**Kingston U3A News Bulletin – June 2019 no 20**

In this month’s issue, there’s an invitation from researchers to complete a survey about memory and attention problems. If you are interested in history-based shared learning projects, there’s an opportunity to get involved in research into the lives of 17th century Londoners through the petitions they submitted. There’s a SE Region Autumn Gathering which will focus on and explore ‘Interest Groups’. There are two Third Age Trust events: a musical one in London and a scientific one in Bristol. We offer some advice on sending and replying to emails from other Kingston U3A members to ensure that we comply with data protection regulations. And finally, there’s our usual announcement about our next monthly meetings.

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Research project: Subjective cognitive decline

Researchers from the Division of Psychiatry at University College London are looking for people willing to complete an online survey about any difficulties they are experiencing with memory and/or attention, mood, satisfaction with life and other psychological factors. The survey should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.

Requirements

You must:

– be at least 60 years old

– be experiencing difficulties with memory

– have discussed memory problems with your GP or attended a memory clinic and been told that there is nothing wrong with your memory and/or attention.

Further information

If you are interested in taking part, please go to:[University College](https://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=61647)’s website or contact Elnaz Gultekin at [elnaz.gultekin.18@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:elnaz.gultekin.18@ucl.ac.uk).

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Shared learning project: Uncovering the lives of seventeenth-century Londoners

Petitions to 10 Downing Street are not a new thing. In the 17th century, people – from noblemen to paupers – commonly used them to make their voices heard in this age of plague, fire and civil war. Sending a petition was one of the only acceptable ways to address the authorities when seeking redress, mercy or advancement.

The organisers of this shared learning project are looking for a group of curious volunteers to discover, through transcribed petitions from the period, who these petitioners were and to find out more about their lives and communities. Many of these documents include short autobiographical narratives of the petitioners (prisoners, paupers, apprentices, hackney coachmen) and their circumstances. You can also glean more information about them from sources such as parish registers and legal records.

The petitions have been collected and transcribed as part of a research project based at Birkbeck, University of London, and the academic project leader, Dr Brodie Waddell, will advise U3A participants. Training will be provided by the London Metropolitan Archives and the Westminster City Archives to assist your research.

The project will run from six months from this September to February 2020 and the results will be published online as a series of short pieces on the academic project website: [http://petitioning.history.ac.uk](http://petitioning.history.ac.uk/).

Further information and registration: If you would like to join the project, please contact Peter Cox at [coxpetern@gmail.com](mailto:coxpetern@gmail.com) or Jo Walters at [jo.walters.slp@gmail.com](mailto:jo.walters.slp@gmail.com).

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SE Region Autumn Gathering

This one-day event on the topic of ‘Interest Groups’ is open to all U3As in the SE.

Time: 9.30am-4.30pm

Date: Monday, 11 November

Place: Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton, GU34 1HN

Cost: free but please register

Registration: please go to the [Eventbrite](https://u3a-southeastregiongathering-nov19.eventbrite.co.uk) website.

Further information: contact Bob Duckmanton at [duckmanton@u3a.org.uk](mailto:duckmanton@u3a.org.uk)

or Hilvary Robinson at [u3ahilvary@gmail.com](mailto:u3ahilvary@gmail.com), tel: 01590 672825.

Agenda

9.30 Registration and tea/coffee (served in the cafeteria)

10.00 Introduction: Bob Duckmanton, S E Region Trustee

10.15 Interest Groups: Carole Chapman and Beryl Shepherd

11.15 Tea/Coffee break

11.30 ‘The U3A Movement – future opportunities and challenges: Ian McCannah,   
 Chairman, Third Age Trust

12.30 Lunch: a light lunch will be provided

1.30 Breakout groups (session 1)

2.30 Breakout groups (session 2)

3.30 Summary session and tea/coffee

4.30 Finish

Breakout groups

Choose two from the following topics:

1 The U3A way: Sue Southwell

2. Having fun with on-line learning: Joy Lyon

3. Research for your U3A: Carole Chapman

4 Ideas for new groups – Bring some of your own successes to share: Hilvary Robinson

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Third Age Trust events

U3A Jazz study day

In *New Jazz Portraits* Alan Barnes and his octet will enlighten the audience about jazz, focusing on the instruments in the band and the personalities that energise jazz music. There’ll be musical portraits of the players as well as musicians who have been important in Alan’s career.

Time: 11am-4pm

Date: Tuesday, 17 September 2019

Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY

Cost: £20

Further information and tickets: please go the [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-jazz-study-day-2019-tickets-61221289525) website.

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We the Curious - Is there anybody out there?

U3A members are invited to enjoy a day out with a difference. ‘We The Curious’ is a cultural venue in the heart of Bristol, offering exciting and stimulating experiences based around science and the arts. This day includes:

– a 3D Planetarium show – Life in the universe: a narrated tour of our celestial neighbours both within and beyond our own solar system.

– three workshops:

– Finding exoplanets:

Planets orbiting distant stars are too small to see through even the biggest telescopes, so how do we know they are there and how can we calculate their number and size?

– Planets fit for life:

Understanding what life is and what it needs can help us know where to look for it in the cosmos but once we have found a planet, how can we tell what its atmosphere is made of and whether it will support life?

– New life on Earth:

Even on Earth, confirming the existence of new species can be challenging. In this workshop there’ll be a review of the evidence for Bigfoot – a large bipedal ape some claim to be living in the Pacific Northwest of the USA.

Time: 10.30am-4pm

Date: Wednesday, 18 September

Place: Anchor Road, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5DB

Cost: £22

Further information and tickets: please go the [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-the-curious-is-there-anybody-out-there-tickets-62354350541) website.

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Heritage and Art of Holland: 27 June-1 July 2019

At the end of last year we advertised this holiday which includes visits to some of the Netherlands’ famous cities, museums and art galleries.

Owing to a cancellation for there is now a single room available if you would like to join the tour. You will find full details of the trip in the Winter 2018 newsletter.

Further information: Please contact Gisela Zürcher-Feiss at [generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk) or on 020 8399 4990 if you are interested.

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Emailing groups of U3A members

If you are emailing more than one member, it is important to add their addresses in the BCC (blind carbon copy) section of the heading and **not** the CC field. This ensures that each person receives the message but cannot see the other recipients’ names and email addresses.

If you are replying to an email, please use the Reply (to the original sender) and **not** the Reply All option. Again, this ensures that the names and email addresses of other recipients are not disclosed.

We are asking members to do this to help Kingston U3A stay compliant with data protection rules.

Thank you.

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**Kingston University events**

There aren’t any events of the kind we usually advertise in the bulletin but if you wish to check what is going on for yourselves, please see a full list on the [Kingston University](https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/all-events/) website.

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U3A monthly meetings

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. He has written a book on the subject and is a long-time resident in the borough.

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 takes us on a journey through the biography and work of this great novelist.

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.

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The next Kingston U3A news bulletin will be emailed to you around the middle of July. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at [communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk) by Friday, 5 July.

In the meantime, please check the [Kingston U3A](http://www.kingstonu3a.org.uk/) website regularly. Many thanks.

Please note: If you wish your name to be removed from Kingston U3A’s email list, please notify [Linda Foreman](mailto:database@kingstonu3a.org.uk) or [Susan Hinchsliffe](mailto:communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk).