

Kingston u3a Newsletter

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Spring 2023



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www.kingstonu3a.org.uk

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023.

There are several things to be aware of. Some new groups are starting and two new committee members introduce themselves.

As agreed at the AGM, membership fees will be going up in October and we want to advise you now about changing any standing orders and to give you details of our new bank account number.

It's good to hear that groups are still arranging outings and we have the latest reports from the Kingston Rail group as well as an account of last October's GAS visit to Wimbledon.

And there's plenty on offer over the next few months. Jacqui Hine and her team have arranged three trips, all within the local area or in London. Surrey Network has a poetry study day coming up and the Climate Emergency group would like you to take note of a forthcoming online talk.

The annual quiz proved a roaring success and we congratulate both the organisers and the winners on their excellent performance.

Susan Hinchliffe
Editor

Group News

New Groups Roman History

This new group will meet in Surbiton Library at 2pm on the first Wednesday in the month. Please contact:
Linda Foreman:
020 8390 0109, linda@foto.co.uk

Wine Tasting 2

A second group has now started, once a month as arranged, in various locations. Contact: Douglas Russell: 020 8946 5875
dougruss51@outlook.com

Singing for Fun

Taster sessions are available for this choir. We meet in the United Reformed Church on Friday mornings at 10am. Just drop in and talk to Janet Thorpe.

Closures

Roman Archaeology and Tai Chi.

Group Problems

There is always a problem when something happens to a group leader, despite our pleas for a second person to keep records and inform the group coordinators. We're now asking all group leaders to send us the name of someone in the group who will inform both other members of the group and the group coordinators if the leader can no longer carry on, or about any other problem or any changes. We don't like groups to disappear without trace.

As always, new groups are welcome.
Contact Shirley Miller: 020 8940 8573
shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

Membership Fees: Early notice of changes for October 2023

Kingston **u3a** membership fees will be increasing from October 2023 to £15 for individual membership and £24 for joint membership (two members living at the same address).

If you now pay by standing order, you'll need to change the amount and also the bank account details, as we'll soon stop using the account into which standing orders are paid. You'll need to change your existing standing order or set up your new one to start on 1 October 2023 and then annually thereafter. We'll remind you about this again in our bulletins.

New bank details for those who already pay by standing order or online transfer, or would like to do so: **HSBC**, Clarence St, Kingston
Sort code: **40 26 12**.

Account number: **11441027** (Please note: this is the new account number.)

Ask your bank to use your surname as the reference, otherwise it's difficult to identify who has made the payment. We'll still accept cash payments at the monthly meetings, and cheques but we would prefer standing orders or online transfers, as the bank charges us for each cheque we pay into our account.

Thank you.

New Members of the Kingston u3a Committee



Fiona Tolmie, Deputy Treasurer

I joined the **u3a** in 2018 when I switched to part-time working before retiring in late 2019. Initially I joined a walking group and a MOTO group. I then went along to the Online Learning group, which is rather like a book group except the topic of discussion at meetings is a Futurelearn online learning course; it suited the pandemic particularly well. Our MOTO group also kept going using Zoom, finding virtual exhibitions and similar as the topics for our online meetings, instead of the normal visits to exhibitions and places of interest. We are now back to our pre-covid routine of a planning meeting and a couple of outings each month.

I knew that if the Kingston **u3a** is to continue in its current healthy state for years to come, it needed some of the more recent, younger members to get involved in its organisation, so I volunteered for the committee. I am now shadowing the treasurer, Joy Garvey, and in due course will take over that role.

Jacqui Hine, General Activities Section

I've been a Kingston **u3a** member for many years and enjoyed some of the group activities including Play Reading and Table Tennis which I now play with the Friday group.

With an interest in research, I started to look into my family history with the Kew Archive group visits and several years ago was part of the joint **u3a** and Kingston University project to research the history of some of the properties now under the custody of the University on Kingston Hill. This experience then encouraged me to volunteer to join a local Lottery-funded project to investigate the history of Ham village during the 1900s.

I've also enjoyed many of the interesting outings arranged by GAS and joined the team in 2019 to help arrange these. With an enthusiastic team of volunteers to help me we are keen to research and find a diverse range of visits to interest you and encourage you to join us.



Rail Group Outings



Reading: 18 October

Fourteen of our group met at Wimbledon and took the District Line to Paddington, where we changed on to the new Elizabeth Line on the far side of the station. The journey took us an hour.

Reading is well signposted and a short walk took us to the Town Hall/Museum. We sat down in Pam's Pantry for refreshments. The museum has an eclectic display of exhibits, ranging from large Roman mosaics and items from Silchester to a collection of Huntley & Palmer biscuit tins.

Our focus was on the replica of the Bayeux Tapestry, created over a year (in named sections) by 35 Victorian ladies in Norfolk. Hanging in two rooms, it measures over 200 feet long.

Some of us walked through the gardens to see the sturdy ruins of Reading Abbey. Jane Austen was said to have attended school in the large Abbey Gate building. Next door to the ruins is Reading Jail, where Oscar Wilde was once a prisoner.

The sun was shining and it was a warm and enjoyable day out.

William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow: 22 November

Eighteen of us gathered at Vauxhall Station to take the noisy Victoria Line to Blackhorse Road and then the 123 bus for the 10-minute ride to Lloyd Park. The gallery is located in a grand house there. As it was a sunny day some of our party walked across the gardens and the wide medieval moat with its mallards, moorhens, geese and plucky pigeons.

Entrance to the gallery is free and the displays cover two floors, with ceramics, fabrics and wallpapers made at Morris's Merton Abbey Mills factory on the River Wandle.

The gallery has examples of Burne-Jones stained glass, leaded windows and paintings by the Pre-Raphaelite artists. The exhibits are presented in an informative way and, at one point, you can press a button for background piano music.

Pre-Raphaelite artists often painted scenes from Arthurian legends. There was a special exhibition relating to these Arthurian stories, the most notable item being a huge, heavy, colourful wall tapestry depicting the Holy Grail, with three angels at its centre. .

We chatted in the café overlooking Lloyd Park before leaving at 3pm, all having clearly enjoyed our visit.

Battersea Power Station: 6 December

One of our members, Norman Hyman, suggested a visit to the Battersea Power Station (BPS) development. Fifteen of us took the short train ride from Waterloo Station to the new BPS station.

The main entrance is a few minutes' walk from the Tube. The main building is now surrounded by new blocks of flats which subsidised the huge cost of rebuilding the power station.

Inside the former engine halls are upmarket shops which, at the time of our visit, appeared to have few customers. The Costa Coffee franchise seemed, however, to be doing well.

Overhead cranes are still in place and there are history boards about the BPS development plus some electrical and mechanical items. Oh, and one of the rebuilt chimney towers has a lift to the top from where you have panoramic views.

The BPS is definitely worth a visit for the 'boggle' factor. And, if you have time, there are other places of interest nearby – a skating rink next to the children's funfair, Battersea Park and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

It was a chilly but sunny day and we all appreciated the visit.

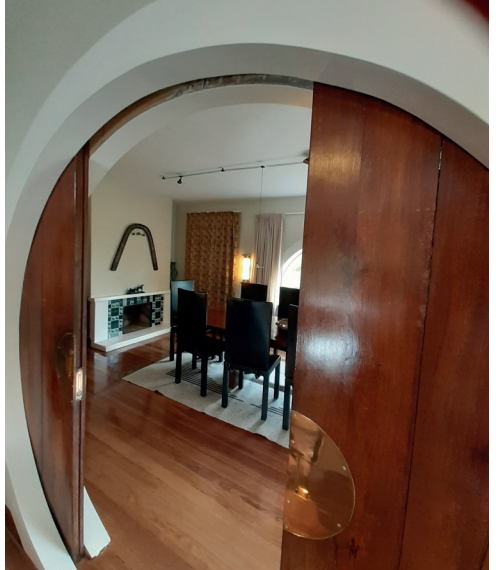
**Jill & Norman Hyman
and Lionel Beer**

GAS Outings and Reports

Dorich House Museum: Friday, 24 February

Join us for our first visit of 2023 on a guided tour of Dorich House, a Grade II listed property and former home of the sculptor Dora Gordine (1895-1991) and her husband, Richard Hare, a scholar of Russian art and literature. Now owned by Kingston University, the house was completed to Gordine's design in 1936.

On arrival we'll enjoy coffee, before our guide tells us about the late owners and shows us round the world's largest collection of Gordine's paintings, drawings and sculptures from the mid 1930s. The one-hour tour starts at 11.30am.



three minutes' walk from there.

Cost: £5.90 per person, including coffee on arrival and guided tour. The coffee shop will remain open after the tour.

If you would like to join us, please complete the booking form in the centre of this newsletter.

If booking, please keep this page with all the details for future reference.

Date: Friday, 24 February

Meeting Time/Place: 10.45am at the bus stop outside the main entrance to Tiffin Boys School, next to Lovekyn Chapel, London Road. We'll catch the 85 bus and get off at Woodview Close, the first stop after the entrance to Kingston University on the right – 10 stops in all. Turn right and Dorich House is two or

Musical Museum: Friday, 31 March

The Musical Museum houses a display of musical boxes, toys and Wurlitzers in a three-storey building with a recreated shopping and stage area.

Our tour will last 75 mins and includes an illustration of the workings and





Chris Barber at the Wurlitzer, (Jim Linwood, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

sounds of many self-playing instruments, including the theatre Wurlitzer upstairs (lift available).

You'll be able to buy refreshments in the museum's café.

Date: Friday, 31 March

Meeting Time/Place: 10am. Meet at the Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Pump House Crescent, Brentford TW8 0DN. The tour starts at 10.30am.

Travel: Take the 65 bus from Kingston towards Ealing. Get off at the second stop (stop U) after Kew Bridge, before the bus turns right to Ealing. Cross the road and the museum is almost opposite: the entrance is in Pump House Crescent.

Cost: £10.40 per person (includes entry and tour). Refreshments are not included.

If you would like to join us, please complete the booking form in the centre of this newsletter.

If booking, please keep this page with all the details for future reference.

Please note: The Water and Steam Museum is 10 minutes' walk towards Kew Bridge, should you wish to visit it

afterwards. Entrance is **not** included in the cost of our visit.

Royal College of Music: Friday, 21 April

The college was established by Royal Charter in 1882 and offers training from undergraduate to doctoral level in all aspects of western music.

We have been invited to attend the Friday lunchtime concert performed by the students in the college's museum, amongst its collection of historic artefacts and instruments.

In the afternoon there's a guided tour of the museum, containing 58 instruments, including the earliest known guitar and the earliest stringed keyboard instrument, displayed under portraits of Joseph Haydn and Farinelli, the 18th century castrato opera singer.

After the concert you'll be able to buy refreshments in the college café but please be ready to begin our guided tour, which starts at 2pm.

Date: Friday, 21 April

Meeting Time/Place: 12 noon in front of the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, South Kensington SW7 2AP, from where we'll walk to the college.

Travel: You will need to make your own way to the meeting place.

Cost: £8.40 for the concert and tour (refreshments not included).

If you would like to join us, please

complete the booking form on page 10.

If booking, please keep these pages with all the details for future reference.

Surrey Network: Poetry Study Day

We are proud to welcome the renowned poet Roger McGough to our Poetry Study Day at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall on Friday, 17 March. Roger is also a presenter and broadcaster.

Kingston **u3a** members can attend in person for £12 and we anticipate a big demand for tickets. On the programme also are Steven Fowler of Kingston University, founder of the European Poetry Festival, and James Haddow, better known as the Taxi Driver Poet.

For details and to book a place, go to the **u3a** Surrey Network's website at:
u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/events

The Climate Crisis – and Some Solutions

This is advance notice of an online talk via Zoom at 2pm on Monday, 22 May.

The Climate Emergency group has arranged this talk with Brenda Ainsley from the **u3a** Climate Change and the Environment Network:

u3asites.org.uk/climate-change

Brenda's talk will explain the science behind the climate crisis and explore some of the solutions. There'll be time for questions, too. Brenda belongs to the **u3a** and works closely with members of the national office team to raise the profile of climate and environmental matters within the organisation.

The Zoom link will be issued nearer the event and we will advertise it in our bulletins and newsletters.

Christine Thompson



Congratulations...

... to the 2023 annual quiz's winning team: Keith and Lynn Moss, Mary Reid, Raymond and Marie James and Louise Robertson-Brown.

The quiz organisers under team leader Mary Hodgson set several rounds

of challenging questions on a variety of topics as well as a 'Guess the famous TV, film and cartoon dogs' test, and a brain teaser – visual word puzzles representing book titles. Many thanks to Mary and her team for their hard work in setting the quiz and arranging such an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon.

All England Lawn Tennis

Most of the year many of us in this part of south-west London see Wimbledon as an ordinary town. But, of course, in two frenetic weeks in July Wimbledon goes global. Then it's all about tennis, as the world's best players, coaches, sports reporters, VIPs and sometimes royalty converge on SW19.

When a group of us from Kingston **u3a** visited the club last October, our excellent guide was knowledgeable and entertaining, even down to explaining how the precious grass is cultivated: the grass team count blades of grass to check how healthy it is.



We saw parts of the complex that are out of bounds during the tournament: the media centre, where every



Eric and Maxine Muller at the interview desk

journalist covering the championship has a desk space and computer screen – and access to their own café (reporting is hungry work!). We went into Number 1 Court and, of course, Centre Court.

The guided tour includes access to the impressive multimedia Tennis Museum. This charts the history of tennis and highlights some of the great players of the sport.

Our guide was a supporter of tennis being more inclusive, suggesting we watch wheelchair tennis when we can. For now the museum has footage of both singles and doubles wheelchair tennis – fast, furious and fantastic to watch.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Jacqui Hine for organising the visit.

Dawn Sillett

Royal College of Music – 21 April

I/We would like to join this outing:

Name(s): _____

Kingston u3a no(s): _____

Address: _____

Tel no: _____

Mobile no: _____

Email (write clearly) or send a stamped addressed envelope:

Emergency contact name: _____

Tel no: _____

I enclose a cheque, made payable to **Kingston u3a GAS**, for:

£ 8.40 ☐

£16.80 ☐

Please complete one application form for each person or household and send it with your cheque to:

Nanette Gray
190 Acre Road
Kingston KT2 6EU

Mobile: 07747 088395

Email: nanette.gray.ng@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church (URC) in Kingston on the first Monday of each month unless it is a bank holiday. There is room for 150 people and you do not need to book in advance. Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Entrance fee is £1. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are available at the end of the meeting.

Date	Topics/Speakers
6 Feb	Watching the Detectives: A History of British TV Crime Fighters – Pete Allen Murder! It's not big and it's not clever. But without it our little grey cells would have missed some of the most popular television programmes ever. Via St Mary Mead, Oxford, Broadchurch and Midsomer, this talk reveals clues to our fascination with the law.
6 Mar	Odd Corners of London – Jo Livingston Jo will give an illustrated talk looking at some of the odder bits of London, including the Trinity Buoy Wharf, the Bridewell Centre, the Oxo Tower, Guild gardens around some of the halls of the livery companies, roof gardens and pedways.
3 Apr	The Rainbow in Science and Art – John Naylor People have always been fascinated by rainbows. They have been the subject of myth, a source of superstition, an inspiration to poets, a challenge to painters, the object of intense scientific interest and a touchstone for ideas about the nature of light and colour. John describes what people have made of rainbows through the ages.
15 May	The Sunbury Embroidery Gallery – Robert Shaw Robert, architect and chairman of Sunbury Gallery, will talk about the creation of the Sunbury Millennium Embroidery, from its inception in 1995 to the opening in 2006, including its ethos, a royal visit, outreach and exhibitions, the Diane Springhall collection and plans for the future.

Be Aware of Copyright

Even though Kingston [u3a](#) is a registered charity and you do not pay for your copy of the newsletter, we have to make sure that we do not infringe copyright regulations, both in our printed material and on our website.

If you are submitting an article or a photograph for inclusion in our newsletter,

please make sure that you haven't copied the text from elsewhere or downloaded a photograph from the web. Put text into your own words and, where possible, take your own photographs or check with the owner that it is all right for us to use them.

The editor will make every effort to double-check that anything we publish abides by the copyright regulations.

Kingston u3a Executive Committee 2022/2023

Registered Charity No. 1011295

Secretary	Lorraine Hellen	020 8390 5718 secretary@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Deputy Secretary	Francesca Cura	deputysecretary@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Joy Garvey	020 8399 9323 treasurer@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Deputy Treasurer	Fiona Tolmie	020 3565 8994 deputytreasurer@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Database Manager	Chris Cheek	020 8949 0994 database@kingstonu3a.org.uk
New Members	Marcia Mayeda	newmembers@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary/ Co-Chair	Jane Hoyland	020 8399 0163 membership@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Groups Coordinator/ Co-Chair	Shirley Miller	020 8940 8573 groupcoordinator@kingstonu3a.org.uk
General Activities Section (GAS)	Jacqui Hine	020 8549 1924 generalactivities@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Web Coordinator	Diane Wilson	07944 333519 website@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Mary Hodgson	07985 337219 speakers@kingstonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Bulletin Editor	Susan Hinchsliffe	07814 487727 newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Change of Address

Please email updates to:

Chris Cheek, Database Manager at
database@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Contributions

We welcome reports on your group's activities, **u3a** outings or on your personal interests and experiences. Contributions should be about 500 words but there's room for smaller items, too.

Photos (in .JPG format, please) help illustrate your contribution but

please include the names of any people shown. Send photos as separate files and not embedded in an email or a Word document to:
communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Distribution

Newsletters are posted out in early February, May, August and November.

Please contact Susan Hinchsliffe at:
communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk
if you have any problems in receiving these publications.

Thank you.