

June - August 2014 Newsletter

A Message from the Chairman

And so we begin our 34th year at U3AC. The Programme for 2014/15 which accompanies this newsletter offers a record number of courses (330 in all). Thanks to all those who have offered to lead classes whether as tutor or organiser or co-ordinator. In addition there is a Summer programme of some 60 classes, a little fewer than last year but the range of subjects is impressive and they are 'selling out' fast. We still have room to accommodate extra classes (music anyone?). There will also be a talk by Amy Wallhead from Hewitsons about wills, powers of attorney and advance decisions (formerly known as living wills). These are complicated matters and we are grateful to Amy for agreeing to share her expertise with us again. Tutors have received their invitations to the Summer party at Scotsdales on 26th June at tea-time and many will be coming along.

We are holding another Open Day on 19th July organised as previously by Peter Woodsford, preparations for which are well under way. We are also preparing a new leaflet with which to draw in prospective members. A modest increase in membership would make our Treasurer very happy.

At Bridge Street we have now installed a hearing loop and this is working well.

On 18th October there is a concert at West Road to be given by the City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra with which we have been invited to be associated. We get some welcome publicity in the concert programme **and** get to keep 50% of ticket sales at Bridge Street. The music will be by Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Rimsky-Korsakov and the première of a specially commissioned (by the orchestra) work from Chris Roe. It should be a wonderful evening and I hope you will give it great support. Details of when tickets go on sale will be carried in the Weekly Bulletin.

There will hopefully be more to report in the next newsletter if not before on the forthcoming rent review and on our progress towards compiling a research database. That is unfinished business for Council. Carol, Jane and Gemma have worked like Trojans in the Office to pull the programme together. Their next task will be to identify replacement venues for our Wednesday and maybe the Norah Boyce lectures. The university has accepted our bookings for Mill Lane for the next academic year but redevelopment of the site is likely within the following 12 months and we need to be forearmed. At the moment our continued use of the Institute of Astronomy is in some doubt.

Thank you all for your continued support. With best wishes for an enjoyable Summer and commiserations to fellow hay fever sufferers!

Charles Bonney

Please note: The U3AC premises will be closed on Monday 7 July due to the Tour de France passing through Cambridge. Further details of Le Tour are on page 3.

U3AC Term Dates 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

HIS 35: Oliver Cromwell: Hero or Villain/ Life & Times

Tutor: Robert Milsom

Day & time: Monday 4.25 – 5.25

Venue: U3AC, Room 2

Number of places: 18

Length of course: 1 term

Start date: 6 October

Oliver Cromwell is unique in British history. By birth a gentleman (his words) he became an MP, a general in the Parliamentary army and eventually the de facto ruler of the three kingdoms. He is the dominant figure in the Civil War which broke out in 1642 as King Charles 1st failed to come to terms with the political demands and religious affiliations of half his subjects. The origins of that war lie in the long drawn out process of the Reformation which entangles religious and political issues as the country moved with many a twist and turn away from Catholicism to Protestantism. Against that background Cromwell threw himself into the Parliamentary cause. Despite having no military background he led armies and is arguably our greatest general. Once the Royalists were defeated in the field negotiations on a new settlement broke down leading to the execution of the king. The Royalist continued to contest the battlefield but their further defeat resulted in constitutional experiments with Cromwell becoming Lord Protector till his death in 1658, king in all but name.

In the course we will discuss the broad sweep of the Reformation, Cromwell's family, the cultural background of the monarchy, the civil war itself and Cromwell's search for a settlement. There

can be a trip to the Huntingdon Cromwell Museum.

CUR 08: Current Affairs Discussion Group

Leaders: Angela Donnelly & Alison Littlefair

Day & time: Thursday 12.30 – 1.30

Venue: U3AC, Room 2

Number of places: 18

Length of course: 3 terms

Start date: 9 October

Each week we discuss the news - national and international. We also from time to time discuss major current affairs issues, sometimes asking a member of the group to introduce a discussion. We encourage all members to contribute to the group's discussion, drawing on their own experience.

Cancelled Courses

Due to circumstances beyond our control we regret that the following courses are cancelled:

LIT 17: Ibsen and Chekhov

LIT 21: Modern European Theatre

Courses - general

Summer Holiday Programme of Courses

Details of courses available to members during the summer holiday period: 30th June to 26th September are available now. A paper programme is available to collect from the Office, a downloadable programme is available from the website or members can request a copy to be emailed to them.

U3AC Debating Society

One of the innovations in the past year's U3AC programme has been the U3AC Debating Society, which meets at Castle Street Methodist Hall on the third Monday of every month during term time. Its aim is to debate both serious and light-hearted subjects, using the well-established debate format so that all sides of an argument can be heard.

Topics covered so far include the idea that on maturity, children should have some responsibility for their parents; that Christmas should be abolished; that we should do more to end world poverty, and that U3A members should embrace IT and social media. Our most recent event was a lively balloon debate, when speakers took on the persona of one of six famous people who were trapped in a hot air balloon that was losing height. They had to justify why they should stay in the balloon and be saved while others were thrown out.

We've had good attendance at our debates so far, with many people joining in the debates with comments from the floor, and the impression we've gained is that people have enjoyed them. However, we've had to cancel two debates at short notice because of a lack of speakers. To prevent this happening again we want to encourage more people to come forward to propose or oppose motions or to be seconders. We also need a few people to join a small committee which meets once a month to plan the debates.

Some U3A members are understandably a little reticent about proposing or seconding motions if they have not done this before, but it has been noticeable that most of the people who have attended the debates have been happy to speak from the floor. We hope that more people will take the plunge and come forward as speakers. They will be given plenty of time to prepare their speeches, which are no more than five or ten minutes at most, and we can offer help in preparing them. It is perfectly acceptable to read a speech rather than work from notes if that is easier.

For more information about the Debating Society, please email the organiser, Richard Peoples via the Office.

Book swap

There is a free Book Swap in the coffee area at our Bridge Street premises for all members to use. It has a mix of novels, biography and factual books in paperback and hardback. Simply bring along a book and swap it for something else on the shelves. You can then keep the new book, or bring it back and swap it again. Nothing larger than A4, and in reasonably good condition, please. The stock turns over regularly - the more it is used, the more choice there is.

Tour de France

“Le Tour”

The world's biggest annual sports event comes to Cambridge on Monday 7 July.

The U3AC premises will close on this day.

There will be many road closures and major changes to public transport.

There are many useful sites to get information, and it will be VERY busy so you need to plan ahead.

The race starts at Parkers Piece at 12 noon. There will be a big screen there showing the race all the way to London.

www.letourcambridge.com for local information. www/letour.yorkshire.com/spectator-guide for a comprehensive spectator guide to the whole race.

Administrative Information

Annual Subscription – a reminder

The annual subscription of £69 is **the fee to become a member of the organisation; it is not a payment for courses.** Membership entitles you to apply for up to 6 courses, attend the Wednesday lectures and Norah Boyce science lectures (space permitting) and the opportunity to apply for various visits that are arranged throughout the year.

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

Additional Fees for Courses

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

Closing date for Applications/Allocations to Courses

We would like to receive your application for courses by 1 August. A letter giving details of which courses you have been allocated will be sent out with your membership card and newsletter at the end of August. This newsletter will include the list of Wednesday Lectures, Norah Boyce Science Lectures and the Autumn term programme for the Film Group.

Email addresses

Please ensure you inform the Office when you change your email address. We use this method to contact you about your courses and we are getting several emails bouncing back from closed accounts. Thank you.

Disability Assistance

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

Members should be aware that no staff are present on Saturdays to assist with evacuation in the event of an emergency.

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. If we do not have a record of your telephone number there will be a question mark on your personalised application form. Please fill in your telephone details as we occasionally have to make contact with last minute cancellations or alterations.

Personal Details

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

Copy for next Newsletter

Articles/information that members would like to be published in the next newsletter should be received by the Office no later than **Monday 11 August 2014.**

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Alan Carlton Smith
Richard Bennett
Jim Allum
Biddy Marrian
Paul Jennings
Richard Amos*

Research

Do you have a special interest that you would like to look into more deeply? Don't be put off by the term "research" as there is plenty of help to get you started in a small way. You need no special academic background, just curiosity and enthusiasm, something many of you have in spades.

We aim to form a Research Advisory Panel of experienced researchers so that you could start by having a one-to-one meeting with someone who will listen to your proposal and help you to shape your ideas in a way that would make an investigation both feasible and enjoyable. Further help can also be provided along the way should you need it.

It might be your choice to pursue a project on your own, but it is often more stimulating to work as a group, and there are bound to be other members who would be happy to work with you. If you like the idea of taking part in such an activity but do not want to initiate one yourself, you can volunteer to join an existing group.

In time, the Research Group hopes to suggest a list of possible research areas. We will ask tutors if questions have arisen from their classes that could form the basis of further enquiry, either to extend their course, or because class members have come up with questions that they would like to investigate further.

During the summer, there will be three classes on basic research tools "Understanding Surveys: What you need to know"; "Using the Internet for Research"; "Make the most out of your online library services". Please see the Summer Programme for details; booking for each class should be made separately.

We will give you all the help we can, however the Council has made it clear that it cannot provide any funding.

See the website www.u3ac.org.uk for projects that are already under way.

Beth Morgan (Research Co-ordinator), Carlos de la Riva

Research Advisory Panel

The Research Group are looking for people with research experience who would be prepared to offer *occasional* help to members wishing to run their own projects. If you volunteered you might be asked to listen sympathetically to new proposals, or maybe to give some advice on established projects.

To join the panel, please send us your name, discipline and the number of hours you could offer (1 to 10) in a year.

We are also looking for suggestions for investigations (perhaps for short pilot studies that could highlight promising areas for study), that could be undertaken with little or no experience of research activity, and with no funding.

If you are willing to help, or have suggestions, please contact:
Beth Morgan (Research Co-ordinator) or Carlos de la Riva.

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 £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

Tuesday 16 September 2014

Cambridge Modern Sculpture Trail Walk

Organiser: Janet Rallison

Cost: None. Application forms available 14 July

Monday 6 October 2014

Houses of Parliament

Further details to follow

Organiser: Margaret Shaw

Thursday 20 November 2014

"Living Crafts for Christmas" at Blenheim Palace

Includes entry to Palace, Park and Gardens

Organisers: Monica Williams and Ann Jessett

Cost: £25. Forms available 6 October

Sunday 1 February 2015

Wigmore Hall

Sunday Coffee Concert: Nash Ensemble

Organisers: Clem Messenger and Margaret Shaw

Cost £26. Application forms available October

Thursday 19 February 2015

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands at Milton Keynes Theatre

Organisers: Clem Messenger and Gill Hodge

Cost £41. Application forms available October

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.