

ISLINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



SUMMER 2014

OPEN DAY

BRING A FRIEND

We are opening the doors to all for a celebration of Islington U3A's first year on Monday 6 October.

We hope that you will all come along and bring a friend who is not an iU3A member so they can see what's on offer.

Groups will be showing what they have been up to and talking about what is planned.

And we have high hopes that a fascinating Islington personality will cut our birthday cake.

More details soon.

Membership Renewals

Islington U3A's second year starts on 1 October 2014, so it is nearly time for current members to renew their subscription. A reminder email will go out in the second half of August.

You will be able to renew in person at the 25 September monthly meeting or at the Open Day on 6 October. You will also be able to pay by cheque to the iU3A [membership secretary](#), Isabel Dickson, 14 Baalbec Road, N5 1QN, or request from her bank details for a transfer. There will be no need to complete a new membership form, but please let Isabel know if any of your details have changed. Members will receive a new membership card valid until 30 September 2015.

As a registered charity, iU3A benefits from Gift Aid. We encourage those whose tax status makes them eligible to sign up for it. It costs you nothing. Those who made a one-off Gift Aid will be asked if they would like to continue to give iU3A the benefit of Gift Aid, preferably on an enduring basis.

Once you have renewed your iU3A membership, please tell your group coordinator(s) that you have done so. They have been asked to check, and will also want to know that you plan to continue as a group member.

New Groups

There are up to ten new interest groups that you can join or help to organise. Click on the link [here](#) and also below, to express interest.

We have co-ordinators for three of the groups, so all it needs is enough members who want to join, to get them started:

MOOCs (Massive On-Line Open Courses)

MOOCs are a major educational development in the United States and internationally. They are courses offered by Harvard, Yale and other well-known universities that are free and available to all via the internet. The idea is that instead of studying a MOOC alone, an iU3A group works together to follow the course.

The coordinator's initial suggestions are:

- Science and Cooking
- Something in the Air: Climate Change Science and Policy (A wide-ranging course with lectures from different disciplines)

A meeting will be arranged to discuss the plans for the group and to agree one or more courses to do together. The coordinator plans to suggest other possible courses in future.

Tai Chi

There will be a six-week introduction to this highly-respected Chinese art which is an effective form of exercise for balance, coordination and overall well-being. We have an excellent trained and experienced instructor. The group can accommodate complete beginners and those with previous training, and members of all ages and fitness levels.

The group will meet at the Walter Sickert Community Centre, Essex Road on Friday mornings from 10 – 11 am. Members will be asked to pay £2.50 at each session as a contribution to the cost of hiring the hall. The first meeting will be on 3 October. During the course we will discuss options for continuing Tai Chi after the six week period.

The Middle East

This new group will discuss political, economic, social and cultural issues relating to the Middle East. No specialist knowledge is required but members will be encouraged to do some very basic research on selected topics and give a short introduction. Topics for each meeting will be decided by the group. A meeting will be arranged to discuss frequency and times of meetings and other details.

There are a further six or seven groups proposed by members. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining one of them and also let us know if you could help to organise one - no specialist knowledge is required:

Current Cinema Releases

This group will complement the existing Film Group, now focussing on classic films. It will view newly released films showing locally or in Central London and discuss them as a group.

Life, Art & Politics

The group will discuss ideas, opinions and experiences on a variety of topics chosen by members. On occasion an outside speaker may be invited.

Bird Watching

Urban bird watching is taking off and several species have found new habitats in London. The group will arrange excursions in London and beyond to view interesting birds and other wildlife.

Current Issues in Science

A discussion group covering a broad range of scientific issues that could include medical, biological, climate change, energy, GM crops. This could include excursions to places such as the Natural History Museum or Kew Gardens. Scientific knowledge is not required – discussion will be of the issues raised by the science, not the science itself.

Book Group 3

Our two existing book groups are now full and we have a small waiting list. So we are planning to start a third book group for informal reading and discussion of books chosen by members.

French Conversation

Both our existing French Conversation groups are full and there is a waiting list. So we are planning one or two new groups: we hope to have groups to suit all levels, from beginners or those with rusty French to those who are reasonably fluent.

If you are interested in joining or hearing more about any of these new groups [click here](#) for a short form to let us know. Or you can contact [Barry Mason](#), who is responsible for developing new groups. He would also welcome suggestions for further new groups.

Meetings & Special Events



Garden Party

Islington U3A held its first members' summer garden party in a member's glorious private garden. Members mingled and chatted over sparkling wine and delicious nibbles. The rain held off until it was just about time to go.



Park Theatre Visit

On 21 October, over 100 iU3A members will be going on a special visit to the Park Theatre, Finsbury Park. We will see 'The Vertical Hour' by David Hare, after a pre-performance talk by Jez Bond, the Park's founder and artistic director. The play is about a former war reporter and a Professor of International Relations at Yale and tests the interplay between personal philosophies and global politics.



Monthly meetings

Monthly meeting, on the fourth Thursday of the month, take place at [Resource Centre for London](#) 356 Holloway Rd (next to Waitrose). There is a café where members can meet and chat over tea or coffee. Registration opens at 9.45am for a prompt 10.30am start. See the next page for the excellent programme we have put together for the coming months.



SEPTEMBER 25 – Evolution now
Professor Joe Cain

Joe is Professor of History and Philosophy of Biology at University College London. He is expert in the history of evolutionary biology, and his interests include the famous dinosaur statues in London's Crystal Palace.



OCTOBER 23 – Following the tax payer's pound
Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge MP

Margaret is the first female Chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee. Leader of Islington Council from 1982 to 1992. An MP since 1994 she was the first Minister for Children in 2003.



NOVEMBER 27 – Islington's Estorick Collection
Roberta Cremoncini

Roberta is director of the Estorick Gallery in Islington, Britain's only gallery devoted to modern Italian art. It is renowned for its collection of early 20th Century Futurist works.



JANUARY 22 – Is doing business ethically a nightmare?
Simon Webley

Simon is the Research Director of the Institute of Business Ethics, the London based Institute that helps organisations in many countries develop and implement business ethics policies and programmes.



FEBRUARY 26 – Tanya Byron
(Topic to follow)

Tanya is a psychologist and Professor of the Public Understanding of Science



MARCH 26 – Nature, Nurture or Neither – the view from the genes
Professor Steve Jones

Steve is Principal Research Associate, Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London



APRIL 23 – Professor Diana Kuh
(Topic to follow)

Diana is Director of the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London



MAY 28 – The wonders of the Antarctic and what it can teach us
Professor Lloyd Peck

Lloyd is a marine biologist at the British Antarctic Survey.

So ... What do you think?

An iU3A member survey will be taking place in the second half of September. We will be asking for your opinions on Islington U3A's activities as a basis for improving what we do. We are looking for views on Islington U3A as a whole, rather than on how specific groups are working. The survey will be electronic using Survey Monkey. All members will receive an email explaining how to take part. The survey has been developed by a small team of group coordinators.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Islington U3A has been a terrific success. In just a year we have attracted nearly 300 members, set up a great programme of speakers for the monthly meetings and launched over 35 interest groups – with more to come. These groups are the kernel of iU3A and only work so well because of the enthusiasm and commitment of coordinators and members.

We now have momentum and the second year looks like it is going to be even better. iU3A is a cooperative venture so don't hesitate to get in touch and air your views or make suggestions. You will find plenty of contact points on the [contacts page](#) of the iU3A website.

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Contact iU3A:

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