



## U3A NEWSLETTER NO. 106, APRIL – MAY 2022

Dear U3A Members

Helen Batting, our Chairlady, resigned from the position due to health concerns around Covid. Her position has been graciously filled by Jane Potgieter.

Other than Helen's resignation, the year has started very well for the East London branch of U3A. Live or face to face meetings have taken place for the first time in two years. Numbers are restricted and it is necessary to 'book a seat' for the present. A maximum of 45 people may attend. In order to ensure that persons are not turned away it will be necessary for each person to email Peter Dangerfield, email address: [peterjulie@sainet.co.za](mailto:peterjulie@sainet.co.za), stating the number of people who will be attending. Masks must be worn and attendees must use the sanitizer provided at the entrance. A respectful request is made to each person to be mindful of others and not to attend the Meeting if one is not feeling well. Teas will be served as from the April meeting. Water will be available in the bar area.

Speakers at the first two meetings have been well received and were interesting and thought provoking. Andy Andrews, who spoke on 'Lessons from History' has asked for feedback and comments on his talk. It would be best to email comments, suggestions etc. to myself at [vancittert@gmail.com](mailto:vancittert@gmail.com). I will make arrangements to forward your emails to him.

The General Meeting in April will be on the THIRD Thursday instead of the second Thursday, due to the Easter weekend. The guest speaker will be Roy Gordon, retired Headmaster, who will speak on 'A Life Worth Living. Ramblings of an Aged Headmaster'.

The May General Meeting will take place on the second Thursday, 12 May 2022. The speaker, Janet Rous, will give a talk on 'Fraud Awareness'

Courses have also started, most of which are 'live'.

A number of members have been co-opted to the Committee. Please welcome Angela and Brian Carlson and Gwen Syversten.

I would like to apologize for being remiss in offering condolences to the family and friends of Bruce Gardiner in my last Newsletter. He used to attend U3A meetings regularly. Bruce was very generous with his talents and provided musical entertainment for U3A members and at end of year Book Club functions. May his soul rest in peace and his family and friends find comfort in memories of good time.

A very warm welcome to the following new members of East London U3A: Heidi Deetleefs, Anne Dabner, Mike Abdinor, Brian and Angie Carlson, Gwen Syversten, Andy Andrews, Paddy Heidtmann and Lesley Lancaster

### GENERAL

Please note that some July 2021 – June 2022 subscriptions of **R50.00** are still outstanding. Prompt settlement will be appreciated. Subs may be paid in three different ways:

- i. Paid in cash to the Treasurer, Sheila Godfrey, at the U3A General Meeting.
- ii. Paid in cash to your course leader, who will record your payment and hand your subscription over to the treasurer for receipting. Your receipt will be given to you at the next course meeting
- iii. Paid directly into our bank account as follows:

Name: U3A East London

Standard bank: Frere Square

Branch Code: 051001

Current Account Number: 036 392 626

Our Reference: Your name and surname

Please email your proof of payment to the treasurer at [sheilsgo@gmail.com](mailto:sheilsgo@gmail.com). If you are not sure whether you owe subs for this period, please contact the membership secretary, Clare Fowle, on 083 248 3699.

A reminder that yearly subscriptions are due by the end of June 2022, for the year which extends from July 2022 to June 2023. Subscriptions remain at R50.00 per member. New members pay a joining fee of R50.00 per person. Members pay R5.00 per person and visitors R10.00 per person when attending General meetings and Courses. As we have been in Lockdown for almost two years and some circumstances have changed in that period, all members are asked to ensure that Clare Fowle has correct, up to date, contact details. Clare's email address is: [clarefowle@icloud.com](mailto:clarefowle@icloud.com)

As most courses have started in March, or have yet to start, there is very little to report. Dates, times and venues are mentioned

### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

The first "face to face" Armchair Travel for two years got off to a flying start with 32 people being whisked away to a variety of places in the East Coast of England from the Norman Conquest at the battle of Hastings in 1066 to Hadrians Wall, which was built around 122AD and stretches for 75 miles across the North of England. Most important, however, was the joy of people being reunited once more- some after two years.

I am pleased to say that offers of further talks are coming in and these will take us far and wide. We are always looking for speakers and assistance will be given with presentations if required.

Our next talk will be on the 4th April, when Linda Smith will walk us along the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage route from the Pyrenees to north-western Spain, which has been in existence since the 9th Century.

Come and join us in the Indaba room at the Valley at 10am. On the first Monday of the month.

John Stoddard

082 466 7095

### COMPUTERS

The March class will take place on 28 March instead of the second Monday of the month. The next two classes will be on 11 April and on 9 May. Classes start at 9.30 am at Pam's home.

Pam Hobson

043 735 2584

082 542 6296

[pdfhobson@gmail.com](mailto:pdfhobson@gmail.com)

### THE U3A EAST LONDON WRITING GROUP

The Writing Group meets on the fourth Friday of each month. Dates are 25<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> May. Meetings take place at the home of Linda Smith, 26 Neale Road, Vincent (off Chamberlain, opposite the sports fields) starting at 15h00. We offer a blended meeting: either face-to-face at Linda Smith's or by Zoom. If you would like to join online please use this link:

<https://byupathway.zoom.us/j/4811968111?pwd=SjlCQ0lYVTZYM0w1MlpWMUNDMzFjUT09>

### BOOK CLUB

The Bookclub meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month unless there is a change for some reason. Therefore the dates will be 27<sup>th</sup> April to be confirmed/changed at forthcoming meeting as it is a holiday! The following meeting will be on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Ellen Ettinger

083 656 4816

## SAMBA / CANASTA GROUP

The group meet at The Oak Room at Parklands on the second Wednesday of the month from 9.15 to 12.00. Samba Canasta dates will be 13 April and 11 May

## MAHJONGH: OAK ROOM, PARKLANDS: Specified Fridays 09h30 – 12h00

Mahjong group meet on April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20 in The Oak Room at Parklands from 9.20 to 12.00. For those who need to plan ahead, our bookings for the year, Covid and Parklands willing, are: 8 and 22 April; 6 and 20 May, 10 and 17 June, 1,15 and 29 July; 12 and 19 August; 2,16 and 30 September; 14 and 21 October; 4, 18 and 25 November. Start time is 09h30, but members need to arrive by 9h20 for the necessary administration work and table arrangement.

Gill Ansell  
083 651 7892

## JSE/FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

This course is presented on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Indaba Room at The Valley at 10 am. Meetings are on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> May.

John Pearson  
082 721 6072

## QUIZZES

Interested members can contact Helen for details of times and venues

Helen Batting  
082 939 3039

## isiXHOSA BASIC SPEAKING CLASSES

Nita Laing is willing to offer the course on speaking basic isiXhosa, duration of 12 weeks with a class once a week. The course will be offered in May, June and July. The classes will take place on Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Dates for May are: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

Each member will need to buy a simple text/workbook from Nita, which is called **Simply Xhosa Part 1**, approximate price is R35.00. At present the venue is uncertain and will depend on the number of interested persons.

Any U3A members who are interested in learning basic isiXhosa and those interested in continuing with further isiXhosa lessons, please contact Nita on 082 898 6394.

Nita Laing  
082 898 6394

## POETRY APPRECIATION

The theme for the April Meeting will be 'War'. The course takes place at 101 Stirling Lodge and starts at 10 am on the second Monday of every month.

Ann King, 083 774 663

## GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The meeting will start at 10am and venues will be by arrangement. If you are interested in attending in April, please meet at the top gate of Stirling Lodge at 10am on Tuesday 12 April. You will be taken on a walk through the Stirling Lodge gardens. The Group will then decide on the next outing for 10 May. Should you want further information, please contact Ann on 083 774 7663.

Ann King  
083 774 7663

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

Music Appreciation will take place in the Oak Room at Parklands on the third Wednesday of each month. Dates are as follows: 20<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May  
Carol Keep  
072 508 0936

At the Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March, Dave Donkin suggested repeating a course he presented in 2011 and 2012 ago on 11 of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

The courses were held in the Valley's Indaba Room. Attendance ranged between 12 and 20 and we all enjoyed the delightful music of Arthur Sullivan, matched to the witty libretto of W S Gilbert. Not only that, but many of those who attended were able to remember the enjoyment of taking part in a G & S production many years ago. It is surprising that many of the satirical verses lampooning pompous public figures and institutions in the Victorian society of the mid 1800s can still be applied to many modern day public figures!

Since we are of a generation that grew up with the 'wireless' radio and gramophone records, we can enjoy words and music without having to be further stimulated by visual images (as is the case with today's young people). It is my proposal that each opera will be presented as sound recordings, with a summary of the libretto between each musical item so as to enjoy the humour as well as maintaining the thread of the story. So, if there are sufficient members interested, and with the approval of the U3A Committee, I can start the series sometime after Easter – possibly, beginning with *HMS Pinafore* or *The Pirates of Penzance*. All those interested in the proposed course can contact Dave, using the details below.

Dave Donkin  
063 665 4360  
[djdonkin1936@gmail.com](mailto:djdonkin1936@gmail.com)

## BIRTHDAYS

Wishing all our members who have birthdays in April and May good health, happiness, good times spent with family and friends and all that is best for each individual

APRIL: Renuka Khandoo, 2 April; Marcia Scholes, 4 April; Evelyn Alston, 12 April; Claude Schultz, 12 April; Valmae Roberts, 12 April; Geraldine Sloper, 13 April; Thelma Jamieson, 16 April; Brian Ewing, 17 April; Surekha Pema, 18 April; David Salzwedel, 18 April; David Donkin, 19 April; Hansa Cassiram, 21 April; Annette Koekemor, 21 April; Molly Smith, 22 April; Pam Hobson, 23 April; Rose Thompson, 30 April.

MAY: Alvan Mandy, 3 May; Marisa Volgenau, 5 May; James Anderson, 7 May; Barry Chapman, 7 May; Sheila Sanderson, 8 May; Sheila Slinger, 10 May; Margot Visser, 11 May; Denis Ansell, 17 May; Annelies Boeke, 17 May; Estelle King, 18 May; Annemarie Hammerschmidt, 21 May; Hamish Forrest, 24 May; Nikki Kitsopoulos, 24 May; Sandra Johnson, 26 May; Laura Maynard, 28 May; Val Viljoen, 29 May.

Looking forward to stimulating my mind, improving my knowledge and meeting members.

Diana van Cittert