

Kingston u3a Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 2

Summer 2023



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www.kingstonu3a.org.uk

There are lots of pages in this edition of our newsletter dedicated to the visits Jacqui Hine and her team have been busy planning. Gisela Zürcher-Feiß has arranged a five-day tour to Yorkshire in September, taking in York, Whitby, Harrogate and many famous sights. You'll find details on page 6. We have feedback, too, on two previous visits – Dorich House and the Musical Museum. And Lionel Beer describes the Train group's visit to the Supreme Court.

There's a reminder on page 3 of the talk organised by the Climate Change group together with all the Zoom details you'll need to log into the event on 22 May.

In our last edition Valerie Milnes gave us an insight into the shared learning project that had looked into theatre programmes in the Cary Ellison archive at Kingston University. Now Diana Lawson tells us how their findings were shown in a presentation to round off the project.

With the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May, Frances Welsh looks back to 2 June 1953 when, as a 15-year-old schoolgirl, she braved the inclement weather the night before and on the day to witness the procession of the late Queen to Westminster Abbey.

Enjoy this newsletter, have a great summer and send us your contributions for the next issue.

Group News

We're very pleased with the response to our request for someone in each group to be responsible for contacting us if something should happen to the group leader. We now have a complete list.

We'd also like to remind members to let leaders know if they cannot attend a meeting. If you miss three consecutive meetings and offer no explanation, you will be deemed to have left the group and your place can be offered to someone on the waiting list.

We have no news about specific groups at the moment but, as always, do get in touch with any ideas as new groups are always welcome. Thank you.

shirley.miller4@btinternet.com

020 8940 8573

Shirley Miller

u3a South East Forum: Summer School

This takes place Monday 4 to Thursday, 7 September. It is primarily a four-day residential summer school held at the University of Chichester but you have the option to be non-residential.

There's a range of subjects, academic, active and practical, and you can find a complete list on the SE Forum website at:

www.u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events

Booking is now open and you can find the booking form on the website above, together with instructions on where to send it. Details of the costs and accommodation options are also listed.

Bon Appétit!



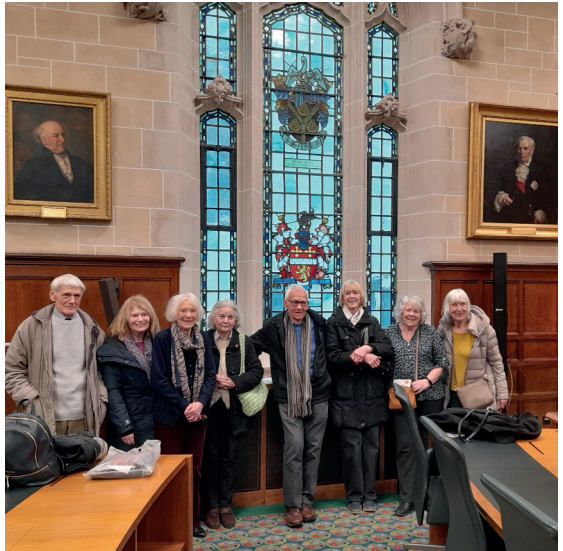
Sunday Lunch group 2 at Al Forno in Kingston on 12 March. Left to right round the table are: Janet Forsyth, Gill O'Donnell, Rosemary Carter, Jennifer Boston, Barbara Bowyer and Jan Richardson.

Train Group: Visit to the Supreme Court

On 23 March 12 members of the Train group met at Vauxhall station and took the 88 bus to Parliament Square for Middlesex Guildhall, now the Supreme Court.

Entry is free but inside one is exposed to airport-style security frisking. Our priority was a hot drink in the basement cafeteria courtyard. Then we studied the illustrated panels outlining the history and function of the Court. In a nutshell, the Court arbitrates on details of law.

We sat in No 1 Court where the advocates were addressing five judges in plain clothes on the topic of tunnels but unfortunately it was difficult to hear at the back. Courts 2 and 3 were not in use so we were able to go in and admire the symbolism on the carpets and curtains, and take photos at our leisure. It's worth a visit for the architecture alone. Several people remarked on the overall interest.



We walked across to Dean's Yard but there were no flowers, so we crossed back to Central Hall Westminster for lunch in the basement, with a nice choice of hot or cold food. Finally we made a short visit to St James's Park to see the spring flowers before the rain came. And yes, we did spot one pelican who had, perhaps, objected to the quarantine imposed because of bird flu and escaped.

Lionel Beer

Climate Crisis – and Some Solutions: Online Talk

This is a reminder of the online talk via Zoom at 2pm on Monday, 22 May.

Brenda Ainsley from the **u3a** Climate Change and the Environment Network discusses the science behind the crisis and explores possible solutions.

To join the talk on the day, click on this **Zoom link**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84863499728?pwd=NjVCQlZGdTIya2dDNytGWVNhbmI3dz09>

Meeting ID: 848 6349 9728 **Passcode:** 239798

These details are also in the email sent to you with this electronic copy of the newsletter. Make sure you don't delete it.

For help, please contact Christine Thompson: chris.cpt3@tiscali.co.uk
020 3583 0638. (Email preferred)

GAS Outings and Reports

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden: Wisley

Join us for a day at the RHS's flagship garden which attracts over one million visitors a year. It is an 'inspirational garden' rather than a museum of plants and conservation. It has a planet-friendly research centre, RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science. With its tropical glasshouse and world-food garden among other areas to see, Wisley is set in 240 acres, so where better to experience the change of season through plants? You can also visit its garden centre and gift shop.

We'll be travelling by coach and the visit includes a one-hour guided tour round the garden (optional), highlighting special areas of interest and recent developments. There'll be time for refreshments before it starts at 11.30am.

The coach leaves at 3pm for our return journey.

Date: Monday, 12 June

Time/Pick-up Points:

- 10am Kingston: opposite the Rose Theatre
- 10.15am Surbiton: opposite Waitrose, Claremont Road

Cost:

Coach: £14.40

Guided tour (optional): £5

Garden entry:

- Free: RHS members (Members may also take in one guest free.)
- £13.95: Non-RHS members

To join us, please complete the booking form in the centre of this newsletter and send it together with your cheque, made payable to **Kingston u3a GAS**, to:



Jacqui Hine
85 Richmond Park Road
Kingston
KT2 6AF

020 8549 1924
jacqui@hine.org.uk

**Please book early for
this visit and keep this
page for future
reference.**

Loseley Park, Guildford Cathedral, Guildford Castle

Our coach trip takes us to Loseley Park to enjoy a guided tour of the house. We'll stop briefly at Guildford Cathedral and Guildford Castle en route. We'll arrive at Loseley Park in time for refreshments (not included) and then join either the first tour at 1pm or the second at 1.15pm. Tours last 45 minutes. Our return journey starts at 3pm.

Loseley House

Sir William More, Elizabethan courtier and statesman, remodelled the medieval manor at Loseley into an Elizabethan manor. In 1562 it was extended in anticipation of a visit by Elizabeth I. Period furnishings help to showcase this manor house today. Used frequently as a backdrop for films, you may recognise it from the Netflix series *The Crown*. Set in extensive parkland, there is a walled garden and chapel to explore. And Loseley ice cream is made on the farm.

Guildford Cathedral

Designed by Edward Maufe, building work began in 1936. It is one of only three cathedrals built in the UK in the 20th century. Work stopped during World War II and didn't start again until 1954, by which time there was an issue with funding. Money was raised by local residents and other interested parties through a 'buy a brick' scheme. The cathedral was consecrated in 1961 and the finishing touches are ongoing. Self-guided tour sheets are available if you wish to learn more.

Guildford Castle

A short drive away are the remains of the castle, thought to have been built by William the Conqueror some time after 1066. It is surrounded by beautiful, well-kept gardens, containing statues, memorials and a bandstand. The castle keep is accessible and houses a visitors' centre. You can climb up to the roof area if you wish and enjoy the panoramic views over Surrey. Entry to the keep is optional and not included: £3.70 at the door.

Date: 6 July

Time/Pick-up Points:

- 9.15am Kingston: opposite the Rose Theatre
- 9.30am Surbiton: opposite Waitrose, Claremont Road

Cost: £38.10 (includes coach with entry and tour of Loseley House)

To join us, please complete the booking form in the centre of this newsletter and send it together with your cheque, made payable to **Kingston u3a GAS**, to:

Nanette Gray
190 Acre Road
Kingston KT2 6EU

07747 088395
nanette.gray.ng@gmail.com

Please book early for this visit and keep this page for future reference.

Sunbury Embroidery Gallery Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6AB

At the **u3a** monthly meeting on Monday, 5 June, Robert Shaw is giving a talk about Sunbury Embroidery Gallery.

The Millennium Embroidery there is a permanent commemorative record of Sunbury-on-Thames in the year 2000. It involved 140 local embroiderers of varying skills and ages sewing sections that were then collated into a 3m x 1m panel to form a lovely work of art.

The gallery is situated in an 18th century walled garden. There's a café where you can buy food and drinks or bring a picnic to eat in the garden.

We're planning two informal visits to the embroidery on Wednesday, 7 June, at 10.30am and at 2pm. A guide will give us a short talk (20 minutes) in front of the embroidery. It's free but please bring some small change, as we've been asked to make a donation to the gallery's funds to help with their building expansion.

Please meet us by the café at the correct time.

There is a car park if you wish to drive there but the 216 bus leaves from Cromwell Road bus station or Wood Street (opposite John Lewis). You need to alight at the bus stop The Avenue and cross the road into the gallery's car park. Buses are every 20 minutes.

To join us, please complete the application form in the centre of this newsletter, indicating if you would like a morning or afternoon slot, and send it to:

Pamela Crisp, 284 Raeburn Avenue,
Surbiton KT5 9EF

07846 722278

pamelacrisp50@hotmail.com

We kindly ask you not to come on 7 June without booking as gallery space is limited. Please keep this page with all the details for future reference.

Historic Houses and Heritage of Yorkshire: Tour

Day 1: We board the coach at the designated pick-up points and en route northwards visit the National Trust's Belton House near Grantham. Renowned for its Restoration architecture, Belton contains important collections of paintings, furniture, tapestries and silver. From there we continue our journey to the Best Western Pavilion Hotel on the outskirts of York for a four nights' stay on a half-board basis.

Day 2: Our Blue Badge Guide will accompany us throughout the day. The guided walking tour of York takes in sights such as the city walls and the Shambles and includes a visit to the Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. The rest of the day is at leisure in York and, on an individual basis, you may choose to enjoy a cruise on the River Ouse, visit the National Railway Museum or York Castle

Museum with its recreated Victorian Street, Kirkgate.



St Cuthbert Window of York Minster
Charc2018, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#),
via Wikimedia Commons

Day 3: To Whitby, a resort dominated by the cliff-top ruins of the 13th century abbey. The town has old, cobbled streets, picturesque houses and a sandy beach. In the afternoon we take a one-way steam-train journey from Whitby to Pickering through the North Yorkshire Moors. The North Yorkshire Railway has often featured on television and in films such as the Harry Potter series.

Day 4: A guided walking tour of Harrogate passes the Royal Hall and Montpellier Gardens. We continue to the National Trust's Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden. Together, the Cistercian abbey, the Georgian water garden, the medieval deer park, the Elizabethan hall and the Victorian church offer an opportunity to appreciate the range of England's heritage at this World Heritage Site.

Day 5: On our return journey we visit Harewood House, home of the late Queen's cousin, the Earl of Harewood. It is renowned for its architecture, Adam interiors, Chippendale furniture and a fine art collection. It is set in a Capability Brown landscape and has a modern bird garden. At the end of our journey, we return to our original pick-up points.

Date: 18-22 September

Cost: Just outside Leeds,

- £674 per person sharing a twin/double room for four nights
- £139 Single-room supplement
- £31 per person insurance (incl Covid cover) unless you have your own

Entrance fees to National Trust properties are **not** included.

Deposit: £100 per person to secure the booking. The final balance is due 56 days before the tour departure date.

To join this holiday, please complete the application form in the centre of this newsletter and send it with an SAE (not too small, please) to:

Gisela Zürcher-Feiß
37 The Byeways
Surbiton KT5 8HT

020 8399 4990

gzuercher@btinternet.com

Please book early for this visit and keep this page for future reference.

Visit to Dorich House Museum

Many people pass the outside of 67 Kingston Vale without realising that it is a Grade II listed building, housing the Dorich House Museum.

The Art Deco house and interior, backing on to Richmond Park, were designed by sculptor Dora Gordine. It was completed in 1936. Kingston University acquired the house after it was inhabited by squatters following Dora's death in 1991.

Dora came from Latvia, was raised there and in Estonia and lived in Paris, London and Singapore before settling in London. Her third husband was the Honourable Richard Hare, who had a great interest in Russian culture and art and later became a professor of Russian literature.

Dora's early paintings and a large collection of her sculptures, including some completed at Dorich House, are on display as well as some of Richard and Dora's Russian icons and other artefacts.



Ellie Laycock | © Dorich House Museum

The house is on three floors – with modelling studios and galleries on the first two. The couple's flat is on the top floor with its iconic 'circle' door between the reception rooms, of which we included photos in our Spring newsletter.

After coffee we met our guide, who took us on an informative tour of the house.

Thanks go to Jacqui Hine for organising such an interesting local visit for us.

**Maureen
Grimwood**



Ellie Laycock | © Dorich House Museum



possible to include the pianist's expression, voicing and touch, and it produced a much better result than the contemporary recording devices. This top-of-the-range instrument had a beautiful walnut veneer.

We were also shown an early gramophone complete with a 'His Master's Voice' type horn. To dampen the shrill sound, one could put a sock down the horn, hence the expression to 'put a sock in it'.

Upstairs there was the magnificent Wurlitzer organ that had come from the Regal Cinema, Kingston. This was linked to a Steinway piano by means of tubing, so that when the organ was played, it could also play the piano with or without the organ sounding.

It's a fascinating museum and I strongly recommend a visit. Many thanks to Jacqui Hine for organising such an interesting outing.

Rupert Chalk

Musical Museum Visit

On 31 March a group of us visited the Musical Museum at Brentford. The last time I saw this collection of mechanical musical instruments was probably 40 years ago. It's since been rehoused in a purpose-designed building arising from the redevelopment of Brentford.

Our expert guide accompanied us to view various items in the collection, taking care to answer our questions fully. I was amazed to discover that the pins on the musical boxes – some with over 100,000 – were fixed manually to the drum.

The Grotrian-Steinweg pianola I found most interesting as it could play Rachmaninov performing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee*, using a perforated paper roll to drive the instrument's mechanism. By this means it had been



Jenny Lazarou and Lili Cook playing the barrel piano

Cary Ellison Archive Shared Learning Project: Update

Ten of us in the [u3a](#) research group focused on the advertisements in the theatre programmes collected by Cary Ellison during his 30 years as a talent scout for *Spotlight*, the actors' theatrical directory, and now archived at Kingston University. We were asked to explore if and in what way they reflected social changes in the period 1954-1981.

It's been a fascinating project, leading eventually to our presenting our findings to an invited audience at the Town House, Kingston University, on 27 January. Each of us chose an aspect of the advertising which appealed to us and subjects ranged widely: targeted advertising for holiday makers in seaside towns; advertisements for restaurants offering pre- and post-theatre meals; the avant-garde productions of the 1960s; specialist advertising for young people; a comparison of two theatres existing in the 1950s and 1980s; a survey of music advertising; and a specialised study of the history of Streatham Hill Theatre.

Our research showed how programme advertising generally reflected the contemporary social and economic stages of British life from post-war austerity to the much greater prosperity of the 1970s and 1980s. We noted the disappearance of small specialist shops, the growth of services such as double glazing, and the wider catchment areas covered by the



An advertisement from a Coventry theatre programme, 1968

programmes. And we came across some very funny and sometimes extraordinary advertisements.

I think we all found the presentation a bit daunting: the reception area of the new Town House converts into a three-sided theatre with the most enormous screen for our slides. Afterwards we were invited to view the exhibition in the university archive of the work achieved so far by several shared learning projects. It was opened by Cary Ellison's daughter, Angela, who felt her father would have been delighted to have his work used for research. And we thoroughly enjoyed the ensuing reception.

Enormous thanks to Dayna Miller, university archivist, who could not have been more helpful in coordinating the project and enthusing us, especially as she was also involved at the same time in the transfer of the archive to the new building.

Diana Lawson, January 2023

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 120 people and you do not need to book in advance. Doors open at 1.30pm for a prompt 2pm start. Entrance fee is £1. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are available at the end of the meeting.

Date	Topics/Speakers
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15 May	The Foundling Museum – John Caldicott The talk covers the history of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity and public art gallery; its founder, Thomas Coram; and the involvement of the artist Hogarth and the composer Handel. (Please note the date of this talk, which is later in the month than usual. The previous two Mondays are both bank holidays.)
5 Jun	The Sunbury Embroidery Gallery – Robert Shaw Robert, architect and chairman of Sunbury Gallery, talks about the creation of the Sunbury Millennium Embroidery: its inception in 1995 and its first display in 2006; its ethos; a royal visit; exhibitions; the Diane Springhall collection; and plans for the future.
3 Jul	Paula Rego at the National Gallery (NG) – Colin Wiggins Colin talks about his collaboration with Paula Rego while she was Associate Artist at the NG; the exhibition he curated at the end of her appointment; and the progress of her work <i>Crivelli's Garden</i> , which will be exhibited at the NG from July until October.
7 Aug	Simply Gershwin: The Music of George and Ira – Howard Slater The life story and music of Ira, lyricist, and his brother George, composer, who created some of the most memorable songs of the Jazz Age.

Coronation Day: 2 June 1953

My friend Pauline and I, both aged 15, watched Queen Elizabeth's coronation procession from Hyde Park Corner, having spent the night on the pavement there with our ground sheets and rugs.

Next morning it was raining and continued to do so all day but everybody was so excited. We all had kaleidoscope viewers made of cardboard and two mirrors, which collapsed when soaked by the rain. There were marching bands, soldiers, horses, carriages of all sizes

and soldiers in busby hats guarding the route. We saw the Queen of Tonga's open carriage Winston Churchill's plain black one, which broke down.

When at last the Queen and Prince Philip in the golden state coach passed by, everybody cheered and clapped.

I think it cleared up later as we joined the crowds to see the royal party on the palace balcony before heading home.

A thoroughly enjoyable experience, which remains a highlight of my life.

Frances Welsh

Kingston u3a Executive Committee 2022/2023

Registered Charity No. 1011295

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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.