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E & E News - November

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**u3a** Epsom & Ewell

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

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*LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE*

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Hi Everybody,

We had a really good AGM and a very encouraging turn-out, 166 members. Thank you to the members for supporting your committee.

On behalf of the committee, I extend a very warm welcome to new members. Enjoy all the different clubs and social functions we have to offer. New members will find more information on the u3a website along with BACS details.

At the time of writing, we still have places for the Winchester excursion. You can incorporate a Cathedral visit which we will book for you. Afterwards you can be at leisure in the town where there are lots of good places to break for lunch. Maybe you fancy a visit to the market for some Christmas presents -- yes, I have mentioned the "C" word, it won't be long before it is upon us. Please specify if you want to visit the Cathedral.

What would we do without our group leaders? Thank you for all your contributions to the newsletter, they are so welcomed by the committee and the membership. I was told at the AGM they kept the members in touch with what was happening, which is so important.

Have a great month, enjoy, block out all the negativity in the world and have fun. Take good care of yourselves.

Kind regards,

Sybi

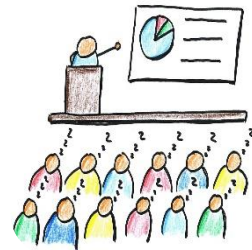
Chair-Epsom and Ewell U3A

## New Chair, New Challenges

For the past four years Tony (with the help of the committee) kept our u3a alive and vibrant throughout the challenges of Covid and lockdown and he has now handed on the baton to me. As the saying goes, follow that!! As a starting point, the committee met for coffee and chat at the Old Moat Garden Centre, and plans are forming, ideas that had to be put on hold due to lockdown can now go ahead, and new ideas can be explored.

Due to the changes in committee members, various tasks have been reassigned, and for other ideas we need help from you, our members, to bring them to fruition.

We need to set up a Tech Team to help run our monthly speaker event at Bourne Hall. This is nothing too challenging and requires someone with enough skill to assist David each month with setting up the projector and laptop and adjusting the Bourne Hall lighting from the lighting console for our guest speaker. It doesn't have to be the same member every month, if two or three members would like to share the role that would be really helpful.



Refreshments Team Our Really Useful Group members, Sue and Marion, deal with serving refreshments each month as members arrive for our talk. However, we need members who would be willing to assist Libby and Rachel with getting our refreshment supplies out of our Bourne Hall cupboard and putting things away at the end of the meeting. There are months when we are short of help on the refreshments as either Sue or Marion are unavailable, and it would be useful to have a backup member or members that we could call on to help out.

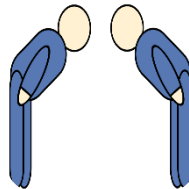


It would be useful if a member were willing to take some money from the refreshments' pot and walk across to the shop in the village and pick up the milk requirements for the morning.

Meet and Greet Team Cynthia and Elaine, more members of our Really Useful Group, are usually on duty for the monthly meeting. They greet any members in the foyer who are unsure of the itinerary for the morning, where to find the lifts, the loos, the hall, the refreshments etc., all the important factors before the speaker arrives.

Are there any other members who would like to be the friendly face of our u3a and chat to people, especially if you have been a member for a while and would be able to tell new members about your experiences within the u3a?

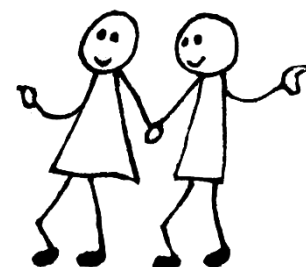
We are hoping to arrange for our new members' coordinators, Ellen and Tina, and other committee members to be available in the foyer so that our Meet and Greet team can direct new members towards them for a chat.



Buddies This was an idea first started by Rosie and Sue when they were social secretaries and which we would like to restart.

The idea is as follows: Have you been a member for a little while and do you like a chat?

Would you be willing to befriend a new member when they attend their first Bourne Hall meeting and sit next to them for the speaker meeting – the committee can arrange reserved seating for buddies and their guest in order that you have a good seat for the event.



## New Members coffee mornings

Since April 1<sup>st</sup> we have welcomed 110 new members to our u3a. We're also aware that since we re-opened after lockdown there are many more members who haven't had the opportunity to attend a new members' coffee morning. The committee are in the process of arranging a couple of coffee mornings and any members who have joined post lockdown will receive an invitation as soon as arrangements are finalised. This will be a chance to speak to committee members, and some group leaders (if available), and learn about the members for members ethos of the u3a while enjoying refreshments.

*Thank  
you!*

## Group Leaders Thank You

In 2023 we held a group leaders' thank you lunch. Although this was well received and enjoyed by the leaders who attended, the committee are aware that the date was not suitable for some leaders and maybe a change of idea is needed. We feel that it is important to thank our group leaders as they are such an important part of our u3a and we are investigating various options that may be more acceptable and better attended.

## Social Events

After arranging a full calendar of events for 2024, our social committee are starting to look at ideas for 2025. At the end of 2023 it was decided that all social events, days out, ticket-only theatre etc, would come under the remit of the social committee, which is made up of any committee member who wanted to be involved. More recently, the booking of our Monthly Speaker has also been transferred to the social committee.

For 2025 it has been decided that we will revert to having two pick-up points – Ewell Village and Epsom High Street as these are by far the most popular – and they're both also outside the ULEZ zone (currently!!)

What we now need is a few members who would like to help with leading some of the social events. You don't need to get involved with advertising, booking events, or coaches etc as that is dealt with by the committee. What we would be grateful for is some members who would like to actually take the lead on the day, i.e. check members on to the coaches at the two pick-up points in Ewell Village and Epsom High Street and back on to the coach for the journey home. This would involve holding the list of members and their pick-up point and emergency contact details for on-the-day (if required). Of course if you have any ideas for events we are willing to investigate and would love to hear from you.



### Committee Members

In October 2025 several of our committee members will have completed their three-year term in office. We will therefore be looking for members who would like to get more involved with the running of our u3a. The committee meets six times each year, in the morning of the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

If any members would like to attend any future meetings as a silent observer in order to understand the role of the committee members, they would be made very welcome. We are aware that some u3a's operate a system of shadowing for a year before standing for committee which would be an ideal way to discover whether you wish to stand for election in 2025.

### Member Suggestions and Ideas

As a committee we welcome suggestions and ideas from any of our members for groups, events etc, in fact anything that would enhance your enjoyment of our u3a and your journey through the Third Age of life.



## Exploring London 11

In September Chris B led a temporarily depleted EL11 around Clerkenwell, showing us new places such as St John's Gate and the oldest house in London.



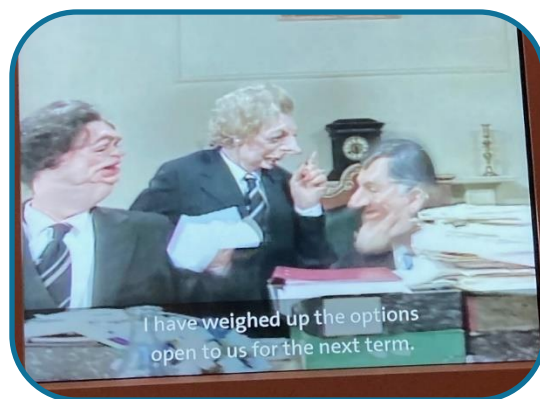
In October we learned the origins of many street names and even of Soho itself. We walked along Berwick Street, London's oldest street market and visited Soho and Golden Squares. We saw blue plaques of famous residents: Mozart, Canaletto, John Logie Baird, Mary Seacole, and Dr John Snow and his replica water pump. A very interesting walk.



## EXPLORING LONDON GROUP 8

For October it was Sue's turn to lead the walk. Knowing how changeable October weather can be, an indoor visit was decided on so we headed to the V & A. Coffee was in the William Morris café, which made an excellent start to the day, before we headed upstairs to the temporary exhibition entitled 'Laughing Matter – The State of a Nation'. This exhibition is on until December 23<sup>rd</sup> and is all about comedy through the ages.

There are exhibits about Punch and Judy, which apparently comes originally from 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian commedia dell'arte performances. There are numerous film clips to watch including the Carry-on Camping sketch when Barbara Windsor's bra famously flies off during the exercise class. There are also clips of Stanley Baxter, Spitting Images and Yes Minister to name just a few. We finished a very enjoyable and nostalgic morning at the Hoop and Toy for lunch.



'I DON'T WANT THE TRUTH,  
I WANT SOMETHING I CAN  
TELL PARLIAMENT!'

JIM HACKER, YES MINISTER (1980-82)

## Exploring Architecture Group

Soho has been a Conservation Area since 2005, so it is not surprising that there is much to see, including listed buildings.

Chronologically the highlights were:

17th C - Wren's tower of St Anne's church.

18th C - Hazlitts Hotel, one of the many Georgian buildings.

19th C - The French Protestant church designed by the same person who built the V&A.

20th C - Liberty's, although mock Tudor, it has many Arts and Crafts elements. - 3 Soho Square is a stunning example of Art Nouveau. - Palladium House is Art Deco.

21st C - Ilona Rose House. - Kingly Court, with a fictional tube station!

And lastly - We also found a nose on the corner of Meard Street dating to 2015, as part of the Street Awareness Campaign.





**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 now meet fortnightly.

Upcoming dates are November 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>.



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

## Third Age Trust

On Wednesday October 16th the Third Age Trust (our umbrella organisation) held their AGM.

This was a hybrid meeting with over 600 u3a's represented either in the hall or online. The new chair Allan Walmsley, new vice chair Margaret Fiddes and new London region trustee Jenny Wilson were all duly elected. The trust had also submitted a Special Resolution to amend their Articles of Association which was voted on and approved by the meeting.

The Special Resolution will change the structure of the Third Age Trust board. Regional Trustees will no longer be board members but will instead become part of the new council which will represent members and is due to be in place by April 2025. This will have no effect on how our u3a is run as the Executive Committee as elected by Epsom & Ewell members control the running of our u3a.

## 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 November 22nd @ 2pm, and the group would welcome more members.



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



**Roots Café 10.00am**

**Epsom Methodist Church**

**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.

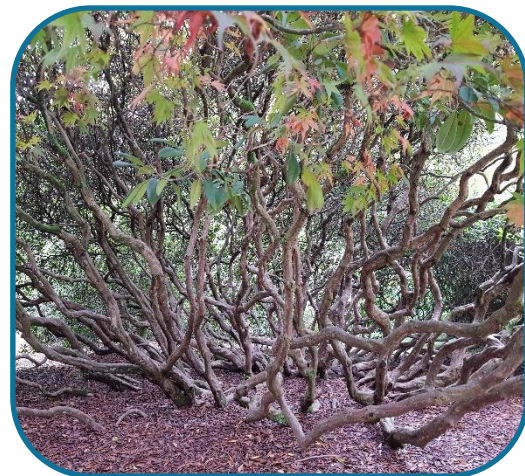
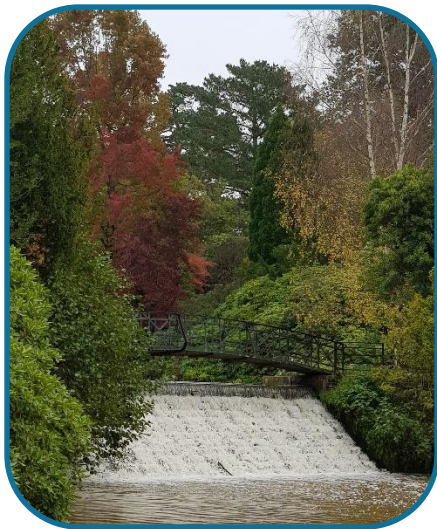
## Garden Wanderers

This month, the garden visiting group went to Sheffield Park in West Sussex, a Capability Brown Grade 1 listed landscape garden, to see the autumn colours.

It was slightly early in the season this year, but you will see from the pictures that many of the trees around the lakes and ponds had begun to change colour.

We were lucky enough to be taken on a tour around the garden by two National Trust volunteers who told us a lot about the property, its trees and history and the plans for renovation.

Of particular interest to us was the new garden area with seating made from an old damaged Redwood tree, treated using the Japanese technique of wood preservation which involves charring wood with fire to make it more durable and resistant to insects, and a boardwalk made from the park's felled oaks.



## 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 next meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</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 and 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 has its own page and a link to Will.



# **EPSOM HOT JAZZ CLUB**

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

## **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 0791 3655**

**458 [m.stevensatlap@gmail.com](mailto:m.stevensatlap@gmail.com) Web: [epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/](http://epsomandewellu3a.co.uk/jazz/)**

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

## Facebook

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

However, for those members who 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. We would remind members that U3A is not religious or political, but you are free to share pictures of days out, 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)

**u3a**  
Epsom & Ewell

**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

**u3a**  
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**HELEN ASTRID**



## UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

This year's Christmas special ... Helen, a soprano soloist, will lead you through 300 years of musical history throughout Europe and further afield. Discover the legends and stories behind your favourite Christmas carols as well as discovering new gems - how and why did they begin? Helen will invite you to join in a special festive sing-a-long at the end. Helen says: "To share the beauty of opera and to spread the glory of this magnificent art form is my absolute joy".



Bourne Hall Monday 2 December at 10:30