

**A Message from the Chair**

Given that I was unable to provide feedback from the AGM in my previous letter, it would be helpful to do so this time, as there were a couple of interrelated matters which were the subject of some debate. One of them was whether, given that our numbers continue to increase, U3AC should restrict its membership at some point soon. It is something which arises now and again, but this time it appeared to be related to the difficulty that some members have in getting their choice of courses - an issue which also arises frequently. There is no easy answer to either of these, but some further facts might help.

For next year we have 343 courses and currently 2797 members both these elements tend to increase during the year. In recent years over 97% of members have been allocated their first choice. This is not perfect, but it is probably the best we can do, given that some courses are inevitably oversubscribed. The courses most in demand tend to be those which, for a variety of reasons, have a limited number of places. Although we have tried to improve this situation by sometimes asking tutors to duplicate their course - and several have generously done so - there still remains a high demand which cannot meet everyone's expectations. Restricting or reducing the number of members would not solve such problems effectively and, given the fact that our tutors/leaders are drawn from our membership, this could also result in restricting the pool of actual and potential people willing to come forward and lead a class. Following a discussion at the last Council meeting, it was therefore decided unanimously that, for the present, we would not restrict membership numbers of the U3AC, but that this would be reviewed from time to time.

Another factor in this discussion was that restricting membership would imply a degree of exclusiveness which is not the image we would wish to project.

As I write this letter, next year's programme is being printed and accompanies this Newsletter. It is full of the usual number and variety of activities and classes, which also means the tricky process of making decisions about prioritising one's preferences for classes is upon us again. It is often a question of having too much choice and for that, once again, I want to express my thanks on behalf of all our members to all our dedicated and committed tutors and class leaders.

Also - don't forget the summer school programme which provides a variety of classes for those who will be around at that time. This year, the number of sessions for most of the classes is reduced - many are only for one session. This is because people (tutors and class members alike) often need or choose to be flexible over the summer months and have not wanted to commit themselves to courses running for several sessions, as they would be uncertain of their availability to attend over a longer period of time.

Good luck and enjoy the summer.

**Sally Livesey, Chair U3AC**

**U3AC Term Dates 2016-17**

Monday 10 October – Friday 16 December 2016

Monday 9 January – Friday 17 March 2017

**Tuesday 18 April – Friday 16 June 2017**

Please note, start dates for each course are stated in the Programme and on the website.

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## New Summer courses – please contact the office to enrol

### PowerPoint for Beginners

**Organiser:** Harry Belsey

**Day and time:** Thursday 11.00 -12.30

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 4

**Number of places:** 8

**Dates:** 4, 11, 18 & 25 August

In this 4 week hands-on course; you will learn to compose a PowerPoint presentation, import third party material, edit it, manipulate it and save it for future development and presentation. The course will comprise a small group using laptops; no previous experience of PowerPoint is assumed. It will be necessary to bring a memory stick to save your work and bring it back to develop it further in following weeks.

The course will only focus on PowerPoint and not look-alikes or Apple packages.

I'm afraid it will not be possible to join this course in mid flow.

You may bring your own laptop or hire one from the U3AC for £1 a session but you will still need a memory stick.

You must have a reasonable degree of keyboard skill i.e. must not be so slow as to hold up the rest of the class.

At last! You might well be able to help your grandchildren with their homework

### The Copenhagen Ring

**Organiser:** Charles Bonney

**Days and times:** Monday: 10.00 -1.00;

Tuesday: 10.00 - 2.30;

Thursday: 10.00 - 2.30;

Friday: 10.00 - 3.15

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 1

**Number of places:** 40

**Dates:** 12, 13, 15 &16 September

A screening on DVD of the spectacular Copenhagen Ring (2006 recorded live) presenting Wagner's *Ring cycle* as the drama of its heroine Brünnhilde. "By setting each of the 4 operas in a pivotal decade of the twentieth century, her story becomes also a history of the modern age and of ideologies and conflicts that tore it apart". Wonderful singing and staging. A must see for Wagner lovers. There will be short comfort breaks at intervals during the transmission.

**Format:** DVD screening

Tutor of Getting to know Richard Wagner

## New course – please apply on your application form

### CUR 08: Justice and Rights in an Unkind World

**Co-ordinators:** Stuart Weir & Adrian French

**Day and time:** Thursday 1.30 - 2.30

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 2

**Length of course:** 2 terms

**Number of places:** 14

**Start date:** 13 October

Human rights and freedoms in the UK are dangerously afloat in the fast-moving politics of the time. The referendum process and result introduces new hazards as questions of national identity within the UK and as Europeans rise, shift loyalties and values and sharpen differences.

A small group of us have been meeting informally in Bridge Street to discuss the 'wicked issues' for freedom and human rights. We have found our discussions very illuminating and we invite members to refresh our debates. Each of us in turn introduces a subject to discuss in a session. This is not obligatory. We attach great importance to the idea of agency. How can ordinary citizens influence public policy for the common good? What part can civil society organisations play in strengthening active citizenship?

**Format:** Discussion

Stuart Weir is a former editor of the *New Statesman*.

### Summer School 11 July – 5 August

The Summer School programme is now available to download from the website:

<http://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Summer-School-Programme-2016.pdf>

or members can request a copy to be emailed to them.

A paper programme is available to collect from the Office for those without internet access.

## U3AC Open Day - Wednesday 6 July

This year's Open Day will be held on Wednesday 6 July between 10.30 and 3.30 when we hope as many members as possible will come along bringing a friend, relative or neighbour to introduce them to the benefits of joining U3AC.

## Message from the Administrator

New for this year – submit your course application online.

Your Programme for next year accompanies this Newsletter, so pencils out to start circling your selections for 2016-2017.

Members will probably not have given too much consideration to what happens to the completed course application forms sent back to the office. For members the important part is awaiting the allocation letter to drop through the door in August. In order for that to happen all course selections have to be keyed into the database. That is almost 3000 applications, a lot of data entry for the staff and in a short period before the closing date. This year you can go online to use the Online Course Application form. This will allow you to easily complete your form AND submit it directly to the Office where with still some, but less, effort it will be transferred into the database.

<http://www.u3ac.org.uk/membership-and-course-application-form-2016-2017/>

We hope that you will find this convenient, and you will be making your contribution to reducing staff time sitting in front of a screen doing all that data entry. Thank you!

Proposals for a new administration system are being brought to Council this summer and we expect, if this is approved, there will be a more streamlined system in place for the preparation of the 2017-2018

Programme.

**Nicky Morland**

## Courses - general

### Course descriptions

We have introduced additional information for each course in this year's Programme to enable members to make a more informed choice when applying for courses. At the end of each description the format of the course is followed by a short sentence about the tutor's / leader's experience of or interest in the subject of the course they are offering. In addition, language courses now clearly state the level.

### Tutors' contact details

The printed programme does not show tutors' contact details or the venue if a course is held in a member's home; these can be found on the website. Members need to log in to view this information using their email address and membership number. Members without internet access or prospective members can request this information from the Office.

### Members attention is drawn to the following extract from the Courses Committee's operational guidelines:

*Courses Committee reserves the right to withdraw courses whose enrolments fail to reach 50% of the allocated room's capacity.*

*In September, if a course which is due to be held in either the Bridge Street premises or a hired venue has failed to achieve a 50% take up then its financial viability will be considered. This could result in the course moving to a smaller venue or member's home or in its cancellation. The exact course of action will be decided following consultation between the tutor, the courses committee and the Office staff.*

## Administrative Information

### Gift Membership

Do you know someone who is retiring shortly? Would you like to give them a retirement gift of a year's U3AC membership? Contact the Office and we can send them a gift card along with a Programme and application form.

### Annual Subscription – a reminder

The annual subscription of £74 is **the fee to become a member of the organisation; it is not a payment for courses.** Membership entitles you to apply for up to 6 courses, attend the Wednesday Lectures and Norah Boyce Science Lectures (space permitting) and the opportunity to apply for various visits that are arranged throughout the year.

If you apply for only ONE course and that course has a limited number of places we cannot guarantee you a place on that course, so it is advisable to provide an alternative.

### Additional Fees for Courses

Payment for any additional fees for courses is required at the time of application. Please note application forms will not be processed until additional fees are received. In the event of a place not being allocated the monies will be refunded in full.

### Closing date for Applications and Course Allocation

We would like to receive your application for courses by 1 August.

A letter giving details of which courses you have been allocated will be sent out with your membership card and Newsletter at the beginning of September. This newsletter will include Autumn term details of the Wednesday Lectures, Norah Boyce Science Lectures and U3AC Film Group.

### Disability Assistance

It is important that U3AC Office staff are aware of members who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation from Bridge Street. Please could you indicate on your membership application form if you require help. You will be contacted before the Autumn term to ensure that we are fully aware of what help you need.

### Need help entering U3AC premises?

If you need assistance gaining entrance to the U3AC premises there is a bell at the front door

located on the left hand side at step level to alert staff.

### Members' contact details

Please inform the Office if you move house or change your telephone number or email address. We try to communicate with members, where possible, by email so it is important we have the most up to date details so you don't miss out on any notifications.

### New - Drop Box for Trip application forms

In response to members' requests, we are introducing a Drop Box in the Bridge Street premises to enable members to leave their completed application forms for Cultural and Social Activities trips without having to send them to the Organiser. This will save members the price of one stamp.

Members should complete all sections of the form, include cheque payment and SAE and put these in an envelope marked with the name of the trip on the outside. Closing date for applications using the Drop Box is a week before the general closing date.

### Personal Details

In line with Data Protection guidelines the U3AC Office does not disclose members' addresses (home or email) or telephone numbers to any enquirers. However, some classes, particularly leisure groups, like to have a list of members' names, addresses and telephone numbers circulated for use within the group to assist with car sharing etc. If you do **not** wish your name to be included on any such list, please make this clear on your application form.

### 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 **Monday 15 August 2016.**

## Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Mary Strange in April*  
*Anthony Titley in April*  
*Pamela Cotton in April*  
*Peter Parmella in May*  
*Margaret Robertson-Mackay in May*  
*Bill Willows in May*

## Report from Walking Holiday, Whitby

On 8th May, a stalwart cohort of thirty three U3AC Thursday walkers, led by Philip and Margaret Shaw, set out on an exciting walking holiday based in Whitby. Most of us stayed at Sneaton Castle, under the distant shadow of Whitby's romantic ruined Abbey, familiar to readers of Dracula, albeit some detective work was needed to find his memorial plaque! Philip and Margaret had researched the area with great diligence, not only planning a variety of wonderful walks, but making sure of suitable hostelrys at which we could stop for refreshment along the way. Bus and railway timetables were also meticulously consulted, in order to widen the scope of our adventures.

On average, 'long walkers' covered up to sixteen miles a day, whilst 'short walkers' settled for eight to ten. Our first day dawned bright and sunny, so we climbed the hundred and ninety nine steps to the Abbey and followed the coastal path to Robin Hood's Bay, enjoying spectacular views at every turn. Day two found us boarding a train towards the Esk Valley, where we tackled a challenging climb onto wildly beautiful moorland, following the path across Glaisdale Rigg with birds singing, snipe rising and outstanding views. That evening our exertions were rewarded with a trip to Whitby's legendary Fish and Chip Restaurant, The Magpie, which despite its name proved deliciously lucky! The weather continued balmy, so undaunted we set out for Runswick Bay via Sandsend, dipping our toes in the sea and conquering a few ravines before taking the bus back to Whitby. Our final day was a circular walk towards Ruswarp, skirting the heritage steam railway. The two groups met for lunch at a café hewn out of woodland, delightfully named Midge Hall: a marvellous family enterprise where we enjoyed a specially delicious picnic lunch. Philip reported that when he and Margaret did their recce on Easter Saturday there were six hundred people on the small lawn, fighting to get in!

The trip was an unmitigated success, mostly due to perfect leadership, not forgetting the careful shepherding of Rob and Jan, counting us through from the rear with entertaining banter!

## General

I am offering my services to finish off knitted articles that might have been put aside many years ago. All I ask for is a donation to SOS Children's Charity for whom I knit Shetland shawls. Contact me with the pattern, if possible, and the wool at:- azeitlyn@googlemail.com or phone me at 01223 357395. I look forward to hearing from you.

Alice Zeitlyn

### **Animal Magic course**

I made up a website of some of the information that we researched and put it on my own server. People in the group have contributed to the website.

The web address is: <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/animal/index.htm>

Sheila Farrant

### All in the Mind

The road wound up over the hilly volcanic interior. Dense vegetation grew either side as they drove to the north of the island. "That yellowy house up there belongs to the Sheik of Khalifa", Joseph their driver pointed up the hill but she missed it. Jenny was anxious. The Foreign Office warned of shark attacks but that was in 2011 and this Indian Ocean island was paradise. Their ship only docked for the day, she couldn't afford to waste an opportunity, the sea looked so tempting; it was hot and sticky and it would be such a shame not to swim now she was here.

They had asked Joseph to take them to a good beach, it was too hot to do anything else. So a bit later he pulled off the road to a heavily shaded area where cars were parked, Anse Lazio beach. 'This is the tenth best beach in the world' he proudly announced as arrangements were made to collect six of them later.

Spreading coconut palms leaned towards the turquoise sea, the curve of white sand dazzled their eyes. The notice on an old wooden hut said 'Life Guarded' but they saw no sign of one.

Jenny and the couple she was with quickly took off their clothes in the shade of the palms revealing their swim suits. She found her goggles and they walked across the hot sand towards the sea.

A line of flat yellow buoys lay on the surface of the sea forming a U. 'I expect they're just there for show' said her friend Barbara 'I don't suppose they are proper nets'. Jenny went to investigate; she was a strong swimmer but it was surprisingly further out than she first thought and when she reached the far line of buoys and looked down through her goggles she could see the long net wall to the bottom of the sandy floor. Tiny silver fish were nibbling at the net along with larger black-striped angels; small clumps of green seaweed attached to the net waved at her. Reassured she swam happily around the clear warm waters feeling the salty buoyancy. She started to follow the wall of net back to the beach when it stopped - a huge gaping hole appeared; big enough for a shark.

Her heart suddenly started thumping loudly in her ears. Panic rose but she knew she must keep calm, thrashing around attracts them. She was quite far out, on her own, Barbara and the others were wallowing in the shallows.

A flicker of something big caught her peripheral vision. She felt the adrenaline pumping through her body but had to push down the fear and concentrate on her stroke, the stroke that would get her from there to the safety of the shore. She put her head down and swam all out to the shore.

The sharks! she remembered they had attacked their prey in fairly shallow waters, she remembered the advice from the FO about the fatalities; then she remembered the name, Anse Lazio the beach on Praslin Island, the very same spot she was in now. But now she was near the shore line she could see their legs under water and felt the sand solidly beneath her feet, relief flooded through her, she was out of danger.

'It's the Russians', someone said. 'They're out there in their expensive yachts feeding the fish. It brings the sharks in from the deep where they don't normally come.'

They sat under the long roof of the cafe drinking beer discussing this with the locals and waited for Joseph. It was still muggy, people were swimming outside the line of buoys immune to the possible dangers.

As they got into the car Jenny turned towards the bay. About fifty metres out she could swear she saw a fin gliding towards the beach.

**Francesca Stevens**

## 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:

- ❖ from the display area at 27-28 Bridge Street
- ❖ at the Wednesday lecture
- ❖ 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 will be sent forms as soon as they are available**
- ❖ by email from the Office

**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, or via the Drop Box at U3AC a week before the closing date**

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.

**If you have mobility issues please contact one of the organisers.**

### 3. The following events have now been arranged

**Monday 3 October**      **Wrest Park, Silsoe English Heritage's 'Secret Garden'**  
Cost £21.50 (£14.00 English Heritage members)  
Organiser: Clem Messenger

Application forms available nearer the time.

Closing date for applications is 5 September by Drop Box or 12 September by post

**Monday 31 October**      **Exhibition at British Museum 'Sunken cities: Egypt's lost worlds'**  
Cost £21.50  
Organiser: Monica Williams

Application forms available nearer the time.

Closing date for applications is 12 September by Drop Box or 19 September by post

**Sunday 5 February**      **Sunday Morning Coffee Concert at Wigmore Hall**  
TBC

**Thursday 16 February**      **Matthew Bourne's 'The Red Shoes' Milton Keynes Theatre**  
Cost £32  
Organiser: Clem Messenger

Application forms available nearer the time.

Closing date for applications is 7 November by Drop Box or 14 November by post

- 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.
- Activities are publicised in Bridge Street and also at the Wednesday Lectures. The Chairman is Clem Messenger.
- 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.

## Where does our membership live?

We thought it would be interesting at this stage in the U3AC's development to present a geographical overview of the membership. From small beginnings over 30 years ago we now attract members not just from the Cambridge environs but from across the region. The two tables show member numbers by local town and by actual postcode. Not surprisingly, these reflect centres of population and travelling distances from Cambridge. Location by postcode gives more refinement than just the town and you can identify these on a map which is accessible on our website <http://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Where-does-our-membership-live.pdf>

### MEMBERS BY POSTCODE TOWN

CAMBRIDGE	2481
BALDOCK	2
BARNET	1
BEDFORD	2
BISHOPS STORTFORD	5
BRAINTREE	1
BRAUGHING	1
BUNTINGFORD	3
BURY ST EDMUNDS	8
CHATTERIS	2
ELY	34
HARLOW	1
HAVERHILL	7
HITCHIN	3
HUNTINGDON	50
IPSWICH	3
KENNINGHAM	1
KINGS LYNN	4
LETCHWORTH	1
LOWESTOFT	1
MARCH	1
NEWMARKET	33
PETERBOROUGH	1
RENHOLD	2
ROYSTON	95
ST IVES	13
ST NEOTS	33
STEVENAGE	1
SUDBURY	5

THETFORD

TOTAL 2797

### MEMBERS BY POSTCODE

AL8	1	WELWYN GARDEN CITY
CB1	456	CAMBRIDGE
CB10	24	CAMBRIDGE
CB11	13	CAMBRIDGE
CB2	251	CAMBRIDGE
CB21	84	CAMBRIDGE
CB22	179	CAMBRIDGE
CB23	229	CAMBRIDGE
CB24	215	CAMBRIDGE
CB25	95	CAMBRIDGE
CB3	343	CAMBRIDGE
CB4	487	CAMBRIDGE
CB5	105	CAMBRIDGE
CB6	15	ELY
CB7	19	ELY
CB8	33	NEWMARKET
CB9	7	HAVERHILL
CM17	1	HARLOW
CM22	1	BISHOPS STORTFORD
CM23	3	BISHOPS STORTFORD
CM24	1	BISHOPS STORTFORD
CM7	1	BRAINTREE
CO10	5	SUDBURY
EN5	1	BARNET
IP24	1	THETFORD
IP26	1	THETFORD

IP28	3	BURY ST EDMUNDS
IP29	2	BURY ST EDMUNDS
IP32	1	BURY ST EDMUNDS
IP33	2	BURY ST EDMUNDS
IP4	1	IPSWICH
IP6	2	IPSWICH
MK40	1	BEDFORD
MK41	2	RENHOLD
MK44	1	BEDFORD
NR16	1	KENNINGHAM
NR32	1	LOWESTOFT
PE15	1	MARCH
PE16	2	CHATTERIS
PE18	1	HUNTINGDON
PE19	11	ST NEOTS
PE26	1	HUNTINGDON
PE27	13	ST IVES
PE28	39	HUNTINGDON
PE29	9	HUNTINGDON
PE3	1	PETERBOROUGH
PE30	4	KINGS LYNN
SG11	1	BRAUGHING
SG19	22	ST NEOTS
SG2	1	STEVENAGE
SG4	3	HITCHIN
SG6	1	LETCHWORTH
SG7	2	BALDOCK
SG8	95	ROYSTON
SG9	3	BUNTINGFORD
<b>2797</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	