

Lyme Regis u3a Newsletter – December 2020

Talks

We are continuing to deliver presentations online until further notice due to the ongoing Covid situation.

December 2020:

Friday 11 December 11.00 am: **Sandra Lello - Tulips and Pearls: The golden age of Dutch art**

Sandra read English at Oxford and later lectured in English Literature at Hughes Hall Cambridge where she was a Fellow. She also studied drawing and painting in Cambridge. When the family moved to Somerset she taught at Yeovil College as an Associate Lecturer as well studying painting at the Bath School of Art. In London she became Warden of William Goodenough House in Bloomsbury.

Like so many u3a members, Lyme became her retirement home and haven where her husband John helped set up the Lyme u3a. In retirement she and John had a fantastic time sailing round the world lecturing and teaching on cruise liners. This lecture today began as a talk for Saga on the Dutch and Belgian waterways last year. She is indebted to the u3a Table Tennis Group, an enthusiastic and informed group of art buffs, who encouraged her and acted as a sound board for some of the stories.

“Tulips and Pearls” in the golden age of Dutch Art

I would like to explore two questions with you during this talk. Why did many of the Dutch, cautious, respectable, throw away fortunes on a diseased tulip bulb in 1634? And why did Vermeer, who lived through “Tulipmania” as it was called, only paint two pictures a year, including “The Girl with the Pearl Earring,” internationally famous, and yet died a pauper?

I hope to persuade you that the answers lie in need, greed, the pursuit of rarity and the quest for possession and beauty during a turbulent century for northern Europe. The Dutch wars, the periods of plague when households were locked up for weeks at a time (sounds familiar) and the emergence of the Dutch Republic as well as the Dutch East India Company all contributed to an astonishing flowering of art.

Science & Technology: **NO MEETING** - Restarts in January 2021

Links for these talks will be sent out separately. Everyone is welcome to both of these sessions.

January 2021:

Friday 10 January 11.00 am: Ed Standhaft – The Nazis: Ideology and opposition

Friday 17 January 10.00 am: Science and Technology - Richard Doney - Life on Venus - or not?

**** We would be very grateful if all those attending the online sessions would use their real names to register instead of an alias, particularly if they are not using the video setting. It would be nice to know who is attending the sessions. The reason for this request is to encourage more positive and friendly connections. Thank you to all those who have already done this.**

If you are on Zoom you can change your name if you right click on your image, or click on the 3 dots, and pick Rename. On Webex you can go into Set Up on the App and then My Profile and put in your name.

Covid update

See the latest (27 November) guidelines on the national u3a website.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19-advice-on-u3a-activities>

The Outdoor Groups Risk Assessment document is on our local website (see link below).

Membership

Due to the reduced activities linked with the Covid situation and our sound financial position, u3a membership is going to be **free for existing members for 2021**. However, if you do not wish to remain a member please contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Pitts on 01297 561569 or membership@lru3a.org New or lapsed members will pay £12 for single membership, £22 for joint and £8.50 for associates.

Annual report

There will be no AGM this year. Instead we will be sending out a Chair and Treasurer's annual report in a 'Winter News' hopefully some time in December.

For those who attended the AGM last year (2019) we would be grateful if you could look at the minutes of the last AGM on our website Documents page and check whether you think the minutes are accurate. Please contact us if you think they need amending. If you do not contact us we will assume that you consider these minutes to be correct. Thank you.

<https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/documents.html>

We need your help

Speaker Finder: one or two members to find people who are willing to give a presentation online.

We also need a secretary and groups coordinator and still need a volunteer to produce the printed Newsletter i.e. Spring and Autumn News.

Please contact Rachael on chair@lru3a.org or 01297 445575 if you are willing to consider any of these roles.

There have been some problems with e-mails not getting through to me. If I don't respond on this e-mail please contact me by telephone.

LR u3a Website

National u3a have changed their logo. We have altered our new website <https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/> to reflect that, as well as using 'u3a' with lower case rather than the old 'U3A' in all communications.

Trips

We are still planning for The Edinburgh Festival next year and happy to hear from anyone else who might be interested in receiving information.

John Bartholomew: trips@lru3a.org

Group News

To all Group Leaders

An e-mail was sent to the group leaders on 28 October 2020. We want to ensure that the Beacon list we used is accurate. If you did not receive that e-mail entitled 'Request for volunteer' please contact Mary Bohane vice-chair@lru3a.org and she will add you to the Beacon group leader list. Thank you.

If anyone wants to change anything on their section of the website, John Marriage has kindly offered to do that for you. Please contact him direct on webmaster@lru3a.org

Please could all team leaders send a brief update of the status and activity (or not) of your group to Mary Bohane for the 'Winter News'.

Geoff Townson

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Dr Geoff Townson. He was fighting a very rare form of cancer and ultimately lost the battle. This will sadden the many members who attended his yearly Geology groups and trudged over rocks, through mud and up precarious hillsides in all weathers. Geoff ran the geology group for 8 years and gave well over 100 members all the benefits of his vast knowledge of the geology of the Jurassic coast during that time. Indeed many people from other branches joined our U3A branch in order to participate on his courses, composed of lectures and field trips, so he proved to be a great magnet. He was also a talented artist and ran a Drawing group one year in addition to the Geology group.

Geoff was a very private person and said little about his illness. Instead, he participated readily in recent on-line meetings and continued to play table tennis vigorously up to the first lock down. All those who knew him will miss his passion for passing his knowledge on to others and his modest manner.

Penny Rose

Science & Technology

The SciTec Group has continued almost uninterrupted through the virus troubles, though now of course online rather than live. All are welcome, give us a try if you haven't yet.

Traditionally we don't have a December meeting, so look out for more from January, at www.lymeregisu3a.org/scitec

Contacts:

Membership: Graham Pitts - 01297 561569 membership@lru3a.org

Treasurer: Alex Ruck - treasurer@lru3a.org

Groups Coordinator: vacancy

Secretary: vacancy

Webmaster: John Marriage - webmaster@lru3a.org

Vice-Chair: Mary Bohane - 01297 444566 vice-chair@lru3a.org

Chair: Rachael Pope - 01297 445575 chair@lru3a.org

Links:

Lyme Regis u3a website - <https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/>

National u3a website - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

National u3a Newsletter - <https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter>