

## London Shared Learning Projects 2015-16

**Change of London SLP Co-ordinator:** In June 2016 Linda Crook resigned as SLP Co-ordinator for the London Region due to ill health. Our thanks go to Linda for her hard work and initiative in setting up these projects and organising them and I would like to give a warm welcome to Jo Walters who has taken on this role.

Jennifer Anning, National SLP Co-ordinator.

**King's College London:** Researching the lives of King's staff in the Victorian period and led by Maggie Gravelle. Over 30 U3A members applied but only 12 could be selected. Started in October 2015 but extended until Easter 2016 because there was so much to discover. Concluded with a well-attended presentation.

**National Maritime Museum:** Researching the personal histories of those affected by the Battle of Jutland. The project was led by Monica Marshall and the findings fed into an exhibition on the Battle of Jutland at the Museum commencing in May 2016.

**Royal Philatelic Society:** A fourth project started in March 2016 entitled "Cinderella Stamps" led by Robert Mott. The task was to design and create Cinderella stamps. These are stamps that cannot be used as stamps but represent a society or charity and would be used as a sticker to add to an envelope showing who they were; hence Cinderella. The group chose either to illustrate a U3A study group or SLPs they had taken part in. Once the designs were finished they were printed as a block of stamps. They also used their designs on pop-up posters, on display at the presentation, which can be used to advertise any London U3A group in a local library. If you wish to use one please get in touch with Jennifer Anning.

**Peace Pledge Union:** A second SLP with the PPU started in March 2016 with the brief to research Greater London Region Conscientious Objectors. This involved members researching locally as well as in the PPU Archives and the LMA. It was led by Dee Kushlick-Williams. At the presentation the team described their research which included stories of COs who had been punished for their beliefs and were assigned dangerous tasks, such as being medical orderlies, or were forced to work in agriculture far from home for extended periods.

**Charterhouse Trust:** A second project at Charterhouse to research the lives of more brothers was led by Andy Crane who also led the first project here. The research by the team will be used to add to the Trust's database for use by those going on-line to do their own research. The project concluded with a presentation which included information on Good, Clever and Bad brothers.

**Old Royal Naval College Greenwich:** This project started in September 2016 and will continue until June 2017. It forms part of the national celebrations to mark 100 years since the formation of the Women's Royal Naval Service. U3A members are working collaboratively with ORNC staff and former personnel from Greenwich WRNS to develop the final exhibition which is part of the SLP. Maggie Gravelle is leading the project and the exhibition which will run from July to November 2017.

### South West London Network Projects:

**Langdon Down Museum:** A small team, led by Les Stratton, explored the history of Normansfield's buildings. This is the third project with the Museum.

**WWT London Wetland Centre:** This is the first project at the London Wetland Centre. It was led by Sue Leigh and the group investigated group visitation with a view to recommending ways of increasing it and recommending improvements to the Centre's group database.

**Kingston University:** The team, led by Jennifer Anning, was asked to research the history of the buildings on the University's Kingston Hill Campus. This material will be used to create resources to be used in the celebrations of the centenary of the Gipsy Hill Teacher Training College on this site since 1948.

**Holy Trinity Church Roehampton:** Wandsworth U3A researched the names and lives of local men whose names were on the WWI war memorial. The material was written up in a booklet and there was an exhibition in the church.

**History of local shops and shopping in South West London:** A SLP group, led by Sue Leigh, has been researching the history of local shops and shopping. A Study Day will be held in February 2017 at which the group will talk about its findings.

### **South East London Network Project:**

**Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich:** The Painted Hall, closed to the public for conservation purposes, will be photographed by team members: some photography will take place on scaffolding. Other team members will be assisting in developing the visitor experience for when the Painted Hall re-opens in 2019. Roger Mead is leading this project.

### **Projects for 2017**

**Royal Holloway Citizens: 800 years in the making:** This is a 3 year project exploring the history of liberty, protest, rebellion and reform from Magna Carta to the Suffragettes and beyond. It will be focussed on the South East Region as Royal Holloway has HLF funding for this region but the London Region is also contributing. At an initial meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 50 London U3A members attended a briefing. Jennifer Anning is co-ordinating this project, working with Dr. Matthew Smith, the Project Director.

**Pioneers of Women's Housing:** The organisation goes back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but a cache of old records of its activities has only just been discovered. The project will involve interpreting handwritten minutes, sifting through archive material for the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and researching the lives and achievements of the suffragists involved. For further details, get in touch with Jo Walters who will be the SLP Contact for the project.

Jo Walters  
SLP Coordinator for London Region

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