

Ealing U3A Spring Term 2026 – 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 April 2026	* Jill Thumpston , who has been a member of Ealing u3a for nearly 20 years. I served on the Committee as Membership Secretary and have been a long-time member of the Art Appreciation group. I have given several talks on art at the Thursday meetings	1. Archibald Knox designer for Liberty of London 2. Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow	Archibald Knox – Chief Designer for Liberty of London at the turn of the 1900’s. Hear about his designs and his connection to the Isle of Man, Celtic crosses, WW1 internment camps and Pilates. <i>After the break, something completely different:</i> Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow – a potpourri of art and artefacts and the most popular museum in the UK outside of London. Find out who killed Sir Roger, why wellies are on display, and what made Elvis leave the building.
16 April 2026	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
23 April 2026	* Anthony Smith is a retired High School teacher mainly in Ealing as an Additional Language to students new to the country. He walks regularly and has walked the London Loop and the Capital Ring seven times each. He writes poems, hosts a bi-monthly Open Mic at the W3 Gallery in Acton and has published two books of poetry and travel writing	The history and development of Farming in West London with special reference to Ealing	An interest that developed from studies of the Uxbridge Road and its history as well as my own walking in and around London and the realisation that so much had changed in what became the suburbs from the middle of the nineteenth century. The influence of the City on its hinterland for over a millennia in relation to its food requirements will be highlighted along with an enquiry into land ownership and the process of the move from a rural to a more urban way of life. Anthony would be very happy to receive any ‘memories of farming in the area’ from any members. The last farm in Acton disappeared in the 1930s but they lingered longer in Hayes and further west
30 April 2026	-	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
7 May 2026	Kate MacKenzie , who is a Senior Consulting Manager working with companies on climate risk and sustainability. She holds an MSc in Climate Change Policy from King’s College London and focuses on helping organisations make sense of complex climate information	From headlines to reality: Understanding the risks of climate change	Climate change is rarely out of the headlines. We hear about heatwaves, floods, and carbon levels almost daily, but it can be much harder to understand what these risks mean in practice. This talk cuts through the noise to explain climate risk in plain English. It explores the different types of risks linked to climate change, how they can interact in unexpected ways, and why they matter for the systems and activities we often take for granted. Using football as a real-world case study, the session brings climate risk to life by showing how changing weather patterns, infrastructure pressures, and wider economic shifts are already affecting the game.

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14 May 2026	* Vicky McGrath who is the Learning and Audience Development Officer at Richmond Museum. Vicky has a BA Hons in History from the Univ. of Sheffield and a Masters in Heritage, Education and Interpretation from the University of Newcastle	Kate Webster: The Richmond Murderess	Kate Webster’s shocking crime exposed the deep divides of Victorian society. This talk explores how poverty, gender, and social status shaped her fate—and how her story reflects both the inequalities of the past and how perhaps not as much as changed as we might like to think...
21 May 2026	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
28 May 2026	Andrea Bugari is the founder and chair of Ealing Hedgehog Friends. After semi-retiring from her original job in leadership development, she used her organisational skills to engage and train a group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Andrea is Swiss and has lived in Ealing for 24 years.	Hedgehogs in Ealing – risks, opportunities and how we all can help	Hedgehogs are “vulnerable to extinction” in the UK, so this talk looks at their situation in Ealing and outlines how residents can help them. We will also share general hedgehog knowledge about things such as food, hibernation, nesting and mating – all in an interactive and engaging way. The talk ends with some hedgehog rescue stories, featuring the many tasks of the local hedgehog rescue; Ealing Hedgehog Friends.
4 June 2026	Dr Parviz Dabir-Alai who is an Ealing U3A member worked as an academic economist for more than 40 years and is currently Emeritus Professor of Economics at Richmond University.	Economic growth and related themes	This presentation will cover several themes from development economics and sourced from reflections based on a career spanning almost 40 years. Dr Dabir-Alai will attempt to bring together insights on how issues such as political spheres of influence, market share, economic growth, George Orwell and transparency at the World Bank all fit in with one another.
11 June 2026	Yvonne Jackman is a Green Badge City of London Guide and a volunteer Guide and deputy Team Leader in St Paul’s Cathedral. She also leads walks in the City and is a guide at the London Guildhall and Art Gallery	Sir Christopher Wren - Architect and so much more	Most people know Wren as an architect, but few realise the true extent of his genius in so many areas. This talk examines his background, early life and the tumultuous times through which he lived and worked.

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18 June 2026	-	Ealing U3A Coffee Morning	In five venues around Ealing - check locations and times
25 June 2026	Prof Alice Hunt is Professor of Early Modern Literature and History at the University of Southampton. She is the author of a book about coronations and has written previously about the Tudors and James I. She reviews regularly for <i>The Times</i> and the <i>London Review of Books</i> and often appears in the media discussing monarchy.	Republic: Britain's Revolutionary Decade, 1649-1660	This talk is about Alice's critically acclaimed 'biography' of the 1650s, when England was – for the first and only time in its history – a republic, led by the soldier-statesman, Oliver Cromwell. After the public execution of Charles I, 'dangerous' monarchy was abolished and the House of Lords dismissed. These revolutionary acts sent shock waves across the kingdom and the continent. The next decade was a time of unprecedented change and instability but amid the tumult came innovation and opportunity. England's distinctive republican experiment may have been short-lived, but it reshaped the British Isles, reset the compact between the monarch and the people and refashioned the story the British told – and continue to tell – about themselves.
2 July 2026	Ralph Brookfield joined Ealing U3A in November 2025. He studied molecular physics with Nobel laureates Harry Kroto and George Porter, ran two successful software companies, and retired early to pursue beloved hobbies, music and writing.	William Golding: Memories of Uncle Bill	An appreciation of the man that was Ralph's uncle, William Golding, husband and father, reluctant war hero, author of <i>Lord of the Flies</i> , and Nobel Laureate. Ralph's father was very close to his brother-in-law, Bill Golding, and the family spent many happy hours at Bill's houses in Wiltshire and Cornwall. Ralph wants to paint a picture of his uncle from the perspective of a young boy hiding under the piano listening to two scholars (his dad and Bill) conversing in Anglo-Saxon.
9 July 2026	Colin Turner is a Lawyer who has been Clerk of the Court, Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service and Hackney and Barking/Dagenham Councils. He is married and lives on the South Coast, has two daughters and three grandchildren	Light & Dark: A Life In Crime	In Colin's profession as a Lawyer, as well as his full-time jobs, he has also been the Legal Adviser to the BBC on a series called 'Accused' and a Duty Solicitor. This talk covers the 'Dark and Light' side of our Criminal Justice system, people, places and events.
16 July 2026 (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 2026 take place on **Thursday 30th July, 13th and 27th August**