artillery defences, it evolved into the official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The Duke of Wellington held the post for 23 years. In recent years Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, made regular visits to the castle.

The armchair in which Wellington died, a pair of the original "Wellington boots" and rooms used by the Queen Mother are among the highlights of the castle. Together with the magnificent gardens, a woodland walk and excellent bird spotting, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



After coffee on arrival we shall be divided into two groups to be given consecutive guided tours of the castle lasting approximately an hour.



For the remainder of the time you are free to explore the gardens and the woodland walk and buy lunch and tea in the restaurant which offers quite an extensive menu. We aim to head home at 4.30pm.

**Date:** Friday, 22nd June 2018

**Boarding time and place:**

a) **8.45am** - High St., Kingston - opp. The Rose Theatre

b) **9.00am** - Ewell Rd., Surbiton - "Telephone Exchange" bus stop

**Cost: £31.00** per person (includes coach, entry fee, coffee, guide and tip)

**£21.20** per person if member of English Heritage (bring membership card with you)

If you would like to join this visit, please complete the enclosed

application form and send it - together with your cheque payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) - to:

Sheila Evans, 8, Maple Leaf House, 67-69, Maple Rd., Surbiton. KT6 4AG - Tel. 3602 6245

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

## **Epping Forest and Capel Manor Gardens**

**Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Let's look forward to Summer and an enjoyable outing by coach for a day of forest glades and garden inspirations.

We will stop at Chingford Station at 10.30am to meet our guide, and then take a break in Chingford to buy morning refreshments.

After this we head off to explore the heart of Epping Forest - a place of sunlit glades, rough heaths and great hornbeam trees. The forest is home to over 50,000 ancient pollarded trees and 100 lakes and ponds, and is of national and international conservation importance.

While there we will see Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, which is a unique example of a surviving timber-framed hunting lodge still surrounded by its medieval hunting forest.



After free time in the market town of Epping to buy lunch, we spend the afternoon in Capel Manor Gardens.



This is a beautiful 30 acre estate, first established in the late 13th century, and home to London's only specialist horticultural college. There are many different styles of garden to explore including the Queen Mother's garden, the Japanese Garden and Le Jardin de Vincent, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh.

Afternoon refreshments can be bought in the café, and there is also a shop and a plant stall.

We plan to leave for home at 4.45pm.

**Date:** Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Boarding Point/Departure time:**

- a) 8.30am High Street, Kingston opposite The Rose Theatre
- b) 8.45am Ewell Road, Surbiton, bus stop "Telephone Exchange"

Please arrive 10 minutes earlier than departure time to allow for checking in.

**Price:** £39.50 per person including coach, guide and tips.

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 to:

Claire Bletcher, 17 Lower Green Road, Esher, KT10 8HE,  
Tel: 8398 7107

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

If you give your email address all information will be sent by email, including any changes to timings so please check your emails regularly.



### Recorded Music

The PPL licence supplied by the Trust gives U3As permission to play recorded music in public as part of their interest/activity groups.

The Third Age Trust has again renewed its PPL licence which grants permission for all U3As for the public performance of recorded music within your sites whether that is through a radio, TV, CD, MP3 player etc.

The new licence covers the period January 1st to December 31st 2018.



**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Borde Hill Gardens is set in over 200 acres of garden, park and woodlands and has views across the Sussex High Weald. It is planted in 'living garden rooms', each offering a different character and style, and is home to many rare shrubs and numerous trees.



The first record of the estate dates back to 1534. The Tudor Borde Hill House was originally constructed in 1598 by Stephen Borde and, after various owners, was eventually acquired by Colonel Robert Stephenson Clarke 125 ago in 1893. It remained a private estate until 1965 when Stephenson's son, Sir Ralph Clarke, opened it to the public. The garden has won a variety of public awards and distinctions, and is described by Country Life as 'One of the country's truly great gardens'. It is listed on the register of parks and gardens as Grade II\* importance by English Heritage

We will arrive by coach in time to take tea/coffee and biscuits before joining a guided house tour lasting about one hour. A buffet lunch (consisting of a selection of three main dishes, served with salad and new potatoes and a selection of three puddings) will be served at about one o'clock. For the rest of the day you are free to wander at leisure around the garden with the help of a guide which will be given to you on arrival.

We aim to leave at 4.30pm to arrive back in Kingston by 6.00pm.

**Cost:** £42.50 includes transport, entrance fee, guided house tour, morning refreshments, lunch and tips for driver and guide

**Date:** Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Boarding time/place:**

9.00am. Kingston, High Street, opp. The Rose Theatre

9.15am. Surbiton, Ewell Road Bus stop 'Surbiton Telephone Exchange'

If you would like to join this outing please complete the attached application form - one per individual or household - and send it - together with your cheque and a stamped addressed envelope if you do not give an e-mail address

– to: Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37, The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT Tel. 8399 4990

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

## The Beauty of Slovenia and Lake Bled

26<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

We meet at our designated pick-up points and transfer by private coach to Gatwick Airport for our direct flight to Ljubljana. On arrival we are met by our tour manager and transfer to the 4\* Best Western Plus Lovec Hotel at Bled where we stay five nights on a half board basis. During our stay in Slovenia we shall take in the beauty of Lake



Bled, visit Bled Castle, take a traditional Pletna Boat excursion to Bled Island and there admire the Church of the Assumption dating back to the 17th century.



We shall visit Postojna, one of the world's largest cave systems accessed by underground train, head

## Non-Residential Summer School

**31st JULY to 2nd AUGUST 2018**

St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8EQ

(Easy access: 5 minutes from Blackfriars underground station)

There will be a wide range of subjects in 2018 on the themes of Art, Current Affairs, Drama, History, Literature, Music and Science - a choice of 32 different talks, 2 workshops, and 6 guided walks around the City of London.

In this 100th Anniversary Year of Women's Suffrage, we are including some talks covering various aspects of women's literature, history, arts and sciences.

Attendance can be for one, two or three days and the cost is £36 per day.

Refreshments and a cold buffet lunch are included.

***YOU CAN REGISTER NOW FOR PROGRAMME DETAILS TO BE SENT TO YOU DIRECT IN FEBRUARY***

**Contact: Chris Feldman**  
[ccris@waitrose.com](mailto:ccris@waitrose.com)



for Lipica, home of the famous Lipizzaner horses and enjoy a memorable cruise on Slovenia's Adriatic coast line from Portoroz to the medieval town of Piran. We spend a day and a half in Ljubljana where there will be an optional guided tour of the Baroque Old Town nestled at the foot of Castle Hill, the Art Nouveau mansions and some of the masterpieces of the world-renowned architect, Joze Plecnic. A detailed programme is available on request.

**Cost:** from £ 1044.00

If you would like to join this holiday please complete the enclosed 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 – Tel. No.: 020 8399 4990

## At 2am

## Central Surrey Study Days at the Menuhin Hall

Throughout my life I've often said  
That my best work is done in bed  
At 2am, snug, duveted  
The world at bay.  
For then my student comes to say  
'Please help me now.

Please mitigate  
Neglected failure, a mistake,  
Misfortune, tragedy, a mess.  
Guide me to the magic of success.'  
Then, in the calmness of my bed  
I milk the knowledge in my head  
And formulate the way ahead  
To help us find the magic of  
success.

Now I am old and full of sleep  
Till 2am, then hours creep.  
There is a different question now  
Which fills my mind, not only how  
But how and when,  
At 2am. Oh go to sleep!

By Jean Pearson

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/surreyu3anet](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anet) [work](#)



**Fri March 16<sup>th</sup>: Vincent Van Gogh**



and Painting in Nineteenth Century France, presented by Leslie Pitcher, U3A member and Lecturer for The Arts Society.

**Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>: UK Energy Futures**



given by Graham Hill, Richard Rumble, Robin Allen, John Gallop and Ian Funnell.

**Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>: Hoaxes, Magic, Cartoons and Satire**



given by Ian Kemble, Lecturer for the Arts Society and Member of the Inner Magic Circle.

**Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>: Recent British Archaeological Discoveries**



presented by Professor Mike Parker Pearson, University College, London

Booking for all these is now open and a map for the venue as well as application forms are available on the Surrey Network website. If you have no transport it is suggested that you phone John Kennedy on 01372 273561 to find out if any other Kingston member is going and from whom it might be possible to get a lift.

## Opportunities for U3A with Roehampton University

South West London U3A Network has teamed up with Roehampton University in a series of initiatives.



They have offered to supply speakers to individual groups on request and already an invitation to speak to Kingston Women in History group has been accepted. It is also possible that speakers for monthly meetings would be available. They are looking for opportunities to have an impact locally.

There is a huge list of the lunchtime seminars given by many of the University departments. These are open to U3A attendees. It is hoped that the list will be available soon.

There are plans for a Study Day at the University, focusing on either arts or sciences, or both. This will

be using University speakers, premises and catering for a modest fee.

There are ongoing research projects we can get involved with, such as that celebrating the 100th anniversary of female (30+) suffrage. This meets in the John Lewis community room and Kingston is the only local group without a participant! They would also like to hear from anyone with a family connection to the suffragette or suffragist movements. Any radical great-grandmothers or great-aunts in your background?

There is also one looking at the effects of the Hearth Tax locally. There are workshops and classes at the Gallery of Illustration in the regenerated Kings Cross area.

Our contact at the University is Dustin.FrazierWood@roehampton.ac.uk to whom speaker requests can be sent. The Convener of the South West London Symposium is Sue Leigh, at smleigh@hotmail.co.uk who is the contact for the research projects.