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E & E News - October

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**u3a** Epsom & Ewell

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*LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

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Welcome to our October newsletter.

This month we have our AGM and I would like to thank all the members who voted either online or via the postal option. Three new committee members have been duly elected, two committee members have been elected for a further year, our independent examiner has been approved, all the relevant reports have been approved and I'd like to thank members for electing me to the position of President to serve for the next year as mentor to the new committee members.

There were only a couple of questions raised this year, most of which have been answered on the AGM results page of this newsletter. Three members asked for more background information about our three new trustees which they have been happy to supply and that information is available on the AGM page of the website.



# AGM

## Voting Results



Thank you to the 320 members who completed the online voting form and the 4 non-internet members who sent in their voting forms. We currently have 1119 members and in total 324 votes have been cast. We sent out 40 AGM packs to members not on the internet. All other members received notifications via email on September 1<sup>st</sup> and two reminders were sent out during the month.

<u>Voting for reports</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Minutes of the 2023 AGM	318	0	6
Chairmans Annual Report	321	0	3
Trustees Annual Report & Accounts	321	0	3
<u>Election of New Trustees</u>			
Sybi Trowsdale – Chair	317	2	5
Rachel Raywood – Vice Chair	315	0	9
Pam Buckmaster – Membership	319	0	5
<u>Election of New non-voting role for one year</u>			
Tony Skelton – President	315	0	9
<u>Election of Officers for a further year in office</u>			
Sue Skelton – Treasurer	322	0	2
Fiona Bath – Business Secretary	322	0	2
<u>Election of Independent Examiner for a further year</u>			
Graham Penman – Independent Examiner	319	0	5

Three members requested to know some background information on our new trustees. Details will appear on the AGM page of the website. Other points raised were unfortunately the usual problem of members not responding to group leaders and group leaders not responding to members. This is an ongoing issue that we are constantly trying to address. One group leader is awaiting details regarding Group Leaders' first-aid responsibilities in external venues. One member asked if the social committee negotiated group rates for the trips that they organise. All social events are researched to get the best possible rate for members for every event organised. We realise that sometimes there may be a better price for last minute bookings but that is not feasible when you are organising a large group.

Several members took the opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work and to compliment them on the smooth running of our u3a.

## Exploring London 13



A wild wet & windy day but that didn't stop Exploring London 13 visiting Brentford, to take in the rivers Thames & Brent & the Grand Union Canal. We were even lucky enough for the tiny one-room Toll House to be open, although fitting us all in at once proved impossible. Despite the rain we had an excellent pub lunch beside a canal on a pub terrace under a vast canvas awning. Start point was the London Museum of Water & Steam, home of the largest steam pumping engine in the world.



## EXPLORING LONDON GROUP EL8

For September it was Gail's turn to lead our walk. We started our day at Peter Jones for coffee and then wandered across to Chelsea and Sloane Square. This part of London is known for being expensive and it was therefore quite a surprise to visit the Saatchi Gallery which was holding a very moving exhibition on homelessness. Our day continued to the Chelsea Hospital and the Chelsea Physic Gardens and finished with a very pleasant lunch.



### The Lion King

The social committee theatre offering for September was Disney's Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre in London. Seventeen members enjoyed a very colourful afternoon out watching and listening to this brilliant show that has been running for over 20 years.



## Garden Visiting Group August

This month the garden visiting group went a little further than normal. Our car sharing convoy went to Oxfordshire to visit Greys Court and Nuffield Place with our National Trust cards.

Both the gardens and the houses were a treat to visit, the staff at both were generous with their time in explaining the history of these two very different properties which were closely located. Fortunately, the weather held off for most of the day, the 11 of us that were able to attend had another excellent day out.



## Architectural Explorers August

This month Lesley took us to Barons Court, an area that was unknown to many of us and full of fascinating buildings, including some wonderful artist studios. It's clear that development in the area has had an impact, but the backwater streets full of individual properties and intriguing sights made for an interesting visit. It was made even better by a pub lunch in one of the best hidden pubs [and theatre] our group has yet visited.



## Church Crawlers

For September we visited Holy Trinity in Wallington. This is a relatively young church compared to some that we have visited as the current building only dates from the late 1860's. The church is very community-orientated and runs a very nice café on Thursday mornings and they made us very welcome.

After coffee we adjourned to the main part of the church and learnt a little about the team that run the church and some of the history. We were then joined by Anthony Reeves, the recently retired church warden, who told us all about the recent refurbishments. Firstly, the community rooms and café were added in about 2004 after £1.4 million had been raised for the work. As part of that development the vicar released part of his garden which he said was far too big to be manageable and the space was more useful to the church.

That was phase one and phase two meant more fundraising for the main part of the church. They successfully raised over £1.5 million and Anthony explained in detail what that money had been spent on.

One item was the organ which had stopped working and the gentleman who visited to give them an assessment regarding the repair just happened to have worked on the organ in the 1960's when he was an apprentice. His report noted that the organ was more 'Fiat' than 'Ferrari' and was not worth restoring. They therefore removed the organ and, like so many churches, they now rely on an electronic organ that has a very authentic sound. As part of the refurbishment, they removed the old pews and added stackable chairs which makes the church into a very versatile community space: they now have space for a band, also services continue to be live-streamed for parishioners who cannot attend the church.



**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 it now meets fortnightly.

Upcoming dates are October 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>.



Please contact Libby for further details. [curzone@hotmail.com](mailto:curzone@hotmail.com)

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)
- Hooge Crater Museum Guided Tour + Lunch
- Passchendaele Memorial Museum
- Talbot House



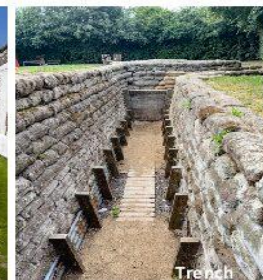
Menin Gate

### 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](mailto:info@simplygroups.co.uk)  
 Any queries contact **Jenny Baldrey:**  
[jennybaldrey@btinternet.com](mailto:jennybaldrey@btinternet.com)



Tyne Cot



Trench



**SIMPLY GROUPS**  
Simply the best!

The Specialist Group Tour Operator

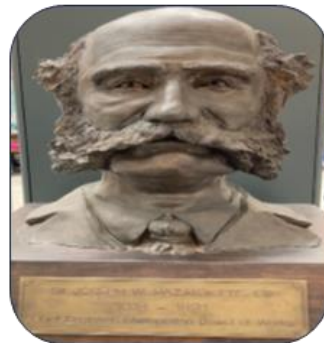




## Crossness Pumping Station

Our visit to Crossness was on a Steam Up Open Day which meant that the Prince Consort engine was running. We had booked tickets for members to visit the Beam Engine room to see this in action. The volunteers at Crossness were really helpful, one of their team boarded our coach as soon as we entered the drive and directed our coach driver to a parking place very near to the main doors. We were then all given an orientation map and itinerary for the day and our timed tickets for the Beam Engine. There were various videos and demonstrations going on throughout the day, a heritage walk, the workshops were open and there was the opportunity for a ride on the railway. We learnt about the Great Stink of 1858 and also how Bazalgette and his team planned and executed the installation of the London Sewer System.

**Rat Facts – Did you know – Brown rats are very good swimmers. Black rats are very good climbers. Black rats were blamed for carrying the plague – but it was really the fleas on their backs. 95% of rats live for less than a year.**



## Improv Comedy

This group is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month on Zoom 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 before moving to Wales.

The next meeting of the group is on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm, and the group would welcome more members.



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



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.

## Garden Wanderers September

The Garden Wanderers this month returned to Wisley for their autumn garden festival & we had a great time shopping for our own gardens. We also took a day trip to Kent to visit National Trust Ightham Mote, where we managed to grab spaces on a garden tour with a complete eccentric, and then onwards to Lullingstone Castle to revisit the World Garden. We toured the World Garden in the rain and met the designer & owner in the shop, where we had detailed guidance on how to care for our purchases.



## Architectural Explorers September

The explorers this month went for a return trip to Epsom, this time to South Street, Chalk Lane & the Durdans. We gained access to the impressive new estate behind Atkins & found ourselves amazed by what we didn't know about our local area.

## Current affairs Group

Our Current Affairs group leader has notified us that she has space for a couple more members. The group meets at Court Farm Garden Centre, off Ewell By Pass, on the second Monday of the month at 2pm. They have a nice light and airy café and plenty of parking.

Each participant suggests a topical subject, perhaps from a newspaper article or a recent television programme which is then discussed. This usually moves on to other topics. No preparation is expected.

Contact Maureen via the link on their interest group page of the website.



## Creative Writing Group

Our new creative writing group will be holding their first meeting on Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> at Stoneleigh Library from 2.30-4.30.

They have space for more members. There will be a small fee per member to cover the cost of the room hire.

The group will be suitable for beginners or experienced writers.

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

Time will be made to get to know people and make new friends.

You can contact Will Ward for more details via the interest groups page of the website where Creative Writing have their own page and a link to Will.



# EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB

*(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - Sponsored by Epsom & Ewell u3a Jazz)*

## ***8 October – Sarah Spencer’s Transatlantic Band***

***'Magic' Mike Henry cornet; Sarah Spencer reeds, vocals; Bob Pearce trombone  
Hugh Crozier piano, vocals; Jim Swinnerton double bass; Graham Smith drums***

## ***12 November - Hugh Crozier’s New Orleans Jazz Band***

***Mike Henry cornet; Paula Jackman clarinet; Graham Hughes trombone  
Maurice Dennis banjo; Hugh Crozier piano; Jim Swinnerton bass***

## ***10 December – Xmas Party with Gambit Jazzmen***

***John Maddocks clarinet saxes; Ian McAlay trombone; Tom Connor trumpet  
Andy Maynard banjo/guitar; John Arthy bass/tuba; Pete Lay drums***

## ***14 January 2025 – John Maddocks Jazzmen***

***The full seven piece band***

## ***11 February – The Tony Scriven Sunshine Kings***

***11 March - Nick Ward’s Jelly Roll Kings 8 April - La Vie En Rose 13 May TBA***

***10 June - Chris Lowe’s Forest Hill Owls***

***Tickets £15 (£17 non-u3a mem) free parking & tea coffee cake***

***All Saints Community Hall, Fulford Road, West Ewell KT19 9QY***

***Doors 1.40 - Music 2 - 4.20 pm - Info 07913 655458***

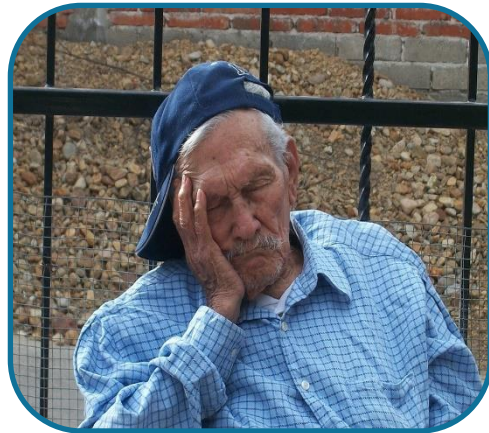
***[m.stevensatlap@gmail.com](mailto:m.stevensatlap@gmail.com)***

***[Web: epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/](http://epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/)***

**AGM**

**Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>  
2024**

**10.30am**



**On Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our AGM at Bourne Hall. We will deal with the formalities of the day as quickly as possible.**

**Doors will open at the normal time. Our AGM will start at 10.30 and we hope to complete business by 10.50 in order that members can have a comfort break before our speaker starts at 11.00.**

**We request that you do not ask questions at the actual AGM if possible as this slows down the business of the day and delays the start of our speaker.**

*thank you!*

Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rounded rectangular background.

We know Facebook is one of those Marmite things about modern life that people either love or loathe.

However, for those members that do enjoy social media, the Epsom and Ewell u3a has for the last few years had a private Facebook Group that is open to members only.

We check that any members who request to join are current members of our u3a via our Beacon database.

We'd like the group to be more active and group leaders and members are invited to share anything that they think will interest other members.

The group is Private so any posts can only be seen by members of the group and we remind members that u3a is not religious or political, but you are free to share pictures of days out or comments about things you have enjoyed or local events.

We also have a Public Facebook Page; this is administered by one of our members who posts three or four times a week about u3a items of interest.

Page posts can be seen by the public at large and we use this as our advertising to the public of the role of the u3a within the local community and what we offer to our members.

For more details

email [u3aepsom@gmail.com](mailto:u3aepsom@gmail.com)



**DR JAMES TAYLOR**



## GRACE DARLING AND THE FINE ART OF SAVING LIVES AT SEA

2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Our presentation today describes Darling's daring rescue of steamship passengers off the Northumberland coast in 1838. Discover more about her bravery and short life (died aged 26) living in the Brownsman and Longstone lighthouses. Grace became the poster girl of the RNLI and was the first woman awarded their medal for gallantry.

Bourne Hall Monday 7 October at 10:30



**SARAH QUILL**



## JOHN RUSKIN AND 'THE STONES OF VENICE'

John Ruskin (1819–1900), whose life spanned the Victorian era, became the most celebrated and influential art critic of his age. Author of countless books, and a gifted draughtsman, he was a polymath whose interests ranged from literature, art and architecture to geology, early photography and the sciences. His work on Venetian architecture is best remembered in his three-volume masterpiece, 'The Stones of Venice', published from 1851–53. Sarah will discuss his life and Venetian work in this illustrated talk.

Bourne Hall Monday 4 November at 10:30



That brings me to the end of my last newsletter as chair of Epsom & Ewell u3a. It has been an 'interesting' few years, one as vice chair and four as chair and, on the whole, I have enjoyed my term in office. There have been challenges, the biggest being a global pandemic, but as a committee we've overcome them and it's been a privilege to be part of the team. I look forward to continuing to support our u3a.

Please support your new committee members as they start the next phase of the Epsom & Ewell u3a journey.

Take care and stay safe,

Tony