



Issue 56  
September 2014

North London University of the Third Age

# Newsletter

## Speaking in tongues

After another successful year as coordinator, Michael Elliott chats to **Helen Killick** about his popular U3A language classes in French, Spanish and German

When he started, Michael wanted to lead language groups in which members would be encouraged to speak. 'There's a conception that languages are different and difficult and I wanted to break that down,' he explains.

Perhaps the popularity of Michael's classes is due to the fact that he simply tries to guide members in determining how the two-hour session should evolve. It's a very non-directive approach, but it works.

The sessions take place around Michael's dining room table, and

the maximum number he can accommodate is eight. 'I'm past travelling to venues in the wet and cold, so members must come to me,' he says with a smile.

After several years of experience, Michael has found that grammar books, bilingual books and suggested set themes to prepare at home are unpopular, so he has abandoned them. What seems to work best is for members to write a short piece on a subject of their choice, which they read out

or use as a speaking note. Grammar is put right or checked

out on Google or in reference books in a friendly way.

This means that a member may be spending two hours a week listening and talking and perhaps another hour or so preparing at

home, which helps to keep the language alive. Motives for coming to

the groups are varied, but speaking is paramount.

As in many U3A groups, accommodating the various levels of knowledge or expectation can be challenging for the coordinator. Michael feels he has learnt to manage this over the years and tries to group members so they can gain more confidence in speaking at their level. He has noticed how the dynamic alters in a group according to the numbers present. For instance members



Central Market, Valencia  
Photo by Joan Booth

are often more

inclined to share more personal anecdotes when fewer people are present. 'The main task,' says Michael, 'is to stop any English being spoken in any of the classes – apart from during the coffee break perhaps.'

On the whole Michael finds members patient, considerate and respectful of each others' levels of competence. There is a lot of laughter, too. He himself enjoys gardening, cooking, good food and wine, modern history and keeping up the languages, including Persian, that he has acquired through his overseas postings.

Michael's groups, which are primarily to 'meet to speak', seem to totally fulfil the U3A ethos of keeping alive an interest in an inclusive and friendly environment. Long may they last!

Registered Charity No 1048587

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*Newsletters and Updates* are each published three times a year. The newsletter is edited by Helen Green with assistance from Judith Abbs, Helen Killick, Jo Pestel and Judith Litherland.

*Update* is edited by Jane Marsh.

Copy deadline for the next *Update* is 3 October.  
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**The editors may shorten or otherwise edit contributions to fit spacing and style requirements**

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## AGM snippets

- Because of increases in rents, postage and other charges, membership subscriptions have had to rise by £1.00.
- Our technological ability is increasing: over three-quarters of our members now use email.
- Term dates are to be issued by Easter of each year to facilitate planning.
- The Self-publishing and Family History groups are to be run on a self-help basis, with telephone helplines instead of meetings.
- The new committee positions of publicity officer and archivist will be filled by Melvyn Rees and Anne Vaughan respectively.
- Anyone who wants to help with publicity should contact Melvyn (see details, left).

*Read a summary of the chair's AGM report on page 4.*

# As I see it

Thoughts of a new member from guest columnist **Sandra Nistri**



Last September, as I was pottering on the internet one Monday morning trying to decide where I could take some classes, I came across the website of North

London U3A (NLU3A). There was mention of an open day that very morning so off I went and what a good decision that turned out to be!

Here I am a year later, a committee member and great enthusiast for what NLU3A has to offer. Not only have the members I have met along the way been extremely warm and welcoming, but the commitment and preparation of the group organisers is remarkable. I have found equally impressive the sheer number of courses on offer: there is something for everyone, whether their preference be literary, scientific, artistic (in all senses of the word), linguistic, musical, craft- or game-based or a combination of these. Nor should

I omit to mention the ever popular walks, long and short, to places of interest I had never visited before.

The monthly meetings, which cover a diverse range of topics, have been highly stimulating and I have discovered that there is even a summer programme organised by dedicated members so that we can keep in touch during the summer months. I don't think that I have ever drunk so much coffee – coffee mornings have become a regular feature, as have lunches!

To all those who have offered the hand of friendship (and there are many), I would like to express my thanks and look forward to seeing you all in the coming year.

## Welcoming new members

Would you like to host a coffee morning or afternoon tea party for new members? We try to gather between six and eight new members with two committee members to help introduce them to North London U3A. They are interesting and enjoyable events and much appreciated by all. If you would like to help, please contact Hilda Wilson, 8442 0567, [h.m.wilson@icloud.com](mailto:h.m.wilson@icloud.com)

### Term dates

Term	Start Date	Finish Date
Autumn	8 September	12 December
Spring	5 January	27 March
Summer	13 April	24 July

# The year that was

## Highlights from the chair's report from the 2014 annual general meeting

On behalf of all of you, I want to thank the many people who give up their time – and remember that everyone is a volunteer – to running NLU3A. (A full list of names is on the website.)

They include:

- those who serve on the committee, take minutes, look after our finances and administer the membership records – and two new roles: our publicity officer and archivist
- everyone who works so hard to keep monthly meetings running efficiently
- the group that provides refreshments for meetings and special events
- the people who edit and produce our publications and the group that distributes them
- our website designers and administrators
- the team who organise our 100 interest groups and the team who plan the summer programme
- all our group coordinators and hosts
- the hosts of our coffee mornings and tea parties for new members.

Let us look at where we are now in North London U3A. Our current membership is 695. Although we have lost a few to new U3As in Palmers Green and Islington, other members have joined us during the past year and we anticipate that our numbers

will increase at the start of the new academic year.

New members receive a warm welcome over the tea and coffee cups in the homes of hosting members. They should be made to feel a part of the fabric of our U3A as soon as they join us; after all, we would quickly settle into a rut without their enthusiasm and input.

As well as 100 groups of great

variety  
in our  
interest  
groups  
booklet,

*We all know that it is never too late to learn, and education is a continuing joy for us*

there are many other activities every year. A new initiative, and a very successful one, has been the start of the memory course.

Regional and national conferences, study days, summer schools and holidays provide stimulation and the chance to meet new people, make new friends. We can talk to U3A-ers in cities, small towns and rural areas and discover how they work, gaining understanding from the different approaches. This constant learning and exchange of ideas keeps U3A organic, active, vibrant.

North London U3A has three major events of our own. The now well-established Christmas lunch or brunch brings our autumn term to an end in style. At the end of the spring term, group leaders are invited to a tea party as our guests to acknowledge the very important part they play.

The biggest event of the year in NLU3A is Open Day: members

and non-members can pop in to have a look at the stalls set up by many of our groups, and to have a chat in the tea and coffee lounge. This year our Open Day will be held on Monday 8 September.

Our 21st birthday celebration will take place on 6 June 2015 – exactly 21 years to the day after our beginning. In those 21 years we have had six chairs, and we are now planning a celebration that will be open to every member of North London U3A, with a huge birthday cake to mark the day. We want to encourage groups to hold their own celebrations too, with lunches or any other kind of party. We will also be looking for your thoughts on how you see the future for NLU3A.

Finally, let us remember why we are here. Ageing is not always fun, not always easy, and many of us have some difficulties with wellbeing. But we are fortunate in that our membership of U3A brings with it a focus both mental and physical, a sense of community and purpose to our lives, and a very good reason to get up in the morning. We all know that it is never too late to learn, and education is a continuing joy for us. Involvement in U3A stimulates the brain and the imagination, opens new doors, brings in new ideas, introduces new friends and there is no excuse, no reason to give up and give in to the ageing process. We have active members in their nineties – just ask them!

*Patricia*

PATRICIA ISAACS, CHAIR



# To pay or not to pay: are paid facilitators ever justified?

U3A groups are run by members for members, with no distinction between learners and teachers. Therefore, it is against the ethos of the U3A to pay tutors. But North London U3A has several groups led by paid professionals. Does this compromise the spirit of the U3A? **Richard Callanan** feels that it does, while **Krishna Dutta** argues that sometimes it may be necessary to pay instructors

Peter Laslett, one of the founders of U3A in the UK, put one of our objectives like this: 'To provide from amongst the retired, the resources for the development and intensification of their intellectual, cultural and aesthetic lives.' The ideal of self-help, that we should find our resources amongst our own, is basic to the U3A. That doesn't denigrate the experience and skill of professional teachers but simply indicates a principle that distinguishes the U3A from other approaches. We believe we have in our midst a rich seam of knowledge and experience which it is only human to want to share. The world is not divided between learners and teachers; all

*The ideal of self-help, that we should find our resources amongst our own, is basic to the U3A*

of us are both.

Understandably, those of us who are not professionals baulk at using the word 'teach'. As group leaders/coordinators we rather aim to provide an environment in which others

can learn. We only 'teach' so we can learn more thoroughly.

None of us want to live in the Gradgrind world where one person has a full bucket of knowledge and splashes it out in small doses to our upheld cups. At our age we are lucky that our learning can be totally separate from utilitarian requirements; we do not need the pressure of an artificial hierarchy; we can aim to belong to a community of thinkers. That is what a



Richard Callanan

university should be.

When we share what we have learned it deepens the educational experience. We listen to others and interact. The discipline of listening to other views affords us the valuable opportunity of testing our own. Ultimately the U3A is all about learning. Perhaps we should adopt the maxim of Mahatma Gandhi: 'Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.'



Krishna Dutta

As a believer in the U3A's self-help principle, 'Those who teach will learn and those who learn will teach', I was not in favour of paying course facilitators. I have tutored at three consecutive U3A summer schools and given talks to our branch monthly meetings and study groups. The question of being paid for these never

arose. Moreover, I felt privileged to share my knowledge in my special area of interest with others who participated in these sessions.

But later, as a group organiser, I came to realise that there were some cases where we needed to pay specialist teachers provided the members of the group demon-

*Continued overleaf*

cratically agreed and decided to contribute towards that payment. As a result we started paying for a handful of activities that required trained professionals and for which no suitable U3A member could be found.

Some of these courses required a high degree of knowledge and experience to deal with older physiques and were the kind of sessions our members were unable to find elsewhere. To start with we were very tentative. However, our members assured us that they would collectively fund sessions with 'expert' professionals.

As we became convinced of this need our search for suitable tutors began. Eventually we found some professionals who knew about the limitations of age and disability and were willing to tutor. These

teachers are a rare breed and, if found, should be cherished. As far as I know, no member of our U3A has so far resented paying a few

*As far as I know, no member of our U3A has so far resented paying a few pounds per week towards activities such as yoga and tai chi with tutors they trust and respect*

pounds per week towards activities such as yoga and tai chi with tutors they trust and respect.

The national U3A chair, Barbara Lewis, once proclaimed that we could 'make U3A what it becomes'. Though we have slightly moved away from the fundamental U3A principle of not paying tutors and started paying a few of them a little honorarium, we have not regretted our decision.

- How do you feel about this issue? Please send your thoughts to [helenjuni@ntlworld.com](mailto:helenjuni@ntlworld.com)

## Historical Hampshire: NLU3A study tour

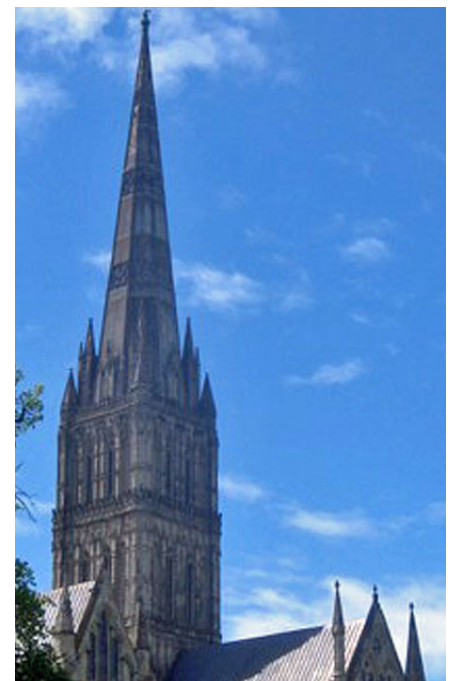
What did Henry VIII and Jane Austen have in common? They both had Hampshire connections, as 34 U3A members discovered on a five-day study tour of the county last May. **Janet Home** describes how these two figures overshadowed many of the 11 places they visited. Photos by **Margaret Kennedy**

Our tour started at The Vyne in Basingstoke, built by William Sandys, Lord Chamberlain and good friend of Henry VIII, who visited him there three times – once with Anne Boleyn. Lovely linen-fold panelling and tapestries remain, as well as gardens with sweeping lawns, a lake and acres of woodland. Jane Austen, whose home was about 13 miles away, would have known the house well as a child and young woman.

The cathedral was the highlight of our day in Winchester. It has seven chantry chapels, established by sponsors so that the monks would pray for their souls; the

most notable is that of William of Wykeham, founder of Winchester College. Jane Austen, who died in 1817 in nearby College Street, aged 41, is buried in the cathedral; her gravestone is in the north aisle. The crypt regularly floods during rainy months and is memorable for the Antony Gormley statue reflected in the water.

Only the Great Hall of the Norman castle survives. The legendary Arthurian round table, painted with the knights' names, is mounted high on the wall of the enormous space. The Tudor rose at its centre was added in honour of Henry VIII.



Salisbury Cathedral

The Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth dockyard was the principal visit on Tuesday. Everything about the raising and salvaging of Henry VIII's flagship is explained in film and wall panels, with displays of fascinating rescued artefacts. Most important of all, the surviving half of the ship can be viewed through enormous glass panels on three levels. A wonderful education in history and science!

Next stop Salisbury and another cathedral – this one most famous for its spire, which can be seen for miles. The 13th century Chapter House is home to a permanent public display of the

finest of the four surviving copies of Magna Carta, which celebrates its 800th anniversary next year.

Henry VIII popped up again at Wilton House, which he granted with its estate to Sir William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke. The art collection includes works by Rembrandt, van Dyck and Holbein. A lovely quiet walk by the River Nadder is a feature of the extensive grounds.

Gilbert White's home in Selborne houses a museum of his natural history research and

now also the Oates Collection, memorabilia of Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole.

Finally,

back to Jane Austen, when we visited Chawton Cottage, where she lived with her mother and sister for eight years and wrote many of her novels. Well restored by the Jane Austen Society, it is easy to imagine Jane quietly writing there and covering her work when visitors arrived.

I hope these highlights convey a taste of an enjoyable and educational trip.



Jane Austen's house



Wilton House

## Watch out – trespassers about

We have received the following communication from St Paul's in Finchley, where monthly meetings take place:

*It has been brought to our attention that organised trespassers tried to "occupy" a local hall by securing the premises from the inside and locking internal doors. It is suspected that they most likely gained entry during a hall let, and hid themselves until everybody left.*

*As a precaution, we ask all hirers to be particularly vigilant when using any part of the building to ensure trespassers do not sneak in with bad motives. Please take responsibility to look around, especially the common areas like kitchen, toilets etc before locking up and leaving the building.*

As we have good relations with all places we hire, I would ask every coordinator and group member to carry out the above before leaving the premises.

Thanks in advance,  
SUE TELLER



# Talks and meetings

## Note to speakers – Are your images really necessary? Europe – past, present, and...?

The computer wasn't working so our speaker on Europe, Martyn Bond, couldn't show his slides. The result? An illuminating account in which the words painted all the pictures we needed. **Peter Cox** reports



Just as the images on radio can be so much better than those on TV, a presentation without the distraction of images focuses the mind on the speaker. It worked for philosopher Dr Bronowski and historian AJP Taylor, both of whom spoke directly to the camera without illustrations. And it worked for Martyn Bond (pictured above), who gave a masterly exposition of the growth of 'Eu-

rope' to the present day.

Europe is, as he said, a slippery concept, whether you view it as an entity defined by geographical, racial, religious or linguistic criteria; a set of countries with similar democratic values; or a complex mixture of all of them. Bond gave us a history of European empires from Napoleon to the pre-1914 Europe of the Prussian, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, all of which collapsed after 1918, leaving

the maritime British empire and a weakened France as last men standing, but a dangerous vacuum further east.

After the second world war, two strong global empires, the USA and the Soviet Union, faced each other across Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' stretching from Stettin to Trieste, in an ideological stalemate. A battered western Europe's recovery was based on institutions

like the 47-nation Council of Europe, whose roots go back to the Hague Congress of 1948, of which the EU had become a 12-nation subset by 1989. The Soviet Union's implosion led to its expansion eastwards, becoming, in EU President Barroso's oxymoron, a 'non-imperial empire'.

The timing of Bond's session couldn't have been bettered – the day a pro-Russian Ukrainian appeared on Russian television calling for its 'break-away-by-referendum' state to be called 'New Russia'.

So how would the EU, a non-imperial many-headed hydra, cope with a rejuvenated Russia, one with a clear imperial agenda and a single man in charge? Sadly, as often happens, the final part of Bond's five-part presentation – what form would a future world order take – was cut short by the clock, and we were left with a clear knowledge of the last century, but growing fears for the next...



Council of Europe



# Orchids: ornamental and otherwise

Orchids come in all shapes and sizes, can grow upside-down and can be cheaper than daffodils, as **Sandra Nistri** discovered at the June monthly meeting

What have computers and orchids got to do with each other? Not a great deal you might think. But as Michael de Swiet, emeritus professor of obstetric medicine at Imperial College, told us in June, it is on account of computer programming that we can now buy orchids at a fraction of the price that our parents paid for them and that orchids are smaller and easier to deal with than they were in Victorian times.

Michael fell under the spell of orchids as a young A-level student of botany and regaled us with some fascinating insights, such as the fact that orchids grow in every direction – upwards, downwards and underground, exist on every continent except Antarctica and, contrary to popular opinion, should be watered weekly (rain-water is advised). Moreover, the average shop-bought orchid cost-

ing £10 has at least 20 blooms and should last about 91 days, giving us 1,820 bloom days at a cost of 5.5p per bloom per day; daffodils,



on the other hand, work out three times more expensive!

Among others, Michael showed us orchids which love wet conditions, growing on the banks of streams (*Disa Uniflora*, South Africa); the spider orchid from Australia, which grows upside-down;

the ophrys orchid from Crete, which resembles a beetle; the *Angraecum Distichum* from Madagascar, which bears no resemblance to an orchid; *Neottia Ovata Twayblade*, one of 35 species of orchid thriving in the UK described as 'not attractive'; and the very rare coral root orchid from California, which has no leaves and which gained its nickname from roots that resemble coral.

There was lots of advice for those wishing to fine-tune their skills: do not overwater; keep out of direct sun, preferably on a north-facing windowsill; fertilise with tomato fertiliser at a quarter strength; cut the stem after flowering to encourage further growth; and repot if necessary with anything organic such as bark, charcoal and peat – even polystyrene has its place!

## Interest Groups

### Greetings from groups organiser Sue Teller

Dear members,

I would like to introduce the new groups organiser team to you. I'm the groups organiser; Candiss Waldram will be dealing with new groups; Henrietta Cohen is looking after waiting lists; and Fiamma Shani is in charge of venues. If you need any information, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. Our details are in the table overleaf.

We hope that, following a moratorium of new groups during 2013–14 and the introduction of some new groups this year, you will find a lot to interest you in our programme.

New groups include Humour, Easy French Conversation, Psychology and All-year-round Tennis. There is also a Jazz Listening 2 group, as Jazz 1 is full. We envisaged a philosophy group but are shelving

*Continued overleaf*

this until later on in the year. However, if anybody is interested in philosophy, please let us know.

A new singing group, Make a Joyful Noise, starts in September with Max de Boo; contact Max (8371 9479, maxandeboo@gmail.com) if you would like to join it.

Of course, information on all groups – new and ongoing – is in the new interest groups booklet or on the website.

We also have a member who would like to start an advanced Italian conversation group – so if you are

interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

It is always best to keep an eye on the website and the forthcoming issue of *Update* as we regularly update groups as well as all of the outings that will take place in the autumn term.

Enjoy your groups, enjoy your involvement with North London U3A, and I look forward to meeting many of you at our monthly meetings.

Very best wishes to all of you from the groups organiser team.

SUE T

## The team

Groups organiser	Sue Teller	8381 4480	ginpalace@mac.com
New groups	Candiss Waldram	8883 1395	scwaldram@yahoo.com
Waiting lists	Henrietta Cohen	8343 3088	henanded@gmail.com
Venues	Fiamma Shani	8444 0548	fiammashani@hotmail.com

## Research project looking for older participants:

The Department of Psychological Sciences at Birkbeck College, London, is running a study of how people read and understand faces. Participation will consist of three testing sessions lasting approximately 60–90 minutes at Birkbeck in Malet Street. Each session will be on a different day at mutually convenient

times, with all three sessions to be completed within three to four weeks. Participants will be paid £35 and should be over 60 years of age.

If interested, please contact Ann Bevitt (07903 845743, abevit01@mail.bbk.ac.uk) or Mark Ellis (07816 415808, mellis07@mail.bbk.ac.uk).

# Letters

## Maidenhead moments

I would like to thank Melvyn Rees for a wonderful August outing to Maidenhead.

After a speedy coach journey, we proceeded to the river, stopping off at the wonderful Blue River Café for lunch. Both the food and service were perfect.

Then we went for a cruise on a river boat, where our charming and knowledgeable guide, Louise, gave us fascinating facts about the area, and the past and present owners of the properties we passed.

Our next stop was to a marquee for a 'Downton Abbey' tea, where we were welcomed by a friendly woman called Sam. The tea was beautifully presented, served in period china.

The best bit of all, for those of us with special diets, was that, thanks to Melvyn, they provided both a gluten-free tea – and a dairy- and gluten-free one!

We all came home tired but very happy. Three cheers for Melvyn!

HELENE DAVIDIAN



Photo by Helen Killick



Photo by Helen Killick

## Successful summer

The summer programme went exceedingly well, with lots of members doing many and varied classes, walks and visits. The feedback so far has been very positive but any further feedback would be appreciated.

Just a note of caution – some members failed to turn up for events even though they had booked a place. In some cases, food had been purchased and people were left waiting at the venue. Please remember to let the organiser know if you can't come as this helps everyone.

Many thanks for all the hard work from the organisers who gave their time and effort and to my fellow organisers, Annie and Christine, without whom the summer programme would not happen!

Have a great autumn term everyone and hope to meet with you soon.

KATHY KYRIAKIDES



# Humble thanks

Dear U3A members,

I would like to give my humble thanks for the many responses I have received over the last couple of weeks from people willing to take part in my research. I did not expect such a high level of interest and I am extremely grateful for those who travelled into London to help me with my project.

For those who have participated or are in contact with me regarding testing, I give you my thanks. For those who have expressed an interest but have not heard back from me, I apologize for my delay in responding. I will do my best to reply to all of the emails I have received, but if you have not heard from me at this stage, please assume that I will not be scheduling you for participation as I

have reached the maximum number of people that I would like to include in the study. I am sorry if this news disappoints those of you who did not have the opportunity to come in.

Parkinson's is a terrible, progressive condition that affects many people in the UK. Spreading and promoting awareness of Parkinson's will be instrumental for generating enough money to help find a cure.

Thank you for helping further research into Parkinson's.

DAVID SUTTON

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**

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## Jean de Sperati – artist or crook?



Jean de Sperati was a colourful character with an interesting story to tell. His artistic and scientific skills were formed from an early age, when he started to forge stamps, deceiving experts from around the world. He was the subject of a U3A shared learning research project, and the researchers have created a set of displays, which are being exhibited at the Royal Philatelic Society.

This temporary exhibition delves into his background and the complex techniques he used to print his forgeries, and touches on a murky world of stamp collecting in the early 1900s.

The exhibit runs until 31 October, and viewing is by appointment only: please contact the museum (7486 1044 or [museum@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:museum@rpsl.org.uk)) if you would like to visit. The address is 41 Devonshire Place, W1G 6JY; the nearest tube stations are Baker Street, Regent's Park, Great Portland Street.

The museum is free and open from 9.30 am – 4.30pm by prior arrangement. Refreshments are available.



# Outings

## Faraway days autumn/winter 2014–15

### Friday 10 October 9.30am Upton House and Royal Leamington Spa

Royal Leamington Spa first gained popularity towards the end of the 18th century when its healing properties became known. It received its 'Royal' prefix from Queen Victoria in 1838. The town is an elegant spa resort built in late Georgian/Victorian times and has a lot to explore.

Today's Upton House dates mostly from the 18th century, though extensive additions to the house were made in the 1920s and the interior has some art deco features, such as the bathroom. It has a long, low profile and is built of local yellow sandstone.

Not to be ignored are the art collections in the house, which is presented mainly as an art gallery. You will find many old masters' paintings and English porcelain, not to mention early Shell adverts, and much more.

The gardens are terraced and include herbaceous

borders and a kitchen and a bog garden. They were designed by Kitty Lloyd-Jones in the 1920s and 30s.

Either Leamington Spa or Upton House can provide you with lunch (I am planning to leave Royal Leamington Spa at 1pm).



Pick-up point:	East Finchley underground station
Coach fare (NLU3A members):	£30.00
Coach fare (non-NLU3A members):	£32.00
Admission to Upton House (free to National Trust members):	£8.60
Booking closes:	Thursday 27 September

## Friday 28 November at 9.30am Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre

Following the popularity of last year's excursion to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre we are making a return visit. The small East Anglian city has a host of historic features including the ruins of the Abbey, some parts of which seem so big that one wonders if they were not built by giants; St Edmundsbury

Cathedral; Moyses Hall Museum and many more set in a city of medieval and other old buildings.

There are the attractions of the Christmas Fayre – fun for everyone – but if the market doesn't appeal, Bury St Edmunds still has a lot of ancient streetscapes to explore and enjoy and a number of historic sites.

Pick-up point: East Finchley underground station

Coach fare (NLU3A members): £23.50

Coach fare (non-NLU3A members): £25.50

Booking closes: Thursday 13 November



Contact: Melvyn Rees: 8446 3029, 07903 456385, [melvyn.tymel@gmail.com](mailto:melvyn.tymel@gmail.com)



### Booking form

#### Upton Park and Royal Leamington Spa

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ NT member? Yes No

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to NLU3A as follows:

- Upton Park and Royal Leamington Spa: £30.00 for each member who is also a member of the National Trust (NT); £38.60 for each member who is not a NT member; £32.00 for each non-member who is a member of the NT; and £40.60 for each non-member who is not a NT member.
- Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre: £23.50 for each member and £25.50 for each non-member.

Send booking form and cheque to Melvyn Rees, 20 Hemingford Close, London N12 9HF, by the appropriate date. Please remember to include your U3A membership number.

# Away days

Organised by Jim Sweeney,  
John Hajdu and Sue Teller

## A tour of modern city architecture, Friday 24 October



The City of London has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last few years. Dreary 1960s and 70s buildings are being demolished for the construction of eye-catching skyscrapers with amusing nicknames – the Cheesegrater, the Gherkin, the Walkie Talkie (now rechristened the Walkie Scorchie) and, of course, the Shard. Below these towering modern structures we can still find ancient alleyways, old hostleries and pre-fire churches. This makes London the most exciting mixture of ancient and modern of any city in the world. We have arranged a conducted tour by Brian, our excellent Blue Badge guide, to explore all this and more.

### Time

10.50am for 11.00 start. Tour will last about 90 minutes.

### Cost

£6.00, payable in advance.

### Travel and meeting points

We meet at Bank tube station, at the exit by the Royal Exchange. We finish at London Bridge, by the Shard, with Borough Market nearby.

**Booking is essential.** Please use the booking form below or send a form-free written application with the requested details and your cheque.

### Away days booking form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*Block letters please. No more than two application names per form.*

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Name of visit

- Cheques payable to NLU3A
- Send booking form and cheque to Sue Teller, 27 Midholm, London NW11 6LL. A separate booking form and cheque is required for each visit.
- You will be notified **by phone if you have a place (or not)** on the visit and your cheque will be banked or destroyed accordingly.
- If you are unable to attend the visit, please phone Sue Teller on 8381 4480 so that your place can be offered to another member, or mobile 07748 478 428 for last-minute cancellations.



## Art and poster tour, Friday 21 November

London Transport Museum Depot, 2 Museum Way, 118–120 Gunnersbury Lane  
London W3 9BQ. Tel 7565 7298

The Museum Depot is a permanent home to one of the world's finest and most comprehensive collections of transport posters and artworks. Visitors can immerse themselves in the rich design heritage of London's transport, explore some of the 7,000 posters that London Transport commissioned and get close to original artworks that are rarely seen by the public.

Over 100 years ago Frank Pick commissioned the first graphic poster ('No need to ask a p'liceman', by John Hassall, 1908) for London Underground. Under his guidance London Transport went on to commission works from some of the world's best-known artists including Man Ray, Abraham Games and Edward McKnight Kauffer. Some of these will be seen on show on the tour. Some are also on display in the Museum, Covent Garden. We have arranged a private visit, limited to 20 members, and will be guided through a century of art and design. The tour will last approximately 75 minutes and will include a question and answer session.



### Cost

£8.50, payable in advance.

### Travel

The museum is virtually on Gunnersby Lane and is a short walk from Acton Town tube station, on the Piccadilly and Circle Lines. It is on the left heading northwards towards Uxbridge Road.

### Time and facilities

10.50am in the foyer for an 11.00 start. The museum is fully accessible. There is a nearby Juggler Café, where some may meet beforehand.

**Booking is essential.** Please use the booking form on the previous page or send a form-free written application with the requested details and your cheque.

## Autumn monthly meetings

All take place at St Paul's Church, 50 Long Lane, Finchley N3 2PU. Refreshments from 10.15am. Instead of the monthly meeting in September, we will be holding an Open Day for people to find out about the interest groups on offer. There is also no monthly meeting in December.

### Monday 13 October

#### Caravaggio – master of Baroque

Art historian Colin Lomas will discuss the controversial career of Michaelangelo Mensi de Caravaggio – stunningly original and possibly the most influential painter in history.

### Monday 10 November

#### Eccentric and ingenious gadgets from the past

For over 35 years Maurice Collins has collected eccentric contraptions used in everyday life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These objects cover most aspects of social history and heritage. Maurice's presentation will be interactive – we can see, hold and try to guess how the gadgets from his idiosyncratic collection were used.