

March – June 2014 Newsletter

A Message from the Chairman

With the AGM behind us we can now look forward to the next twelve months. We have ambitious plans: to assess and upgrade our IT systems so far as available finance permits, and in consequence to revamp the website; to produce clear guidelines as to what aspects of research U3AC can reasonably handle and to produce a database of members willing to assist in this; and to develop the suggestion that we third agers might have much to offer members of the fourth age. An imminent improvement to our services is the installation of a hearing loop in Room 1.

On top of that, the rent for 27-28 Bridge Street has to be negotiated for the period 2015 to the contractual end of the lease in 2019. We will not be issuing updates, but rest assured that we will aim to strike a deal with Magdalene with which you will be content in a year's time.

We have in the new look Council a team with much experience and enthusiasm.

Steve Marshall has agreed to become Director of Studies (Courses) with Chris Davis taking the chair of the courses sub-committee and deputising for Steve as and when necessary. We are making several changes to the membership of our sub-committees and these will be published once final approval has been given by Council. Beth Morgan will be co-ordinating research matters from outside but responsible to the Council in much the same way as the Cultural and Social Activities Committee operates under Clem Messenger. A number of members have expressed willingness to help out and they will be co-opted to various committees (though not to Council) as and when appropriate. Maggie Balshaw and her team are well ahead of their preparation for next year's lectures. I am glad to say that Peter Woodsford, though he has now come to the end of his stint on Council, will remain active at U3AC and will be organising an Open Day at Bridge Street on 19th July.

Our tutors cannot be expected to carry on indefinitely (though some admittedly give the impression of indestructibility) and we now bid farewell to Tony Reynolds and Bill Block with our thanks for their contributions over many years. Proposals to run courses for 2014-15 are coming in at a steady rate and we feel sure that the high standard of previous years will be maintained. Again, we do encourage members to look at the opportunities for trying out new courses during July/August/September.

May you all have an enjoyable Summer with U3AC.

Charles Bonney

Advance Notice - U3AC Open Day

We will be holding our annual Open Day on **19th July 2014** at Bridge Street. This is an important way in which potential new members find out about what U3AC has to offer. We will be looking for a good selection of Tutors to be on hand for an hour or so to talk about their courses – if you can help in this way, please advise the Office and put it in your diaries now.

U3AC Term Dates

Summer: **Tuesday** 22 April – Friday 20 June 2014

2014-15

Monday 6 October – Friday 12 December 2014

Monday 12 January – Friday 20 March 2015

Monday 13 April – Friday 19 June 2015

Please note, start dates for each course are stated in the Programme of Studies.

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New courses – please enrol with the Office

LIT 37: Tom's Team: Poets published by T.S. Eliot at Faber and Faber

Tutor: Graham Pechey

Day and time: Thursday 4.00 – 5.00

Venue: U3AC Room 5

Length of course: 9 weeks

Number of places: 20

Start date: 24 April

Eliot was offered a post at the publishers Faber and Gwyer - formerly Scientific Press, later Faber and Faber - in April 1925. During his lifelong association with that house as director and editor of the poetry list, he published the work of several younger poets, both confessing Christians like himself and those with whom he was otherwise at odds ideologically speaking. The Christian poet Dante had had no qualms about choosing the pagan Virgil as his guide to the afterlife; Eliot patterns after his pilgrim-hero in his own work in this world. This course will examine the work of these poets - David Jones, Roy Campbell, Edwin Muir, W.H. Auden, Louis MacNeice, Stephen Spender, F.T. Prince, Norman Nicholson and Vernon Watkins - with the aim of illuminating the aesthetic values implicit in Eliot's sponsorship and the influence not only of Eliot upon them but also in the other direction.

LEI 26: Summer Drop in Scrabble

Organiser: Bridget Evans

Day and time: Wednesday 10.00 – 11.30

Venue: U3AC Room 2

Length of course: 9 weeks

Number of places: 12

Start date: 23 April

Come and join us for a friendly game of scrabble. Please bring your own scrabble set.

LIT 35: *The Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano

Co-ordinator: Carlos de la Riva

Day and time: Tuesday 3.00 – 4.00

Venue: U3AC Room 4

Length of course: 9 weeks

Number of places: 14

Start date: 22 April

This is one of the great classic books on Latin American economics and development. The work was banned in its time due to its explicit descriptions and language. It spans the period from colonial times to the 1970's. We will read and discuss the various chapters and sections in 9 sessions.

Available from Amazon ISBN 978-1846687426 £9.99

LIT 36: 3 Taster Lectures

Tutor: Bob Finch

Day and time: Thursday 12.00 – 1.00

Venue: U3AC Room 1

Number of places: 40

Three lectures with readings; each a taster for a class that will start in October 2014.

24 April – **Tolstoy *Anna Karenina***

Tolstoy was one of the world's great novelists and many believe *Anna Karenina* to be the best novel ever written.

1 May – **Flaubert *Madame Bovary***

Flaubert contributed to the growth of feminism by introducing a woman, Emma Bovary, who escapes the banal emptiness of provincial life through adultery...and pays the price.

8 May – **George Elliot *Middlemarch***

The sixth of Elliot's seven novels, described by Virginia Woolf as a "magnificent book.....one of the few English novels written for grown-up people".

Members may attend all or some of the taster sessions. Please inform the Office upon application of your preference.

Sighted Guiding Course

Tutor: Kerry Bradley

Date and Time: Friday 6th June 10.30 - 1.00

Venue: U3AC Room 1

Number of places: 14

Did you know that 1 in 12 people at the age of 60 start to have an un-correctable sight condition?

The figure changes dramatically once you get to 70 where 1 in 5 people have un-correctable sight condition and then 1 in 2 once people reach 90.

Sighted guiding is a recognised technique which can be taught, so that you can help those people with visual impairment, get around safely.

This training course is an opportunity to learn a highly valuable life skill and gain additional knowledge in terms of sight loss.

Briefly, the training covers these three topics:

- Sighted Guiding and the do's and don'ts surrounding this – this is a practical session
- Myth Busting
- Barriers to independence and emotional consequences

The Tutor is employed by the Guide Dogs Association.

A Good Read - summer 2014

This is a different kind of group for book lovers, and has run successfully for 4 years in the long summer break. The format is based on the BBC Radio 4 programme of the same name. The aim is a friendly discussion where you can participate, or listen to others' recommendations when regular classes have ended.

Each member chooses a book to be discussed at one of the 4 monthly summer sessions. We meet at a pre-meeting on **Wednesday 28th May at 3.30 pm** to schedule the date to introduce your chosen 'Good Read'. There will be 4 monthly sessions on Wednesdays from 10.30 – 12.00 on 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August, and 24th September. We appreciate that many people cannot commit to all 4 in the vacation. Do not be deterred from joining if you cannot attend every one. Many of us may have holidays, family commitments, or unexpected problems on any chosen date.

Apply through the office, if possible by the 14th May, as numbers are limited.

Jacob Bronowski's classic television series (first shown 1973)

"The Ascent of Man" will be shown over the weekend of 12th & 13th April (the weekend before Easter and the start of the summer term on Tuesday 22nd April).

Timetable as follows, arrive 9.15 am for prompt start at 9.30 am.

Saturday 12th April

- | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 9.30 – 10.20 | Lower than the Angels |
| 2. | 10.25 – 11.15 | The Harvest of the Seasons |
| 3. | 11.20 – 12.10 | The Grain in the Stone |
| | Lunch break | |
| 4. | 1.00 – 1.50 | The Hidden Structure |
| 5. | 1.55 – 2.45 | The Music of the Spheres |
| 6. | 2.50 – 3.40 | The Starry Messenger |
| 7. | 3.45 – 4.35 | The Majestic Clockwork |

Sunday 13th April

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------|
| 8. | 10.00 – 10.50 | The Drive for Power |
| 9. | 10.55 – 11.45 | The Ladder of Creation |
| 10. | 11.50 – 12.40 | World within World |
| | Lunch break | |
| 11. | 1.30 – 2.20 | Knowledge or Certainty |
| 12. | 2.25 – 3.15 | Generation upon Generation |
| 13. | 3.20 – 4.10 | The Long Childhood |

All members welcome. If attempting the whole marathon bring packed lunch for both days. As the front door is locked, access will only be possible at the beginning of each day or after the lunch break.

Courses - general

Courses in the 2014 - 2015 academic year

We have started planning for courses commencing October 2014 onwards. If you would be willing to offer a course, please contact the Office to request a proposal form or download one from our website. We start timetabling in April, so ideally they should be submitted asap.

Summer Holiday Programme of Courses

We are preparing a programme of courses which will be held in the U3AC premises between July and September. If you would be willing to offer a one-off lecture or run a short course please contact the Office to request a proposal form. The programme will be available to members from the beginning of **June**; a paper programme will be available to collect from the Office, a downloadable programme will be available on the website or members can request a copy of the programme by email.

From Third Age to Fourth Age

U3AC is a fantastic organisation – the range of courses and activities, the enthusiasm and numbers of people involved. We are an excellent example of a low-cost community education project run by and for Cambridge's 3rd age community, and we get a great deal out of it.

But what about the 4th age? – the time when we will all become more dependent on others, less able to look after ourselves, and begin to lose some of our faculties needed for a healthy and active life. It's a time we try not to think too much about, hoping to prolong our third age, and to have as short and trouble free fourth age as possible.

Many of us, probably most of us in one way or another, are already in contact with fourth agers as carers, and keeping in contact with more elderly relatives, friends and neighbours. A number of U3AC activities are already organised in ways that make it easier for fourth agers to be involved. Many of us also are involved in carer and patient support groups, working closely with the likes of the Arthur Rank Hospice and the David Rayner Centre where we held our recent New Year Drinks & Nibbles event.

But are there other things that we could be doing? Two ideas recently suggested are a course in our forthcoming 2014-2015 Prospectus on something like *Preparing for the 4th Age*, which might include practical things such as safe lifting skills for when a spouse or partner falls over, recognising early signs of dementia etc and how to respond etc etc. Another idea could be to develop some kind of ongoing project in association with local statutory and voluntary services, to more fully realise the potential of elderly people as a resource, and not just a problem when it comes to health and social care.

What other ideas are there, and how could they be taken forward? Would something like a regular email discussion group be a way of identifying issues and ways of dealing with them?

Please contact me with your ideas and thoughts. John Ranken via the Office

The U3AC Council

Chairman: Mr Charles Bonney
Vice-Chairman: Mrs Sally Livesey
Director of Studies (Courses): Prof Stephen Marshall
Director of Studies (Lectures): Dr Maggie Balshaw
Treasurer: Commodore Gale Bryan
Administrator: Mrs Delia Suffling
Secretary: Mr John House
Dr John Abbott
Ms Sheila Blackwell
Mr Jeremy Buncombe
Mrs Sharon Camilletti
Dr Thomas Dann
Mr Chris Davis
Mrs Pam Gavin
Mr Roger Gilmour
Mrs Nicky Morland
Chairman, Cultural & Social Activities Committee: Mrs Clem Messenger

If you wish to contact a Council member, please do so via the Office.

Administrative Information

Programme of Studies

The Programme of Studies for 2014 - 2015 will be sent out at the beginning of July together with the Newsletter. If you have not received your copy by the second week of July, do contact the Office.

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.

If you leave one or more of your courses because it/they failed to meet your expectations, we would find it helpful to know your reasons so that we can consider making changes when planning future courses.

(Feedback can be sent anonymously if wished)

Change of members' contact details

It would be very helpful if members could inform the Office of any change of home address, or email address, and especially any new telephone number.

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.

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.

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 9 June 2014**.

Council Minutes

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

Next Council Meeting

Monday 23 June 2014

Social

Wine tasting

The next wine tastings will take place on Wednesday 14 May and 18 June

Further details will be in the weekly bulletin about 3 weeks before each date when tickets will be available.

Monika

Garden parties

Following the success of last year's parties, we already have three garden parties booked this year. The first, on 22nd June, is in Impington and will be accompanied by the U3AC Madrigal Group, the second, on 29th June, is in the newly restored grounds of Challis House in Sawston and the third, on 13th July, will be a champagne and strawberry tea in Cherry Hinton. Application forms for the Garden Parties will be available in May. If you would like to host a party in your garden, please contact the Office. Tickets are sold by the Office to raise money for a charity of your choice.

General

Volunteer Receptionists

We are in need of additional permanent reception volunteers to work one morning or afternoon each week plus a reserve team to cover unscheduled/scheduled absences. The receptionist is "the face of U3AC" as they are often the first person a potential member will speak to. The main role of the receptionist is to greet visitors and it is important therefore to be cheerful, friendly and patient. They also assist tutors with equipment, undertake photocopying and other general duties as required. If you are interested in these roles please contact Gemma in the Office.

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.

Evacuation from U3AC premises

Tutors of courses held in the U3AC premises have been given instructions on action to be taken if the fire alarm sounds. Please ensure you exit the premises swiftly without stopping to collect personal belongings and proceed to the assembly point which is in front of the mail box at the top of Thompson's Lane. The tutor will call the register again to ensure you have evacuated safely.

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Patrick Daunt
Lionel Bromberg
Edith Schlossmann*

Short story

Mendin' Winders

We'd been moving round the table at roughly the same pace, picking up rolls of smoked salmon, tiny new potatoes, massive Polish gherkins.

'Hi, I'm Nigel. I teach at the Uni. And you are ...'

'Sean's my 'andle. Nice to meet ya, Nigel.'

He puts down the serving spoon and juggling a full wine glass and a well-loaded plate, holds out a meaty hand to shake mine. The palm with which I make brief contact is dry and calloused. I take in the bad-taste Eighties shirt and the shiny tight trousers. The poor devil is certainly out of his depth here.

He piles slices of cold beef on the already overflowing plate. 'Lovely food, i'n it!'

'So how do you while away the hours of your day, Sean? Are you a working man?'

'I mend winders, that's what I do.'

'What, just windows? Not doors or skylights? Or other glazed items?'

'Well, yea. Winders and doors. Wha'vever's broken in that line o' business.'

'So, double glazing or old-fashioned panes of glass and putty?'

'Double glazing these days, mate. It's amazin' what needs doin'. Take las' week, I gets a call from this lady, urgent she says, can't shut the blee ... the winder. Says the lock's never worked right since she's 'ad it an' it's got worse - to the point where she can't shut it at all. I goes along nex' day, on time. It's important to turn up on time. No good lettin' the customer down. I looks at said winder. Bit of a problem with the lock. I says I can get a replacement barrel for the lock. I tell 'er I'll 'ave to order it an' I can come an' fit it on the Friday. She says she can't wait that long, so I replace the whole blinkin' lock for 'er. Much more expensive job, but fine, she's 'appy. The customer's 'appy. That's all that matters.'

'But what about you, are you happy? Are you happy mending windows, Sean?'

'Appy. 'Appiness aint got nothin' to do with it. People 'ave broken winders. I mend broken winders. That's all there is to it. 'Appy? God, mate, get a life. Ya wanna take a leaf ou' o' Sisyphus's book like I does. Ya gotta jus' keep pushin' that friggin' rock up the ruddy 'ill.'

© Kate Lawrance

Apology from Otis

OTIS



4 Kings Court
Willie Snaith Road
Newmarket
Suffolk CB8 7SG

Telephone: (01638) 662019
Fax: (01638) 662485

www.otis.com

Our ref: BC/MB/MC/03351

5th February 2014

The Chairman
U3AC
27 – 28 Bridge Street
Cambridge
CB2 1UJ
For the attention of Mr Bonney

Dear Mr Bonney

RE: Bridge Street Lift Works

When we met with you, your colleague, Delia Suffling, and Simon Lewis from Cheffins we agreed to write to you with an apology which you could pass on to your members.

We well knew when initially planning to refurbish the lift at 27-28 Bridge Street that many of your members were dependent on that facility and that you needed the lift to be back in operation by the start of your Autumn Term. As we explained to you when we met, this project went wrong from the start so that it overran substantially. We have no excuses to offer for our shortcomings which affected every aspect of the project's management. We are extremely sorry for the great inconvenience that this has caused your members and staff (to whom we are writing separately). In particular we acknowledge the problems caused to U3AC by the continual putting back of the completion date and the demands put on your staff in their having to contact members unable to use the premises at all individually and frequently and to arrange for assistance to help others up and down the stairs. We are not at all happy with what happened and will make sure that we learn the appropriate lessons.

As you know, we have also agreed a measure of financial compensation with Cheffins from which U3AC will benefit through a reduction in the service charge.

With renewed apologies,

Yours sincerely

For Otis Ltd

Matthew Chalkley
Service General Manager Eastern Counties Region
Telephone (Office): 01638 662019



1. Information may be obtained from:

- ❖ the printed bulletin from 27-28 Bridge Street
- ❖ the website: www.u3ac.org.uk
- ❖ email: 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.**

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 events have now been arranged

8 May

Tour of St Pancras International Station

Organisers: Hazel Harrison and Gill Hodge

Application forms are now available and will be processed on 7 April

17 June

Bure Valley Narrow Gauge Steam Railway and sail on Stalham Broad

Organiser: Gill Hodge

Cost £28. Application forms available from 22 April.

9 July

Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy

Organiser: Monica Williams

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.

U3AC Film Group Programme

Established in October 1999 with the much valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse 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 nations, generations and genres. Our shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time and usually commence at 2.00pm 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.

SUMMER TERM 2014



22 April The Godfather Part III Dir. Francis Ford Coppola USA 1990 (163 mins)
The completion of the Godfather Trilogy. This follows Michael Corleone's struggles to defend both his empire and his integrity against Mafia peers, but the film lacks the genius of the first two films.

29 April Amour Dir. Michael Haneke Fr/Germany/Austria 2012 (121 mins)
This Palme d'Or winner is an extraordinary meditation on love and death and an uncomfortably bleak and forensic study of old age controlled with icy precision by the director. Brilliant acting performances, especially by Emmanuelle Riva.

6 May Savage Messiah Dir. Ken Russell UK 1972 (96 mins)
A sensitive portrayal of the platonic love affair between the sculptor Henri Gaudier (you can see his work at Kettles Yard) and his muse Sophie Brzeska. Dorothy Tutin and Scott Antony give superb, impassioned performances as the seemingly ill-matched couple.

13 May Lift to the Scaffold Dir. Louis Malle France 1957 (87 mins)
A classic and classy French thriller which gave a generation a phobia about lifts and had a considerable influence on the French New Wave. Beyond the excellent plot the film has a sublime Miles Davis score.

20 May The Night of the Hunter Dir. Charles Laughton USA 1955 (88 mins)
Charles Laughton's only film as a director is one of the great masterpieces of American cinema, repellent, poetic and hypnotic. Set during the Depression in a rural backwater this is a fairy tale turned into a dark night of the soul.

 FILM GROUP All inclusive cost £30.00 Tuesdays at 2 pm Starts 22 April and concludes 24 June APPLICATION FORM	
TITLE INITIALS	
SURNAME	
ADDRESS	
U3AC MEMBERSHIP NO:	
PAYMENT PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS	
Name on card	
VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/>	
Card Number	
Expiry Date	
Issue Number	
Start Date	
3 digit security code	
Please charge my card	
Signature	
Date	
Please make cheques payable to 'City Screen' (Cambridge) Ltd	
Please return this form to The Arts Picturehouse 38-39 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AR	
Please note - unless otherwise stated in the programme screenings are open to everyone	

27 May Last Year at Marienbad

Dir. Alain Resnais France 1961 (90 mins)

Written by modernist novelist Alain Robbe-Grillet, this is a complex cinematic riddle without an answer. A masterpiece of a film, a triumph of camera movement, symbolic décor abstract structure and stylised playing, but it is as likely to irritate as it is to mesmerise!

3 June Desert Hearts

Dir. Donna Deitch USA 1985 (87 mins)

One of the very few truly risk-taking films to come out of the mid-1980s, this tale of lesbian love in Reno was a deserved critical success at the time. A disillusioned older woman falls for a younger freer spirit, and this film about relationships and prejudice handles the relationship without sensationalism. The film is based on the fine novel by Jane Rule 'Desert of the Heart'.

10 June Wadjda

Dir. Haifaa Al-Mansour Saudi Arabia/Ger 2012 (98 mins)

No apologies for bringing this heart - warming film back to the Picturehouse. This is the winning tale of a girl who wants a bike and her determination not to be cowed by male-dominated society or religious doctrine in Saudi Arabia.

17 June Like Father, Like Son

Dir. Hirokazu Kore-Eda Japan 2013 (93mins)

Ryota has earned everything he has by his hard work, and believes nothing can stop him from pursuing his perfect life as a winner. Then one day, he and his wife, Midori, get an unexpected phone call from the hospital. Their 6-year -old son, Keita 'is not their son - the hospital gave them the wrong baby. Ryota is forced to make a life-changing decision, to choose between 'nature' and 'nurture'.

24 June Paths of Glory

Dir. Stanley Kubrick USA 1957 (86 mins)

In this year which marks the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, I am pleased to be able to include Kubrick's masterly anti-war film. Winston Churchill claimed that this film came closest to capturing the atmosphere of World War 1. One of Kirk Douglas's greatest performances, and the director's probing camera offers constant evidence of a film-maker at the height of his powers.

The Norah Boyce Science Lectures

This lecture series will continue to be held in the Sackler Lecture Theatre of the Institute of Astronomy on Tuesdays. The lectures will start at 5.45pm. **Please do not arrive before 5.30pm** as access to the room is not available until this time. All welcome.

The Institute of Astronomy is in a side road marked 'University of Cambridge, Madingley Rise', on the north side of the Madingley Road, roughly opposite J J Thomson Avenue. It is 300 yards from the bus-stops there. Leaving the Madingley Road there is a car park on the right hand side and the Institute of Astronomy is the second building on the right further on. If the first car park is full, continue past the Institute and bear right for a second car park. The OS map reference is 543050 259390 or TL430594.

SUMMER TERM 2014

13 May **Ophiolites: what they are and why the Tethyan ophiolites are probably not remnants of the Tethys**
Dr Alan Smith

Alan Smith graduated in physics in Cambridge and then took a geological Ph.D. in Princeton, looking at a mountain range in Montana made up mostly of 1500 million year old rocks. He returned to Cambridge, to work on the computer fit of the Atlantic continents, then on global reconstructions and global tectonics. At the same time he was involved with improving the geological time-scale. Subsequently, he undertook field work in eastern central Greece in an area which exposes ophiolites (old ocean-floor) and old continental margins, which led to an interest in the origin of the Mediterranean and the disappearance of the Tethys. He is currently an Emeritus Reader, Department of Earth Sciences and a Fellow of St. John's College.

Ophio is Greek for *snake* and lithos Greek for stone and ophiolite (or serpent stone, i.e. serpentine), is common in many ophiolites. Complete ophiolites are slices of ocean-floor that have been emplaced somehow onto the edge of a continent and give an insight into how ocean-floor is constructed. At the base of many ophiolites is a zone of metamorphic rocks showing that the ophiolite had been hot with a time gap between crystallization of the ophiolite (ocean-floor) and the beginning of its emplacement of, in the case of Oman, < 1 million years. The simplest models for this require a rapid transition from extension to convergence at a previously active ocean ridge in < 1 m.y., which is difficult to envisage. Subsequently it was shown that the composition of many ophiolites requires the involvement of a subduction zone, rather than forming at a mid-ocean ridge. More complex models invoked "roll-back" of a subducting slab whereby its hinge line rolls back, creating "supra-subduction zone" (SSZ) ocean-floor which was later emplaced as a SSZ ophiolite. The Tethyan SSZ ophiolites are not part of the Tethys itself. Like the present-day Pacific, they have largely been subducted, leaving SSZ oceanic remnants around its former margins.

20 May **Demystifying Cancer**
Dr Robin Hesketh

Robin Hesketh has been a member of the Department of Biochemistry, Cambridge and a fellow of Selwyn College for over 30 years, during which time he has also been a visiting Fellow at the University of Toronto and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg. His research is concerned with several areas of cancer, particularly with strategies for anti-angiogenic gene therapy.

He has published over 100 research papers and written three textbooks on cancer, the most recent being *Introduction to Cancer Biology* (2013). His first venture into popular science writing, *Betrayed by Nature*, came out last year. Since then Robin has devoted much of his time to giving lectures to the general public, including schools. He gave the opening lecture of the 2013 Cambridge Science Festival, has participated in panel discussions at Cambridge Wordfest, appeared with Robin Ince in *Happiness through Science* at the Cambridge Union Society, done a stand-up comedy routine for The Bright Club science cabaret and has been invited to speak at the 2014 Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival.

In *Demystifying Cancer* he will describe, in the simplest way, what goes wrong when cells begin to proliferate in an abnormal manner – the basic cause of cancers. We will then enter an amazing new world, revealed by astonishing technical advances that are revolutionizing how we think about and treat these fascinating diseases.

Wednesday Lectures

SUMMER TERM 2014

This series of weekly lectures will take place in Room 3 of the University Lecture Rooms at no. 8 Mill Lane, 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

23 April Water in Developing Countries

Alan Bird, U3AC member and co-ordinator of the U3AC Africa Forum

The presentation is based upon nearly 40 years of work experience as an Environmental Planner and Surveyor in over 20 countries. The emphasis is on water supply, particularly at the household level. The needs, environmental constraints and possible sustainable solutions will be outlined, based within the context of the international Human Development Index and the Millennium Development Goals. The closely inter-related aspects of water quality, sanitation and human health (including waterborne and water related disease) will also be addressed. The competing demands on water for industry (including power generation), irrigation, fisheries and waterborne transport will also be mentioned, along with the need for managing environmentally sensitive areas. The effects of flooding, (both coastal and riverine) and erosion will be illustrated, along with the need to take into consideration climate change.

30 April Classics, Cricket, Caning - and Class: Prep School Children from Tom Brown to Harry Potter

Mrs. Vyvyen Brendon, local historian, author and former Head of History at St Mary's School

The lecture is set in that unique British institution, the prep school, distinguished by such practices as the first three Cs of the title and detached from the rest of the educational system by fees, entrance exams and a long tradition of boarding. It concentrates on young pupils over two centuries, from Tom Brown being packed into a stage-coach to Harry Potter disappearing onto platform 9 3/4 at King's Cross Station. It discusses the social and psychological effects on real (as opposed to fictional) children of this separate type of education. Are they a class apart?

7 May The Basque Children. Aliens and unwanted in the UK

Herminio Martinez

We arrived at Southampton on May 23rd 1937 nearly 4000 children, crammed into a boat. This was the largest single arrival of refugees there had ever been into the UK.

The UK government of the time did not want us and had refused to take us, but following the destruction of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War and the pressure of public opinion here, it relented. It would accept children refugees but would not provide funding or aid of any sort. It never did. We survived through the help and solidarity of the British people. I was just seven years old.

14 May MINIARE

Paola Ricciardi, Research Associate, Fitzwilliam Museum.

This talk will discuss the results and implications of non-invasive technical analyses currently being carried out at the Fitzwilliam Museum to investigate the materials and techniques used by medieval and Renaissance illuminators. Such research is part of a cross-disciplinary research project called 'MINIARE' (Manuscript Illumination: Non-Invasive Analysis, Research and Expertise, www.miniare.org), headed by the Fitzwilliam Museum in collaboration with various Departments across the University of Cambridge.