

Chair's Update July 2024

u3a Epsom & Ewell

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our July newsletter.

Although we have recently had two members agree to stand at our AGM as chair and membership secretary, we still need a vice chair and also help with other areas covered by the committee is always appreciated.

We work very much as a team and would welcome any members who would like to observe a committee meeting or shadow any of our committee members to get a feel for the roles.

If members would like to help at our monthly Bourne Hall meetings we would be grateful as this shares the load.

If you would like to attend a committee meeting as an observer our next meeting is on Thursday July 4th at 10.00am.

For details, please email Fiona our business secretary epsomu3asecretary@gmail.com



Let's play Bridge

A new group for complete bridge beginners started

June 6th

Contact Marion for more details.

If you're an intermediate player then why not join our Tuesday Bridge group on Tuesday mornings at Epsom Sports Club

Contact Christine Grimwood

Full contact details for all Bridge groups are on our website.

Garden Visiting Group

This month the group went to Tylney Hall Gardens and the Vyne on a day out in Hampshire, taking advantage of our RHS and National Trust memberships and amazingly dodging the rain until we left. We wandered through historic Gertrude Jekyll water gardens and formal Italian gardens, as well as marvelling at the location and its listed greenhouses.



Later in the month our second visit was to Wisley for the Alpine Society show.

In October, shortly after our Epsom and Ewell AGM, the Third Age Trust will be holding their own AGM. This year the current chair, Liz Thackray, finishes her term in office and three candidates have stood for election.

During June, as chair, I have attended the hustings where all three candidates have set out what they feel they can offer the movement and they have answered numerous questions put by members.

The first hustings were available for all members to attend and was followed later on the same day by hustings held by the Chairs forum of which I am a member.

The Chairs forum was set up over the past year in response to requests from chairs of u3a's across the UK for a body that would allow free and open discussion between chairs of their vision for the future, this does at times differ from the vision of the Trust unfortunately. The chairs forum meets monthly on Zoom and discusses various topics that they feel are of interest. They also have a dedicated private Facebook group where chairs can ask questions and discuss issues.

Recently that has included discussions and presentations about the National Council, Fit for the Future, how we market the u3a as a movement and most recently how to use Facebook pages to promote the movement.

Each u3a has the opportunity to vote for the candidate that they would like to succeed Liz Thackray and your committee have all been provided with the statements of the candidates, video statements from two of the candidates and a link to the chair's forum hustings.

If any member is interested you can find links to all the relevant information on our website on the Fit for the Future page.

Our Epsom and Ewell executive committee will discuss this election at our next committee meeting on July 4th and decide which candidate to vote for. Voting closes on July 15th and the new Trust chair will take office in October.

None of this will directly affect us as each u3a is an independent part of the overall movement but it is important that members are kept up to date with developments at Trust level.

Present

NORFOLK + A MURDER MYSTERY

WHAT'S INCLUDED

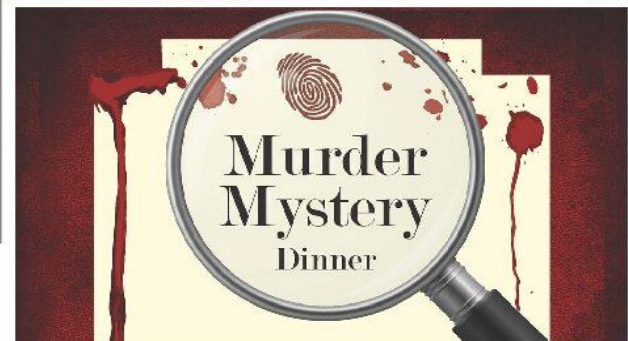
5 days / 4 nights' duration
Thursday 17th—Monday 21st October 2024
 Return Executive Coach Travel from Epsom/Ewell
 4 nights half board
3* George Hotel Norwich
 Excursion package as detailed overleaf
 Sample excursion package as detailed overleaf



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



Presented by
Group Awards 2020

SIMPLY GROUPS

Simply the Best!

The Specialist Group Tour Operator



Regency & Traditional Dance Group



This recently-started new group is proving to be quite popular.

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.

Main Hall, All Saints Church, Fulford Road, Ewell KT19 9QZ

1.30pm-3.30pm - £4 per person

The group started meeting once a month but by popular request from the members will now be meeting fortnightly.

Upcoming dates are July 3rd and 17th



Date for your diaries:

There will be a Regency Ball at the Horton Centre on Saturday July 20th

Tickets are £36 pp or £30 pp if you are booking for a party of 6+

Please contact Libby for further details. curzone@hotmail.com

Beer Tasting

Our visits this month were both to the same pub where we held our formal tasting and then attended their beer festival.

Also visiting with us were the Ewell St Mary Morris and the Black Swan Morris, who had a dance evening right outside our tasting, showing great enthusiasm for the dance and the beer.



Exploring Architecture

This month, our group were hosted by Christine & Brian on a tour of the squares and architecture of Bloomsbury.

We went on a fine and sunny day which allowed for a leisurely exploration of the architecture of Georgian and modern Bloomsbury, often sitting side by side in quite contrasting fashions.



Exploring London 13

Whereas most people leaving Kew Bridge Station head off for Kew Gardens, Exploring London 13 took the opposite route to investigate nearby Gunnersbury Park.



Our June Walk was a pleasant stroll round this beautiful area full of magnificent trees left over from the park's heyday as landscaped grounds of the Rothschild Mansion. The park is now managed by both Hounslow and Ealing Councils.



The majority of the group had never been to this park before and that is one of the best bits of our Explore London Group: discovering hidden gems we had not known about.



There are still three lakes, an orangery, temple, a grotto and various follies to admire. The former mansion is now a very interesting museum covering the history of Gunnersbury and its locality.



EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

Tuesday 9th July

Rico's Hot Five – Jazzling Jolson

*Enrico Tomasso - Trumpet
Julian Marc Stringle - Reeds
Paul Morgan - Bass
Richie Bryant - Drums
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/

Singing for Pleasure



This month “Singing for Pleasure “commemorated the “80th” Anniversary of the D-Day landings, there were WW2 songs with readings of an Evacuee, a WW2 Nurse and a Soldier’s letter to his family, a presentation was made to our pianist by our Air Raid Warden. We have just celebrated our 11th Birthday, and are busy practising our songs for our Concert at the Epsom Methodist Church in July.

All good fun 🎵
Jenny Sparrow – Group Leader



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



Ten Pin Bowling

Our ten-pin bowling group meet at 2.30pm every Tuesday afternoon at the Charrington Bowl in Tolworth.

This is an established group and has space for more members.

Contact Jon via the website



Our u3a committee meets bi-monthly and have for the last two years held our meetings at Birchgrove, Lower Mill in their library.

As our committee has now returned to pre-pandemic numbers the library is unfortunately no longer large enough for our needs. We are very grateful to Lower Mill for accommodating us and thank them for their hospitality.

We have therefore been searching for a larger alternative venue and are very pleased to have arranged with AtkinsRéalis at Woodcote Grove to use one of their boardrooms for our future meetings.

This is a free service that they offer to locally based charities.

Thank
You



Hever in Bloom



We were very lucky that the weather was beautiful and the gardens were very colourful.



Some members enjoyed a talk given by one of the gardeners in the Rose Garden, while others discovered the Gin tasting!



Our lunch was in the Pavilion café where members enjoyed chicken schnitzel with rosemary fries and salad followed by either warm treacle tart with chantilly cream or Ice Cream.



Some members were waiting to see if they could spot the bride for the wedding that was due late afternoon but sadly she hadn't arrived when we left.



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. 10.30am 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

We have received two cancellations if any members are interested.



Our Christmas special

Musical Museum at Brentford

Wednesday November 27th



We plan to arrive at the museum at approx. 12.30 for coffee and a comfort break, followed by a tour of the museum.

This will be followed at 2.30pm by a concert with afternoon tea served at approx. 3.15pm after the first interval.

The concert is due to finish at 5.00pm when we will board the coach for our homeward journey.

Coach pickups will be North Cheam, Ewell Village and Epsom

We are limited to one coach for this trip so please book early to avoid disappointment.

£52 per person

*Includes return coach travel, afternoon tea with concert
and driver gratuity.*

Improv Comedy

This group is held on Zoom on the 4th Friday of each month and has been running for about three years.

It's a chance to have fun and be creative in a very light-hearted way. The members are from u3a's across the UK and the group is led by Jim Palmer who was the secretary of Horley u3a until recently.

One of this month's sketches was political but in a very silly way. Two members were playing the parts of MP's promoting their policy which was a plan to straighten the rivers in the UK.



The group decided that this was a daft enough policy that it could actually happen.



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



Tuesday July 16th

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



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



WRITE ON!

An introductory talk on writing and what this creative activity can offer all of us in our lives. Whether we are writing for profit, pleasure or personal achievement, writing offers everyone an intimate, consoling and satisfying experience at every age. In this talk, we look at getting started – at the reasons why people write, the creative process, the stimulus, genres and forms available.

Bourne Hall Monday 1 July at 10:30



A SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR

The uncovering of an extensive set of tunnels used as underground classrooms during WW2 led to an unusual insight into school life during the war years. The further discovery of an exquisite set of paintings of wartime schooling documented, as the war unfolded, the lives of school pupils and their teachers in paint and pencil. Mary, a former secondary school headteacher, shares this discovery with us in her highly visual talk. A must for anyone interested in the home front during WW2.

Bourne Hall Monday 5 August at 10:30

Exploring London 8 were a depleted group this month due to holidays etc. but they still enjoyed their day and stumbled across a film set on their walk.



We have had a couple of cancellations for the Reigate Caves event on July 16th if any members are interested. There are also a couple of spaces for the Speaker's Apartments visits in August, please check with the social committee.

Last month's talk was really well received and our social committee are already in discussion with Paul regarding a 2025 visit with one of his other offerings.

Other ideas for 2025 include a talk from the Surrey Fire and Rescue team about their Safe and Well service and in February 2025 our talk will be all about AI.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony



The South East Forum of the U3A run a Summer School each year at the University of Chichester.

This year's event will run from Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th September.

Costings for this year are:

Residential en-suite £390

Residential standard £360

Non Res. with dinner £195

Non Res. no dinner £140

Full details of the fourteen subjects on offer this year can be found on their website via the link below.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/sotheastu3aforum/events>