
Chairman's Update October 2023

u3a Epsom & Ewell

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our October newsletter.

Our September speaker certainly started some conversations. We had several members who, as they left the meeting, said they did not learn anything new, whilst others said it was brilliant and definitely food for thought. We also received a couple of emails from members with very differing views. I think this only goes to prove how diverse our membership is.

We also had one member who asked that we remind members that although asking questions is good, please remember to be respectful to our guest speakers and other members attending the event.

In answer to a question raised on the AGM voting form, we are currently working on a technical solution for the Bourne Hall queue and have purchased a barcode scanner. So, please remember your membership card (*which has a barcode on it*) and we will see if our plan works.



Bourne Hall

**Monday
October 2nd**

**10.30am –
10.50am**

**Followed by
our guest
speaker at
11.00am**





AGM

Voting results

This year we had a record number of votes cast which hopefully will reassure the members who queried whether voting online was the right approach.

We currently have 1029 online members of whom over 30% voted, and 44 non-internet members who received a postal AGM pack and 3 have voted. Twenty-two members have taken the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that have been added to the Comments-Question-and-Answer page available on the AGM page of our website.

Also, this year, following legitimate concerns raised by a few members, our treasurer has done an in-depth report which shows how our finances work. This is available via a link on the Comments-Question-and-Answer page of the website.

Total votes cast are as follows: 306 validated online votes, 1 unvalidated online vote, 3 postal votes and 6 duplicated votes which were removed.

<u>Voting to receive the following reports:</u>	For	Against	Abstain
Chairmans Annual Report	300	2	7
Trustees Annual Report & Accounts to 31 st July	245 <i>(39)</i>	11 <i>(2)</i>	8 <i>(4)</i>
AGM 2022 Minutes	299	2	8
<u>Election of Officers for a further year in office</u>			
Tony Skelton - Chairman	294	6	9
Peta Hargreaves – Membership Secretary	308	0	1
<u>Election for a further year</u>			
Graham Penman – Independent Examiner	297	2	10
<u>Election of New Trustees</u>			
Paul Lander – Vice Chairman	296	1	12
Libby Curzon – Group Coordinator	300	0	9

*Note: The financial report was updated to correct an analysis anomaly and re- voted on by members.
 (Figures in (italics) refer to revotes from members and are in addition to the main result)
 The final balance remained unchanged.
 (All officers were elected unopposed)*



Exploring London 13



In September EL13 started our stroll from Leicester Square. This historic area consists of many shady narrow streets and alleyways, which were very welcome as it was a hot day. We passed J Sheekey restaurant, which started when Prime Minister Lord Salisbury asked a stallholder to start catering for his post-theatre parties in 1896. Cecil Court with its Victorian shop fronts has a wealth of history, from having shops and brothels in 1735, to being the centre of the early British film industry in 1897. Its shops now sell rare books. We walked down Goodwin's Court with its 18th Century shop fronts, which some people say was the inspiration for Diagon Alley (Harry Potter). We passed Rules, London's oldest restaurant which had a side door built so Edward VII could entertain his lady friends in private. At the Theatre Royal we learnt it is the world's oldest theatre site in continuous use since 1663. We ended our walk in Covent Garden, which started as a vegetable garden for the monks at Westminster Abbey. A plaque at St Paul's church noted Samuel Pepys saw Punch & Judy on 9th May 1662, which was a bit gruesome then. Our walk finished in St Paul's Church to look at the memorial to the actors.

Gail Wells



Exploring London 11

Our group enjoyed a very interesting walk from Canada Water around Rotherhithe. We were very lucky in being able to see the insides of both the Finnish and Norwegian churches, and finding an excellent pub with a garden for a lovely lunch.

Jan Caruth



Beer Group

The beer group again took over the conservatory at the Hope Pub for a tasting that included a mouth-puckering wild cherry sour from Canada and an oatmeal stout from the Netherlands, both highly unusual and good examples of their genre. We also returned to the same venue two weeks later for one of their famous beer festivals.

The Hybrid group will be attending the glorious lighting event that is Renaissance at St Albans Cathedral. If anyone has an interest in attending the lights do, please get in touch.

Ann Norman via Garden Wanderers page. Please specify Hybrid Group.

On September 29th Chrissie Cleveland (Gertie's Gardener and Ward Councilor) attended the award ceremony at RHS Wisley for the South and South East Borough in Bloom awards. Congratulations to all residents and our u3a Gerties' Gardeners on being awarded a silver medal for the second year running. Nonsuch Park won two awards, one of them was Gold!!!



Following some questions raised by members over the last couple of months regarding how you pay us and we refund you, we thought some financial information may prove useful for members.

All payments to our u3a for membership and events can be made by bacs, cheque, or cash.

All payments and refunds from our u3a are made by bacs.

We do not have a cheque book or refund in cash as all payments must be approved by two signatories as per our financial policy.

Our u3a has three Lloyds authorised signatories who can approve payments from our u3a account. They are the treasurer, membership secretary and business secretary.

Members' bank details are not held on our Beacon system, they are held on our Lloyds Bank account as registered payees.

Some statistics for the year that members who like numbers may find interesting:

On our Beacon accounts this year the three signatories have dealt with 3342 transactions.

Deposit 23, Current 1403, Membership 1579 and Social 337.

Our membership secretary has banked 372 cheques and cash payments in 18 separate batches and dealt with 573 bacs renewals.

Our treasurer has banked 289 cheques in 34 separate batches for social events and dealt with 459 bacs event bookings.

Our three signatories have dealt with 153 bacs refunds for social events during the year.

We have had a very busy year!!!!



For September it was Tony's turn to lead Exploring London 8. For a change he decided that we would start at London Bridge. This did mean that we had to start at 10.45 rather than 10.30 as the train times were a bit different.

We started our walk at Borough Market and learnt about the hawkers and hucksters, craftsmen, and criminals. Numerous trades had stalls in the market. Butchers were a particular source of drama. In the days before refrigeration, the best way of transporting and storing meat was in the form of a whole living animal, but a live ox or goat can cause considerable mayhem!! In 1933 it was estimated that 1,750,000 bushels of fruit and vegetables were sold at Borough. We then stopped at Southwark Cathedral which has a very nice coffee shop.

Our next stop was St Magnus the Martyr which is a Wren church by the side of London Bridge which looks like a building site from the outside as there is a lot of renovation going on next door. However, the church is open for visitors and is certainly worth a visit. The layout of the pews is quite unusual. Then we moved on to the Monument and looked in depth at the frieze on the west side of the Monument. There are numerous characters depicted including Father Time, Mercury, King Charles II, Liberty, Architecture, and Imagination. We finished our day at Leadenhall Market and learned all about 'The Wild Leadenhall Market Goose Chase' and Old Tom the goose who was regularly apprehended by police for being drunk and disorderly.





Gertie's Gardeners



It is that time of year. The leaves have started to fall and six of us spent our morning sweeping and pruning and generally making Gerties' look a bit tidier.

Next month we will probably be doing the end of year pruning and tidying for the winter.

Our compost heap is rotting down nicely and our pile of leaves at the back of the garden will hopefully make some nice mulch by the end of next year.



And then we adjourned to Mandalinas' for coffee, cakes, crepes, and chat!!



**In 2022-23 your
u3a received
£2340.90
commission from
Riviera Travel**

At Riviera Travel, we appreciate just how hard it is for charities and organisations to continuously raise the ever-increasing funds needed for their vital work each year. However, even the most loyal supporters of any good cause reach a point where they cannot donate more money or sponsor another event – however they may still want to go on holiday!

As part of our Affinity scheme, we have partnered with a number of organisations and charities, and you are able to support these simply by booking your holiday with Riviera Travel. We offer this across our wide range of holidays from our luxurious river cruises to new UK breaks, cultural European tours or city breaks and long-haul trips of a lifetime without any additional cost to you.

Your holiday will cost exactly the same regardless of whether you choose to benefit an Affinity Partner or not, as the donation is made directly from Riviera Travel, not from the person taking the holiday

- Our carefully selected Affinity partners include a diverse collection of charities and good causes alongside organisations that take part in fundraising
- Riviera Travel was established over 38 years ago and offers a wide range of quality, fully escorted UK European and Worldwide tours, city breaks and river cruises
- We are members of ABTA, ATOL, IATA and AGTO so you can rest assured that your holiday plans and your money are as safe as they possibly can be
- Most excursions are included in the price – making it easier to budget for your trip
- A selection of our itineraries have a range of pre-bookable personalised experiences to further enhance your holiday experience and make it as individual as you are. *(Further details available on our website 'Local Links')*

**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 Limited availability

EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz

2 pm Tuesday 10 October 2023

at All Saints Community Hall, KT19 9QY

Sarah Spencer's Transatlantic Band

with special guest

Tom "Spats" Langham

**"Magic" Mike Henry – cornet Sarah Spencer - reeds
Rob Pearce – trombone Spats Langham- banjo & guitar
Jim Swinnerton – string bass Graham Smith - drums**

free parking & tea break refreshments

**£17 at the door or £15 if you show your u3a membership card
or Pre-pay £15 – usual bank details (email for info)**

All Saints Community Hall, Fulford Road,

West Ewell, Epsom KT19 9QY

Frequent buses 418 & 467 from 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:

Vitality Five, Geoff Hiscott's Artful Dodgers, Paula Jackman's Clarinet Masters 2, 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 (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.

REGENCY DANCE TASTER SESSION FOR U3A MEMBERS

Have you ever watched *Pride and Prejudice* and looked on in envy as Elizabeth moves across the dance floor with Mr Darcy?


Here's your chance to learn the genteel etiquette and lively dancing of the Regency era ballroom!

Date: Friday 10 November 1.30 - 3pm
Wellbeing Centre, off Longmead, Epsom
£1 contribution to the centre

No partners or costume are necessary!



Contact: Libby on 020 8391 1215

 MrsBennetsBallroom

email: mrsbennetsballroom@gmail.com

Garden Visiting Group

A few of our garden wanderers gang took two trips out this month.

We attended the RHS Wisley Flower show and Dahlia Festival and were frankly very surprised at how easy it was to travel and park, utterly amazing given what is happening at Junction 10 of the M25 presently. It was a sunny day, and we wandered the trials garden, the vegetable garden, and the many varied stalls of the show. This month we felt quite tempted by the many good things offered for our gardens and now have quite a task to fit our purchases in.

Our second trip out went to Kent to Great Comp Garden on a brilliant warm autumn day. We wandered the woods and displays of the Salvia Garden at its peak, following a leisurely lunch we drove on to Lullingstone Castle to visit the World Garden and their glorious greenhouses, although we were amazed to see such a dangerous plant as the warning described on full show and escaping from its cage where unsuspecting fingers might just touch. We then went back home to see that the salvia garden was also featured on Gardeners World of the same week.

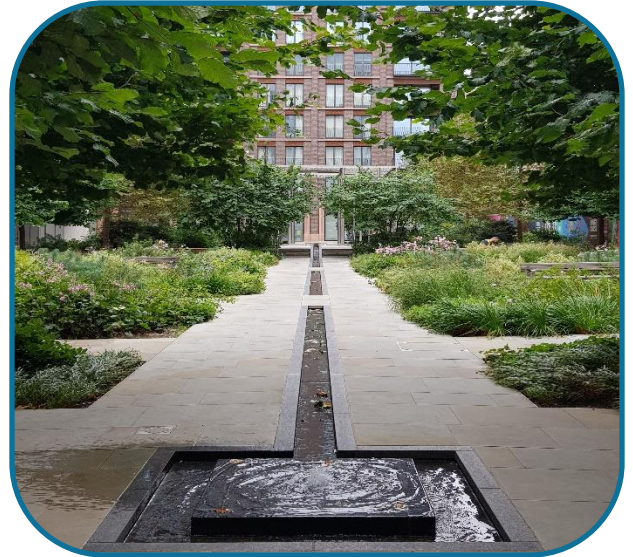


Next month
our group
will be
visiting
Syon
House.



Architectural Explorers

The Architectural Explorers were out and about on a very windy day in Kings Cross for our second visit to see the remaining buildings we could not cover on last year's visit. Bob, who has many years' experience in modern building construction, took us around the model of Kings Cross explaining the issues in designing and building many of the large concept buildings located in the area. We visited, and in some cases attempted to visit but were rebuffed, many of the modern edifices that we were discussing and then returned to Kings Cross station for a delightful lunch.



Next month our group has plans to spend a morning looking at the architectural styles of the London Pub.

For September our intrepid church crawlers ventured out to the beautiful village of Shere to visit St James Church. This church stands close to the Pilgrims Way which is the ancient road from Winchester walked by Pilgrims on their way to the tomb of St Thomas at Canterbury. The lychgate at St James was designed in 1902 by Edward Lutyens who is widely held to be our greatest architect since Sir Christopher Wren and who designed the Cenotaph in London.

This church is famous for the anchoress of Shere. Her name was Christine Carpenter and she lived around 1330. She petitioned the Bishop of Winchester to grant permission for her to be walled within a small cell attached to the church with a small opening allowing her to view the high altar services.



Top left: The
Millenium
Memorial



Top right: 12c
Purbeck
Marble font



Bottom left:
The
beautifully
carved
wooden
lectern

After our visit some of us wandered in to The Dabbling Duck for coffee, cakes, and chat.



Our social committee offering for September was our first Quiz Night. Brilliantly organised by Marie and John, two of our committee members. Our quizmaster was Barrie Upton, one of our members, ably assisted by his wife Ann marking our answers. The music rounds were particularly entertaining with members humming along!!

A fun evening with rounds of questions, interspersed with an interval for our very tasty finger buffet laid on by The Station Pub and our free raffle which was won by Colin Richards. We hope he and Elaine enjoy the trip out courtesy of Epsom Explore.





THURSDAY 23rd 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 8th 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'
- 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

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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.

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MONDAY PRESENTATION

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

WIND AND WORDS

Bourne Hall Monday 6 November at 10:30



Wind and Words - a unique recital of clarinet and poetry - combining familiar tunes with both classic and contemporary poems. We make an early start for Christmas this year, just to get you in the mood for all that shopping! Our theme "The Night Before Christmas" will weave poetry and music into one continuous performance. A feast of Wind, Words and Wassail for Yuletide!

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 in 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.

This is the 37th monthly newsletter of my chairmanship. My last year in office starts on October 2nd as does our membership secretary, business secretary and treasurer. This means that we need to start in earnest now with our successional planning. Also, this time next year we will need someone to take over the monthly newsletter and our monthly refreshments will need a new organiser. Lots for members to start thinking about!!!

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!!!!

