Ealing U3A Spring 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
1 May 2025	* **Jill Stern**, has a doctorate in history from University College London. She has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and is the author of a book on the seventeenth century Netherlands. She has lectured in Britain, the Netherlands and the United States. History is her passion. Jill is currently our Chair	**King Arthur: Was he an Historical Figure?**	We have all heard of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table but who was Arthur? Was he a real live historic individual or was he always just a figure of fiction? On this issue, historians disagree profoundly. This talk takes us into the so-called 'Dark Ages', the period after the Romans had left Britain when Arthur is supposed to have lived. It is a world where a post-Roman British society was trying desperately to defend itself against the incursions of the Anglo-Saxons from across the North Sea. It was a society in need of heroes. Was there really a king who fought back against the incomers or did a beleaguered society create its own myth?
8 May 2025	**Vicky Saumarez**, who was educated at Studio Cecil Graves in Florence, Italy. She specialises in portraiture & life drawing and teaches an art group in Hanwell on a weekly basis & also runs courses for City Academy	**Classical Portraiture Teaching & Methods**	The 1980's saw something of a revival of atelier style, more traditional teaching of art after a long period of more expressive painting. Vicky was trained in Florence in one of the smaller atelier schools and will share some of the techniques she was taught, as well as demonstrating sight size portraiture in oils.
15 May 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
22 May 2025	**Rob Brewer** who was born and raised in Greenford, he joined the army from school and spent 18 years as a police officer	**My life as a TV/Film Extra in retirement**	Robert has been an Extra for six years. He talks about how he became an Extra, talks about some of the productions that he's been in and explains how anyone can do it.
29 May 2025	-	**Interest Groups Showcase**	Many Interest Group leaders will be available to discuss/describe their particular groups, and all members can come along to learn about the activities available. There will, most certainly, be a couple of displays from some of the groups and refreshments will be served in the Back Hall during the morning.
5 June 2025	**Victoria Walsh** is a writer with a passion for people stories. A linguist and communications professional by background, Victoria has always enjoyed writing and engaging with people from all walks of life. Now living in rural Wiltshire, Victoria published her first book in 2023	**The story of Rena Stewart: Bletchley, Hitler, the BBC … and Ealing**	Rena Stewart was a remarkable resident of Ealing. A hundred years young, she served at Bletchley Park and translated Hitler's will, before going on to a distinguished career at the BBC World Service. She then enjoyed a long, happy retirement in Ealing - filled with friends, travel and culture. Rena's was the epitome of a life well lived! Just five months before she died, on 11 November 2023, Rena's next-door neighbour introduced her Victoria Walsh. In a race against time, Victoria compiled this venerable veteran's biography and is now thrilled to be able to share Rena's full story with you.

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12 June 2025	* **Prof Robin Wilson** who is an Emeritus Professor at the Open University and at Gresham College, London. He has written and edited over 50 books (including some relating to Sullivan). He has performed in most of the G&S Operas and sung most of Sullivan's choral works.	**The Other Side of Sullivan**	This talk surveys the life and work of the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert & Sullivan fame), with particular reference to his life as a major force in Victorian music and his non-G&S works such as his symphony and cello concerto, 100 art songs, choral and church music, and his romantic opera '*Ivanhoe*'. Prof Wilson previously gave us a talk in Summer 2024 on 'The Origins of Mathematics'
19 June 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
26 June 2025	**Sibel Roller** is an Ealing U3A member who writes twentieth century nonfiction and fiction, focusing on stories of courage and resilience in the face of war. Sibel grew up in eight countries across four continents but has lived and worked in London for the last 45 years, thirty of which were in Ealing.	**The Rooster: Discovering my Father's memories from the Jasenovac Concentration Camp**	After her father Dragan died, Sibel discovered a secret manuscript that he'd written about his survival in the World War II concentration camp Jasenovac in Croatia. The camp was notorious for its brutality and was often referred to as the Auschwitz of the Balkans. In his lifetime, Dragan rarely mentioned the camp. His secret writing triggered Sibel's journey to find her hidden father, the man she never knew completely. In her talk, Sibel will share stories drawn from her journey, offering a different perspective on the better-known history of the Nazi death camps. Copies of Sibel's memoir, 'The Rooster', will be available after the talk.
3 July 2025	* **Jean Brewster** lived a cosmopolitan life as a child, living in the colonies of Malaysia, Cyprus and British Honduras. As an adult she worked with various institutions including the University of West London, Bristol, and Nottingham. She hopes her work in various countries have helped her cultivate an international outlook.	**'Missy Big Bungalow': from colonial concubine to modern matriarch**	This talk will focus on aspects of Jean's book, *Missy Big Bungalow,* based on Chalerm, her Asian grandmother, and life in Thailand and Malaysia. It is the true story of four generations of families with mixed European and Asian heritage, including Burmese, Thai, French, Danish, Polish and British. Nowadays mixed-race families form the fastest growing sector of the British population. In his book *Elephants, Tigers and Tappers* the author commented on the fate of local women many British men kept in the colonies: 'It would be an incredibly interesting task to try to document the lives that some of these women had.' Jean immediately thought: 'I can do that. That's the story of my grandmother!'
10 July 2025	* **Joy Hynes** who is Head Optometrist and Owner of Hynes Optometrists on Northfield Avenue for the last 40 years. Specialises in Colorimetry and Glaucoma.	**The Eyes Have It – a talk on common eye problems from a local Optometrist**	This talk is about the most common eye conditions that present in practice, eg: Cataracts, Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, and Dry Eye.

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17 July 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
24 July 2025	**Nathaniel Telemaque** is a North West London born and raised visual artist, writer and researcher who photographs, films and writes about 'everyday things' in various urban settings. He completed his Geography (practice-related) PhD at University College London in 2023 and is now a Lecturer in Geography and Social Justice at King's College London University.	**White City's Past. Present, and Future Representations**	Nathaniel's talk will draw on his Geography (Practice-Related) PhD research project on the White City Estate to share insights into the everyday things that come together to form White City's past, present, and future representations. His project saw him commit to a collaborative photography project with a group of young Black adults living on the estate, whilst also conducting archival research into the locale's past and desk-based research into the urban policies guiding White City's future redevelopment.
31 July 2025 (12:30 – 3:30pm)	-	**Ealing U3A Summer Picnic**	Our Annual Picnic in **Walpole Park**, organised by a team led by Jim McWilliams – details to be published nearer the time

* These speakers have all given talks at Ealing U3A previously

The Summer Season of talks 2025 take place on **Thursday 7th** and **28th August**