

Kingston u3a Newsletter

Winter 2021 Volume 11 Issue 4



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www.kingstonu3a.org.uk

How good it is to see the Groups & Contact List in the centre of the newsletter almost back to normal. The new Train Group had a successful maiden outing and some other new groups are starting up and looking for new members (p3). More positive news, too, on the accommodation front. We now have a room in Surbiton Library that we can use once a week (see p2).

It's wonderful that Gisela and her team have now been able to plan two local outings – to Windsor Castle and to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. The tour to the Peak District, cancelled last year, is also going ahead in May 2022.

There's a list of proposed subjects and speakers for our monthly meetings in 2022. A big thank you to Suzie Vernel for arranging the programme before she passes on her role to the new speaker secretary, Mary Hodgson.

Finally Bob Higgins gives us an update on the High Street Survey Project, for which he is still looking for members to help out with research into local shopping areas.

As this is our last newsletter of 2021, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Linda Foreman
Chair



Admin Matters

Copyright

Kingston **u3a** pays the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) annually for permission for our groups to copy materials within certain limits. The licence costs £60 and we renewed ours in August out of our subscriptions. We are covered until 31 July 2022.

What you can copy

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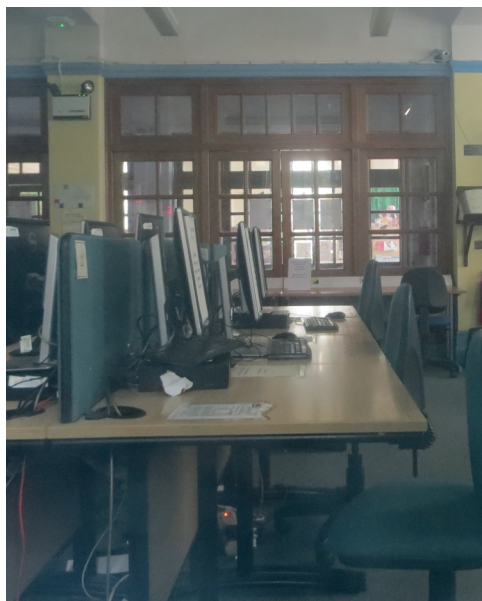
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Other licences we have

The PPL PRS (music licence) and MPLC (film licence) allow **u3as** to play music and screen films respectively. The licences are included in a **u3a**'s membership of the Trust. They automatically renew each year and **u3as** are covered. Neither organisation is issuing formal certificates any more.



New Meeting Room

Some of our groups used to meet up in the Community Room at John Lewis. Unfortunately this facility is no longer available for our use.

Kingston Council is now offering us a free room in Surbiton Library. We can use it on Wednesday afternoons, when it is normally closed to the public. It is the library's Reference Room, a large, pleasant, spacious area with a big table and some computers which we can use if we wish. There are toilet facilities in the building.

The Library is located on the Ewell Road and is served by several bus routes – K2, 281, 406 and 418 – with bus stops nearby.

If your group is interested in using the room for your meetings, please contact Linda Foreman at linda@foto.co.uk

Group News

Update from Shirley Miller, Groups Coordinator

Our groups are now nearly all back to normal, meeting face-to-face again. Congratulations to all our leaders who have made heroic efforts to keep everything going over the last 18 months.

Bridge: Intermediate (New Group)

This group will meet in New Malden. If you are interested, please contact Judith Davies: daviesjc33@gmail.com or 020 8942 3923

Opera Appreciation

We are still looking for a venue for the Opera Appreciation group. A wide screen television is essential. If you can help, please contact Shirley Miller: 020 8940 8573 or shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

Singing for Fun

This choir, which meets at 10am every Friday in the United Reformed Church, Eden Street, would welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact Janet Thorpe: 020 8399 3411 or janetlizthorpe@gmail.com

Kingston u3a Singers ...

... are recruiting. The singers meet locally on Thursday mornings, 10.30am-12.30pm, at Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton KT6 4BN. There is a large car park and stops for local buses, including the K1, K2 and K3.

This friendly, four-part choir is looking to recruit more voices and all are welcome. There is no formal audition and you don't have to sight-read perfectly but, if you're able to hold a tune and remember it for the next time, then that is good enough for us. All music is provided and, with a break for refreshments, it's a chance to meet and make new friends.

A quarterly charge is levied to cover the choir's expenses. If you're interested, then do come along to a Thursday rehearsal or speak to: Helga Randall: 020 8397 8712 or Roger Dench: 020 8949 5040

Walking Group 1 (two-hour walks)

This popular group will not be able to continue unless some new leaders or helpers come forward to assist. If you think you can help, please contact Shirley Bolton: 020 8786 2069 or a_c_bolton@hotmail.com

Tai Chi for Beginners

A class will be held in the Surbiton area either Monday or Tuesday morning. If you are interested, please contact Jill Smith: 020 8390 0440 or jill.smith3@btinternet.com

* * * * *

Unfortunately the foreign language groups have been badly hit by the lockdowns and Spanish, Italian and French (2) groups have had to close.

If anyone feels inspired to start up a new language group, please contact: Shirley Miller: 020 8940 8573 or shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

All aboard the Watercress Line!

The newly formed Kingston Train Group had its first outing on Saturday, 25 September. We took a trip on the Watercress Line which was founded by the Mid-Hants Railway Company in October 1865. It was so named because watercress grown commercially at Alresford could be taken by train to the London markets.

Our group met at Surbiton station and caught the 9.12am train to Alton where the Watercress Line begins its journey. Having crossed the platforms we caught the steam train to Alresford where Lionel Beer, our group leader, led us around this pretty little Georgian market town. We started at the old church where French soldiers from the Napoleonic Wars are buried. We then went on to the town

where there are a number of tea shops and you can also see the River Alre.

After about two hours we caught the train to Ropley and spent some time there having tea from the station buffet. Some of us went on the Miniature Railway situated adjacent to one of the platforms. There's also a small museum and viewing gallery there, where you can look down on the engineering works. One or two of us went into the signal box.

We finally caught the train back to Alton and then to Surbiton. Many thanks to Lionel for organising this very enjoyable day out. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Lionel on 020 8979 3148.

Norman & Jill Hyman, group secretaries



Members of the Train Group: leader Lionel Beer (front row, left), Norman Hyman (sporting a white cap) in the front row and Jill, standing second from the right

Monthly Meetings 2022: Dates, Topics and Speakers

Here are the dates for next year's monthly meetings. More information about each talk will be given closer to the time. We shall continue to hold hybrid meetings so that members who cannot or do not want to attend in person at the United Reformed Church have a chance to participate. Places at the church are limited but at the time of issuing this newsletter there is no need to book in advance.

Date	Topics/Speakers
10 Jan	Annual Quiz (online or at the United Reformed Church) – Stephen Arkell
7 Feb	Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660-1830 – Sarah Slater
7 Mar	Climbing Kilimanjaro – Graham Horn
4 Apr	How Magicians are seen in Paintings, Prints and Cartoons – Ian Keable
9 May	Charles Darwin and the Voyage of HMS Beagle, 1831-1836 – James Taylor
6 Jun	Family History for Beginners – David Eniffer
4 Jul	Prosthetic Perils' Poetry – Andy Smith
1 Aug	"What Time is the Midnight Buffet?" – Vince Eager
5 Sep	A History of the Medicine We Take – Tony Cartwright
3 Oct	Jazz Age Greats – Graham Harrison
7 Nov	Your Country Needs You ... – James Taylor
5 Dec	History of the Christmas Carol – Adrienne Hesketh

GAS: Outings and Holidays

Christmas at Windsor Castle

Experience the wonderful sight of Windsor Castle decorated for Christmas, and enjoy viewing some of the State Rooms, including the private rooms of George IV not normally seen by summer visitors.

A Blue Badge Guide will meet our coach in Windsor and, after time for refreshments, we'll visit the Royal Chapel where we'll listen to our guide's introduction to the Castle. We then walk through the State Apartments at our leisure. A free hour is planned for lunch (available in the Undercroft Café) or for walking back down into Windsor town. Please note there is a short, uphill walk from the town back to the Castle.

In the afternoon we board the coach for a guided tour of the Windsor estate, finishing up at the Windsor farm shop where you can buy produce, gifts and

refreshments.

We leave at 4.30pm for the journey back to Kingston.



Date: Wednesday, 8 December

Cost: £48.05 per person (lunch and refreshments **not** included in the price)

Meeting times/points:

- 9am Kingston: High Street, opposite the Rose Theatre
- 9.15am: Surbiton: Claremont Road, opposite Waitrose

If you would like to come, please complete the application form in the centre of this newsletter and send it together with your cheque for £48.05 per person, made payable to

Kingston u3a GAS to:

Jacqui Hine, 85 Richmond Park Road, Kingston KT2 6AF.

If you do not give an email address, please include a stamped addressed envelope for a reply.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui on 020 8549 1924 or jacqui@hine.org.uk



Photograph courtesy of Deborah Sussex

Royal British Legion Poppy Factory: Exhibition and Museum

The Poppy Factory in Richmond is a charity set up by the Royal British Legion over 100 years ago. Its aim is to support wounded veterans with health issues to find employment. It reaches beyond the factory into communities across England and Wales.

We will visit the factory and learn more from their newly opened exhibition and museum.

We meet at the Poppy Factory at 10.30am and, after an introductory talk, visit the exhibition where coffee and cakes will be available. We'll learn about the origin of the poppy symbol and have the chance to make our own poppy. The morning ends at 12.30pm.

Date: Thursday, **10 February 2022**

Location: The Poppy Factory,
20 Petersham Road,
Richmond TW10 6UR

How to get there: Take bus 65 from Kingston to Richmond and get off at Compass Hill, opposite the Poppy Factory (last stop before Richmond Bridge – ring the bell). Unfortunately there is no parking available for visitors' cars.

Cost: £18.65 per person (includes coffee and cake)

If you would like to come along, please complete the application form in the centre of this newsletter and send it together with your cheque for £18.65 per person, payable to

Kingston u3a GAS to:

Jacqui Hine, 85 Richmond Park Road,
Kingston KT2 6AF

If you do not give an email address, please also include a stamped addressed envelope. If you would like more information please contact Jacqui on 020 8549 1924 or jacqui@hine.org.uk

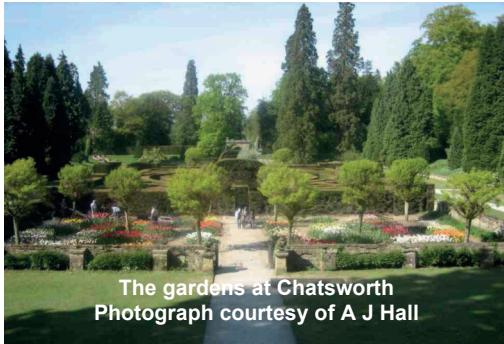


Historic Houses & Gardens in the Peak District

Day 1: Travelling by executive coach from our designated pick-up points, our first stop en route is the National Trust's Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire, home of the Ferrers family for 500 years. Much of the house was built in the late 1500s by Henry Ferrers, a lawyer, diarist and antiquarian. It was a sanctuary for the Ferrers family and for persecuted Catholics who were concealed from priest hunters in its secret hiding places.

From there we'll continue our journey northwards to the 4-star Hellaby Hall Hotel in Rotherham to begin our four-night stay.

Day 2: Our Blue Badge Guide accompanies us throughout the day as we visit Bakewell in the morning before continuing to Chatsworth (home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire).



One of Britain's most famous houses and estates, it featured in the film *Pride and Prejudice*. With its works of art and beautiful gardens, Chatsworth is set in the magnificent landscape of Derbyshire's Peak District National Park.

Day 3: We visit Renishaw Hall and Gardens, home to the Sitwell family for almost 400 years, before we drive on to Hardwick Hall and its gardens, another National Trust property. It was built by the famous Elizabethan Bess of Hardwick, and is testament to her wealth and status. Hardwick Hall is almost unchanged since she lived there in the formality of Elizabethan courtly life.

Day 4: In the morning we spend some time at leisure in Buxton before driving to Haddon Hall, a fortified 12th century manor house surrounded by terraced Elizabethan gardens.

Day 5: On our way home we visit the Crich Tramway Village in the heart of Derbyshire, overlooking the Derwent Valley. This restored period village is home to the National Tramway Museum and its archives.

Dates: 9-13 May 2022

Hotel: 4 nights in the 4-star Hellaby Hall Hotel, Rotherham. All rooms have an en suite and the hotel has a bar restaurant, health centre and heated indoor pool. Visit their website:
www.hellabyhallhotel.co.uk/

Cost: £499 per person, which includes executive coach, hotel for four nights sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis, Blue Badge Guide for days 2, 3 and 4. Single room supplement: £99

Please note

If you booked for the Peak District Holiday in May 2020 which was then cancelled because of the pandemic, and if the tour operator has not refunded all the money you paid, they will now accept your original payment towards this new holiday

Insurance: £29 (if requested)

If you would like to join this holiday, please complete the application form opposite and send it with an sae (not too small, please) to: Gisela Zürcher-Feiß, 37 The Byeways, Surbiton KT5 8HT
Tel: 020 8399 4990

Historic Houses & Gardens in the Peak District

9-13 May 2022

I/We would like to join this trip:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Kingston U3A no(s): _____

Tel no: _____

Mobile no: _____

Email (capitals please): _____

Please complete this form and send together with a stamped, addressed envelope (not too small, please) to:

**Gisela Zürcher-Feiß
37 The Byeways
Surbiton
KT5 8HT**

Please note:

- Unless you are exempt from doing so, please wear your mask.
- Refund of money: If you are unable to go on this trip, there is no guarantee that your money will be refunded in full. We will, however, try and find a replacement for you.

High Street Survey Project Kingston's contribution

Background

The High Street Survey is a national **u3a** research project that looks at changes to local high streets. It's being coordinated by Research and Shared Learning Project volunteers.

Volunteers record details of premises in their local high streets – make a note of what businesses there are, take photos of the shop fronts – to be fed into a database. Researchers then revisit the same high streets after 18 months to note any changes that have taken place.

The findings, including anecdotes from **u3a** members who recall high streets of the past, will form a landmark report for publication by the Third Age Trust in 2022, helping to raise the **u3a**'s profile in its 40th anniversary year.

In Kingston we recorded over 1,000 shops and sent off lots of data and photos to the main team. Many of the 2020 volunteers worked in pairs and enjoyed taking part in the photographic survey. Fewer of us enjoyed the way we were then asked to upload the photos and information but, this time round, it's going to be much easier.

We're looking for volunteers to record the changes in our high streets or even record shopping streets we missed in 2020. We found it fun to work in pairs but that's not absolutely required.

There's no complex data to collect, so volunteers just need the skills to take a photo and send it, by email or transfer, with some typed notes, indicating the address and if the shop has newly opened or closed in the last year.



While doing the survey there were many things I noticed for the first time about shops I had passed dozens of times.

Example

One surveyor uploaded this photo of Sam's Barbers shop in New Malden in 2020 (see photo opposite). For some reason the sender of the photo named it 'Cinema'. We found out that the first cinema in the area was somewhere here but it's not clear if it was on the site of Sam's Barbers (No 5) or the Station Superstore (No 7) or through the door between them, marked '5A, Sing Song'. Does anybody know if this really was once the New Malden Cinema?



If you do, please let me know the story behind it and I'll add the information to the survey. Interestingly, by 2021, the

view of Sam's Barbers and the 'cinema' is now as shown below.

The whole row of shops except one was demolished earlier in the year. So, that's an example of changing high streets in just one year.

More Volunteers Needed

I've already contacted most of the surveyors from last year and some are keen to look at this again. But we need more people who are interested in the project. There are more shops in the Kingston area we missed first time round, so please, do contact me and tell me which area you would like to cover. All you need to do to help is walk along a street, take photos of the shops you think have changed in the last year and send these to me so we can update the website. Many thanks.

bobhiggins@virginmedia.com

Project Website

You can check out the work the project has done so far on the website:
u3ahsp.ibase.media/



Kingston u3a Executive Committee 2020/2021

Registered Charity No. 1011295

Chair	Linda Foreman	020 8390 0109 chair@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Lorraine Hellen	020 8390 5718 secretary@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Joy Garvey	020 8399 9323 treasurer@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Database Manager	Chris Cheek	020 8949 0994 database@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Jane Hoyland	020 8399 0163 membership@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Groups Coordinator	Shirley Miller	020 8940 8573 groupcoordinator@kingstonu3a.org.uk
General Activities Section (GAS)	Gisela Zürcher-Feiß	020 8399 4990 generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Web Coordinator	Diane Wilson	07944 333519 website@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Suzie Vernel	07766 012947 speakers@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Bulletin Editor	Susan Hinchsliffe	07814 487727 newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Change of Address

Please send updates to:

Chris Cheek, Database Manager,
32 Howard Road, New Malden
KT3 4DP or email him at:
database@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Contributions

Tell us what your group has been doing or the visits and holidays you've enjoyed. We'd also like to receive stories, poems or short reviews of books, plays, films or exhibitions. Contributions should be no more than 500 words but there's always room for

smaller items too. Photos (in .JPG format, please) help illustrate your contribution but don't forget to send the names of people shown in them. Send photos as separate files and not embedded in a Word document to:
communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Distribution

The newsletter is posted out in early February, May, August and November. If there are any problems concerning the newsletter, please contact Susan Hinchsliffe at:
communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk