

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our November newsletter.

The committee would like to say Thank You to all the members who took the time to vote, and to those who managed to attend our AGM. This is a very important part of our year, and gives the committee the mandate from the members to continue for another year.

This year's meeting went very well. The support from the vast majority of the members was very much appreciated as the committee had just finished what had been a very difficult year.

As we start the new u3a year we have two new committee members and I begin my final year in office.

Booking is now open for Michael's Jazz group Christmas party, see page 11 for details. Also we are looking forward to our November lunch date at Hever Castle.



We will remember them

Deep dug trenches, for
friend or foe, each like
coffins, row by row.

Blasts of gunfire, light up
the sky, like blasting
rockets, soaring high.

Childish cries, from men
in pain, prayers and
thoughts, of home again.

Bloody battle, lives are
lost, war is over, but at a
cost.

Fields of poppies, where
they lay, reminder of,
each fateful day.

Sound of silence, Poppies
worn, we think of them,
and all who mourn.

They gave their lives, that
we may live, we will
remember, the least we
give.

Jan Stevens



AGM

Post Mortem



All the AGM papers will remain on the website for the next couple of months for any members who would like to see them.

However, we thought we would share some figures from on the day.

As members are aware, as in the previous four years, we conducted our voting online.

We are aware that a couple of members disagree with that method and one member did raise that point at the AGM. Although all members' views are important, the committee feel that, as we have over one thousand members and only two have raised an objection, the majority decision stands.

Our final polling for the AGM was 306 online votes, 3 postal votes and 6 duplicated online votes, which were removed prior to the count. We also had one invalidated online vote. To explain more fully, members were asked to enter their name and membership number if known, if not they could enter 001. This information allowed us to check that all votes had been cast by current members of our u3a. The invalidated vote was caused by a voting form being completed with just initials and the membership number 001.

We did check our database to try to validate the vote but as we have seven members with similar initials it was not possible.

Following a question from a member regarding how many AGM attendees had voted we checked the records before deleting them for the year.

157 members attended the AGM – of those 157 attendees, 101 had voted online, 54 had not voted (but in some cases their partner had) and 2 were prospective members who were permitted to attend as there was no voting on the day.

208 members had voted online and did not attend our AGM.

We did receive apologies from a number of them, and we believe this provides further support to the argument for online voting. Some of those 208 members had holidays, hospital appointments, family, or work commitments and at least four who had been planning to attend notified us that unfortunately they had tested positive for covid so would not be able to attend.

Chichester Summer School 2023 by Mary Evans

I attended the u3a South East Summer School this September staying in accommodation on the University Campus.

I was a bit apprehensive as I didn't know anyone who was going (a bit like most students feel in their first week!). I needn't have worried as I quickly made friends on my course, and in the dinner queue, and no regrets at all.

Everyone was very welcoming from the university catering team to the South East organising committee.

The first evening started with a welcome drink and a superb meal. Full marks to the catering team for providing three main meal choices and yummy desserts. All excellent quality and ample helpings. After a hearty meal I skipped the ice-breaker quiz in favour of an early night. However the first night proved eventful as the fire alarm went off at 3am and all in my block had to march outdoors in our pj's and slippers. I felt for one lady who was unfortunately barefoot! We were grateful that we were in the middle of the 30-degree heatwave and at least it provided another opportunity to make friends! We were told it was hot air rising that had caused the alarm to trigger (not u3a member having a crafty ciggy!).

Summer School participants had the choice of a variety of subjects, including some intellectually challenging topics such as physics and some more physically challenging activities like yoga or rambling. The u3a staple of ukulele was also a popular choice for many. All courses were presented by u3a members such as is in line with the ethos of the organisation.



I chose Archaeology for my subject. The tutor presented a well thought out course which included an introduction to Egyptology and a very entertaining visit from a local metal detectorist who brought along examples of his finds and let us all have a play with the technology. The next day saw our group off on a "field trip" to nearby Bignor Roman Villa. This villa was discovered on a family farm and the museum operation is still run by the same friendly family. Another sweltering hot day and we were pleased to enjoy a welcome cup of tea in the farm café. After refreshments one of our party found that she was locked out of her car. Maybe central locking had gone rogue in the heat. With a long wait expected from the breakdown people the kind manager at Bignor came up trumps and found a solution to the dilemma.

The summer school committee also put on entertainment. As a trip to Chichester Festival theatre had not been possible this year we were treated to the film "Where the Crawdads Sing" which was shown in an air-conditioned lecture theatre. A bonus in the hot weather! The final night's entertainment was a talk about the Titanic delivered in character by a "maid" who worked on the ship. Most entertaining.

On the last day of Summer School, after the morning lecture and coffee break, I managed a trip into Chichester and it was pleasantly cool in the beautiful cathedral. I didn't think a visit to Chichester would be complete without seeing the city.

All in all it was a great week and lovely to chat with other members from across the South East. I would recommend Summer School wholeheartedly.



Third Age Trust AGM October 18th 2023

As in previous years the TAT AGM was a hybrid meeting which allows many more u3a's to attend than would otherwise be possible. The actual meeting is held at a venue in Milton Keynes and live streamed for nominated members of u3a's to attend.

There are 1035 u3a's in the United Kingdom with over 400,000 members between them.

Every u3a is allocated a certain number of votes dependant on the size of their membership as at April 1st. Epsom and Ewell u3a has three votes which are cast on behalf of the membership by the chairman.

This year there were only two main resolutions to vote on:

Resolution 3 – Now that the u3a has in excess of 1000's, with the south east representing around 20% of the National figure, we request that the organisational review of the Third Age Trust is mandated to consider a mechanism to give greater status and input to smaller networks/clusters.

Proposed by Hastings & Rother u3a and seconded by Hailsham & District u3a

Resolution 4 – This Annual General Meeting calls on the Third Age Trust to 1. Adopt as a key strategic priority an increase in national u3a membership to at least 500,000 by the end of 2028. 2. Implement regular and substantial promotional activities to enable this goal to be achieved. 3. To report on the implementation and impact of promotional activities at Board meetings and in Annual Reports.

Proposed by Royston u3a and seconded by Tring u3a.

Of the 1035 u3a's eligible to attend 490 took part on the day, some at the venue but over 400 online. The total number of votes which could be cast was 1068.

Voting stats were as follows:

The minutes of last year's AGM – For 553, Against 6, Abstain 48 = Total 607

Approval of the auditors – For 608, Against 0, Abstain 11 = Total 619

Resolution 3 – For 143, Against 440, Abstain 31 = Total 614 - *defeated*

Resolution 4 – For 409, Against 183, Abstain 25 – Total 617 - *approved*

Our Epsom & Ewell u3a voted in favour of both resolutions.

Many u3a's across the country have been working together over the last few months on Resolution 4 as they are unhappy with the trust's performance on raising the profile of the u3a.

Thankfully this year's AGM only lasted two and a half hours (last year 6 hours!!!)

Exploring London Group 13

Alan took the group round Fitzrovia, an area now overlooked by the Telecom Tower, but previously a bohemian neighbourhood, known as the nucleus of the Bloomsbury Group of artists and writers, with Virginia Woolf and George Orwell getting plenty of mentions. We passed on the opportunity to visit the impressive house of the Scientologist's founder!!

Our walkers saw several elegant squares, had a brief journey through the British Museum and then Great Ormond Street, the story of the Foundling Hospital, and ending for most at the 18th century Horse Hospital - (it has 2 storeys - really?!!) Now an avantgarde arts venue. We were able to squeeze the walk in between rail strikes, and the weather was good, so a busy but enjoyable and informative walk.

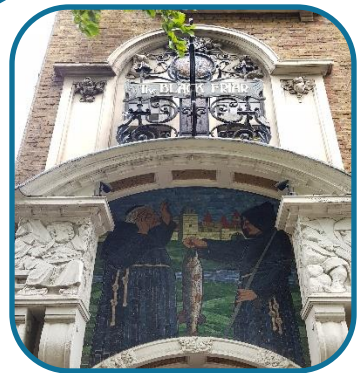


Bus Pass 4 walk to Bushy Park - Nine of us were fortunate enough to have a dry sunny, if a little chilly, day for our walk. There was a plethora of wildlife to enjoy, from deer, fish, birds, squirrels, and rabbits. The autumnal colours are late this year so not at their best. We stopped at the outside café for a refreshment break part way through our walk, then later took the bus back to Kingston.





The Exploring Architecture Group went on a pub crawl this month to see the historic pubs of the City of London and hear the history and development from ale houses to the very swish gin palaces. We were ably led by Irene who had researched and presented her knowledge in a fun and informative manner. Our first pub hosted us with coffee & biscuits, so we could hear the background to our subject, then the ramble around Blackfriars and Holborn began. We heard from publicans about the effect of the Great Fire, saw mirrored palaces, wonderful stained glass, cellars, and vaulting roofs. Restraint was the order of the day and drinks were kept to the last pub where lunch was enjoyed. The beer group may well wish to replicate this walk, but with less restraint!





**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')*



Thursday February 29th 2024

Save the date - Booking will open on December 1st

We are limited to 48 members for this day out.

£38.50 per person includes return coach travel, driver gratuity, entrance to the museum and three 20-minute workshops.

Amberley Museum is a large, mostly open-air site with plenty of space to explore within a safe environment. Our inspiring natural setting, varied working exhibits and volunteer welcome make us a popular choice among further education colleges, universities, language schools and adult learning.

We have booked three additional experiences for members to enjoy which each last for 20 minutes. Our party will be split into three groups and there will be a short break between each experience to allow for coffee, comfort breaks and lunch. Members can either take a packed lunch or use the Amberley Museum café facilities.

The three additional experiences are as follows:

Orientation Talk, Amberley Museum 10 objects, High Voltage Demonstration

Most of the site is accessible to those with limited mobility except for our bus fleet, nature trails, the Billingshurst Signal Box, and some viewing platforms.

Further details are available on our website, social events page.

On October 30th the committee hosted a group leaders' drop in session in the Rose Room at Bourne Hall. This session was a chance for Libby, our new groups coordinator, to meet some of our group leaders and Marie, our GDPR compliance officer, to update leaders about the Data Protection guidelines that we should all adhere to. The Third Age trust updated their policy recently and we have now adopted their policy. This policy applies to all members as well as group leaders and committee members.

The full PowerPoint presentation is available on our website on the Legal Stuff page. Members as well as group leaders are advised to read the guidance to ensure that you are keeping your own data safe as well as the data of any others that you share information with.

Our u3a uses the Beacon system to store members' data which is fully GDPR compliant. Please ensure that you only give your data to reputable sources.

If you receive unsolicited calls from sources that you have not agreed to share your data with, you should report them immediately to Marie our GDPR compliance officer using u3aepsom@gmail.com



For October Denise J led Exploring London 8 on a walk exploring Soho past and present.

We're not sure about the significance of the Angel statue but it's very ornate. The bottom left picture we are outside a most unusual hat shop. We peeped into the swimming baths at the Marshall Street Leisure Centre where Denise used to swim and obviously you can't walk past a cake shop like this one and not take a picture (far less fattening than actually eating one!!)



EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

14 Nov - The Vitality Five – London's Searing Hot Five

*Michael McQuaid cornet reeds, David Horniblow reeds,
Colin Good piano, Curtis Volp banjo,
Nicholas D Ball percussion*

free parking & tea break refreshments

Tickets £17 (£15 members) includes tea, coffee & cakes

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

Doors 1.40 - Music 2 - 4.20 pm - Info 0791 3655 458 m.stevensatlap@gmail.com

Website: epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/

Next Month – booking now open (bank details as last year)

12 Dec - Geoff Hiscott's Artful Dodgers

Christmas Party Band

Tickets £23 (£20 u3a members) includes mulled wine & mince pies

Geoff Hiscott MC, piano, tuba: "Magic" Mike Henry cornet:

Mike Innes trombone: Mark Aston reeds;

Mike Deighan banjo: Terry Davis bass;

Graham Collicott percussion



2024 bookings Tickets £17 (u3a members £15)

8 Jan 2024 Paula Jackman's Clarinet Masters (2)

13 Feb The Washboard Resonators (from Leeds)

26 March The Hot Teapots (from Verona, Italy)

(April & May not yet booked)

11 June The Forest Hill Owls

Festival 2024 18th – 20th Jul 2024

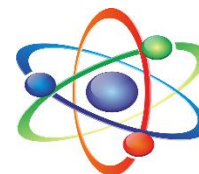
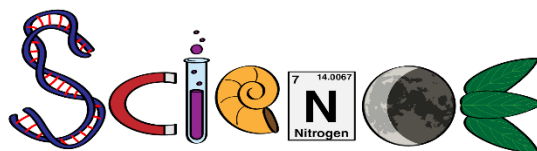
The festival will run over 3 days and will be held at the University of York based around their exhibition centre. Accommodation will be available in the student halls and we will provide more information on this in the coming months. It's early days, but as the weeks and months go by, the trust will be adding more information to the trust webpage about all the wonderful activities that members, groups, u3as and subject specialists will bring to Festival '24 in York. festival@u3a.ora.uk

This event is organised by the Third Age Trust



We have a dedicated Festival 24 page on our website.

Dear All,



I am sorry to say that Derek and myself have looked into restarting the Science group but it is not going to be possible. We didn't want it to finish particularly as it has been going for about 30 years. A member from Sutton or Banstead mentioned he may take it over but we have heard nothing from him.

I would like to thank the members who offered to help at the meetings but there is a lot of work to set up the meetings which Derek and I cannot manage ourselves. We both truly miss Alison Gaitonde from Banstead u3a as she had many contacts when arranging speakers.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the group, not just while I was leader, but for the many years the group has been going initially at Nonsuch High School.

Best wishes to you all,

Jenny Powell – Science group leader



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

Weald & Downland Museum

The social committee offering for October was a coach trip to the Weald & Downland Museum. The weather at 6am did not look good but by the time we were at the pick-up points the sun was out and the rest of the day was lovely. The Weald and Downland Museum is located on a 40-acre site in the heart of the South Downs and has 50 relocated historic houses that give an insight into rural living with over 1000 years of history.

The added bonus was a very nice café and other shepherds' huts dotted around the site with some lovely refreshments on offer and very reasonably priced. (Also, nice clean toilets at strategic points around the site.)



We started with a walk through the gallery



The grounds are lovely with lots of picnic areas.



Weald and Downland is the home of the TV programme The Repair Shop.



This beautiful totem pole is by the side of the foundry which is located close to The Repair Shop Barn.



We believe this is an early boiler for doing the washing.



There were displays of various pots etc. from medieval times.

It was half term and almost Halloween and various houses had workshops



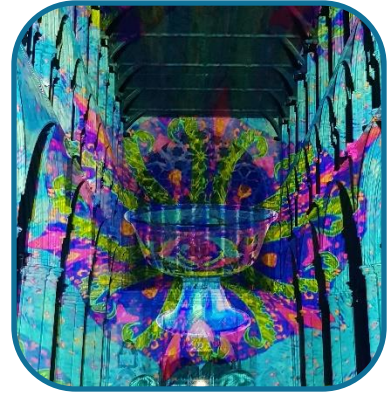
Some members visited the Gridshell building where there was a small wood carving exhibition.



To the left is the Robert Dyas shop that originally stood in Horsham High Street. When the shop was due for demolition it was saved and relocated to Weald & Downland.

Thank you to members who supplied the pictures for this report.

The hybrid group of U3A members took a trip to St Alban's recently. Eventually, after a major train failure, we arrived late afternoon for a visit to the Renaissance sound & light show; an annual event in the Cathedral.



It was excellent, comfortable, and well-paced.

The show stretched into 6 areas covering most of the cathedral and finished with a final 15-minute summary in the nave in stunningly beautiful and colourful detail.

Hopefully the pictures will do justice to this great evening.



Exploring London 11

Walking in Wapping in wonderful weather!

We began by exploring the old and the new in St Katherine's docks including the crystal crown associated with both Star Wars and the late Queen.

Walking down Wapping High Street we saw the many and varied late 20th century developments and the Memorial Garden, built to commemorate the many civilian casualties from the WW2 docks bombing.

At Wapping Old Stairs, we heard about the only theft of the Crown Jewels, and how Wapping got its name.

We ate a riverside lunch in one of the 2 pubs claiming to be the oldest in the area!!

On the way to Shadwell station, we saw where the Cable Street riots had taken place and where William Perkins who discovered the colour mauve had lived.



Garden Visiting Group



The ladies went to see the Duke of Northumberland's historic conservatories and home in Syon Park. It was a dull day made much brighter by a wonderful guided tour of the house in a select group where we couldn't have been made more welcome by their team. Lunch beforehand at the garden centre was excellent and we found that the RHS membership card so many of us hold allowed us to enjoy this trip for just £5. This visit is highly recommended to all our fellow U3A members.



**'T'WAS 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!

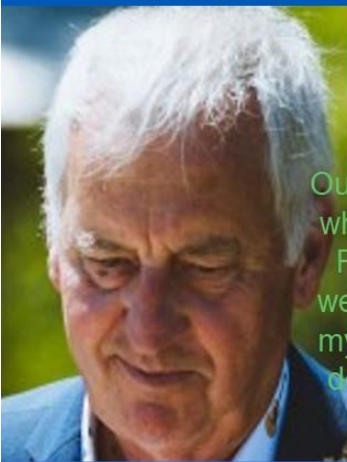


THE THREE KINGS - THE REAL STORY?

TONY RAWLINGS

Bourne Hall Monday 4 December at 10:30

Our Christmas special. A light-hearted seasonal talk for Christmas, describing what we actually know about the three kings – or rather what we don't know. For a start, we don't know how many "kings" there were. We assume they were three because they brought three gifts. But why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Also, there's no reason to suppose they were kings of anywhere. We don't even know their gender. And since they gave away the location of the baby Jesus to Herod they weren't too clever – let alone wise!



SCAM ALERT

We have been alerted by a couple of members that they have received the following email:

Hi, sorry to bother you, hope you are keeping safe? I'm unable to speak over the phone due to a serious throat pains caused by laryngitis. Just wanted to check and see if I can ask a quick favour from you, please?

If you respond this email is usually followed by another asking to send money.

Please delete immediately. Do not open.

This month the social committee will host their last event for 2023 as they head out to Hever Castle for lunch and lights. There will be two coaches and they will notify you which coach you are on in the next couple of weeks. Following positive feedback from members regarding the Magic Moments trips organization, the social committee have adopted their seating policy which was trialled for the Weald and Downland trip and got very positive feedback. They will therefore be allocating seats for the Hever Castle coaches, please notify them if you want to sit with friends.

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!!!!

