

Kingston u3a News Bulletin September 2023 No 54

(Sent out on 29 August 2023)

We hope you are enjoying the summer wherever you are and whatever the weather.

We begin our news bulletin this month with a few reminders about postage stamps, membership renewals, committee nominations and our recent questionnaire.

For the art lovers, you may be interested to know that Colin Wiggins who gave a talk on Paula Rego at one of our monthly meetings recently is running a short course at the Wallace Collection.

Members Christine Thompson and Bob Bollen advertise Sustainable September, a series of events throughout the month to persuade us to help protect the environment and create a greener Kingston for everyone.

As usual we have listed the Third Age Trust's online talks, Surrey Network's study days and our own monthly meetings and speakers. You'll also find the deadlines for our next bulletin and newsletter. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Kind regards and all the best for the month ahead.

Reminders

Postage Stamps

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your subscription and sent in your questionnaires or application forms to join outings.

Unfortunately some of you have used postage stamps which are no longer valid. As of 1 August you must use only stamps which have a bar code. If you have used older-style stamps to send us your recent correspondence, please be aware that your letter will **not** have reached us.

Membership Renewals

As agreed at last year's AGM, your subscriptions will increase this October. The single annual membership fee is now **£15**, the joint fee **£24**.

If you already pay your **u3a** subscription by bank transfer or standing order, a big thank you.

Many of you still pay by cheque or cash and fill in your renewal form accordingly. Each cheque now costs us 40p to process and involves a lot of time-consuming bureaucracy for Jane Hoyland (membership), Chris Cheek and Marcia Mayeda (database), and Joy Garvey and Fiona Tolmie (finance). We'd be grateful if you could please pay your renewal by standing order or online bank transfer.

It is easy to set up a standing order and you'll only have to do it once. Each year the bank will then automatically pay your subscription renewal. You can do it now, setting the payment date as 1 October.

Our bank account details are:

HSBC Clarence Street, Kingston

Sort code: 40 26 12

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

Account name: Kingston u3a

Ask your bank to use your membership number and (if space) your surname and initial as the reference.

If you're not sure of your membership number, please email the database team: database@kingstonu3a.org.uk or marciamayeda2022@kingstonu3a.org.uk

Thank you.

Executive Committee Nominations

At the AGM on Monday, 6 November we shall elect the members to sit on the 2023/24 Executive Committee. We are keen to recruit new members on to the committee, so please consider either standing yourself and/or nominating another member to join us.

There are six committee meetings a year which you would attend and each member is usually involved in one aspect of the administration of Kingston **u3a**. We are looking in particular for members to help with arranging speakers for our monthly meetings, coordinating groups and producing our news bulletins, newsletters and annual report.

The continuance of Kingston **u3a**, its groups, meetings, outings and activities depend on members volunteering their time and efforts. As some of our current committee members will be stepping down in November, please consider offering your help.

Questionnaire

Please don't forget to complete and submit the questionnaire we sent you with our last newsletter. Take a few moments to complete it as the committee would like to find out from you how well Kingston **u3a** is serving your needs.

Colin Wiggins: Art Course

Colin gave a talk on Paula Rego at our monthly meeting in July.

On 6-7 September 11am-1pm he is running a two-day course, David Hockney and Lucian Freud: Pet Subjects, at the Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London W1U 3BN.

Although the course is expensive (£65-£80) we thought some members might be interested in attending.

You can find out more information and enrol on the [Wallace Collection](#) website.

Sustainable September

Kingston Council is organising an interesting series of events in September to highlight the community activity taking place across the borough to help protect the environment and create a greener town for everyone.

Events include a photography competition, several local walks and bike rides, a repair café, tidying up our environment, a vegan market and arts and crafts. For some events you'll need to book a space, but they'll all be free to attend.

For full details, please see:

www.kingston.gov.uk/climate-change/sustainable-september-2023.

Christine Thompson

Recycling Hackathon

As part of Sustainable September one of our members, Bob Bollen, is working to combat waste in the borough through reuse, repair, recycling and upcycling. He's helping to organise the Recycling Hackathon at the Cornerhouse Arts Centre (116 Douglas Road, Surbiton KT6 7SB) on Saturday, 16 September.

You'll have the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded individuals to come up with innovative solutions to enhance recycling practices in our community. It will last three hours, including refreshment breaks and, hopefully, a meal and entertainment afterwards.

For more information and to book a place, please see [Kingston Recycling Hackathon!](#)

Bob Bollen: 07926 620 707

u3a Online Events

The Third Age Trust is hosting some online talks in September 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.

- [Heritage Open Days: Your Free Invitation to Explore](#) – 2pm Fri, 1 Sep
- [Electing the President in 2024](#) – three-part series, 3pm, Tuesdays 12, 19, 26 Sep
- [Platonic Activities: Maths Activities Day for All](#) – two-part session, 10am-3pm Thu, 14 Sep
- [Climate Modelling](#) – 10am Tue, 19 Sep
- [Trees, Woods, Climate and Nature: What's All the Fuss About?](#) – 10am Wed, 20 Sep
- [Bolder: How to Age Better, and Feel Better About Ageing](#) – 10am Thu, 21 Sep
- [History of the British Secret Intelligence Services](#) – 2pm Fri, 22 Sep
- [Setting Up and Running a Local Exploring World Faiths Group](#) – 10am Mon, 25 Sep
- [Monthly Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie](#) – 3.30pm Tuesdays: 26 Sep, 31 Oct, 28 Nov, 19 Dec
- [The Scottish Colourists 1900-1930](#) – 2pm Wed, 27 Sep
- [Hidden Histories: Tales of Cycling, Invention and Rebellion](#) – 10am Thu, 28 Sep

Surrey Network: Study Days

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

Please note: If anyone needs a lift, or can offer one, please sign the relevant sheet at the next monthly meeting or email Mary Hodgson at speakers@kingstonu3a.org.uk and she will match requests and offers.

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

- [An Utterly Incomplete History of Keyboards and Keyboard Music](#) – Fri, 15 Sep
- [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. 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.

Monday 4 September, 2pm

Surviving and Escaping Nazi Occupation of Poland – Gabriel Stein

Gabriel tells the story of his mother and of how she and her family survived the Holocaust in Poland, mainly in the Łódź ghetto.

Monday 2 October, 2pm

The Job of a Laughtime – Brad Ashton

Journalist and TV comedy writer Brad tells us the backstage stories of many star comedians he has worked with, including Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson, Dick Emery, Hattie Jacques, Groucho Marx and Bob Monkhouse

Monday 6 November, 1.30pm

Annual General Meeting (1.30pm)

A Schoolgirl's War – Mary Smith (2pm)

During Mary's time as a headteacher of a secondary school, two discoveries revealed a vivid insight into school life in WW2: an extensive set of underground tunnels used as classrooms, and a set of paintings of wartime schooling made by an art teacher.

Winter 2023 Newsletter

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

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

- reports from your group
- outings and visits
- 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 Thursday, 12 October.

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The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early October. Please forward any contributions or suggestions to Susan Hinchsliffe at communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk by Friday, 22 September.

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.