

Kingston U3A News Bulletin - 17 January 2019 no 17

Welcome to our first news bulletin of 2019.

This month's research project is looking for participants who enjoy going to museums and galleries and we are passing on some general advice from the U3A National Office about taking part in such studies. There's a link to information on the national U3A website about various summer schools round the country and the Third Age Trust has organised study days at both the Royal Institution and at the National Gallery. We are still anxious to find a Speakers Secretary because, if we don't, our monthly meetings will no longer take place. With this in mind, we have outlined in more detail what the job involves and hope that this will encourage someone to come forward. Finally, there's a list of events at Kingston University in February and March as well as details about our next monthly meeting.

Research project: Developing enjoyable audio resources for museums and galleries

Researchers at the University of Westminster, in collaboration with the Museum of London, are looking for participants to take part in a two-part study. They are looking at experiences of recorded audio for a series of photos taken from the collections of the Museum of London. They are interested in all perspectives – whether you visit museums often or never; whether or not you frequently use audio facilities in museums. Your participation will contribute to the development of our understanding about what makes successful audio resources, and about their potential for use more widely across the museum sector.

What you will need to do

You will be shown eight photographs on a laptop screen and asked to listen to the audio through headphones. Afterwards, you will be asked questions about your thoughts and experience. This should take about an hour. One month later, we will ask you to complete a follow-up questionnaire to fill in at home, again asking about your thoughts and experiences. It should take you about 20 minutes to complete. We will offer you a £15 Amazon voucher upon completion to thank you for your participation.

Where and when?

The first part of the study will take place at the University of Westminster, 115 New Cavendish Street, London, W1W 6UW (nearest Tube station is Goodge Street). The questionnaire will be emailed to you. We have dates available to reserve now.

Further information and registration

Please contact Rachel Hutchinson via email at r.hutchinson@my.westminster.ac.uk or call her on 07816 244469.

Advice on taking part in research

The U3A National Office has asked us to draw your attention to this disclaimer before you take part in any research.

“We are often asked to publicise research studies and trials to our members. Where we do so, it is because we believe it may be of interest to you and we are not endorsing or promoting the research study in any way. U3A has not undertaken any checks or due diligence on the relevant department or the study and accepts no liability whatsoever if you decide to agree to participate. If you choose to take part in any study, you do so at your own risk and in your own capacity (and not as member of U3A). You should make sure that you understand all the risks associated with any study before you sign up and ensure that you understand the time commitment, any restrictions and possible side effects. You should also ensure that you will be insured as part of the study.”

Summer schools

Please note that in addition to the summer school at [Chichester](#) that we advertised in last month's news bulletin, there are several others being held round the country, including [London Region](#)'s. This takes place 23-25 July at St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 8EQ. Subjects there include Art, Current Affairs, History, Literature, Music, Philosophy and Science, and Travel, with 'Celebration of the Sea' as a general theme.

For more information on places, dates and subjects covered, please check the national [U3A website](#).

Third Age Trust: U3A explores Science at the Ri

Come along and explore science through a variety of fascinating talks at the Royal Institution:

- [A Plastic Ocean](#): how the scourge of our plastic waste is affecting communities as well as every living creature in the ocean.
- [What made our Universe](#): how did the universe begin and why has it ended up looking as it does?
- [Living is a Risky Business](#): delving into the numbers to show you how statistics can help you to make better decisions about risky activities.

Date: Monday, 11 March

Time: 1.30-5pm

Place: The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4BS

Cost: £21.50

Further information and tickets: please see the [Eventbrite](#) website.

Third Age Trust: Satire to Sublime – British Art from Hogarth to Turner

Find out how 18th and early 19th century painters grappled with the rapid changes in contemporary British life. Listen to National Gallery experts on Hogarth's satirical look at British life, Wright of Derby's provocations around scientific ethics, and Turner's confrontations with modernity and progress. Learn about key developments in British painting c1745-1845, focussing on portraits, landscapes and scenes of everyday life.

Date: Thursday, 21 March

Time: 11am-4pm

Place: The Sainsbury Wing Theatre, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DN

Cost: £25

Further information and tickets: please see the [Eventbrite](#) website.

Kingston U3A: Booking speakers for our monthly meetings

We are still looking for one or two people to take on the role of Speakers Secretary and are hoping that the details below may encourage one or two volunteers to come forward and offer their services.

Booking speakers is not very difficult or time-consuming and there is a huge list of possible speakers available to choose from.

Here's what's involved:

- Identify the date of each monthly meeting. This is usually the first Monday of each month but, where a Bank Holiday falls on the first Monday, you will need to move the meeting to the following week.
- Book the hall at the United Reformed Church for the 12 meeting dates.
- Find a speaker for eleven of the meetings (the January meeting is always the annual quiz). There's a list of a variety of possible candidates. Pencil in some likely candidates.
- Email/Phone and invite selected speakers, offer dates and find out the sort of fee they might expect. Our maximum payment is £150 but many speakers will accept less.
- Keep a note of their email addresses and phone numbers and find out what equipment, if any, they need for their talk.
- Select the title of the talk (many speakers have several subjects on offer) and fill in the plan for the year.
- Let the newsletter editor and the committee have your list of speakers.
- Email the selected speakers with a definite booking, giving details of the date, time and venue. We also have an 'Advice for Speakers' sheet.

- Follow this up a couple of weeks before the day and check all is well. Get a mobile number and give yours in case of last minute problems.
- Arrange with Diane Wilson to be on hand if the speaker has asked for equipment.
- Ask the Treasurer to have a cheque ready to pay the speaker on the day.
- Meet and greet the speaker on the day and take care of them.

Most of the speakers for 2019 are already booked but we need to make a start as soon as possible for the 2020 programme. If we can't find volunteers to take on these tasks, our Monday meetings will have to be suspended. So, if you are interested, please contact Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk. Many thanks.

Kingston University events in February and March

Here is a reminder of some of the February events along with ones in March which may be of interest to you. For a full list, see [Kingston University](#) website.

February

- **Mon, 4 Feb:** Faith and spirituality book group (There is a follow-up meeting on Monday, 18 March.)
- **Wed, 6 Feb:** Orchard maintenance at Dorich House + the Orchard Project
- **Sat, 9 Feb:** Ditch restoration at Tolworth Court

March

Community garden maintenance

Help give the University's memorial garden some TLC. Come and help weed and plant out new flowers and shrubs for the coming year.

Date: Wednesday, 6 March

Time: 1.30-4pm

Place: Kingston Hill campus, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7LB

Cost: free

Further information and registration: please see the [Kingston University](#) website.

Woodland management

An invitation to help manage the bramble to increase the spread of native ground flora, as well as remove invasive garlic species from the site. Experienced guidance and a good workout guaranteed!

Date: Saturday, 9 March

Time: 10am-4.30pm

Place: Kingston Hill campus, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7LB

Cost: free

Further information and registration: please see the [Kingston University](#) website.

International Women's Day 2019

This year's campaign theme, 'Balance for Better', is a call to action for improving gender balance throughout the world. As a participant, Kingston continues its work to challenge bias, support women's advancement and openly celebrate achievement. This two-hour session signals the close of events that will have taken place in the borough in schools, colleges, the university, the fire stations, business, politics, culture and music, sport and the voluntary sector. Councillors Liz Green (Leader of Kingston Council), Sharon Young and Katrina Lidbetter will introduce the event, after which there will be short talks from a panel of exceptional women with their inspirational stories.

Light refreshments and an opportunity to network will conclude the evening celebration.

Date: Sunday, 10 March

Time: 6-8pm

Place: Clattern Lecture Theatre, Penrhyn Road campus, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2EE

Cost: free

Further information: please see the [Kingston University](#) website.

U3A monthly meetings

4 February: Rembrandt's women

Colin Wiggins, recently of the National Gallery, will talk on the above subject.

These meetings are for members only:

Time: 2pm (doors open at 1.30pm)

Place: United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston

Cost: £1

Coffee and biscuits are available after the talk.

Next month we'll be sending out the printed newsletter.

The next Kingston U3A news bulletin will be emailed out to you around the middle of March. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Friday, 15 March.

In the meantime, please check the [Kingston U3A](#) website regularly. Many thanks.

Please note: If you wish your name to be removed from Kingston U3A's email list, please notify [Linda Foreman](#) or [Susan Hinchsliffe](#).