

### Message from the Chair

Many of us seem to have had a very busy term with everything that is going on in the U3AC and life in general.

The new venue of the Cambridge Union Debating Chamber for our Wednesday lectures is proving successful, although different in layout from the more usual lecture theatre. Some of our speakers have commented on the feeling of privilege it conveys, given its history and the nature of some of the debates and those who have held forth there in the past. This does not of course seem to intimidate either our members or speakers, who take it all in their stride. Some members have had problems finding it, but the easiest way to get to it is down the passageway between the Round Church and the Jeweller's shop to the right of the church.

I understand there have been some new volunteers coming forward to work on the welcome desk/reception in the Bridge Street offices. This is very much appreciated. The more volunteers we have there, the better it is for everyone and it makes it much easier to provide cover when people are on holiday or unable to do their session for other reasons. So - the more the merrier - and if you have been thinking about volunteering in any capacity, do please let us know, so that we can give you more information about the various roles that volunteers take on, in order to keep the organisation working effectively - we depend on you.

As part of our normal review procedures, we have been looking at the summer programme which we have run in recent years during July August and September. This was set up for a combination of reasons, including members asking us to consider it, as many of us are around over that period and missed going to classes. It also makes better use of our premises and gives us an opportunity to put on some 'taster' courses. However, both this and last summers' programmes did not have the take up that we had expected. We think this could be because some of us felt unable to commit to courses which were held over a longer period of weeks, at that time of year. We intend to keep the programme going in principle, but will look at modifying it so that each class has fewer sessions, but each session may be longer and there will probably still be a number of 'one off' classes.

Talking of classes - we are always seeking new courses to put in the programme. There is such a wealth of knowledge in the U3AC and if you feel you would like to impart your knowledge and enthusiasm to others, please do think about being a tutor. It can be very rewarding and it is what the success of U3AC depends upon. We provide support and help for tutors.

Happy Christmas to you all.

**Sally Livesey**

**The U3AC Office will close at 2 pm on Tuesday 22 December and re-open at 10 am on Monday 4 January**

#### **U3AC Term Dates 2015**

Monday 11 January – Friday 18 March 2016

Monday 11 April – Friday 17 June 2016

Start dates for each course are shown on the website

## New courses / talks – please enrol with the Office

### Call Push Rescue 1

**Tutor:** Diane Anstee

**Date and time:** Friday 11 March 9.45 - 11.15

**Venue:** Room 5

**Number of places:** 9

Do you know how to give basic life support (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)? The British Heart Foundation has launched a new initiative to help create a nation of lifesavers. Come along to a single workshop to learn these simple, but vital skills. All you need is the ability to kneel down (but if that's not possible, come along and watch!).

### Call Push Rescue 2

**Tutor:** Diane Anstee

**Date and time:** Friday 18 March 9.45 - 11.15

**Venue:** Room 5

**Number of places:** 9

Repeat of Call Push Rescue 1

### FIT 39: Tennis (summer term)

**Co-ordinator:** Paul Pinnington

**Date and time:** Thursday 12.30 – 2.00

**Venue:** Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club

**Length of course:** 1 term

**Number of places:** 24

**Start date:** 14 April

We play at the Tennis Club on Wilberforce Road and currently have twelve players who joined in the Autumn term, but would welcome some more. There is plenty of parking at the club. If you have any queries please contact [paulpinnington@gmail.com](mailto:paulpinnington@gmail.com) There is a fee of £20 for the term, payable to U3AC on application.

## Summer School

A 4-week Summer School will run from Monday 11 July to Friday 5 August 2016.

This will replace previous years' summer holiday courses which have taken place over a 13 week period.

It is hoped a shorter, more condensed programme will prove more convenient and popular with members.

Proposal forms for tutors will be available Monday 4 April 2016 and will need to be submitted by Friday 28 May.

The summer school programme will be available to members from Monday 6 June 2016.

## Spring term courses

The following courses which start next term have vacancies, full details of day, time and venue can be found on the website.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ARTC 05 | Knit and Chat (spring term)  |
| DIS 07  | London Forum 2 (spring term)   |
| HIS 23  | Rome – The Making of the City (spring & summer terms)                                      |
| HIS 24  | South American History 1800-1900 (spring & summer terms)                                   |
| HIS 25  | Spain and the Americas (spring term)   |
| HIS 29  | The Caminos of Santiago in Spain (spring term)   |
| HIS 43  | Family History for Beginners 2 (spring term)   |
| LIT 09  | Chance, choice, providence and the ages of man in Malory's Le Morte D'Arthur (spring term) |
| MTH 05  | Maths can be Fun 2 (spring term)   |
| MUS 05  | Handel's Operas from 1715 (Amadigi) to 1725 (Rodelinda) (spring term)                      |
| MUS 13  | Opera (spring term)  |
| MUS 15  | Opera on DVD 2 – Shakespeare and Opera (spring term)                                       |
| PHL 04  | Being Logical (spring term)  |
| SCE 09  | DNA, Cells and Cancer (spring term)  |
| SFM 02  | Coping with hearing loss (spring term)   |

[www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)

[office@u3ac.org.uk](mailto:office@u3ac.org.uk)

## Vacancy list

If you would like to apply for any additional courses (up to a maximum of 6) a vacancy list is available on the website <http://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Vacancy-list.pdf> and is regularly updated.

## Tutors and course leaders

### Tutors Proposal forms

Tutors and course leaders will be able to complete their proposal forms for courses online next year. We will email all tutors for whom we have an email address in February 2016 inviting them to complete the online form. For tutors without an email address a paper proposal form will continue to be sent by post. We hope as many tutors as possible will complete the online version of the form as this will help considerably reduce the time the office staff spend entering the details manually.

### Courses programme 2016-17

If members would like to consider offering a course for next year's programme for the first time, please contact the Office in January or February so that we can send a proposal form. There are several subject areas in the programme which are usually oversubscribed including Art Appreciation, History, Science and Yoga; offers of courses in these areas would be particularly welcome.

## Contacting tutors

Contact details for tutors are no longer in the Programme. If you wish to contact the tutor of any of your courses, their details can be found on our website [www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk). To access the areas of the website which are for members only you need to "log in". The username is your email address and the password is your membership number. Tutors' contact details can be found with each course description once logged in. Members without internet access can request this information from the Office.

## Administrative Information

### Non-attendance

If for any reason you are unable to attend the first week of your class please inform the tutor or the Office **before** term starts. Due to many classes having a long waiting list and in fairness to other members, if we do not hear from you we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

### Withdrawing from a Course

If you are no longer able to attend a course in which you have been allocated a place, please inform the Office at the **earliest** possible opportunity. Please do not wait until the course is about to start or has started. Thank you.

### Mailings

We make savings in postage by combining husband/wife mailings in one envelope. If, however, members would like future mailings sent separately please inform the Office.

### Communicating with Members

In order to maintain low administrative costs and reduce paperwork, where possible the Office will communicate with members via email. This may include notification of a change to their course, a cancellation or course material. It is therefore important that the Office is informed should you change your email address or no longer have this facility.

### Copy for next Newsletter

Articles/information that members would like to be published in the next newsletter should be received by the Office no later than **Friday 4 March**.

### Council Minutes

All members are entitled to request to read the minutes of the U3AC Council meetings which are held in the U3AC Office.

### Council meeting

The next meeting is on Friday 5 February 2016.

## Social

### Concert by CCSO

Following last years' successful cooperation with the City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra at a concert which included Sheherezade as well as a new commission by young composer Chris Roe, the orchestra will be partnering with U3AC again next year at a concert on

**Saturday 14 May 2016 at 7.30 pm in West Road Concert Hall**

The concert starts with Bartok's serene and highly melodic 3rd piano concerto. The soloist will be pianist Erdem Misirlioglu, who has performed with CCSO every year since winning the piano section of BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in 2008. The second work in the programme is Mahler's epic 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony, best known perhaps for its Adagietto, used in Visconti's film Death in Venice.

U3AC benefits from the arrangement with the orchestra in that it retains 50% of all ticket sales made via U3AC. Such additional funding is a great help to U3AC in helping it maintain and expand its range of activities.

Tickets for the concert cost £16 for concessions and will be on sale in the Bridge Street premises from the beginning of January.

### New Year Drinks party

The New Year Drinks party will be held in the David Rayner Building at Scotsdale's Garden Centre, Great Shelford on Friday 8 January 2016. Application forms for tickets are now available from the Office or on the website in the downloads area. Please be aware that places are filling up quickly.

### Pre-Wednesday Lecture lunches at University Centre, Mill Lane

An opportunity to meet other U3AC members over lunch at the University Centre from 12.15 pm onwards. Look for the table 'Reserved for U3AC'. These meals are informal and self-service and are usually taken in the Main Dining Hall on the second floor (lift available). They are now offering a delicious new winter season range of food.

### Wine Tasting

The next wine tasting will take place on Tuesday 2 February at 6pm and is entitled 'Tour de France', a journey through French vineyards under the expert guidance of our Thirsty guide, Matthew Boucher. Tickets cost £10 and will be available from the Office from 11 January. £1 for cheese will be collected at the event.

## How do I find out what's happening in U3AC?

The weekly bulletin is produced each Wednesday and contains:

- Details of the following week's Wednesday lecture
- Details of the next Norah Boyce Science lecture
- New courses
- Course updates
- One-off lectures
- Events
- Trips

and much more! It is emailed to all members (unless you have requested not to receive it). If you do not currently receive it and wish to, please contact the Office. The weekly bulletin is also available to collect from the U3AC Office and can also be viewed on the U3AC website.

## General

### Exhibitions

If any U3AC groups or individuals would like to hold an exhibition of their work at the U3AC, please contact the Office to reserve a 3-week slot. If you are looking to sell your work through the exhibition the U3AC would appreciate a donation from your profits.

### Music Theory class

Congratulations to the five members of this class who recently took the Grade V examination; three members gained Distinctions, one Merit and one Pass.

### Volunteer Financial Accounts Examiner

The U3AC is seeking a volunteer examiner to be part of the team of two who examine and certify the Accounts which close on 31 December.

The examiner must be a person who is a member of one of the following bodies listed in the amended 2011 Act and should be allowed by the rules of that body to undertake the role of independent examiner:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Association of Authorised Public Accountants
- Association of Accounting Technicians
- Association of International Accountants
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
- Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners
- Institute of Financial Accountants
- Certified Public Accountants Association Independent examiners

It is anticipated that the work will involve about 8 hours during the first two weeks of January. If you feel you can help please contact the U3AC Office.

### Book Swap

There is a free Book Swap in the coffee area in the Bridge Street premises. Simply take along a book you no longer wish to keep, and swap it for something from the shelves. You can keep the swapped book or swap it again for something else.

Nothing too battered, please, and no larger than A4.

## Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Judith Butcher*  
*Marian Dawson*  
*Willy Gough-Maters*  
*Ron Gray*  
*Fiona Harding*  
*Bob Hepple*  
*Valerie MacAndrew*  
*Sue Macdonald*  
*Stuart Waterhouse*  
*Vishnu Vasudeva*

### Rome with Alan Winfield

We all enjoyed Alan's lectures on Italian Cities in the Spring term at U3AC while sitting in room 1. Now, in November, we have 3 days of walking the Eternal City. Oh boy, can Alan walk! Rome was built on seven hills and it felt as though we walked up and down most of them. In Rome everything is built on top of something else.

We saw the Roman Forum from above and then went down to see it. It was a symbol of civic pride for 1000 years but had originally been a swampy cemetery. Now it still has at least five temples and three triumphal arches in good repair.

We climbed up the Capitoline Hill with lovely views of Rome on the way. The square at the top was designed by Michelangelo and, therefore, has a certain elegance with museums on either side and a grand statue of Marcus Aurelius in the middle. Down more steps, Michelangelo's Cordonata flanked by Castor and Pollox, twin brothers of Helen of Troy.

At last we're on a bus. How will we know when to alight for the Colosseum? "It's big and on the right". Everything in Rome is big. The City walls are colossal and thick and were not breached until 1849. The aqueducts on which the city's water supply depended brought water from the Alban Hills, and are very big. The bus passed Trajan's column AD113. It is tall and decorated with his victories. The Flavian Amphitheatre, the Colosseum, is huge. It has Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns outside and the Roman's most frightening events on the inside. In AD80 Emperor Titus massacred hundreds of wild animals for entertainment.

The amazing Pantheon AD118, built by Hadrian, has a dome diameter of 42.5 metres. The ceiling is coffered so it carries less weight.

The Palatine Hill is another climb to see what remains of many vast palaces built for Septimius Severus, Augustus, Livia, and Nero.

Victor Emmanuel II was the first king of the United Italy created in 1875. His huge white memorial was closed when we got there because the President of Italy was visiting. We had a gentle walk into the Jewish Quarter, where we had afternoon tea, followed by a walk along the River Tiber to view the remains of an old Roman bridge.

Our visit to the Spanish Steps was a little disappointing as they were closed, but some visited the house where Keats and Shelley lived.

St. Peter's square is elliptical with Bernini colonades interrupted by the Via Concilazione. The wish of Mussolini. There is a lift up the tower of St. Peter's but still 330 stairs to see a vista across the city. Bernini



designed the Baldachino, the altar canopy and the beautiful small Amber coloured window showing a dove and golden shafts representing the Holy Spirit. The statue of St. Peter by Cambio has queues of the faithful to kiss or touch his foot.

Michelangelo's Pieta was attacked in 1972 with a hammer and is now behind a screen to protect it.

The Vatican is a city state with its own stamps and even a private railway station. Tickets are best booked in advance to avoid long queues. The corridors of the Vatican Museums are very long. Rooms off contain many art treasures. Raphael painted frescos for the private rooms of Pope Julius II, including the famous School of Athens. At last we reached the Sistine Chapel and wondered at Michelangelo's famous ceiling and the wall painting of the Last Judgement.

On our final day we walked 11 km to the Borghese Gardens. We had no time to visit Bernini's David, but there is a copy in Anglesey Abbey gardens.

We all posed for a group photo in the Piazza

**Chrissie Davies**

## Other Organisations

### **Volunteers wanted to help visually impaired people – 1 hour a week can make a big difference to someone's life!**

Cam Sight is a local charity who has been helping people with sight loss for over 100 years in Cambridgeshire. Without proper sight daily tasks can almost be impossible without assistance. Would you like to give time to helping someone with sight loss? This could be reading or chatting to them in their home, going for a walk or taking them out for a drive to a local garden centre for a coffee. We also have groups in the villages around Cambridge, and sports group which volunteers help at. If you are interested in knowing more please contact Joy Hallifax, Volunteer Manager at 167 Green End Road, Cambridge, CB4 1RW. Tel: 01223 420033 or email [joy@camsight.org.uk](mailto:joy@camsight.org.uk)

### **WWII memories**

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, AgeUK Cambridgeshire has recently published an illustrated volume of memories by local residents called *WWII memories: Cambridgeshire Residents Reminisce*. The publication contains stories about life during the war, contributed by people now living in Cambridgeshire. Different sections cover life on the home front, experiences of evacuation, what it was like to be a child in the war, stories of active service and recollections of the end of the war.

All net proceeds from the book go to AgeUK Cambridgeshire, whose services to elderly people include home help and gardening, advocacy and advice, as well as a visiting scheme staffed by volunteers. The book costs £7.50 and is now on sale from the U3AC office until the end of January. Collection only, cheques should be made payable to Age UK Cambridgeshire.

### **Winter Warm Campaign**

Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Health team has put together and funded a "Winter Health Information Pack" which also includes; an information booklet on staying warm and well during the cold winter months, a recipe card, a falls information leaflet, a tea bag, a thermometer, and an evaluation card! Packs are available to collect from the Office.

### **Outside organisations**

Details of events held by outside organisations can be viewed on our website

<http://www.u3ac.org.uk/outside-organisations/>

## External Research Studies

Is the language used in British newspapers getting worse? Is the BBC upholding its language standards? What do you think about today's language use in UK media? I would like to find answers to questions such as the above and therefore would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey which will take roughly 10 minutes. It deals with the language used in UK national daily newspapers mainly, but also includes a few questions on online media and the role of media in general. Your contribution is of course anonymous and is highly appreciated. The questionnaire can be accessed through the following link:

[https://qtrial2013.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4Jhgwk5NepFXFBP](https://qtrial2013.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Jhgwk5NepFXFBP)

If you have any comments on or questions concerning the survey, please feel free to contact Carmen Ebner [c.ebner@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:c.ebner@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

We are frequently contacted by University departments and institutes looking for volunteer subjects. All requests for volunteers are placed on the U3AC website <http://www.u3ac.org.uk/requests-for-volunteers/>



**The Music Lesson** (Jan Vermeer)

*Music is the Companion of Joy, the Medicine of Sorrow*, says the inscription on the clavecin. And so it has been whilst I've been working on this painting, sitting at the back of the large light room watching the goings on between Juliana and her music master. Or, should I say, the lack of goings on. She's a picture in herself - a beautiful young thing rapt in her performance, pure white blouse with big sleeves billowing out as her hands move up and down the keys, bright red skirt toned down and kept in check by her heavy dark overskirt - all seen from behind. No sheet music - her music comes from her heart. The teacher stands to her right, a proprietorial hand resting on the side of the clavecin. He too wears a wide-collared white shirt, its emphatic sleeves flouncing out from the restraints of his sober black jacket - a study in refinement. I can see his face as he gazes at his pupil, and I think I know how he feels about her. He is enthralled by her exquisite playing – she is really surpassing herself today. Just now they have been playing a duet, and his bass viol lies on the black and white tiled floor next to the brass-studded chair where he was sitting. But he abandoned that mid-phrase and went to stand at the side of the clavecin, where he could see her face.

Her face. I can see it too, reflected in the mirror on the wall. Her expression is impenetrable, closed in on itself and the music, shutting me out, shutting out the teacher. Her expression is all in the music which reverberates around the room - oh if only I could capture that in my painting. But it's not for me she plays with such feeling, and it's not for the teacher. It's for herself - and someone else. He's here in the painting too. Look carefully at that wonderfully opulent Turkish rug in the foreground. On top of it is a plain white ceramic jug made in this town of Delft. Beneath it is a table. And beneath that is a young man whose origins are as humble as the jug's. As far as the music master is concerned - and the girl's mother, for that matter – he has no right to be there at all. But he is there, and if he were not, the music would be lacking a certain something.

All this I have seen. All this I know. But the Delftware jug looks precarious on its perch and I fear that the serenity of the scene may be transient.

Margaret Provis



## U3AC Film Group

Established in October 1999 with the much valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse Cambridge management, the aim of the U3AC Film Group is to show a wide range of the best in both historic and contemporary world cinema from all countries, generations and genres, and our programmes take a robust and adventurous approach to the history of cinema. The Group's shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time, and our films are usually shown in Screen 3. There are no ads or trailers which means that all of our films commence promptly at 1.00 pm other than when an epic or exceptionally lengthy film is shown. Members are most welcome to attend our post screen discussions and to make suggestions for future showings.

Members are kindly requested to ensure that all electronic devices are switched off or in the case of mobile phones switched to silent mode.

By now most of you are familiar with the new arrangements for taking out each term's subscription for the U3AC Film Group which came into force in October 2015. Full details are given at the end of these notes but please remember that you will need to go in person to Picturehouse Cambridge to renew, or take out your termly subscription, which remains at £30 per term – truly outstanding value for 10 films.

### SPRING TERM 2016

**12 January      Rush      Dir: Ron Howard: USA/GER/UK 2013 (123 mins)**  
Thoughtful, thrilling and informative biopic about the rivalry between the two Formula 1 drivers, ladies' man and boozier, James Hunt, and nerdy, bucktoothed tactician, Niki Lauda. The film's dramatic pivot is the 1976 German Grand Prix when Lauda's car crashed and burned forcing Lauda to have a three-race lay-off while medics brought him back from the dead which allowed Hunt his shot at the World Championship. Highly entertaining even for non-drivers such as myself!

**19 January      Theeb      Dir: Naji Abu Nowar: Jordan 2014 (100 mins)**  
In the Ottoman province of Hijaz during World War 1 a young Bedouin boy experiences a greatly hastened coming of age as he embarks on a perilous desert journey to guide a British officer to his secret destination. Magnificently shot in Jordan and cast with non-professional Bedouin actors, this is a stark tense affair with its leisurely but to the point pacing and authenticity.

**26 January      Schindler's List      Dir: Steven Spielberg: USA 1993 (197 mins)**  
This outstanding Holocaust drama took 7 Oscars and relates the story of Second World War entrepreneur Oskar Schindler whose operation to supply the German war effort led him to be the unexpected saviour of more than 1000 Jewish factory workers in Poland. Spielberg uses stark brutal realism to put over his powerful points, and the stunning B & W photography and gritty hand-held camera footage gives it a potent documentary style. Members should note the running length of this film.

**2 February      SPECIAL DOUBLE BILL!**  
**Man with a Movie Camera      Dir: Dziga Vertov: USSR 1928 (70 mins)**  
Soviet director Vertov claimed that his purpose in making this remarkable panorama of Moscow life – the workers, shoppers, holidaymakers, and machines that keep the city moving – was to film 'life as it is'. To achieve this Vertov displayed all the techniques of cinema at his disposal in this silent experimental documentary: complete with split-screen, dissolves, slow-motion and freeze frames.  
PLUS!

**Une Partie de Campagne      Dir: Jean Renoir: France 1936 (40 mins)**  
Based on the Maupassant short story, Renoir's short feature is one of the most lyrical pieces of cinema ever produced. Set in 1880, it follows a Parisian family on a Sunday outing that results in a stolen moment of passion and a lifetime of regret. This unfinished masterpiece was never completed due to weather conditions. It remains, however, a real gem which slyly observes middle-class foibles. This very special masterpiece of Thirties Cinema has been requested by a number of our members and is not to be missed.

**9 February      Before Sunset      Dir: Richard Linklater: USA 2004 (80 mins)**  
Nine years after their brief encounter in Vienna in 'Before Sunrise' (previously shown to this Group), Linklater reunites his two lovers for a second tryst, this time in Paris. Meeting "by chance" in a city bookshop the pair converse during a 70-minute stroll that plays out in real time. Linklater directs a perceptive script with a quiet style.

**16 February In Cold Blood****Dir: Richard Brooks: USA 1967 (135 mins)**

Truman Capote's book about two young real-life killers was a shocking bestseller in its day and thought impossible to bring to the screen. Yet writer/director Richard Brooks did deliver this harrowing film adaptation, remarkably faithful to Capote's book and featuring two relatively unknown actors as the youngsters who wiped out a Kansas family during a robbery. The mood of this film is properly dour and relentless and the use of actual locations superb. (The Bennett Miller film about Capote follows on 1 March).

**23 February Solaris****Dir: Andre Tarkovsky: USSR 1972 (165 mins)**

For some Tarkovsky's philosophical cult film is the Soviet equivalent of "2001" (previously shown to this Group); for others it's an obscure intellectual exercise. Based on Polish writer Stanislaw Lem's 1961 novel, the tale involves astronauts on an alien planet who are confronted by illusions from their subconscious memories. This highly influential and cerebral sci-fi epic is ponderous, very talky and contains minimal special effects, but its remote strangeness exerts a compelling hypnotic power that's often extraordinarily potent. Tarkovsky was a great director with a special vision, and his films are a must for anyone interested in unique cinema.

**1 March Capote****Dir: Bennett Miller: USA 2005 (114 mins)**

Truman Capote caused a literary sensation with his 1966 "non-fiction novel" 'In Cold Blood', about the slayings of a Kansas family in 1959. Now director Bennett Miller tackles the equally fascinating story of how the writing of Capote's masterwork consumed the author's life over a period of 6 years. The film has a brilliant performance by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman as Capote as he captures the mercurial effeminate mannerisms and distinctive tones of the Manhattan literary star.

**8 March Kuma****Dir: Umut Dag: Austria 2012 (93 mins)**

An innocent village girl is secretly recruited as the second wife, or kuma of a Turkish paterfamilias in Vienna, with a practical eye to having to take over the household when his sick wife dies of cancer. The perverse simplicity of the domestic drama in 'Kuma' is cleverly done, a not overtly ambitious first feature by talented young Austrian Director Umut Dag is heightened by young Begum Akkaya's lovely and mysterious performance in her first major role.

**15 March Seven Samurai****Dir: Akira Kurosawa: Japan 1954 (190 mins)**

One of the undisputed masterpieces of world cinema, Kurosawa's epic was inspired by the Westerns of John Ford. In the 17th century Japanese villagers hire samurai warriors to defend their property from an annual raid by ruthless bandits. This towering classic of world cinema is a mesmerising combination of historical detail, spectacular action and poignant humanism. It has been described as a "tapestry of motion" with the final battle standing out for its audacious use of moving camera, telephoto lenses, varied film spreads and precision editing.

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| <b>U3AC 10-week terms at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse</b> |
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- U3AC members can buy a 10-week film term for a discounted price of £30. This allows you free entry to each of the 10 films screened at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse at 1 pm each Tuesday of the term.
- To get set up, register at any till at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse near the beginning of a term. Bring your U3AC membership card as proof of eligibility to this scheme. The Picturehouse staff will issue you with a plastic Picturehouse Membership card.

**U3AC term card**

- Your U3AC term information is stored electronically on a plastic Picturehouse Membership card.
- This plastic Picturehouse Membership card will hold 10 free U3AC screening ticket credits on it, lasting the whole of the 10 week term. Please keep this card and renew it at any till before each term at the cinema (not yet over the phone or on our website).
- If you already have a plastic Picturehouse Membership card, for which you've either paid an annual fee or from a prior U3AC term, we will add the current U3AC term to this existing card.

**Entry to each U3AC film**

- Each week's film starts promptly at 1 pm every Tuesday of the term (unless otherwise stated).
- You will need a paper ticket stub to gain entry to each week's U3AC film.
- Present your plastic Picturehouse Membership card at any till in the cinema to get your free ticket to the current week's U3AC film, which you can show to the usher to gain entry to the film.

**Our first show of the Summer Term 2016 will be at 1.00pm on Tuesday 12 April 2016**

## U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee

### 1. Information may be obtained from:

- ❖ the printed bulletin from 27-28 Bridge Street
- ❖ the website: [www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)
- ❖ email: [office@u3ac.org.uk](mailto:office@u3ac.org.uk)

### 2. Application forms can be obtained in the following ways:

- ❖ on the website
- ❖ by email from the Office
- ❖ from the display area at 27-28 Bridge Street
- ❖ at the Wednesday lectures
- ❖ by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Office with the name of the event in the top left hand corner
- ❖ for a fee of £7 annually (payable in September) members can be sent forms as soon as they are available

**NB:** when sending forms to the organiser you **must** clearly mark the back of the envelope "U3AC" with the name of the trip. Forms are usually available about 4 weeks before the outing. A draw is held, if necessary, about 2 weeks later in order to make it fair for everyone. **All forms must be sent directly to the organiser with a stamped addressed envelope.**

It is important that forms are filled in correctly especially the section at the bottom re. a contact number for emergency purposes as this is a legal requirement.

We ask members to bring their acceptance slips with them as confirmation of the acceptance of their booking, to avoid any misunderstandings.

### 3. The following event has been arranged

**Thursday 3 March 2016**

**Tour of BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place**

Cost £25. Application forms now available and will be processed on Monday 18 January.

**Organisers:** Clem Messenger and Margaret Shaw

**Further events will be advertised in the weekly bulletin.**

4. Members are reminded that places on a visit can only be offered to a friend who is **not** a member if there is no waiting list for a trip. Arrangements must be made through one of the organisers.
5. Activities are publicised in Bridge Street and also at the Wednesday Lectures. The Chairman is Clem Messenger.
6. We shall use the **Trumpington** and **Madingley Road Park and Rides** regularly as our two pick up points, except on Sundays, when we shall also be using Bateman Street.

## Norah Boyce Science Lectures

The lectures are now held on Tuesdays at 5.45 pm in the Garden Room at St Edmund's College, Cambridge CB3 0BN. This is accessed from Mount Pleasant, off Lady Cavendish Road, off Madingley Road. There is on-street parking (free after 5 pm at present) plus a small number of parking spaces on site for those with walking difficulties.

### SPRING TERM 2016

**26 January                      Epigenetics: Telling your genes what to do**

Dr Christel Krueger, Research Fellow in the Epigenetics Programme at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge

From eyelash to toe nail, from enzymes to antibodies: Our genes carry the information to make up our whole body. But how do cells know which information to use? This talk will explore how marks on our genes ensure that the right information is used at the right time. We will also look into how these marks change during development and aging, and how they are reset for a new generation

**9 February                      Modelling with Mathematics**

John Trapp, Researcher, Dept. of Maths and Statistics, Open University; Staff tutor, East Anglian Regional Office

To show some real-life phenomena and demonstrations, and give some mathematical explanation for why these should happen.

**23 February                      TBC\***

**15 March                          TBC\***

\* Further details will be announced in the weekly bulletin

## Wednesday Lectures

### SPRING TERM 2016

This series of weekly lectures will take place in The Debating Chamber of the Union Society, 9A Bridge Street. CB2 1UB starting at 2.15 pm

All members are welcome to attend. Please have your membership cards ready to show on entry. Non-members may attend as guests for a fee of £2 per lecture, subject to availability of space.

*Any last minute changes to the programme of Wednesday lectures will be publicised in the weekly bulletin*

**13 January**                    ***Planetary Vistas – The landscapes of other worlds***  
**Professor Paul Murdin, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge**

About 40 spacecraft have landed on the surface of other worlds in the solar system, picturing planetary landscapes, in vistas made for scientific interest, but which also have artistic value, with sublime, picturesque, or romantic qualities. Towering cliffs, empty deserts, freezing ice caps, erupting volcanoes and geysers – the scenery is out of this world!

**20 January**                    ***Citizens, subjects or blindfold sheep?***  
**Professor Stephen Marshall, Former Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University, U3AC member**

The British unwritten constitution is praised for its flexibility. At its best this flexibility allows a pragmatic response to changing circumstances. At its worst, it can be used by an entrenched elite to conserve its power; or enable governments to introduce profound changes without proper regard for the consequences. This lecture asks whether it might not be time for a thorough re-examination of our constitutional arrangements.

**27 January**                    ***Transforming the National Trust***  
**Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, formally Director-General of the National Trust**

Fiona Reynolds was Director-General of the National Trust from 2001 to 2012. During this time the Trust became more family friendly, warm and engaging while not losing its passion for excellence in conservation. Fiona will tell the story of the change and how it led to new acquisitions, a new and welcoming style of interpretation in both built properties and the countryside and an increased voice for the National Trust on the national stage.

**3 February**                    ***The Unicorn in Art and History***  
**Chloe Cockerill, Historian, M.B.E.**

The history of the unicorn is full of mystery and romance which few other animals can match. From the refusal of Noah's son to allow the unicorn to enter the Ark to its changing role in the medieval bestiaries and in heraldry its story has fluctuated over the centuries. Did the unicorn really exist or was it the stuff of fable? This wide-ranging talk illustrates the unicorn in many guises, from an Egyptian papyrus to the famous tapestries in Paris and New York.

**10 February**                    ***Cultural change and human health throughout the past 15,000 years***  
**Dr Jay T. Stock, Division of Archaeology, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge**

Changes in technology and culture can spread very rapidly. New technologies such as the origin of farming, the manufacture of iron, or the industrial revolution have been the basis for some of the biggest changes in human history. New technologies spread quickly, and they can lead to rapid changes in human diet, activity and disease risk. This has led to what some have called an evolutionary 'mismatch' between the environments within which we live, and those that we are adapted to live within. Archaeology is now providing new evidence of how cultural changes have influenced human health and activity patterns in the past, across the major cultural transitions in prehistory. This talk will investigate what we know about long-term changes in human health and activity throughout the past 15,000 years. Drawing on case studies from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Central Europe and beyond, we will consider the impact of rapid technological change on our species.

**17 February**                    ***Stem Cells and Human Health***  
**Dr Melanie Eckersley- Maslin, Research Fellow in the Epigenetics Programme, the Babraham Institute, University of Cambridge**

Stem cells have a remarkable ability to develop into many different cell types in the body during early life, growth and repair. Given these unique regenerative abilities, stem cells offer new potential for treating diseases and in regenerative medicine. This talk will explore the world of human health as well as the ethical and legislative considerations of this exciting area of research.

**24 February**    ***The Great Stink of London: Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the cleansing of the Victorian Metropolis (and the river Cam as well)***  
**Dr Stephen Halliday, Researcher and Author, Pembroke College**

Between 1859 and 1875 Sir Joseph Bazalgette designed and constructed the sewers which rid the Thames of pollution by sewage. This finally banished the cholera and typhoid epidemics which had killed tens of thousands of Londoners in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He also did much else, creating many new streets and river crossings for the capital and designing sewerage systems for other communities, including Cambridge. The talk will include illustrations of Bazalgette's work taken from contemporary sources.

**2 March**                    ***What are the risks?***  
**Sir David Spiegelhalter, Winton Professor at the Statistical Laboratory, University of Cambridge**

We hear lots of media stories about the 'risks' of our lifestyle from things like too many drinks, lack of exercise and bacon sandwiches. But what do these claims actually mean? I shall try and translate the scientific jargon into some alternative images, such as losing 15 minutes off your life per cigarette, or putting four years on your 'effective age' by being a slob.

**9 March**                    ***Along the Thames past Charing Cross and on to Santiago***  
**Iain Hunter, U3AC member**

The story of a very English pilgrimage - how medieval England found and fostered its own Camino de Santiago.

**16 March**                    **AGM**