

# Flower painting at the Garden Café

KATIE POON

Hampstead Garden Suburb Art organised a Flower Painting Workshop in the delightful setting of the Flower Station Garden Cafe, Temple Fortune, on Saturday 10 September. 14 people, from children to grannies, had a marvellous day learning to paint flowers with a palette knife. HGS Art member and teacher, Vera Moore, tutored the group and each student went home with a painting.

Comments about the experience included, "Thank you so much for a beautiful day. It was wonderful meeting such inspiring people and creating something," and "So friendly with a wonderful cafe." If you would like to hear about future painting workshops please contact Valerie on 020 8458 4508 or email v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.



Photos: Katie Poon



## HGS U3A Topical Talks

MYKE JACOBS

HGS U3A has run a series of nine monthly Topical Talks on Zoom for its members and their guests this year. Speakers have been drawn from many different spheres – medicine, the arts and literature have featured strongly as well as recent history in diverse forms. Many of the speakers live in the Suburb, or very nearby, and others have lived in the area previously, while some spoke from other places in the UK and Europe.

The series was launched with Dame Jenni Murray, radio and TV broadcaster, journalist and author speaking about her personal history and research into society's reactions to the obese and over-

weight as contained in her book 'Fat Cow, Fat Chance!'. John Plews, joint artistic director of the theatre Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate Village, followed with a highly entertaining personal history 'From Windsor to Highgate, via the OE2 – a theatrical life' – the only hybrid meeting, with John speaking from the auditorium of his theatre in front of a live audience. Spanish art expert, tour guide and lecturer Dr Jacqueline Cockburn spoke about 'Picasso's Muses' with many well-chosen works from this great artist.

Dame Esther Rantzen spoke from her home in the New Forest with the title 'That's Life!', a spontaneous talk about many things which were concerning her just then including the plight of

abused children and separately the plight of old people, particularly during the pandemic, with many insights from her personal experiences. Dr Tim Lockie, a consultant interventional cardiologist and a clinical lead at the Royal Free Hospital, talked about the experience of the NHS and, in particular, that hospital during the pandemic and also about heart health in the elderly in the current era.

The summer was heralded in a more light-hearted way by Leslie Cavendish, 'Hairdresser to the Beatles' who spoke from France about how he became the barber and stylist to the members of that famous group (and many other pop stars) via Paul McCartney's then girlfriend Jane Asher, and his adventures with them over many years in a talk entitled 'There are Places I Remember'.

Autumn took us back to medicine when Professor Lynne Cox, a microbiologist and gerontologist from Oriel College, Oxford, spoke about 'Preparing for Ageing Well' about her research aimed at getting people to live in good health well into their old age. Amanda Weinberg then took us to Tuscany to tell us how she completely by chance found the delightful mountain-top town of Pitigliano and how she came to write her first published novel – in the form of a love story 'The Tears of Monterini' – drawing on the stories she learned about the Jews who lived in the town when, first, the fascists and, then, the Nazis took over Italy and how the local Catholic townspeople

sheltered them and looked after them without a single loss until the end of WW2. These two talks were recorded with the permission of the speakers and links to the recordings of the September and October talks can also be found at the website address below.

Finally, Anne-Marie O'Connor, a journalist on leading newspapers and periodicals and author of 'The Lady in Gold', a native New Yorker who found her way to live in North London via Jerusalem and other cities, spoke about how she discovered the story of Gustav

Klimt's portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer and how it found its way from the wealthy Jewish family of the subject into the hands of the Nazis and the Austrian government and how it was rescued by a heart-rending ten year legal battle in the USA and ultimately returned to the family of its original owners.

HGS U3A Topical Talks will return to in person meetings in the Free Church, Central Square from January 2023, so please look out for information about these at [hgsu3a.uk/events](http://hgsu3a.uk/events).

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