

ISLINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Winter 2014

JANUARY MEETING

Do join us on Thursday 23 January when Kristina Glenn, Director of the Cripplegate Foundation will talk about Islington Giving, an innovative campaign that brings together the two very different sides of the borough – rich and poor.

The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road N7 6PA.
Doors open at 9.45am for a prompt 10.30am start.

TIMES COLUMNIST PAINTS A SANGUINE PICTURE OF CURRENT BRITISH POLITICS

Times columnist David Aaronovitch told the November monthly members' meeting there's going to be blood on the carpet when the election comes around in May 2015.



But in the meantime none of it matters much as the fortunes of the Conservative and Labour parties will fluctuate with sometimes one suffering set-backs and then the other. The Conservative message is that things are looking up, and if the other side gets in, recovery will be in jeopardy; Labour says give money to the poor but be tough on scroungers. While the Lib Dems say they can insert their agenda into the larger parties. But they no longer represent the protest vote, according to Aaronovitch. "The two finger vote is entirely with the fourth party in Britain," he told the packed meeting.



London's richest and poorest exist side-by-side in Islington, living entirely different lives



Ping Pong with Islington Giving and below speaker Kristina Glenn, director of the Cripplegate Foundation



"Islington iU3A has got off to a fantastic start and it looks like we have the enthusiasm and support to keep up the lively pace in 2014. A big thank-you to everyone who has taken part and done their bit."

iU3A Chair Anne Weyman

MONTHLY MEETINGS PROGRAMME

JANUARY 23 - ISLINGTON GIVING

"There are 'two Islington's' -one successful, vibrant and prosperous, the other poor and disadvantaged. Our charitable Coalition recognises that it is through the sum of our parts that we can achieve the most for Islington"

Jack Morris OBE Chair of the Islington Giving Appeal Committee.

Kristina Glenn (left) of the Cripplegate Foundation will talk about the two Islington's where London's richest and poorest residents exist side-by-side living entirely different lives.

- 44% of residents live in social housing and an average deposit of £77,000 is needed to buy a flat in Islington
- Islington has the 2nd highest level of child poverty in London with 34% of children in Islington living in poverty
- Islington has the lowest life expectancy for men in London and the 4th highest level of older people living in poverty in England.

This is not a fund raising event or even an appeal for volunteers, but a chance to find out more about where we live and what is going on to make things fairer for all.

FEBRUARY 27 – THE FUTURE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN ISLINGTON

On 27 February, Dr Gillian Greenough a local GP and Chair of the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group, explains the major health challenges in Islington and the novel approaches to give all children the best start in life, improve mental health and wellbeing, and enhance the quality of life for people in the borough with chronic conditions such as diabetes or dementia.

MARCH 27 – WHAT SORT OF EUROPE DOES GERMANY WANT? AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE UK?

Quentin Peel was, until recently, an associate editor at the Financial Times responsible for leader and feature writing, as well as being the FT's Chief Correspondent in Germany. He is an expert on the EU and will cover the Eurozone crisis; the forthcoming European elections in May, and the relationship between Germany's leader Angela Merkel and the UK's Prime Minister, David Cameron.

APRIL 24 – THE SCIENCE OF LAUGHTER

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.

FUTURE DATES

Monthly meetings dates for the rest of the 2014 are: 22 May; 26 June; 24 July; 25 September; 23 October; and 27 November. Speakers and topics will be confirmed soon.

IU3A GROUP NEWS

NEW GROUPS

Three new groups have been established: Yoga, Pilates, and Exploring London. Please let us know at groups@islingtonu3a.org if you would like to join any of them.

YOGA



The group will be run by a trained instructor and sessions will take place on Mondays from 1 to 2pm. Members will be asked for a £1.50 contribution at each session towards the cost of hiring the hall. Members should bring their own mats although spare mats may be available.

Sessions are limited to 15 members but the first 20 members to apply will be accepted into the group to allow for members who will not be able to attend every session. Others can join a waiting list. Members will be asked each week to confirm by email that they will be attending.

PILATES

This group is suitable for beginners and will be taught by a Pilates teacher who is also a registered physiotherapist. Sessions, which will take place on Tuesdays at 10 am and

10.30am, will be limited to 8 members, but the first 20 members to apply will be accepted into the group to allow for members who cannot attend every session. Others can join a waiting list. Members will be asked by email each week to confirm that they will be attending. An initial meeting will be help to discuss the organisation of the sessions.

EXPLORING LONDON

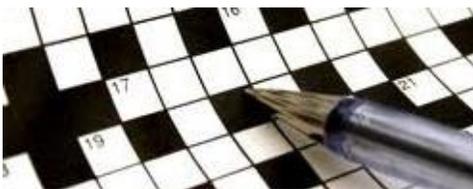
Visits to interesting places in Greater London such as historic houses will take place each month. Many outings will involve paying an entrance charge.

Individual visits may be limited to 10 or 20 members. Members will be told about trips by email and can sign up on a first come, first served basis. There will be an initial meeting to discuss plans for the first visits.

PROPOSED NEW GROUPS

Following suggestions from members, there are initial plans for new groups. They will go ahead if enough people are interested and a coordinator and venue can be found.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS



Meet other cruciverbalists to solve cryptic puzzles and tackle one at home to prepare for the next session. A coordinator is needed for this group.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Share experience and improve skills. A coordinator is also needed for this proposed group.

BOOK GROUP 3

Both of our existing book groups are full, so we want to test demand for a third group with discussions on books selected by members of the group: coordinator needed.

FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS

There is interest in a group for members who are not complete beginners but have not yet reached GCSE French standard: coordinator needed.

SINGING

We have a possible leader for a singing group but will need a pianist. If you would be interested in joining and/or in taking on the role of pianist please get in touch.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

A friendly conversation group. Members do not need to be fluent but should be able to communicate. Group meetings will be arranged to discuss the activities of the groups, meeting dates and times, and suitable venues if there is sufficient interest.

GET IN TOUCH

If you want to join any of these groups or would like to act as a coordinator please contact groups@islingtonu3a.org.

GROUPS WITH SPACES

Italian



General relaxed and friendly conversations on topics of interest to group members. Entry level is at least basic tourist Italian. This group meets once a month in the morning on the 3rd Friday of the month in a cafe near Highbury and Islington underground station.

Current Affairs

This lively group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10 am in Canonbury and covers a wide range of subject matter.

German Conversation

Talk in German about topical subjects over a cup of coffee. Intermediate German required. This takes place in Canonbury

Presenting Poetry

Members read poetry on themes chosen by them, followed by discussion. This group meets twice a month on Wednesday at 2pm.

GROUP REPORTS

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

Architecture

The group has discussed Byzantine, Egyptian, Assyrian and the Greek and Roman eras. It will visit London sites, weather permitting.

Books

One book group has read 'The Girl Who Fell from the Sky' by Simon Mawer which was enjoyed by some, but others felt his book 'The Glass Room' was better. The next book is non-fiction – 'The Music Room' by William Fiennes. The other book group has read Barbara Kingsolver's 'Flight Behaviour' and Dorothy Whipple's 'Someone at a Distance'. Views were mixed, but most people thought both books were worthwhile.

Film at the BFI

The group has been following the programme for seniors at the BFI including major classics like 'The Innocents' based on *The Turn of the Screw*, and Jean Cocteau's 'La Belle et La Bête'. The first discussion on the films that the group has seen took place in a lecture room at the NFT.

French Conversation

The French Conversation Group has been reading articles in French newspapers. The discussions have ranged from the French property market to an artificial heart for humans.

Gardening



The gardening group meets once a month during the winter, and fortnightly in the summer. Members will be working in the Olden community garden in Highbury to establish perennial wild flower areas. In February there is a snowdrop outing to Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire. The group will also be having discussions in each other's homes, and, of course, admiring each other's gardens.

Global History

The group's first term is about the end of the Western Roman Empire — and whatever else happened in the world around that time, with each member researching a topic. After an introductory talk about Romans and barbarians, the group will look at Britain and the Anglo-Saxons; and emperor-worship and the religions it had to compete against, and perhaps Roman women or the Chinese silk trade.

Lives of Composers

The first three talks have been completed with an enthusiastic group. The next series starts in February with 'Lesser known Schubert Songs', then 'Berlioz and the Romantic Imagination' and 'The Waltz, 1815-1915', before picking up three more composers in May, June and July.

Local History

The group has heard a talk on the Victorian gardener, Shirley Hibberd, who had connections to Islington and Hackney. It will be visiting the Islington Museum in January and Two Temple Place in February, and will also be visiting the Canal Museum.

Modern Art Movements

The first two talks looked at Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Matisse. Then, the first 'movement' covered was the Fauves, the first to use very bright colour. In the next series they will discuss: Die Brucke (German Expressionists); the Cubists and the Italian Futurists.

The British Vorticists, and Der Blaue Reiter will follow later.



Opera

The Opera Group's first outing was to see Opera Up Close's *Die Fledermaus* (The Bat) at the King's Head, Upper Street. The group

liked this zany pared-down pantomime-like production a lot more than the critics. The next event is a get together to talk about Don Giovanni before a visit is to a cinema to see it. After that is an outing to the Hackney Empire to see the English Touring Opera's Magic Flute.

Philosophy

The Philosophy Group, which meets monthly, has covered the scope and role of philosophy, and the ways in which different cultures approach it. It has also looked at the philosophy of mind, in particular the debate between dualists who maintain that the mental and physical are distinct realms, and physicalists who say that the mind is merely a function of the brain and body. The group will attend a free lecture on the mind-body problem at the Royal Institute of Philosophy, in February, and will then discuss the lecture.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

With 234 members at the last count, about 30 active groups and a huge turnout for our first monthly meeting in November, iu3a starts 2014 in fine form. The initial dynamism that got us this far is continuing, with new groups being set up and a tremendous programme of monthly meetings with first class speakers lined up. iU3A chair Anne Weyman said: "For me, the really special aspect of our U3A is everybody's enthusiasm and friendliness which is truly creating a community of sharing

and learning. We are so fortunate to have such excellent group coordinators who ensure the group meetings are lively and enjoyable."

Membership runs until the end of the iU3A year on 30 September. For anyone joining now there is a reduced fee of £24 to cover the rest of the year.

NETWORKING IN ISLINGTON

We are now thinking about ways of reaching more people in and around Islington. Would you like to help find new ways of contacting local residents who may be interested in joining U3A?

If so, please contact Isabel Dickson, iU3A's membership secretary on iu3amembers@outlook.com.

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIONS WITH IU3A MEMBERS

We are in the process of giving group coordinators dedicated email addresses. For example people in the creative writing group can contact the coordinator on

iu3acreativewriting@gmail.com. These group email addresses can also be used by prospective new members to contact group coordinators directly from the iU3A website. We are also planning to set up dedicated internet-based secure areas where groups can share news, research, pictures and pieces of their own work.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first iU3A newsletter. I hope that in future editions we will be able to include more photographs and brief reports from groups about their activities. Also, if you have any interesting photographs taken in and around Islington, please send them in and I will try to use them either in the iU3A newsletter or on our website.

We are also considering publishing a small number of letters, so do send in any comments for publication for future editions.

And, finally please let me know if you have any suggestions for new groups, events or speakers for our monthly meetings.

Vivien Goldsmith
Newsletter Editor
mediacom@islingtonu3a.org

Contact iU3A

Via the iU3A [website](#):
www.islingtoniu3a.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.