

Newsletter August – December 2011

A Message from the Chairman

With courses and activities taking place during the summer months, Bridge Street has continued to maintain its friendly, working "hum". Now it's time to welcome everyone back for the Autumn Term, when we also look forward to meeting many new members. I am sure that, like myself, you will have enjoyed perusing the impressive new Programme of Studies and trying to decide which courses and activities to apply for. Inevitably some members will be disappointed that they have not been allocated a place in their chosen course. This is something the Directors of Studies, Carlos de la Riva, Alan Winfield and their sub-committee will be working on. Once again, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to them and to the Office staff for all their hard work. When talking to friends who belong to other U3As it always makes me realise just how fortunate we are here in Cambridge in having so many talented tutors and group leaders, who work so hard on our behalf. Without them we simply would not exist – so thank you all very much indeed. You are greatly appreciated!

Chris Jones, Chairman

To All Members: Oversubscribed Courses

Please check your letter carefully as to which courses you have been allocated a place. A member may not attend a course, even those with a large number of places, if they have **not** been given a place.

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.

Term Dates for 2011 – 2012

Autumn Term: Monday 10 October – Friday 16 December 2011

Spring Term: Monday 9 January – Friday 16 March 2012

Summer Term: Monday 16 April – Friday 22 June 2012

Contents

Page 1:	Message from the Chairman	Page 8:	Other Organisations
Pages 2 & 3:	Messages from members of Council	Pages 9 & 10:	Film Group
Pages 4 & 5:	Courses	Page 11:	U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee
Page 6:	Research, Administration	Page 12:	Norah Boyce Science Lectures
Page 7:	General, Social, U3AC Event Report	Page 13:	Wednesday Lectures

Messages from members of Council

Courses and Allocations 2011 – 2012

As your new Director of Studies at the head of a fresh Courses Committee part of my remit, at this all important time, is to oversee the smooth running of course allocations. I would like to emphasise that the choice is by a random computer programme where all the bids receive the same treatment. This year a new specially designed software package was used and found to perform well in allocating a greater number of first choices. The total number of received bids has been 8,676 from the 2,323 enrolled members to date, for the 291 advertised courses. So far 5,925 spaces have been allocated, which constitute roughly 68% of the requests, with 539 vacancies still unfilled.

As expected the most popular subjects have been oversubscribed by factors of three or more, with some classes greatly exceeding these values. The figures show that we have a larger shortfall of capacity in the Arts, Economics and Computing areas, and less so or almost acceptable levels in the Fitness, Leisure, Music and Literature courses. This situation seems to point towards considering the active pursuit of corrective measures in order to cover more of our member's requests, especially in those areas with large scarcity of spaces. Perhaps the solution would be to seek extra Tutors, hardware, or larger venues where more people could participate to help supply more classes.

Therefore, please consider that because a few courses are highly oversubscribed this could inevitably lead to some disappointment, but there are a substantial number of alternative courses with vacancies that members can apply for, at any time. But if any of you are allocated courses that for whatever reason, cannot be attended, please let the Office know at the earliest possible date, so those on the waiting lists can be notified to take up the offer.

Finally, after this explanation and plea for your understanding on this matter, my intention is to wish the existing and new joining members the best of luck with their allocations, and hope all obtain a large proportion of their choices.

Carlos de la Riva, Director of Studies (Courses)

Now we have completed our first full year in the new premises it is a good opportunity to look at how we are managing our finances. There have been a number of things that have caused extra expense mostly caused by the fact that we are on the first floor. These have included improvements to the lift operation and making provision to evacuate the building in the event of an emergency. In spite of these extra expenses we managed to show a small surplus for the year July 2010 to June 2011. With the larger rooms we are able to accommodate larger classes so that last year we offered more places on courses and activities (19% increase). However, in response members applied for more courses so we did not reduce the percentage of bids that could not be accommodated.#

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This trend of applying for more courses has continued this year 3.7 per member as against 2.9 last year. As Carlos has discussed we are taking action to find more courses to meet this demand. One of the consequences will be that we will use more hired rooms, thus increasing the costs. We can in part meet the increased demand if we can use Bridge Street more effectively in the summer term and the summer vacation. So we ask members to put forward suggestions for courses to run during these times.

Jeremy Clare, Treasurer

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Office staff and volunteer receptionists

At our last meeting on June 24th, the Council agreed to the principle of having a paid member of staff on duty throughout the opening hours of the premises. We are delighted to announce that Gemma Clare has agreed to work for an increased number of hours in order to make this possible.

We were able to pass on this good news when we met with the volunteer receptionists on 29th June. They were very pleased. It will enable them to concentrate on their primary role of being the 'face' of the U3AC, welcoming, helping and chatting with visitors, a vital and extremely important one for our organisation, with the knowledge that there is always someone in the Office to refer to when necessary.

Garden Parties 2011

Five garden parties so far have been hosted for members, there is one more to go. They have been held at Mariners Way by Margaret Nimmo-Smith, Goose Hall by Sylvia Lock, Haslingfield by Chris and Pam Holt, Fulbourn by Suzy Worzenraft, and Histon by Gabby and Martin Rudin. I know they were all enjoyed by

those attending despite the inclement weather challenging some of them! It is an asset to our organisation that we can continue to have lovely gardens opened, while at the same time enabling money to be raised for charities chosen by the hosts. Letters of thanks from these organisations confirm their gratitude for this support, especially in this financial challenging time. I know the teas have been well appreciated too and should like to thank the hosts for all their hard work.

Tutors and Volunteers Thank You Party

It was good to see so many of our tutors and volunteers at the annual party held again at The David Rayner Building at Scotdales. I think they enjoyed meeting each other - judging by the noise level, there seemed to be much happy interaction!

We were all able to sample a great array of food delicacies - the display was magnificent and mouth watering - prepared by our team of caterers, increased in number this time to include not only Jane Collis, Jean Calhoun, Bridget Evans but also Iris Brown, Carol Key and Anne Skinner. Sheila Goodyear very kindly volunteered as well. Having had a 'rest', she was eager to use her skills again. I should like to thank all our fine caterers as well as our most efficient 'bar staff', Janice Adams and Carole Horton, for all their hard work and support. These events could not continue without their excellent help.

Hearing loop at Mill Lane Lecture Theatre

It has been reported to us by a member that at a couple of the lectures last year the hearing loop failed to work throughout the duration of the lecture. If any other members were unable to enjoy the events as well, please accept my apologies, it must have not only been very disappointing but most frustrating as well. If this happens again, please alert the speaker so that the problem can be looked at straightaway.

Clem Messenger, Administrator

Oversubscribed courses

Several courses attracted a very high level of applicants this year and consequently have very long waiting lists. Below are the top 5 courses with the longest waiting lists.

Course	Number on waiting list
ARTA 02: The Cambridge College Gardens	143
HIS 23: Your Cambridge	76
WOR 02: Italian Cities (Spring Term)	57
ART 05: Just Drawing	49
HIS 11: Medieval Times and People	48

If you have been unsuccessful with a course application, you will automatically be added to the waiting list and if a place becomes available the Office will contact the person at the top of the waiting list to offer them the place.

U3AC Office

Courses

Alterations to Programme of Studies

ARTC 05: Stitched Bead Jewellery – date amendment: 14 May instead of 23 April

FIT 05 – Gentle Ballet 2 - cancelled

FIT 04 – Gentle Ballet 1 - time changed to 10.15 – 11.15

FIT 10 and 11 Exercise Groups: will now start on 19th September.

Roman History: Day change

In the Programme of Studies (p. 23) the **DAYS** for the two Roman History courses have been reversed. Time and Room remain as listed.

HIS 14: "The First Emperor Augustus." Will meet on **THURSDAY** (not Wednesday).

HIS 15: "The Roman Empire at its height." (The continuation course) will meet on **WEDNESDAY** (not Thursday).

LIT 20 and 21: Perspective on Plays 1 and 2: will now start on 17th October.

MUS 05: Choir: will now start on 13th October

MUS 08 - The title is now *Handel - The Early Years 1685-1713*

WOR 01 – France and the French, second series. The venue for this course will be the Parish Rooms, Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road (accessed from the Church's Lensfield Road car park).

WRT 05: Stories of our Lives: will now start on 20th October

FIT 27: Walking for Pleasure (weekly)

Please note there will NOT be a meeting on 20th September as mentioned in the Programme of Studies.

The list of walks will be sent to course members by email and will also be on the U3AC website. Please advise the Office of your email address if you have not already done so. If you do not have internet access the programme can be sent by post.

MUS 11: The Madrigal Group, and

MUS 09: An Introduction to French Music from 1650 to 1950 are being held at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs. Please note the courses take place in the Parish Rooms (accessed from the Church's Lensfield Road car park).

New courses – enrol with the Office

LEI 25: U3AC Bowls Club (Summer Term 2012)

Organiser: Roger Flack

Day & Time: Tuesday 3.00 – 5.00

Venue: Alexandra and Beehive Bowls Club, Alexandra Gardens, Carlyle Road.

Places: 32

U3AC Bowls Club has a mixture of experienced and novice bowlers and we are always pleased to welcome new members in either category. We meet from early May until late August. The green we use is by kind permission of the Alexandra and Beehive Bowls Club. The facilities at this venue are extremely good. Tuition is available for complete beginners and learners and all equipment is supplied with the exception of shoes, which must be lightweight and have completely flat soles. There is a fee of £12 (+£2 if bowls required) for the 18 sessions (payable in May).

Note: Starts 8th May 2012.

MUS 22: Singing Gilbert and Sullivan

Conductor: Dr Alan Morgan

Organiser: Dr Frank Benfield

Day and time: Thursday 2.00 – 3.30

Venue: St Paul's Church, Hills Road

Terms: Autumn, possibly spring & summer

Number of places: 100

This new course is intended for those who enjoy singing Gilbert and Sullivan. The direction we follow will depend to some extent on how the venture develops, but preparing for concert performances would be our initial objective. If things go well, we may consider staging a full opera.

Some singing experience is desirable, as is the ability to sight-read music, although this is not essential. (Those keen to improve their sight-reading might care to enrol on MUS 13.) There might be a small extra expenditure on music.

We will start with *Iolanthe*; please get a score.

FIT 35: Wise Dance, Wild Dance – Community Dance Group

Tutor: Hazel Francomb

Day & Time: Monday 11.00 – 12.30

Venue: St. Columba's Church Hall, Downing Place, Cambridge.

Places: 20

Creative dance for fun and fitness. Explore your world through dance. These sessions combine healthy movement training with creativity. The work is specifically tailored for people who love dance who are over 55. The classes draw from the teacher's thirty years of teaching experience in Contemporary and Laban dance, improvisation and choreography, T'ai Chi and dance for health. New and inexperienced members are welcome.

Courses – general

U3AC Swimming at the Leys School

****Important change for September****

After over 20 years we are now unable to provide for more than one session per week. The recent flexibility to switch between Tuesday and Thursday has been a major attraction.

However from September the Leys Sports'Centre Management will increase the hire charge from £60 to £70 per one hour session. This is to meet extraordinary cost increases. We are therefore forced to reduce to one session per week.

At the time of printing the newsletter our members are voting to choose between Tuesday and Thursday. Existing membership is 33; some may not wish to continue. However for next term we cannot take on new members or anyone beyond the present 33 until the position is clearer.

The December Newsletter will report on progress and the arrangements for January - April 2012.

U3AC Cycling Group

Membership of the Cycling Club is open to all U3AC members. You can join at any time by booking on to a ride from our current programme. Along the Fen Edge – over the hills to Orwell – up and down the Granta – the old road to Ely – and more. There are places available on rides between now and the end of October.

To request a list of planned rides and join the club, email cyclingu3ac@gmail.com

Italian Self-Help Group

We are an intermediate-level group who meet on Tuesdays from 12.45 to 2.00pm. We use a variety of means, including text-books and readers.

There are likely to be a few free places starting on 11th October, so if you are interested please contact Alan Birch via the office.

The Bronowski Group: Autumn Term Saturday 1st October to Saturday 3rd December

Room 1, 27 – 28 Bridge Street

Coffee 10:30, Start 11.00 – Finish approx. 13.00

The main agenda will be “the truth about human nature unknown to itself” apropos conscious existence in an unconscious universe. As Einstein put it “The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibilitythe fact that it is comprehensible is a miracle. (“Physics & Reality”, March 1936) usually quoted as: “The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible”. For further information contact John Crawley via the office.

Care in the Home

Mike Francis of Home Instead Senior Care will give a talk about the issues surrounding social care in the U3AC's premises on Wednesday 21st September at 10.30am. The talk will cover the range of services available and the processes that people encounter when care is needed. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the talk.

Mike's company, Home Instead Senior Care, provides care and companionship to people in their own homes, enabling and assisting them to live independently.

Services include light housekeeping, companionship, meal preparation, shopping and assistance with personal care for those who need it. The company tailors its services to each individual.

The talk will, however, cover the landscape of care in Cambridgeshire.

Contact the Office to book a place.

Using U3AC Audio-Visual equipment workshop

Leaders: Delia Suffling, Jeremy Clare & Peter Woodsford

Date and time: Wednesday 5 October 10:00 – 1:00

Venue: 27-28 Bridge Street

This is a session for **tutors** and **presenters** who use the digital projectors or dvd player to give presentations or show videos. It will be run as a **drop in session** so that you can try out the material you wish to use with someone on hand to help. We will go through the set up of the equipment and dealing with common problems. We have recently upgraded the U3AC laptops so it will be a good opportunity to check out your presentations.

Research

Details of ongoing research projects and requests for volunteers are on our website.

Administrative Information

- ❖ The **Website** contains information on course content, research projects, social and cultural activities, the lecture and film programmes and also provides members with the opportunity to view the Weekly Bulletin online.
- ❖ The **Newsletter** is sent to all our 2,500 members four times a year and provides a great deal of information on a wide range of topics. Each one covers a period of months and is a useful reference document. All members are encouraged to use it as a way of letting other members know what is going on in U3AC.
- ❖ The **Weekly Bulletin** is issued every Wednesday and is a useful, briefer, way between Newsletters, of giving up to date information, last minute changes and new items of interest. It can be accessed in the following ways:
 1. by e-mail, please request to be added to the Bulletin email group
 2. by picking up a paper copy from the foyer at 27-28 Bridge Street, or from the Wednesday lecture
 3. by visiting the website at www.u3ac.org.uk

U3AC Premises – access for members with mobility issues

A handrail is fitted at the front door entrance and further handrails are fitted to the walls on the staircase up to the first floor. A bell at low level near the front entrance can be used to alert staff to members who require assistance or the ramp to access the building. An intercom system is also installed for members who wish to speak to staff before proceeding to the First floor.

Additional fees for classes

We are aware that some members have paid the additional fee required for certain classes but have not been allocated a place. We will be refunding these fees as soon as possible.

Weekend access to U3AC Premises

The U3AC has several courses in the coming year that will take place on Saturdays. As the front door is locked, members will gain access by using the intercom system located next to the front door. Further details will be provided to the individual Tutor.

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.

Change of Address & Telephone Number

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.

Copy for next Newsletter

Articles/information that members would like to be published in the December newsletter should be received by the Office no later than **Friday 2 December 2011**.

Next Council Meeting

Friday 7 October

Mailings

We are making savings in postage by combining husband/wife mailings in one envelope. If, however, members would like their mailings kept separate please inform the Office.

Council Minutes

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

General

Art Exhibitions

If any art groups or individuals would like to hold an exhibition of their work in the spring term, please contact the Office to reserve a 3-week slot.

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of:

Klaus Eckstein in June
Barbara Taptiklis in June
Rory Turner in June
Mike Werrett in June
Zeke Hacke in July
Henry West in July
Peter Chaplin in August

Social

U3AC Christmas Lunch

Two U3AC Christmas Lunches have been arranged for Thursday 15 December and Friday 16 December at the Cambridge Regional College – Kings Hedges Road Campus. Application forms available from 7th November.

Wine Tasting at Bridge Street

The next Wine Tasting evening will take place on Wednesday 9 November at 7.00 pm; again ably conducted by Matthew Boucher of Cambridge Wine Merchants. Look out for further details in the weekly bulletin.

New year drinks

This event will be held on 6th January 2012 from 12 noon – 2pm at The David Rayner Building, Scotsdales. Application forms available from 7th November.

U3AC Event Report

Book Clubs' Summer Lunch

At the end of the summer term and for the fifth consecutive year, the members of Book Club 6 hosted a bring-and-share lunch in their usual venue, St Andrew's Hall, Chesterton. Members of all U3AC Book Clubs were invited and it was a pleasure also to welcome other members of U3AC who had expressed an interest in joining a book club. A total of 40 people attended, including representatives from 8 of the 10 Book Clubs and 7 people who are not yet members.

We were delighted and proud to congratulate one member, Judy Wilson, who in the last year became an award-winning local author after publishing a book "Cambridge Grocer" in which she brought alive local history and the role her family played in it.

The guests were allocated to tables to ensure a good mix on each. With a common interest in reading, there was no need for an ice-breaker but if one had been needed the room was soon noisy with discussion as each table pooled resources in a bid to answer the questions in two challenging quizzes which kept us on our toes. Each quiz had a different theme but both had a literary base. In good pub quiz style, tables marked each other's efforts and there was definitely a competitive edge. The prizes (first 'go' at the buffet lunch for the first quiz and chocolates for the second) was a nice incentive, but I think the wish to get the answers right was important too!

It is encouraging to see U3AC's book clubs thriving. It is always good to see new members. As someone who is interested in other people's opinions I find it would be very boring if we all enjoyed the same books. Getting together and discussing any aspect of a book group and the books we have all read leads to valuable and interesting discussions. We would like to thank Kay Bispham and her team from Book Club 6, whose, apparently effortless, work and enthusiasm made this occasion possible.

Alison Suthers, Book Club 6

June 2011

Note: At the lunch the reading list for 2010/11 was distributed. This gives details of all the books read and discussed by U3AC book clubs during the year. A list of books read by all Book Groups over the last few years is available from the Office and on the website.

Other Organisations

The University Centre, Granta Place, Mill Lane

Membership cards will be available for the University Centre at the end of October at a cost of £50 for twelve months. Centre Members, with guests, may use the cafeteria and other facilities. U3AC Members who have previously purchased University Centre Membership through U3AC will be contacted in October. U3AC Members who wish to purchase University Centre membership when available, should contact the U3AC Office at the beginning of October.

Hills Road Sixth Form College

Members may be interested in a number of tailor-made 10 week courses for the over 50's starting in October 2011.

The courses are: French, Italian and Spanish for beginners; Pilates; Yoga; Art Appreciation and Computing. Full details and costs are available in a leaflet available from U3AC Office or the College on 01223 278002. Enrol directly with the College.

Open Cambridge 9 – 11 September 2011

Open Cambridge is an exciting weekend of free tours, talks and open access in which families, local residents and community groups are encouraged to explore the spectacular architecture, fantastic art collections and beautiful gardens that lie behind the University, College and City walls.

Most of the weekend's events require pre booking. Book online at www.cam.ac.uk/opencambridge or by telephone to 01223 766766.

Copies of the programme are available from U3AC Office.

Local Charity seeks Trustees

The Trustees of Cambridge United Charities manage 29 almshouses in the City, administer grants to local people in need of financial help, and support organisations working with young people.

Would you consider joining us? If you have an interest in housing for the elderly, experience of property or investment management, or practical concern for the welfare of others we would like to hear from you. Visit our website www.cambridgeunitedcharities.org or phone the Chairman of Trustees, Philippa Slatter on 01223 701733.

Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise is a self-help forum, run by volunteers, speaking up on issues affecting the over 50's. You can contact the Secretary on 01223-364303 or cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk

The 'User Led Organisation' (ULO) for carers, the disabled and older people. In particular 'Headway', which provides specialist services & support to people with an acquired head injury, their family and carers, is looking for suitable volunteers with 1 or 2 hours a week to spare. If you are interested, please contact John Peck on 01223-576550, or johnp@headway-cambs.org.uk

U3AC Film Group Autumn Programme 2011

Established in October 1999, with the much valued collaboration of the Arts Picturehouse management. The aim of the U3AC Film Group is to show a wide range of the best in cinema from all nations, generations and genres. Our shows take place at The Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time and normally start at 2pm. Members are welcome to attend our post screen discussions.



11th October **East of Eden** **Dir: Elia Kazan USA 1955 (115 mins)**
 A film loosely based on the second half of the novel by John Steinbeck. It is about a wayward young man who, while seeking his own identity, vies for the affection of his deeply religious father against his favoured brother. It is, in essence, a retelling of the biblical story of Cain and Abel. It is a film that can be seen as a companion piece to Kazan's **Wild River**; shown in last year's programme, containing as it does another fine performance from Jo Van Fleet and a superb screen play by Paul Osborn. It was James Dean's first starring role and as in his most celebrated film **Rebel Without a Cause** he plays a troubled teenager in a story of generational conflict. His short, spectacular career ended with his death in a car crash just a few months after the film's release.

18th October **The Counterfeiters** **Dir: Stefan Ruzowitsky Germany 2007 (98mins)**
 A fictional version of 'Operation Bernhard', a secret plan by the Nazis during the Second World War to destabilize Great Britain by flooding its economy with forged Bank of England bank notes. The film is based on a memoir written by Adolf Burger, a Jewish Slovak typographer who was imprisoned in 1942 for forging baptismal certificates to save Jews from deportation, and later interned at Sachsenhausen to work on Operation Bernhard. Winner of the 2007 Best Foreign Language Film Oscar at the Academy Awards.

25th October **Cleopatra** **Dir: Joseph L. Mankewicz USA 1963 (243 mins)**
***** NB Early start at 1pm *****
 In 1963 this film was almost universally condemned by critics, possibly due to the scandal surrounding the private lives of its lead actors, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Under-rated for so many years, Cleopatra is a grand, sumptuous spectacle containing fine performances not only from its stars but also from many other cast members including Rex Harrison as Julius Caesar and Roddy McDowall as Octavian. The sets, pre CGI, are a marvel, particularly the recreation of Rome and Alexandria. A haunting, powerful film that deserves reassessment.

1st November **Still Life** **Dir: Zhang Ke Jia China 2006 (109 mins)**
 Shot in the old village of Fengjie, a small town on the Yangtze River which is slowly being destroyed by the building of the Three Gorges Dam, *Still Life* tells the story of two people in search of their spouses. It's a hypnotic piece of work from one of the country's most exciting and original younger-generation filmmakers. A searching picture of the vast creation, destruction and disruption that is modern China as it forges ahead into an uncertain future.

PTO

 	FILM GROUP ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE £27.50 Every Tuesday at 2pm Term starts 11 October and concludes 13 December MEMBERSHIP TO ACT AS TICKET PLANNED POST SCREENING DISCUSSIONS USE OF THE ARTS PICTURE HOUSE CAFE-BAR	APPLICATION FORM TITLE FORENAME INITIAL SURNAME ADDRESS TEL NO EMAIL ADDRESS U3AC MEMBERSHIP NO	METHOD OF PAYMENT Card No Start Date Expiry date Switch Issue No If paying by cheque please make 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 cinema programme screenings are open to everyone
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8th November The Social Network Dir: David Fincher 2010 USA (120 mins)
The Social Network is about the founding of the social networking website Facebook and the resulting lawsuits. Part boardroom drama, part conspiracy thriller, the story is adapted from Ben Mezrich's non-fiction *The Accidental Billionaires*. Director David Fincher and equally respected screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, achieve its multiple goals: to create a gallery of fascinating, fully realized characters; chronicle key events in the development and growth of today's most influential social networking site, Facebook; and explore the blurred lines that exist in the amorphous on-line environment where concepts like intellectual property are involved. It has been showered with critical acclaim.

15th November The Grapes of Wrath Dir: John Ford USA 1940 (128 mins)
Selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The story centres around the Joads, one of many families of sharecroppers forced by the Dust-bowl devastation of the Great Depression to leave their mid-west homes and journey to California in search of a new life. Cinematographer Gregg Toland perfectly captures the wide open spaces and big skies of rural America, whilst the normally conservative John Ford puts forward a sympathetic but radical plea for worker's rights and freedom for the common man; the most popular left-wing socialist themed film of pre World War II Hollywood.

22nd November Departures Dir: Yôjirô Takita Japan 2008 (130 mins)
An unexpected and unlikely success. Daigo Kobayashi is a cellist who finds himself without a job. He answers a classified ad for what he thinks is a travel agency only to discover that the job is actually for a funeral professional who prepares dead bodies for burial and entry into the next life. While his wife and others despise the job, Daigo takes a pride in his work and begins to perfect the art of "Nokanshi," acting as a gentle gatekeeper between life and death, between the departed and the family of the departed. The film follows his profound and sometimes comical journey with death as he uncovers the wonder, joy and meaning of life and living. A strong story that is beautifully visualised.

29th November Of Gods and Men Dir: Xavier Beauvois France 2010 (122 mins)
"The intensest love that humanity has ever known has come from religion, and the most diabolical hatred that humanity has known has come from religion." Both of these elements are present in Xavier Beauvois *Of Gods and Men*, the story of seven Roman Catholic French Trappist monks kidnapped by radical Islamists from their monastery in the village of Tibhirine in Algeria during the 1990s Algerian Civil War. The film depicts the sacrifices people of goodwill in both religions are willing to make for each other, and that the separation between religions is not an unbridgeable gap.

6th December Twelve Angry Men Dir: Sidney Lumet USA 1957 (96mins)
Henry Fonda leads an all-star male cast in this gripping drama about a dissenting jury trying to come to a unanimous decision regarding the fate of a young man who faces the death penalty. The highly talented cast makes this brilliant war of words an entrancing cinema experience. Director Sidney Lumet creates energy and movement through quick editing and varying camera angles, which makes the film pulse with power and emotion despite its one set location; a classic film that deserves its reputation.

13th December French Can Can Dir: Jean Renoir France 1954 (102 mins)
The 19th-century Paris of Jean Renoir's remarkable 1955 film is a distillation of the Paris that exists within the genre of the screen musical. It's a fantasy world in which laundry girls are propelled to stardom, absinthe is taken at sidewalk cafés, gentlemen live in hotels, and foreign princes slum alongside chorines in the still-unfashionable nightclubs of Montmartre. It is about the life of the theatre and of those held in its sway; songs emerge in that context - before audiences at the Moulin Rouge and other nightclubs - and the abiding central conflict, for all its characters, is the tension of resolving the life of the stage with 'real' life. Featuring the celebrated Jean Gabin, Edith Piaf and Françoise Arnoul.

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
- ❖ 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 £5 annually (payable in September) members will be sent forms as soon as they are available (see form below)**
- ❖ 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

Wednesday 28th September

2pm. Sculpture trail walk with Shirley Foulsham and friends
Organiser: Chris Jones.

Tuesday 11th October

Visit to the National Theatre,
Matinée performance of "The Kitchen" by Arnold Wesker
Organiser: Monica Bogen.
Forms available in September

Thursday 17th November

Thursford Xmas Spectacular, Norfolk
Matinée performance
Organiser: Chris Jones.

Forms available from the beginning of September (as places have to be secured by 22nd September)

Tuesday 13th December

'£10 Xmas Special'
Outing to South Kensington for museums and / or shops!
Organiser: Janice Adams.

Sunday 22nd January 2012

Coffee Concert by the Nash Ensemble at the Wigmore Hall
(if tickets are available)
Organiser: Ethel Bentley.

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 Chris Jones and the Vice Chairman is Ethel Bentley.

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 and Northampton Street.

U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee October 2011 – June 2012

To receive the forms by post, I enclose cheque for £5.00 payable to U3AC

Name:

Membership No:

Address:

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 at 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.

Autumn term

- 18 October** **Cuckoo versus hosts; an evolutionary arms race**
Nick Davies, FRS
- 15 November** **The wonder of wheels**
Dr Chris Burgoyne
- 29 November** **Sir Humphry Davy: Natural Philosopher, Discoverer, Inventor, Poet, Man of Action**
Sir John Meurig Thomas, FRS

Spring term

- 17 January** **Life's future in the universe**
Professor Martin Rees, FRS (Lord Rees of Ludlow)

Wednesday Lectures

AUTUMN TERM 2011

A series of weekly lectures has been arranged this term. These 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.

- 12 October** ***The Future of Manufacturing***
Professor Sir Mike Gregory, Head, Institute for Manufacturing, Cambridge University
- 19 October** ***Recent Earthquakes: The Rich Pay, the Poor Die***
Professor James Jackson, Head of Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge
- 26 October** ***The Honour of the Nation: The Birth of the Ordnance Survey***
Rachel Hewitt, author and Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow, School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London
- 2 November** ***Every Requisite for a Household: The story of Matthew's of Trinity Street, the Cambridge Grocer and Wine Merchant, 1832-1962***
Judy Wilson, née Matthew, local author
- 9 November** ***The Mystery of the Last Supper: Reconstructing the Final Days of Jesus***
Professor Sir Colin Humphreys, Selwyn College, Cambridge
- 16 November** ***Art Transplantation & Surgery***
Sir Roy Calne, former Professor of Surgery at Cambridge University
- 23 November** ***Bringing the history of Cambridge computing back to life – the EDSAC Replica Project***
Dr David Hartley, honorary member Cambridge Computer Laboratory
- 30 November** ***King Arthur: Who, When, Where, Why?***
Professor Elizabeth Archibald, Department of Medieval Literature, Bristol University.
- 7 December** ***Does affirmative action work as a means of achieving equality?***
Professor Sir Bob Hepple, Emeritus Master of Clare College and Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Cambridge.
- 14 December** ***Interpreting Ely Cathedral: The Medieval Imagery***
Dr Lynne Broughton, author and former Associate Lecturer, Divinity Faculty, University of Cambridge

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