

Chair's Remarks



Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. I hope you had a wonderful Easter with your friends and family.

In this edition we welcome our new Speakers Secretary, Suzie Verneel, who tells us how she came to join Kingston U3A and how much she's enjoying being a member of several of our groups. Suzie is busy planning speakers for 2020 and beyond. Meanwhile Gisela Zürcher-Feiss gives us a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how she and her team plan those monthly trips and holidays both in the UK and abroad. We're very lucky to have such people prepared to volunteer their services. We enjoy these talks and outings, so a big thank you to the organisers. I'm looking forward to the Historic Devon trip in September.

Our apologies to those members who arrive in time for the monthly meetings but find the hall at the United Reformed Church full. We're restricted to 150 seats by fire-safety regulations. Please arrive by 1.30 pm if you want a seat. The committee has looked at larger alternative venues but they are very expensive to hire. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions, we'd be happy to hear from you.

I do encourage you to participate in as many groups as you can. The more you put in, the more enjoyable and satisfying your membership will be. If a group is full, always ask the coordinator to put your name on a waiting list as we are keen to start new groups.

Enjoy this newsletter and let Susan Hinchsliffe (newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk) know if there is anything you'd like to see in future editions.

Happy learning!

Aeni Ester

Monthly Meetings

3 June: Gone with the Wind David Allen reveals the film-set gossip, scandals and back-stage rows behind the iconic film.

1 July: Kingston's Railways John King, whom you may recognise from the London walks he leads for U3A members, talks about our local railways.

5 August: Angels in Art Colin Lomas guides us through the many mysteries of these beings in their various forms through different periods of art.

2 September: Agatha Christie, Queen of Crime Nick Dobson take us on a journey through the biography and work of this great novelist.

2pm (doors open 1.20pm), United Reform Church, Eden Street, Kingston. Members only

Group News

Kingston U3A Singers

The singers are looking for new members and have places available in all voice ranges. Rehearsal times are 10.30am-12.30pm on Thursday mornings at Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton, KT6 4BN. There is ample parking on site and we are a short walk from Surbiton station. There's a bus stop just outside Waitrose, which is served by several different routes.



We offer a friendly welcome with no audition: you sing with us for a month to see if you'd like to join. You don't

have to be able to read music. The work is varied, from classical through to folk, and is mostly sung in four parts. The cost is £40 per quarter with music provided.

If you would like to come along and join in, please contact any member of the choir or Helga Randall on 020 8397 8712. We'd love to see you.

Patchwork



This group would like to expand to include embroidery, sewing, knitting etc. It meets at 10am one Monday a month in the North Kingston area.

If you are interested, please contact Martine Roscorla:
c.roscorla@btinternet.com,
020 8546 0202.

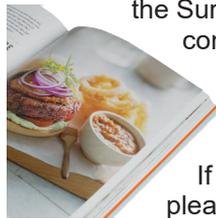
Writing for Children

This new group meets at 10.30am on the second Wednesday of the month in the Surbiton area.

If you are interested, please contact Jean Farrell:
steveandjeanfarrell@hotmail.com.

Cook Book Club

This new group meets at 2pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Surbiton area. The content depends on what the members want – perhaps even cookery.



If you are interested, please contact Gill Pickup:
gillpickup@waitrose.com,
020 8399 3271.

Creative Writing Group

We are a small group, meeting every month. We write because we enjoy writing for pleasure. We normally have a different subject each month: our last title was 'My thanks to everybody...'. We try to limit the length of each piece to around 1,000 words – everyone reading out his/her own work.



If you enjoy writing anything, please come along and join our group. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 25 June. It starts at 10.30am in the Community Hub Room, 3rd floor at John Lewis in Kingston.

Further information: Please contact Janet Killner: killner11q@btinternet.com,
020 8397 3485.

Anyone for Croquet?

Would you like to join a new U3A croquet group at the Surbiton Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, KT5 9AA? Lorraine and Philip Hellen are offering a second taster session at 10am on the morning of Wednesday, 19 June for you to try out the game.



Croquet is a fascinating game. Suitable for both young and old, it is played in the open air and gives modest physical exercise with very little risk of physical injury. It also presents a test of hand

and eye coordination and (some of the time) of mental agility. Like most sports, it can be played both socially and extremely competitively.

There are two forms of the game, Association and Golf, both played using the same equipment – a large lawn furnished with six hoops, a set of four differently coloured balls and a mallet to strike the balls. Both require players to knock their ball through the hoops in a prescribed order. However, the two forms are as different from each other as billiards and snooker.

If you are interested, please contact Philip or Lorraine: 020 8390 5718.

Possible New Group

Spanish Conversation

This new group would meet monthly in the New Malden area for conversation at quite an advanced level.

If you are interested, please contact Peter Millett: pjmilllett@hotmail.co.uk.

Wanted

Singing for Fun

This group is looking for a pianist to accompany their singing. They meet 10am-12pm every Friday morning in term-time, in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church, Kingston.

If you can help, please contact Janet Thorpe: grahamthorpe@lineone.net, 020 8399 3411.

Let's Sing 'The Great American Songbook'

This group is looking for a keyboard player to accompany their singing. A keyboard is available. They meet 2-4pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the Surbiton area.

If you can help please call Maureen Hasirci: 020 8241 4421.

Further Offers ...

...for new groups are always welcome. Please contact Shirley Miller: shirley.miller4@btinternet.com, 020 8940 8573.

Art Appreciation Group Two Reviews

Our group thoroughly enjoyed our recent visits to two exhibitions: Pierre Bonnard: the Colour of Memory at Tate Modern and Sorolla: Spanish Master of Light at the National Gallery. Both are post-impressionists and outside mainstream modern, avant-garde art.

French artist Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) may be best known for his indoor/outdoor paintings with light

flooding through from garden to interior, and for his 'lady in the bath' series. His mistress (later wife), Marthe, spent hours in the bath! Bonnard painted intimate everyday scenes from his notes after a period of reflection. In later years he concentrated more on landscapes. His use of light and shade, careful colour combinations and framing devices make for memorable pictures indeed.

Spanish artist Joaquin Sorolla (1863-1923) is less well known in this country. Many of his canvases are even larger than those of Bonnard and simply overwhelm the viewer. His earlier works show an awareness of poverty and hardship. There are portraits of his family, landscapes and palace gardens. Most striking is the sheer luminosity of sunlight on water and bodies and joyful movement as in *Running along the Beach*.

These two exhibitions left us on a high, looking forward to sunny times. Sadly the Bonnard exhibition has finished now but the Sorolla continues until 7 July and we really recommend it.

Fran Thurling

Money Matters

Please note the following information if your group pays a tutor or if you hire a space for your meetings.

Although the ethos of the U3A movement is focused on peer-group learning in private homes, the Kingston U3A committee appreciates that sometimes paying external tutors with particular skills and/or hiring public spaces is unavoidable, if the interests

of the group are to be fulfilled. However, there are options such as community-use rooms in the Guildhall and in John Lewis (3rd floor) which can be used free of charge and already accommodate some of our groups. Please contact Ireni Esler on chair@kingstonu3a.org.uk if you'd like to know how to book these spaces.

Accounts

At a recent Financial Matters course organised by the National Office for the treasurers of London U3As, it was made clear that self-funding groups should be discouraged from maintaining financial independence via specific accounts. Any money collected and paid out by such groups must be accounted for, administered through the main local U3A bank accounts and included in the annual accounts which are published and reported on at the AGM. The money in the main bank accounts of Kingston U3A belong to all members and cannot, for any reason, be used to subsidise any independent group, should it get into financial difficulties.

If groups wish to remain self-funding, we'll need to make proper arrangements for their finances to be handled in an appropriate manner through the central accounts.

(Please note: the above does not apply to the small sums contributed towards refreshments at groups run in people's homes.)

Helping the Treasurer

If our Treasurer, Joy Garvey, were to take over responsibility for these group accounts, the committee feels it would be a lot of extra work for her and, in future, would make it difficult to find a willing volunteer to take on the position.

So, we're looking for a volunteer to take on responsibility for the finances of these self-funding groups and to work alongside Joy in maintaining their accounts (held on a simple Excel system).

If anybody is interested, please contact Joy Garvey: treasurer@kingstonu3a.org.uk. She would really appreciate your help.



The People's Post

Tuesday, 18 June

This trip is an opportunity to learn the very British story of sending a letter, from the time of the Romans to the GPO. We'll visit the Postal Museum and take a ride on the Mail Rail.

We travel by coach to meet our guide at the Museum of London where we'll have morning refreshments. The tour begins on foot (no more than 400 yards) when we learn the colourful history of the postal service in London.



We complete the morning tour by coach before we have some free time for lunch in Exmouth Market with its thriving food market, traditional pubs and cafés.

In the afternoon we visit the Postal Museum which contains five centuries of world-class curiosities. We'll enjoy a 20-minute ride on Mail Rail, the subterranean railway that once whizzed four million letters a day beneath the streets of London. (Please note that in an emergency you'd have to be able to walk 100 yards without a stick and it may not be suitable for claustrophobia sufferers.)



There'll be time for refreshments before we head home at 4.45pm.

Please note that there is a certain amount of walking as described above and this trip may not be suitable for anyone with mobility problems.

Cost: £44.50 per person including coach, morning refreshments, tour fees and tips

Boarding time/points:

- 9am High Street, Kingston, opposite the Rose Theatre
- 9.15am Ewell Road, Surbiton, 'Telephone Exchange' bus stop

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

Please reply promptly and send the completed application form and your cheque for £44.50 made payable to Kingston U3A (GAS) plus a stamped addressed envelope (if you do not give an email address) to: Moira Shearer, 35c St Andrews Square, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4EG – Tel: 020 8390 6356.

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

London Mithraeum, Bloomberg Space

Friday 12 July

Join us on a visit to the London Mithraeum. Next door to Bank Station this cultural space returns the Roman Temple of Mithras to its original location in the heart of the City of London. The Mithraeum is situated in Bloomberg's European headquarters, and houses the reconstructed temple, a selection of the Roman artefacts found during the recent excavations and contemporary art commissions undertaken in response to this archaeological site.

We'll meet at Waterloo station and take the Waterloo and City Line to Bank, where, on our way out, we'll see the 24 John Hutton glass panels showing Roman citizens. These were originally installed in the old Bucklersbury House, the office block that previously stood on the Bloomberg site. This area was badly damaged during the Blitz and the Temple of Mithras was discovered in the 1950s when excavations were made for

the foundations of Bucklersbury House. The City Corporation said it must be preserved, so it was lifted out in pieces and stored in a builder's yard in Burlington Road, New Malden, then returned (with a few pieces missing) to a site alongside Queen Victoria Street.



When plans were made to demolish Bucklersbury House and build the Bloomberg Space, the planning approval was conditional on the Temple being returned to its original site, with the developer paying for an extensive archaeological dig. Planning permission also required the original line of Roman Watling Street to be reopened. This is now Bloomberg Alley where there are cafés, and the Bloomberg Arcade, where we can buy coffee before our visit, which starts at 11.30am.

It will take about 45 minutes to visit the Temple with its subdued lighting effects, mist and sound. There are lifts between all levels for those who don't want to use the stairs.

Date: Friday, 12 July

Meeting time/place: 10.15am at Waterloo Station, opposite Platform 1

Cost: £1 per person admin charge collected on the day

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 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 mailbox regularly.

A GAS with Gisela



Gisela Zürcher-Feiss, a member of Kingston U3A for almost 20 years, has been working in the General Activities Section (GAS) since 2003.

So how did she get involved? “Well, I was on a trip to Bruges which Frank Jay had organised for KU3A,” says Gisela. “We were in a restaurant and some people were having difficulty understanding the menu and the waiter. Frank heard me speaking to the waiter in French and decided that from then on, as I speak more than one language, I should organise the foreign trips. Then Geoff and Monica Weeden who started the U3A in Kingston suggested I join the committee and organise all the outings. But over the years KU3A has grown and there are now six of us arranging the outings: Claire Bletcher, Sheila

Evans, John King, Barbara Leach, Moira Shearer and me. But there’s always room for more helpers, so let me know if you are interested in joining us”. (generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk)

Organising the trips

Gisela is a member of the Association of Group Travel Organisers which gives her lots of ideas. Four weeks before publication of our quarterly newsletter, she and her five co-workers meet at Gisela’s house in Berrylands and decide on the outings.

“Generally we plan one UK outing a month (not in August because of school holidays), one UK holiday and one trip or cruise abroad each year. Frequently an outing has to be repeated as there are too many applicants for one trip.”

There are lots of behind-the-scene preparations. “We do a recce and work out the cost (coach, entrance fees, guide, tips, admin etc) per person. Then we publish details in the KU3A newsletter along with application forms,” says Gisela. “Once we’ve received the completed form and payment, the GAS member leading the outing confirms the member’s place and gives details of the meeting time/points and itinerary.” But the work doesn’t stop there. “On the day of the outing, the GAS leader signs in the travellers and, if necessary, phones those who have not appeared. Then there’s dealing with entrance fees, timing of guided tours and checking for special dietary requirements.”

Any advice she could pass on to our members to make her work easier? “Yes, there are a couple of things,” admits Gisela. “When you’re writing out your cheque, look very carefully to

whom you should make it out. This varies according to the trip: it could be to KU3A (GAS) or to the tour operator. And, of course, don't forget to sign it. Make sure you give us your full telephone number and that of your emergency contact. 999 isn't really helpful! And finally, please keep us informed if you decide not to come on a trip or if you are going to a different pick-up point. Otherwise you keep us all waiting."

What is the most enjoyable part of your role? "On the whole the groups are always nice and the GAS representatives enjoy volunteering and working with them. It feels good when people tell us they like coming on our outings because, otherwise, they wouldn't go out on their own and here they can be with people they've met before."

Suzie Vernel: our new Speakers Secretary

I have recently accepted the role of Speakers Secretary for Kingston U3A. I always enjoy a challenge and this particular role brings many as I research potential guest speakers for our monthly meetings. I hope to bring a variety of speakers covering a range of topics but I'd also be interested in hearing whether there are any subjects you are keen to learn about.

I've been a perpetual learner and after finishing a Business Management & Communication course many years ago, I've continued to learn new subjects since then. After college I ventured into various office roles – in banking, the NHS, and then in the Civil

Service. After retiring from a lengthy career there in 2016, I started to explore what kind of activities I'd like to do.

My first new adventure was learning to play golf – new territory

for me and, at first, I found it a challenging and frustrating game. But, eventually, I found it more enjoyable and, on reflection, I would never have imagined this game to be so much fun – trying to hit a little ball into many small holes – or that it could bring me as much joy.

Still on the look-out for more learning activities, I recalled that a former work colleague had mentioned an organisation called the University of the Third Age that had regional branches throughout the country. After searching online, I found the Kingston U3A website and was surprised to find so much information, including the variety of groups that a member could join.

Beginners Bridge caught my eye: I'd always wanted to learn this card game. After contacting the group leader, Linda Foreman, I decided to become a U3A member and join the Bridge group. I've thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of learning how to play this game, along with trying to remember all its conventions and rules.

Since then I've joined a walking group, too, which has opened up a new world of exploration, taken me on an



adventure through unknown territory, into 'secret gardens' and many other interesting local places that I never even knew existed. And now I've joined the Jazz Appreciation group in Teddington, who have made me feel very welcome. I'm now looking forward to learning much more about the different types of jazz music through the ages.

For me Kingston U3A has definitely opened up an exciting new world of adventure after my retirement: I can

continue to learn in an environment that is both enjoyable as well as fun.

And don't forget, if you would like me to find a speaker on a particular topic, please email me at speakers@kingstonu3a.org.uk.

Suzie Vernel

Kingston U3A Singers: Summer Concert

Singers at a previous concert



The singers will be performing an entertaining mixture of light-hearted songs and choral works and would love to see you there.

Time/Date: 7.30pm, Saturday, 15 June

Place: Malden Methodist Church, New Malden High Street, 49 High Street, KT3 4BY

Cost: £8 – Tickets are available from Sheila Evans (020 3602 6245), any member of the choir, or on the door.

If the concert inspires you to get singing, we'd love you to join us. See details in the Group News section p2.

MOTO2 Visit Isabella Plantation



l-r Christine Thompson, Judy Stokke,
Dolores Boase, Helen Howell

The MOTO2 group had a lovely walk through the Isabella Plantation followed by tea at Pembroke Lodge. Great company, gorgeous flowers and delicious food!

U3A Subject Advisers

If you are thinking of starting up a new interest group or need advice on issues in existing groups, you can find a list of subject advisers on the main U3A website at

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/resources/subjects>.

Please note that you will need to create a log-in to reach the area of the website where such advice is stored.

Subject areas include Arts, Creative, History, Languages, Pastimes, Research, Science, Sport, Thought and Wellbeing.

Third Age Trust Event

National Gallery:

Renaissance Treasures

Some of the finest art works of the Italian Renaissance are now held in trust for us within the collection of the National Gallery.



Come along to the Gallery and hear experts talk about the iconic paintings and hidden gems of the Italian Renaissance by artists such as Botticelli, Leonardo and Titian, as well as by some lesser known artists. The speakers will draw on a range of devotional and secular paintings to introduce the greatest innovations and stylistic developments in Italian painting c1250-1560, and teach you some tools for looking at paintings.

Time: 11am-3.45pm

Date: Thursday, 20 June

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

Cost: £25 (lunch and refreshments **not** provided)

Further information and tickets: See the Eventbrite website at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/renaissance-treasures-at-the-national-gallery-tickets-59881866274>

Odeon: Silver Cinema

If you aren't aware of this already, Odeon cinemas have special screenings for older people (over 55) of recent films. Tickets are from £3 each (including tea/coffee and biscuits before your film).

The Kingston Odeon has a morning and afternoon showing of two films on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Just one caveat: Silver Cinema doesn't usually operate in the school holidays.)

Further information: See the Odeon website at <https://www.odeon.co.uk/silvercinema/>. Enter which cinema you wish to go to and you will see the week's programme.

Kingston University

Here are some of the events in May and June which may be of interest to you. For a full list, see Kingston University website at <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/all-events/>.

Summer is graduation season and some of the students at Kingston University are involved in graduation exhibitions and performances, which are open to the public free of charge.

Foundation Studies in Art and Design: Graduation Show

Come along and see an exhibition of the students' work which covers four areas of study: communication design, 3D design, fashion and fine art.

Date: Friday, 24 May-Wednesday, 5 June

Further information: See the Kingston University website at <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/item/3296/23-may-2019-foundation-studies-in-art-and-design-graduation-show-2019/>

Kingston School of Art Degree Show

A celebration of the students' achievements in a wide range of artistic subjects, from architecture to fashion, from interior design to photography.

Date: Saturday, Monday, 3 June-Sunday, 9 June

Further information: See the Kingston University website at:

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/item/3292/01-jun-2019-kingston-school-of-art-degree-show-2019/>

Kingston Onstage 2019: Performing Arts Showcase

The best of the year's work and a new collaborative piece based on William Blake's *The Book of Thel*, specially commissioned by the Performing Arts Community Engagement team at the University. The festival will also feature a selection of drama, devised theatre, physical theatre, hip hop, contemporary dance, pop, rock, singer songwriters, musical theatre, creative use of music technology and more.

Date: Thursday, 6 June-Friday, 7 June

Further information including booking details: See the Kingston University website at:

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/item/3346/06-jun-2019-kingston-onstage-2019-kingston-university-performing-arts-showcase/>

My Two Daughters

I wander silent as a monk
mid thoughts that grieving folk have sunk
in marble, granite, concrete, stone
to tell of some whose souls have flown:

a loving dad, a cherished son,
a niece, a daughter, sadly one
who died before she learnt to rhyme
when Fate declined to give her time

to hold the doll placed on her tomb
or know the bear sat in a room
with cot and curtains hung in pink
where I'll allow myself to think

. . . one day

a sister she will never meet
will take to her unsteady feet.

Bob Sheed

Bob has four volumes of published poetry and two of short stories and has edited a number of anthologies of other people's work. All can be found on Amazon. He co-founded 'Poetry Performance', a non-U3A event that takes place on the first Sunday in the month, 6-8pm at the Adelaide pub in Teddington. For full details please email Anne Warrington (warringa@blueyonder.co.uk).

Bob runs the Kingston U3A poetry writing group in Teddington. He has a vacancy if anyone is interested in joining his group.