

Chairman's Update February 2024

u3a Epsom & Ewell

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our February newsletter.

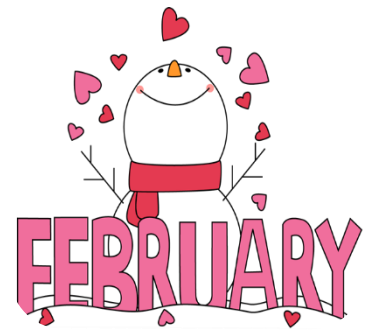
In January the committee hosted a new groups start up coffee morning at Bourne Hall.

As a result of this event several new groups are in the process of being set up and several group leaders now have some new members in their groups.

Also, we need members to focus on the future. In October my four-year term in office finishes at the AGM and we need someone to take over as chairman of our u3a.

I have enjoyed my term of office, even though unfortunately some of the time was very strange due to the pandemic and lockdown but the resilience of our members during that time was brilliant and our u3a survived and is now almost back to pre-covid strength.

Please support your u3a by joining the committee and making a difference in your local community.



What does February mean to you?

The bulbs are starting to burst back into life.

The days are gradually lengthening.

The temperature is hopefully warming up, albeit slowly!

Lots of things to look forward to including lots of u3a activities with friends.

Epsom and Ewell U3A Racketball Wednesday Group – Alan Holmes

Reaching retirement age, I was looking for a fun, easy-to-play sport to keep me fit and healthy. I wanted to meet people, make new friends and look after my physical and mental health. I was delighted when a friend took me along to one of the U3A racketball beginners' sessions that were being held weekly at the Ebbisham Club in Epsom.

The Epsom and Ewell U3A has a wonderful relationship with the club, where drop-in sessions are organised such that players are not making long term commitments and can attend without being club members (or U3A members for that matter). There are presently two beginners' groups and one for improving players, held on three separate days. So older folks who are beginners or just want to have a go can turn up as and when they choose, and play friendly games with people of similar ability.

It's never too late to start a new activity, sport or fitness regime, and some of the present players had no experience of racket sports at all prior to joining the groups here. The social aspect is very strong, there's always plenty of banter and a very friendly feel to the sessions, and no judgement on ability. Of course, there's friendly competition, and it's clear that many of the players have really improved in terms of movement and playing ability since they started.



The usual suspects form a closely-knit group of regulars, and some of these are found in the photograph, which is of the Wednesday morning group.

For more details of the sports available for u3a members to enjoy contact Jo Robinson at the Ebbisham Sports Centre



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

Last four tickets remaining

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.

If you would like more details or to sign up for the group, please contact either Christine or Ruth via our Website.

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

Dates for 2024

**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



**£29.00 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

Last couple of seats remaining

£38.50 pp return coach travel, driver gratuity, entrance, and workshops

Trip advisor review: The James Bond film “A view to a kill,” with Roger Moore, was partially filmed at (what was then called) Amberley Chalk Pits Museum. The mine entrance (near to one of the railway stations) was the main item shown in the film

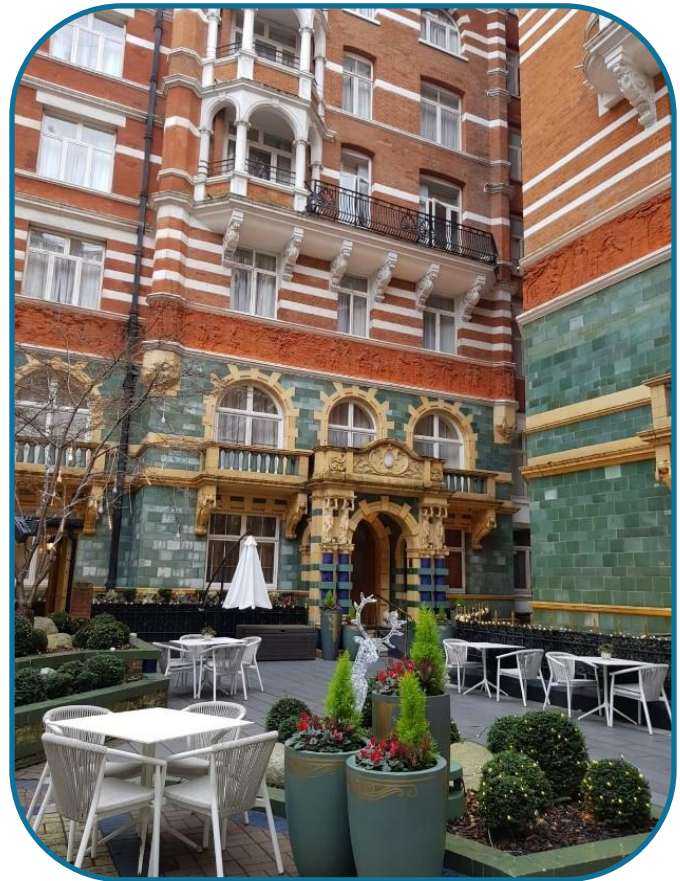
This trip will be of interest to members who like Social History, Science, Communications, Technology and Transport all of which feature at the museum.

Exhibits include a working print shop, which is the only one of its kind in the South of England. The BT Connected Earth exhibit shows the history of communications, with interactive displays for all ages to enjoy. Our lime kilns are scheduled ancient monuments, which date back to when the site was once a working chalk quarry. The Life of Lime exhibition shows the history of the chalk quarry and its importance in Sussex’s industrial working past. Our museum is also home to traditional crafts people such as the blacksmith. There is also a pottery on site, where our resident potters will showcase their skills on selected days. We also have our own industrial narrow-gauge railway.

We have booked three additional experiences for members to enjoy which each last for 20 minutes. Orientation Talk, Amberley Museum 10 objects, High Voltage Demonstration.

Exploring London 13

The first week of January saw us heading off to explore 'Secret Victoria.' Always up for a bargain we had a 'cash only' coffee stop in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral then made our way past the site of Watney's Stag brewery, long gone, past buildings and a school on the site of Emanuel hospital, and to The Onion Garden. This was only opened in June 2023 and was crowd funded, a real hidden gem. Then on to St James Court, with an amazing frieze of characters from Shakespeare plays. At St Ermine's hotel we viewed their WW2 SOE display. Our walk finished in Queen Anne's Gate, where we learnt that at one time a wall was built across the street to stop carriage 'rat runs.'



EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

13 February (2nd Tuesday)

The Washboard Resonators

******26 March (4th Tuesday) ******

The Hot Teapots

(from Verona, Italy)

Tue 9 April Graham Hughes Sunshine Kings

Graham Hughes trombone; Tom Dennis trumpet; Michael McQuaid reeds;
Colin Good piano; Nick Ball drums

Tue 14 May The Pete Rudeforth Band

Pete Rudeforth trumpet; Michael McQuaid clarinet; Andy Flaxman trombone; Tim Huskisson piano;
Sandy Burnett double bass; John Ellmer drums

11 June The Forest Hill Owls - 9 July Rico's Hot Five

Featuring Julian Marc Stringle on reeds

Tickets £15 (£17 non 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

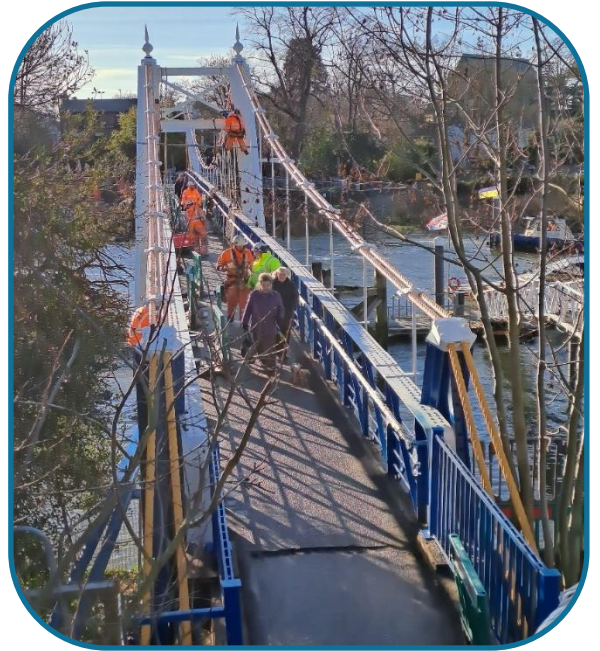
Info 0791 3655 458 m.stevensatlap@gmail.com

Website: epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/

Walking with your bus pass group 4

We headed out in thermals, gloves, scarves, hats, on a cold but bright morning. Having fortified ourselves with hot chocolate or coffee at the Anglers we headed over Teddington Foot Bridge.

Our walk took us along the towpath towards Ham House, up through Ham village, past the green and to the shops where we caught a bus back to Kingston. It really is an incongruous area with houses worth millions, beside closed pubs and shops, dilapidated former almshouses and amenity housing.



Who knew that January was the optimum time to paint a bridge! With the Thames at full volume this required high-viz jackets, safety helmets and safety ropes.



Social committee update

*****Ticket only theatre events*****

We are aware that some members prefer to make their own way to the theatre to see a show but would like the best deal possible for tickets and the opportunity to go with u3a friends.

The social committee are currently working on reserving group tickets for some shows that they hope will be of interest to members.

Baitul Fatuh Mosque



To date we have 115 members who have registered an interest in visiting the mosque at Morden.

The social committee have so far arranged four visits in February and 80 members have been invited to attend on various dates.

We are hoping to arrange another couple of visits during March to clear the waiting list.

Thank you all very much for your interest in this visit.

We have a member interested in joining up with others who may fancy a walk and a coffee in the local area on an ad hoc basis.

Please contact Sally if you're interested.

katzplai@live.co.uk





WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2024
WOKING THEATRE
2.30pm Matinee

Last two tickets remaining

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)

COACH BOARDING POINTS

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12.00pm **EWELL, Epsom Road** – Bus Stop, by the top of Mongers Lane

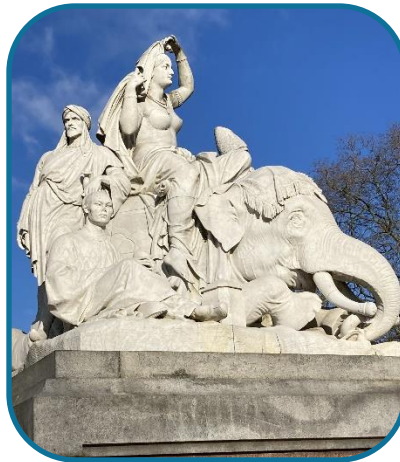
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12.15pm **ASHTEAD, High Street** – Bus Stop, Opposite Betting Shop

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For January Gail led Exploring London 8 for a chilly walk in London, starting with coffee at the V & A. The plan was to stay there if it rained but we were lucky.

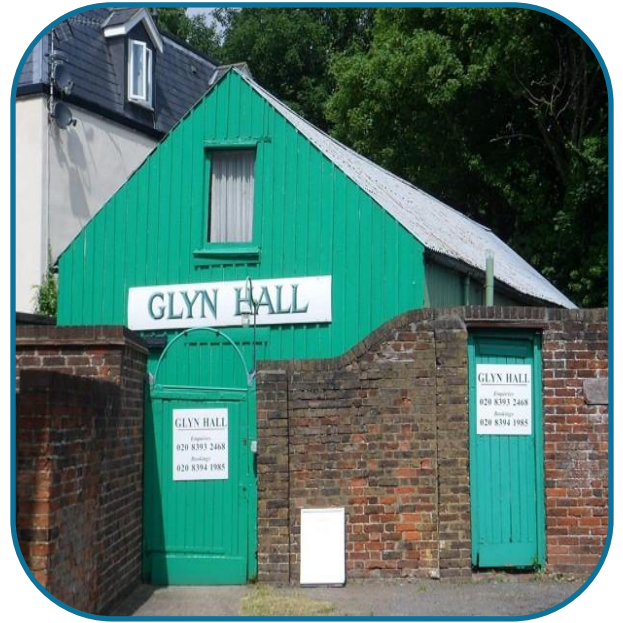


The Albert Memorial was bathed in sunshine albeit very chilly.

Did you know: There are two programmes of allegorical sculptures.

The four corners of the Albert Memorial have sculptures of personifications. There are four groups depicting agriculture, commerce, engineering, and manufacturing and then four more groups representing the traditional four continents: Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. There is an animal for each continent, a camel for Africa, a bison for the Americas, an elephant for Asia and a bull for Europe.

Glyn Hall, Ewell Village Update



Since 2020 at the start of the pandemic Glyn Hall has been closed. For residents of the village, we know that many will have happy memories of having attended various events at the hall over the years.

The hall is a legacy from Margaret Glyn in approx. 1946 and has a long history of serving the community. The original legacy was to enhance the learning, education, and social welfare of the local community and is therefore very much in line with the u3a ethos.

The current trustees are delighted to announce that after a long struggle with the local planning authority the plans have now been approved for the demolition of the existing hall and the construction of a new hall for the community.

They will over the coming months be starting various fundraising initiatives and would like the local community to get involved as much as possible.

The plans are available for members of the community to see via the Epsom and Ewell planning portal.

Please support this local project.

Social events update

On Saturday January 27th the social committee spent a very enjoyable day gathering information at the Excursions Exhibition at Wembley which is specifically for group organisers (thankfully the organisers arranged a coach that picks up at Epsom Station which made it a very pleasant day out).

This was a chance to speak to lots of venues about events that our members may enjoy. There were over 100 stands and they covered everything – stately homes, beautiful gardens, river boat trips, short break holidays in the UK and abroad, river cruises, theatre trips, museums, and galleries. We all came home laden with brochures and leaflets to study before we met for coffee on the following Monday to discuss which ones we thought would be the most popular, using the preference list that members filled in at our May 2023 Open House event.

We are currently checking dates, costs and availability for venues and costs for coaches, which is unfortunately in a lot of cases the most expensive part. We are hoping to have finalised some bookings before the March newsletter and we will open bookings on the first of each month as usual.

We also now have a contact for booking ticket-only theatre trips to complement the package theatre trips that Andrew at Magic Moments offers our members.

Please keep an eye on the website as it will be updated with save the date information for events as we finalise details and it will note the date that booking will open for each event.



u3a
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LOUISE CAMBY



THE HOPE OF SPRING

The season of Spring brings hope and happiness that warmer days are coming: Flowers start blooming, nature wakes up and the days are getting longer. Have you ever wondered how April Fool's day started or how eggs became a symbol of Easter? How the marathon began and the history of May Day? Louise returns to us with her visual, fun and informative talk on , "The Hope of Spring".

Bourne Hall Monday 5 February at 10:30

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LAURENCE SCALES



BALLOONS, BOILERS AND BEEFSTEAKS: A CANTER THROUGH GEORGIAN SCIENCE

"Balloons, Boilers & Beefsteaks" covers subjects ranging from astronomy to the kill or cure world of medicine, via new plants, new elements and new inventions. This talk is a compendium of anecdotes and curious characters from the 18th and early 19th century world of science. Laurence last joined us in 2022 and presented his talk on "Sir Joseph Bazalgette and His London Sewers".

Bourne Hall Monday 4 March at 10:30

Social Event - Coming soon

Crossness Pumping Station

Sunday September 22nd 2024

We are currently finalising the details for this day out.

The cost will be £43.00 per person which includes return coach travel, driver gratuity and entry to the pumping station which is having a steam up day on this day.

Further details will appear on the website soon and booking will open on March 1st.

January was another busy month for the committee, especially for Clive our speaker liaison who had to arrange a last-minute change of speaker due to ill health of our booked speaker.

We will welcome back Louise Camby who has previously entertained members with her talks on Bees and more recently Autumn. This time the very appropriate subject will be Spring.

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!!!!

