

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our January newsletter.

We start the New Year with a newsletter packed full of events coming up for members to enjoy and articles from group leaders and members.

Our first event of the year will be our regular monthly talk on Monday January 8th entitled Scattered Squalor – Downland Homes with Dr Geoffrey Mead.

Magic Moments have three trips to Woking Theatre which all include coach travel to the show.

The social committee have coach trips on February 29th to the Amberley Museum, May 8th for the Thames River cruise with a two-course lunch and May 19th a trip to the annual Alresford Watercress Festival.

There is also a roundup of the meetings enjoyed during December by some of our groups and hopefully some inspiration for the New Year.



January 17th

We will be hosting a coffee morning at Bourne Hall in the Begonia Suite.

This is aimed primarily at new members (of which we had 159 during 2023 bringing our numbers up to 1106) but is also open to any members who are interested in joining groups, starting new groups, or helping to run our u3a by joining the committee.

If you would like to chat to committee members or group leaders, please join us for a coffee.

Ewell Yule Dec 8th - A brilliant family evening.

To finish the year, we decided to attend the Ewell Yule event. This annual event epitomises village traditions.



We had roundabouts for the children, Father Christmas in his usual venue of Greenfields Estate Agents.



We had a succession of Carol Singers from local schools and churches performing on the stage at Gertie's Garden



Our local dance groups, Morris Men and Ladies and the Epsom and Ewell silver band performing outside the Green Man. The local cafes and restaurants were open for refreshments.



Exploring London 2 November walk on Tuesday 28th November

The members of the Exploring London Group 2 met up for probably the final time. It is hoped to keep the group going with both a London Walk and a meal at the end which in this case was the Alexandra Pub, Wimbledon. The existing group has been led by ourselves David and Pauline Blackmore for almost 13 years!



Thirty-five members of "Singing for Pleasure "gave a sterling performance at their Christmas Concert" to members of the Longmead Community Centre. Our group were accompanied by Pauline on piano, Colin on Guitar and Fred on the drums, presentations were made to our musicians and to my helpers, without whom I could not run this group so smoothly. I was also overwhelmed when members presented me with a generous gift voucher for any Grumpy Mole restaurant and a traditional Christmas arrangement. After the concert we had refreshments followed by Dilys's song Quiz, which caused a lot of merriment and got out of hand at times!! Well done, Dilys, also Jan our Poetess, read out her thoughts at the beginning of our Concert of Christmases Past, which evoked many memories for us all.

Plans are well underway for 2024, including a return of the Ukulele Group, a session with Keith Parry who is a Banstead U3A member and plays the keyboard, and our musical trio will hopefully do a return visit in the early summer, so lots to look forward to.

Jenny Sparrow

Group Leader 🎵

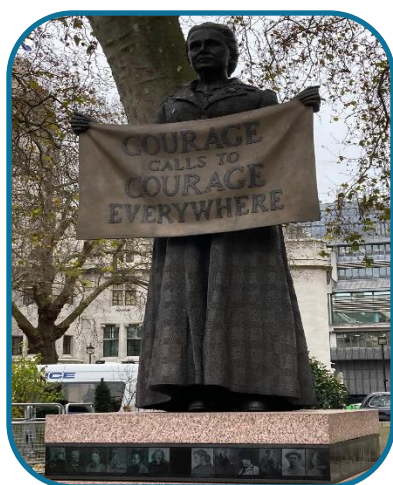


Exploring London 8 took an early walk this month led by Maureen. Some of our members had other commitments with grandchildren, holidays and John was donning his usual red costume to play Father Christmas at the Tattenham Corner community library.

Six of us enjoyed a visit to the Supreme Court. We can thoroughly recommend the café in the Supreme Court which was not crowded and very reasonably priced.

Court Three was in session debating a human rights issue. The court usher was very informative and explained the significance of the pattern on the carpet. We also visited court room 2 which is a lot more modern and the chairman was invited to sit in the central judge's chair!!!

After the court we went to look at the statues in Parliament Square. We decided that Nelson Mandela's definitely does him justice which is more than can be said for the statue of David Lloyd George which is a trifle comedic.



The court usher took our photo and decided we needed a halo!!!!



**WEDNESDAY 20th
MARCH 2024
WOKING THEATRE
2.30pm Matinee**

Head from the aisle to the isles in the official Stock Aitken Waterman musical featuring the soundtrack of a generation with music from pop royalty including Kylie Minogue (*I Should Be So Lucky*), Rick Astley (*Never Gonna Give You Up*), Jason Donovan (*Especially for You*), Bananarama (*Love In The First Degree*) and more, all intertwined in an original story of love, laughter and last-minute getaways!

I Should Be So Lucky is about family, friends and being there when it matters most. Featuring ten Number 1 singles and over thirty era-defining songs from the Hit Factory, slip into those summer sandals, pop on your shades, and lose yourself in this whirlwind of sun-kissed adventures and iconic pop classics.

Get ready to hear Stock Aitken Waterman's beloved chart-toppers like never before in the brand-new musical sensation of the year.

£43.50 PER PERSON

Excursion price includes:

Stalls ticket Rows N or P, 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
- 11.55am **EWELL, The Spring** – Bus Stop, Opposite Bourne Hall Bus Shelter
- 12.00pm **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane
- 12.10pm **EPSOM, High Street** – Bus Stop, Outside Santander
- 12.15pm **ASHTAD, High Street** – Bus Stop, Opposite Betting Shop

Time has been allowed for pre-show wander/refreshments, traffic permitting



Tuesday morning Duplicate Bridge

Are you interested in playing Duplicate Bridge at the Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road, on Tuesday mornings from 9.30-12.15?

Two of our members have taken over as leaders of this group which is shared by several local u3a's.

This is a small friendly group and it's not necessary to come with a partner, if you are on your own, we will find you a partner.

The first meeting of the New Year will be January 9th.

Our two new group leaders will be attending our Bourne Hall coffee morning on January 17th. If you would like more details or to sign up for the group please come along for a chat with Christine and Ruth.



**Cribbage at Epsom Bowling club
Thursdays 2pm-4pm**

Dates for 2024

January 4th & 18th, February 1st, 15th & 29th,
March 14th & 28th, April 11th & 25th

Contact the group leader Brian Collis via the website if you are interested in joining this group.



Alresford Watercress Festival

Sunday May 19th 2024 from 10.00 – 16.00



**£32.00 per head
includes return coach
travel, driver gratuity
and coach parking at
the festival**

Nationally acclaimed annual Festival attracting thousands of visitors to New Alresford in Hampshire to celebrate all things watercress.

Every year on the third Sunday in May the streets of this Georgian town are closed to traffic to transform the town into a family-friendly FREE festival.

From street markets, food & drink stalls, cookery demonstrations with renowned world class chefs, the Hampshire Farmers Market, a "Kids Zone" featuring Falcon Displays and Circus Skills, there really is something for everyone. For many the highlight of the day is Watercress Eating Championship which takes place at 15:00 on the main stage - a must-see event hosted by our very own redoubtable Paul Rees keeping the participants in order and the crowd in stitches.

The festival opens at 10:00 and closes at 16:00, with the streets of New Alresford being returned to normal within a few hours.



Thursday February 29th 2024

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.

Epsom Hot Jazz Club finished the year with their usual Christmas party concert.

We were entertained by Geoff Hiscott's Artful Dodgers Christmas Party Band. With Geoff Hiscott, 'Magic' Mike Henry, Mike Innes, Mark Ashton, Mike Deighan, Terry Davis and Graham Collicott.

The afternoon was filled with a mixture of traditional jazz and Christmas favourites with the Christmas raffle in the interval when members enjoyed mulled wine, coffee, tea, and mince pies.



The chairman thanked Michael, our Jazz group leader for arranging yet another brilliant live band.



Paul was called upon to hold up the chorus for the audience participation while the band played on.

For the 2024 programme
see Page 11



EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

Tuesday 9 January 2024

Paula Jackman's Jazz Masters

With special guest Spats Langham

Tickets £17 (£15 u3a members)

Free parking & tea break refreshments

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/

2024 bookings Tickets £17 (u3a members £15)

13 Feb The Washboard Resonators (from Leeds)

12 March The Hot Teapots (from Verona, Italy)

(April & May not yet booked)

11 June The Forest Hill Owls

Festival 2024 18th – 20th Jul 2024

Event tickets are not yet available to buy but the cost of attending the festival will be as follows:

Day 1 – Thursday 18 July – £25 including buffet supper

Day 2 – Friday 19 July – £10 for the full day

Day 3 – Saturday 20 July – £5 for a half day

Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on day 1 – £35

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>



York
University

Accommodation booking is now open (check the website for details)

Rooms on campus will be £61.80pp for bed and breakfast. They are all ensuite single rooms with tea and coffee making. There are no larger rooms available on site. Some are accessible on the ground floor.

Other accommodation options

For those who wish to book for more than one person we are compiling a list of local self-catering, B&B, campsites, and hotels. They will be as close to the campus as possible and although we cannot recommend them, they will all be from the York Tourist Information list.

For up-to-date information on the festival from the Trust click on the link below.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>



WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2024 WOKING THEATRE 2.30pm Matinee

WINNER of Best New Musical (What'sOnStage Awards 2023), the West End smash-hit **BONNIE & CLYDE** is set to hold-up Woking following two hell-raising seasons in London's West End.

Starring **Catherine Tyldesley** (*Coronation Street, Strictly Come Dancing*) as Blanche, with **Danny Hatchard** (*Eastenders*) and **Katie Tonkinson** (*Bat Out of Hell*) as the notorious lovers and **Sam Ferriday** (*The Cher Show, Rock of Ages*) as Buck. **Nate Landskroner** (*Waitress, Heathers*) will play the role of Clyde at midweek matinee performances - casting for alternate Bonnie will be revealed soon.

Fearless, shameless, and alluring, this award-winning production has garnered a mass following, much like the infamous pair themselves, and now they are set to take your city by storm.

Featuring music by Tony® nominee **Frank Wildhorn** (*Jekyll & Hyde*), lyrics by Tony® and Oscar® winner **Don Black** (*Sunset Boulevard*), a book by Emmy® Award nominee **Ivan Menchell**, directed and choreographed by **Nick Winston**.

£44.50 PER PERSON

Excursion price includes:

Stalls ticket Rows N or P, return coach travel, and administrative charges.
(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)

COACH BOARDING POINTS

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Time has been allowed for pre-show wander/refreshments, traffic permitting

Bus Pass 4 December outing - We decided to have a local meet up prior to Christmas rather than an outing.

All Things Nice in Ewell village was the chosen venue where we indulged in warm drinks and seasonal treats. The chatter was constant and we also managed to plan a few outings for 2024.



Also keeping it local, Exploring London 15 had their Christmas meeting at Il Capriccio in Ewell Village.

They report that the food was lovely and it was an excellent way to finish the year.



The Thames at War River Cruise

Wednesday May 8th 2024

Step back in time and walk aboard our Thames at War cruise. As you board you will be taken back to the atmosphere of World War II with our victory themed vessel, even down to the tape on the windows. The Captain and Sergeant in charge of the vessel shall welcome you aboard. Also, our live war time commentary will inform you of war time facts about this iconic water highway and the local surrounding area.

Furthermore, keep your eyes open for the Windsor Hurricane!

This full-sized replica stands as a reminder that Windsor remains protected and defends the Thames at war. By the same token listen out for Hitler's dream home, however that is to say ultimately unfulfilled. Also enjoy our small on-board collection of war time items.

Enjoy our true dig for victory meal that will be served one hour into this three-hour cruise.

Our "Dig for Victory" Meal



Sausage meatloaf with glazed carrots and parsnips, mashed potato, and gravy
Vegetable turnover with glazed carrots and parsnips, new potatoes, and parsley gravy (V)
Spotted dick and custard
Roly-poly and custard

Our Chef is happy to cater for your dietary needs, please confirm any requirements when booking to ensure your food is available on the day.

Finally, after lunch enjoy the tunes that inspired a nation against great odds and imagine what life would have been like not only during the world wars but as part of the military history of these islands.

For this trip we can only take 50 members.

Price £49.00 per person (includes return coach travel, driver gratuity, 3-hour lunch cruise with two course lunch)

Exploring London 13

On a rather grey December day eight of us, led by Mike, met for a walk along the South Bank of the Thames. We started with a coffee at Southbank and then strolled along learning about the history of the bridges we passed, both road and rail. Between London Bridge and Tower Bridge there is a collection of some large sculptures by Gillie and Marc which we, as well as loads of tourists, enjoyed posing by and photographing. Two of their signature characters are Rabbitwoman and Dogman.

We finished our outing with a visit to The Pommelers Rest, just south of Tower Bridge, named for the area's former association with the leather trade.



New Social Committee Event coming in February – Marie is currently planning with the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden to arrange a visit in February – date tbc.

The visit will be £5 per member and will include a tour of the mosque and tea/coffee.





WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2024
WOKING THEATRE
2.30pm Matinee

Timothy Sheader (*Crazy for You, Into the Woods*) directs this mesmerizing new production of the iconic global phenomenon. Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, this reimagined production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades.

Choreographed by **Drew McOnie** (*King Kong, Strictly Ballroom*), with music and lyrics by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice**, **Jesus Christ Superstar** is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas.

Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legendary score includes 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar'.

Don't miss your chance to see this "gorgeous, thrilling, heavenly musical." – The Guardian. BOOK NOW!

£46.00 PER PERSON

Excursion price includes:

Stalls Rows N or P / Royal Circle Row G, return coach travel, and administrative charges.

(Does not include driver's gratuity, discretionary to individuals)

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Time has been allowed for pre-show wander/refreshments, traffic permitting

Coffee morning Wednesday January 17th 2024 10.00am-12.00noon

The u3a is a members for members organisation and works on the premise of sharing knowledge and helping each other.

The committee will be hosting this event in the Begonia Suite at Bourne Hall.

There will be a short introduction followed by a chance to mingle and ask questions.

This meeting is aimed at:

All members interested in joining groups.

Any members interested in setting up new groups.

Group leaders with spaces in their group.

Any members interested in finding out about helping to run our u3a by joining the committee.

In fact, anything that enhances the enjoyment that can be gained from being a member and sharing with friends.

A large, stylized blue cursive word 'Welcome' with decorative flourishes.

Report from Sue Overy – Group member

Back in 2018, I joined the u3a because I was interested in playing tennis. At the time there were no groups available and I was advised to go to Ebbisham Sports Club, in Epsom, where apart from qualifying for a u3a discount, I was immediately made welcome, and soon started making friends, as I moved from tennis to other sports. You don't have to join the club to join in the drop-in u3a groups that are based there. The u3a groups are 'racketball' and 'social rackets mornings' where you can move between games including tennis, squash, racketball, pickleball, badminton and table tennis. There is also the u3a 'Tai Chi' group.

Ebbisham Sports Club is a small and friendly club with three clay tennis courts, three squash/racketball courts, and three badminton courts. There is a bar, a pool table, and a small dance floor.

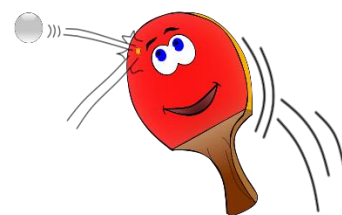


I didn't realise there was a dance floor until someone rolled back the carpet for our lovely u3a belly dancers, who arrived by special arrangement to entertain us at our recent Xmas party. They meet in West Ewell, but isn't it great how our different u3a groups can overlap?

To be fair I think my hearing aids need cleaning because I thought someone said, *ballet dancers* were coming. Anyway, it was a great party and a tasty finger buffet to boot.

Our groups are all drop-in sessions, aimed at beginners and improvers, and we play for about an hour and a half followed by a coffee and chat. What better way is there to make friends?

Rackets or belly dancing? - it could be your New Year's Resolution!



https://www.facebook.com/ebbishamsportsclub/?locale=en_GB

For more details contact Jo Robinson u3a group leader
Eastway, Epsom KT19 8SG Phone 01372 720647



Garden Visiting Group

For our final trip of 2023 the group went out to RHS Wisley for an evening trip to see the Glow Christmas Lights Show.

It was a new company putting on the display and was more grown up and impressive in many ways, but with lots of Selfie opportunities, we will leave you to judge when you see the photos.



u3a
Epsom & Ewell

DR GEOFFREY MEAD



SCATTERED SQUALOR - DOWNLAND HOMES: ASPECTS OF HOUSING HISTORY

Between the wars there was an enormous growth in British suburban housing, but not all were Tudorbethan semis with clipped lawns and an Austin 7 in the drive. Many were what are now termed 'plotlands', but in the past had harsher terms applied - hutments, track and shack or simply shanty towns. These plotlands are a largely ignored aspect of our housing history but one that has implications for present day and future UK landscapes.

Bourne Hall Monday 8 January at 10:30

u3a
Epsom & Ewell

BRIAN FREELAND



LITERARY PARIS

For centuries Paris has been a cultural capital and home to emigré artists from all over Europe. Their ranks were swollen at the end of WW1 by American authors, poets, musicians and dancers fleeing prohibition and racial discrimination. This *Lost Generation* is at the heart of our presentation which highlights the City of Light's literary successes, failures and scandals, from Voltaire and Zola to James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway via a revolution and a couple of World Wars.

Bourne Hall Monday 5 February at 10:30

Exploring Architecture group – Ann Norman

Our group meets on the 3rd Wednesday monthly, so December is always very close to Christmas and cuts across many other arrangements we would like to make.

This year we gave in and took to the pub! We decided to visit one of the oldest pubs in Surrey, the Red Lion in Cheam, for a festive lunch, and possibly to look at a very old building. It wasn't quite so straightforward but we did enjoy a good lunch.

Next month, our group will be heading out to Guildford for an in-depth visit to Guildford Cathedral.

We would happily welcome any potential new members to join us.

Don't forget that we have our January 17th coffee morning at Bourne Hall, mainly for new members but also for any members who are interested in setting up new groups, joining the committee or helping in any way to increase the enjoyment of being a member of our u3a.

Also following on from our AGM regarding our social calendar, the social committee are happy to receive assistance and ideas from members for events and days out. *(You would however be required to assist with the planning and running of any suggested event)*

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!!!!

