

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Welcome to our August newsletter.

Our July speaker, Jude Hayland, talked to us about creative writing for pleasure, profit or personal achievement. Although not as well attended as some meetings, it did attract a substantial audience. We received much positive feedback from members and our writing group run by Kevin gained a few new members following the meeting. Also, we have a new creative writing group starting in September, full details on page 2.

This month's speaker will be Mary Smith and the talk is a must for anyone interested in the home front during WW2.

Our speakers for 2025 are almost finalised and we will be welcoming back Guy Bartlett, Paul Barwick and Neil Sadler, all of whom members really enjoyed on their previous visits.



AGM Oct 7th 2024

Currently we have one nominee for the role of Chair and one for the role of Membership Secretary. Our Business Secretary and Treasurer have both agreed to stay on for another year. All four names will appear on the voting papers along with our independent examiner, the vacant vice chair position and the new non-voting role of President.

Any member can stand for election, nominations forms are available on the website. If you wish to stand for a committee role you will need a proposer and a seconder.

Creative Writing

New Creative Writing Group - suitable for beginners or experienced writers – Day, Time and Venue to be agreed with the new members - to start September.

June Jenkins and Will Ward were in a creative writing group pre COVID which we really enjoyed. Unfortunately, it did not survive COVID and so we have decided to try and recreate it. We hope you will consider joining us starting in September.

Here are the proposed plans so far:

- **meet once a month**
- **at a time and place agreed by all**
- **suitable for all abilities**
- **enable all types of creative writing to flourish including storytelling and poetry**
- **it will be fun!**

Everyone will take their turn in contributing their own ideas and inputs to the benefit of all.

Time will be made to get to know people and make new friends (if you want to).

If you are interested in joining the new group in September, please email Will willjward@gmail.com

If you would like to have a chat about how we envisage it will work in practice, feel free to text or WhatsApp me on 07874 896211 and we can arrange to have a chat.

We shall look forward to meeting you in September and learning together.

William Ward and June Jenkins

Reigate Caves

In July twenty members enjoyed a guided tour of the Barons Cave and Tunnel Road Cave in Reigate. These caves have a fascinating history and have been used for a very diverse range of activities over the years. This was our third visit to the caves as a u3a.



For any members who missed this trip and would be interested in seeing the caves, the Wealden Cave & Mining Society have open days later in the year. The upcoming open days are both Saturdays August 10th and September 14th. Please note that Barons Cave is not suitable for members with mobility difficulties.

For details of the open days, visit the Reigate Caves website, there are various times available during both days.

For members who would like to take other family members, grandchildren etc, this would be a very interesting and reasonably priced day out.

There's also a very nice park nearby for a summer picnic.

The Regency & Traditional Dance group started earlier this year and is thriving! Due to popular demand the group now meets fortnightly rather than monthly. Our teacher is Libby Curzon who runs a dance class in Surbiton. Each session we go over the basic footwork and moves. We learn several dances each time and repeat these so they become familiar. Each dance is 'walked through' and then we dance to lovely recorded music.

We have been practising dances for the Regency Ball at the Horton in Epsom.

These 18th century dances had names such as the Merry Girls of Epsom and the Epsom Lass!

Several members attended the ball and made their own costumes. It was good fun! Libby was the dance mistress for the event.



We meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons in the Main Hall, All Saints Church, Fulford Road, Ewell KT19 9QZ
Time: 1.30pm-3.30pm - £4 per person.

Dates for your diaries are as follows: August 28th, Sept. 11th & 25th, October 9th & 23rd, Nov 6th & 20th. December dates tbc

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

Italian Improvers

Just for fun we thought we'd share the synopsis for the story that our group have been reading and translating in recent weeks. The book is level A1 and covers 500 words. It's called Pasta Per Due by Giovanni Ducci.

Google Translate is very helpful if you are interested in the story.

The story centres around two young people who have met on Facebook, as so many do nowadays.

However, this has the added issue that you don't actually know who you are talking to and never read fully or realise that they may live in different countries.

This became apparent at the very start of the story when Libero, our young man started conversing with Minni, our young lady.

Libero Belmondo è un uomo di trentacinque anni. Vive a Roma.

Minni è una ragazza di ventotto anni. Vive a Bangkok.

Libero decides to invite Minni to have coffee with him:

Vieni a prendere un caffè a casa mia.

And soon realises that this is not going to happen immediately:

Ma io abito in Thailandia! Quando arrivo in Italia, il caffè è freddo!

For members requiring the translation, it appears that Libero lives in Italy and Minni lives in Bangkok and going for a coffee together may involve a fair amount of travel.



Exploring Architecture

This month, our group went back to cover more of the buildings in South Kensington and Albertopolis.



We began with the buildings that started the urban sprawl into the village of Kensington at the High Street, then wandered into Hyde Park to see the palace, the Albert Hall and Memorial and the Serpentine Pavilion. All very different eras and very different buildings.

We were very lucky to have a gloriously sunny day.

Next month the plan is to explore an area few of us know in Barons Court.



As mentioned last month the Third Age Trust were holding elections for a new chair in July as Liz Thackray will come to the end of her three-year term in office in October.

There were three candidates for the post, Allan Walmsley, Laurence Wale and John Dollimore. They had all submitted statements and two of them had prepared a video statement.

All three candidates attended hustings which were open for all u3a members to attend. The recording of one of the hustings and all the relevant statements were shared with our committee members in order that at our July committee meeting we could make a decision as to who should get our u3a's votes.

The committee decided that we would vote for Laurence Wale who several members know from the Chairs Forum, the online support network for chairs.

The results of the election were announced in July and Allan Walmsley, who is the current vice chair of the Trust, was elected.

Although this was disappointing for our committee, we hope to be able to work with the new chair and obviously Laurence is still a very active and useful member of the chair's forum.

At the Trust AGM in October, they will be asking us to vote on the resolution for a new National Council. A pilot council to test the idea has been running for about a year and the minutes of their meetings are available on the Trust website.

The Third Age Trust will be looking for recruits from u3a's to sit on the national council, which should come in to operation in April 2025 if the resolution is passed.

Exploring London 6 comprises some 14 members and we meet on the second Friday monthly when two of the members take it in turns to organize a walk through an area of London we have not explored.

Recently we discovered that a stone's throw from Victoria Street is Queen Anne's Gate with some of the best examples of architecture from the 18th century, from ornate porches and delicate iron railings to a statue of Queen Anne, with the story that she walks 3 times round the street on the anniversary of her death in 1714 – so be careful not to be there on the 1st August.



Are you putting on weight and getting heavier?

We're saying it's because there's a lot more information in our heads after our Friday Walk!!

Nearby in Smith's Square is a church nicknamed Queen Anne's Footstool. When consulted by the Architect, the Queen kicked over her footstool, so the four legs faced upwards and hence the design with 4 towers.



Have you spotted in Victoria Station a memorial to the Unknown Soldier at the entrance to platform 8? On the 10th November 1920, the mail train arrived with the roof of one carriage painted white to mark it out as different from the others. This was the carriage carrying the remains of the Unknown Warrior.

Keep walking!!

Doreen Wilkinson and Brian Adams

EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

(Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)

Tuesday 13th August

Tony Scriven Sunshine Jazz Band

*Tribute to Monty Sunshine with
Tony Scriven drums/vocals/leader (ex Max Collie Rhythm Aces)
Monty Sunshine Band;
Peter Leonard – trumpet, vocals
Tim Asson - clarinet
Colin Graham – trombone
Bill Stagg – banjo/vocals
Paul Busby – sousaphone*

Tuesday 10th September

Spats Langham's "Five Nickels"

Keeping the memory of Keith Nichols Hot Five alive

*Tom 'Spats' Langham leader/vocals/banjo/guitar
Enrico Tomasso – cornet, Trevor Whiting – reeds,
Martin Wheatley – banjo/guitar, Richard Pite - drums*

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

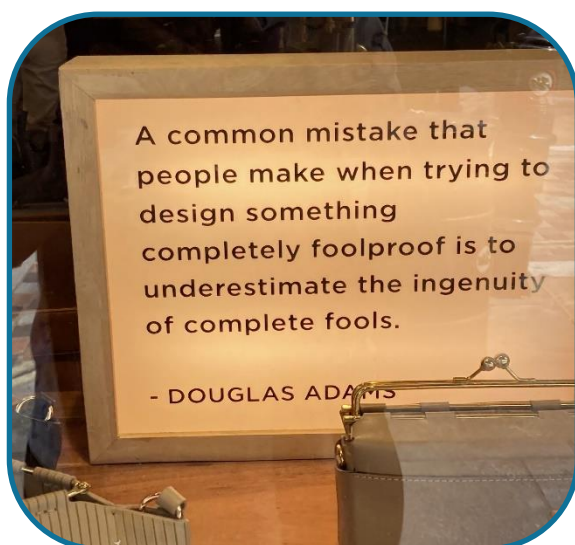
Website: epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/

Exploring London 8

In July we welcomed two new members, Jonathan and Derry, for a trial run with the group to see if they enjoyed the walk.

It was Maureen's turn to lead and we started at Waterloo and then across Charing Cross. We wandered along to the crypt café at St Martins which has nice big tables and lots of u3a groups use it regularly when up in London.

After coffee we wandered around Carnaby Street, Seven Dials, Neals Yard and along Cucumber Alley.



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

This month, our group went on a local trip to see and smell the lavender at Mayfield lavender fields near Banstead. We met at Oaks Park for lunch, then walked to the site and walked the fields. Some of us took the land tractor around the fields instead.



We had a bright sunny day and were amazed at the views of tall buildings from the top of the fields across the urban jungle of Croydon.

We had to try the Lavender ice cream.

Next month the plan is to take a trip to Oxfordshire to see some National Trust Gardens.

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



Cribbage with Brian

Epsom Bowling Club on Thursday.

Fee £2 including refreshments – Large Car Park

Forthcoming dates:

1st August - 10.30am

12th September - 2.00pm

15th August - 10.30am

26th September – 2.00pm

29th August – 10.30am

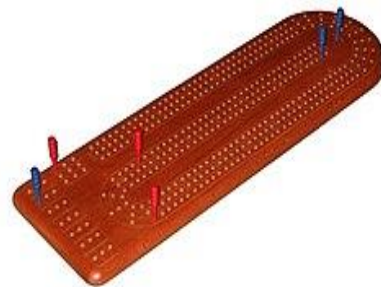
Cribbage with Christopher

Birchgrove, Lower Mill

Tuesdays 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Both groups welcome new members

Contact forms available on the website.





Brighton Pavilion July Social event

In July our members enjoyed a day trip to Brighton.



We had arranged a self-guided tour of the Pavilion which members reported worked very well as they each had their own audio guide that could be turned on and off as required.



After visiting the Pavilion there was time to wander down to the pier for lunch and to enjoy the sunshine.



One important lesson learnt that day was the necessity of having members' mobile numbers and emergency contact numbers. One member had a mishap, luckily not too serious but a hospital visit was required. It was useful to be able to contact her and ensure that her family was notified.

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MARY SMITH



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

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DR DAVID T JONES



FROM PRIMORDIAL SOUPS TO PRIMATES IN SUITS: THE EVOLUTION OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH

David is an entomologist specialising in rainforest insects and soil ecology at the Natural History Museum in London. His talk discusses how life evolved more than 3.5 billion years ago, and how today humans share the planet with around 12 million other species. David will explain the origins of life in the oceans, the evolution of millions of species, the extinction of millions more, and the rise to dominance of homo sapiens.

Bourne Hall Monday 2 September at 10:30

Exploring London 11 walking group went on a visit to Blackheath village. The weather kept dry and we enjoyed seeing the heath, the magnificent houses and lunch in The Railway pub.



Our social committee decided that sadly, due to lack of bookings, the residential trip to Norfolk in October and the Christmas trip to the Music Museum with an afternoon tea concert have both been cancelled. They are currently looking at other options for a Christmas event.

Marie has been in contact with Farukh at the Mosque and we hope to have a couple more dates for later in the year for members on our waiting list once their building work has been completed.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony



Our very popular coffee club, run by Rosie and Sue, is closed for holidays during August.

They resume in September

Dates for your diaries

Tuesday September 24th

Monday October 21st

Wednesday November 20th

Monday December 16th

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

