

Kingston u3a News Bulletin 1 March 2021 No 34

Greetings everyone and welcome to March's news bulletin.

On current government proposals, we hope to be able to start groups of six meeting outdoors again from about 29 March. We await firm guidance from the government and **u3a** National Office before resuming these or any other face-to-face **u3a** activities. No indoor activities or outings can be booked yet.

You can find below details of the Third Age Trust's online talks throughout March, most of them free of charge. If you are interested in any, we recommend you sign up as soon as possible as these are national events and soon sell out.

One of our members would like to pass on the name of a good website where you can play different card and board games online with friends, free of charge.

If you're still keen to learn the ins and outs of Zoom, there are several online tutorials over the next few weeks. Please note, too, that for those without suitable equipment, it is possible to join a Zoom meeting with an ordinary landline telephone. You won't see pictures or slides but can speak and hear everyone. One member already takes part in a book group in this way and for languages and other groups it should also be possible. For advice on how to do this, group leaders should contact Chris Cheek.

You can see the next few monthly meetings, including tomorrow's, when Vince Eager is making a second appearance to speak about life after the Eurovision Song Contest.

In the meantime, do take care and keep safe in what we hope will be our final weeks of lockdown!

u3a Online Events

The Third Age Trust is holding some online talks in March which may be of interest to you.

You can see all of them listed on the national [u3a](#) website, along with dates and times. Most of these events are free of charge. Subjects for which there are still tickets include:

- [The Art of the Album Cover](#) – four-week course: 2, 9, 16, 23 March, 10-11.15am
- [Staying Safe Online](#) – 4 March, 2-3.30pm (I have attended this course already and found it very useful – editor.)
- [Leonardo da Vinci: Would he have made a good u3a member?](#) – 8 March, 10-11.15pm
- [Egyptology: Women in Ancient Egypt](#) – 8 March, 2-3.15pm
- [Fire! A century of the Volunteer Fire Brigade](#) – 17 March, 2-3.30pm
- [Turner and Mythology](#) – (with the National Gallery), **£5.50**, 18 March, 11am-12.30pm
- [Springtime Treats: Live cookery demonstration](#) – 22 March, 10.30-11.30am
- [Maths on the Back of an Envelope](#) – 15 April, 2-3pm

It's a good idea to make a note of the national [u3a Events](#) page and check it regularly to make sure you are in time to book any talks you are interested in. By the time we publish our bulletins and newsletters, these events are often sold out.

Tutorials: An introduction to Zoom

Tickets are still available for several online sessions in March. The aim is to help you become familiar with the basics on how to use Zoom, what you can do with it, some of the functions (such as splitting into break-out rooms, instant polling, muting everyone!) and how to be safe.

Dates: There are 18 sessions available throughout March. Check the dates via the link below.

Cost: Free

Booking and registration: See the [Eventbrite](#) website.

u3a London Region: Online talk

There are still tickets available for:

- Realms of Gold – John Keats: His story, and his poetry – 8 March

You can find details of the talk on the [London Region](#) website and in the [Winter Talks](#) flyer.

Registration: Open the [Winter Talks](#) flyer and click on the link for the Keats talk.

Online Games

Thanks to member Jan Goodyear for passing on the name of the website <https://playingcards.io/9de2rz> where you can play cards and other games for free.

Games are for two and four players and include backgammon, hearts, cribbage, chess and many others. Jan and her friends found they could adapt the hearts game very well to play whist. They talk to each other while playing via WhatsApp or the phone.

Monthly Meetings

The meetings listed below will be online via Zoom. We'll send out invitations to all those members for whom we have email addresses. Up to 500 people can participate in an online meeting. The speakers below have all agreed to give their talks via Zoom.

Monday, 1 March, 2pm

Vince Eager: Life After the Eurovision Song Contest

Please note that Vince is replacing the planned speaker, Bobbie Darbyshire, who is unable to give her talk. She hopes to come along next year.

Monday, 12 April, 1.30pm

Please note the earlier start which will begin with a Special General Meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed changes to Kingston **u3a**'s constitution, which were outlined in February's newsletter.

The talk will follow at 2pm.

The House of Romanov – Siobhan E Clarke

Monday, 10 May, 2pm

Footsteps in Summer: John O'Groats to Land's End – Russell George

Monday, 7 June, 2pm

Baked Alaska or Mexican Chilly?: Climate change explained – Nick Cook

May Newsletter

Please send any contributions to our next quarterly newsletter which will be out in May:

- reports from your groups
- poems
- stories
- any new artistic talent or skill you've discovered during lockdown
- recommendations for books, programmes on TV, radio or online, box sets

Photos (with captions) are always welcome and brighten up our pages.

Please send any contributions to Susan Hinchsliffe at newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Wednesday, 14 April.

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The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early April. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Wednesday, 24 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 Chris Cheek or Susan Hinchsliffe.