

Newsletter December 2011 – March 2012

A Message from the Chairman

It was a real pleasure to welcome 290 new members to the U3AC this term. Once again the newcomers' meeting at the Friends' Meeting House on October 4th was well attended. We hope that our new members will enjoy taking part in the many activities on offer, and gradually becoming involved in the U3AC.

A full timetable has been running at Bridge Street, with many classes oversubscribed. However, during the course of the term, it appears that some members fail to notify the Office or tutor of their absence, when they are unable to attend a class. Others simply never turn up at all! So – if you are unable to attend, or if you have simply changed your mind – please let us know, so that we can cut down on our waiting lists!

By the time this newsletter is circulated, many of us will have enjoyed one of the splendid Xmas lunches held at the Cambridge Regional College, and we look forward to seeing many of you on January 6th at our annual New Year's drinks party at the David Rayner building at Scotsdales.

A sincere thanks to our Office staff, tutors, volunteer receptionists, council members and everyone who has helped the term run smoothly.

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Elections

At the end of this Newsletter is a sheet on which you are asked to make nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and up to 7 members of Council. Please take this seriously and give thought to approaching those you know in U3AC who impress you with their organising abilities. We need good volunteers to offer to serve on Council in order to ensure that our organisation continues to thrive. The constitution dictates that ordinary members may only serve for 3 years and there is therefore a healthy turnover in Council membership. The implication of this, however, is that annually new members need to come forward. Also it is usual (although not essential) for future Officers to be recruited from Council members and if there is a good number of new recruits to Council each year this is likely to happen. Officers may serve for more than 3 years and this provides continuity.

Chris Jones, Chairman

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Christmas and New Year closing

Please note that the U3AC Office will close at 2.00 pm on 22 December and reopen at 10.00 am on 3 January

Dates of the academic year 2012

Spring term: Monday 9 January – Friday 16 March
Summer term: Monday 16 April – Friday 22 June
Autumn term: Monday 8 October – Friday 14 December

Messages from Council Officers

Director of Studies (Courses) - Courses Update

The first academic term of this year is nearing its conclusion having proceeded smoothly and without any repercussions from the summer course allocations. Equally the new time slot allowance for the various and closely packed classes at Bridge Street has worked well and substantially reduced the previous friction at class transition times.

In terms of our membership, the various measures and changes introduced in the near past have not impacted adversely on our member numbers. This year 2173 members maintained their subscription, we gained 290 new entrants and 57 people rejoined producing a total membership of 2520 as opposed to 2496 for the previous year. This number is continuing to grow with new members joining all the time.

New IT courses are also being planned at three skill levels for Saturday mornings starting in January, thus making fuller use of our premises. The tutors involved in this exercise want to evaluate student skill levels by means of a questionnaire, which will more accurately match students to courses and reduce any disappointments.

Finally and to enthuse other members into starting new courses, with the prospect of increasing our course choice and tutor base, a new recruitment event is being programmed to give guidance and coach new tutors into launching their teaching and knowledge sharing abilities. The event entitled "Thinking of giving a course?" will take place on the 19th of January at Bridge Street from 5 to 6.30 pm and we invite the contribution from existing tutors and seek the participation of prospective tutors, coordinators or leaders. (Please contact the Office for details)

Carlos de la Riva, Director of Studies (Courses)

Staff and Office Volunteers

Louisa Kelly has now been working for us for nearly two years. She has increasingly taken on more responsibilities and become integral in decision-making processes. In view of her role within the organisation, her new job title is Course and Venue Co-ordinator.

Carol, Louisa, Gemma and Jane continue to work hard and are a real team. It is good too, that a paid member of staff is on the premises during opening times on weekdays. Assistance can be given to our tutors and members at all these times.

We continue to be wonderfully supported too by our office volunteers. Their role within the organisation is invaluable.

Insurance & Public Liability

Our Insurance Company recently asked us to supply further information for two major categories of classes run by tutors and co-ordinators, i.e. those leading classes in their own homes and those leading exercise/fitness classes. They were concerned that our tutors would not be covered by the terms of our policy.

As a consequence of this we have contacted the relevant tutors and co-ordinators to ask if they have their own public liability cover. If they haven't our members have been asked to sign a form to ensure that either, they are aware that they are entering the tutor's house at their own risk or, they are taking part in the activity at their own risk.

This has been a rather laborious but essential process in this age of litigation. I would like to thank everyone involved for being so patient and co-operative.

In the future members and tutors will need to update this process each time a new course commences. I hope that other members and tutors will support us in supplying this information.

Clem Messenger, Administrator

Going green

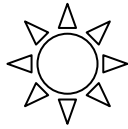
As part of our submission for rate relief we have been asked for our environmental impact policy. We are developing a policy, but the policy is of no value if we do not do something to implement it. We would like a member to take on the task of recruiting a team to work out what actions we could take and how best to monitor their effectiveness. Anyone interested in leading such an activity or being part of the team should contact the Office.

Reducing waste paper

Each week many photocopies are made of handouts for classes. I am starting an experiment where handouts will be distributed by email or via the web. If you would prefer to receive your handouts this way let your tutor know so we can set up the facilities.

Jeremy Clare, Treasurer

THINKING OF GIVING A COURSE?



We are holding an informal members' meeting for anyone who might be interested in offering a course. Please come along and find out more about what's involved – join us for tea/coffee and meet some course tutors, both old & new. We'd love to meet anyone who thinks they might have something to offer- whether it's a structured course, 'one-off' lecture or a 'sampler' summer course.

THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY 5PM

BRIDGE STREET, FOYER AREA.



Profiles of Council members

Delia Suffling



Since she first joined in 1997, Delia Suffling has had two separate spells with U3AC, divided by three years in the Middle East where she had been invited to work as an advisor to the Government of the United Arab Emirates. Having taken early retirement from Cambridge Regional College, where she was Head of Computing, she was particularly well-qualified for the job of visiting the UAE's technical schools and running training courses for their staff.

After attending a convent school in Reading, Delia read Mathematics at Reading University, from where she went on to teach the subject at the Mount School in York. She then took a Diploma of Education at Oxford University, taught Maths at King Edward School, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, for four years and then became "Head of the Girls' Side" at Friends School, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire. She became Assistant Principal and Finally Deputy Principal there before leaving to get married and move to Cambridge and the Regional College.

Since her return from the Gulf she has been heavily involved with the Central WorldSkills International Committee, a not-for-profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in their respective countries or regions. "It operates worldwide and is politically and denominationally neutral," she says.

Delia is passionate about U3AC. "I believe it is the 'best thing since sliced bread' and would gladly offer my services to help it progress in any way that I can," she says. This has led her to becoming a volunteer receptionist at the new Bridge Street office, where she has been helping to update the Bulletin on the website each week, (a job she thoroughly enjoys), and to her election to the Council, where she also serves on the publicity sub-committee. These services she sees as giving something back to an organisation which has enabled her to study Russian, Tudor History, and Maps in the Computer Age among other things and has taken her to Namibia with the Geodyssey class and the Antarctic, as a result of attending the Antarctica in a Nutshell course.

Alan Winfield



Alan Winfield, a member of U3AC for 9 years and of the council for over two, makes full use of its facilities. Not only does he teach classes on Italian Cities and Our Earth – yesterday, today and tomorrow, but he is also an avid student. This year he is attending courses on Travel to remote places, Are we what we eat?, Badminton and Rambling, whilst he already has courses on Italian, Spanish, Computer mapping, Florentine art and a variety of other subjects under his belt from previous years. In addition he now sits on the courses sub-committee of the council. "I think we are so lucky having such a marvellous institution as U3AC for learning and social activity in Cambridge," he says.

Many people might think that sufficient employment in retirement, but not Alan. He teaches adults with learning difficulties at Camtrust in Impington, where he spent 26 of his 31-year career in education teaching Chemistry at the Village College, going on later to the Faculty of Education. To keep his hand in he maintains his teaching skills by doing periods of voluntary teaching in the developing world. This year he has taught for charitable organisations in Kenya and Albania. Besides all this, he also works intermittently during the summer as a walking holiday leader and as a guide on Italian city breaks.

In what passes for his spare time, Alan can be found on stage at various theatres in Cambridge indulging in his passion for amateur musicals. He is Chairman of the Pied Pipers Musical Theatre Club, and earlier this year he was 'The Rooster' in their production of HONK! at the ADC. Previous recent performances include roles in 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Sweet Charity' at the ADC, and 'Oklahoma' and 'Anything Goes' at the Mumford Theatre. His favourite role was as Dodson in 'Pickwick' at the Arts Theatre. Alan is a Christian and attends Arbury Community Church.

Marjorie Sutcliffe



When U3AC held an official opening at the new Bridge Street premises last year, it was Marjorie Sutcliffe's portrait painting course which supplied the added interest with an exhibition of portraits of the founder, Nick Coni. Her own art career began after she retired. She decided to take the subject at GCSE and was justifiably proud of obtaining an A grade. She then honed her skills at various U3AC classes, ending up with portrait painting. There, she says, she met an exceptionally nice and talented group of people and in due time ended up running (or as she modestly says organising) it. "My having taught at so many places in Cambridge meant I had plenty of ex-colleagues to persuade to be models for the class and I could also meet up with old friends," she says.

Marjorie began her career as a biology teacher at Wigan Girls High School in Lancashire and then, in 1972, spent a year in Scotland while her husband attended a course at Stirling University. Their older daughter Sara was born in that year. They then moved to Cambridge where another daughter was born in 1975. Marjorie taught Biology A level in the evening at the Cambridge College of Arts and Technology (now Anglia Ruskin University) and part-time at Hills Road Sixth Form College and from there went on to be a full time lecturer at Cambridge Regional College. Promoted to be the Head of the School of A levels, she remained there until retirement. She continued to teach, however - at Homerton College - with the idea that she would equip the Chemistry and Physics graduates with the Biology they would need to teach Science in schools.

Soon after this she joined U3AC and learnt to play bridge with "the wonderful Ray Keech," besides embarking on her serial art classes. "I really believe in U3AC," she says. "I never miss the Wednesday lecture and I have met so many interesting people." This year she was elected to the Council, serves on the courses sub-committee and is embarking on another stage of her involvement with U3AC.

David Waldman



David Waldman won a scholarship to Carmel College in Oxfordshire when he was 13, enabling him to escape from Wolverhampton, which he disliked. He went on to take a degree in Chemistry at St. Catherine's College, Oxford before entering the patent profession, becoming eventually a Chartered Patent Agent in London.

After he and his wife Ann were married in 1967, they moved to Nottingham, where David was employed by Boots until that company's agrochemical division merged with Fisons and he was transferred to Saffron Walden. The Waldman's moved to Fulbourn in 1981 and they have been in the area ever since, surrounded now by their three children and two grandchildren. After further takeovers and mergers, the research station where David worked was closed down.

David's passion in life had been music so when he joined U3AC after his retirement he at once joined the Music Club and has been a constant ever since. At a week's notice he took over the "Symphonies and Concertos" course in 2007, later changing its title to "Talking about Music". However, he has not confined himself to music, having also done courses in Italian, Photoshop and Architecture. He was a keen member of one of the rambling groups until a bad leg put an end to his participation. Following his election to the council this year, he became a member of the publicity sub-committee and says "I hope to make a valuable contribution to the running of U3AC."

Apart from music, David likes theatre and travel (especially to Italy) and is also a bridge player, though he modestly describes himself as "keen, but average".

New Courses
Please contact the Office to enrol

MUS 23: Jazz Junctions

Tutor: Colin Whitworth

Day and time: Monday 2.00 – 3.00

Venue: Room 1, 27-28 Bridge Street

Terms: Summer, starts Mon 16 April

Number of places: 40

Jazz is an amalgam music, created by fusing together African beats & blue-notes with European melody & counterpoint, French quadrilles, Haitian voodoo, Yiddish lullabies, the spirit of Spanish flamenco, Indian & gypsy music, country blues and much more. It has sent out its influences into Western popular music and other art forms.

In 'Jazz Junctions' we will meander along the route taken by jazz and wander off into other territory, seeing who turns up - Jelly Roll Morton & the Beach Boys? Miles Davis & Ravi Shankar? Charlie Parker, Lenny Tristano, & the Beat Poets? - Who knows?

Discussion and involvement will be encouraged.

ART 18: Narrow Boat Style Painting

Tutor: Janet Parr

Day and Time: Tuesday 2.00 – 4.30

Venue: Room 4, 27-28 Bridge Street

Terms: Summer, starts Tue 17 April

Number of places: 10

Paint Roses and castles?

Anyone who has painted for pleasure in any medium will find that it is no help whatsoever in learning the skill of the Narrow Boat Painter. I will liken it to sign writing!!! I had to teach myself which was painstakingly slow but with my help and understanding of the brushwork we can have fun and produce some interesting pieces.

I suggest you do a search on the web and look at some of the old artists work, but do not be put off as I have seen some great results in just a few lessons...it should be fun.

Painting lines and Castles can come at a later date.

Materials you will need include Humbrol enamel gloss paints (small size, cost approx 99p each), white spirit, brushes and varnish. You will also need an item to paint. This could be a tin mug or plate, a small coat hook or a spare piece of wood. The cost for 12 colours, white spirit and varnish should be approx £15/20. This would also allow you to continue to practice at home. If desired, as a class, the larger size tins of paint could be jointly purchased. Please email me for a full equipment list (including brush types and sizes) and other items and ideas.

Jrp_janetparr@yahoo.co.uk

CUR 04: The Future of Cambridge

Tutor: John Hipkin

Day and time: Monday 11.00 – 12.30

Venue: Room 1, 27-28 Bridge Street

Terms: Summer, starts Mon 14th May

Number of places: 40

'Cambridge is one of the UK's most dynamic and fastest growing cities. As such there are opportunities and threats that need to be addressed. How can the future development of the city be managed so that at the same time as it prospers, it remains an agreeable place in which to live and work?

Councillor John Hipkin, a former Mayor of the City and its only independent councillor, is a longstanding critic of present growth plans but he acknowledges that the whole subject of Cambridge's future is a complex one and that there is always more than one side to such issues. Speakers representing a wide range of views and perspectives will offer course members a rounded and full account of the challenges facing the city and how they might be met in the years ahead.

Note: Course runs for 5 weeks only.

ARTA 08: Emmanuel College, seen from inside.

Tutor: Dr Ron Gray

Day and Time: Thursday 11.00 – 12.00

Venue: Queen's Building, Emmanuel College

Terms: Spring - 4 weeks only

Number of Places: 120

These four lectures beginning on Thursday 19th January have not been announced in the annual programme.

They will illustrate with slides the history, architecture, gardens and distinguished members and achievements, with slides of some of the present Fellows and staff, and explanations of the relationship between the College and the University and City in changing times. Final lecture - 9 February.

ART 01: Abstract Art

Tutor: Colin Whitworth

This class has been extended into the Spring Term and is able to take additional members. Full details of the course can be found in the programme. If you are interested in joining this popular group, please contact the Office.

Beginners Computing

This is a programme of modules designed to give a good introduction to various aspects of using computers. It consists of a series of modules so members can choose which aspects of computing they need help with. Some modules will consist of two sessions one week apart, with homework so that key aspects can be practiced. All those who sign up need to attend the first session Sat Jan 14th, so the tutors can assess which teaching groups members will join and what will need to be covered in the course.

All sessions take place on **Saturday mornings** at 27-28 Bridge St from **10.00 – 12.30**. We will be using three rooms and members will be grouped according to level of experience.

The U3AC will provide Windows laptops (fee of £1 per session, 6 places) but we recommend that if you have your own laptop we suggest you bring it for the course (7 places).

Programme

14th Jan - Introduction and Assessment, Lead Tutor: Jeremy Clare

A series of **compulsory** 45 minute sessions to introduce the course and assess which group members should join. 1st session 10:00-10:45; 2nd session 10:50-11:35; 3rd session 11:40-12.25.

28th Jan – Using email Session 1, Lead Tutor: Delia Suffling

4th Feb – Using email Session 2, Lead Tutor: Delia Suffling

11th Feb - Word processing and using spread sheets, Lead Tutor: Jeremy Clare

25th Feb – Using the Internet Session 1, Lead Tutor: Gail Wynne-Jones

3rd Mar – Using the Internet Session 2, Lead Tutor: Gail Wynne-Jones

10th Mar - Making the most of your Mac (Tutor will supply 2 laptops), Lead Tutor: Jeremy Clare
Please contact the Office to enrol.

The Bronowski Group – 2012

Spring terms meetings every Saturday (10.30 Coffee, 11.00 Start, Finish approx 13.00) from January 21st to March 31st. Continuing with an open agenda on human nature as ‘the blindspot of History’ with special emphasis on the nature of Language per se, preceding the emergence of all languages, meanings and values. Open to all members, no need to apply.

U3AC Swimming

Term starts on Thursday 12th January and ends on Thursday 5th April. There is one session of one hour per week from 10.00 to 11.00. We swim through the 13 weeks with no break at half term. Membership is limited. The fee has increased substantially mainly due to recent major improvements to the Leys pool. The fee for the

full term is now £48 which is £3.70 per one hour session. Present comparable rates at the City Council Pools are: Over 60's Leisure card £7. Then £2.60 per one-hour session. Over 60's not entitled to Leisure card: £4.00 per one-hour session.

THERE IS ONE VACANCY and a WAITING LIST. Anyone interested should contact the organiser and arrange a free trial swim.

Note: Members are also able to swim for just six sessions for a fee of £25. A few of our current members plan to swim every other week through the term as a more affordable option.

The pool is 25 metres long and a major upgrade including pool, pool hall, heating system and changing rooms, has been recently completed.

There is no parking at the school. Several of our members use the free council parking near the river at Newnham. The review by U3AC, which includes the feasibility of returning to swimming two days per week, is continuing.

Organiser: Greg Wren

A Complete Viewing of Jacob Bronowski's "The Ascent of Man" over the weekend of Sat January 7th and Sun January 8th 2012, at 27-28 Bridge Street.

Open to all members, no need to apply. A rare opportunity to view the whole series without interruption and appreciate Bronowski's vision of the History of Science as a prologue to "Human Specificity". A marathon for the intellect to start the new year. Despite signs of dating, inevitable after 38 years (first shown 1973) it remains unequalled. Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" was inspired by it.

Timetable: Sat Jan 7th

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 – Bring Packed Lunch

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.

Sun Jan 8th

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 – Bring Packed Lunch

11. 1.30 – 2.20 Knowledge or Certainty.
12. 2.25 – 3.15 Generation upon Generation.
13. 3.20 – 4.10 The Long Childhood.

Vacancies

There are still vacancies available in many courses, a list is available from the Office or on the website.

Spring term courses

Reminder letters have been sent to all members who are enrolled on new courses commencing in January. These request members to confirm with the Office that they will attend the course. If no reply is received the place may be offered to someone on the waiting list.

Feedback

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. In addition there is a feedback form near the back of this newsletter.

News from Classes / Events / Trips

Rome city break- November 2011

I'm ashamed to say that until two weeks ago, I'd never even been to Italy, let alone Rome. I knew that a trip was going from U3AC, but didn't quite get around to doing anything about it, so when I read in the Bulletin that Alan Winfield was looking to fill a place vacated by someone who had withdrawn, I was on the phone to him straightaway.

For all those of you who've doubtless been many times before, I apologise in advance for waxing lyrical, but as a first-timer, please indulge me! There was art everywhere: I turned a corner and I was in a piazza with water splashing from not just one, but three, Bernini fountains; I went into outwardly austere churches with incredible Baroque interiors decorated with Raphael frescos and altar triptychs by Caravaggio and Rubens; I walked on priceless multicoloured mosaic and marble floors through the Vatican, staring goggle-eyed at the dazzling stucco ceilings, all the while surrounded by ancient Greek and Roman sculpture; and then I came into a courtyard with the legendary statues of the Apollo Belvedere and the Laocöon! And the Sistine Chapel was the most beautiful interior I've ever been in - I spent about 45 minutes sitting around the edge or walking about the middle just trying to take in the amazing detail of all the figures. It wasn't just Michelangelo's ceiling and Last Judgement - I hadn't realised that the rest of the walls are covered in frescos by Botticelli, Piranesi, etc., and the whole place just blew me away. I loved the ancient Roman remains, too, and I was immediately taken back to my sixth-form days when my Latin mistress would get out her dusty slides and treat us to pictures of the Colosseum and the Forum with all the temples, which I recognised!

Alan was an excellent guide, giving us all interesting and useful information about where we were and what we were seeing, and I can well understand why his U3AC courses are always oversubscribed. His detailed knowledge of the city meant that he was able to take us via interesting shortcuts on our perambulations so that we didn't waste valuable time, but he always managed to build in that essential morning and afternoon coffee break!



Our hotel was clean and comfortable, and the hotel staff were very friendly and accommodating. We ate at excellent local restaurants, and I can still taste the freshly-caught sea bream that was cooked on the bone and then filleted at my table. We were extremely lucky with the weather, enjoying glorious sunshine all the time we were there with splendid views from the top of the dome of St. Peter's; and the air was crystal-clear, giving me pin-sharp photos to upload on to my computer when I got home.

Normally, I tend to do things independently and holiday on my own, but it was lovely to share this experience with others of the party and make new friends. I was also quite proud of my attempts to use Italian, which until then had been confined to musical and culinary

terms, but I got myself a good dictionary and phrasebook and had a go.

There was obviously far too much to see in only a short time, but they were three very well-planned, albeit highly-charged, days, and probably enough for a first go. It was excellent as a taster, and, although I didn't throw my coin in the Fontana di Trevi, I'll certainly go back, to revisit works of art I fell in love with, and to find those I missed. (And I don't want my new dictionary to sit on a shelf gathering dust!)

Alan has certainly whetted my appetite for all things Italian (Berlusconi apart), and even if I don't manage to get on to one of his courses next year, I shall be signing up for his trip to Venice in 2012!

Philippa Spencer

Research

Research project - Understanding the status of the Italian Sparrow in Crete

The aim of the project was to understand the relationship between the House Sparrow, Spanish Sparrow and the Italian Sparrows found in Crete. These latter share characteristics of the former two. At the inception of the project there was a variety of opinion about the relationship. It was felt that U3AC members could assist in the study initially by taking photos whilst on holiday in Italy and the Mediterranean islands.

This project is now complete. A full report can be found on the web site under reports on U3AC led research projects. In all 122 photographs were collected for analysis from Crete, Corsica, Malta, Sardinia and Italy. However, before a full analysis was completed a paper was published from Norway, which reported on a DNA analysis of 751 sparrows mostly from Italy. The conclusion of that study was that the Italian Sparrow is a hybrid of the House and Spanish Sparrows. The hybridisation occurred a considerable time ago and the Italian form now breeds true with little observed interbreeding with House Sparrows. There are still some questions with respect to the Italian Sparrows in Crete. These could only be resolved by DNA analysis, which is beyond the capability of a U3AC research project. My thanks to all members who took photographs.

Jeremy Clare

Social

Leonardo da Vinci visit

Due to the very high demand for tickets, at the time of writing with seven days to go before the closing date for applications, there were already over 210 applications for 49 tickets, many applications will therefore be unsuccessful. The tickets were purchased at the beginning of August and we were restricted by the number of seats in one coach. We are therefore sorry that many people will be disappointed.

The next

Wine and Cheese Tasting

at 27-28 Bridge Street
is on
Wednesday 1st February 2012

*Tickets will be available from the U3AC Office on
Tuesday 3 January*

U3AC Summer Holiday Programme

If you would be willing to lead a course/lecture/event over the summer holiday, please contact the Office. We will collate the information and prepare a summer holiday programme to be sent out with the next newsletter.

Discounts to Members

The following shops offer special discounts to members. Membership cards must be shown in order to obtain any discount. Please refer to the U3AC website for each shops specific terms.

Shop	Discount
Bellina Chocolate House	10%
Brasserie Gerard	10%
Bridge Cycles	10%
Bridges Patisserie	10%
Café Rouge	10%
Cambridge Lock & Safe Ltd	10%
Cambridge University Press Bookshop	20%
Cambridge Wine Merchants	10%
Hobbs Sports	10%
Miller's Music Centre & Ken Steven's Music & Instruments	10%
Neal's Yard Remedies	10%
Open Air	10%
The Cambridge Cheese Company	10%
The Sewing Centre Ltd	5%
Tindalls Art & Craft Materials	10%

Deaths

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of:

*Anne Gleave in March
Johanna Roesler in April
Wilfred Corlett in September
Pat Cahn in October
Patricia Lowe in October
Aileen Macpherson in October
Tony O'Dowd in October
Helen Heath in November*

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 form 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 that members 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

Thursday 5 January

Leonardo da Vinci at the National Gallery

The closing date for this event has now passed and applications are no longer being taken.

Organiser: Clem Messenger

Sunday 22 January

Sunday morning coffee concert at the Wigmore Hall by the Nash Ensemble – programme includes Mozart, Mendelssohn and Brahms, followed by a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Forms now available, closing date for applications 10th January

Organiser: Ethel Bentley

Saturday 18 February

Matinée performance of Matthew Bourne's 'Nutcracker' – hailed as one of the most popular dance productions ever staged in the UK – at Milton Keynes Theatre.

Forms now available, closing date for applications 18th January

Organiser: Clem Messenger

Thursday 26 April

London 'Legal Walk' – led by a London blue badge guide.

Forms will be available from 24th February

Organiser: Clem Messenger

- 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 Chris Jones and the Vice Chairman is Ethel Bentley.
- 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 FILM GROUP SPRING PROGRAMME 2012

Continuing this years' series of outstanding films from the repertoire of world cinema, this term, we will present two historic classics, one from Germany by G.W. Pabst and the other from Italy by Luchino Visconti. In addition we include two of the best films by one of the major icons of film history, Humphrey Bogart. The talents of Woody Allen, Terence Rattigan, Aamir Khan, Louis Malle are some of the treats included in the rest of the programme. Screenings every Tuesday during term, normally commencing at 2pm, except where notified otherwise.

Jan 10 **A SEPARATION**

Dir: Asghar Farhadi Iran 2011 (125min)

The Iranian writer/director Asghar Farhadi presents us with a complex and fascinating drama in this story of a couple whose marriage is put under pressure by a network of personal and social faultlines. *A Separation* is a portrait of a fractured relationship and an examination of theocracy, domestic rule, and the politics of sex and class in Iran; a compelling and revealing film that doesn't flinch from confronting the burdens of its young middle-class family.

Jan 17 **IN A LONELY PLACE**

Dir: Nicholas Ray USA 1950 (95mins)

In the first of our Humphrey Bogart films the actor plays Dixon Steele, a cynical screenwriter suspected of murder. Gloria Grahame co-stars as Laurel Gray, a neighbour who falls under his spell. Beyond its surface story of murder and confused identity the film is a dark comment on Hollywood mores and the pitfalls of celebrity and near-celebrity. Although not as well known as his other work it is now being seen as one of Nicholas Ray's key films that shows Bogart at his best; smooth, wisecracking but threatening.

Jan 24 **MIDNIGHT IN PARIS**

Dir: Woody Allen USA 2011 (95mins)

Woody Allen's 41's film is a gloriously entertaining romantic comedy, touching fantasy set among three epochs of the Parisian artistic milieu and pursuing some of Woody Allen's favourite themes but with sufficient asperity to give a sting to the nostalgia it embraces. The joy of the music of Bechet and Reinhardt that fills the sound track, the beauty of the city, romantic nostalgia and humour of the world of art and artists are portrayed for the sheer pleasure both of the director himself and his audience.

Jan 31 **PRETTY BABY**



Dir: Louis Malle 1978 USA (105mins)

With glowing cinematography, by the great Sven Nykvist (famed for his many collaborations with Ingmar Bergman), Louis Malle brilliantly recreates the world of Storyville - New Orleans, during the last months of legal prostitution in that infamous red-light district where jazz was born. It is 1917, Nell's bawdy house in New Orleans is home to a dozen prostitutes, several employees and various children. Hattie gives birth to a son while daughter Violet looks on; the business transacted in the house is part of Violet's normal childhood experience. Art photographer Bellocq starts taking pictures of the women, honest art studies, whilst avoiding sexual contact with them.

Feb 7 **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**

Dir: GW Pabst 1931 Germany (112mins)

Set in a shadowy, dreamlike Victorian Soho, Brecht's biting social satire and Kurt Weill's compelling music tell the story of Mack the Knife and Polly Peachum. G.W.Pabst, Germany's foremost director of the 1930s, magnificently captures the world of the street singer, Ernst Busch and the cynicism of the era; his filming of his songs falling on deaf ears precisely captures the fascination of the Germans with the hypocrisy and corruption of the British. The hard-biting cynicism of governments, crooks, the bourgeoisie, misanthropy, and corruption is as stingingly appropriate today as it was in 1931. The leads are well cast and well executed as gangster Mack the Knife and his bride don't care whose feathers they ruffle. However, both take a backseat to Lotte Lenya's unforgettable portrayal of Pirate Jenny.

 	ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE £27.50 Every Tuesday at 2pm Term starts 9 January and concludes 13 March MEMBERSHIP TO ACT AS TICKET PLANNED POST SCREENING DISCUSSIONS USE OF THE ARTS PICTURE HOUSE CAFÉ-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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Feb 14 LIKE STARS ON EARTH

Dir: Aamir Khan India 2007 (138 mins)

**** NOTE STARTING TIME at 1pm**

Ishaan Awasthi is an eight-year-old whose world is filled with wonders that no one else seems to appreciate; colours, fish, dogs and kites are just not important in the world of adults, who are much more interested in things like homework, marks and neatness. And Ishaan just cannot seem to get anything right in class. When he gets into far more trouble than his parents can handle, he is packed off to a boarding school to 'be disciplined'.

Feb 21 TOTO LE HEROS

Dir: Jaco van Dormael Belgium 1991 (91 mins)

Van Dormael's film is based on his belief that 'we become what we never thought we would become, and we end in a way we never thought we would end. Two babies are rescued from fire in their nursery; the one rich, the other not. The one conceives the idea that they had been switched at birth, and he can't help seeing that his unhappiness should be other's. So, as his life is ending, he formulates a plan of revenge. Even as it pokes absurdity and meaninglessness in your face, *Toto Le Heros* offers plenty of reasons to live.

Feb 28 LA TERRA TREMA

Dir: Luchino Visconti Italy 1948 (152mins)

**** NOTE STARTING TIME 1pm**

As well as being an acknowledged theatrical and operatic director in post war Italy, Visconti was also one of the fathers of neo realism in Italian cinema. *La Terra Trema*, his second feature film represents that period; commissioned by the Communist Party and using many non professional actors, the film recaptures a world that has long since ceased to exist in a story that takes place in Aci Trezza, a small fishing village on the east coast of Sicily. It tells about the exploitation of working-class fishermen, specifically that of the eldest son of a very traditional village family, the Valastros.

Mar 6 THE BIG SLEEP

Dir: Howard Hawks USA 1946 (115mins)

The second of our Humphrey Bogart films is one of the most entertaining private eye films made in the immediate post war era. Adapted by William Faulkner and Leigh Brackett from Raymond Chandler's novel *The Big Sleep* is a film of infinite interest. Bogart plays Philip Marlowe, called upon to investigate a case of blackmail. It's a long and winding trail of murder, gambling, and deceit that he follows. Much of the action takes place without dialogue, which is used sparingly but effectively. Performances all round are excellent although the smouldering chemistry between Bogart and Lauren Bacall dominates the film.

Mar 13 SEPARATE TABLES

Dir: Delbert Mann USA 1958 (100mins)

Featuring a stellar cast including Rita Hayworth, Deborah Kerr, Burt Lancaster and David Niven this film adaptation of two short plays by Terence Rattigan was highly thought of when released in the 1950s. It observes the lives of several residents at a seaside hotel where the guests have their meals at separate tables. It's the off-season at the lonely Beauregard Hotel in Bournemouth, and only the long-term tenants are still in residence. Its scenario and the performance of Burt Lancaster gained special mention when it was nominated for Best Film at the Hollywood Oscars of 1958.

The Norah Boyce Science Lectures -2012

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

There will be three lectures in the Spring term, and two in the Summer Term.

The Institute of Astronomy is up 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.

Spring Term

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|---------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 17 January | Life's future in the universe
Professor Martin Rees, FRS (Lord Rees of Ludlow) |
| Tuesday 7 February | Letting off pressure – as simple as ABC
Professor Morris Brown, MD, FRCP |
| Tuesday 6 March | All power is theft
Dr Richard McMahon |

Summer Term

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|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 24 April | Can study of the history of science explode myths?
Professor Martin Johnson, PhD, FRCOG |
| Tuesday 15 May | The wonder of wheels
Dr Chris Burgoyne |

WEDNESDAY LECTURES

SPRING TERM 2012

This series of weekly lectures will take place in
Room 3 of the University Lecture Rooms at 8 Mill Lane, starting at 2.15 pm.

Please note the lectures are for U3AC members only, guests can no longer be
accommodated. Current membership cards must be shown on entry.

- 11 January** ***Cambridgeppf's work in and around Cambridge***
Carolin Göhler, CEO of local environment charity Cambridge
Past, Present and Future
- 18 January** ***Searching the genome for malaria's Achilles' heel***
Dr Julian Rayner and Dr Steve Scott, Wellcome Trust Sanger
Institute
- 25 January** ***Lives in Fragments***
Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Dr Amir Ashur and Dr Gabriele
Ferrario, Research Associates at the T-S Genizah Research
Unit, University of Cambridge
- 1 February** ***Violins***
Nigel Brown OBE, violin enthusiast and founder of The Stradivari
Trust
- 8 February** ***'Memory at War' in Eastern Europe: the past that doesn't
pass. (www.memoryatwar.org)***
Judy Brown, Memory at War Project, Department of Slavonic
Studies, University of Cambridge
- 15 February** ***Energy policy: how much it costs you and what you get for
your money***
Michael Pollitt, Reader in Business Economics, Judge Business
School, University of Cambridge
- 22 February** ***The Cosmos and your Place in it***
Carolin Crawford, Gresham Professor of Astronomy and
Outreach Officer, Institute of Astronomy
- 29 February** ***Philip Larkin: Funny Man***
John White, Emeritus Reader in American History at the
University of Hull and Jazz, Consultant to the Philip Larkin
Society
- 7 March** ***Spencer Perceval: Should he be remembered for more than
his murder?***
Hugh Gault, local writer and historian
- 14 March** **No Lecture - AGM**

The Council of U3AC Needs You

At this time in the year our thoughts turn towards the AGM and the election of new members of Council. Next year (2012) there will be 7 vacancies and we aim to fill them all. An election is held at the AGM in the event that there are more candidates than vacancies.

Members of Council (who are also trustees of the charity) serve for a term of 3 years. U3AC's Officers are nominated from within Council and also serve for 3 years, though if necessary this may be extended.



No special skills are required, just commitment and enthusiasm and a wish to get involved with the running of U3AC.

That said, we will need a new treasurer from 2012 and such person ought ideally to have come onto the Council in 2012. He/she would not need to have professional accountancy qualifications; but an understanding of business finance and experience in setting budgets for a small to medium sized organisation would be very desirable.

We are also looking for someone with a background in publicity who could help us promote U3AC effectively.

If you would or think you might like to get involved at this level please make yourself known to the Chairman, Vice Chairman or any other member of Council or to the Office and we will be very happy to talk through with you what membership of Council involves and how best you might make a contribution to its work.

We look forward to hearing from you.

U3AC Council

FEEDBACK ON COURSES

It would be useful if members could give feedback on the courses that they have attended. Please complete and return to the Office.

Course code and title:

Tutor name:

Venue:

Do you feel the course description in the Programme of Studies was accurate? YES / NO

Did you learn the knowledge or skills you intended from attending this course? YES / NO

Would you recommend this course to another member? YES / NO

Did the tutor arrive in good time to start the class each session? YES / NO

If an additional fee was payable, do you feel this was good value for money? YES / NO

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
How do you rate the course venue?				
How do you rate the quality of teaching?				
How do you rate any handouts provided by the tutor?				
How do you rate the quality of any audio-visual equipment used?				

Additional comments relevant to this course

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Suggestions for improvement

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NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

At the AGM on Wednesday 14 March 2012 the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and new Council members will be elected.

The Chairman, Chris Jones is standing down and the Administrator, Clem Messenger is retiring.

Alan Findlay, Alan Winfield, and John House having served 3 years are not eligible for re-election as ordinary members of Council.

Because members may not be re-elected for two years after serving on the Council, the following are not eligible as ordinary members of Council this year: Bill Block, Sheila Harrison, Bob Pryor and Brian Wallis.

Charles Bonney, Jeremy Clare, Carlos de La Riva, Nicholas Herbert, John House, Margaret Juett, Bill Peters, Delia Suffling, Marjorie Sutcliffe, David Waldman and Peter Woodsford are currently members of the Council.

Nominations are sought for Chairman, Vice Chairman and up to 7 new members of Council. Nominations must be made by two members of U3AC and must have the signature of the nominee to indicate his/her consent. Nominees are asked to send a photograph of themselves along with a short statement summarising their involvement with U3AC activities. This should include their length of membership and any other information deemed of relevance to their candidature, and be sent to the Secretary by 10 February 2012. An election by ballot will take place at the AGM if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled.

NOMINEE	PROPOSER <i>(please print)</i>	SECONDER <i>(please print)</i>	NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE
FOR CHAIRMAN:			
FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN:			
FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:			

COUNCIL OFFICERS

The Officers (i.e. Directors of Studies, Treasurer, Administrator, Secretary) are by the constitution nominated by the Council for the approval of the AGM and their names will be included with the AGM papers.

Return this form to:

The Secretary, U3AC, 27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UJ **by Friday 10 February 2012.**