



## Chair's Remarks

As I write for this newsletter, it has been the hottest day in April for 70 years! Does this mean a hot summer ahead? I hope you are all enjoying Spring at last, and the activities and connections warmer weather brings.

The committee was delighted to welcome 35 new members to the Class of 2017 Party, from 175 possibilities. Some new members gave feedback that groups are often full or have waiting lists. Please persevere as names are taken for waiting lists and a second group might be started as a result of demand; but please don't feel pressured to run groups at new members meetings.

Having said that, however, any contribution to the smooth running of U3A is gratefully appreciated. We need assistance with the quarterly newsletter and in November of this year, Elinor Parker, who has done a brilliant job organising monthly speakers, will be stepping down; as will Richard Hawkins, our former Chair and current Secretary. Anyone interested in the work of the committee is welcome to attend our next meetings and see how much fun they are! Contact me or anyone on the committee if interested.

*Ireni Ester*

## Monthly Meetings

Please arrive well in time for our speakers to start at 2pm, bring your membership card, as visitors are not eligible to attend, and enjoy meeting other members and hearing the talks.

Back a few hundred years for our talk on **June 4<sup>th</sup>** from Gwen Wright. She is speaking on "The Impact of the Black Death on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian Art".

On **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** we have a new event, "Kingston U3A Speaks" for which our members are the speakers. For this first time, which we hope will be repeated every year, we have two members who are going to talk to us. The first is Sara Onions whose title is "Don't Bring Lulu" – her family's tale of trial and triumph – the story of a top TV newsman and his family. She will be followed by Anne Ely who will tell us about "The Sino-British Fellowship Trust – a history".

On **August 6<sup>th</sup>** we are marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the extension of the vote to some women and will hear from Carol Harris with a talk entitled "The Suffragists of World War 1".

# Group News

We would like to ask members of small groups to try and let the Group Leader know, well in advance, if they can't attend a meeting. A lot of effort goes into preparing sessions and if no one turns up it is very disheartening.

## ART GROUP 2

We are a lively group of up to 16, each with a diverse art background, or no previous experience, who respond to our tutor-led challenge each week with enthusiasm and frustration. The results are always a surprise and often a delight to the artist! There are so many experienced and new artists in the Kingston U3A that there are 5 active art groups. Ours takes place on Tuesday afternoons, very centrally, in the Richard Mayo Centre in Room 22, above where the monthly meeting is held. There is currently a vacancy, so if you have ever wanted to pick up a pencil or brush or want to develop your skills and have fun with like-minded people, please contact:

Carolyn Forsyth ( Art Group 2): 020 8255 1746.

## JAZZ

Sadly, both Jazz Groups have now closed due to illness. Is there anyone in either of the groups willing to form another group or take over one of the originals?

## WALKS

We would appreciate a volunteer to organise more short walks, as these are so popular.

## NEW GROUPS

We now have new groups for Opera Appreciation, Pilates 2, Modern Day Aggro (discussion group), French Conversation.

See yellow pages in the newsletter for details.

## POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

### CANASTA (experienced players)

A new Canasta Group has been offered and will take place weekly on Saturday afternoons in the Chessington area.

If interested please email Pascale Strudwick:  
pascalestrudwick@hotmail.com with the title U3A – Canasta.

### WINE APPRECIATION

This group, to include food pairing, will be held monthly on Friday evenings in the Chessington area.

If interested please email Pascale Strudwick:  
pascalestrudwick@hotmail.com with the title: U3A - Wine Appreciation

### M.O.T.O. 5

Rosemary Matters has volunteered to start another of the popular MOTO groups. This one will be in New Malden. N.B. these groups are intended for people who are living on their own, not for couples.

If interested please contact:

Rosemary Matters: 8949 3556/  
rosemarymatters@hotmail.co.uk

**Further offers would be welcome:  
Please contact:**

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



**Tour of Watts Gallery,  
Limmerslease House and  
Watts Chapel**

**Thursday September 13th 2018**

Watts Gallery is a unique Arts and Crafts gem nestled in the Surrey Hills.



The Artists' Village comprises the home, studios, gallery, chapel and joint architectural legacy of the great Victorian artist G.F. Watts and renowned designer Mary Watts. We will be welcomed by a member of the Visitor Services team who will give us an overview of our day after which we will have coffee or tea and biscuits in the Old Kiln. As we are at Watts Artists' village for the whole day we will have time to enjoy guided tours of Limmerslease - the Watts's home, Watts Chapel, and the permanent exhibition of G. F. Watts' paintings and sculptures with free time to visit the other studios, exhibitions and shop.



Limmerslease, approached up an attractive path, through the woods near the North Downs Way, is one of the most celebrated Arts and Crafts houses in Surrey, designed by the famous architect Sir Ernest George and decorated by Mary Watts with beautiful gesso panels. This tour will give us an interesting insight into the lives of both artists.

The permanent gallery features a diverse collection of the most famous paintings and sculptures of G. F. Watts, and our guided tour will offer an expert's view of the works, while the guided tour of Watts Chapel will show us Mary Watts' Grade 1 listed Arts and Crafts masterpiece, created with people from the local village of Compton.



The interior is a unique example of Art Nouveau and Celtic design.

Lunch is provided in the Old Kiln, where a selection of sandwiches with mixed leaf salad and jugs of elderflower cordial and water will be served.

During the day we will have free time to explore the studios, the De Morgan collection of remarkable ceramics and oil paintings, and the temporary exhibition, devoted to the works of the artist and model-maker James Henry Pullen. He was a celebrity in his day, despite being institutionalised because of his inability to communicate, and lived for many years at the Earlswood Asylum in Redhill, where he came under the care of the young Dr John Langdon Down. This exhibition is the first ever gallery show devoted to Pullen's work, emphasising his status as an innovative artist of imagination and wit. A specially commissioned film will allow visitors to get a close look at his small-scale pieces and a privileged insight into the process of conserving Pullen's "Rotary Barge" – a design for a ship that would never capsize. The Rotary Barge is being specially repaired and restored for this exhibition.

There is a short uphill walk to both Limnerslease (through the woods) and Watts Chapel and comfortable shoes should be worn. We plan to leave for home at 4.30pm.

**Date:** Thursday 13th September 2018

**Boarding Point/Departure time:**

- a) 9.15 High Street, Kingston – opp. The Rose Theatre
- b) 9.30 Ewell Road, Surbiton, bus stop "Telephone Exchange"

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

**Price:** £44.50 per person including coach, entrance and tour fees, morning

coffee, lunch and tips. (Art Fund members £39.75. You must have your valid membership card with you.)

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 and a **stamped, addressed envelope or your email address** to:

Claire Bletcher, 17, Lower Green Road, Esher, KT10 8HE, Tel: 020 8398 7107

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

## Updated Information on U3A Insurance

All U3As are covered by the following types of insurance:

- Public Liability, eg if someone is injured as a result of our activities and the U3A is legally liable. This does not replace personal insurance, eg for injuries or losing something on an outing when it is not our fault.
- Trustee Liability, eg if someone sues the Committee for a financial loss. Committee members are covered if we can show that we have done our best and obeyed any relevant laws, which we always try to do!
- Damage to homes of U3A member hosts, including Group Leaders, caused by another U3A member.
- Loss or damage to U3A property.

Please note that the insurance is not valid if children are present at the event



If you have any queries on this or other laws affecting charities, or wish to know what information we hold about you, please contact me.

Also let me know if we need to update your contact details, or you wish to change the email preferences you gave on your joining or latest renewal form.

*Linda Foreman*

## The Summer Concert Performed by Kingston U3A

Our summer concert will be held on Saturday 16th June at 7.30pm in the Malden Methodist Church, New Malden High Street. We will be singing an entertaining mixture of light-hearted songs and choral works and we'd love to see you there.



Tickets are £8.00 and are available from Pat Young (8337 8326), any member of the choir, or on the door.

If the concert inspires you to get singing we offer a friendly welcome, with no audition, at our meetings on Thursdays at 10.30am at the Shiraz Mirza Hall, Malden Manor Park. There is a large car park there and the 213 bus stops right outside. For more details please contact Helga Randall on 8397 8712 and come and give it a try.

## South-West London Symposium Study Days

As part of a developing association with Roehampton University, the SW London Symposium Committee is planning two Study Days.

On 15th September there will be a half day event from 10.30am until 1.00pm which will look at "Changes in Women's Lives". It will be held in the excellent Community Room on the third floor of John Lewis in Kingston. Speakers will focus on Midwifery Practices, Notting Hill Housing Trust, American Feminist Literature and the Suffrage. The cost is likely to be £5.

The second day, "The Marvels and Mystery of Memory", will be at the Roehampton campus, with parking possible there, provisional date (to be confirmed) is October 24th, starting at 10.30am, with lunch provided, and finishing at 4pm. The topics will include: Memories of Childhood Reading, How We See Ourselves and Others; Citizen Witnessing, Dance and Society, Memory and Cognition Over Life Cycle, with speakers from the University. Cost is likely to be £15. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Further details will be announced at monthly meetings and on the website.

## U3A London Region Summer School

31st July – 2nd August

St. Bride Foundation (off Fleet Street)

There is a lively programme of talks, workshops, and walks, including a theme relating to the 100th anniversary

year of womens' suffrage, plus a range of new topics and speakers.

You can choose from 32 different talks, two workshops and six guided walks around the city of London. Topics include the themes of art, history, literature, music, science and current affairs. Talks will cover aspects of women in history, literature, art, music and sciences.

The full programme details and application forms are available from the events page of the London region website and at our monthly meetings. The daily cost is £36 to include refreshments and a cold buffet lunch and you can choose to attend on one, two or all three days.

## Central Surrey Study Days at the 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. Visitors are welcome though anyone 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](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork)

The next meeting will be on **Friday 18 May 2018** and the subject is the cheerful-sounding **Hoaxes, Magic, Cartoons & Satire**. It will be presented by Ian Keable, who is a Member of The Inner Magic Circle and a Lecturer for The Arts Society

The **Friday 15 June** lecture is on **Recent news about our Ancient Past** and is presented by Professor Mike Parker Pearson of University College London

There are no meetings scheduled for July and August.

On **Friday 21 September** there is a planned study day on **Major Infrastructure Projects** presented by John Kennedy, U3A member, and others.

## U3A National Summer Schools

This year we have two schools, held in July and September, providing an exciting programme covering 19 courses. There is a wide range of subjects on offer including Opera, French, Cryptic Crosswords, Maths, Art Between the Wars, Musicals and even writing a TV Soap!

This is only possible because our tutors – who are members of U3As from across the UK – bring with them an impressive array of experience and knowledge. They give up a significant amount of their time to provide attendees with a high quality, active learning experience which is both participatory and enjoyable.

## Summer School History

Exactly 20 years ago (1998), the U3A Standing Committee for Education (SCE) came up with the idea of organising a national Summer School programme to provide U3A members with the opportunity to take their learning into a residential setting.

A year later Phyllis Babb (Sarum U3A), a member of the SCE, organised the first Summer School in York and soon the national Summer School became a regular feature of the Third Age Trust's active learning programme. It has been so successful that the model was replicated regionally across the UK.

Summer Schools are a wonderful example of the peer-to-peer learning model which U3A has helped to pioneer. U3A members learn from each other in a hands-on-learning experience. Residential study also gives students the opportunity to spread their learning over four days, meet with members from other U3As and share knowledge and experience.

### School 1

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

Monday 23 July to Thursday 26 July



- Crosswords
- France
- Garden history
- Literature/Philosophy
- Mathematics
- Opera
- Play ukulele
- Recorder Ensemble Playing
- Spanish history

### School 2

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS

Tuesday 11 September to Friday 14 September



- Art history
- Music
- Creative writing
- Drama
- English poetry
- History
- Language
- Linguistics
- Musicals
- Singing

You can obtain further information and make bookings by visiting [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) and going to 'Events'.