

Lyme Regis u3a Newsletter – March 2021

Talks

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

March 2021:

Friday 12 March 11.00 am: **Sandra Lello – The three Whistlers of Lyme Regis.**

The combative controversial American painter James McNeill Whistler strode down Broad Street in the autumn of 1895. He would have been quite a sight in shiny dancing shoes and a well cut suit from which dangled a fob. He had already taken the art establishment to court, twice, and had come to Lyme during a personal and artistic crisis. I look forward to sharing his extraordinary story in which Lyme plays a formative part, a part which has been largely neglected by art historians.

The brothers Rex and Lawrence Whistler in the next century dearly wished that they were related to James. I will touch on their lives and art but they merit a talk on their own which could well be another talk in the future.

Sandra Lello

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

Like so many u3a members, Lyme became her home and haven where her husband John helped to set up the Lyme u3a. In retirement they had a fantastic time sailing round the world lecturing and teaching on cruise liners. At home Sandra was for several years Chairman and President of NADFAS for West Dorset which is now called The Arts Society.

Friday 19 March 2021 10.00 am: Science & Technology – **Steve Coles - Vaccines**

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

April 2021:

Friday 9 April 11.00 am: Mark Elliot - East Devon Beavers

Friday 16 April 10.00 am: Science & Technology – East Devon AONB - Grey Long-eared Bats

**** We would be very grateful if all those attending the online sessions would use their real names to register instead of an alias or e.g. 'ipad 4' etc, 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.

Membership

Due to the reduced activities linked with the Covid situation and our sound financial position, u3a membership is 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.

We still need your help!

Yvonne Renouf has volunteered to be our Secretary, and Andrew Lightfoot the Speaker Finder. John Marriage is going to help us with his publishing skills for the seasonal (e.g. Winter) newsletter. Sue Bradley has offered to help with refreshments when we get back to what we used to think of as normal, i.e. meeting in a hall. A very big thank you to them all. Much appreciated.

However, we **still need** a Groups Coordinator. This role entails liaising between the committee and the group leaders, maintaining the u3a Beacon system details for the groups, and keeping the Groups website section up to date. This role could be split between two people.

Please don't be put off by the mention of specific roles. If you would like to help and support this u3a in some way, please make contact.

Contact Rachael on chair@lru3a.org or 01297 445575 if you are willing to help. Thank you in optimism!

Trips

Recognising the unpredictability of the situation we are still planning for The Edinburgh Festival this year (Monday 16 August) and happy to hear from anyone else who might be interested in receiving information.

John Bartholomew: trips@lru3a.org

Covid update

See the national u3a website.

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

Group News

To all Group Leaders

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

If you want a contribution about your group to go into this monthly newsletter please contact Rachael.

Lyme Literature Group

During the third lockdown we have been having regular meetings using Google Duo. We meet once a month to discuss a list of books we have all selected. Each member gives a brief introduction to the book he/she has chosen and then we all join in. We are keen to discuss style and background, socially and in the context of the literary canon.

The two books we have covered so far this year have been: Small Island by Andrea Levy and Death in Venice by Thomas Mann. In March we are looking at My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante. Frances Barter 07986794722 or francesbarter@francesbarter.plus.com

Knitting Team

The group is busy knitting chickens to go over Cadbury crème eggs. A present for all the children at the Lyme Regis St Michael's Primary School and the staff. Rachael Pope

Making Music

The Making Music group are now meeting weekly on Zoom. If anyone would like to join us please contact Rob Walker on 01297 444811

History – NEW GROUP

Second Wednesday in the month, 4.00 pm on Zoom

Co-ordinators: Ed and Audrey Standhaft

The group will seek to expand their knowledge and understanding of history. This will cover world history, British, local, family, biography etc.

We will each present a piece to the group once a year so that there is no burden on a few. In this way we will all be learning new aspects of history and by a variety of approaches. From time to time we may use film. Please contact by email -- aud.standhaft@outlook.com

Contacts:

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

Treasurer: Alex Ruck - treasurer@lru3a.org

Groups Coordinator: still a vacancy!

Secretary: Yvonne Renouf – secretary@lru3a.org

Speaker Finder: Andrew Lightfoot – speakerfinder@lru3a.org

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/>



lyme regis
and surrounding area

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

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