

## Ealing U3A Winter Term 2025 – 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
9 Jan 2025	<b>Ariane Bankes</b> , who after a career in publishing, now works as a writer, critic, and curator - my latest exhibition being ‘ <i>Dora Carrington: Beyond Bloomsbury</i> ’ currently on show at Pallant House Gallery, Chichester (to end April)	<b>The Quality of Love: Identical Twins at the Heart of the Twentieth Century</b>	For this talk, Ariane used the treasure trove of letters and diaries left to her by her mother, Celia Paget to recount the extraordinary lives of Celia and her twin Mamaine, who overcame being orphaned at the age of twelve and a nugatory education to take London in the 1930s by storm, and to flourish at the heart of Europe’s intelligentsia. It is a sparkling portrait of the deep friendship and love between two spirited sisters and paints a vivid picture of one of the most dramatic periods of the 20th century.
16 Jan 2025	-	<b>Ealing U3A Coffee Morning</b>	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
23 Jan 2025	<b>Tom Jackson</b> , who for too long has been spinning in a whirlwind of postcards. A few years ago, he started posting postcards and their messages on social media, an instant and ongoing hit project that resulted in the commissioning of his book ‘Postcard from the Past’.	<b>Postcard from the Past</b>	A look at postcards and the various strange, funny and powerful ways their messages worked, and continue to work today. Includes secret codes, indiscreet confessions, unlikely juxtapositions, outrageous messages and fake donkeys.
30 Jan 2025	<b>No talk this week</b>		
6 Feb 2025	<b>Jeremy Holmes *</b> who went from a Grammar School to Oxford University where he took a Double First in English Literature. He is now semi-retired and enjoys giving regular talks on aspects of English Literature, his first love	<b>“No Man is an Island” – the life and poetry of John Donne</b>	John Donne wrote some of the most sensitive and moving love poetry in the English language but also became Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral. He grew up a Catholic but converted to Protestantism in an age when religion and politics were so interwoven people were burnt at the stake for their beliefs. He gave some of the greatest sermons ever, with crowds queuing to hear him, but was forever conscious of his own mortality. As he said, “Ask not for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee”.
13 Feb 2025	<b>Dr Simon Avery *</b> who teaches nineteenth-century literature and culture at the University of Westminster. He has published books on Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Mary Coleridge, Thomas Hardy, and the history of sexuality	<b>Christina Rossetti: Poet of Her Age</b>	In this talk Dr Avery considers the importance of Christina Rossetti as one of the key poets of the Victorian period. At the heart of the Pre-Raphaelite artistic community, Rossetti was astonishing prolific as a writer and in many ways was a spokeswoman of her age. He’ll discuss how her poetry engaged with contemporary debates about the role of women in society and will also read examples of her poems to show their skill, diversity and continuing relevance.

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20 Feb 2025	-	<b>Ealing U3A Coffee Morning</b>	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
27 Feb 2025	<b>Ian Richardson *</b> and <b>Georgine Carter *</b> . Ealing U3A members	A joint talk by two of our members on the subject of <b>'Gender'</b>	Details of this talk TBA
6 Mar 2025	<b>Ronald Koorm</b> is a published author and lecturer on military history specialising in codebreaking during WW2. In 2020, he published a book 'Backing Bletchley', which was about the codebreaking outstations.	<b>Fake News or Deceiving the enemy during WW2</b>	This talk outlines some of the techniques, systems and planning to deceive the enemy during wartime, involving equipment, agents, codebreaking ciphers, and other methods. There will be mention of the build-up to D-Day, also use of audio sound to deceive others, mention of a famous department store, and a famous Hollywood actor who played a part in deception techniques. Finally, a post-war deception example will be discussed with diagrams, together with a historical link back to the speaker, which may surprise the audience.
13 Mar 2025	-	<b>Ealing U3A Coffee Morning</b>	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
20 Mar 2025	<b>AGM</b> followed by talk by <b>Jill Thumpston *</b> , Ealing U3A member	<b>Ealing U3A AGM</b> then a talk entitled <b>Marianne North (Kew Gardens Gallery)</b>	The <b>Ealing U3A AGM</b> including the Annual Report and Treasurer's report for 2023 plus the election of the Ealing U3A Committee for the next year. This will be followed by a short talk on <b>Marianne North</b> , who was a prolific English Victorian biologist and botanical artist, notable for her plant and landscape paintings, her extensive foreign travels, her writings, her plant discoveries and the creation of her gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
27 Mar 2025	<b>Margaret Burr</b> who is a long-term resident of Tottenham interested in local history, art, clouds and trees. Now retired, she spent most of her working life in education as an information specialist	<b>Priscilla Wakefield: Forgotten Heroine</b>	Priscilla Wakefield was a well-connected Quaker who became an author through economic necessity, writing 17 books for children on a range of subjects, including natural science. She also wrote a book on feminism and feminist economics in 1798, challenging the absence of women in Adam Smith's analysis. Her Tottenham Female Benefit Club became the first Savings Bank in Britain and evolved into the National Savings Bank. Her incredible energy and industry for women and children was constant despite the financial and emotional distress caused by her challenging family.

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3 Apr 2025	<b>Carl Woodall</b> *, an Ealing U3A member, served as Domestic Bursar of Balliol College Oxford until 2009, at which point he joined the House of Lords as its first Director of Facilities. Carl retired in March 2023, and was appointed OBE in 2024	<b>Reflections on past and present at Balliol College, Oxford</b>	Founded in 1263, Balliol is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford or Cambridge. Balliol claims to be the oldest academic institution in the English-speaking world still located on its original site. Famous alumni include Prime Ministers Herbert Asquith, Harold Macmillan, and Edward Heath. This talk will be a personal reflection on Balliol College’s past and present given by a former Domestic Bursar and Fellow of Balliol College.
10 Apr 2025  (End of term)	<b>Paul Cooper</b> , who was educated at the University of Warwick and the UEA, and after graduating left for Sri Lanka to work as an English teacher. Paul has worked as an archivist, editor and journalist, and has a PhD in the cultural and literary significance of ruins. He has written novels and an international bestselling work of nonfiction, <i>Fall of Civilizations: Stories of Greatness and Decline</i>	<b>The Fall of Civilizations</b>	Paul Cooper, host of the acclaimed podcast Fall of Civilizations, delves into the rise and fall of ancient societies, highlighting their ascent to power and eventual collapse. Drawing from his book of the same title, Paul guides us through centuries of history, exploring great empires from Mesopotamia to Khmer and Vijayanagara in Asia, and Songhai in West Africa; from Byzantium to the Maya, Inca, and Aztec civilizations of the Americas; and from Roman Britain to Rapa Nui. The talk brings to life the grandeur and peril of these civilizations, contemplating what it might have been like for people living through the collapse of their world.

\* These speakers have all given talks at Ealing U3A previously  
**Spring term talks 2025 start on Thursday 1 May**