

Chairman's Update April 2024

u3a Epsom & Ewell

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our April newsletter.

March has been very busy for our committee, especially our membership secretary with about 90% of our members renewing during the month, but also for our social committee who opened booking for six trips on March 1st and have been really pleased with the response from members. Crossness and the Speakers State apartments proved particularly popular and are now fully booked. They do have limited availability on a couple of events, check the social page for details. They are also pleased to open two residential trips for booking, designed for us by Simply Groups, who many members will have travelled with before.

Unfortunately, due to yet more planned rail strikes our April speaker has had to reschedule to June and our June speaker will now entertain you in April.



Featured in this
issue:

Singing for
Pleasure

Regency Dance

Jazz

Coffee Club

Exploring London

Church Crawlers

Exploring
Architecture

Garden Wanderers

Beer Tasting

"Singing For Pleasure" got off to a great start in March, we celebrated St Davids Day on the 1st March, 43 members sang along to the "Banstead u3a Popular Music Group" they were "Fab-u-lous" Keith Parry on keyboard, Martyn Eccles on Saxophone and John Richardson on guitar, a good time was had by all, and we look forward to their return visit in the Autumn. We also welcomed Libby Curzon, our u3a Group Co-ordinator, Libby was able to meet up with members after the session for tea and chat. We have a lot to look forward to, here is our programme up until July. We then take a summer break in August.

Friday 5th April
Usual Session

Friday 19th April
*Celebrating
St George's Day*

Friday 3rd May
*Music Hall and
Pub Songs with
our "very own
"u3a
ukulele Group"*

Friday 17th May
*Songs from the
60s*

Two of my lovely helpers Gwendy and Sylvia doing the register, without whose help, plus six others who come in early to put chairs out on a rota basis and anything else that's needed, make our group really special.

Friday 7th June
*Commemorating the
"80th" Anniversary of the
D-Day landings with
Pauline Heycock on
Piano.*

Friday 21st June
*Celebrating our "11th"
Birthday with Janet
Warren
on Piano, Colin Smith on
Guitar, and Fred Dicks
on Drums.*



Friday 5th July
*"Here comes Summer"
Session*

Friday 19th July
*Last Session.
Our Favourite Songs*



Regency & Traditional Dance Group

This is a new group for our u3a.

Come along and try some 19th century Regency era dancing!



Think of Jane Austen films and dancing cotillions and quadrilles! Don't worry though – we start with some easy country dances of the era and build up to these more intricate forms of the dance.

Many studies have shown that dance is not only a physical exercise but it has great wellbeing benefits too. It coordinates the mind and body as we remember dance sequences.

Next two meetings as follows:

Dates: Wednesday April 24th and Wednesday May 22nd

Time: 1.30 – 3.00pm

Cost: £3 per person

Venue: Main Hall at the All-Saints Church, Fulford Road, Ewell, Surrey KT19 9QZ



Our teacher and leader is Libby Curzon who has been teaching and calling Regency balls in the London area and beyond for over 10 years. Libby is a firm believer in the benefits of dance. She has a group in Surbiton called Mrs. Bennet's Ballroom.

Please rsvp to Libby

curzone@hotmail.com

Present

NORFOLK + A MURDER MYSTERY

WHAT'S INCLUDED

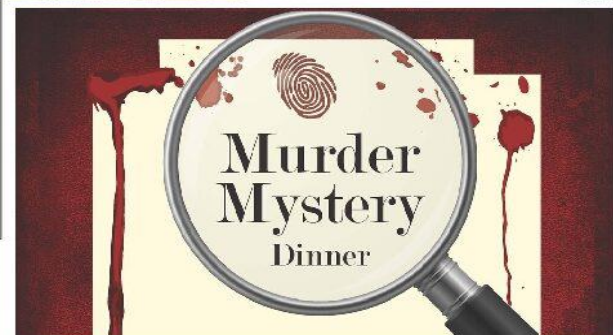
5 days / 4 nights' duration
Thursday 17th—Monday 21st October 2024
 Return Executive Coach Travel from Epsom/Ewell
 4 nights half board
3* George Hotel Norwich
 Excursion package as detailed overleaf
 Sample excursion package as detailed overleaf



Houghton Hall

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Price based on **30** passengers **£799pp** Two share
 No single supplement—specific singles 6 rooms
 Sole use supplement **£79** (4 nights) 14 rooms
 Deposit **£200pp** (non-refundable/non-transferable)
 Balance due in full by **23.08.24**
 Optional Travel Insurance **£45pp**
 No upper age limit (conditions apply).



HIGHLIGHTS

- Ely Cathedral & Stained Glass Museum
- Legends & Lavender Tour + Cream Tea
- Houghton Hall & Gardens
- City of Norwich
- Felbrigg Hall & Gardens (NT) *optional*
- Blickling Hall & Estate (NT)
- Southern Comfort Paddle Boat Cruise
- Murder Mystery Dinner Event
- Constable Country Guided Tour
- Flatford Mill (NT)



Southern Comfort

HOW TO BOOK

Contact: epsomsocial@gmail.com

Complete the attached booking form and return with your non-refundable deposit + Insurance premium if required.
 This tour is operated by Simply Groups, Dalton House,
 1 Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, LS29 9DU
 Tel. 01943 605999. Email: info@simplygroups.co.uk



Ely Cathedral



Norfolk Lavender



SIMPLY GROUPS

Simply the Best!

The Specialist Group Tour Operator



Exploring London Group 15 went to Greenwich in March.



We walked up to the Royal Observatory, then down past the Royal Naval College and Museums towards the River Thames.



We went past the Thames Trafalgar Tavern adorned with bunting and brollies.



Then back to the Cutty Sark and into the town for lunch.

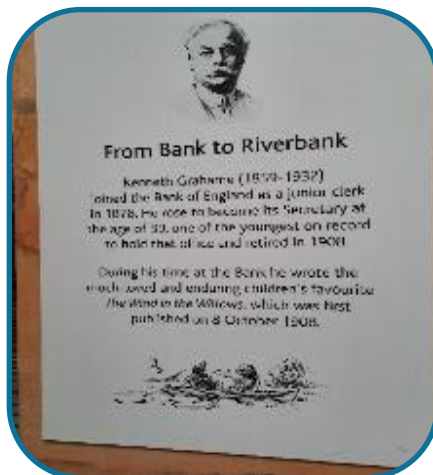
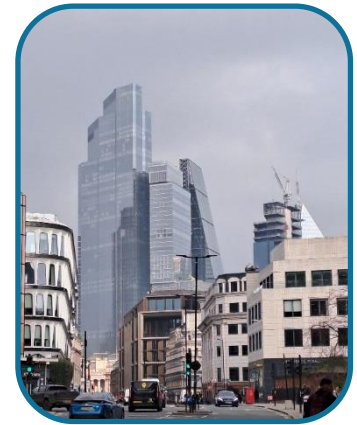
Our return journey was along the river on the Thames Clipper, good sightseeing.



Exploring London Group 13

This month we explored the City of London's changing skyline. Walking across London bridge we headed past the first steel framed building in the city, Adelaide House. Currently under 'wraps' as it undergoes its latest transformation the hoardings showed pictures of workers taking tea and doing keep fit in earlier times.

Our destination was 22 Bishopsgate, where we took the lift to the viewing platform of Horizon 22. Although it was a rather cloudy day the views were still spectacular and any questions were answered by the very knowledgeable guide.



We lunched at Crosse Keys pub with its grandiose interior, being the former headquarters of HSBC.

After lunch a few of us visited the Bank of England Museum, where we saw the notes and coins with King Charles III profile displayed. The museum also contains a scene from 'The Wind in the Willows' as Kenneth Grahame worked there

The social committee event at the end of February was our trip to Amberley Museum. The weather was not good but we managed to dodge the showers and enjoyed three very interesting workshops and the hospitality of the Lime Burners Café.



The old printing presses were fascinating.

This is just one of the vintage vehicles on display.



There were some 'hair raising' exhibits that the school parties were enjoying.



Memory lane was stirred by so many exhibits that we all grew up with!!



This strange looking exhibit is apparently a bomb shelter, we questioned where were the comfort break facilities!!!

If you have never been to Amberley, we thoroughly recommend a visit. Several members did say they would be coming back.

For our March visit 20 church crawlers took a train ride to London to see the church of St Magnus the Martyr at London Bridge. This is the most expensive Wren parish church and contains a 4-metre-long model of the old London Bridge.



The church was beautifully dressed for Easter.

We learnt that the church narrowly escaped destruction by fire in 1633 but was not so lucky in 1666 when it was one of the first buildings destroyed in the Great Fire.



George Dowdeswell was the master mason engaged in 1668 under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren to rebuild the church.



It was further threatened by fire in 1760, 1827, and 1849. In 2004 the church revived the tradition of the 'Fire Sermon'





**BOOKING
CLOSES
APRIL 3RD**

Wednesday May 22nd 2024 - 2.30pm matinee – £29.50 per person – Ticket Only Event – we have 24 stalls tickets in rows F-J

WICKED, the West End and Broadway musical sensation, is the winner of more than 100 global awards, including three Tony Awards on Broadway, two Olivier Awards, eleven WhatsOnStage Awards, and a Grammy. Currently starring Alexia Khadime as Elphaba with Lucy St. Louis as her counterpart Glinda.

WICKED is the 11th longest running production in West End history. This spellbinding show has been seen by over 12 million people, and it remains '*one of the most successful musicals of all time*' (BBC News).

What is Wicked about? When Dorothy famously triumphed over the Wicked Witch of the West, we only ever heard one side of the story.

WICKED is based on the 1995 novel by Gregory Maguire – *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*. It takes a look at the Land of Oz with new eyes and creates a parallel journey to the familiar *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum.

At the core of WICKED is friendship, in this case a very unlikely one. The blonde and very popular Glinda and a misunderstood green girl, Elphaba. They first meet at school and after a bumpy start, they form a strong friendship. Their journey takes a turn during a visit to Oz to meet the Wizard where during that encounter their lives take very different paths. Glinda is lured into a powerful and public role while Elphaba remains determined to be true to herself and the people in her life, whatever the cost – both paths seeing them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and The Wicked Witch of the West.

Running Time

2 hours 45 minutes including interval

EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

9th April 2024

Graham Hughes Sunshine Kings

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

14 May The Pete Rudeforth Band

*Pete Rudeforth - trumpet; David Horniblow - clarinet Andy Flaxman - trombone
Tim Huskisson- piano Sandy Burnett - double bass John Ellmer - drums*

11 June The Forest Hill Owls

*Chris Lowe trombone; Tom Dennis trumpet; Michael McQuaid reeds;
Martin Wheatley bjo/gtr; David Horniblow bass sax; Nicholas D Ball drums*

9 July Rico's Hot Five – Jazzing Jolson

*Enrico Tomasso trumpet; Julian Marc Stringle reeds; Paul Morgan - bass,
Richie Bryant - drums, and Liam Dunachie - Keyboards*

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/

**Hever in Bloom
Thursday June 27th
2024**

£54.00 per person



Our trip to Hever Castle includes return coach travel and driver gratuity, admission to the castle and gardens, a self-guided garden tour and a two-course lunch.

Itinerary for the day: Arrive at Hever Castle at approx. 10.30am. Time for a coffee and a comfort break before our self-guided garden tour at 11.00, lunch served at 13.30 in the Pavilion restaurant and head for home at 16.00.

Hever in Bloom showcases the glorious award-winning gardens at the height of their summer beauty. You will be able to enjoy one of the finest displays of more than 5,000 roses in Kent, the Garden of England.

The roses at Hever are particularly admired, with more than 5,000 beautifully displayed bushes creating a kaleidoscope of colour and wonderfully perfumed aromas. As the days lengthen, the Mediterranean-style planting within the Pompeian Wall bursts into life and the herbaceous border displays hundreds of different perennials, each vying for attention.

Head into the Castle and you will see wonderful floral displays in selected rooms that simply enhance the beauty of the historic Castle.

We recommend that you allow 1.5 hours to explore the gardens.

Last few tickets left – please speak to a committee member for availability.

Exploring London 8

This month it was Sue's turn to lead and we started at Northumberland Avenue at the Playhouse and learnt about the disaster that claimed the lives of six people. Three at Charing Cross Station and three workmen in the theatre, when a wall collapsed.

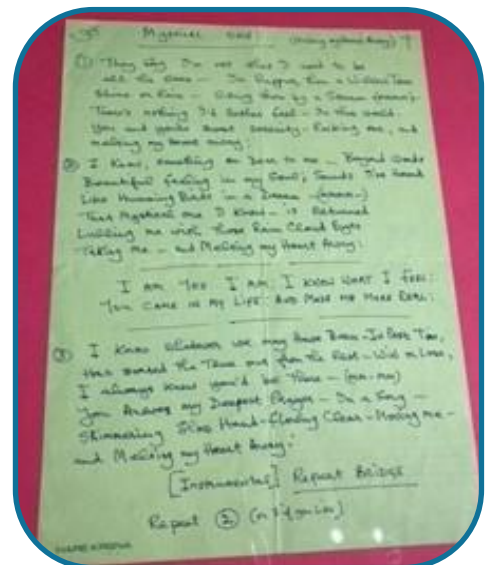
After coffee at St Martins in the Field crypt café we headed across to Trafalgar Square and on to Cockspur Street, the home of the White Star Line, or Black Star Line as it was nicknamed after it haggled over compensation payments following the Titanic disaster.

There are some very interesting architectural features on the top of various buildings in Cockspur Street that are reminders of their maritime and travelling history.

We finished our walk at Christie's auction rooms. Our visit was on the day before a very important sale of items belonging to Pattie Boyd who was the wife of both George Harrison and Eric Clapton. There were some fascinating exhibits, photos, letters, postcards, jewellery, and hand written song lyrics.



The auction took place on Friday March 22nd and made Patti an impressive £2.8 million (less fees!!!)



Presents

THE YPRES SALIENT + GHENT

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 days / 4 nights' duration
Tuesday 29th April—Saturday 3rd May 2025
 Return Executive Coach Travel
 Return Eurotunnel crossings to Calais
 4 nights B&B
3* Novotel Ieper Centrum Flanders Fields
 + 1 x group dinner at a restaurant in Ypres
 Excursion package as detailed overleaf



Ghent

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Price **25+** passengers **£899pp** two share
 Single supplement **£119** (4 nights) - max. 14 rooms
Pre-bookable excursions to:
 Ghent Boat Cruise + Ghent Altarpiece **£ TBC**
 Deposit **£150pp** (non-refundable/non-transferable)
 Balance due in full by the **08.03.25**
 Optional Travel Insurance **£50pp**
 No upper age limit (conditions apply)
Includes Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) @ 20%.



Altarpiece

HIGHLIGHTS

- Battle of Britain Memorial Kent
- In Flanders Fields Museum Ypres
- Battlefields Tour + Tyne Cot
- Ghent (+ optional cruise/altarpiece)
- Hoge Crater Museum Guided Tour + Lunch
- Passchendaele Memorial Museum
- Talbot House



Menin Gate

HOW TO BOOK

Complete the attached booking form and return with your non-refundable deposit + Insurance premium if required to:
Simply Groups Ltd, Dalton House, 1 Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, LS29 9DU
 TEL 01943 605999— info@simplygroups.co.uk
 Any queries contact **Jenny Baldrey:**
jennybaldrey@btinternet.com



Tyne Cot



Trench



SIMPLY GROUPS
Simply the best!

The Specialist Group Tour Operator



Garden visiting group

Spring has arrived and the garden visiting group took advantage with three outings this month. Small groups of our number went out in many directions:

To Wisley Gardens - for the Plants Before Time exhibition in the glasshouse

To Victoria - for the RHS Orchid Show

To Hampton Court Palace Gardens - for their free entry weekend to see the daffodils in the Wilderness Garden.

U3A members might be interested to hear that Hampton Court Gardens will again be free to enter at the end of April, just in time for their tulip festival, which we will endeavor to fit into our busy schedule.



Beer Tasting Group

This month in addition to our usual tastings the beer group decided to have a local social outing.

Very conveniently the Rising Sun pub in Epsom was holding an Easter Beer Festival, well if it is going to rain, we might as well sit in a pub garden!



Route 406 heritage day

Sunday 9 June 2024

IT'S
FREE

- Kingston, *Cromwell Road* ⇨
- Surbiton Hill
- Tolworth Broadway and station ⇨
- Ewell Village
- Epsom town centre
- Tattenham Corner
- Tadworth ⇨
- Reigate ⇨
- Redhill *bus station* ⇨

We will be running buses from the 1940s to the 1990s from about 09:00 to 17:00, which will be joined by other buses from private owners. It's completely free and you can ride with us all day.

This special service is not part of Transport for London but will run alongside the regular TfL route 406 on which normal fares apply.

Come for a ride on heritage buses through Kingston, Ewell, Epsom, Reigate and Redhill as part of our programme of bringing buses out of the Museum to run again in and around London



Please support our volunteers by visiting the London Bus Museum. We are open Daily and located within the Brooklands Museum,

LONDON
BUS
MUSEUM

Brighton Pavilion

Wednesday

July 10th 2024

£39.00 per person

Price includes return coach travel, driver gratuity, entry to the Pavilion and a self-guided audio tour.



Join us for a day trip to Brighton. We plan to arrive in Brighton at approx. 10.3am to give members time to enjoy a coffee and a comfort break.

At 11.30am we have booked an audio tour of the Brighton Pavilion in order that members can move around at their own pace rather than being hurried along in a group.

After your tour there will be free time to enjoy lunch and hopefully a stroll in Brighton in glorious sunshine (British weather permitting)

We will then head for home at 4.00pm

Exploring London 9

On Thursday, 21st March, a group of 14 met at Waterloo Station for a walk around Lambeth, led by Karin Mason. Our first stop was to admire the National Windrush statue, a bronze by Basil Watson, which was unveiled in 2022 by the then Prince William. How many times have we passed this beautiful statue of a family arriving in Britain with all their worldly goods in a few cases, without appreciating it. Then through the main entrance to the station where the Victory Arch commemorates the men of the railways who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. Again, we have passed through this entrance so many times without reading the inscriptions.

From there we walked past what was once the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women and on to St John the Evangelist Church. This was bombed in 1940, but reconstructed in 1951 and rededicated as the Festival of Britain church. It has recently been completely refurbished and is a very modern building. We then passed some lovely old houses and, following a welcome coffee stop, on to the Young Vic theatre in The Cut, where our leader had arranged for our group to have a guided tour. The building was once a Butchers shop and some of the original signage has been retained. The theatre was supposed to last for four years as a temporary venture, but due to its popularity, it is still running today, showing modern productions and a wide range of performing arts. The theatre is unique in that every seat can be moved, allowing complete transformation of the auditorium to suit each production.



Exploring London 9 continued

We were very fortunate to be allowed into the costume department, although requested to refrain from touching anything! Our guide also took us through the administration department, where we were all astonished at the number of people hard at work on phones and computers. A thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening tour.

From there we walked to the Geraldine Harmsworth Park, gifted by the 1st Viscount Rothermere to the 'splendid struggling mothers of Southwark'., and on to pass the Imperial War Museum and into the Tibetan Peace Garden. This tranquil spot was re-opened in 1999 by the Dalai Lama and houses a beautiful stone pillar with his message of peace in Tibetan, English, Chinese, and Hindi.

We worked our way back towards Waterloo and lunch, through the Lower Marsh market place and the Graffiti tunnel where anyone can add their artwork.

Our very popular coffee club, run by Rosie and Sue have arranged their next few meetings.



Monday April 22nd
Monday May 20th
Wednesday June 26th
Tuesday July 16th



Please remember to contact Sue if you have never attended before in order that she and Rosie can welcome you.

Don't forget coffee club closes for August as Roots café closes for the summer holidays.

Following on from our visits to the Baitul Fatuh some members of our u3a were invited to attend the Peace Symposium at the beginning of March. It was a fascinating evening with two peace prizes awarded and a keynote speech from the Caliph.



We were shown copies of the Quran translated into numerous other languages. Interesting to note that the original Arabic never changes but the translations sometimes alter things.



There were displays explaining about the origins of the Islamic faith.



After the prizegiving, speeches, and the keynote address, 800 diners were served a very nice buffet meal.



The building looked beautiful as we left after a very enjoyable evening.

Our remaining visits for members on the waiting list will be arranged as soon as Ramadan is finished.

Architectural Explorers

Thanks to new members joining our fold we are now a large group of happy folks.

Fourteen of us turned out on a sunny spring day in Central London to wander the buildings and so many alleyways of St James, seeing the area as it developed over the years.



At one point our intrepid leader had to cope with showing us some of the buildings of St James Palace in the company of armed policemen!

Next month our group will be visiting the surprisingly historic buildings of Dorking.



PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

We are living through what has been described as an insect apocalypse with the numbers of insects - including the pollinators on which we depend for 75% of everything we eat - plummeting. We look at the causes of this decline, what is being done to help and what we as individuals can do. Peter is a Guildford-based beekeeper, amateur entomologist and keen environmentalist. His talk is designed to entertain as well as educate.

Bourne Hall Monday 8 April at 10:30

TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Bourne Hall, Ewell

Monday, 13 May 2024
from 10:00 to 12:00

Learn about your local u3a activities and events. Enjoy a free drink and biscuits

Do something brilliant today

**Open
House**
epsomandewellu3a.co.uk

u3a

What music do you like to listen to?

Did you know there's a new digital radio station aimed at Boomers and guess what it's called?

Diana Luke

Graham Dene

'Diddy' David Hamilton

David 'Kid' Jensen

Little Nicky Horne

Judi Spiers

Jenny Hanley

Boom Radio UK

This new station was launched on February 14th 2021 and is aimed specifically at people born between 1946 – 1964

And all the DJ's are old enough to join the u3a!!!!

The brains behind this new station noticed that Radio 2 had changed their playlist to entice younger members. It's never a good idea to desert your core listeners!!!!

<https://u3asites.org.uk/Epsom-ewell/home>
Registered charity number 802690

The Third Age Trust are running a three-month advertising campaign on Boom radio starting on April 1st to promote the u3a. The slide above appeared on our Facebook page in 2021 when the station first launched. You can listen to Boom on DAB. It has two sister stations, Boom Light and Boom Rock.

We have a trip to Reigate caves, and two residential trips opening on April 1st which we hope will be of interest to members.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony

Reigate Caves £6 per person Tuesday July 16th

Members will make their own way to Reigate and meet at the caves for their guided tour.

