

## Chairman's Update February 2023

**u3a Epsom & Ewell**

<https://epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/>

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*LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

Welcome to our February newsletter.

For January we had a record audience who enjoyed a morning in the company of Brian Murphy and Linda Regan. 187 members!!!

As we start the new year some more of you have started to contribute to the newsletter. You don't have to be the group leader; any member can tell us what your group have been doing.

We also have some news about changes to Bourne Hall and some exciting new ideas for the New Year for members to enjoy.

In a change to the previous format of organising two or three new members' coffee mornings each year, we will have an information desk in the foyer of Bourne Hall on the same day as our monthly meeting, and this will be manned until about 1pm depending on demand.

Read on to see what our members have been up to in January and what's coming soon.



At the beginning of March Peta will be sending out her usual email to members regarding subscription renewals which are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>

With the continuing postal delays, if possible, please renew by using bank transfer to

**Epsom & Ewell u3a**

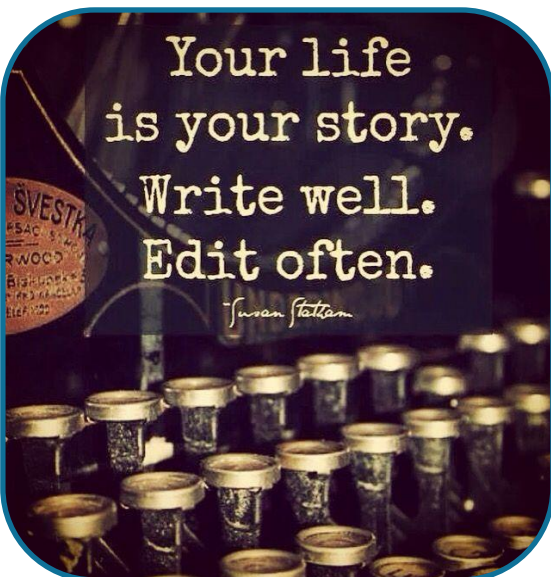
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**Account 00495923**

This account number can also be used for trips and events and theatre visits and is our preferred method of payment please.

Sue Bartram sent us an update on her Scrabble Group

I am the leader of Scrabble for Pleasure. In November we took up the offer to hold our meetings at the Birchgrove Development in Ewell. This has worked very well for us all. Gary and the staff have made us very welcome and we feel happy going there. We have attracted new members from the site and we have all integrated well. The facilities are excellent, with the bonus of plenty of parking.



### Life Writing Group

Our monthly meetings of 2-hour duration are held at the Ewell Court Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

We would welcome any new members who are interested in writing their life story and gaining ideas from other current group members on how they create their biography.

Contact Kevin Lally via the website Interest Group page – Writing your life story.

The older members of our U3A have lost two special friends in the last few days. Namely Ken Staines and Elizabeth Johnston. Both kind, caring people who would offer help whenever needed. Both served on the Committee - Ken as the Speakers organizer 2006-2009 in addition to running the Chess Club, whilst Elizabeth was the Social Secretary from 1997 - 2006.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Pat, Ken's devoted wife, whilst Elizabeth will be greatly missed by her daughter and family.

I have been hearing memories of Elizabeth from a number of friends. Some recalled the outings to places of interest all around the neighbouring counties. Probably the most outstanding one was to Bletchley Park when she had so much demand for the outing that she had 3 coaches booked - one developed a fault and had to be replaced at Ewell - but still the outing was a great success and an unforgettable experience.

Then she had another good idea. Why not have a week's holiday together?

So, she started to run annual holidays to the Continent. I think part of the success of these holidays was due to her close co-operation with Epsom Coaches.

The first was to France, with others to other venues on the Continent. The one that so many people still recall was to Rouen where we learnt a lot about Saint Joan, but the memory that has stayed in our minds was a challenge that she set up for us. Elizabeth arranged for us to visit a Chateau and enjoy a multiple course lunch; this went on long after the normal 3 or 4 course meal as there always seemed to be another one being brought forward. None of us could remember how many we actually ate but do remember trying to walk off the after effects in the grounds afterwards. It was a wonderful meal but perhaps not the wisest thing we ever did. Her holidays set a very high standard and her successors have managed to keep that standard going. She was an inspiration to all her friends and will be sadly missed.

### Pat Jenkins

Marion Smith, who was Elizabeth's immediate Successor, commented that Elizabeth encouraged her to always make people happy.



As members are aware our regular Monday morning meeting is held at Bourne Hall on the first Monday of most months (except May). This iconic building is a local landmark but sadly has not been loved in recent years.

However, that is changing. They have a new management team who invited some of our committee to a meeting to discuss how we could work together as a community to revive this venue. They have already started to make some changes and the reception area now looks much more welcoming.

They are also relaunching their café in the spring with a new and varied offering and are open to our members reserving a table in the café area for any of our groups to meet. This is similar in manner to Roots café in Epsom and All Things Nice in the village with the proviso that members patronise the café.

They have asked for our suggestions so please let us know and we will update their new team. [epsomchair1@gmail.com](mailto:epsomchair1@gmail.com)





## Gertie's Gardeners

Gertie's gardeners are starting to plan for 2023.

We are commencing a joint venture with the residents of the Birchgrove development at Lower Mill in Ewell Village. They have a beautiful 16x8 greenhouse that is just waiting for us to start using it.

Our committee have agreed a small budget which will buy our first lot of compost and seeds in order that we can get this community initiative started. We hope to grow our own plants to use in Gertie's Garden and also in our usual raised flower bed in Rosebery Park, all in aid of the Borough in Bloom competition which both Epsom and Ewell take part in. It's also excellent publicity for our u3a.

We're hoping we may have some green fingered members who would like to look after seedlings, propagate fuchsia cuttings etc. that we can then use in Gertie's Garden to add some colour for when the bulbs have finished flowering.

If you would like to get involved with pottering in the greenhouse then please contact Tony or Fiona via the groups page on the website.





## Garden Wanderers

The Garden Wanderers have a full programme ready for 2023, starting with a mostly indoor trip to Wisley Gardens because the weather was only good for swimming, as you can see! We saw the exhibition at Hilltop and met with the garden advisory staff, who undertook a question-and-answer session on all things puzzling us presently. If anyone wonders what there is to see in Gardens in January, then do please look at our pictures of flowers and fruits in all their diversity which we saw on this visit.

Our second visit of the month was to Morden Hall Gardens, where the National Trust staff organised a birdwatching walk and exploration of the wetland and boardwalk. We saw but failed to photograph many birds including a stunning kingfisher.





## Exploring London 8

For January Gail led us on a walk starting at Victoria and catching the bus to the Royal Chelsea Hospital. Gail had arranged for us to visit the Ranelagh Gardens. Since Covid the gates to the grounds have been closed to protect the residents who are obviously vulnerable but they booked us in and let us wander down to the gardens.

After that we wandered along and crossed Chelsea bridge and had a stroll through Battersea Park gardens before heading back across the Albert Bridge towards our lunch stop.



## Beer tasting January 2023

You will see by the photo the beer group started 2023 as it means to go on by drinking berry flavoured beers and using the pub's gong to call the meeting to order to score our tastings.



COME

AND

MEET

EACH

OTHER

## Cameo Club

This is an idea that has recently been started by Washington Village u3a and we'd like to get a group started at Epsom & Ewell u3a if members are interested.

The group aims to get members to organise their own get-togethers (wherever and whenever they like). It may be that you would like to go to an exhibition but would rather not go alone, maybe there's a concert that you would like to attend with friends. How about trying out a new restaurant, maybe some of our members would like to play darts or snooker now and again. The options are infinite.

Our idea is to set up a table in the foyer at our regular Bourne Hall meeting for members to register an event that they would like to attend. We can add that to our interest board and any other interested member can add their name and we will then put you in touch with each other. The committee will NOT be organizing events, the idea is to put members in touch with each other in order that they can make friends and enjoy events together rather than going alone or even not going at all because they don't want to go alone.

We know of at least a couple of members who would rather car share to an event than go on public transport or on a coach - why not share the cost of the petrol and go with a friend.

The possibilities are endless, give us your thoughts and ideas.

It's always more fun to share a day out with friends.



# Epsom & Ewell Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a

**2.00-4.30pm Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**at All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY**

**Valentine's Day Special**

## **The Artful Dodgers**

**Uncle Geoff's Comedy Band**

**Geoff Hiscott- piano; leader Mike Henry- trumpet**

**Mike Innes- trombone; Mark Aston- reeds**

**Terry Davis- double bass; TBA-banjo/guitar**

**Graham Collicott- percussion**

***free parking & tea break refreshments***

***£16 at the door or £15 if you show your u3a membership card***

***Please pre-pay if possible, using the usual bank details***

**All Saints Community Hall, Fulford Road, West Ewell, Epsom KT19 9QY**

**Frequent buses 418 & 467 from Epsom Clock Tower to West Ewell**

***Enquiries – phone or text to 0791 3655 458 or use email below***

**Non-U3A members are welcome for two trial meetings. Join our email list for u3aJazz news updates at [m.stevensatlap@gmail.com](mailto:m.stevensatlap@gmail.com)**

**Doors open from 1.45pm - Music from 2 to 4.30 pm**

### **Future concerts**

**14 March - Windy City Weatherbirds (Chicago style jazz)**

**11 April Frog & Henry from New Orleans**

***7-piece touring band led by reeds maestro Ewan Bleach***

For January, 35 Church Crawlers visited St George's Church in Esher. This church was requested by Paul and by sheer fluke we visited on his birthday. How about that for a u3a treat.

One of our members, John, put me in touch with Stephen Chater and three of his colleagues from the Friends of St George's who very kindly offered us a guided tour. This church is looked after by the Church Conservation Trust so is not as such a working church but survives by raising donations which our members were happy to contribute to.

St George's is only a small church but has some very unusual features which include a triple-decker pulpit, a north aisle with ship's spar pillars, a monument to Princess Charlotte and the Newcastle Pew, which is a chamber pew with Corinthian columns used by Princess Charlotte and her husband Prince Leopold as well as the future Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

It's a divided pew, commoners one side and Royalty the other and apparently the commoners weren't permitted to be there at the same time as the Royalty!!!



The Newcastle Pew  
Note the dividing screen

## Exploring Architecture

The Architecture group went to the City of London to look at London planning, old and new. We started at the Guildhall to view the Heritage Exhibition which included the 1561 Agas Map of London, including the old St Paul's which some of the team are pointing out on the picture. We then went to New London Architecture Model of the City of London and city planner's interactive tool to discuss the protected sight lines of the current St Paul's only to find that we were denied access due to an event. Not defeated, we instead visited the Cheesegrater and the rooftop of 120 Fenchurch Street for a rooftop view of city planning and the ultra-modern tall buildings still being placed in impossibly small areas cheek by jowl.





Exploring London 15 - Our newest Exploring London group went for their first walk and Chris submitted this.

I led the Group, we met at Waterloo, took the bus to High Holborn. The walk started at Ely Court and ended at Lincoln's Inn. There were a couple of very old Churches on the walk which were quite interesting, but we didn't want it to be like a Church Crawlers visit (at least 5 of us are members) so just looked and kept it short. Had coffee in the Duke of York pub half way, and finished in Weatherspoons for lunch.

We also ran into a group from a u3a in Essex enjoying Lincoln's Inn.



### Random U3A Members Group

The hybrid group of random U3A members went out, well wrapped up, to the return of Canary Wharf Winter Lights. This had become a regular feature before covid, we had missed our regular night trying to use frosty fingers to take photos. It was lucky that we went as the event opened, so we had most of the installations almost to ourselves, which encouraged us to take some quite unusual photos.



## Committee changes.

Following our AGM in October our group coordinators Jenny and Brenda finished their term of office. Currently Helen is our new groups coordinator with assistance from other committee members.

Please address all group enquiries either directly to the group leaders via the contact form on their group page on the new website, or for general enquiries contact Helen [groupsu3aepsom@gmail.com](mailto:groupsu3aepsom@gmail.com)

Exploring London 6 has recently restarted with Mala now leading, ably assisted by Joan

Our first walk took place on Friday 13 January. It started from Waterloo Station to the famous “Lambeth walk.” It was on a bitterly cold morning but we all enjoyed it as we walked through the arches of Leake Street known as the “Graffiti Art”. We stopped at the London Necropolis station, a unique railway station which used to carry London’s dead and their mourners 25 miles out to Brookwood cemetery in Surrey. We also stopped at various places, namely St Thomas Hospital, the National COVID Memorial Wall, Lambeth Palace, Royal Doulton Pottery, etc.

Below are some feed-back from new members and a group picture ....

‘Just to say many thanks for today’s walk and all the organisation you put in’

‘It was very good and I look forward to joining you again next month’

‘Many thanks’ Mala and Joan. I really enjoyed the walk and appreciated all the research you did to provide us with such interesting facts. Looking forward to future walks’





# THE CHANGING FACE OF VENICE

SARAH QUILL



Bourne Hall Monday 6 February at 10:30

In our imagination Venice is unchanging, but the modern world continues to leave its mark. In the nineteenth century, alterations were made to many buildings in Venice; and the city suffered bombing during the 1849 siege following the uprising against Austrian occupation. Sarah will describe some of the changes that have taken place in the lagoon city. Sarah is a trustee of the Venice in Peril Fund and has an extensive photo archive of Venetian architecture, sculpture and daily life ..... a timely reminder of the importance of protecting Venice's fragile environment.

# JOURNALISM - MY PART IN ITS SURVIVAL

STUART FLITTON

Bourne Hall Monday 6 March at 10:30

Journalism is often called "the first draft of history" and Stuart has been lucky enough to have had a front seat to some of the most important events in the past 40 years. From the dramatic changes in South Africa over the past decades, to editing breaking news and interviewing the likes of Sir Richard Branson, Salman Rushdie, Donald Sinden, Frederick Forsyth and David Steele ..... Stuart will share with you those nuggets of facts that make people, places and events ever-fascinating including how a newspaper is put together and how this has changed over the years.





## Cribbage Update



Ann Mather runs our Tuesday Cribbage group at Lower Mill in Ewell Village and has space for more members for her group. Please contact her via the groups page.

Brian Collis runs our Thursday Cribbage group at Epsom Bowling club. Please check their page in our group listing for dates and to contact Brian if you are interested.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about what's happening and that some of you may be interested in our new Cameo Club.

We will also start to have a new members' table in the foyer of Bourne Hall each month. Come and have a chat.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony

## **OUR MONTHLY BOURNE HALL MEETING**

You no longer need to book your seat as we will have a list of regular attendees on the registration desk.

However, you do still need your membership card and more importantly your cup!!!!

