Ealing U3A Autumn 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
4 Sept 2025	**Philip Caine** whose work has taken him to many countries around the world, the last 10 years of which were spent in the Middle East. Since retiring in 2015, he has become a novelist & guest speaker	**Barrow to Baghdad & Back Again (A Career Story)**	Philip talks about how his career began as a chef and hotel manager, his 17 years working the oil rigs in the North Sea, followed by operating projects in Algeria & Nigeria. His time in Kazakhstan & Russia was particularly exciting, not to mention the most dangerous place of all . . . Baghdad. His career culminated in Dubai where he ran an oil services company. The talk is full of interest, anecdotes, humour, and inspiration and concludes with the writing of his latest novel
11 Sept 2025	**Rebecca Clarke** was born in Australia but has lived with her family in West London since 2013. She has written books inspired by the archival material and life stories of her husband's great aunts, Edith, Winifred and Anne Clarke.	**HMS India, Arnold Clarke and internment in Norway during WW1**	On 8th August 1915, HMS India was torpedoed in the Norwegian sea. Most of survivors of the shipwreck were interned in Norway for the remainder of the war, including R A Clarke, Rebecca Clarke's grandfather-in-law. This talk will introduce the letters written by her grandfather-in-law, both the ones from the family archives and the ones in the hands of collectors. In addition to the letters the story is fascinating as so few people are aware of this part of WW1 and the letters Arnold wrote bring a very personal insight into the incarceration of the men of HMS India.
18 Sept 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
25 Sept 2025	**Charles Rees** was born in 1946 in Cardiff. Educated at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology. He was called to the Bar in 1974 and joined the Inner London Magistrates' Court Service in 1975 as Legal Advisor to Magistrates becoming a Deputy Clerk to the Justices at various courts. He retired from the Courts Service in 2007	**The Rise and Demise of the Stasi**	This talk deals with the rise and demise of the Stasi, the East German Ministry of State Security, from its founding in 1949 to its abrupt end in 1989 following the collapse of the Berlin Wall and crucially that the Soviet Union would no longer be intervening to support East European satellite states against popular uprisings in those states. During its 49-year existence the Stasi was the "shield and sword" of the East German Socialist Unity Party. It acquired a fearsome reputation as a secret police relying on thousands of informers to denounce their fellow citizens suspected of being disloyal to the state.
2 Oct 2025	**Colin Lomas** * worked as a teacher and lecturer in school, college and university. On retirement, he studied art history at the V&A museum and became a volunteer guide there, which he still does.	**Art and the Arts 1950s**	The talk will explore the 1950s cultural landscape, to enjoy some of the gems from the decade's literature, music and art

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9 Oct 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 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.
16 Oct 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
23 Oct 2025	-	**Photo Competition 2025 Results** *followed by a short talk*	The results of this year's Ealing u3a Photographic Competition and award of the prizes,
	Martin Partington had a career in the law, as an academic (he was Professor of Law at Brunel University in the 1980s, and at Bristol University in the 1990s), a barrister, and as a tribunal chair. He was a Law Commissioner from 2001-2007. He moved to Ealing in December 2024 and is a member of Ealing u3a	**60 years of law reform - the Law Commission of England and Wales**	The Law Commission was established in 1965. Its existence may be fairly well known, however, the details of why it was created, what it does, how it works are for most people shrouded in mystery. Over the years, it has had considerable impact on the development of the law, and on society more generally. This short talk will introduce its work, give examples of its achievements and look to its future areas of work.
30 Oct 2025	**Lindsay Swan** was born and educated in Scotland but has lived in Ealing for the past 43 years. She is co-chair of the Venkat Trust. She is a member of the Wandsworth Prison Independent Monitoring Board, appointed by the Justice Secretary to act as an independent observer of all aspects of the prison regime and help ensure the humane and just treatment of the prisoners	**Accidental Lives**	Lindsay Swan's life has been a series of sliding door life changers and chance encounters. Along the way, she has travelled the world, run an unconventional London PR company and was an executive producer of the world's first 3D ballet: Swan Lake which was broadcast live to cinemas around the world from the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg. For the past 21 years, Lindsay has been a trustee of the Venkat Trust, a South-East Indian education charity, set up by her lifelong friend and former business partner Sylvia Holder, which they describe in Accidental Lives, their first book, written when they were 72 and 85. In her talk, Lindsay will describe some of the highs, lows and unplanned events in a life which has been – and continues to be – a lot of fun

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6 Nov 2025	**Angela Morgan** is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide. As a professional Guide, she has met thousands of visitors from around the world. Through their interest and observations, they help her as a Londoner, to truly appreciate London as a wonderful place packed full of history. Every day is a learning experience	**The Aldridge Family – the Price of Fame**	In early 19th century England, as a free black man from America, Ira Aldridge's entrance into theatrical circles was not easy. He was the first black actor to play Othello, yet racial prejudice almost derailed his acting ambitions. Eventually, his fame spread beyond these shores, and he received many accolades and honours. Fame can offer pathways to success for some people. For their family, they may be financially supported but they live on the periphery of their loved one's fame. But how did his family fare, particularly after his premature death whilst working in Poland in 1867? Angela will delve into Ira's family life, their personal stories that are mixed with pride, tragedy and a legacy of a husband, father and once lauded tragedian.
13 Nov 2025	**Hattie Crisell** is a freelance writer based in London. She is a contributing editor of *Grazia* magazine and her writing has appeared in *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *Elle*, *Vogue* and *You* magazine, among others. Since 2019 she has produced and hosted the podcast *In Writing with Hattie Crisell*, interviewing writers of all kinds in their studies.	**What's so hard about writing?**	Author, journalist and podcaster Hattie Crisell has interviewed dozens of professional writers, from novelist Maggie O'Farrell to poet Wendy Cope to *Succession* writer Jesse Armstrong. In her book *In Writing: Conversations on Inspiration, Perspiration and Creative Desperation*, she explores the joys and challenges of the creative process – what makes writing so hard, and how the magic (sometimes) happens. Hattie will be in conversation with U3A Ealing's Martin Partington
20 Nov 2025	-	**Ealing U3A Coffee Morning**	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
27 Nov 2025	**Rosalind Freeborn** started her career as a book publicist and moved into the world of music handling the publicity for the London Philharmonic Orchestra. She became a director within a PR consultancy working with creative clients in the fields of art, design, retail and architecture. She was prompted to write **Prince George & Master Frederick** after investigating her grandmother's story that her family might, in some way, be connected to King George III. This is her first published work.	**The Secret Son of King George III**	In 1765 a four-year-old orphan boy was bundled into a carriage and taken from his rural home to Richmond Lodge to be playmate for young Prince George, King George III's eldest son and heir to the English throne. Just what was this child's secret connection to the king? Rosalind has researched the life of Frederick Blomberg, that orphan child, who was brought up as a prince and remained close to the Georgian royal family and was a lifelong friend of Prince George, the future regent and King George IV. Historians barely give Blomberg a mention but, following up a family story that there was a connection with royalty, Rosalind has discovered the astonishing story of King George III's secret son.

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4 Dec 2025	**Eleanor Bloom** is a City of London & City of Westminster tour guide who conducts guided walking tours. She is also a Guildhall guide and has the freedom of the City of London.	**Loos of London**	A lighter look at the Loos of London through the ages; from ancient to modern, public & private
11 Dec 2025	Ealing U3A Members	**A Seasonal Entertainment** followed by refreshments	Details tbc
18 Dec 2025	-	**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 2026 start on **Thursday 8th January** and end on **Thursday 19th March** with our AGM