

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our August newsletter.

Our July speaker was totally different to June. We enjoyed a trip down memory lane with John Griffiths-Colby who reminded us that nothing really changes. What goes around comes around and not only in fashion but in so many things around us.

The committee are currently dealing with our GDPR policy following a review by the Third Age Trust. All members should have received a request to confirm which groups they attend.

Also in this issue, an update from one of our members, Alan Avis, who is involved in the Ukraine humanitarian aid charity Surrey Stands with Ukraine at its base in Epsom.

Our groups have excelled themselves this month with some brilliant submissions for you to enjoy.

And lastly this edition contains details of our forthcoming AGM in October.



Cameo Club

We have had a couple of new requests for the Cameo Club.

One member requested some company to go to a show in London – we think we have sorted that one.

Another member would like to take a trip to the revamped Battersea Power Station.

Details are on the Cameo page.

Any requests always welcome.

Here is a photo of the Songbirds (also known as Singing for Pleasure 2) who had just finished performing at the Horseshoe in Banstead, on the evening of the 5th of July 2023. The audience were hugely appreciative of the songs and all the Songbirds sang their socks off. Smiles all round. Raising your voice with others is truly joyous.

This was the Songbirds' 2nd performance so far this year and the 5th since we returned to singing after covid in August 2021.

Songbirds started with 4 people in 2015 and now have a membership in the mid-twenties and a repertoire of some 58 songs covering everything from Adele to Doris Day.

Another U3A success story.

Karen Engelfield – Group leader



For our June visit, 27 Church Crawlers went to St Michael's at Betchworth. This church featured in Four Weddings and a Funeral as the scene for the first wedding. The choir stalls in the church were carved by Julia Corbett and are very tactile. The pulpit dates from 1885 and has inlaid mosaic panels of Faith, Hope and Love, in five kinds of marble, even the steps are marble. Unlike last month's church, the font in St Michael's is a very new addition and was dedicated in 1951. This church has hatchments which are from the Stable family of Moore Place whose memorials are in the nave of the south transept.



The bellringers were practicing during our visit.



Also in the south transept is the large oak chest which was hewn from a single piece of oak. It has three locks; one key is held by the vicar and one by each of the churchwardens: all three had to be present for the chest to be opened.

Here is a photo of the dancers at our Regency dance taster session on 16th June.

This was a one-off session to see if people were interested in the ballroom dancing of the Jane Austen period.

Eight of us budding Mrs Bennets & Mr Darcys met on a hot day.

With instruction by our member Libby Curzon, we danced a cotillion and some other fun dances.

Everyone enjoyed themselves!

We hope to have another one next month when the hall is available.



Following the survey taken at our Open House event in May this year, the Social Committee have started to plan for 2024. They have taken note of the most popular requests from members and will hopefully have all their plans in place by the end of the year. Watch this space!!!!



Surrey Stands with Ukraine – Providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine

Surrey Stands with Ukraine (SSWU) is a 100% volunteer-base humanitarian aid organisation that came together in February 2022, shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It was started up by a Ukrainian living in Epsom and her British friends. There are no paid staff in the group and 100% of all donations are used in support of Ukraine. In May of this year, SSWU received a written thank-you for its work and was endorsed by the UKRAINIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Where are we based?

Primarily in Epsom, but volunteers and donations come from across Surrey and beyond.

What have we done so far?

Material aid: £ 1.9 million in physical goods; Money: £400,000 in received donations; We have established solidarity contacts with Medical Life Lines Ukraine, Rotary Club - Epsom, and Rotary Club - Ashted,

Providing support for aid projects in Ukraine:

A Kharkiv-based organisation of volunteers providing a community kitchen to homeless and needy people; a Kyiv-based volunteer organisation providing humanitarian aid to the flood-disaster victims in Kherson; a recovery project of Kyiv Rotary Club in Moshshun; further support to outlying communities provided by our contacts in Kharkiv and Kherson.

How are we organized here and in Ukraine?

100% voluntary engagement of committee and board of trustees. Monetary donations are channelled through Harrop HR Missions Ltd. (our registered charity parent- Reg. No. 1117155). Humanitarian aid is either provided physically or financially. Physical aid is transported to Ukraine from Epsom to our aid partners in Ukraine. Monetary donations are either used to purchase specialist services or direct funding of our Ukrainian aid partners to purchase aid locally.

What is our goal?

“Our mission is to support Ukrainians both here and in Ukraine by collecting and delivering humanitarian aid.”

How can u3a members help?

Donate to our Crowdfunder account via our website or donate physical items at our Stand in the Ashley Centre, Epsom. Join us as a volunteer to help in what we do in a variety of ways.

www.surreystandswithukraine.org

In St Alban's Footsteps

In June the Historic Walks group ventured further afield than its past ambles in London and Surrey, to explore the city of St Albans in Hertfordshire – easily reached by Thameslink from Sutton. We walked from the outdoor Roman Theatre to nearby St Michael's Church, the spot where traditionally St Alban was tried for being a Christian in the third century.

Then via parkland with Roman Mosaics and city walls to the Cathedral on the hill where again, reputedly, St Alban was martyred and which has his medieval shrine. The church, originally an abbey, is fronted by a magnificent 13th century gatehouse which shaded us for the photo.

Phil Pavey

History Walks Group



Titanic Theatre trip with Magic Moments

In July 32 members enjoyed our first visit to the theatre with Andrew and Magic Moments. Our members were all very impressed with his organisation. All members were allocated a seat on the coach and Andrew handed everyone their theatre tickets just before we got off the coach. We were free to wander in Woking and have some lunch before enjoying a very moving performance of Titanic the Musical. The singing was lovely and the scenery manoeuvres to depict the ship sinking were very cleverly done. There was one scary moment when Mr Murdoch shot himself and virtually the whole audience jumped, I think that just proves how engrossed in the storyline we all were. We've had some really complimentary emails and messages from members which we have passed on to Andrew. Now we're looking forward to our next trip with him to see Calendar Girls in August.



Gertie's Gardeners and Borough in Bloom

Tuesday July 11th was judging day and our gardeners had been busy sweeping and tidying ahead of the judging.

On the morning there was a presentation to the judges in the Azalea room at Bourne Hall where Councillor Cleveland (Chrissie), who also happens to be a u3a member and one of our Gerties Gardeners, gave the judges an overview of what our volunteers achieve throughout the year, with an emphasis on community, council and church working together in numerous ways. We also presented a story board with pictures in order that the judges could see the difference between our spring flowering bulbs and the garden areas as they are now. They also stopped off at Birchgrove, Lower Mill, to talk to the residents about their part in our entry for this year's competition.



Pete & Trevor
from the council
who are
invaluable to
our teams



Friends of Bourne Hall
teams organised by Don.

Our Gertie's Gardeners.



TICKET ONLY THEATRE EVENTS



Jill Ryan is back after a short break and has three new shows with ticket only theatre offerings for members to enjoy.

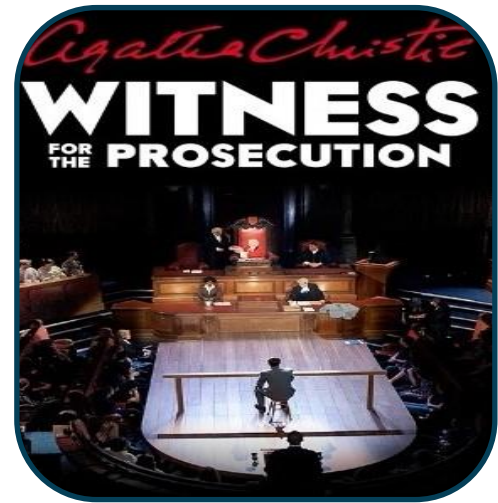
Full details can be found on the Social Events page of the website.

Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution

Thursday 12th October 2023
Matinee 2.30pm
Old Courtroom, County Hall,
SE1 7PB - Excellent Seats,
close to the drama

£35.00 per Person

Payment by August 18th



Crazy For You

Wednesday 13th September
2023 Matinee Performance

Gillian Lynne Theatre, Drury
Lane, WC2B 5PW



Excellent seats

£45.00 per person

Payment by August 16th

Friday 2nd February 2024 Matinee at 3.30pm

Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington, SW7 2AP

Upper Circle seats but with excellent view

£35.00 per person

Payment by September 12th



**Join us for Christmas lunch at
Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent**

Friday November 24th 2023

£52.00 per head

(Includes return coach travel, entry to castle, lunch, light show and driver gratuity)



Join us for a festive 2 course carvery lunch, visit the gardens for the magical Christmas Trail through the grounds, enjoy relaxed shopping in the gift shops.

In the castle, experience beautifully decorated rooms, welcoming log fires and twinkling Christmas trees.

The Christmas lights experience starts at 4pm

Full details and booking form on the social events page of the website.

Booking opens July 1st 2023

Epsom Hot Jazz Club

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

2 pm Tuesday 8 August 2023

at All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY

Rico's Hot Five

Enrico Tomasso is one of Europe's finest trumpet/cornet players, able to play in the styles of many of the stars of the 1920s & 30s, and in particular Louis Armstrong who tutored him and named him "My little trumpeter". Enrico will be accompanied by four of London's favourite jazz musicians.

**Trevor Whiting clarinet & saxes, Ian Bateman trombone,
Colin Good piano, Martin Wheatley banjo and guitar**

free parking & tea break refreshments

£17 at the door or £15 for u3a members

Pre-pay £15 - 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 4.25pm

Coming soon: Frog & Henry w Ewan Bleach, Geoff Hiscott's Artful Dodgers, The Washboard Resonators

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



Tuesday October 24th 2023

Coach pick-up points: Worcester Park at 8.30am followed by Spring Street in Ewell Village and Santander Bank in Epsom High Street

Arriving at the museum at approx. 10.00am. The café will be open for members to purchase refreshments before our tour.

We will be leaving for home at approx. 4.00pm

Cost per member: £31.00 *(price includes coach, entry to the museum and driver gratuity)*

The Weald & Downland Living Museum – a hidden gem in the South East, quintessentially British in a picture-perfect setting. We are a museum for those who want to see, touch, and even smell what life was really like for people living in years gone by. Whether you are 5 or 95 there is something for everyone

The Weald & Downland Living Museum is a large 40-acre site that showcases its historic buildings in-keeping with the time periods they represent. Some of the historic buildings are not fully accessible to all visitors.

To create an authentic atmosphere at the Museum, the paths around the site vary in materials and are uneven by nature. The centre of the Museum site is mainly flat with parts set on sloping ground, which is steep in places.

Access around the site is on rural surfaces; mainly rolled or loose chippings, which are in keeping with the nature of the site and buildings. Some paths are cobbled and their surfaces may cause difficulty for visitors who use a wheelchair or have impaired mobility.

Our AGM will be held on Monday October 2nd and will be followed by our speaker Malcolm Jones with his presentation Not in Front of the Audience – Censorship on the British Stage.

Roles for election/re-election at our AGM are as follows:

Chairman – Tony Skelton has agreed to stand for a fourth and final year

Membership Secretary – Peta Hargreaves has indicated that she is willing to continue in this role.

Vice Chairman – Paul Lander has been co-opted on to the committee and has been proposed and seconded.

Group Coordinator – Libby Curzon has been co-opted on to the committee and has been proposed and seconded.

If any member would like to put themselves forward for any of the above roles, please notify Fiona our secretary by the end of August in order that your names can appear on the ballot paper.

For our 2022 AGM, we asked for any questions to be submitted before the event in order that the committee could answer in full and share those questions and answers with the entire membership rather than just the members who attended on the day. We feel that format worked well and will repeat the process for this year's AGM.

As those of you who attended the 2022 AGM will recall, the meeting did overrun slightly due to a couple of questions being asked on the day which was unfortunate and disrupted the flow of the morning and the start of our guest speaker.

Any questions not already dealt with in the AGM pack can be submitted to the committee in writing on the day and they will be answered in the November newsletter in order to update the entire membership.

Cycling refresher

We received the email below from Germaine McBride at Surrey County Council which she asked us to share with you all.

Hello,

I work for Surrey County Council in the Cycle Training Team. You may know the work we do from the Bikeability training we deliver in schools across Surrey. We are now looking to offer more cycle training to adults across the county.

We offer a range of adult courses from learn to ride through to adult town centre cycle confidence. We ran the pilot of the town centre training with the U3A in Farnham, hence this email to you to see if you would be interested in any cycle training for your members?

In addition, we currently have a grant from Active Travel England enabling us to offer cycling training to adults at no cost until March 2024.

If you think cycle training in some form would be of interest to your members, please do get in touch.

Germaine [Surrey Cycle Training - Expression of Interest form](#)

Adult Cycle Training provided by Surrey County Council

- 2 hour course in Epsom & Ewell – Free until March 2024
- Courses will be for U3A members only
- Courses for different abilities
 - Learn to Ride
 - Beginner
 - Introduction to Roads
 - Town Centre Cycle Confidence
- To register your interest in a course, please visit:
[Expression of Interest](#)



For July 24 Church Crawlers visited St Martin's at East Horsley. This church has a fascinating connection with the Lovelace family and their mausoleum is in the church grounds. It has recently been restored by English Heritage and we were delighted to be allowed access to the building: Robert Barnard from the church shared some fascinating facts with us. The church holds a regular community coffee morning on Thursday and we were invited to stay for coffee and made very welcome. Another fascinating morning.



The steps into the Lovelace Mausoleum and the inside which has been restored by English Heritage



We were made very welcome with refreshments and our church crawlers happily donated to the fund-raising for their new covid memorial stained glass window appeal.



This is the gazebo where the youngest choir boy would sit until he saw the Lord of the Manor coming, at which point he would whistle to alert the organist, choir, and parishioners to play and sing very loudly!!!!

Epsom Thoroughbreds Through to County Playoffs

Epsom Thoroughbreds, current holders of the Surrey County Walking Cricket Championship, have won the Group stage of this year's competition and have qualified for the playoff in September.

The group has doubled in size this summer, but we are still looking for more members, specially of the female variety.

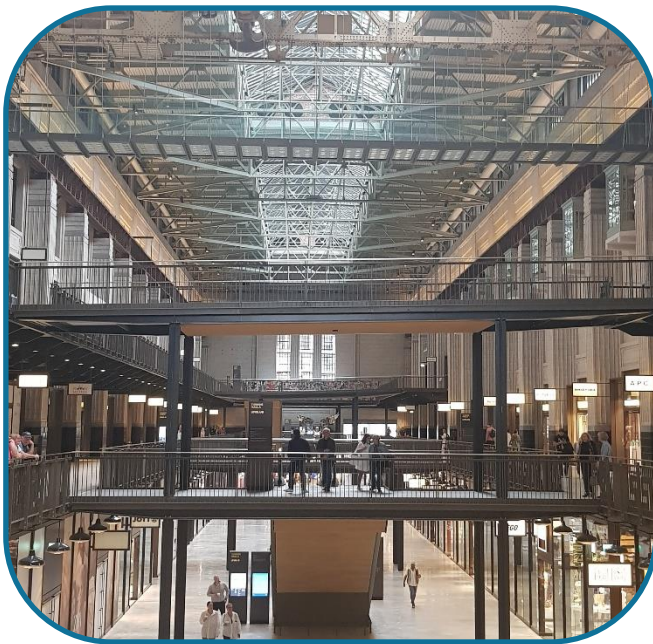
It's meant to be a mixed group, with the primary aim of social interaction and fun. The cricket is just another excuse to get together. Ability range is very mixed but fun is Olympic standard. Currently, we have ONE brave lady, who didn't know what cricket was, but after only a few weeks, she has already played in the County competition. She says that she loves playing but would love female company and a chatting partner. Anyone out there to help a damsel in need?????

Contact: vinsharma@blueyonder.co.uk



Exploring Architecture

Roger took our recently expanded group to see the architecture, development and planning that went into the Battersea Power Station complex. Twelve of us wandered and marvelled and then enjoyed an excellent lunch at a nearby local pub. Next month we propose to look at pub architecture in specific detail.



The beer tasting group added a couple of beer festivals to our monthly meeting in July. We found a unique event run by the scouts in Worcester Park & another run by our tasting pub of choice in Carshalton. We could send you photos of course but the video of one of our number singing along to the band has gone viral instead....



The Hybrid Group

The Hybrid Group of U3A members will be out on one of their irregular visits at 7pm on August 23rd to visit The Swiss Church near Tottenham Court Road for the Genesis Sound and Light show. If anyone would like to join us, please book your tickets [carefully!] here:

<https://thegenesisexperiences.com/london/>

Please contact Ann Norman to discuss finding out about the arrival meeting point with the other U3A members who are going. Each time slot has limited numbers allowed, so this may sell out.



Garden Wanderers

The garden visiting group took two trips out this month, a small group went to see what the fuss was about at Hampton Court Garden Festival and found ourselves locked out of some gardens by BBC filming. However, we still found plenty to see and do and found possibly the most expensive glass of Pimms in London at £14 a pop. Our usual group gathering took place this month at Borde Hill Gardens in Sussex where we dodged the rain, enjoyed the sunny spells, and investigated the fruits of the gardeners planning for summer. Next month we will be taking a day out in Kent to visit Great Dixter & Merriments gardens to see the master gardening artists at work.

MONDAY PRESENTATION

GREAT GARDENS OF GREAT BRITAIN

ANDREW BABICZ

Bourne Hall Monday 7 August at 10:30



What makes a garden great? Is it the imposing house, the plants, the landscape or how good their tea and cakes are? After working at Wisley, Kew and Hampton Court Palace, Andrew will show us a number of gardens all over the United Kingdom that are "Great". Every garden different, from Sissinghurst to Kew and from Levens Hall to Harlow Carr, Andrew will tell you why he thinks these gardens are "Great". Including the one with the best tea and cakes!

MONDAY PRESENTATION

BAKED ALASKA OR MEXICAN CHILLY? CLIMATE CHANGE EXPLAINED

NICK COOK

Bourne Hall Monday 4 September at 10:30



In July 2019 people sunbathed in a baking Alaska. In the same month the city of Guadalajara in Mexico shivered beneath 3-feet of hailstones. What's going on with these freak weather events? Some blame climate change. Others shrug and say, "that's what weather does; always has done and always will". This talk covers what climate change does to weather and the history, science and politics of climate change.

Our GDPR survey started in July and we requested all members to submit our very easy form that you can find at the bottom of the interest groups page. To date approx. half of our members have responded. It is important that we build an accurate picture of our members and our groups in order to better understand how we can improve our offering and more importantly to make sure that we remain compliant.

If you have not already submitted your form, please help the committee by doing so as soon as possible please.

An interesting month when the topic of conversation for the committee has been 'the year ahead.' Clive has now booked all our speakers for 2024 and a very diverse selection they are. Our social committee are busy and have finalised a couple of trips already and are working on others, and we now have a full theatre offering with Magic Moments running packages and Jill Ryan organising ticket only events. What more can you ask!!

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!!!!

