

# Kingston u3a News Bulletin September 2021 No 38

(sent out 31 August 2021)

We begin this edition with the sad announcement that our Speakers Secretary, Suzie Vernel, is leaving her post at the end of the year, so we're on the lookout for a replacement. Let us know if you'd like to help out arranging the speakers for our monthly meetings.

There's a brief update from Linda Foreman on the National AGM, followed by a few items of group news together with important information about whom to contact when there are changes either to your group or to the leader's contact details.

Bob Higgins is on the look out for volunteers to help him with the High Street Project in Kingston which began last year.

Although we announced a lot of administrative things in the Autumn newsletter, we've added some timely reminders below – registering for the September meeting if you wish to attend in person; paying your membership subscription; and an opportunity to become a member of the Executive Committee.

The Third Age Trust and London Region Network are continuing their programme of talks throughout September and the Surrey Network has set up three study days at the Menuhin Hall in Stoke d'Abernon. You'll find full details below of all the events.

To finish we've a reminder of our next few monthly meetings and an invitation to contribute to our next bulletin and newsletter.

If you haven't done so already, please make every effort to get your groups up and running again and, as ever, take care and keep safe!

## Goodbye to the Speakers Secretary

We are sorry to say that from the end of the year, Suzie Vernel will no longer be our Speakers Secretary nor will she serve on the Kingston **u3a** Executive Committee.

For the last three years Suzie has done a tremendous job organising a varied programme of speakers, liaising with those giving talks as well as introducing and thanking them at each of our monthly meetings. Through all the lockdowns, she has managed to keep the talks going and recently found a replacement for the designated speaker at the last moment. Thank you for all your efforts, Suzie.

Suzie will remain a member of Kingston **u3a** and hopes to come along to our meetings. In the meantime, we need someone to step into her shoes and arrange our future talks. Suzie has already organised all the talks for 2022 so her successor will have plenty of time to take on her role. Help will be given, of course, and if you're interested in getting involved or helping to organise the speakers for our monthly meetings, please contact the Chair, Linda Foreman, at [chair@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@kingstonu3a.org.uk).

## National AGM

The Third Age Trust (National **u3a**) AGM took place in Kenilworth on 26 August.

At the AGM 339 of the 1,048 UK **u3as** were represented, most of them online, including Kingston. Our Chair, Linda Foreman, attended via Zoom and gives the following update:

Ian McCannah gave his third and final address as Chair, and Richard Teare as Treasurer. The new national officers, all volunteers from **u3as** are:

- Chair: Liz Thackray from Finchley **u3a**
- Vice-Chair: Michaela Moody from Woodhall Spa **u3a**
- Treasurer: Derek Harwood from Islington **u3a**

## Group News

### Kingston u3a Singers

This group will start up regular rehearsals again at 10.30am on Thursday, 16 September, at Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton KT6 4BN. Rehearsals last two hours with a break halfway through.

The group would welcome new members, so why not go along and try some 'tasting sessions' with them?

For more details, contact Helga Randall: 020 8397 8712 or Roger Dench: 07759 020433. You can also check out the group's website: [Kingston-U3A-Singers.com](http://Kingston-U3A-Singers.com).

### Scrabble Group 1

Leader Mary Davies has announced that this group has unfortunately had to close. They can no longer use the venue in John Lewis, some people have left or don't come into Kingston anymore, and some are not so well, so sadly it has become too difficult to keep going.

Please let group coordinator Shirley Miller at [groupcoordinator@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@kingstonu3a.org.uk) know if you would like to start up a new Scrabble group.

### French Conversation 2

Please note that the contact details for this group are:

Robin Clarke, [robin345@live.co.uk](mailto:robin345@live.co.uk), 020 8390 1649

At the moment the group has no vacancies.

## Changing Group Details

If you spot any mistakes or need to make any of the following changes to the Groups & Contacts list which is published in the quarterly newsletter:

- a group's name
- meeting times and locations
- a group leader's contact details

please let Keith Maund at [keithmaund@outlook.com](mailto:keithmaund@outlook.com) know. He keeps a master copy of the spread sheet which contains all this information and passes it on to the newsletter editor, Susan Hinchsliffe, and the webmaster, Diane Wilson.

## High Street Survey Project: Volunteers Needed

Between lockdowns in 2020 the **u3a** ran a national High Street Survey. In Kingston volunteers recorded over 1,000 shops and sent off data and photos to the main team. Many volunteers worked in pairs and enjoyed the photographic survey they were asked to do.

More volunteers are now needed to help record the changes or even the shopping streets that were missed in the 2020 survey. All you'll need to do is to take a photo and email it or transfer it along with some typed notes of the address and whether the shop has newly opened or closed in the last year. This system has been simplified since last year and is now easier to use.

If you are interested in joining the project, Bob Higgins is leading the Kingston High Street Project group for this year and he'd like to get a team involved in the survey in September and October. You can contact Bob via email: [bobhiggins@virginmedia.com](mailto:bobhiggins@virginmedia.com).

## A Few Reminders

### Monthly Meeting Monday, 6 September

Don't forget that we can now host our monthly meetings in the United Reformed Church, starting with the one on 6 September at 2pm. There are still places available and if you wish to attend in person, please email Chris Johns at [u3achrisj@gmail.com](mailto:u3achrisj@gmail.com). You can see full details of registration in the Autumn newsletter.

We'll have a list at the door and can admit only members who have places. There will be no charge for September attendees at the hall but Gill O'Donnell has kindly volunteered to organise tea there and a contribution would be appreciated.

We will see how this goes, then plan for future meetings.

## Subscription Renewals

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership as soon as possible. You can find full details along with the appropriate form in the Autumn newsletter which was sent out to everyone at the beginning of August.

## Nomination of Kingston u3a Executive Committee Members

We're looking to recruit some new members onto the Committee. They would attend six committee meetings a year and can choose to help with aspects of administration, finance, the database, communications, groups, outings and holidays, membership, the website, or monthly meetings. Help of this kind would be most welcome.

If you would like to join the Committee, please detach the nomination form from the centre of the Autumn newsletter or download one from the Kingston **u3a** website and send it, by noon on Monday, 18 October to:

Lorraine Hellen  
Kingston u3a Secretary  
12 Park Road  
Surbiton  
KT5 8QD

## u3a Online Events

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

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

- [Owning a Guide Dog](#) – Tues 7 September, 10am
- [Laughter Yoga Workshop Series](#) – Wednesdays: 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December. All begin at 10am.
- [Mathematical Surprises: A Curious Maths Quiz](#) – Thurs 9 September, 2pm
- [Egyptology Series: Pottery in Ancient Egypt](#) – Fridays: 10 September, 8 October, 12 November. All begin at 2pm.
- [Elizabeth and Mary: Royal Cousins, Rival Queens](#) – (in conjunction with the British Library) Wed 29 September, 10.30am
- [The Geology of Sedimentary Rocks Part 1: Continental Rocks](#) – Thurs 7 October, 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: Autumn Online Talks

Here's a list of the online talks which are all on a Monday, 5.30-6.30pm (log in from 5pm).

- Irish Troubles – 6 September
- Marconi: The Man who Shrank the World – 20 September
- In for a Penny, in for a Pound (Do you still think in £ s d?) – 4 October
- Sleepwalking into the Abyss (Summer 1914 as the threat of war increases) – 18 October
- Top 10 Odd Things to Measure (the National Measurement System) – 1 November
- London's Gangland from the Sabinis to the Krays – 22 November
- Boys will be Girls: 'Those Squeaking Cleopatras' (Why did Shakespeare use boys to play female roles?) – 6 December

### Further information and registration

Please see the [Autumn Talks](#) flyer where there is more information about these topics with 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.

## Surrey Network: Study Days

The Surrey Network's study days 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, 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. Please check registration details above.

### **Monday, 4 October, 2pm**

The Antarctic Adventures of Sir Ernest Shackleton – Rodney Paul

### **Monday, 1 November, 1.30pm**

Please note: this talk follows the AGM, which will begin at 1.30pm.

Codes and Ciphers in the Second World War – Mark Baldwin

## **November Newsletter**

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

As things are gradually getting back to normal, 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 Hinchliffe at [newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk) by Thursday, 14 October.

The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early October. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchliffe at [communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk) by Thursday, 23 September.

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 at [database@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:database@kingstonu3a.org.uk).