

ISLINGTON U3A'S FIRST QUIZ NIGHT

- Name the two dwarfs whose names don't end in a 'y'
- Which Cornish town was used to determine sea level?
- Give the full name of the original angry young man?
- What is the meaning of a circle of stones on a footpath with a single stone in the middle?

Answers at the end
of the Newsletter

*Jez Worsnip, iU3A's
quizmaster (right)*



ISLINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



WINTER 2015

THE FIRST LOCAL COFFEE MORNINGS

Islington U3A will be holding the first neighbourhood coffee mornings in February.

The member survey showed that people would welcome more opportunities for getting to know other members. So the Executive Committee has arranged some coffee mornings in different parts of Islington so members can get to know others who live nearby.

The free get-togethers will offer coffee and tea as well as cakes and biscuits. There's no agenda, nothing formal – just a chance to natter with a dozen to 20 near neighbours.

We are starting with three during February and hope to have other coffee mornings around the borough later in the year. They will start at 11am and last an hour or so.

Date and time

Wednesday 18 February

Thursday 19 February

Wednesday 25 February

Location

Near Archway Station N19

Mount Pleasant Villas, N4

Eden Grove, N7

If you live in a different part of the borough and would be happy to have a handful of iU3A members round for coffee one morning or can suggest a good location to get together, please get in touch with [Isabel Dickson](#). We are very grateful to Margaret Orrell and Maeve Dorrian who are both hosting coffee mornings.

And if you would like to book to go to one of the February mornings, please email [Isabel Dickson](#). Numbers are naturally restricted, but if we have too many people wanting to come along we will try to organise more of these social events.

What's coming up?

No date yet - but planning	Arsenal stadium visit and Highbury history walk
10 June	Walk the borough boundary and raise funds for Islington Giving, as part of Islington Giving week
June/early July	Summer garden party
5 Oct	Our 2nd birthday party and Open Day
26 Nov	AGM

NEW GROUPS

If you would like to join one of these new groups please get in touch via

new.groups@islingtonu3a.org

Current Issues in Science



This new group has had its first meeting to talk about areas that they should look at. These are likely to include geology, age-related issues and medical topics. The Group may also pursue subjects that arise from iU3A monthly talks. The Group has already had an outing to The Royal Society for a talk on British Weather, and is planning a trip in February to The Anaesthesia Heritage Centre in central London. Its collection covers the history of anaesthesia, from Morton's demonstration of ether inhalation in 1846 (photo left) to anaesthetic appliances used today.

Group coordinator, Brenda Hood, has worked in a hospital laboratory but is clear that the Group will be completely accessible for non-scientists. So anyone with an interest in science or the moral and practical issues surrounding science would be most welcome to join.

iPad Group



Just bring your own iPad - no experience necessary. The Group plans to learn from each other how to get more from these brilliant tablet computers.

It is not an expert-led group, but a mutual self-help and support group.

Meetings will be at a private house (nearest station Highbury and Islington). The plan is to hold 10 sessions fortnightly initially, probably on Mondays.

Fringe Theatre

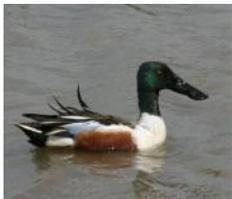


There are over 60 fringe theatres in and around central London. This is a group for those who want to be a little adventurous. Visits will only be on Monday evenings and members will have to buy their own tickets. The group coordinator is Chris Bulford, but decisions about what to see will be taken by members - sometimes at short notice.

Birdwatching

The group already has about 20 members. Members are interested in all of the natural environment, not just birds and are certainly not 'twitchers'.

There will be three main kinds of activity:



- Visits, once a month, to nature reserves nearer, and perhaps sometimes further. We have a programme up to May which includes the London Wetland Centre, the Colne Valley, Rye Meads, Rainham Marshes and Fingringhoe;
- Shorter more local outings, probably also about once a month, to look at the birds on our local 'patch';
- Occasional indoor meetings to discuss and share notes, and possibly to hear from invited speakers.

To see the group's web page and to contact the coordinator, Alan Cranston, click [here](#)

Current Cinema Releases

We go to see current releases at the Hackney Picturehouse or an Islington Cinema on as many Thursday afternoons as there are films members of the group would like to see, and meet afterwards in a café to talk about them. Recent films we've seen include Mr Turner, Gone Girl, The Imitation Game, Birdman, A History of Everything and Testament of Youth.

Book Group 4

We now have three flourishing book groups which are full and a fourth group is now starting. This will probably meet on the third Monday morning of the month. The coordinator is Judith Laurance and she is offering to choose the first book to get the group going.

French Conversation

We are still trying to find coordinators for new French conversation groups - both advanced and beginners. If anyone has any suggestions please email groups@islingtonu3a.org

EXISTING GROUPS

Craft Circle



Craft Circle members are busy sewing bunting, making favours such as brooches and buttonholes, and other craft items to sell for AgeUK's Music Hall to be held at the Business Design Centre on Sunday 22 February. If anyone else would like to help, please contact Louise Matlock at lm363@talktalk.net

Gardening



The gardening group has embarked on helping to improve the gardens at two local houses for people with learning disabilities.

A group braved steady rain to visit the two homes - in Anson Road and Kiver Road - where the staff are provided by Centre 404, the Islington-based charity for people with learning disabilities.

The Gardening Group helped to draw up plans for small vegetable patches and sensory areas in the two gardens. Both gardens have plenty of potential, with lawns and a few good shrubs, but are in need of expert help, as well as donations of plants.

The iU3A gardening group will help by providing young plants and more expertise and advice as the project gets under way.

Global History



The current focus is on the 12th century. At our first meeting this year, every member produced a five minute jewel: warlords of Ceylon, Abelard and Heloise, Saladin, Alexander Nevsky, a Magna Carta signatory, the Toltecs in Mexico, a bishop of Hereford canonized for bringing back to life a hanged Welsh rebel, and an Orkney earl, Rognvald (left), who made a pilgrimage to Palestine; and, being a Viking, did a bit of pillaging on the way including capturing a Mediterranean galley full of silk and gold.

Local History

This year the group is concentrating on individual's own research. Members have taken on various projects related to the areas in which they live including pubs related to butchers and meat drovers; Second World War bombs and rockets over Islington, and St Mary's Church, Upper Street. In February the group will meet to review and share their work and start co-ordinating projects across the borough.

Exploring London



The Group aims to have at least one 'exploration' each month and does not have a regular day so nobody will miss out on every event if they have a regular commitment.

Previous visits have included the Garden Museum in Lambeth, Two Temple Place, City churches, the Imperial War Museum, Hatfield House,

Whitechapel's fascinating Bell Foundry and gardens in the City of London including Postman's Park (picture left).

These visits have opened up venues new to even long-time residents of London. In late October a small group went down to the Tower of London to see the ceramic poppies installation.

The Coliseum theatre, Handel's house and the Foundling Museum are planned for early 2015.

Opera



Kay Dixon has taken over as co-ordinator while Howard Lichterman will select the operas. The first outings of the year are all to screenings at the Islington Vue cinema. They include Covent Garden productions of Andrea Chenier by Umberto Giordano, The Flying Dutchman by Richard Wagner, and The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny by Kurt Weill; plus English National Opera's The Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Theatre

The first discussion meeting for the Theatre group has taken place. The group looked back at the Old Vic's *Electra* and *King Charles III*, which started out at the Almeida. A short presentation on the background of the play, the author, and the current production, was followed by an open discussion with everyone giving their views of the two productions. The group then looked forward to an upcoming visit to see Juliet Stevenson in Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings 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 before and after the meeting.

The meetings are generally held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Registration opens at 9.45am for a prompt 10.30am start.

THE LAST MEETING

**JANUARY – Is doing business ethically a nightmare, not least in the banking industry?
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. See report on the [news page](#).

FEBRUARY 26 - Child Line to Silver Line Dame Esther Rantzen



After a successful showbiz career, TV presenter Dame Esther Rantzen who fronted the BBC's series *That's Life* for 21 years, is now better known for founding ChildLine and more recently The Silver Line to help combat loneliness in older people.

MARCH 26 – Nature, nurture or neither? - the view from the genes **Prof Steve Jones**



The Principal Research Associate, Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London, Steve Jones is the author of several popular science books. He is a world expert on the genetics of snails and has also studied the genetics and evolution of fruit flies and humans.

APRIL 23 – Prof Diana Kuh, **Director, MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London**



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.

QUIZ NIGHT

It was a full house for Islington U3A's first quiz night in early January. Tables of six competed for the chocolate prizes.

The winners were the 'Bridge' team – with lots of members from the Bridge Group and some non-players, with 'Gruppo Italiano' coming in as impressive runners up. Many of the other teams put up a good show, including 'Can-can Girls and Boy', 'A Broadchurch' and 'The Alcovians'.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

Name the two dwarfs whose names don't end in a 'y'

Doc and Bashful

Which Cornish town was used to determine sea level?

Newlyn

Give the full name of the angry young man

Jimmy Porter

The meaning of a circle of stones on a footpath with a single stone in the middle?

I've gone home

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Islington U3A is still developing. The idea has always been for an open, cooperative and responsive organisation. The membership survey last year showed that as well as enjoying groups and outings, people valued iU3A as a way to get to know neighbours and people living across the borough. So don't hesitate to air your views or make suggestions. You will find plenty of ways to get in touch on the [Contacts page](#) of the iU3A website <http://www.islingtonu3a.org/>. To find information about [Groups](#) or [Events](#), click to go straight to the relevant page.

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