

# Kingston u3a News Bulletin October 2023 No 55

(Sent out on 29 September 2023)

Welcome to our October newsletter.

We begin with further reminders about postage stamps, membership renewals, committee nominations and our recent questionnaire.

It's good to see that three new groups could be starting up soon if there are enough members interested: French, Home Brewing and MOTO Weekenders. And the Things & Ideas discussion group and the Kingston **u3a** Singers are looking to recruit some new members.

October sees both the Third Age Trust and London Region Network listing their latest online talks and Surrey Network has scheduled some new study days.

And to finish, you'll find details of the remaining monthly meetings and speakers for 2023. Don't forget that Monday, 6 November's meeting is also the Annual General Meeting, which will begin at 1.30pm. It would be good to see as many of you there as possible. We have room for 150 members.

Best wishes for the month ahead.

## Reminders

### Postage Stamps

Please make sure you use only stamps which have a bar code when sending us any correspondence. If you use older, out-of-date stamps, your letters and forms will **not** reach us.

### Membership Renewals

If you haven't already done so, please remember that you now have to renew your membership. You will find all the necessary information in the Autumn newsletter, which was sent out in August, or in the September news bulletin which we emailed you to on 29 August. You can download both of these documents from the [Newsletter/Bulletins](#) section of Kingston **u3a**'s website.

### 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.

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. Chris Cheek also sent you an email reminder on Tuesday, 26 September with the questionnaire as an attachment. Please 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.

## **Group News**

### **French for Beginners on Zoom**

Laila Eletre has been running a Beginners' French group for Elmbridge **u3a** for some years and is now offering a similar one to Kingston **u3a**. Emphasis will be on pronunciation and grammar.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Laila Eletre: [eletrelaila@gmail.com](mailto:eletrelaila@gmail.com).

### **Home Brewing**

This will be a new group which would provide opportunities to develop home-brewing skills, share experiences and visit breweries.

If you are interested in coming along to this group, please contact John Lodge: [johnlodge47@gmail.com](mailto:johnlodge47@gmail.com).

### **MOTO Weekenders**

This will be a new social group that would meet up at on a Sunday, once a month, in someone's home. They might play board games or cards, watch a video or discuss a topic. They might plan another get-together on Saturday or Sunday for a pub lunch, cinema or short walk.

This group may be suitable for anyone who has difficulties in participating in the more physical activities offered by the other groups.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Jacqui Hine: [jacquihine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jacquihine@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Kingston u3a Singers**

Come and try the choir. They are a small but friendly group who enjoy singing in four-part harmony. Their music ranges from folk tunes and songs from shows to

inspiring pieces from great composers – you'll probably recognise quite a few and may have sung along to them.

Singing in four-part harmony means that you'll be singing with others in your voice range, which makes it easy. The choir particularly needs more men to add to their tenors and basses, to create a better balance for the choir. So, all you men who like to sing, come and join the other men in the choir.

There are no auditions. The choir uses sheet music but not everyone can sing straight off the page and it's fun learning. In fact, singing is extremely good for both physical and mental health.

The rehearsals are every Thursday morning, 10.30am-12.30pm, with a coffee break half-way, at Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton KT6 4BN. There is ample free parking and several buses and the railway station for public transport.

For more information and to let them know that you're coming, please ring Helga on 020 8397 8712 or Roger on 07759 029 433.

## Things & Ideas Discussion Group

This discussion group started off as the Science & Philosophy group many decades ago. Unfortunately a combination of the pandemic and old age means attendance is now perilously low.

Apart from the undertaking to take one's turn in leading the discussion with a prepared paper, membership involves the opportunity to participate in a lively discussion at its meetings. The only restriction on topics is the **u3a** veto on politics and religion.

The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at Jennifer Butterworth's house in Coombe Lane West. The 57 bus stops nearby and Norbiton station is a seven-minute walk away. Unfortunately parking is **not** available.

The group would welcome reinforcements. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jennifer: [jenn.butterworth@virginmedia.com](mailto:jenn.butterworth@virginmedia.com), 020 8942 7387.

## u3a Online Events

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

- [Royal Presence and Royal Presents: A Commonwealth History](#) – 10am  
Thu, 5 Oct

- [The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its Archives](#) – 2pm Mon, 9 Oct
- [Into the Mind of an Artist. Van Gogh \(Part 2\)](#) – 10am Tue, 10 Oct
- [Odd Numbers and There and Back Again: Tales of Two Beautiful Number Patterns](#) – 2pm Thu, 12 Oct
- [Live Cookery Demonstration: Autumn Recipes](#) – 10.30am Fri, 13 Oct
- [Family History: Why the Whole Family Matters](#) – 2pm Wed, 18 Oct
- [The Story of Britain Told Through Coins](#) – 2pm Thu, 19 Oct
- [An Introduction to Astronomy](#) – 11.30am Wed, 25 Oct
- [How Our Thinking Skills Change as We Age](#) – 2pm Wed, 25 Oct
- [Live Cookery Demonstration: More Autumn Recipes](#) – 2pm Thu, 26 Oct
- [Fashion's Dumping Ground](#) – 2pm Fri, 27 Oct

## Interest Groups Online (IGO) Fair

This fair will be taking place from Monday 2- Friday, 6 October and is an opportunity to try out [u3a](#)'s online learning community for free.

There are three online meetings every day on a wide variety of subjects. Several members of each group will share their research progress with you and discuss your own ideas. You can find out more details on the [Fair Schedule](#) page.

You can also find out more information about the interest groups themselves on the [IGO Groups](#) page, along with details of how to join a group and the cost.

## London Region Network: Online Talks

Online talks have been arranged in the coming months and you can now register. Click on the links below to access the programme and the booking forms for the individual talks. You can log in for these talks from 5pm on the day.

- [The City and Slavery](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 2 Oct
- [Atatürk: The Greatest Nation Builder of Modern Times](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 6 Nov
- [Write it Down! \(Insights, Tips and Examples for Family Historians\)](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 4 Dec

This information is also available on the [London Region](#) website.

## Surrey Network: Study Days

Study days have been arranged in the coming months.

**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

### 2023

- [Quarks, the Universe and Everything](#) – Fri, 20 Oct
- [Rembrandt: From Fame to Poverty and Final Acclaim](#) – Fri, 17 Nov

### 2024

- Architecture, Art, Landscape and History: A Journey through Britain's Railways – Fri, 16 Feb
- Europe at War: Putin's War in Ukraine and the British Commitment – Fri, 15 Mar
- Understanding AI and its Repercussions in Society, Now and in the Future – Fri, 19 Apr
- The Jazz Age and Beyond with Talks, Film, Demonstrations and Musical Finale – Fri, 17 May

Places for the 2024 talks will be available in the hall or for online viewing and booking opens in November.

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 2 October, 2pm**

### **Earthworms – Dr David Jones**

**Please note** the change of topic and speaker. Unfortunately the previously advertised speaker, Brad Atkins, will not be able to attend owing to ill health.

Dr David Jones, a research biologist at the Natural History Museum and lecturer at Imperial College, will reveal some of the fascinating secrets about earthworms and their role in temperate habitats; how many species of earthworm there are in Britain; what they eat; how they contribute to soil processes and ecosystem health. They are amazing creatures and so important for soil, ecosystems and, not least, the health of our gardens.

## **Monday 6 November, 1.30pm**

### **Annual General Meeting (1.30pm)**

### **A Schoolgirl's War – Mary Smith (2pm)**

During Mary's time as the 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.

## **Monday 4 December, 2pm**

### **Walking into Grandmother's Kitchen in 1940 Madras – Jenny Mallin**

Jenny, winner of the Best in World Cookbook, shares part of her family history, and tells how the festive season was celebrated by those living under the British Raj, from Christmas Eve to Twelfth Night. She uncovers family recipes from a family book dating back to 1844.

## **Winter 2023 Newsletter**

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

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 by Thursday, 12 October at [newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk) .

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The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early December. Please forward any contributions or suggestions by Friday, 24 November to Susan Hinchsliffe at [communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk) .

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.