

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our April newsletter.

In April the committee will be hosting our Group Leaders Lunch. This is our thank you to our group leaders for all their hard work in keeping our members engaged and amused.

It's also an opportunity to share with our group leaders our plans for our Open House showcase on May 15th.

We hope as many group leaders as possible will take part, even if their own group is full, maybe they can encourage someone else to start a new group.

It's important to realise that leading a group does not have to be daunting, it's just a regular meet up with friends with the added bonus of learning something new or sharing an activity that interests you. Hopefully you will see on the following pages how group leaders have shared group meetings and outings etc.



At the beginning of March I sent an email to our entire membership regarding the content of our newsletter which someone had reported as getting stale.

Your response as members has been amazing. Thank you to all the group leaders and members who sent me reports and pictures, it is very much appreciated and hopefully you will enjoy this packed edition.

Thank You

Sue Skelton

Publicity admin

Wine tasting 2 meet monthly and thoroughly enjoy our meetings.

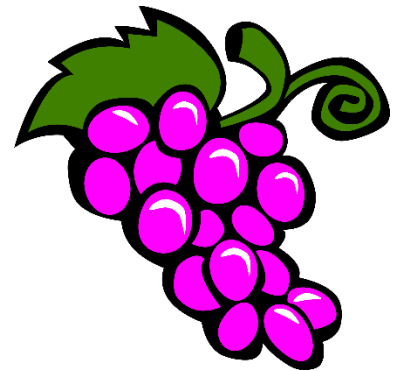
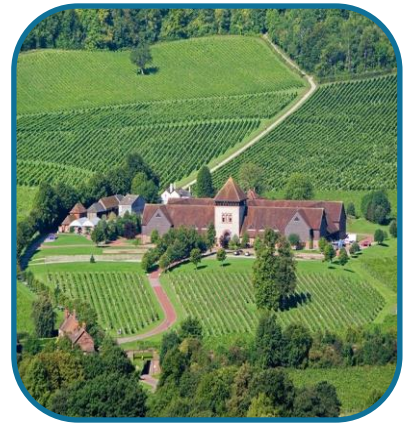
At our last monthly meeting we tasted a local white wine – Surrey Gold from Denbies in Dorking.

The majority of the group really liked it.

We also compared two New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs from the same ‘stable’ but two different vintages, 2018 and 2022. This split the group totally with half preferring the older, and half the younger. A very surprising result we thought.

Reds are universally popular with our group, we tasted two Aussie reds and one French.

The overall winner for the evening was Jarman Shiraz from the Clare Valley, Australia. It is currently available at Asda for £15.



Walking group 3

On a rather foggy morning we met at Hurst Park at Molesey for a walk to Molesey boat house for our coffee stop! The fog cleared and the hardy souls amongst us even sat on the balcony in the sunshine.

Our walk for March is across Epsom Common, the weather was looking to be sunny but that seems to have changed! At least the trees are starting to look greener!

Our wine appreciation group at our Christmas meeting – Mungo Chapman

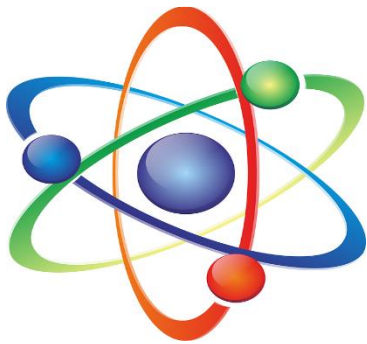
Following your request for some details of U3A group activities, I am sending you a picture we took at the Christmas meeting of our U3A wine appreciation group (the one that meets in the afternoon of the last Friday of every month). The picture is a little hazy but put that down to tasting a lot of fizzy wines in a special, very jolly, Christmas meeting.

Everyone contributed to the food and we had a great party and even learned a little about Champagne and very acceptable alternatives for the festive season.

This new year we have already tasted wines from around the world made from the Merlot grape, and we discovered some excellent wines from Portugal at our February meeting. We are a very lively group and, once we have warmed up and tried a couple of bottles, we enjoy chatting amongst ourselves for a couple of hours.

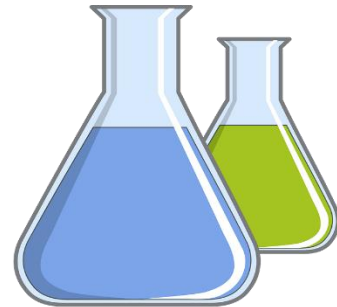
As we meet in my dining room, we only have room for eight members although at the moment there are nine of us. In the summer when the weather is nice, we meet in our garden tasting suitable wines for the time of the year: last summer we tasted some great rosés and whites from New Zealand.





SCIENCE GROUP

Jenny Powell



The Science group which combines with Sutton and Banstead u3as have not met since before the pandemic. Derek Yeo and Jenny Powell are thinking about restarting this group.

The hope is to initially hold 6 meetings a year in alternate months in Sutton; possibly at the Civic Centre which is convenient for both the 470 bus from Epsom and Sutton station. They are looking for a hall where there is no set up and clearing away the chairs. In addition, Derek and Jenny will be looking for further assistance with organising the group.

The talks encompass all aspects of science including engineering, physics, chemistry, astronomy, medical, geology, the environment etc.

There will be a cost for hall hire and speakers, although for the latter it is often travel expenses. As before there will be an annual subscription but we would be starting with some money remaining from previous sessions.

Previous members have been contacted but if any other members are interested in this group, could they please contact Jenny Powell by email (alanjennypowell@ntlworld.com)

If there is sufficient interest then the preparations for a restart will continue.

This month saw the official launch of Gertie's Greenhouse at Lower Mill.



Clive Woodbridge the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell officially opened the greenhouse and Gary laid on bubbly to toast the event followed by tea and cake in the lounge. We planted some seeds which the residents of Lower Mill will nurture, with help from some of Gertie's gardeners who will pop in regularly to check on progress. We plan to make Gertie's Garden in Ewell Village and our flower bed in Rosebery Park Epsom look absolutely stunning and a mass of colour this year.

If you would like to help in the greenhouse or the planting in the summer, please let us know by registering on the Gertie's Gardeners' group.

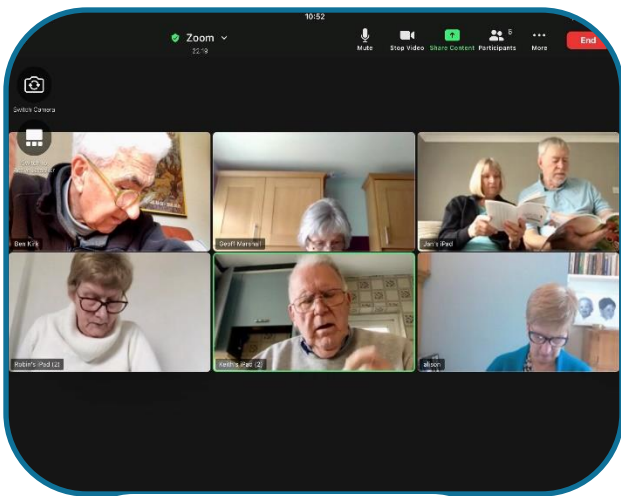


Spanish with Pat & Keith Stebbens

One of our Spanish learning group has prepared a lovely little poem describing the challenging work to try to learn a new language.

Just a small segment has been translated into Spanish to illustrate the difficulty we have!

Also, a screen shot at this week's Zoom meeting.



Learning Spanish

Walk before you run

(Camina antes de correr)

I wanted to learn a language

(Quería aprender un idioma)

So Spanish was the one.

I thought it would be easy

And also, a lot of fun

But it's not an easy language

It can really be a pain

When you think that you have learnt a word

And that word is changed again.

It is slowly getting easier

Because I practice every day

A lot more on a Tuesday

But can read more than I can say

Working with friends each Tuesday

Has made this learning fun

And now at last, I realise

That you must walk before you run!

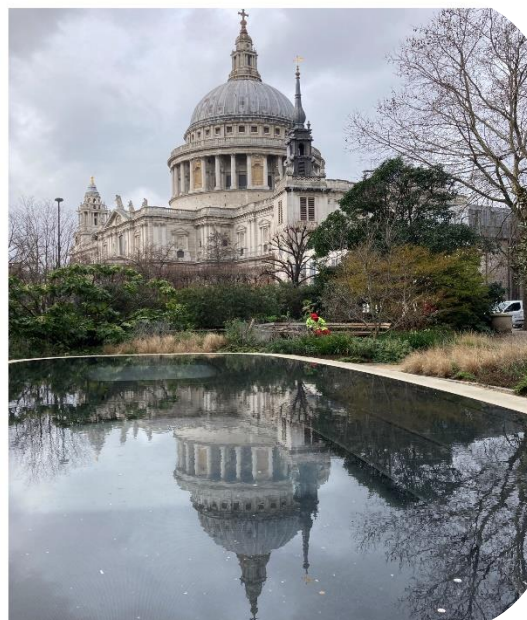
Exploring London11 started their walk at Tower Hill this month. After hearing about how the sundial -The Equator of Time - came to be erected there, we looked at the historic timeline of events displayed and attempted to find Maggie Thatcher and her handbag amongst the drawings! Quite why she ended up between the Peasant's revolt and the Black Death isn't explained!

The Tower itself provided another amusing anecdote - when the Tower caught fire in 1841 'The London Fire Brigade Establishment' was called, however the Officer in charge of the Tower gave orders that no one was to be admitted thus preventing loss of life. In true military fashion this order was carried out to the letter, and the Brigade were not allowed in either, allowing the fire to feast at its leisure on the enormous meal fate had provided!

After looking at the memorials in Trinity Square Gardens, we were allowed inside the former Port of London Authority building, now a luxury hotel, to see the sign in the lobby which denoted the boundary where you had to stop to be safe from an arrow's flight from the Tower.

There were many other interesting facts learned on the walk which ended up with lunch at The Sugar Loaf in Cannon Street.

The photos were taken as we made our way to the bus stop to return to Waterloo. Rosemary Rutt/Jan Caruth



Epsom & Ewell Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

2 pm Tuesday 11 April 2023

All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY

The Frog & Henry Big Band

Leader - Reeds maestro Ewan Bleach

Frog and Henry was formed in New Orleans in 2013, as a street performing group. The original formation was a 7-8 piece with cello, violin(s), banjo(s), guitar, tuba, percussion, harmonica, jugs, and vocals. The repertoire used to lean more toward string band, ragtime, and jug band, with a few jazz tunes. As more jazz festivals and swing dance offered themselves, then the repertoire was adapted for those settings and audiences.

Free parking & tea break refreshments

£17 at the door or £15 if you show your u3a membership card

Pre-pay £15 using the usual bank details (email for details)

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

Frequent buses 418 & 467 from Epsom Clock Tower

Enquiries – phone or text to 0791 3655 458 or 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

Future concerts

9 May The Hot Teapots from Ascona, Italy - first UK tour

Hot jazz, ragtime, calypso, stomps and jug band music

13 June The Forest Hill Owls – 6 of London’s finest early jazz musicians play original hot jazz and popular music of the 1920s and early 30s.

Exploring London Group 7

Our group is now entering its 10th year and approaching its 100th walk. We still have many of our original members, who have now become good friends. The group has also welcomed new members along the way.

We have had a very varied selection of walks, all led in turn by our members including:

Inns of Court, Camden to Little Venice, Tyburn and Tyburn River, Jewish East London, Walthamstow and the William Morris Gallery, Old Westminster, Canary Wharf/Docklands, and The Great Fire of London.

At Christmas we usually choose somewhere nearer to home and have learnt a lot about our local towns and villages, the last one being Wimbledon Village and the Thai Temple.

This is followed by Christmas lunch and a discussion about the forthcoming year!



WALKING WITH YOUR BUS PASS 1

Our group meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month, catching buses from the centre of Epsom to various open spaces, preferably with a coffee stop at the end. On Wednesday, 22nd March eleven members took the bus to Epsom Race Course, and walked down Chalk Lane, then crossing into Rosebery Park for coffee in Roots Café in the Methodist Church. The morning started with a little drizzle, but soon cleared and we had a very pleasant walk. Unfortunately, any snowdrops had disappeared and bluebells yet to show, but we stopped for a group photo by the wrought iron gates fronting Durdans Stables. These gates were built in the early 1700s, originally for the Duke of Chandos' palace, near Edgware, but he lost his fortune in the South Sea Bubble financial disaster of 1720 and the palace was demolished, gates being taken to the Durdans, later owned by the 5th Earl of Rosebery in 1874. The Earl established a flourishing stud for racehorses and an indoor riding stable. The stable's equestrian history starts with Amato, the first Derby winner in 1838 to be born and trained in Epsom. His grave is in the woodlands. The public house close to the stables was named after Amato, but now houses The Grumpy Mole. The walk down Chalk Lane is a very easy hour or so, with little traffic, perhaps the occasional horse, passing a pretty cottage where the front garden is always adorned with decorative teacups and saucers or tiny teapots. Then across to Rosebery Park with its pretty lake and fountain. A lovely morning stroll.



Garden Group

This month members of the Garden Group went on three outings:

1. London for a damp trip to the Chelsea Physic Gardens and a rather nice tea stop.
2. RHS Wisley for the Orchid Show.
3. Hampton Court Open Gardens Day to see the Daffodil field in full flower.

Next month our group will be visiting Vann Garden in Hambleton, the owner has agreed to give us a talk on how her mother developed the garden.



Pictures of the Supreme Court with some of the members of our u3a. This court is the final Court of Appeal in the United Kingdom for all civil and criminal cases.

We had a very good guide. This visit was after the visit to Parliament so we were all very up on procedures of law. Well, we think!!!!

Irene Moore

As the Surrey Walking Cricket Champions (Nov 2022 newsletter), Epsom Thoroughbreds have just won an indoor Walking Cricket competition organised by the MCC foundation at the Lord's Cricket ground. There are already a number of u3a members in the team, but we would like to see a lot more, especially some ladies. We have a match coming up against Yorkshire in the summer. They are insisting on at least 4 ladies in a team of 10. They can't understand why Surrey only has one lady player, whilst they can choose 4 from 40+.

Come on ladies, Your County Needs You. We have a very wide range of abilities, starting with several who had never played cricket at all. The emphasis is on fun, not serious sport. If you have played cricket or hockey before, you will easily progress to the top third of the players. Any sporting ability at all, even at school, and you will easily slip into the middle third.

Any enthusiasm at all to have fun, you will enjoy having a go just for the social interaction and fun, you will be in good company with many others. During the winter, we play at the Rainbow Leisure Centre in Epsom and in the summer, we play at cricket grounds in Ashted and Cobham. Come and have fun! Your county needs you! Don't let the Northerners put one over us!!!

WE NEED
YOU



Contact Vinod Sharma vinodsharma@blueyonder.co.uk

In March, 63 members enjoyed a free guided tour of Parliament courtesy of our local MP Chris Grayling. We divided into three groups each with an experienced guide with a wealth of knowledge.

Did you know – in the House of Commons there are 37 doorkeepers and they are the only people who have permission to go wherever they want in Parliament. They can enter the chamber when debates are going on to give messages to MP's. Every doorkeeper has a book containing the names and photographs of all 650 MP's. The doorkeepers are responsible for the physical security of the house and receive the same training as the police in restraining and removing members of the public. (We behaved!!)

When the Commons are in session the Principal Doorkeeper and his deputy occupy two chairs on either side of the main entrance. The principal doorkeeper is on the right-hand seat, which contains the original division bell, though an electronic system is now used. When the house divides to vote, members have eight minutes before the doorkeepers close and lock the doors to the chamber preventing anyone from entering. However, at the end of each sitting the original bell is rung and the doorkeepers simultaneously shout 'Who goes home.' The principal doorkeeper's seat also contains a box of snuff which has been there for the use of members since the 1963 smoking ban.



In March the Exploring Architecture Group met at London Bridge Station to look at its reconstruction, which so nearly achieved Britain's top architectural award for 2019.

We admired the huge new concourse, the clever natural lighting, and use of materials, though some of us had preferred the Victorian original. Following which we went to Cannon Street Station, and looked at its superstructure of property boom offices, reflected in which were the outline of Norman Foster's Walbrook building opposite.

We moved on to quite different buildings, four of the churches rebuilt after the Great Fire of London by Sir Christopher Wren and his brilliant team. St Mary Abchurch, with its dome (one of the first in England) and Grinling Gibbons' carvings; St Stephen Walbrook, with its breathtaking geometry and superb acoustics; St Mary le Bow, with its great Wren tower; and finally St Mary Aldermary, whose parishioners wanted it rebuilt in the gothic style, to which Wren added a superb fan vaulted ceiling.

Here, we stopped for a home-cooked light lunch, a novel experience to eat inside a Wren church.



Glyn Hall, Ewell Village update

As any members who live in Ewell Village will be aware, Glyn Hall in the village is a legacy building from Margaret Glyn and is over 100 years old.

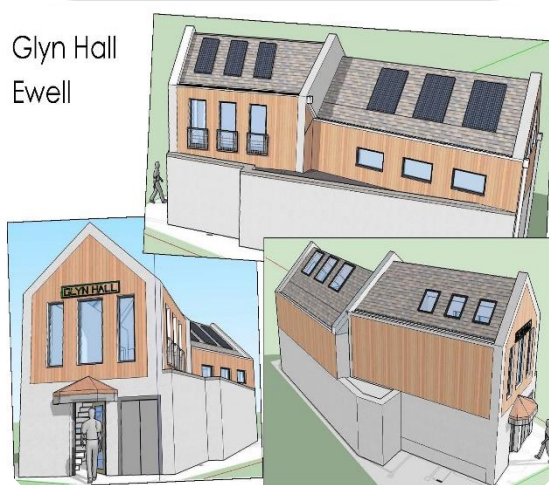
In August 2021 new trustees were appointed in a bid to save the hall from being lost as a community space and the land sold off to developers.

The hall was no longer fit for purpose having been closed for two years during lockdown and the new trustees, two of whom are Epsom & Ewell u3a committee members, have been working with a local architect (who has given her time free of charge) and a new building has been designed.

The plans were submitted in January and the trustees are currently awaiting planning approval in order that they can then start checking the availability of grants and also fund raising.

The trustees hope that this legacy community space can become a vibrant part of village life and be used by various local groups, including possibly u3a groups if they are looking for somewhere reasonably priced to hold meetings.

Below is the current hall and the artists impression of the new hall. We hope you all approve.



Church Crawlers

For March we visited St Mary's Walton on Thames. This is known as the diggers church owing to the fact that in the mid 1600's 10 diggers were imprisoned in the church while they awaited trial at Kingston. The diggers were led by Gerrard Winstanley. They believed that all men were equal and that freedom from poverty and oppression could be won if the earth were made a 'common treasury for all.'

They were basically the first hippie commune and pitched camp in St George's Hill. There were three different factions, the diggers who wanted to dig the land, the levelers who sought to level the laws, and the ranters who believed that religion was oppressive and that if God was all-seeing he could see virtue and sin, therefore both were godly!!!!

The church itself was built in about 1150 and although several parts have been rebuilt and restored most of it is still as the diggers knew it in 1649.



The pillars lean due to the Tudors building up the wall of the north aisle



The font has a cantilevered cover

Navi Walking group

Thirteen people went on a walk with our group leaders in the thirteenth year of the group.

Does this make the group one of our u3a's longest running under the same leadership in the Epsom & Ewell U3A?

The navigation element of our visit this month was along the Jubilee Line to Canary Wharf where we discussed the development of the Elizabeth line, and Crossrail Place which was developed as the station for the line and built some years ahead, ready and waiting for the line to catch up. We then took the Elizabeth line all the way to its terminus in Abbey Wood to see in the distance the Wood and Abbey Ruins from the station concourse. The return journey to lunch and home went via Woolwich and Bond Street, both iconic parts of the newest train line in London.



MONDAY PRESENTATION

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.

TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Bourne Hall, Ewell

Monday, 15 May 2023
from 10:00 to 12:00

**Open
House**

Learn about your local u3a activities and events. Enjoy a free drink and biscuits

epsomandewellu3a.co.uk

Do something brilliant today

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 have received queries from several members regarding notification of upcoming travel events. The committee are currently working on this area and will update members as soon as possible.

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!!!!

