

ISLINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



APRIL MEETING

Do join us on Thursday
24 April for a good laugh.

Professor Sophie Scott,
Deputy Director of
Cognitive Neuroscience at
University College London
will talk about the social
subtleties of laughter.
She can detect
differences in the way
we laugh –depending on
whether it is spontaneous
laughter or a social device
to help us fit in.



Prof Sophie Scott having a laugh

APRIL 2014

GREAT LINE UP OF IU3A SPEAKERS FOR THE REST OF 2014

*Monthly meetings take place on Thursdays at The Resource
Centre, 356 Holloway Road N7 6PA, next to Waitrose. Doors
open at 9.45 am for a prompt 10.30 start.*

Thought-provoking, stimulating and entertaining speakers
are booked to speak at Islington U3A's monthly meetings
this year.



Margaret Hodge, who
was leader of Islington
council for a decade, is
now revelling in her
role as the first elected
chair of the powerful
Public Accounts

Committee which holds to account those who spend public
funds. She will be talking to iU3A in October.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: THE SCIENCE OF
LAUGHTER WITH PROF SOPHIE SCOTT - APRIL 24**

APRIL 24

Professor Sophie Scott, Deputy Director of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL has been getting people to laugh in a lab. She can look at people's brains and see the difference between how people react to spontaneous laughter and social laughs.



MAY 22



Sir Graeme Catto, a former president of the General Medical Council and chair of Dignity in Dying an organisation seeking to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill adults, will talk about the proposed legislation on assisted dying and how experience in other countries can help to address the issues.

JUNE 26

Rabbi Baroness (Julia) Neuberger will give her thoughts on 'Family and/or career or both? - the dilemma of modern men and women'. As well as being the second woman rabbi in the UK, she has (among other things) been a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Medical Research Council, a trustee of the Runnymede Trust, the British Council, Jewish Care, the Booker Prize Foundation and the Imperial War Museum, as well as Chairman of Camden & Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust. She chaired the independent Commission on the Future of Volunteering and was created a Life Peer in June 2004 (as a Liberal Democrat, though she is now a Crossbencher).



JULY 24

Lord Anthony Giddens, a sociologist and former director of the London School of Economics will give his views on 'The future of the EU'. He is a former adviser to Tony Blair and was given a life peerage in 2004.

SEPTEMBER 25



Joe Cain is Professor of History and Philosophy of Biology at University College London, and Head of the Department of Science and Technology Studies. He is an expert in the history of evolutionary biology, especially Darwin and Darwinism, and his research interests include the famous dinosaur statues in London's Crystal Palace. He will tell us about those dinosaurs and plans for a new exhibition at UCL in the autumn.

OCTOBER 23



Margaret Hodge, the first female Chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, will talk about 'Following the tax payers' pound; reflections on the Public Accounts Committee'.

Margaret Hodge became an Islington councillor in 1973; and was chair of the housing committee from 1975 to 1979; and leader from 1982 to 1992.

NOVEMBER 27



Roberta Cremoncini, director of the Estorick Gallery in Islington, will tell us about the history of the Estorick in Islington. The Collection brings together works created by Italian artists during the first half of the twentieth century and is Britain's only gallery devoted to modern Italian art. It is renowned for its collection of Futurist works.

Message from iU3A chair Anne Weyman

Save the date for iU3A's summer garden party

'What did we do with ourselves before there was Islington U3A?' asked a fellow member as we explored Hoxton with the Local Walks Group on a lovely Thursday morning. Like me, she is a member of several groups and can hardly believe that it's only six months since Islington U3A started, offering us so many interesting things to do.



While monthly meetings and interest groups are the core of our activities, the Steering Committee would like to organise some social events for members. So we need to find somebody to join the Committee to help organise them. So if you enjoy throwing a party, do get in touch with me at chair@islington.u3a.org

We already have one event planned – an early evening mid-summer party on Monday 23 June in Anna McKane’s lovely Islington garden.

Please save the date and more details will follow.

IU3A GROUP NEWS

We have smartened up the Groups pages on the iU3A website – so you can now get more information about when group meetings are held and click through direct to most group coordinators. See the list of groups [here](#) and click on the group name to email the coordinator.

NEW GROUPS

New groups are up and running covering Spanish, French Basic Conversation, Yoga, Pilates, Exploring London and Cryptic crosswords.

And we have someone willing to coordinate a iU3A group studying a MOOC – that’s a massive on-line open course. Many academic institutions such as Harvard have made their courses freely available to anyone via the internet. There is a vast range of courses of different types and on an enormous range of subjects. It is an opportunity to study something that there might be no-one local willing or able to teach and to explore it in some depth. The coordinator suggests that anyone interested should search the internet for courses that interest them. The group could then meet and try to agree a course to do together. If you are interested contact: groups@islingtonu3a.org

Current releases cinema group



We are also looking for someone to run a current releases cinema group to complement the existing Film at The BFI Group. The new group would see newly released films showing locally or in central London and discuss them as a group. If you are interested in running this group or joining it, please contact: groups@islingtonu3a.org

If anyone would like to get a group rolling or if you would like more information about any of the groups, or to sign up, please contact: groups@islingtonu3a.org

GROUP REPORTS

This is just a selection of the iU3A groups. See the [List of Groups Page](#) on the iU3A website for a full list of the Groups currently running. Most groups would welcome new members.

Global History



A wine jug, a bear chasing an ostrich and a panther. This is a tiny part of a Byzantine mosaic from a 6th century church in Lebanon, now in the Louvre and virtually intact. It was built by emperor Justinian, who recovered much of the Western Roman Empire from the "barbarians". The Global History group is exploring the time of the fall of the west in the centuries around 476 AD – from America to China.

Local History

The Local History group has over thirty people registered, and the activities have been attracting 15 to 20 members. Group members have suggested the places they want to visit. A trip to the Islington Museum was followed by a tour of Two Temple Place, built by William Waldorf Astor, to see the unique carvings and other decorations. In March a member gave a talk on Carlo Gatti, the nineteenth century ice entrepreneur based in Islington. His ice house is now the London Canal Museum.

Visits are planned to the London Metropolitan Archives near Exmouth Market, Sutton Place in Homerton and the Group is taking a walking tour between Highbury Corner and The Angel.



Two Temple Place

Current Affairs

The lively Current Affairs group meets twice a month. Each meeting starts with a discussion of items in that day's papers. Then members explore the chosen topic for the session in greater depth and share their opinions of topical hot issues. Areas covered recently include the future of London Airports, Immigration and the Ukraine. High on the list for the future are the referendum in Scotland and the potential referendum on Britain and the EU.

Architecture



The April meeting of the Architecture Group is at the Geffrye Museum to discuss the Arts and Crafts Movement. Previous topics are available on the iU3A website. These include Greece and Rome; Gothic and Renaissance. Future visits will be looking at the High Tech Exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects; Bauhaus at the Estorick Museum; and Georgian architecture at Kenwood House.

Local walks

This local spriggan (right) popped out from the old railway line. We looked up to see professional graffiti that scaled the buildings in old Hoxton, at the new hotel in the urban cool Hoxton and fondly at the canal housing that replaced the studios where Alfred Hitchcock made *The Lady Vanishes*.



Opera

We saw *Don Giovanni* at the Vue Cinema, Islington; this was a live relay from Covent Garden. The staging was interesting but dark and we agreed that the cinema format gave us an advantage over the audience who were actually at the Royal Opera House! These relays offer excellent value for money and we will no doubt return for future performances. The English Touring Opera's production of *The Magic Flute* at the Hackney Empire was enjoyed by the group. Two members led a discussion about *Don Giovanni* and *Magic Flute* and similar meetings will be held in future to enable us to learn more about the operas on our schedule. Forthcoming events include *La Calisto*, *Manon Lescaut* and *Stiffelio*.

Philosophy



This group includes all levels including complete beginner and welcomes new members. Three members of the iU3A Philosophy Group are pictured with the remains of Jeremy Bentham displayed at University College London.

"We thought we should pay our respects to our most celebrated local philosopher. We are all (slightly) proud to have Jeremy as a neighbour. So we thought we would drop in and say hello!," said Group coordinator John Davies, pictured with Godfrey Stadlen (left) and Alan Cranston (right).

Craft

Members of the monthly craft group are practising their skills and producing a great range of different items such as; elaborately patterned socks, trendy knitted cushions, beautiful tapestries and crocheted baby clothes. For some this has involved rekindling their enthusiasm for partially finished projects, others have been learning new skills or continuing with their favourite craft ... and all while chatting away about many different topics, some craft related but many not!



Yoga



The yoga group is very friendly and making great progress after only six weeks. The class comprises warm-up movements, gentle yoga postures and sequences, breathing practices, relaxation and meditation. Members are encouraged to work gently and to their own capacity. The group meets on Mondays near Essex Road.

Lives of composers and other musical themes

The next series of audio-visual shows feature Chopin, Schumann and Liszt; after that Wagner, The Faust Legend in Music and Tchaikovsky are featured.

Early 20th Century Art

The Italian Futurists will be covered in May; Vorticism in June and Russian modernists in July. These 45 minute shows include copious slides and are followed by 15 minutes of questions and discussion.

Books

One of the book groups has read James Lee Milne's autobiography *Another Self*, Jerry White's living history of an East End tenement block, *Rothschild Buildings*; and CP Snow's *The Masters*. Future books include *Buffalo Crossing* by John Williams, best known for *Stoner*; Germaine Greer's *White Beech* and Alice Munro's book of short stories, *The View from Castle Rock*.

Film at the BFI



The group May discussion will concentrate on two films Rome, Open City and East of Eden. As well as being part of the Seniors' Programme at the BFI, these two films have extended runs there and are widely available on DVD.

Also in May, there is a free screening for Seniors of Elephant Boy, an award winning 1937 adaptation of Rudyard Kipling adventure in which a small native lad claims to know the meeting place of the elephant hordes. It is preceded by a free talk in the morning: The Elephant Boy and Child Stardom. Dr Jeffrey Richards examines the career of Sabu, the only Indian actor to attain worldwide stardom in British and American films.

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about any group or arrange to go along for a trial session for groups able to take more members, email the coordinator direct by clicking on the group name on the [List of Groups](#) page.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Islington U3A has managed to attract over 250 members at the last count; and it now has more than 30 active groups and a successful programme of monthly meetings. Membership runs until the end of the iU3A year on 30 September. For anyone joining now there is a reduced fee of £16 to cover the rest of the year.

NETWORKING IN ISLINGTON

We are thinking about ways of reaching more people in and around Islington. Steering Committee member Margaret Wearing has taken on the role of widening the membership base to include people who perhaps do not know about U3A, or do not feel that it is for them. We are looking for ways to include more people from minority ethnic groups, more people with disabilities and people from parts of Islington that are under-represented. We also want people to know that we can consider waiving the fee for people on low incomes. If anyone can suggest any local organisations such as community centres or other small organisations that we should approach, please get in touch via the membership secretary: iu3amembers@outlook.com

THINGS TO DO

REMEMBER

Peter Cox, a member of North London U3A, is keen to get in touch with members over 75 who can tell him their memories of growing up in London. He is writing an oral history book covering the period between 1935 and 1955.

He is particularly interested in people who arrived in London in this period as refugees from abroad, and how the lives of young people were changed by evacuation, rationing and other wartime experiences and post war changes such as the introduction of the NHS.

He would be fascinated if you had any original letters to share or have already written about your experiences. Otherwise, he could conduct a short interview, either in person or over the phone. Contributions will be anonymous but contributors will be acknowledged in a list the contributors at the end of the book.

If you would like to share anecdotes, letters or stories, please contact:

coxpeter@btinternet.com

or phone: 0208 883 6952, or write to: 91 Hertford Road, London N2 9BX

EXPLORE THE ARCHIVES

London Metropolitan Archives free study day 'Sharing Experiences in the Archives' takes place on Friday 9 May 2014 from 09.30 to 16.00 at the University of London's Institute of Education in Bedford Way WC1. There will be a day of talks, recollections and documents to explore the stories of Londoners and their education in the 20th century - from school architecture to school yard play, teacher unionism to after school detention, school dinners to curriculum reform. You are invited to bring a picnic lunch. Coffee & Tea will be provided. To reserve tickets, email Alix Hall at alexandra.hall@ioe.ac.uk or call 020 7911 5483

SNAP - National U3A Photography Competition

The theme is Architectural Britain – old and new. The competition will be judged by Amateur Photographer magazine and the prize is a year's subscription to the magazine. Minimum print size is 7"x 5", and digital images must be high resolution and sent on CD saved as JPGs. The closing date is 31 August 2014 and entries should be sent to: The Third Age Trust, 19, East Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1QE. Full details can be found on www.u3a.org.uk members' area/competition.

U3A National Events



Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

30 April: [U3A Spring Concert \(Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London\)](#)

Tickets £18 per person (Max 2 tickets per application)

21 May: Dana Lecture at the Royal Society: Staying Sharp at the Royal Society. 'Plug in, Switch on, Rewire- Can technology rewire your brain for greater fulfilment?' 2-4pm. Admission by pre-booked tickets - £15 each. See [here](#) for booking information via National U3A.

12 - 15 August: U3A Annual Science Seminar, Newport, Shropshire
The course is residential (£250) or non-residential (£110).

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



You may have noticed that we have a new logo. This is because, the National U3A body decided, after we adopted our first logo, that it wanted local U3As to use the 'U3A' letters only as part of the national logo, and not as part of their own. We understand that this new policy will be applied to other existing logos over time. We love our new logo and are exceedingly grateful to the wonderful people at designers [Tattersall Hammarling and Silk](#) who worked with us to come up with a compliant logo based on the colours of the original design.

Vivien Goldsmith
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Contact iU3A

Via the iU3A [website](#):
www.islingtonu3a.org

For queries about [Groups](#) or [Events](#) click to go straight to the relevant page.

Copies of the iU3A newsletter can be found on the [News](#) page.