

BRING A FRIEND TO
IU3A'S 2ND OPEN DAY



All are welcome – members and non-members - to come along to our second Open Day to join or renew iU3A membership, and find out about our interest groups.

Veteran Islington actor Kenneth Cranham - the Inspector in An Inspector Calls – will cut the birthday cake at this free event.

Monday 5 October 2.30–4.30pm at Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road (next to Waitrose)

ISLINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



AUTUMN 2015

ISLINGTON U3A CO-HOSTS JOAN BAKEWELL TALKING ABOUT AGE AT ARCHWAY WITH WORDS FESTIVAL



The spectacular line-up at ArchWay With Words 'Festival of Superstar Authors & Spellbinding Speakers' is headed by Baroness Joan Bakewell who is appearing in a joint event with Islington U3A.

Lady Bakewell will be presenting her latest book 'Stop the Clocks', a meditation on age, and talk about the changes she has seen in her long life. This will be a decidedly non-gloomy and entertaining talk, as Bakewell takes us on a journey through her exceptional career as a journalist, broadcaster, interviewer and writer at 7.30pm on Friday 16 October at Archway Methodist Church which is on the Archway traffic

island at the end of Holloway Road.

A festival of superstar authors & spellbinding speakers 10 - 18 OCT 2015

Archway with words



Professor Sophie Scott the 'laughter neuroscientist' and Professor Lloyd Peck of the British Antarctic Survey, who were both great hits at IU3A monthly talks will also be taking part. Another scientist, mathematician and cryptographer Dr Simon Singh, will demonstrate his precious Enigma Machine and reveal stories of the code crackers at Bletchley Park.

Novelists include Esther Freud, Tracy Chevalier, Matt Baylis, Penny Hancock, Ben Okri and Jake Arnott, and there's also a feast of non-fiction with biographies, histories of London, a guide to cracking cryptic clues and the marvellous 'London

Sound Survey' which collects recordings of people, places and events in London. Readings include poetry and Phill Jupitus who performs as 'Porky Poet' and will present his book about Breakfast Radio.

There's also an Elvis themed party, a demonstration of sitar playing from a maestro and delights for grandchildren. The Festival runs from Saturday 10 October to Sunday 18 October at various venues in Archway.

ArchWay With Words is offering tickets for the Bakewell event to U3A members at the cut price of £8 - contact Isabel Dickson at iu3amembers@outlook.com. See the [AWWW website](#) for other tickets.

BONJOUR LA FRANCE



An internal courtyard in the Pope's Palace

In June some members of our French group went on a trip to Avignon, in sunny Provence, the walled seat of the papacy in the 14th century. We travelled by Eurostar direct to Avignon in just five and a half hours. We very much enjoyed discovering the medieval city, with the Rhone river meandering on one side and many cobbled streets and impressive buildings. The massive Palace of the Popes looks more like a fortified castle than a papal residence. Most places of interest are a short walking distance apart and one can take a little electric train which goes around the main landmarks of the walled city. Of course we enjoyed the food and wine, there are many restaurants and we discovered several very good ones!

The weather was manageable, and the five of us were able to enjoy very leisurely lunches, particularly one memorable one where we ended up setting our own table, and pretty well cajoling the waitress into serving us with a meal. However, on several days we had a sudden, drenching downpour in the early evening at no notice, and had to run for cover on our way to eat. One evening the only cover was the one restaurant in the area, so our choice of where to eat was decided for us.

The highlight for some of us was the discovery of a splendid Handel concert given by the local Ensemble Vocal D'Avignon at a very impressive church in the centre, the Basilique St Pierre. Most enjoyable.

THE GERMAN GROUP HEADED NORTH



On July 6, we took a day-trip from St Pancras to Leicester to see the stunning collection of German Expressionist art at the New Walk Gallery, *writes Michael Ratcliffe*. The gallery recently reopened with state-of-the-art, hands-on screens to enrich what you are seeing. There's also a superb website. This hidden treasure of the English museum scene, with its presentation of artists like Käthe Kollwitz, Lyonel Feininger, Georg Grosz, Karl Schmitt-Rottluf, Max Liebermann and Otto Dix, damned as 'degenerate' by the Nazis and neglected by the British art establishment until recent decades, has no equal in London.

Leicester collected them early, and staged a show of 'Middle European Art' in 1943, of all years, thanks to the generosity of one German Jewish family and one very adventurous English curator. We'd made no plans to talk to anyone while there, but a kind curator filled in these stories of painstaking vindication for us at very short notice. We were enthralled.

Before coming home, we paid our respects to the newly-reburied Richard III in Leicester Cathedral, and stormed the city's huge market for Melton Mowbray pies to eat on the train. At our next session in Canonbury, we mulled over the day, compared our favourite pieces (pictures *and* pies), and vowed to plan further day trips to galleries. Alles, natürlich, auf deutsch.

ISLINGTON U3A COFFEE MORNINGS HERE TO STAY

Local iU3A coffee mornings are well established now. Thanks to our gracious hosts Christine Cox, Christopher Elsom, Maeve Dorrian, Margaret Orrell and Sandy Huxter nearly 50 members have been along to one of our relaxed and friendly coffee mornings. These were arranged in response to members' requests for more opportunities to get to know each other beyond getting involved in interest groups and going to the monthly meetings. The meetings are free for members and there is a choice of tea or coffee as well as cakes and biscuits.

The popularity of the coffee mornings means that they are now firmly established as part of the iU3A programme. Priscilla Newman is going to coordinate the arrangements for them in the future. We want to ensure that the coffee mornings are widely spread across Islington and would welcome more offers to host one. iU3A covers the costs and does all the administration. All you need to do is put the kettle on and brew the coffee. Hosts say that they enjoy these events as much as the guests. If you would like to host a coffee morning, to find out more please contact Priscilla by emailing her [here](#)



Coffee mornings start at 11am:

Thursday 1 October near the Angel

Thursday 29 October in Holloway

Wednesday 25 November near Caledonian Road

If you'd like to go to one of these, please also email Priscilla [here](#)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS



We are approaching the end of Islington U3A's second year. So soon you will be getting an email reminder about renewing your subscription for the 12 months beginning 1 October 2015. Subscription will remain the same - at £30 per annum with an additional fee of £2.20 for those who wish to receive the magazine published by The Third Age Trust. For further information please contact Isabel Dickson [here](#)

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Monday 5 October	Our 2nd birthday party and Open Day
Wednesday 11 November	Park Theatre outing to see Dinner with Friends
Thursday 26 November	AGM

GROUPS

NEW GROUPS

PLAY READING

The first meeting of the new play reading group will be on Tuesday 13 October. We shall be reading Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. The list is now closed for that date and all casting done but we welcome new names for future readings or as possible 'standbys' in case anyone has to drop out. Casting is done purely on a random selection of drawing names and roles out of a hat and the casting is cross-gender – we make no changes if one of our females gets a male role, and vice versa. This should make the afternoon more challenging and fun. Regular readings will take place every second month with the next one in mid-December. Do look at our [page](#) on the iU3A website for members' current ideas for future playwrights.

FRENCH LITERATURE

We have launched our first specialist book group, where participants read books in French, but discuss them in English. The group will meet about once every six weeks. The first choice of book is 'La Neige était sale' by Georges Simenon, to be followed by 'Le Rapport de Brodeck' by Philippe Claudel. Future book choices will include classic French authors such as Zola, Hugo or Stendhal, as well as more modern French authors chosen by members

CURRENT GROUPS

SHORTER WALKS



The September walk is to Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath. The 5 mile walk takes in the gardens in Canizarro Park and Wimbledon Common's iconic windmill. In October, the group is planning a 5 mile walk that follows the Capital Ring footpath along the Thames and the Grand Union canal towpath. The route includes the Richmond riverfront, the Old Deer Park, and Richmond Lock; as well as Syon Park, Brentford Lock and the Grand Union Canal. The November walk heads from high Barnet to Cockfosters via Monken Hadley; and in December the walk is nearer home, covering Parkland Walk, Queens Wood and Alexandra Palace.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

We have had lively and interesting meetings. Members prepare a short talk on any subject. Themes are varied and lead to amusing discussions. They have included Canoeing on French canals, How mothers recognise their baby's cry, 'The Spanish economy', How the birth of a child is celebrated around the world, Tattoos and Islam, and Toledo, royal city. We have also listened to a poem by Pablo Neruda entitled 'Quien Muere'.

BIRDWATCHING



The birdwatching group had a great summer. Lovely nightingales in May at Fingeringhoe Wick. Then on a second visit to Rainham Marshes, calmer than gale-driven March, it was great to see marsh harriers and bearded reedlings so close to London. East India Dock was a pleasant surprise, with fine views of nesting terns in a little haven left over from human industry and commerce. In July Members were interested in the conservation work at RSPB Sandy; just as well because there were remarkably few birds around, though a hobby did turn up as if on cue. In August, the Tate Modern peregrines, with no progeny this year, were just loafing around, not a lot to do except preen and admire the view. Later in the month we visited Cliffe Pools on the North Kent Marshes to see waders. Future visits include, Pulborough Brooks (for passage migrants) and Woodberry Wetlands (first public access for 180 years.)

CLASSIC FILMS



This autumn, our 'Best of British' season of classics from the 1930s-1980s includes ***The 39 Steps*** (1935); ***Black Narcissus*** (1947); ***A Room with a View*** (1985) and ***A Taste of Honey*** (1961). In the New Year, in the U3A spirit of collaborative learning, there will be a programme of six films chosen by individual Classic Film Group members. There are already champions for films by Robert Altman, Billy Wilder and Sidney Lumet.

CRAFT



As well as working on our individual projects we have jointly been knitting and crocheting squares to complete two blankets. The big blanket is being given to Project Linus a charity which provides blankets and quilts to babies and children in hospital. The other blanket (pictured) will be up for Silent Auction at the Open Day in October, so everyone will have a chance to own this lovely piece. We will also have a number of handmade items for sale on our stall at the Open Day, so do come and have a look. All money raised will be given to the charity, [Islington Giving](#)

GLOBAL HISTORY



In August we're time-travelling from the twelfth century to our new period, the seventeenth century. But we'll be roaming the world. Europe was plagued by the Thirty Years' War; the Ming dynasty ruled China, the Tokugawa shogunage Japan, and the Romanov dynasty Russia; the Dutch visited Northern Australia; there was a rush to plant colonies in North America; kingdoms and empires grew in sub-Saharan Africa. Science and the arts flourished - Galileo, Newton, Kepler, Vermeer, Murillo, Monteverdi, Corelli, Milton and Moliere. Tobacco, sugar, tea, coffee and potatoes became global commodities, as did slaves. The world was beginning to look 'modern'.

LOCAL HISTORY



In May the group visited the Union Chapel in Upper Street and learned about its history and architecture. Then in June – Barry Mason gave an illustrated talk on the research he had done into bombs and rockets that fell over Islington in both World Wars. In July the group had a guided walk through Clissold Park and Clissold House by members of the Clissold Park users group. They showed us the features of the park, especially since its renovation through a Heritage Lottery grant. August was a guided walk round Hoxton, guided by Group Coordinator Anne Wilkinson. The September trip will be a visit to John Wesley's house and chapel neat Old Street roundabout followed by a walk through the Bunhill Fields burial ground.

GARDENING



The gardening group visited Capel Manor in Enfield in July, when the rambling roses were at their very best. Future events include a visit to the Canary Wharf Crossrail Garden, the Painting Paradise exhibition at the Queen's Gallery, and a trip to Kew to see the autumn colour.

OPERA



During the first half of the year, the Opera Visits Group has been to performances ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to Kurt Weill's ***Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny***. Many of our visits have been to HD screenings at Islington Vue when we generally meet for a coffee beforehand at Prêt a Manger. In the autumn, we are planning to go to ***Tales of Hoffmann*** at the Royal College of Music and ***Marriage of Figaro*** at the Hackney Empire, as well as further screenings at the Vue. We also have meetings to discuss what we

have seen and consider future visits.

THEATRE



The last outing was to Regent's Park Open Air Theatre for the original stage version of ***Seven Brides for Seven Brothers***. Autumn outings include George Farquhar's late Restoration comedy ***The Beaux' Stratagem*** at the National Theatre; ***Mr Foote's Other Leg*** at Hampstead Theatre with Simon Russell Beale; and David Hare's new play about the creation of Glyndebourne, ***The Moderate Soprano*** at Hampstead Theatre. The Theatre Group is also going to the cinema to see Benedict Cumberbatch as ***Hamlet***. And all iU3A members are welcome to the special evening at the Park Theatre. ***Dinner with Friends*** is a Pulitzer Prize

winning portrayal of relationships that explores our dependency on our friends as well as our loved ones. There may still be a few tickets available. Contact [Sue Welsford](#)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs is naturally contentious, but being 'a university' members are remarkably restrained. The most recent researched issue was the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) about which group members had strong positions.

ITALIAN

The group meets at the Cafe at the Estorick Gallery, where the barman Massimo and his friend Luigi often give an Italian master class! However, we are expanding and might have to change venue in the future. On Friday 10 July we were finally able to sit outside - italiano al fresco.

Possible New Groups

Several members are interested in joining a book group to read Science Fiction and are looking for more members to join the group. For more information see the New Groups page [here](#) and if interested please contact [Sue Welsford](#)

There is also some interest in starting a Chamber Music Group but we need more for a sustainable group. If you play a string or wind instrument or enjoy playing the piano as accompanist and would like to join such a group, please let [Sue Welsford](#) know.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings take place at [Resource for London](#) 356 Holloway Rd (next to Waitrose). There is a café where members can meet and chat over tea or coffee before and after the meeting. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. There are no meetings in August and December. Registration opens at 9.45am for a prompt 10.30am start.

THE NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24 – Under the skin of the Italian Renaissance: through history, fiction and art - Sarah Dunant, author



Sarah Dunant has written twelve novels. Her most recent novels, set within the Italian renaissance, have highlighted the lives of women, and have been best sellers in Britain and America and have been translated into thirty languages. She will talk about her visits to churches, archives, museums and art galleries all over Italy, and how she has connected with the emotion, the senses and the heady appetites of the Renaissance as well as the politics and religion. Her novels include *In the Company of the Courtesan* and *Sacred Hearts* and most recently, the first volume of a novel about the Borgia family, *Blood and Beauty*.

PROGRAMME FOR THE REST OF 2015

OCTOBER 22 – What is the point of Universities? - Professor John Raftery, Vice Chancellor of London Metropolitan University



Professor Raftery joined local London Met University last year after a very successful spell at Oxford Brookes University where he served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for nine years. He is a successful higher education leader and an expert in applied economics, with a strong record of innovation and achievement in both academia and industry. He has lived and worked in Scandinavia, Hong Kong and Australia. His talk will cover the higher education landscape in 2016 and how it has changed in our lifetimes, the way digital learning can liberate students from three years at university, personalised higher, and of course the development of London Metropolitan University.

NOVEMBER 26 – Protecting post-war architecture - Elaine Harwood, historian with Historic England, formerly English Heritage



Elaine lives in Islington and is also a trustee of the Twentieth Century Society. For many years she worked on English Heritage's programme of research and designation of post 1945 buildings, an area of British architecture not greatly understood but which has increasingly come under threat from redevelopment. Elaine will look at why this period of architecture is so special, with examples drawn mainly from north London.

DECEMBER – no monthly meeting

RECENT MEETINGS



We were expecting **Grayson Perry** at the June monthly meeting, but hoping for Claire; and we got the works, full make-up, yellow frilled dress, shiny red shoes and a rubber chicken handbag: and a brilliant and entertaining talk on 'Inspiration is for amateurs; Originality is over-rated'.

Grayson /Claire works in Islington and has lived here for over 30 years. He freely admits to capturing ideas from all around him – including the work of other artists. His very first piece of pottery in 1983 was based on something he'd seen at the V&A. He was later taken by a late nineteenth century Japanese pot decorated with flowers – his version, called *Lovely Boys*, showed transvestites with a decoration of tiny planes.

He has also used Afgan war rugs that show guns, rockets and helicopters, as the jumping off point for his own work – he produced a rug showing wounded war veterans returning home to fight the peace with a border of shopping trollies, TVs, Hoovers and cars instead of weapons.

Professor Diana Kuh Director of the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London talked about healthy ageing - maintaining wellbeing for as long as possible, and growing evidence that social and biological factors from early life onwards can affect it.

Professor Lloyd Peck, British Antarctic Survey talked about the wonders of the Antarctic and what it can teach us about marine life in other parts of the world.

Nina Clarke, Vice Chair of Population Matters discussed population growth worldwide and what can be done to counteract it.

Suggestions for speakers for monthly meetings

We have had a wide variety of people from the arts, science and journalism as speakers for our monthly meetings. Some have been approached by the team after a suggestion from a iU3A member. We would love further suggestions from members about people who would make entertaining and informative speakers.

Ideally you should have seen your suggested person speak or have the recommendation of someone who has done so. It would also be very helpful if you could supply contact details and/or a web address.

The team responsible for finding speakers will start working on our 2016 programme in the Autumn and are looking forward to receiving suggestions.

Please get in touch with [Julie Howell](#)

Would you like to get involved with iU3A?

We are seeking people to fill two roles:

Bulletin Editor We are looking for someone to put together the twice monthly Bulletin sent out to all iU3A members. Mostly the Bulletin informs about future iU3A events (eg details of monthly meetings) but the Editor also keeps in touch with group coordinators, U3A nationally, and manages relations with external organisations wanting to circulate information to our members. The task, which may take up to six hours per month, involves succinct drafting and careful editing of material. When complete, Alan Cranston, the website manager will insert any required links to the iU3A or other websites or addresses, and organise publication.

Press and External Communications We are looking for someone to promote iU3A to the local newspapers – Islington Tribune and Islington Gazette by supplying them with information about newsworthy iU3A activities. The person doing this will also arrange listing entries and advertising for special events such as the annual Open Day, and keep in touch with local organisations to identify opportunities for iU3A to have a presence at their events and articles in their publications.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact our [Chair](#) Anne Weyman.

Beyond Islington U3A

iU3A members can enjoy the events and activities arranged by the Third Age Trust, the national umbrella body for U3As, and the London Region U3A to which all London U3As belong. You can find out what they offer on the [Other Opportunities](#) page of the iU3A website. The page also contains information from voluntary organisations in Islington seeking volunteers, and from universities looking for older participants for research projects.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



The cooperative philosophy of iU3A means that there is room for everyone to step up and do their bit from time to time – whether that is being a coordinator, taking photographs for the website, or opening wine bottles at the summer party. Some people manage to do all three! But I'm stepping back and there will be a new Newsletter editor - Anna McKane. But I still look forward to seeing you all around and about.

Vivien Goldsmith

To get in touch with iU3A, see the [Contacts](#) page of the [iU3A website](#); or to see the list of our groups, click [here](#)

Copies of the current and past iU3A newsletters can be found on our [News](#) page.