

Kingston u3a News April 2023 No 51

Welcome to April's news bulletin.

The Third Age Trust and the Surrey Network both have programmes of online talks for the next few months and London Region has now published full details of its summer school in July. Booking is now open.

There's a reminder from our Climate Emergency group about an online talk they've arranged on the climate crisis and some possible solutions.

As usual we have given details of the talks and speakers at our next few monthly meetings. Unfortunately we will have to reduce the number of people we can have in the meeting hall at the United Reformed Church from 150 to 120. This is because the church has thrown out some of its old, broken chairs and is now in the process of raising funds to buy new ones. We will let you know as soon as the church has more chairs and we can increase the number of attendees.

And if you are coming along to our next meeting on Monday, 3 April, don't forget to bring along any good books you've read and would now like to dispose of. We have a book-swap stall where you can leave your unwanted books and/or pick up one or two that someone else has brought in.

Finally there are the usual details and deadlines for our next bulletins and newsletter. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

In the meantime, enjoy reading this bulletin and keep in touch!

The Climate Crisis and Some Solutions: Online Talk

What is wrong with the weather? Ice sheets melting, raging forest fires, David Attenborough worrying about the decline of British wildlife, more variable and extreme weather. The list goes on.

To find out more on the subject, please join us at 2pm on Monday, 22 May for this online talk, via Zoom, by Brenda Ainsley. She will explain the science behind the climate crisis and explore some of the solutions. There will be time for questions at the end.

Brenda Ainsley, a **u3a** member, has led various eco and climate groups for the **u3a** and jointly leads its [Countdown to COP](#) online.

u3a Online Events

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

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

April

- [A Day in the Life of Your Spinal Cord](#) – 2pm Mon, 3 Apr
- [Future-proofing our Homes for our Future Lives](#) – 2pm Tue, 4 Apr
- [The Geology of Oil and Gas in Britain and around the World \(Part 4\)](#) – 2pm Thu, 6 Apr
- [Laughter Yoga 2023](#) – 10am second Wednesday of every month, 8 Feb-14 Jun
- [Cotton and Linen: Environmental Impact of Textile Production](#) – 2pm Fri, 14 Apr
- [Exploring World Faiths: Fleeing for Faith](#) – 10am Mon, 17 Apr
- [Science Network Meeting](#) – 10.30am-3.30pm Tue, 18 Apr
- [Let's Talk About Autism](#) – 2pm Tue, 18 Apr
- [Family History: Using Census Data](#) – 2pm Wed, 19 Apr
- [Meditation and Mindfulness \(Continuation Sessions\)](#) – 10am Thu, 20 Apr + 18 May
- [Toulouse-Lautrec and the Cabarets of Paris](#) – 2pm Thu, 20 Apr
- [War in Ukraine, 1919](#) – 10am Mon, 24 Apr
- [Discussing Climate Change: Involving the Generations](#) – 10am Wed, 26 Apr

May

- [Climate Change and Geo-Engineering](#) – 10am Tue, May

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 new talks you are interested in.

London Region: Summer School

2023's summer school will be held Tue 25-Wed 26 July and we can now give you more details.

Place: St Bride Foundation Institute, 14 Bride Lane (off Fleet Street), EC4Y 8EQ

Cost: £41 per day including refreshments and buffet lunch with a choice of healthy salads and fruit.

Programme: Activities include 17 talks, four workshops and eight guided walks. The wide range of subjects includes: Art, Current Affairs, History, Literature, Performing Arts, Music, Sciences, Social Studies.

You can see full details in the [Summer School Programme](#).

Booking: Once you have studied the programme and decided which event(s) you would like to attend, you can enrol and pay via the [online booking form](#).

Surrey Network: Study Days

Study days have been arranged in the coming months and you can now register.

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): £12 for members and £15 for guests attending in person. Attendees should bring their own packed lunch. £5 for those attending via Zoom.

Programme

- [The Story of Polar Exploration and Arctic Frontiers in a Changing Climate](#) – Fri, 21 Apr
- [The Dead Sea Scrolls](#) – Fri, 19 May
- [Vikings and their Influence in the World](#) – Fri, 16 Jun
- All You Ever Wanted to Know about Keyboard Music and Were Afraid to Ask – Fri, 15 Sep (booking opens in May)
- [Quarks, the Universe and Everything](#) – Fri, 20 Oct
- [Rembrandt: From Fame to Poverty and Final Acclaim](#) – Fri, 17 Nov

Places will be available in the hall or for online viewing. Booking is already open for the March-June events. This information is also available on [Surrey Network's](#) website.

Kingston u3a: 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. Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Please arrive promptly for the start of the meeting. Entrance fee is £1. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are available at the end of the meeting.

At each meeting we have a book-swap stall where you can leave any good books you've read and would now like to dispose of and/or pick up one or two that someone else has brought in.

Please note: The church has recently reduced the number of people we can admit to the hall by 30, which means we can accommodate only 120 people. But you do not need to book in advance.

From January 2023 all meetings will be held at the URC and there will be no online access via Zoom.

Monday 3 April, 2pm

Great British Eccentrics and Rogues – Paul Robbins

Paul's talk looks at some of the world's great eccentrics and rogues who just happened to be British – like the lord who spent many hours floating in a large indoor glass water tank writing rude letters to the Prime Minister; a comically UFO-obsessed peer; and some more modern world-famous characters whom you will recognise.

(Please note that this talk replaces the one previously advertised – John Naylor's session, The Rainbow in Science and Art.)

Monday 15 May, 2pm

The Foundling Museum – Volunteer guide from the museum

The talk covers the history of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity and public art gallery, and its founder, Thomas Coram. It describes the admissions system; the use of tokens for identity; and the involvement of contemporary artists including Hogarth, Reynolds and Gainsborough, and the major benefactor, Handel.

(Please note the date of this talk, which is later in the month than usual. The previous two Mondays are both bank holidays.)

Monday 5 June, 2pm

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.

Summer 2023 Newsletter

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

We're always happy to receive articles on topics such as:

- reports from your group
- 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 at newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Wednesday, 12 April.

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The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early June. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Wednesday, 25 May.

In the meantime, please check the Kingston u3a website regularly. Many thanks.

Changing your Membership Details

If you change your address, email or telephone/mobile number, please let Chris Cheek know at database@kingstonu3a.org.uk. Chris is also able to change your preferences for receiving post or emails, or the *Third Age Matters* magazine.

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 know at keithmaund@outlook.com. 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. Thank you.