

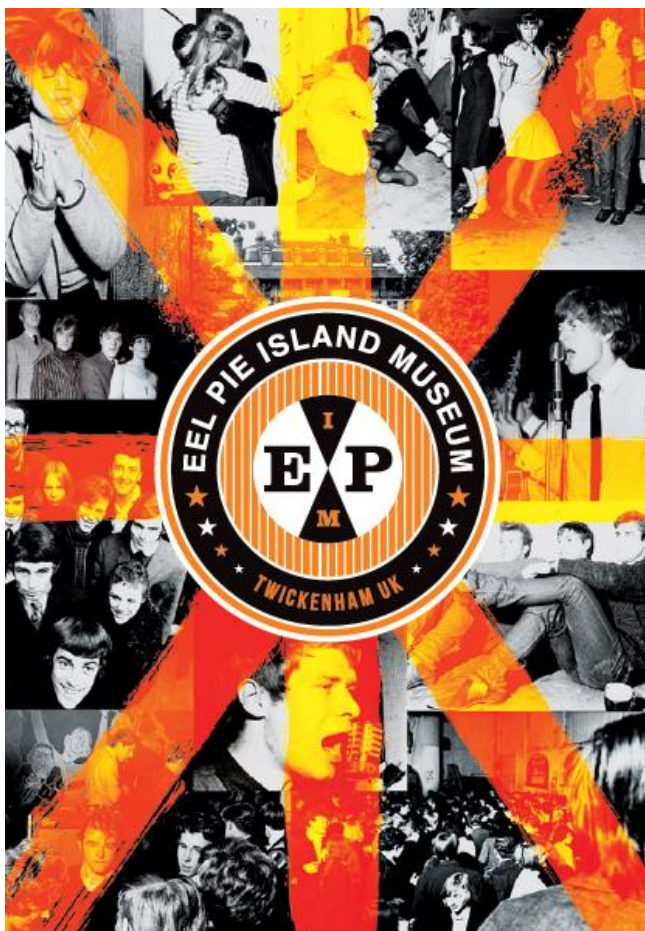
NEWSLETTER COPY - MARCH - JUNE 2024

MARCH 6

A Slice of Eel Pie

Presenter:

Celia Holman



We know that lots of members have been eagerly awaiting the rescheduling of this popular talk that unfortunately had to be cancelled in October due to circumstances beyond our control.

The Eel Pie Island Museum in Central Twickenham celebrates all that has made this tiny island in the Thames so famous - from its heritage working boatyards nestling side by side with the island's creative community to the significant part that the erstwhile Eel Pie Island Hotel played in the 1960s British Blues explosion, helping superstars such as the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, David Bowie, Rod Stewart and many more kick start their musical careers.

Celia Holman

Even before Celia moved to Eel Pie Island a decade ago, tales had reached her of this iconic isle. Except that she mistakenly thought it was somewhere in East London!

A volunteer at the Eel Pie Island Museum, Celia's paid-for-working career spanned book publishing and TV production - she has always been telling stories and loves to hear the stories that other people have to share, too.

The volunteers at the Museum refer to themselves as 'heritage bandits,' plundering the memories of willing participants and holding them gloriously aloft for all to see. She invites you to come along and be ambushed. Anything could happen...

Presenter:

Gunther Kruse



Dr Gunther Kruse was born in Hamburg during the war and lost his father a couple of months before he was born. He came to the UK aged sixteen with his mother, when she married an Englishman from Southport, and has lived and worked in the UK ever since. Gunther is married to Christine, a British U3A member, who is a fluent German speaker. He has been a member of the Elmbridge U3A for a number of years and has in the past led a German-for-beginners group. He is now the guitarist in the Elmbridge U3A Jazz band.

His talk gives a lively and highly entertaining autobiographical account of a German boy, brought up in the British occupation zone of Germany. It describes how, after his arrival in the UK, he became, from a lowly educational start, a successful professional engineer and businessman through a series of jobs from shop floor to executive offices.

This journey is described with amusing anecdotes of everyday life through the eyes of an accidental foreign immigrant. It offers an enlightened perspective on forging a new life and a business career in Britain over nearly sixty years ending in a happy retirement, ably supported by the Elmbridge U3A.

MAY 1

London Underground

Presenter:

Brian Alfred



- Mind the Gap
- Underground history
- Underground statistics and key facts
- Use during the war years
- The underground maps
- Architecture and design
- Rebuilding the underground
- Major disasters/lessons learnt
- The Kings Cross fire
- Communication systems
 - The current digital radio system (overview)
- Conclude with photo montage 'The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly'

Brian Aldred

Brian Aldred is a retired Telecommunication consultant who used to work at Atkins Consultants in Epsom for 23 years. His career covered: Information, Communications and Systems (ICT) for Road, Rail and Airport Information, Oil & Gas, Insurance, Education and Defence sectors.

He developed a 25 year 'blueprint' for new Communication systems for the whole of London Underground and was invited to cover the role of Chief Engineer - Communications and implement the core infrastructure and radio systems. Brian is a Pas President of the Probus Club of the Sussex Weald.

JUNE 5

To Journey's End; The Life of RC Sherriff

Presenter:

Pete Allen



To Journey's End; The Life of RC Sherriff

In 2000 the National Theatre named 'Journey's End' one of the 100 most important plays of the 20th Century. This is the story of how a shy insurance salesman wrote one of the most moving and true accounts of life in the trenches of WW1 and went on to become one of the highest paid British screenwriters in Hollywood, helping create some of cinema's most memorable films.

Pete Allen

Pete is the Director of The RC Sherriff Trust, a charity set up through the Will of the playwright and author RC Sherriff. Prior to this he was The Arts Development Officer for Elmbridge Borough Council where he was responsible for The Royston Pike Lecture Series. He has also worked extensively as a professional theatre director and film-maker.