

Kingston u3a News Bulletin April 2024 No 59

(Sent out on 28 March 2024)

It's with great sadness that we begin our April bulletin. Shirley Miller, who headed up the Groups section of Kingston **u3a** for so many years, died earlier this week after a short illness. I'm sure you will want to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to Shirley's family and conveying our grateful thanks for her service to our **u3a** community and her friendship over the years. She is sorely missed.

Joy Garvey
Chair

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Our bulletin starts with offers from members to set up two new groups – Canasta and Mah Jong. It's good to hear of the success of the Gentle Walks group, so much so that leader Jan Goodyear is looking for someone to help in arranging the walks.

Instead of its usual summer school, London Region has organised an extensive two-month programme of walks and museum/gallery visits around central London. You'll find below links to details of the programme along with booking details. You'll find below links to details of the programme along with booking details. Look out too for the South East u3a Forum's summer school: booking opens in a couple of weeks' time.

There's the latest list of all the online talks and study days organised by the Third Age Trust, the London Region Network and the Surrey Network. And, don't forget, if you missed Brenda Ainsley's talk on *The Climate Crisis – and Some Solutions* last year, you have another chance to join the online event on Friday, 19 April. You'll find the link in the **u3a** Online Events section below.

As usual, you'll find details of our next three monthly meetings and speakers, along with deadlines for contributions to the next newsletter and bulletin.

Our next printed newsletter will be out in May, followed by an email bulletin in June.

Until then, take care and enjoy your classes and outings.

Group News

Bridge Group 1 and Climate Emergency: Lost Contact Details

After a computer crash, leader of these two groups, Christine Thompson, has lost some contact details. If you are no longer receiving emails for these groups but still wish to be part of either group, please email Christine: chris.cpt3@tiscali.co.uk.

Canasta Group

Jan Goodyear and a few friends occasionally meet up to play the card game canasta. They wondered if any of you would be interested in being part of a new **u3a** Canasta group to play regularly. At present this is still at the 'idea' stage but if you think you might be interested, please send Jan an email and she'll arrange an initial meeting to discuss possibilities: jan.goodyear@gmail.com.

Gentle Walks Group

This group has proved so successful that there is now a waiting list and leader Jan Goodyear is having to arrange two walks a month rather than one.

It would be good to be able to accommodate those already on the waiting list but, to do that, Jan needs additional help. If you think you might be able to lead a group on a gentle walk, please contact Jan who will be able to tell you exactly what is involved: jan.goodyear@gmail.com.

Mah Jong Group

Clare Francis is willing to start a new Mah Jong group. If you are interested in joining such a group, please contact Clare for further details: 07649 966380.

Visits and Outings

GAS Visit to Eltham Palace

There are still **five** places available on this visit on Thursday, 16 May. You can find full details of this trip and the application form in the February newsletter, which we sent out at the beginning of February. If you are interested, please fill in the form in the newsletter and send it off to Jacqui Hine as soon as you can.

Jacqui Hine: 020 8549 1924, jacqui@hine.org.uk

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.

You can find more details about events, accommodation (Airbnb, guest houses and hotels), costs and regular updates about this on the [national festival](#)'s website.

u3a Online Events

The Third Age Trust is hosting some online talks in April 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

- [Aviation Network Meeting: Milestones in Aviation](#) – 10am Tue, 2 Apr
- [An Introduction to AI Chatbots](#) – 3.30pm Thu, 4 Apr
- [From Pleasure Gardens to Theme Parks](#) – 2pm Fri, 5 Apr
- [Electing the President in 2024: an Update](#) – 2pm Tue, 9 Apr
- [Live Cookery Demonstration: Spring Recipes](#) – 10.30am Thu, 11 Apr
- [A Remarkable Woman: The Arts and Crafts Designs of May Morris](#) – 2pm Thu, 11 Apr
- [Artificial Intelligence News: April](#) – 3.30pm Thu, 11 Apr
- [Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance](#) – 10am Mon, 15 Apr
- [The Road to Clean Water: Beginnings of a Sewage System in Victorian London](#) – 10am Wed, 17 Apr
- [Live Cookery Demonstration: More Spring Recipes](#) – 10.30am Thu, 18 Apr
- [From Despair to Delight: The Sonnets of Gerard Manley Hopkins](#) – 2pm Thu, 18 Apr
- [The Climate Crisis – and Some Solutions](#) – 10am Fri, 19 Apr
- [Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Four – The Blood-Brain Barrier](#) – 2pm Wed, 24 Apr

London Region Network

Online Talks

The Online Talks Programme is taking a summer break. Plans for next October to March are currently under discussion.

Study Days

- [Environmental Inspiration Day](#) – 11am-2.30pm Fri, 19 Apr. Follow the link for more information about the day, booking arrangements and contact details.

Summer School: 21 May-18 July

- [Summer Walks and Visits Programme](#)

Instead of the usual Summer School, this year London Region is offering an extensive programme of guided walks and visits to museums and galleries around central London.

Click on the link above to view the online programme which includes information about each event with a direct link to the relevant online booking form. Booking is already open.

The cost of each event, which is for **u3a** members only, is £10 per person (no refunds). Maximum capacity is 20 participants per guided walk, and 15 participants for each guided visit. Tickets are likely to sell quickly so book as soon as you can.

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

South East u3a Forum: Summer School

Dates: Monday 2-Thursday, 5 September

Place: University of Chichester

Programme:

Subjects include:

- Art and Mythology
- Bridge
- Crochet
- Cycling
- Illuminated Manuscripts
- Latin Remembered
- Living History
- Mah Jong
- Mathematics
- Patchwork
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Politics
- Science

Booking: You will be able to access the booking forms from the [SE u3a Forum](#) website from 10am on Thursday, 11 April.

Further information: For details of location, cost, subject content and accessibility issues, please see the [SE u3a Forum](#) website and the [Summer School](#) information leaflet

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. £12 for those attending via Zoom.

Programme

- [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

Dates are listed on the website for planned study days throughout 2024. We'll let you know when booking opens. Study days are always on a Friday:

- 21 Jun: Science Topics
- 20 Sep: Artificial Intelligence
- 18 Oct: The History of Photography
- 15 Nov: TBA

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 8 April, 2pm

A Solo Walk across Africa – Fran Sandham

Fran recounts his coast-to-coast walk across Africa, from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar. This was the first time on record anyone had crossed Africa solo, entirely on foot, by this route – or at least solo apart from a disastrous donkey.

Monday 13 May, 2pm

Aviation's Greatest Pioneers – Andy Richardson

Former RAF pilot Andy will give a brief outline of some aviation pioneers, then invite the audience to choose six, about whom he will then talk in greater detail.

Monday 3 June, 2pm

The speaker booked for this meeting is now unable to attend for medical reasons. We shall still go ahead with the meeting and give you more details about it nearer the time.

Summer 2024 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
- 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, 10 April at newsletter@kingstonu3a.org.uk.

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The next Kingston **u3a** news bulletin will be emailed to you in early June. Please forward any contributions or suggestions by Thursday, 23 May to Susan Hinchcliffe at 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. 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.