

# Kingston u3a News Bulletin Dcember 2023 No 56

(Sent out on 26 November 2023)

Welcome to our last news bulletin of 2023.

We have several items under Group News: there's the Kingston **u3a** Singing for Fun's Christmas concert; Drawing and Painting Group 5's art exhibition at Cass Art in Kingston; and, with apologies, the correction of some mistakes in the Group and Contacts List in our Winter Newsletter.

We often ask for volunteers to help with different aspects of running Kingston **u3a** but Jacqui Hine who heads GAS is in particular need of some assistance. Please check the details below and see if you can help out.

GAS recently organised a trip to the Foundling Hospital and ex-Coram boy John Caldicott came to speak at one of our monthly meetings. You may be interested to know that a film about the work of the Foundling Hospital is now available on YouTube. The link is below.

July 2024 brings the first national **u3a** festival which will be held at York University. For full details of the event, please see the feature below.

As ever, we list all the online talks and study days organised by the Third Age Trust, the London Region Network and the Surrey Network. You'll find details our last monthly meeting for this year and the first two meetings and speakers for 2024.

It only remains for us to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

## Group News

### Christmas Concert

The Kingston **u3a** Singing for Fun Choir invites you to come along to their free concert.

**Time/Date:** 11am Friday, 8 December

**Place:** Mayo Hall, the United Reformed Church in Kingston (where we hold our monthly meetings)

The choir meets every Friday, 10am-12 noon in the Mayo Hall. They sing a range of music and are keen to recruit new members. Anyone is welcome to come for a 'taster' session to try us out. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Janet Thorpe at [janetlizthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:janetlizthorpe@gmail.com).

### Drawing and Painting Group 5: Exhibition

The group is currently exhibiting some of the paintings they have completed this term under the tutelage of Irina Taneva.

You can visit the exhibition until Thursday, 30 November (10am-6pm daily) at the Cass Art shop in Kingston. For those of you who don't know where the shop is, the address is 103 Clarence Street, KT1 1QY, which is close to the Eden Street end of the pedestrian precinct, near UNIQLO and opposite the Metrobank.

Go through the shop and up the stairs at the back. The exhibition is in the Art Space studio on the first floor. (Please note, there is no lift and a lot of steps to climb.) There may be an art class on but you can still slip quietly into the studio (unless it's a life class) and look round.

Some of the paintings are for sale. If you are interested in buying one, please contact the group leader, Anne Higgins at [annehiggins145@outlook.com](mailto:annehiggins145@outlook.com).

## Groups and Contacts: Mistakes

Unfortunately the Groups and Contacts list in the Kingston **u3a** Winter Newsletter published early in November contained several mistakes. Many apologies for the errors: please find the corrections below.

- **Theatre Visits:** The mobile number of the leader, Christine Evans, should read 020 8224 1985.
- **Art Appreciation 2 Gallery Visits and Discussions:** The group leader was incorrectly listed as Fran Thurling. The new leaders are in fact:
  - Stephanie Davis: 07718 753899, [stephaniehelendavis@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniehelendavis@gmail.com)
  - Pat Wilson: 07517 495006, [pat@emberbrook.com](mailto:pat@emberbrook.com)
- **French Conversation 1:** Robin Clarke's class is **not** on Zoom.

Once again, many apologies.

## GAS Outings: Help!!!

Jacqui Hine's GAS team, who arrange all the trips and events for Kingston **u3a**, are looking for additional help to carry out their work. They would appreciate a hand with receiving and checking the booking forms and cheques, as well as attending some of the trips to support the tour leader, especially on coach trips and at London-based venues.

The team meets four times a year to exchange ideas and organise the next three events. Your ideas would, of course, be welcome.

It is essential to have an email account with easy access to it.

If you think you'd like to help, please email to Jacqui at [jacqui@hine.org.uk](mailto:jacqui@hine.org.uk).

Thank you.

## Story of the Foundling Hospital: A Film

Earlier this year John Caldicott was the speaker at our May monthly meeting. His talk covered the history of the Foundling Hospital. In October Nanette Gray organised a GAS outing to the Foundling Museum in which some of you participated.

You can now see a film on YouTube, [No Place Like Home: The Story of the Foundling Hospital](#). It tells of the lives of some of the 27,000 children who grew up at the Foundling Hospital between 1741 and 1954 and of the desperate mothers who left them there in the hope they would be better provided for. It assesses, too, the hospital's place in the history of social care and the work of its successor, Coram, the national children's charity that continues to create better chances for children today.

## u3a Festival 2024: 18-20 July

u3a's first national festival will run over three days at the University of York.

There'll be a wide variety of activities, talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops.

The organisers are keen to strengthen their musical offering so, if any of Kingston u3a's singers or musicians would like to participate, please email [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk).

You can find more details about accommodation, costs and receiving regular updates about this national festival by visiting the [website](#).

## u3a Online Events

The Third Age Trust is hosting some online talks in December and January 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.

- [The Story of Eva Urbach and Ulli Adler \(Kindertransport\)](#) – 2pm Fri, 1 Dec
- [When Art and Literature Meet at Christmastide](#) – 10am Tue, 5 Dec
- [The Art of William Morris](#) – 2pm Wed, 6 Dec
- [Live Cookery Demonstration: Christmas Special](#) – 10.30am Thu, 7 Dec
- [Exploring World Faiths: Christmas](#) – 10am Mon, 11 Dec

- [How to Plan a Balanced Yoga Practice](#) – 11am Wed, 13 Dec
- [Family History: Where all is not as it seems](#) – 2pm Wed, 13 Dec
- [Climate Change and the Oceans](#) – 10am Fri, 15 Dec
- [Mindfulness and Meditation Continuation Sessions: Dec-May](#) – first session 10am Thu, 21 Dec
- [How to Better Insulate your Home](#) – 2pm Wed, 4 Jan 2024

## 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.

- [Write it Down! \(Insights, Tips and Examples for Family Historians\)](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 4 Dec
- [Food for Thought: Neville Lyons](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 8 Jan
- [Louis Moreau Gottschalk \(1829–1869\): Herbie Goldberg](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 5 Feb
- [The Shaping of Eastern Europe](#) – 5.30pm Mon, 4 Mar

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

### 2024

- [A Day on the Train: A Railway Journey, Railway Adventures and Cultural History of Railways](#) – Fri, 16 Feb
- [Europe at War: Putin's War in Ukraine and the British Commitment](#) – Fri, 15 Mar
- [Earth's Atmosphere: Our Life Support System](#) – Fri, 19 Apr

- [The Jazz Age and Beyond with Talks, Film, Demonstrations and Musical Finale](#) – Fri, 17 May

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 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.

### **Monday 8 January, 2pm**

#### **[Annual Quiz](#)**

Come along and pit your wits against other members of Kingston **u3a**.

### **Monday 5 February, 2pm**

#### **[Where Do Novelists Get Their Ideas From? – Bobbie Derbyshire](#)**

Author Bobbie will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and sub-plot arrives in a writer's mind.

## **Spring 2024 Newsletter**

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

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 Wednesday, 17 January 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 January. Please forward any contributions or suggestions by Thursday, 21 December to Susan Hinchsliffe at [communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@kingstonu3a.org.uk) .

In the meantime, please check the [Kingston u3a](http://Kingstonu3a.org.uk) 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.