

Kingston u3a News Bulletin July 2021 No 37

(sent out 30 June)

Even though some lockdown regulations are still in force, we hope that you and your groups are managing to resume your activities.

We begin our news bulletin with an article about chess. Is anyone interested in setting up a chess club? Are you an experienced player who would like to join the national network? If so, see details below.

The Third Age Trust and London Region Network are continuing their programme of talks throughout July and August. London Region has decided to go ahead with its study day (which you can attend in person) on 17 August. The Surrey Network has also set up three study days at the Menuhin Hall in Stoke d'Abernon. You'll find full details below of all these events.

As ever, we finish this edition with a reminder of our next few monthly meetings and an invitation to contribute to our next bulletin and newsletter.

Enjoy meeting up in person once again but please continue to take care and keep safe!

Are You a Chess Player or Would You Like to Learn?

After two successful Zoom meetings, interest has grown amongst members in all parts of the UK to start up a **u3a** Chess Network. Its overall aim is to promote the study and playing of the game in both local **u3as** and nationally on websites and via Zoom.

Chess, unlike bridge, has never flourished in the **u3a**, probably because of its reputation as a difficult, complex game, played in silence. But the rules are straightforward and easy to grasp and, after a short while, interesting, thought-provoking games can be played. We've also realised in the last few years that a chess club can be sociable, where the intention is to explore the theory, play well but also enjoy the game and meet other people. Playing chess improves concentration, memory, decision-making and spatial comprehension – a real advantage for all of us in **u3a**.

In September a nation-wide **u3a** Chess League will be set up which will be available to members of all abilities, from learners to experts. Its objectives are to:

- help and encourage new local chess clubs
- collect, and make readily available, information relevant to **u3a** chess players and clubs
- encourage Zoom or online u3a chess groups or leagues.

Join the u3a Chess Network

If you would like to start a chess club in Kingston **u3a**, please contact groups coordinator, Shirley Miller, at groupcoordinator@kingstonu3a.org.uk or on 020 8940 8573.

Go to www.u3achessnetwork.org.uk where you can register for the u3a Chess League starting in September.

u3a Online Events

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

You can see all of them listed on the national [u3a](http://www.u3a.org.uk) website, along with dates and times. These events are free of charge.

- [Howzat? The World Cricket Rankings, Ted Dexter and Me](#) – Thurs 1 July, 2pm
- [Discovering Japan](#) – Tues 6 July, 10.30am
- [What Philosophers Say about Life and How to Live it Well](#) – Fri 9 July, 2pm and Fri 16 July, 2pm
- [Introduction to Laughter Yoga: Workshop](#) – 20 July, 10am
- [Well Being in Nature](#) (repeat talk) – Thurs 5 August, 2pm

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.

London Region: July/August online talks

There are six online talks which are all on a Monday, 5.30-6.30pm (log in from 5pm).

- Strangers When They Met (Twenties Jazz and the beginning of the Great American Songbook. Music of and by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, the Gershwins, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and others) – 5 July
- No COP out @ COP26 (Climate Change: what it is - and what we must do - a big challenge for everyone.) – 19 July
- Paris in the 1920s: Art, Culture, Fashion and Society – 2 August
- Classical Swing in the Roaring Twenties – 23 August

Further information and registration

Please see the [Summer Talks](#) flyer where you will see links to sign up for the appropriate talk.

London Region keeps a [Talks Archive](#), where you can find recordings of some of their previous online events.

London Region of u3as: Summer School

London Region's committee has decided to go ahead with plans for an in-person, one-day summer school on Tuesday, 17 August (subject to government Covid guidelines on that date).

Getting back into the swing! will be special day of talks and live music at Bridewell Hall, which is large, light and airy, and with lunch at the usual venue, St. Bride's, off Fleet Street. In addition, there will be six guided walks.

Further information

Follow the links below for more details of the event, including cost and directions:

- [Summer School Programme](#) gives details of talks
- [Summer School Flyer](#)
- [Online Application Form](#)
- [Postal Application Form](#)

Surrey Network: Study days

After an 18-month gap Surrey Network's study days will begin again in September.

Time: 10am-4pm, (registration and login begin at 9.30am)

Dates: See programme details below.

Place: You can attend in person at the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon or join online via Zoom.

Cost (including tea/coffee biscuits): £10 for members, £12 for guests attending in person. £5 for those attending via Zoom. Attendees should bring a packed lunch.

Registration: Advance booking is necessary for each event. See links below.

Programme:

- [Landscapes of South-East England](#) – Fri, 17 September, [Poster](#)
- [Tutankhamun, the Boy King](#) – Fri, 15 October, [Poster](#)
- [The Development of British Style](#) – Fri, 19 November, [Poster](#)

Kingston u3a: 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, 5 July, 2pm

The Changing World of Broadcast Media – Pat Mitchinson

Monday, 2 August, 2pm

Witty Ditties: 400 Years of Comic Songs – Sophie Matthews and Chris Green

Monday, 6 September, 2pm

The Weird and Wonderful World of Law – Dave Allen

Please note: For this meeting we are hoping that some of you will be able to come along to the United Reformed Church in person. We'll be able to confirm numbers and booking procedures in our August newsletter.

August Newsletter

We are looking for contributions to our next quarterly newsletter which will be out in August.

With things beginning to look more hopeful with the easing of restrictions, we'd like to know how you are readjusting to life after lockdown.

And, of course, we'd be happy to receive articles on the usual topics:

- reports from your groups
- poems
- stories
- 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 July.

The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early September. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Monday, 23 August.

In the meantime, please check the [Kingston u3a](http://Kingstonu3a) website regularly. Many thanks.

Please note: If you wish your name to be removed from Kingston **u3a**'s email list, please notify [Chris Cheek](mailto:Chris.Cheek).