

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our May newsletter.

April has been an incredibly challenging month for our committee. Some of us have had to spend far too much time on the computer trying to resolve problems.

We are however hopeful that things will get back to some semblance of normality soon.

As you will all be aware on April 4th I had to email the whole membership due to a problem with our Travel & Events group.

The situation has been a difficult one to deal with as a committee and for me personally this has been incredibly challenging. Comments from our committee have ranged from 'I didn't sign up for this' and 'is this really part of my remit'.

The committee and I are very grateful for the many emails of support from the members that we received following this very difficult decision.

Page two and three of this month's update are some of the messages of support that we have received from members.

We thank you for your support.



In May we celebrate the
Coronation of
King Charles III
&
Queen Camilla

The email below is published with the full permission of the sender.

An open letter of support

Dear Tony,

I would like to go public in my support for your stand in the situation that you have recently found yourself. I refer to the decision that you had to make regarding the booking of some trips to certain events.

It appears that the booking was a closed shop and mainly if not exclusively to a close circle of friends and members of the U3A known specifically to the organiser. This being contrary to the fairness of an open offer to all members of the Epsom and Ewell branch of the U3A.

Your direct approach to dealing with the situation should be applauded and should this letter be published as it is an 'open letter', I would invite all the membership to do the same and support you and the rest of the Committee. The U3A a vital source of activities for all ages both locally and Countrywide and should never be allowed to be sullied by self-centered members who perhaps have an alternative agenda.

Keep up the good work Epsom and Ewell U3A we really appreciate you.

Kevin Crane

Epsom and Ewell U3A

Membership no. 2676

Below is a selection of comments received from members by email

So very sorry that you, and the committee have had such a lot to deal with.

I understand how difficult this situation is for you.

I fully support your decision tony, there were rumours and members complaining in private, as there was a certain clique culture. Well done to address the situation so openly.

Well done on the actions taken by you and committee, it cannot have been easy for any of you.

Wise decision – however I fear it may not be the end of the matter.

I would just like to express my disappointment that a more conciliatory amicable solution could not have been found.

I am sorry to hear you have had to make this decision but fully understand why. The rest of the committee have tried hard to make our u3a inclusive.

Thank you for letting us know about the situation with the travel and events group. It has certainly left a bad taste.

Just to say you have my full support, I have felt there was a problem with the events group having missed a place on previous trips. Perhaps in future when the committee is planning future lunches etc, consideration could be given to a venue within Epsom & Ewell, to me it does not make sense to organise coaches to Surbiton. Wishing you every success, you are doing a really good job.

Wow, I guess that was a difficult email to write, following a challenging time. Dealing with a situation such as this, as chairman in an unpaid, voluntary role can at times feel both lonely and thankless, but I trust and hope the committee's supporting you. I just wanted to say well done for handling this head on and for keeping members informed.

Well done Tony for such speedy and decisive action. It's absolutely the correct thing to do. It puts an end to the whispers one used to overhear every now and then.

Thank you for doing this Tony. A brave and necessary move.

Thanks for your most recent email. You have my total support And sympathy!

This cannot have been an easy decision for you, I applaud and support you wholeheartedly. I have heard the many concerns from various sources.

Thank you, Tony, for taking steps to sort out this situation.

Nice one Tony

Bus Pass 4 visit to Morden Hall Park

We were so lucky to have one of the few warm sunny days of April for our outing to enjoy the emerging spring beauty of this NT park. We wandered the footpaths and board walks, played pooh sticks from the bridge, fed the birds and watched the meadow being cut by two of the heavy horses from Hampton Court. On our way back to the café we were greeted by a group of 'Victorian school children,' the boys doffing their caps and the girls dipping a curtsy.



I am considering starting a new complete beginner's bridge group starting June 2023 playing Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm.

If interested please contact Marion Hart via her group page on the website.



EL13 went "Under the Arches" this month, walking from Vauxhall to Waterloo, viewing two RIBA London award winning buildings which might not be to everyone's taste!

Near White Hart Dock (cholera outbreak), The Royal Doulton building was amazing, and plaques of Doulton-ware under the railway arches commemorated The Black Prince and William Blake. There were further artworks paying homage to Blake's work by Southbank mosaics, which took seven years to complete, and a blue plaque showing where he lived and apparently composed "Jerusalem".

The walk finished in Leake St., which is a "graffiti permitted" area, with a heady cocktail of fumes to match!!

The weather was mixed, so it was fortunate that we spent our time in and out of the cover of the rain.
Rosemary Ruff and Jan Caruth



Epsom Methodist Church: Eco Church

One of our members has notified us that the church are keen to promote their recycling facilities which are located just inside the main entrance on the right hand side.

There are bins for the following: empty blister packs, used stamps, used batteries, used spectacles, clean foil, used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, used pens plus other items.

Thank You Ishbel



COME ON IN

OPEN HOUSE



This month we will be hosting our annual Open House Showcase on Monday 15th May at Bourne Hall from 10.00 am – 12 noon.

This year our showcase will be bigger and better. We have booked the Rose room in addition to our usual Azalea, Begonia and Camelia rooms which are all on the ground floor.

Registration will open in the foyer at 9.30am as we are aware that some members commented last year that the queue to get in was quite long.

The coffee shop will be open and the comfortable refurbished lounge will be available for members to enjoy.

We will be offering our usual free tea and coffee inside the event from 10-12.

Over 30 group leaders have so far requested a table to promote their particular interest and the committee will be manning the table that will be advertising events etc. that are open to ALL members, such as the trust online learning events, the Surrey Network study days plus other items of interest.

The deputy Mayor and Mayoress will be in attendance chatting to group leaders and members.

Come and meet the team.

Gertie's Greenhouse



The greenhouse is looking very productive.

We have seeds growing for our flower bed in Rosebery Park and plug plants that have just arrived and been potted on ready for our cottage garden section of Gertie's Garden

Our daffodils, tulips and muscari are looking very pretty. The colours are lovely.

However, the grass really does need cutting



Ireland Trip

A wonderful day had by all who visited the Titanic Experience in Belfast city. We also had the opportunity to visit the City Hall, an amazing building with extraordinary stained-glass windows, marble stairway and very wide ranging and interesting exhibitions.

Irene Moore



Thought this picture walking group 10 Seven dials area very interesting starting at Charing x
First phase of the jubilee line
Finishing Wild St former tobacco factory Lambert, & Butler 1880 now flats
Irene Moore

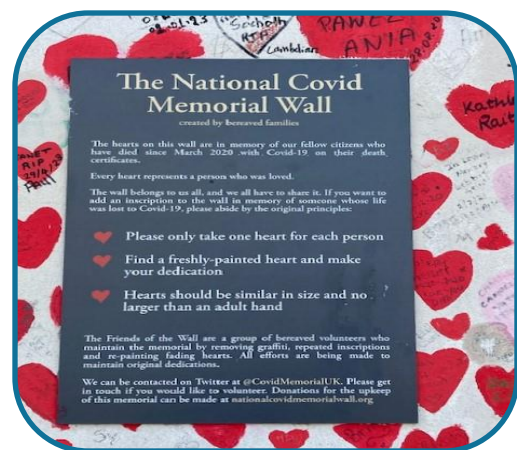


Exploring London 8

This month Carmel led our walk. We are always amazed at the amount of information that she tells us, and all without referring to notes!!

This month we learnt about Mary Seacole who was a British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War. She described the hotel as 'a mess table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers', and provided succour for wounded service men on the battlefield, nursing them back to health.

We then wandered across London past the Covid Memorial Wall to Westminster Cathedral. Some of our group braved the lift to go up the tower for a brilliant view of London, while the rest of us stayed downstairs and admired this beautiful church.



Epsom & Ewell Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

2 pm Tuesday 9th May 2023

All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY

The Hot Teapots From Ascona, Italy.

First UK Tour

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

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.

Church crawlers

For April, 21 members enjoyed a trip to St Martins in Dorking. Although there has been a church on this site since Saxo-Norman times the modern church dates from 1873 when Dr Samuel Wilberforce, the Bishop of Winchester, laid the foundation stone of the West Tower. Sadly he was killed two months later by a fall from his horse. The tower and spire were then named in his honour as the Wilberforce memorial. The top stone of the spire was put in place in April 1877. The main feature of this church is the amount of stained-glass windows and opus sectile decoration. There is a memorial to the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams in the entrance and there is a beautiful memorial in opus sectile to Lily, Duchess of Marlborough who was a very generous benefactor of the church. When she died in 1909 the whole town seemed to go into mourning and her obituary filled nearly two columns of the newspaper.



Our Cherry Tree

As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations for the u3a in the UK which was in 2022 we asked Epsom & Ewell council if we could plant a commemorative tree.

This has been a long-drawn-out process but finally we are pleased to announce that our tree has been planted in the car park at Bourne Hall over near the payment machine.

We will arrange a suitable plaque to go at the base of the tree.



We have received notification of the following from Bernard, one of our members:

The Epsom Male Voice Choir 40th Anniversary year concert will be held on Saturday 20th May at the Epsom Playhouse with special guests 'Fourte'.

Tickets can be bought directly from the Epsom Playhouse box office 01372 742555. Or via the link:

https://uk.patronbase.com/EpsomPlayhouse/Sections/Choose?prod_id=E MVC&perf_id=1

The choir is non-auditioned and the singers are not required to read music.

They would welcome applications from Male u3a members.

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!!!



Contact Vinod Sharma vinsharma@blueyonder.co.uk

Singing for Pleasure Update

On Friday 21st April "Singing for Pleasure" celebrated Dilys's 6 years of running the group alongside Jenny, we have had a lot of fun times as well as challenges along the way especially when Covid came along, not knowing if we would return and how many members would come back to the group, but we needn't have worried, we are going from strength to strength. Dilys had chosen her own songs and at the end of the session the group presented Dilys with a thank you gift together with a bouquet of flowers, as one member quoted, "today there was such a lovely happy feeling in the hall". Dilys has now stood down as a leader but will still join the group from time to time as a member. Also at this session, our Poetess Jan Stevens read out her poem to Dilys, which we have to say was very moving. Also included is our photo from that session. We are now looking forward to our Coronation session with our musical accompaniment on the 5th May, then our " Hits from the 60s session", "Songs from the Musicals" and our 10th Birthday Celebration in June, so lots of fun time ahead.

Group Leader
Jenny Sparrow



A very special person



*Dilys, this is just a little poem
To thank you for all you've done
For the years of help you've given
And always with so much fun.*



*It takes a special person
One who is thoughtful, helpful and kind
And you know whatever you ask of her
You also know she will never mind.
Dilys, you are that special person
And we don't want to see you go
You will be missed but always welcomed
We all just wanted to let you know.
We hope that you can join us
If only for an odd day or two
To spend some special time with us
And for us to spend some special time with you.
Meanwhile we wish the best to you
In everything you do
Just think of us on the days we sing
We will be thinking of you too.*

Jan Stevens

Exploring London 11

We enjoyed a circular walk around Southwark, ably led by Fiona. Starting from London Bridge station we saw: the strange vessel in Hays Galleria, the stunning Art Deco Olaf House & learned how it got its name, Southwark Cathedral, Bankside, the Rose Theatre and the site of the original Globe (now a housing development), Cross Bones graveyard for the outcasts & the galleried George Inn, before having a tasty lunch at the Mug House in Tooley Street.

Jan Caruth



In April the committee hosted our Leaders Lunch. This is our way of saying thank you, on behalf of our members for the amazing way that our group leaders keep you, our members engaged and entertained.



Thank
You



TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Open House

epsomandewellu3a.co.uk

Bourne Hall, Ewell

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

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

Do something brilliant today

MONDAY PRESENTATION

A HISTORY OF HYDRAULIC FLUID POWER

STEVE SKINNER

Bourne Hall Monday 5 June at 10:30



Steve will share with us his extensive background in hydraulic engineering with this light-hearted ramble through hydraulic power from its birth at the end of the 18th century up to present day. With a career-long association with hydraulics, Steve takes us through the history of hydraulic fluid power. The talk includes numerous animated illustrations, and topics such as the raising of the Britannia Bridge, the launch of Brunel's Great Eastern, the first hydraulic excavator and the virtual reality ship which could accommodate 700 passengers.



Extra Wine

Wine Groups 2 (Rosemary Rutt) and 3 (Chris Bruce) joined together on Friday April 14th to taste 3 sets of red paired wines, old versus new, selected by the manager of Epsom Majestic.

The wine we most enjoyed was a Californian Zinfandel.

Cheers - Jan Caruth

Don't forget, our Open House showcase is on Monday May 15th from 10.00-12.00noon. Helen, our group coordinator, assisted by the rest of the committee have been working hard to organise this event. Lots of group leaders have agreed to attend and publicise their particular interest and the committee have a few ideas they'd like to share.

Hope to see you there.

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!!!!

