

Ealing U3A Winter Term 2020 – Programme of Weekly talks

DATES	SPEAKER	TITLE	PRECIS OF TALK
09 Jan 20	* George Martin , former Chairman of Ealing U3A	The History of Paddington Station	The history of how the Great Western Railway and its London Terminus Paddington came about. It will trace the development from the first terminus (1835-1850), the building of the “New Station” (1850-1855) and some of the events connected with it as well as how the architecture has evolved over the years of its existence
16 Jan 20	* Dr David Jones , Research Biologist, Natural History Museum and Lecturer at Imperial College	From Primordial Soups to Primates in Suits: The Evolution of all Life on Earth	Life evolved more than 3.5 billion years ago, and today humans share the planet with around 12 million other species. David has set himself the difficult challenge of telling the story of the evolution of all life on earth in 1 hour. Can he explain the origins of life in the oceans, the evolution of millions of species, the extinction of millions more, and the rise to dominance of <i>Homo sapiens</i> , in just 60 minutes?
23 Jan 20	Prof. Len Scott , Emeritus Professor of International History & Intelligence Studies	At the Brink of the Apocalypse	The risk of nuclear apocalypse during the Cold War is one that everyone now in their ‘Third Age’ faced for most, if not all, of their lives. At several moments that risk assumed frightening proportions, and in October 1962 the threat of nuclear war was perilously close. This talk shows how near we came to disaster.
30 Jan 20	* Pat Davies , ex-WRNS, worked for Bletchley Park, later as a TV Producer for Granada & BBC TV	Growing up in the 1920s	Pat was born in 1923 and will talk about her childhood, growing up in a country house in Lancashire run by her grandfather where at weekends there were shoots, tennis and cocktail parties. Pat and her sister were taught by governesses before she went to boarding school at 14.
06 Feb 20	* Jo Livingston , London Region U3A Membership Secretary	In for a Penny – The history of money	This talk examines pre-decimal coinage and its relation to present day prices, as well as the present fashion for commemorative coins.
13 Feb 20	* David Evans , Cities of London and Westminster registered guide	Capital of refuge & intrigue: Neutral Lisbon during WW2	How Lisbon, arguably the most important neutral European capital of the era, found itself a centre for refugees and espionage during the conflict.
20 Feb 20	David Clarke , Chiswick RNLI	RNLI Lifeboats on the Thames	A brief overview of the history and current work of the RNLI. The start of RNLI search and rescue on the Thames in 2002; how the Thames lifeboats operate with an illustration of the variety of rescues carried out. How the RNLI deals with risk and safety.
27 Feb 20	* Alan Browne , Ealing U3A member and Director of the Hanwell Pantomime	What a Pantomime – A uniquely British Entertainment	Tracing the development of pantomime from its earliest beginnings to the Christmas family entertainment it has become today, including the development of theatre in general.

* These speakers have all given talks at Ealing U3A previously

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05 Mar 20	* Veronica Cecil , Author, script writer, journalist and broadcaster	The Tribes' people of the Himalayan Range	Because of the terrain, the Himalayan range is populated by different tribes each with their own unique language and way of existing. Our speaker was born in India and lived there for the first eight years of her life. She will talk about two of these tribes - the Guja people and the Kalash tribe.
12 Mar 20	Dr Simon Avery , Reader in 19 th C Literature & Culture, University of Westminster	The Bronte Sisters and Politics: Revolution and Reform	Our images of the Brontë family are often ones which emphasise their isolation, hidden away in the gothic-like Parsonage in Haworth, wandering out onto the moors, and somehow creating astonishing novels like <i>Jane Eyre</i> , <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> out of nowhere. In this talk, Simon Avery will offer a different way of looking at this extraordinary family which shows just how politically engaged they were throughout their lives.
19 Mar 20	AGM and Election of Committee <i>followed by</i>		
	Krishna Maroo , Outreach Officer, University of West London	UWL in the Community	The core mission of the University of West London has been consistently to reach out to all those who can benefit from higher education, assist them to meet their full potential academically and prepare them for their future careers. During this lecture, Krishna will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lady Byron onwards - a brief lesson in the history of UWL - From beekeeping to football studies - subjects available to study at university across the UK - Learn for free: What UWL and other London universities can offer U3A members. - Helping the most hard-to-reach: our Widening Participation offer.
26 Mar 20	Professor Debra Kelly , Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Principal Research Fellow, University of Westminster	Fishes with Funny French Names: French food experiences in London from 19 th century to present day	This talk charts the history of the arrival of the French restaurant and its establishment in London in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, and its development in the city throughout the twentieth century and into the first decades of the twenty-first century.
02 Apr 20	Yasmin Sesay , Operating Department Practitioner at Whipps Cross Hospital	Mercy Ships: Bringing Hope and Healing.	The vision of Mercy Ships, the Founders, the Selection Process of Patients, Patient Stories and The Volunteers. Yasmin is a volunteer on board the <i>Africa Mercy</i> , known as Anaesthesia Assistant, and has been on five trips, working in the operating theatres.
	Spring term starts 23rd April 2020		

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