

## *LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

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Welcome to our September newsletter.

The GDPR survey is progressing, albeit slowly, but I am grateful to all the members who have submitted their forms. It does give us a good overview of our u3a and a chance to update our records.

Some interesting points have come out of the survey regarding the way that we communicate with each other. There are members commenting that they have not heard back from group leaders that they have applied to join, and then others from group leaders saying they have invited members to join their group and had no response from the members. One group leader commented that she had emailed several members after our Open House in May and invited them to join her walking group in June and July and had no response. I am not sure how we resolve that problem but it does give food for thought and maybe reminds us of our manners.



**Andrew at Magic Moments has two new theatre trips with coach travel.**



**November 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Albert Hall, Evening event with coach.**



**November 23<sup>rd</sup> Woking Theatre, Matinee event with coach.**

**See pages 17-18 for full details.**

It is our generation  
that put Hedgehogs  
almost on the  
endangered list.



**YES, we do have hedgehogs in Ewell, all it takes is small connecting holes in fences, if you make a small tunnel dogs and foxes cannot usually fit through. Talk to your neighbours, they travel miles each night so they need a network of gardens.**

**No milk or bread: go to [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)**

**The kids locally know about the hedgehog board in The Kingsway - not sure if you have hedgehogs in your area. I always say to the kids and adults: look for little brown toothpaste, it is their poo!**

**You could make your own notice board for your area.**

**Pallet wood is great to make hedgehog homes and they are free, just ask the builder before taking from the skip. They always say yes as it is more space in the skip. Any local man sheds could make hedgehog homes/tunnels.**



**Sally Atterton**

In August the Exploring London 13 group decided to avoid central London and take a stroll along the Arcadian Thames.

Some of us reminisced over time spent at Richmond Ice rink, but also learnt of the Belgian community in WW1. We walked through Marble Hill Park, into Orleans House grounds and after a refreshment break were lucky enough to see inside the magnificent octagonal room.

We then walked on to York House Gardens where several of the group took a close interest in the Victorian pissoir in amongst the bushes. Their enthusiasm causing the security guard to come and see what the noise was about!

The naked ladies, scallop shells and leaping horses purchased by Sir Ratan Tata in the early 1900s sit in a rather unloved pond at the bottom of the Italian style garden.



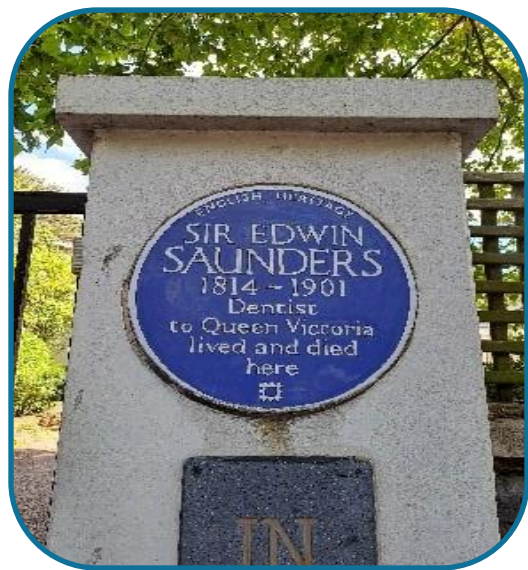




On a warm August day members of Bus Pass 4 group set off for Wimbledon Common in search of Wombles. After a stroll across the common we stopped for light refreshments by the Windmill.

None of our furry friends were in sight so we continued across Putney Heath to Tibbets Corner.

On our return we did spot a 'wombles tribute' as well as the former home of Queen Victoria's Dentist!







### U3A Architecture Explorers

Nine folks went to Hampstead on a sunny day for a comprehensive tour of the architecture and building styles of the area.

This included a trip to the iconic modern properties and inspiration for some great National Trust follow-up visits. We certainly stretched our legs and found a few hills; we also unexpectedly found a local resident who was very keen to tell us about his property!

Next month we return to Kings Cross for the second part of our tour of the area and its recent developments.





### U3A Garden Visiting Group

This month the Garden Wanderers took a day trip to the Kent & Sussex borders. We first went to the almost uncontrolled expansive garden that is Great Dixter, which was highly recommended by the U3A speaker in August. We then travelled on for a side trip to Bodiam Castle [well it was on the way!] and finished our day at the most delightful garden and tearoom at Merriments Garden. The weather was really co-operating, it was ideal for a sandwich outside by the river.

Next month the group will be visiting Wisley Flower Show and having one more full day out to Great Comp Garden Sevenoaks & Lullingstone Castle & The World Garden.

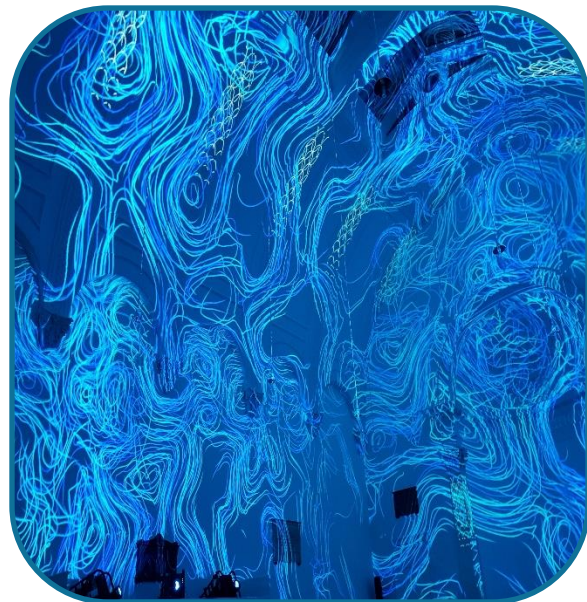
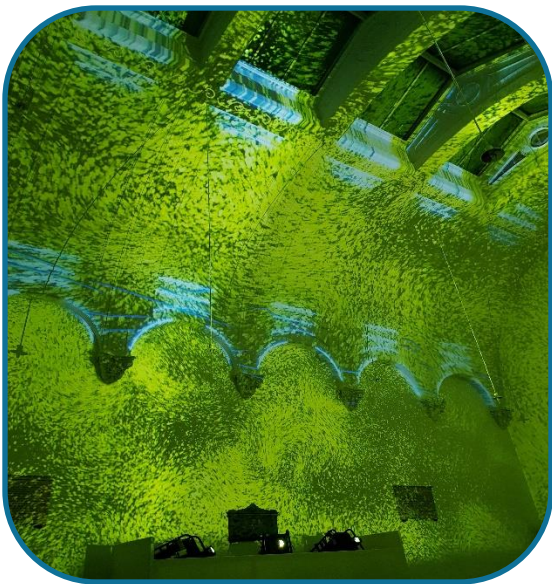




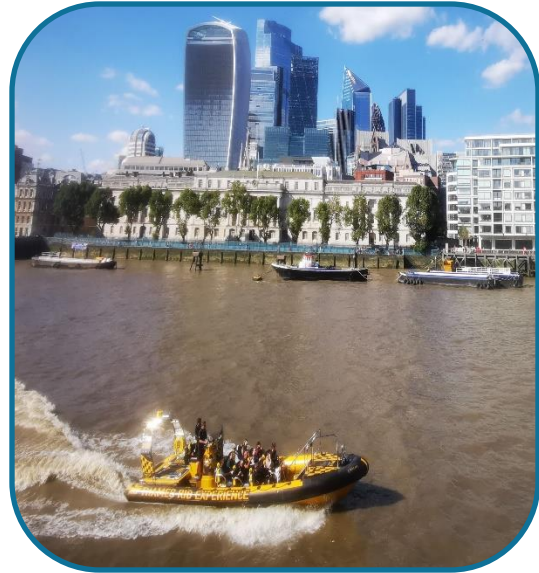


The Hybrid Group went to the Swiss Church in Covent Garden for the Genesis Light Show which had made its way here from Europe recently.

We were highly entertained by the trance-like music and abstract ideas then, ever eager, over to the really modern Now centre to see the free light show that runs every evening. We challenge you to work out which of these pictures is which venue!







## Exploring London 10

Jill Ryan led the group around the interesting All Hallows church at Tower Hill and then to St. Katharine's Dock. After a delicious lunch we crossed Tower Bridge and boarded H. M S. Belfast where a Senior member of staff gave us an interesting talk and access to tour the ship. A great day out in the sunshine.





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

**Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 Limited availability

# EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

**2 pm Tuesday 12 September 2023**

## Frog and Henry

**Leader - Ewan Bleach** (Reeds & vocals)

**Formed in New Orleans as a collective of several street performing groups**, Frog & Henry perform and record old dance and jazz music from the early 1900's on brass and string instruments, with nearly every instrumentalist contributing to vocals.

**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](mailto:m.stevensatlap@gmail.com)

Doors open from 1.45pm - Music from 2 to 4.25pm

Coming soon:

Vitality Five, Geoff Hiscott's Artful Dodgers, Paula Jackman's Clarinet Masters 2, The Washboard Resonators

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





## Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 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 (Last few tickets)

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.



# A G M

# 2023



**Our AGM will be held before our monthly speaker event on October 2nd.**

**The AGM pack will be available for members to see with effect from Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. It will have a dedicated page on the website which will also include voting forms for nominated committee members.**

**The treasurer's report has already been approved by our independent examiner. The committee will deal with any last-minute details at their September 7<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.**

**As in previous years voting will be via an online form as this gives more of our members a chance to participate in the process.**

**Also, as in previous years members can submit any questions via an online form which will be answered in the October newsletter and available to view on the website via the AGM page and available on the day at the AGM.**

**Any questions on the day will need to be submitted by a form to the secretary and these will be answered in the November newsletter in order not to disrupt the flow of the morning and to update all members on questions asked.**

**The AGM is planned to open at 10.30 and be completed by 10.50 in order that members can have a comfort break before our speaker starts at 11.00am.**

**Please remember to allow extra time on your car park tickets and a reminder that guests will need to wait in the reception area until the AGM is over but are then welcome to come and enjoy the speaker.**



The Social Committee offering for August was the aptly named Loo Tours. We had two blue badge guides brandishing plungers to lead us around London from Waterloo to Covent Garden, while learning all the way about the intricacies of toilet hygiene.

We won't go into details but it may be fun to ask one of the participants about the fun facts that we learnt about the toilet with the glass windows at the top of the Shard.

Other fascinating facts included the Romans' use of a bucket and sponge in communal toilets and the problems encountered when large numbers of people live in the same area and the problems that arise with waste water etc.

Who knew that flushing toilets could be such an interesting subject!!!



And one last fun question – are you a folder or a scruncher?

It's amazing what you learn on a London walk.



For August the Church crawlers visited St Peter's in Old Woking. The bottom of the tower of this church was built between 1200 and 1220 and the top was added between 1460 and 1470. In the Peasants' revolt of 1381, instead of turning on the Lady of the Manor, the Fair Maid of Kent, the people rose up against the vicar of St Peter's who apparently had been very lax in his duties to the community. The most outstanding feature of this church is the Norman door. According to dendrochronological analysis in 2007 it can be dated from 1106-1138 and was most likely felled in 1115 when it was already 270 years old having grown from an acorn in the reign of Egbert, King of Wessex 802-839 who was known as the first King of All England. We visited the Zouche gallery which was built by Sir Edward Zouche in 1622. He was not a popular Lord of the Manor and when he died in 1634, he instructed that he should be buried at midnight when no one should see his coffin. Some of the pews in this church date from the reign of Henry VI. The churchwardens' accounts show that they paid a ransom for Englishmen captured by Barbary or Turkish pirates in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and in the period 1649-1660 there was almost continuous expenditure on the bells and clock, which seems strangely at odds with the theory that Cromwell's government forbade the use of bells.



The Zouche Gallery



The Communion Table



Exploring London 8 was led by Denise on a lovely walk around Kensington Gardens. The weather was beautiful and the trains were running alright. We stopped for coffee and visited the Elfin Oak to admire the numerous tiny figures and then suitably refreshed we wandered further across to the Italian garden and ended our walk at the Albert Memorial by the Royal Albert Hall.



The Elfin Oak was originally carved in 1911 and maintained for over 40 years by sculptor Ivor Innes.

Spike Milligan and his friends' support enabled the complete restoration of the wee folk in 1996.

The plaque on the tree was unveiled by The Prince of Wales on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1997

In August nine members of our u3a embarked on a river cruise from Frankfurt to Nuremburg. *(Not without its problems as our plane from Heathrow was cancelled, but Lufthansa managed to get four of us to Hamburg and five to Zurich and we all met up again at Frankfurt.)* We all enjoyed a very informative week with excursions every day, some historical and some more for fun and lots of food and drink. We had afternoon tea one day on the ship after the chef did a cake making demonstration. We also excelled ourselves and won Spin It to Win It, with Keith in charge of the buttons and the rest of us chiming in with answers, 22650 points!! Sadly, Pat and Mary could not join us at the last minute but hopefully next time.



A Witch House



Glass blowing demonstration



The Nuremburg Rally grounds



Our Beer Tasting day



Afternoon Tea



Our Victory Photo





**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**  
**WOKING THEATRE – 2.30pm Matinee**

Nominated for Best New Musical at the 2022 Olivier Awards, this smash-hit show has a phenomenal soundtrack packed full of iconic Drifters hits including *Saturday Night at The Movies*, *Save the Last Dance for Me*, and *Stand by Me*.

Discover the remarkable story of the Drifters and the truth about the woman who made them. From the highs of hit records to the lows of legal battles and personal tragedy, Faye Treadwell is the legendary manager of The Drifters who refused to give up on the group she loved.

Thirty years, and hundreds of hit songs later, there is no doubt that Faye Treadwell was and always will be, *The Drifters Girl*.

**£49.50 PER PERSON**

**Excursion price includes:**

Stalls ticket between Rows L & M, return coach travel, and administrative charges.  
(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)

**COACH BOARDING POINTS**

- 11.45am **NORTH CHEAM, London Road** – Bus Stop, Outside Costa Coffee
- 11.50am **EWELL, The Spring** – Bus Stop, Opposite Bourne Hall Bus Shelter
- 11.55am **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane
- 12.05pm **EPSOM, High Street** – Bus Stop, Outside Santander
- 12.10pm **ASHTEAD, High Street** – Bus Stop, Opposite Betting Shop

(Time has been allowed for pre-show refreshments, traffic permitting)



## Icons Rediscovered Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker and *Iolanta*

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023  
ROYAL ALBERT HALL – 7.30pm Evening Performance

In the magnificent setting of the Royal Albert Hall, Vasily Petrenko enchants with two of Tchaikovsky's most magical scores: *Iolanta* and Act II of *The Nutcracker*.

A blind princess, a doting father, and a miracle cure that can only act through the power of true love. No composer knew how to tell stories and tug at the heartstrings better than Tchaikovsky, and his melodious, fairytale one-act opera *Iolanta* leaves audiences reaching for their handkerchiefs every time. Vasily Petrenko loves it, and for this one-off semi-staged revival at the Royal Albert Hall, he has gathered a truly world-class cast: singers who have known Tchaikovsky's music all their lives.

First, though, comes the music that the composer originally intended to programme in concert with *Iolanta*: the magic (and mouthwatering melodies) of Act II of *The Nutcracker*. This selection contains some of the ballet's best-known music, including characterful national dances, the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* and the glorious *Waltz of the Flowers*.

**£38.50 PER PERSON**

**Excursion price includes:**

Top Price Stalls ticket (Normally £48.50), return coach travel and administrative charges.  
(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)

### COACH BOARDING POINTS

- 5.00pm **ASHTEAD, High Street** – Bus Stop, Opposite Betting Shop
- 5.05pm **EPSOM, High Street** – Bus Stop, Outside Wilkinson's
- 5.10pm **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane
- 5.15pm **EWELL, The Spring** – Bus Stop, Bourne Hall Bus Shelter
- 5.20pm **EWELL, Ewell by Pass, Bradford Drive** – Bus Stop Layby
- 5.25pm **EWELL, Ewell by Pass, Tealing Drive** – Bus Stop L



**u3a**  
Epsom & Ewell

# 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.

**u3a**  
Epsom & Ewell

# MONDAY PRESENTATION

## NOT IN FRONT OF THE AUDIENCE - CENSORSHIP ON THE BRITISH STAGE

MALCOLM JONES

Bourne Hall Monday 2 October at 10:30



On September 26 1968, after 231 years of official censorship, Britain ended the power of the Lord Chamberlain to decide what the British public should and shouldn't see. Official vetting and censoring of plays was established by the Theatres Licensing Act of 1737 and led to years of controversy, absurdity and fascinating battles between the theatre makers and the authority of the Theatre Censor. Malcolm returns to us and discusses Censorship on the British Stage.

## COMING SOON

The social committee are busy planning for 2024. So far, they have booked for Amberley Museum in February and a Thames River Cruise with lunch at the beginning of May.

They are also looking at a few other events that they hope members will like.

Booking will open for all members on the same day in order to give everyone a fair chance to book as some events will have limited capacity.

Notification will appear in the monthly newsletter when booking opens.

As we move forward into the autumn, we have lots to look forward to. Clive has some excellent speakers lined up and the social committee have the Weald & Downland Museum in October and Hever Castle in November.

The Third Age Trust also have some very interesting online items for members who prefer to stay indoors as the weather changes.

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!!!!

