

Chairman's Update March 2023

u3a Epsom & Ewell

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

For February 200 members joined us for a fascinating talk all about Venice. WOW!

I think this proves that Clive is definitely choosing some excellent speakers.

Please read the important Bourne Hall update on Page 2.

As we start our annual renewal process, we are requesting that, if possible, members pay by bank transfer.

However, the option for cheques and cash is also available.

Peta will be on check-in as usual at the March meeting if any members would like to drop their renewal subscription in the box on the desk. (Cheque or cash – please quote membership number)



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

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

Epsom & Ewell u3a

Sort code 30 93 08

Account 00495923

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

****BOURNE HALL - IMPORTANT UPDATE****

As members who attend on a regular basis will have noticed, the number attending is steadily climbing month by month. This has meant that we need to make a few adjustments in order for members to stay safe and continue to enjoy the events.

The hall does have a seating capacity of 300 so we do not as yet feel the need to bring in a booking system.

However, from March 2023 onwards:

Peta will have assistance on the check-in desk to help manage the queue and hopefully speed up arrivals.

The members' information desk and the trips and events group will be located upstairs in the main foyer area along with the group coordinator and new members' coordinators.

The tea and coffee station will be at the bottom of the stairs before you enter the hall. This will enable us to have more seating in the hall.

The front row on the left-hand side facing the stage will be reserved for members with mobility issues as per advice from the Bourne Hall management team.

*****We do need, if possible, at least two hall stewards to assist members when entering the hall and also another helper on the tea and coffee station to help Sue and Marion by topping up the milk and biscuits supplies*****

Please register on the Really Useful Group if you can help.

Friday February 17th saw the first of the 2023 Study Days from the Surrey u3a Network. This was about Amelia B Edwards: The Great Forgotten Victorian Egyptologist by Clive Barham Carter. It was attended by about 60 people. However, the hall is able to hold 100 plus so plenty of room for more. The numbers attending has reduced since Covid.

If you have never been to a study day or have stopped coming since Covid, why not make this year the time to attend a StudyDay of your choice. Please check on our website – Surrey Network Study Days for full details of upcoming events.

Study days are open to all U3A members and guests are very welcome. They are held in the Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon; starting at 9.30am with registration and running from 10am to 4pm. We now offer hybrid events so that members who wish can view the study days from home. The fees from February 2023, including coffee/tea and biscuits, are £12 for members, with the same fee for virtual attendance, and £15 for guests. Attendees should bring a packed lunch and prior booking is necessary.

We now have a full programme for the coming months on a variety of subjects, so something for everyone.



For February the trips and events group took 2 coachloads of members for another memorable day out, this month to the Sandhurst Academy. Sandhurst grand entrance is instantly recognized around the world. The sign on the gates as you enter proclaims that this is the home of the British Army Office. Today the academy is enriched by the presence of international cadets. The 96 members that went on this trip agreed that the history was amazing and they were very pleased to have been given the opportunity to visit.



CONGRATULATIONS

This month our Epsom & Ewell u3a Trips and Events group have won yet another award.

This time: The London for Groups Organising Member of the Year

**Well done Irene Moore – Group Leader and
Hannah Dowling – Group Administrator**



Three new plants planted.



Crocus are starting to flower



Hopefully our wild flower area

Gertie's Gardeners

We have been busy clearing the last of the winter debris and starting to plan.

We've cleared an area to the left of the garden and will hopefully make that into a wildflower area.

We have lavender on order and some perennial geraniums that will, we hope, look lovely in the narrow beds between the benches where people can sit and enjoy the sunshine.

The council have supplied some more pallets so we shall gradually increase our composting facility and install a bug hotel.

We are also meeting with the residents of Birchgrove, Lower Mill, to plan the best way to utilise their beautiful greenhouse.



Shrubs tidied



Tidying done



A bit of hard pruning!!!

During February we received the sad news that our most senior member, Joan Deering, had sadly passed away. Her friend Sheila Walker shared these words.

Joan Deering was a lovely lady who despite being blind had led a very full and adventurous life. To celebrate her 101st birthday she was driven round Brands Hatch circuit at well over 100 miles an hour, and she had flown on Concorde. Joan had been a member of Epsom & Ewell u3a for many years. She was one of the original members of the Local and Social History Group (1) and in the past, the group had held their meetings at her house. Sadly, for the last few years she had been confined to her home with a live-in carer. I used to visit Joan on a regular basis to keep her up to date with the meetings, she was very alert and aware of the current world situations, thanks to listening to Talking Newspapers. Joan was very involved with the United Reformed Church and was a member of the Trefoil Guild (Girl Guiding). Joan will be greatly missed by her family and also by the many people who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Joan's funeral will be held on Monday, 13 March at 5.00pm at Randalls Park Crematorium. I am sure that any members who would like to attend will be made most welcome by her family.

Sheila Walker
Local and Social History Group Leader



Group Leaders Lunch

We will be hosting our group leaders' lunch on Thursday April 6th. If you are a group leader you should have already received a save the date and will shortly be receiving further details regarding the format of the day and the menu.

This is our thank you to our group leaders for all their hard work.

COME

AND

MEET

EACH

OTHER

Cameo Club Connections

In February we launched our CAMEO club and we had no way of knowing if members would like the idea. It's always difficult to get something new started. We are therefore really pleased to say that during February we have made five cameo connections.

So far, we have two members going together to the Van Gogh exhibition in London and three members going swimming at the Olympic pool in London.



Here's how it works:

A member has an idea and fills in the form on the cameo page of the website. The idea will then be put on the cameo page for others to see. If you are interested in the idea there is a response form on the cameo page to submit.

We will then contact the member who had the original idea and ask if we can share their contact details with the interested member. If they agree we will then use our Beacon database system and email both the original member and the responder and put them in contact with each other. Simple.

This is what we are calling CAMEO connections.

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

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

Exploring Architecture

Our brave group went to South Kensington at half-term this month and took a trip to the V & A. We were ably led by one of our members to her favourite museum to see the building as it has developed from first inception. Taking in the Cast Courts exhibition, both outside and the fascinating inside constructions, was a quite unique view of the museum. We also tagged along with several V&A guided tours when they crossed over with us and covered the building details that we were interested in. The café at the V&A is possibly the best exhibition of Victorian decorative styles, and a very stylish place for a break.



Update for our Exploring London groups meeting at Waterloo

The new public toilets have now opened and can be found in the Sidings downstairs approx. 50 yards along on the left-hand side.



Epsom & Ewell Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a

2.00-4.30pm Tuesday 14 March 2023

at All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY

Chicago style jazz

The Windy City Weatherbirds

Magnus Pickering - trumpet/vocals

Joe Pickering - clarinet/saxophone

Harrison Dolphin - Guitar

Chris Hyde-Harrison - Bass

Adam Merrell – drums

free parking & tea break refreshments

£17 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 see email below

Non-U3A members are welcome for two trial meetings.

Join our email list for u3aJazz news updates at m.stevensatlap@gmail.com

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

Exploring London 8 - This month John led our walk and he decided that it was time we explored the new Elizabeth Line and its surrounding area.

We boarded at Paddington and hopped on and off at various stations along the route in order to enjoy coffee at Hanover Square. We then carried on to Soho Square. In the middle of London's Soho Square, which dates back to 1681, stands a half-timbered gardener's hut. It looks like a Tudor construction, something that might have been built four or five hundred years ago, but was actually built in 1925 as an access point to the electricity substation beneath it. It's now used by the gardeners to store tools.



Although the trains on the Elizabeth line are 200 metres (660 feet) long, platforms at the new stations in the central core are built to enable 240-metre-long (790 ft) trains in case of possible future need.

Online learning events:

The Third Age Trust organize a series of online learning events, that are free for members to attend. Coming up in March they have the following:

1st Climate Change

2nd Introduction to Pilates

6th Brain, Pain and Anaesthetics

8th Genetic Genealogy

9th For the Love of a Woman

10th Climate Crisis and Solutions

13th Gently Active Yoga

(3 week course)

16th Cryptic Crosswords for beginners (6 week course)

17th Life on the Edge with Jim Al Khalili

20th Exploring World Faiths Groups

23rd The Joe Lyons story

24th The Future of Ageing

They also add more during the month so keep an eye on the website Online Learning Events page for updates.

Jill Ryan has tickets available for the Matinée performance of Bonnie & Clyde on Wednesday 17 May 2023
Garrick Theatre,
Charing Cross Road

Tickets are £36.00 per person

FRANCES MAYLI McCANN JORDAN LUKE GAGE

BONNIE & CLYDE

Save the date

Don't forget our annual open house event will be on Monday 15th May from 10.00am – 12 noon

This is your chance to speak to group leaders and committee members about all things U3A

Exploring London Group 13

Our February walk started at Parsons Green station; an area unfamiliar to most of the group.

The early C18 hamlet developed from private lands and farms in the late C18 and C19. Unusually for the time the greatest benefactor of the area was Charlotte Sullivan, who was concerned for the people of Fulham. To this day South Park remains as a public park and we visited the newly completed community centre for a welcome coffee break.

Part of our walk traced the walls of the Hurlingham club, formed in the 1860s. Unfortunately, we were not considered suitable to enter the grounds and had to content ourselves with seeing the lake from the large brick and wrought iron entranceway.

As we walked towards Putney Bridge station our walk leader pointed out a WWII pill-box, high above us on the trackside.

The photo is taken outside Fulham House, once used as a school attended in the 1860s by Avis Leonowens, daughter of Anna Leonowens, the Victorian governess in 'The King & I'.

Finally, we visited the remaining Grade II kiln of the Fulham pottery, which mostly produced salt glaze pottery.



Garden Visiting Group

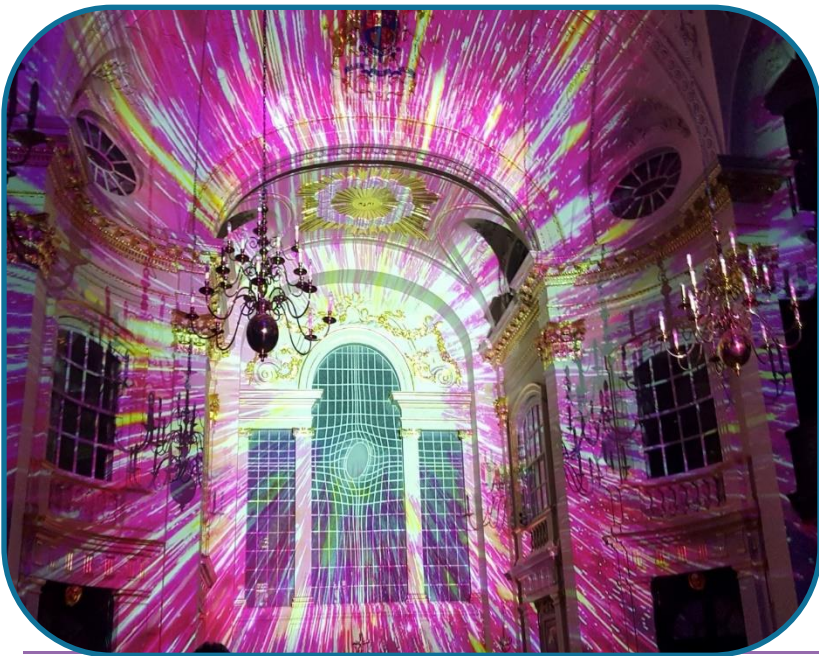
The garden wanderers went on manoeuvres to the Hillier Gardens in Hampshire to visit one of the largest winter gardens in Europe. Whilst very early in the season, the garden had much to see and smell, and we were blessed with a bright and not overly cold day.

Additionally, the group went to RHS Wisley gardens for an excellent in-depth guided tour of the new laboratories, library & seed-saving departments at the Hilltop building. Following this we visited the new & impressive houseplant exhibition in the glasshouse. Since it was drizzling, we took the assistance buggy between the buildings, honestly, we were just feeling cold, not old!



Random U3A Members

The hybrid of various u3a groups went to the Luxmuralis Science Sound & Light Show at St Martins in the Fields, which was the first time that the church had hosted a light show that took over the whole building, including the outside walls. It was a stunning trip and pictures and videos flowed via our WhatsApp groups, resulting in those that could not make the booked date popping along to see it later before it closed.



Church Crawlers

For February, 16 members enjoyed a re-visit to St Martin of Tours in Epsom. This church has many fascinating things to see including the vinegar bible and a chest that according to local history actually came from the Spanish Armada – via Nonsuch Palace.

Walking with your Bus Pass group 4

In January we were able to complete our rained off December walk from Petersham into Richmond along the riverside. The towpath was dry although showed signs of flooding from days before. Towards the end of the walk, we passed the remaining buildings of Richmond Palace.

If you walk that way into Richmond, make sure you spot the 'giraffe' in the garden of the town houses.

February, we met in Nonsuch Park at the café before admiring the snowdrops in the woodland garden. We then walked down to the site of the palace, keeping up the 'royal' theme. On our return we strolled through the formal gardens and unexpectedly learned about traditional spoon and spurtle carving, Polish Romani style, from the park groundsman.



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.



IRANIAN EMBASSY SIEGE - THE SAS IN ACTION
GUY BARTLETT

Bourne Hall Monday 3 April at 10:30



“Operation Nimrod”, broadcast live on 5 May 1980, was viewed by millions of people. The BBC and ITV interrupted their programmes to show the end of the siege. Discover how it almost went tragically wrong and how the Special Air Services became one of the elite Special Forces. Join Guy Bartlett, an aviation historian and trainer, and learn the inside story of what lead up to the raid.

Gertie's gardeners

As we start sowing seeds for our 2023 planting, we need more help with assisting in the greenhouse at Lower Mill in Ewell village. This is a joint project between the residents and our u3a.

If you are a keen gardener but have downsized and no longer have your own garden then maybe you could spare a few hours pottering in the greenhouse.

We would like to grow our own bedding plants for the Rosebery Park flower bed this year and some plants for Gertie's Garden, and the greenhouse is the ideal place.

Speak to Tony if you can help

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

Don't forget to renew your membership and keep enjoying life with the u3a.

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!!!!

