

Ealing U3A Autumn Term 2024 – 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
12 Sept 2024	Dr Philip Woods , an Ealing U3A member, was Distinguished Research Fellow and part-time lecturer in History at New York University, London, UK until he retired in 2021. His research on British-Indian history led him to study British uses of media in India and Burma	From Vera Lynn to Major Tom: Has the 2nd World War Burma Campaign ever been a ‘Forgotten War’?	There is something of a myth that the Burma campaign, the longest land campaign fought by British, Commonwealth and Indian forces in World War Two was a ‘Forgotten War’ fought by a ‘Forgotten Army’. This talk will explain how this myth arose and challenge its accuracy. The role of the media was crucial in this respect and British Army media management, which started very much on the defensive, was able, particularly after the appointment of Lord Mountbatten as Supreme Commander South East Asia Command in 1943, to step up media coverage in all forms for Burma operations
19 Sept 2024	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
26 Sept 2024	Anthony Smith , a retired Secondary School teacher who has lived in the borough for nearly 50 years and taught in several of its schools and nearby. Since retiring he has been walking the paths through and around the city and further afield.	The Uxbridge Road, a wander along it and a history	An attempt to trace the origins of the road followed by an illustrated history looking at how it has been used and the places it passes through (many of which you will recognise from having been stuck in or near them!). Your own contributions will be very welcome
3 Oct 2024	Howard Simmons who studied history before a career in the Heritage, Cultural and Regeneration sectors in Local and National Government. He is a Board member of the Battlefields Trust and a guide at Syon House	Syon House, Civil War and the Percy family - conspiracies, betrayals and the Battle of Brentford 1642	The talk will explain the complicated loyalties of the Percy Earls of Northumberland and how Syon House became a centre for intrigue and negotiation between King and Parliament, a refuge for the Kings children, and a key location during the pivotal battle of Brentford in 1642
10 Oct 2024	Charlie Forman a London walking tour guide and lecturer who highlights the social, architectural and artistic history of this city. A member of the City of Westminster Guide Lecturers Association, Charlie has led many hundreds of walks and has a four-decade long career in housing and regeneration, including the seven years build-up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games	8 buildings for 8 faiths in London	Appreciate the astonishing range of signature buildings of faith communities settling in London. New arrivals leave their imprint on a city – nowhere more so than in London where Jews, Muslims, Roman Catholics, Hindus, Methodists, Sikhs, Buddhists and Orthodox Greeks have each added their own layer. Here are eight faith communities which can each point to a special place they built. Crucially, it was when they had the wealth and resources to commission great architecture. So we have a synagogue, a chapel, a gurdwara, a monastery, a couple of cathedrals, a temple and a mosque, permanent markers of the highest quality. Their differences stretch across cultures and 300 hundred years of persecutions and economic crises. But their similarities are also striking

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17 Oct 2024	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
24 Oct 2024	-	Photographic Competition 2024 Results <i>followed by a short talk</i>	The results of this year's Ealing u3a Photographic Competition and award of the prizes
	Georgine Carter , Ealing U3A member and Convenor of our Psychology group, she is a retired head of psychology department in a grammar School and has an OU degree	Look again. The power of noticing what was always there	How becoming more aware of what we don't notice can influence our experiences of both pleasant and unpleasant tasks in life.
31 Oct 2024	Ian Fagelson studied law at the universities of Southampton and Oxford, going on to work as a lawyer for more than 35 years. He then took a Master's degree in American history at University College London and qualified as a tour guide in the Cities of London and Westminster. Ian is rated as a top 10 London tour guide on Tripadvisor	Harlots! Covent Garden's Sordid History	In the early 1600s, the Earl of Bedford developed Covent Garden as upscale housing for wealthy Londoners. But after the Drury Lane theatre opened in 1663, it degenerated into an entertainment district. By the 18th Century, Covent Garden offered a heady mix of taverns, brothels, playhouses and eateries where literary giants rubbed shoulders (and other parts) with the notorious "Covent Garden ladies". From the elegant Piazza to tiny gas-lit alleyways, we will visit sites associated with some of the area's most fascinating characters and discuss poets and princes, courtesans and kings, skullduggery and espionage. Along the way we will meet the literary figure whose raucous night out in 1763 can truly be described as one of "wine, women and song"
7 Nov 2024	Bobbie Darbyshire , winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Non-fiction Prize 2010, she is author of five novels. She lives in London and hosts a writers' group.	A beginning, a muddle & an end: Where do novelists get their ideas from?	In an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie Darbyshire will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.
14 Nov 2024	Mike Perry * , Ealing U3A member and a teacher by background but he moved to Wales in the early 1970s to try farming. After five years running a dairy farm, he changed career again to antiques. Mike moved from rural West Wales to London in March 2021 and joined Ealing U3A where he is convener of the 1960's Group	A Welsh Rarebit	Early Welsh history including Roman Occupation along with Myths & Legends in folk law as loved by the Victorians. Industrialisation of rural West Wales. Life as an Englishman living in Wales today along with being regarded by England for years as a Principality, language and Nationalism leading to a devolved Wales with its own Assembly.
21 Nov 2024	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times

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28 Nov 2024	Chris Cocking who is a Principal Lecturer in Social Psychology at the University of Brighton with an interest in public behaviour during mass emergencies, wars, pandemics etc. His research attracts a lot of media interest and he is often asked to talk to broadcast and print media about topical events.	'Take Shelter!' Immersive tours in a WW2 air raid school shelter	Chris is a volunteer tour guide in one of the few WW2 school air-raid shelters in Brighton that is still open to the public. The talk will provide a brief history of the construction and use of the air-raid shelter during WW2, along with the relevant historical context, then how it is used as an immersive learning experience for school children across Brighton & Hove to learn about history, and how it is also open to the general public at weekends throughout the Spring & Summer. The talk will show how this contributes to a useful learning experience to educate people about what it would have been like to have been a school child during WW2.
5 Dec 2024	Helen Anker , who has been a professional Actress working predominately in Musicals since the age of 9 and is currently performing in the UK Tour of the show 'Dear Evan Hansen'. Helen is here during her few weeks off the tour while she's back home in Hanwell to tell us about her life in Theatre.	A life in Musical Theatre	Helen Anker has worked professionally in Theatre from the age of 9 in the West End production of The Sound of Music with Petula Clarke. This talk will take you on a journey of what life is really like as an actress, through her training, career in the West End and on Broadway. The ups and downs of living a creative and unpredictable life, by learning to trust that everything happens for a reason, and having to believe in yourself when things don't seem to be going your way! Helen also created her own show over lock down which she is performing across the country about the life of Audrey Hepburn called 'The Essence of Audrey'.
12 Dec 2024	Ealing U3A Members	A Seasonal Entertainment followed by refreshments	Details tbc
19 Dec 2024	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times

* These speakers have all given talks at Ealing U3A previously
Winter term talks 2025 start on Thursday 9th January