

Ealing U3A Spring Term 2023 – Programme of Thursday talks & events

NB – all talks run as ‘hybrid’ talks with some members in Ealing Green Church whilst other members watch at home on Zoom. All speakers will be present in Ealing Green Church.

DATES	SPEAKER	TITLE	PRECIS OF TALK
20 Apr 2023	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
27 Apr 2023	Gale R. Owen-Crocker , Prof Emerita of the University of Manchester, having formerly been Prof of Anglo-Saxon Culture and Director of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies. She has published extensively on medieval literature, art, archaeology, dress and textiles	The Significance of the Bayeux Tapestry	The Bayeux Tapestry is a unique survival of Anglo-Norman embroidery. Instantly recognisable today, it is often treated frivolously by cartoonists, as we shall see. However, it deserves to be treated seriously. This talk will explain the importance of the Tapestry as a textile, a historical document, an artwork, a text and a graphic narrative. It will show why, when the pictures celebrate the Norman Conquest of England, the design is considered to be an English creation; and it will consider whether there are any subversive, pro-English elements hidden in full sight.
4 May 2023	Nick Higham , a journalist, interviewer and author, and a former BBC News reporter. He was the BBC’s first dedicated media correspondent, spent 14 years as arts and media correspondent, and went on to report on a wide range of subjects on television and radio, wherever possible smuggling history onto the airwaves under the guise of news.	The Mercenary River - the story of London’s water from the Tudor era to the 20 th century	Today we take water for granted. Turn a tap and the stuff gushes out. But for centuries London struggled to supply its citizens with reliable, clean drinking water. This talk tells the tale of remarkable technological, scientific, and organisational breakthroughs but also one of greed and complacency, high finance and low politics. London’s 19 th century water companies operated a cartel which worked in their interests, not their customers. The water they supplied was overpriced, deficient in quantity and frequently filthy – described by one scientist as “diluted sewage”. It took the best part of a century of campaigning to bring the water companies to heel.
11 May 2023	Angela Parton , who has lived and worked in Feltham since 1988. She has been a member of Feltham History Group since 2016 and became Chair of Friends of Feltham Green in 2019 to present day	Three Jewels in Feltham’s Crown	The talk briefly touches upon some of Feltham’s unique history of horticultural, market gardens, the three surviving ponds and once famous residents. Starting from 1800’s to present day 21 st Century how the local Friends groups are celebrating the town’s history and helping to look after our precious parks and green spaces.
18 May 2023	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
25 May 2023	Tracy Downie , who has worked in the social housing sector for many years. She is currently Chief Exec of Women’s Pioneer Housing and Chair of Ekaya Housing Assoc.	Women’s Pioneer Housing – our legacy of providing, safe and affordable homes for single women	A brief history of Women's Pioneer Housing Association, what we do and why our work providing affordable homes for women in desirable areas of West London, continues to be important. The challenges we face and our new developments that will continue the work our Founders started over 100 years ago

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1 June 2023	Sarah Hadland , who has lived and worked in Ealing for over 30 years. She became a trustee of the Selborne Society in 2016 and is currently Treasurer and Membership Secretary	An introduction to The Selborne Society and Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Perivale Wood is the second oldest nature reserve in the UK, 27 acres of ancient woodland in a suburban setting. It's owned and managed by the Selborne Society, the last remaining branch of a national organisation that shares roots with the RSPB and the National Trust. This talk gives a brief introduction to how the Society was founded and how Perivale Wood was established, coming up to the present day to look at how the reserve is managed today and what it offers to visitors and volunteers
8 June 2023	Dr. Hugh Mather , who was a Consultant Physician at Ealing Hospital until 2006 He trained as a musician and is a pianist and organist. He has been Chairman of the Friends of St Mary's since 2005 and has organized 1250 concerts.	The history of St Mary's church, Perivale	St Mary's, Perivale dates back to the 12 th century, and is the oldest building in Ealing, and is Grade 1 listed – the only one apart from Pitzhanger Manor. It served as the chapel for Perivale Manor and has a list of Rectors stretching back to 1330. It became redundant in 1972 and is now a classical music centre, with national reputation for our broadcasts, numbering 120 per year. These have been viewed in over 50 countries around the world
15 June 2023	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
22 June 2023	Pierre Thomas , who is half French and has been visiting Lille since 1947. He has witnessed the preservation and change in its character over the last 50/60 years	Lille and its Renaissance	A brief history of the French town of Lille and of the conservation of its historic centre over the last 50 years.
29 June 2023	-	Interest Groups Showcase	This is an opportunity for any of our members (or potential members) to find out more about our U3A, meet the Committee members, and the around 50 Interest Groups we run that you may like to join.
6 July 2023	*George Martin , former Ealing U3A Chairman who has a degree in English and English Literature. He taught students from all over the world and as Director of Studies was involved in teacher training	Regent's Park: From Tudor Hunting Ground to the Present	This talk traces the historical developments in and around Regent's Park and how different kings and architects brought about the changes in this magnificent park in the middle of our capital
13 July 2023	*Vicky McGrath who joined the Museum of Richmond in October 2016. She has over 20 years of experience of working in Museums and Heritage Education	The Royals and Richmond Palace	Vicky, the Learning Officer at the Museum of Richmond, will give an illustrated whistle stop tour of Richmond's history, through the eyes of its former Royal residents
20 July 2023	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times

* These speakers have given talks at Ealing U3A previously

Summer talks 2023 are on **Thursday 27th July, 10th and 24th August**