

December 2013 Newsletter

A message from the Chairman

At the beginning of term we were eagerly anticipating Rowan Williams' talk. He did not disappoint! Unfortunately, at the same time we were in the middle of the Great Lift Fiasco which inconvenienced many members for far too long. Otis have put their hands up and admitted to a complete failure on their part to manage the work properly from the outset. They have promised, but we still await, formal written apologies (to U3AC and separately to our much put upon staff) which we will publish when they are received. Some modest financial compensation, probably in the form of a reduction in future servicing costs, is also anticipated.

In October I was invited to a seminar on 'The Anxiety of Age'. The upbeat message from the speakers was, in summary, that medical and other sciences are keeping well abreast of our tendency to live longer and longer. Attendees left feeling quite optimistic - enhanced by the quality of the wines from Pembroke's cellar which accompanied the evening's dinner! I also had the pleasure of meeting the chair of the Third Age Trust, Barbara Lewis, who would, of course, like us to rejoin though it would now cost us around £10K to do! So, we won't!

The initial response to my recent appeal for more volunteers has been most encouraging. Thank you and please keep the ideas coming. This year's programme of courses is one of the best yet - especial thanks to Louisa for fitting it all into available spaces and time-slots, no simple exercise this! I would also like to give a special mention to three of our most longstanding tutors, Dr Ron Gray, Dr Victor Whittaker and Eric Southern, all of whom are well into their nineties but remain as enthusiastic as ever, and to Beryl McKechnie and Elizabeth Walser who are standing down from the Music Club at the end of next term after 17 wonderful years. We wish Ann and David Waldman every success when they take over.

One of the recent developments has been the Debating Society. This has got off to a promising start albeit on a small scale. It deserves your support. We might never be able to rival the Cambridge Union, but with our intelligent, opinionated and eloquent membership it really ought to become a fixture in our programme.

As you know, we put in a submission to the Competition Commission opposing any forced sale of the Arts Picturehouse. It fell on deaf ears as did the many other submissions. Absolutely nobody outside the Commission has yet been reported as having anything to say in defence of the Commission's determination but, whereas in the past a minister prepared to acknowledge the weight of (informed) public opinion might have been able to 'call in' the decision and overturn it, now the only recourse is to seek judicial review. So, we wait upon such legal developments with fingers crossed.

We send our condolences to Nick Coni on the recent death of his wife Sally and our good wishes to John Hunter for a successful recovery from his latest surgery.

With every good wish for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Charles Bonney

Christmas and New Year closing

Please note that the U3AC Office will close at 2 pm on Friday 20 December and reopen at 10 am on Thursday 2 January 2014. We wish all our members a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year

U3AC Term Dates

Spring: Monday 13 January – Friday 21 March 2014

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

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

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Courses sub-committee

Members may recall that during recent academic years, the Courses Sub-Committee has been focused on achieving cost effective delivery of U3AC's courses programme. Within the guidelines recommended by the committee, Office staff successfully negotiated variations in the courses on offer, including changes of venue and increases in some class sizes. In a small number of cases these increases proved controversial and although in most cases the issues were eventually resolved, there was one instance when no agreement could be reached and the course was cancelled. The sub-committee very much regrets the disappointment caused to those members who had signed up to the class and every effort will be made to re-instate the class next year if we are able to recruit a member to lead the group.

A number of classes have been oversubscribed due to their popularity, and U3AC would be interested to receive offers from members willing to run additional courses in history, art appreciation, Spanish and French for beginners. The more esoteric language courses are also popular such as Arabic, Hindi, Russian and Welsh. If there are other areas of study of interest to members not included in the Course Programme the committee would be pleased to receive suggestions.

Otherwise the new academic year has started with a buzz and already the autumn term is at an end. The committee wishes you all compliments of the season.

Marion Stewart
Director of Studies (Courses)

New courses – please enrol with the Office

CHN 01: Mandarin Beginners

Tutor: Lulu Liu

Day and time: Friday 3.10 – 4.10

Venue: U3AC Room 4

Length of course: 2 terms (spring & summer)

Number of places: 12

Start date: 17 January 2014

This course is for complete beginners offering the opportunity to learn Chinese Mandarin using the Pinyin system.

No particular aptitude for languages is necessary just an interest in learning.

Coursebook: Published by Cypress Books - *Chinese in Steps*, ISBN 0781 845 70027

MUS 18: World Routes (summer term)

Tutor: Colin Whitworth

Day and time: Tuesday 1.30 – 2.30

Venue: U3AC Room 1

Length of course: 1 term

Number of places: 40

Start date: 22 April

Each week, a musical guide will take us to a different part of the globe, play recordings and tell us about the music of the region, past and present.

It's an informative and entertaining tour of World Music rather than a course - for the novice or the knowledgeable. Do join us for a musical holiday. (Passports not needed).

Courses - General

Swimming for exercise and pleasure

Swimming takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year at Leys School Pool on Fen Causeway. There are vacancies in both groups. A fee of £96 is payable for the remainder of this academic year, payable in instalments of 3 post-dated cheques.

If your New Year resolution is to keep fit and active and you think you might like to join us for a weekly swim please contact the Office to enrol.

U3AC Summer Holiday Programme

If you would be willing to lead a course/lecture/event over the summer, (between July and September) please contact the Office. We will collate the information and prepare a summer holiday programme which will be available nearer the time.

Administrative Information

Non-attendance

If for any reason you are unable to attend the first week of your class please inform the tutor or the Office **before** term starts. Due to many classes having a long waiting list and in fairness to other members, if we do not hear from you we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

Communicating with Members

In order to maintain low administrative costs and reduce paperwork, where possible the Office will communicate with members via email. This may include notification of a change to their course, a cancellation or course material. It is therefore important that the Office is informed should you change your email address or no longer have this facility.

Mailings

We make savings in postage by combining husband/wife mailings in one envelope. If, however, members would like future mailings sent separately please inform the Office.

Change of members' contact details

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

Council Minutes

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

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.

Evacuation from U3AC premises

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

Copy for next Newsletter

Articles/information that members would like to be published in the spring newsletter should be received by the Office no later than **Monday 10 March 2014**.

Office Volunteers

In the New Year we will be requiring additional permanent reception volunteers and a reserve team to cover unscheduled/scheduled absences. If you are interested in these roles please contact the Office.

Next Council Meeting

Friday 7 February 2014

Social

New year drinks – Thursday 9th January 2014

Application forms are now available from the Office for this annual event held in the David Rayner Building at Scotsdale's Garden Centre. Places are limited so early applications are advisable.

Wine tasting

The next wine tasting evening will take place on Wednesday 12th February. The date has been chosen to ensure that all those who stop drinking in January (after their Christmas excesses!) and all those who want to forego alcohol for lent can participate. Our chosen theme is wines from Australia.

Tickets cost £8 and will be available from the Office circa 3 weeks beforehand. There is an additional charge of 50 pence on the evening for bread, table cloths, etc. I hope to see 20 of you there.

Monika Pruetzel-Thomas

General

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.

Exhibitions

If any U3AC groups or individuals would like to hold an exhibition of their work at the U3AC, please contact the Office to reserve a 3-week slot. If you are looking to sell your work through the exhibition the U3AC would appreciate a donation from your profits.

Discounts to members

Discounts in local restaurants and businesses have been negotiated for U3AC members and a list is available from the U3AC premises or on our website.

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.

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Sally Coni

Mimin Falkner

Clive Gillott

Jack Robertson (previously co-ordinator of Crossword Group)

Tessa Reed

Betty Robinson

Course News

Strong start for new debating society

All U3AC members can now take part in lively monthly debates on a wide range of subjects following the successful launch of the U3AC Debating Society. The Society held its first debate on Monday 18th November at Castle Street Methodist Hall, when the motion was 'This House believes that children, on reaching maturity, should be legally responsible for their parents.'

A Christmas debate was held on Monday 16th December, with the seasonal motion 'This House believes that Christmas should be abolished and replaced by a ceremony for everyone.' There will be a debate on the third Monday of every month in the New Year at Castle Street from 2.00 - 3.30 pm.

The Society's first debate clearly touched a nerve with U3AC members as it produced a lively discussion, with strong arguments on both sides from the four main speakers and a number of thoughtful contributions from members of the audience. A vote was taken before and after the debate and the motion was narrowly defeated, with some audience members being persuaded to change their mind.

One of the advantages of the debate format is that it gives both sides of an argument an equal chance to present their case, and the opportunity for the audience to take part if they wish or simply enjoy the cut and thrust. Not all U3AC members have experience of formal debating and some may be a little reluctant to put themselves forward, but the two speakers for and the two against each motion are encouraged to get together beforehand to discuss the points they are going to make and can, if they wish, read their speeches rather than work from notes. The speeches are limited to ten minutes for the proposer and five minutes for the seconder, and audience members can speak for up to a minute.

The Society hopes that members will take part in the debates, whether as speakers or audience members, and encourage other U3AC members to join in. They can also suggest topics for future debates, when we hope to cover serious topical issues as well as more light-hearted subjects.

For more information about the Society please contact the organiser Richard Peoples.

U3AC Trip to Florence 5 - 9 November

On Tuesday 5th November a party of 22 U3AC members from the Italian Cities class flew from Stansted to Pisa led by Alan Winfield. On arrival at Pisa we took the train to Florence where we quickly settled into the Hotel San Giorgio which was close to the station. A quick stroll before dinner in a local restaurant introduced us to some of the delights of Florence, in particular the floodlit exterior of the beautiful Duomo.

On the first full day we started our tour by visiting the Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella which contains some of the city's famous works of art including Masaccio's Trinity, an early renaissance masterpiece of perspective. Many famous frescos are also in this church. After a refreshing morning coffee Italian style we moved on to visit the Duomo, this time in daylight. A truly stunning façade of white, green and red marble. Inside we viewed the magnificent fresco of Giorgio Vasari on the inside of the dome. From there we moved on to the votive church of Orsanmichele, converted from a grain market in thanks for deliverance from the plague of 1348. Inside was a tabernacle designed by Andrea Orcagna to house the Virgin and Child by Bernardo Daddi. A truly magnificent piece of work. By now it was time for lunch at the HOT POT.

After lunch it was down to the Piazza della Signoria to view an assortment of various statues including a very good full-size copy of Michelangelo's David (the original one is in the Galleria dell' Accademia), and to hear the story of the bonfire of vanities. From here we moved on to the church of Santa Croce holding the tombs of many famous Italians. (Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, Rossini, etc). Also on the site is the Pazzi Chapel, the first building designed by Brunelleschi who later worked out how to put the dome on the Duomo.

After an interesting and full day we returned to our hotel before going out for dinner in the evening.

The next day (Thursday) we took the coach to Siena, another very interesting walled city with its famous Campo where the annual Palio takes place. Again, another beautiful Duomo and a fascinating city full of character.

On the Friday the morning was spent in the famous Uffizi Gallery, followed by crossing the Ponte Vecchio to visit the Pitti Palace and a restful afternoon in the Boboli Gardens.

Even on our departure day we managed to squeeze in a visit to the enchanting walled city of Lucca before flying back to Stansted. All in all a very full trip to study for real many of the things we had talked about in our course.

Alan Winfield



U3A Climbing Group Autumn Term Report

In brief we are having fun. The Group met at the Big Rock Climbing Centre in Milton Keynes over 15 weeks from the 11 September to 19 December. We now number nine people, with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven attending. New members are enjoying it, progressing well and are surprised at what they are able to do.

We meet at the Madingley Park and Ride car park at around 10 am, car sharing to MK to arrive at 11 am, when Big Rock opens. We climb until 3 pm with lots of breaks for tea, coffee, lunch and cake. Climbing is graded from 3 (easy) to 7 (desperate). We climb from 3 but never at grade 7. Some of the group have been away on courses to learn to climb outside and further their climbing skills. As a group occasionally we climb in the hills, enjoying the space and freedom that steep rock can give. Three of us travelled to Sardinia in the spring to climb on the superb limestone there and we plan to climb in the south of France in autumn 2014.

We are having a pot luck Christmas Supper on 19 December for members and partners. A similar event last year was very popular. Ian Steen

Other organisations

Would you like to help the Government calculate inflation?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the Government Department responsible for producing the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), the most commonly used measure of inflation in the British economy. Collectors from TNS collect prices of goods and services for a wide range of the most commonly purchased items in over 140 locations across the United Kingdom, and the ONS compares how this change over time.

The Job

A vacancy has arisen for this interesting and important work in **Cambridge** and involves visiting a selection of shops for two **set** days every month - always Monday and Tuesday. A landline telephone is essential and use of a car preferable. No experience is necessary and full training will be given.

What to do next

If you are interested in working with us to collect this valuable information please contact us for an application form via:

- Email - cpirecruit@research-int.com
- Telephone : Contact a member of the CPI team on 020 7656 5432
- In Writing: The CPI Team, 6 More London Place, London, SE1 2QY.
- Closing date for applications: 31st December 2013.

Homebase

Members might like to know that over 60's are entitled to 10% discount on Tuesdays on completion of an application form available in-store or online <http://www.homebaseplus.co.uk/>

Homeshare

Carers Trust Cambridgeshire (Cambridgeshire Crossroads) plan to launch their own Homeshare scheme in 2013. The scheme will bring together individuals with space in their home and a wish for company with those seeking affordable accommodation within the greater Cambridge area. The idea behind Homeshare is not to provide care but a degree of companionship to older people living alone. It is envisaged that the home owner will be matched with a suitable live in adult, possibly a postgraduate or medical student for example and that some shared household activities may be offered in return for free accommodation. The scheme may appeal to those older people who wish to continue to live at home and within their community and also with the advantage of having someone close at hand.

Homeshare is an agreement between individuals; it is not a tenancy and will be managed by Carers Trust Cambridgeshire to ensure that participants are effectively matched and for the duration of the agreement.

If you would like to find out more about the proposed scheme or feel that it may be appropriate to your own circumstances please contact Adam Rowles at Carers Trust Cambridgeshire for further details at Crossroads Care Cambridgeshire on 0845 241 0954 or www.carerstrustcambridgeshire.org

Cambridge CAMTAD

From 1st January 2014 Cambridge CAMTAD (Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness) is changing its name to Cambridgeshire Hearing Help. There will be no change to our services.

We now run hearing help sessions in 42 venues in Cambridgeshire. At these drop-in sessions volunteers offer advice on any aspects of hearing loss and maintain NHS hearing aids by distributing batteries, cleaning and "retubing" aids. There is also a service to housebound people and those living in residential care. It is not generally recognised that hearing aids need maintenance every 3 – 6 months when the small plastic tube that links the mould with the mechanical part needs to be replaced to maintain the quality of sound. By keeping hearing aids in good condition with routine maintenance available locally, hearing loss becomes a minor inconvenience not a major barrier to communication. This helps to keep people sociable and makes a significant contribution to their quality of life. We also offer a telephone advice service, talks, training and information on hearing help assistive technology.

From 1st January 2014 our website will be www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk and we can be contacted by e-mail on enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk. Our telephone number will remain the same 01223 416141. Until then please continue to use the website www.camtadcams.org.uk and e-mail admin@camtadcams.org.uk

Stapleford Granary

Recently, as part of our U3AC 'Your Cambridge Take 3' course we were very kindly hosted by staff at the newly refurbished Stapleford Granary. If you are interested in arts, music and culture you may like to see what they have on offer, it's a very exciting venture with a lot of potential for further development! The venue is owned and operated by the ACE Foundation, a Cambridge-based educational charity founded in 1958 with the object of encouraging and developing cultural understanding. The centre provides support for educational projects, courses and summer schools, both locally and internationally. It is located on Bury Road, Stapleford and you can pick up a link to their new brochure on their website www.staplefordgranary.org.uk. Take a look!

Carolyn Plant (Your Cambridge Take 3 Co-organiser)

Cambridgeshire Choral Society

The Cambridgeshire Choral Society is looking to welcome new singers, particularly tenor and bass, who would like to participate in its forthcoming concert in March 2014 when the work will be Brahms: *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

For information about the Society and details of rehearsal venues and dates, see <http://www.cambschoral.org.uk/> or contact Sue Allin11@btinternet.com

The next joint rehearsal is on Saturday 11 January at Comberton Village College

Cambridge and District Volunteer Centre - Your community needs you!

Have you some time that you would like to offer to help others? We have hundreds of volunteering opportunities available whatever your availability, interests and skills. In return our volunteers tell us that they get enormous satisfaction from making a real difference to people's lives, they learn new skills and meet interesting new people.

To find out more you can make an appointment to see us or drop in on a Thursday between 10 am and 1pm. Call us on 01223 356549 or email info@cam-volunteer.org.uk. More information can be found on www.cam-volunteer.org.uk. You can also log onto our database www.do-it.org.uk and see what volunteering opportunities there are. We are based at Llandaff Chambers, 2 Regent St, Cambridge CB2 1AX

If you are involved in an organisation and would like our help to recruit more volunteers or are interested in hearing about training to help manage your volunteers please let us know. Membership is free.

Myra

Myra needed to get out. She didn't particularly need to go anywhere but the house seemed so empty since Harold had died a year ago. Perhaps she should get a cat. They didn't need a lot of looking after and it would be something to talk to. She looked around the lounge. It was nothing fancy but all the furniture and the ornaments carried memories. They'd had to scrimp and save in the early days and buy everything second hand. Not like young people these days expecting everything new from the beginning. There was a photo in a nice frame on the sideboard of them with Carol when she was about eight. She had always liked it as it reminded her of that holiday on the Isle of Wight. The sun had shone all the week. She had put on a lot of weight at that time, but Harold never seemed to mind.

'You're my favourite fat girl' he'd always said.

She wasn't fat anymore. This last year living by herself had taken its toll. She was down to eight stone last time she'd looked. 'Buck up old girl' Harold used to say. Myra picked up her shopping bag and left.

At the cemetery, she saw a blue and yellow police car parked near the entrance. There was another one with more cars 100 yards away inside the cemetery. Something must have happened. Just then, a teenage girl stepped out from the entrance gate, stood looking across the road, then turned towards her. Her appearance was striking, with a pale face and a shock of red hair the colour of burnished copper. Myra had to step to one side to avoid a collision. Young people these days seemed so wrapped up in themselves. She had passed Myra without a sound and hadn't seemed to notice her. Probably on drugs she thought.

Arriving at the shopping precinct, she went to the post office, and bought some bread and other things at the mini market. Stepping outside she saw the girl again. She was standing on the other side of the street looking across at the shops. No one else seemed to have noticed her. Myra shivered. It was time to get back.

Closing the front door, she went into the lounge and sank into the armchair feeling exhausted. She didn't seem to have any energy these days and couldn't bring herself to eat much. Carol was obviously worried about her and had told her she must eat regularly and get a good night's sleep. Fat chance of that.

She was supposed to get out and meet people too. Carol had suggested the U3A but that was just for clever people and the choir was no good as she couldn't sing. She had tried going to the Women's Institute, but gave that up. She and Harold had never been sociable. They had each other and that had been enough. She hardly knew her neighbours.

It was already after six. She'd just see a bit of the local television news. Apparently, a girl had been brutally murdered in the local cemetery the night before. They showed a picture. It was that girl again with the red hair. It was a shock. Perhaps she had a twin sister. She felt herself shaking. She wanted to call Carol, but they were away.

Buck up old girl. Go and put the kettle on. There are still some chocolate biscuits in the tin.

She rose, picked up the shopping and felt so cold. Summoning up her energy, she tottered out to the kitchen. The girl was there, staring through the window. Myra screamed. Her legs gave way and she collapsed. A tin of peaches from the shopping bag rolled across the floor and stopped.

© David Thear 2013

U3AC Film Group Programme

Established in October 1999 with the much valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse management, the aim of the U3AC Film Group is to show a wide range of the best in both historic and contemporary world cinema from all nations, generations and genres. Our shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time and usually commence at 2.00pm other than when an epic or exceptionally lengthy film is shown. Members are most welcome to attend our post screen discussions, and to make suggestions for future showings.

SPRING PROGRAMME 2014

14 January The Godfather Part II Dir. Francis Ford Coppola USA 1974 (200 mins)
Coppola's sequel to 'The Godfather' matches and perhaps even surpasses that masterpiece which we showed at the start of last term. Robert De Niro takes over the Marlon Brando role of Vito Corleone as the narrative explores the early years of the man who would become one of the most powerful crime bosses in New York. This is a leisurely and masterful film representing its director at the very peak of his powers.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PERFORMANCE WILL COMMENCE AT 1.00 PM!



21 January The White Ribbon – A German Children's Story Dir Michael Haneke Austria/Fr/Ger/It (144 mins)
The director won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for this immaculate monochrome mystery set in the bucolic north German village of Eichwald on the eve of the Great War. The fates of a number of characters are explored, and the film gives a sense of the first buds of Nazism flourishing in the populace's unquestioning adherence to aristocratic authoritarianism and Protestant patriarchy. The ensemble performances are outstanding and the film has a distinctly gritty resonance.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PERFORMANCE MAY COMMENCE AT 1.00 PM!

28 January Before Sunrise Dir. Richard Linklater USA 1995 (96 mins)
When American slacker Ethan Hawke meets French student Julie Delpy on a train to Vienna, the romantic sparks fly and they spend one eventful night together in this exhilarating drama. The director's understated use of gorgeous Viennese backgrounds, coupled with a smart, funny and touching script, make this ultra-modern romance hip yet timeless.

4 February Woman of the Dunes Dir. Hiroshi Teshigahara Japan 1963 (127 mins)
Adapted by Kobo Abe from his own brilliant novel, this stark human condition parable was denounced by some critics for its "photographic neutrality". The film achieves a rich diversity of visual textures that adds to the sensual atmosphere of this intense drama in which entomologist, Eiji Okada finds himself trapped in the deep-dune home of social outcast, Kyoko Kishida. This film will make the viewer look at sand in a different way.

11 February Elizabeth Dir. Shekhar Kapur UK 1998 (123 mins)
This Elizabethan political thriller charting the turbulent life and times of the self-proclaimed "Virgin Queen" is given a vivid contemporary focus by its Indian director, Kapur. This sumptuous biography is a thoughtful and dramatic triumph with Australian actress Cate Blanchett revelatory as the strong-willed monarch who nimbly transforms from naïve girlhood to true majesty.

	FILM GROUP All inclusive cost £30.00 Tuesdays at 2 pm Starts 14 January and concludes 18 March APPLICATION FORM	
TITLE INITIALS.....		
SURNAME		
ADDRESS.....		
U3AC MEMBERSHIP NO:		
PAYMENT PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS		
Name on card		
VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Card Number		
Expiry Date		
Issue Number		
Start Date		
3 digit security code		
Please charge my card		
Signature		
Date.....		
Please make cheques payable to 'City Screen' (Cambridge) Ltd		
Please return this form to The Arts Picturehouse 38-39 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AR		
Please note - unless otherwise stated in the programme screenings are open to everyone		

18 February Aguirre, Wrath of God Dir. Werner Herzog W Germany 1972 (93 mins)
As the pious but ruthlessly ambitious invaders pursue their fantasies of riches and power in a South American venture, they soon fall prey not only to the Amazonian forests, rivers and Indians but to their own ludicrous delusions of recreating European society in an indifferent, wholly alien landscape. Herzog's account of the quest for El Dorado, now newly restored, is quite extraordinary with an equally extraordinary central performance from Klaus Kinski.
THIS FILM IS STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION

25 February Cabaret Dir. Bob Fosse USA 1972 (123 mins)
This is a tremendously effective and affecting adult version of Christopher Isherwood's Berlin memoirs. The film pulls no punches as it depicts the rise of Hitler and the spread of anti-Semitism through the twilight world of the Berlin cabaret. This 8 Oscar winning movie is full of great music and outstanding performances.

4 March The Magdalene Sisters Dir. Peter Mullan 2002 UK/Ire (119 mins)
Religious repression and moral hypocrisy are targeted by the writer/director Mullan in this bitter indictment of the Magdalene Asylums, convent laundries that were run like workhouses into which 'fallen women' were forced in order to cleanse their 'sins'. This strong tough film contains compelling performances from a young cast of unknowns.

11 March The Searchers Dir. John Ford 1956 USA (119 mins)
Like Monument Valley, where it was filmed, John Ford's masterpiece western of revenge and reconciliation is massive and unmissable. It touches the heart of racist darkness and cleanses itself in the process. As Shakespeare is to world literature so Ford is to American cinema. This is so much more than a Western, a gold standard and moving masterwork.

18 March Hamlet Dir. Laurence Olivier 1948 GB (155 mins)
Olivier directed himself in this astonishing Shakespeare adaptation of the great tragedy and the film took 4 Academy Awards. Desmond Dickinson's camerawork adds great mood and William Walton's music adds atmospheric lustre.
THIS FILM AND ITS START TIME ARE STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION

25 March The Gospel According to St Matthew Dir. Pier Paolo Pasolini 1964 Italy/Fr (142 mins)
Pasolini employs a neo-realist approach to reaffirm the immediate social significance of Christ's teaching. This collaboration between a Marxist director and the Catholic Church is remarkable not only for the power of its message but also for the gentle conviction of the actor playing Jesus as he rails against injustice and works miracles with compassion. This is regarded as one of the most relevant religious films ever made.

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

10 April	'Cats' at The Theatre Royal, Norwich Cost £40 Forms available next term Organisers: Ann Jessett and Janet Rallison
May tbc	Tour of St Pancras International Station Organisers: Hazel Harrison and Gill Hodge
June tbc	Bure Valley Railway and boat trip Organiser: Gill Hodge
July tbc	Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy Organiser: Monica Williams

4. Members are reminded that places on a visit can only be offered to a friend who is **not** a member if there is no waiting list for a trip. Arrangements must be made through one of the organisers.
5. Activities are publicised in Bridge Street and also at the Wednesday Lectures. The Chairman is Clem Messenger.
6. We shall use the **Trumpington** and **Madingley Road Park and Rides** regularly as our two pick up points, except on Sundays, when we shall also be using Bateman Street and Northampton Street.

The Norah Boyce Science Lectures

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

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

SPRING TERM 2014

21 January **Could feeling less anxious about climate change help us do more?**
Dr Rosie Robison

Rosie Robison is a Research Fellow at the Global Sustainability Institute (GSI), at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. Following a PhD in Applied Mathematics, and a fellowship at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, she became increasingly interested in how we use scientific or research-based knowledge to improve our everyday lives. Within the GSI, she works on questions regarding how our everyday consumption (from energy use to shopping) affects our short and long-term well-being, and how we might be able to make choices we are happier with.

In this interactive talk Rosie will explore some of the common anxieties we have about climate change and discuss whether they help us to move forward. Is invoking time pressure a spur to action or paralyzing? If we are worried about the future, for ourselves or for others, will we take preventative action or react defensively or aggressively towards others? If climate change really is something we should be concerned about, how can we manage those feelings in the most constructive way?

18 February **Heart of Darkness: Origin of Structure in the Universe**
Dr Simon Mitton

Dr Simon Mitton has held office in the bursarial team at St Edmund's College since 1973. Currently he is Second Bursar and Steward. He is Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society (founded 1820) and chairman of the library committee of the society. Simon is Director of Studies and a College Fellow of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science.

He has written a number of academic and popular science books on the history of astronomy. His recent publications include a biography of the British cosmologist Sir Fred Hoyle (1915 - 2001) published in 2011 by Cambridge University Press which has become the standard work on this important scientist. He is co-author of Heart of Darkness, a major book published in 2013 on the nature of the universe and the origin of structure, dark matter and dark energy.

Simon is active in speaking and lecturing to the general public. In 2011 he was a keynote speaker at the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival. He and his wife Dr Jacqueline Mitton are Royal Astronomical Society Guest Lecturers for Cunard. The International Astronomical Union designated asteroid 4027 as Minor Planet Mitton in honour of their extensive outreach activity.

Why is there something rather than nothing? Over the past thirty years, scientists have learned that two little-understood components – dark matter and dark energy – comprise most of the known cosmos, explain the growth of all cosmic structure, and hold the key to the universe's fate.

11 March **What do genes, medieval manuscripts and Persian carpets have in common?**
Prof Chris Howe

Professor Christopher Howe read Natural Sciences at Christ's College, Cambridge, and has remained at Cambridge since then. He is presently Professor of Plant and Microbial Biochemistry within the Department of Biochemistry, and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College. His research interests include the biochemistry of photosynthesis, and how it might be exploited for renewable energy production. He is also interested in the evolution of photosynthesis, and the wider application of evolutionary ideas, as presented here.

Genes evolve by a process of copying with the incorporation of changes – mutations. We can use shared patterns of changes in genes from different organisms to infer their evolutionary history. However, this process of inaccurate copying applies to many other things. For example, medieval manuscripts ‘evolved’ in a similar way to genes, as they were copied by scribes who introduced changes, and we have successfully used exactly the same computer programs for studying the copying history of texts, such as Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, that are used for studying DNA. The talk will describe these studies, and consider other objects whose history might be studied in the same way.

SUMMER TERM 2014

13 May 2014 **Title TBA**
Dr Alan Smith

Dr Smith is from the Dept. of Earth Sciences in Cambridge and will probably discuss mountain building in the earth’s crust.

20 May 2014 **Demystifying Cancer**
Dr Robin Hesketh

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

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

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

Thirty Years of U3AC Wednesday Lectures

As next term's programme, the last of my three year term, was put to bed, I finally got round to doing something I had planned to do since I took over the job and inherited files containing all the lectures since 1983 – I digitised them and the list is now available on the U3AC website (those from 2008 to the present have in fact been there for some time).

In total there are over 600 lectures, with at least the title and the lecturer recorded. The first lecture, on 12th January 1983, was given by Mary Berry on the subject of 'Gregorian Chant' followed three weeks later by the first Nobel Prize winner to address us – Max Perutz on 'Haemoglobin, the Breathing Molecule'. On 18th May, Professor Glyn Daniel became our first 'telly don' speaker. And so it goes on, a fascinating list of both topics and speakers. At a cursory examination, the most prolific seems to have been Professor Norman Pounds, who addressed us on no less than twelve occasions on topics ranging from 'The Year 1000' to 'Politics and Postage Stamps'. He also took part in 'Brains Trust' sessions which were held on several occasions chaired by Terry Coslett.

By no means all our speakers have come from the University. Of our current members David Rooney is, I think, the most prolific, having addressed us on five occasions, the first being in 1988 on 'Ghana' and the most recent last year in the 'multi-media' session on 'Henry Morris and the Village College Movement'. His biography of Morris is now available and is an excellent read. Interestingly, in addition to the AGM, in the early years another Wednesday afternoon was given over to an Open Forum on 'How Can We Improve Our U3A?'.

Pam Gatrell, who had a lead role on organising the lectures for the decade ending in 2008 says that reading the list made her 'remember nearly every lecture and lecturer'. She adds 'My finale was Katharine Whitehorn - queues at the door, and the moment when it was decided to use membership cards for admittance in the future'. During the time of her successor, Sheila Harrison, there was a 'ticket-only' lecture by Archbishop John Sentamu. And as you will all be aware we had a 'ticket-by-ballot' lecture this year from Rowan Williams, although this time we are able to make the recording available over the Internet.

During my three years I have met and we have heard many interesting people. If I had to mention one, it possibly would be Nigel Brown. When I invited him, I thought he would talk on the local business scene, but he chose 'Violins' and came along with a violinist and four classic violins including a Stradivarius. The only time I have walked round for tea after the lecture carrying a fortune in my hand.

So enjoy perusing the list on the website (http://u3ac.org.uk/past_programmes.html) – and not just the Wednesday lectures. The Film Club list starts in 2000 and all the Norah Boyce Science lectures are there, starting in 2008. And a big Thank You to all those lecturers.

Peter Woodsford, Director of Studies (Lectures)

Wednesday Lectures

SPRING TERM 2014

This series of weekly lectures will take place in Room 3 of the University Lecture Rooms at no. 8 Mill Lane, starting at 2.15 pm.

All members are welcome to attend. Please have your membership cards ready to show on entry. Non-members may attend as guests for a fee of £2 per lecture, subject to availability of space.

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

15 January Green Engineering in the Tropics
Jeremy Purseglove, Ecologist and Environmentalist

The speaker has spent 30 years as an ecologist attempting to mitigate the impact of civil engineering in the developing world. He explores the dilemmas and opportunities of roads, dams and water supply through illustrations of projects he has worked on in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Belize, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Strategies to conserve rainforest and desert habitats are discussed together with the ways in which the green agenda in the tropics is changing.

22 January Why aren't we all fat?
Professor Sir Stephen O'Rahilly, Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine, University of Cambridge and Director, MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit

It has become a truism that the current obesity epidemic has occurred because human beings are programmed by their evolutionary history to acquire and store calories and that this system is now overwhelmed by the abundance of cheap high calorie food. If that is the case an obvious question arises, Why aren't we all fat?

29 January The Fascination of Fenland
Graham Anthony, Maritime Historian and U3AC member

Incursions by the Romans, Vikings and Normans stimulated the growth of local Kingdoms and Christian Influence. It was the Fenman, Cromwell, who led the people into a Civil War to establish the basis of Parliamentary Democracy. Drainage of the Fens was a brilliant technical solution to create some of the World's finest arable land and provide food for the expanding population. Fenland was linked to the defeat of the tyrants Napoleon and Hitler. Intensive Agriculture and Science Parks now help create prosperity in the Region. Find the Fenland within you.

5 February The History and Development of Playing Cards
Carlos de la Riva, author of a book on Strategic Card Games, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and U3AC member

Many people enjoy card playing, but never enquire about their history. The presentation will trace the origin and highlight the various stages of evolution dating back several centuries culminating with the appearance of the modern Latin, French and Germanic decks.

12 February **France and Britain: the real special relationship**
Professor Robert Tombs, Cambridge University History Department and Fellow of St. John's College

The long relationship between France and Britain over the last 350 years has shaped both countries profoundly, has led them often to see each other as opposite, and has had a huge impact on Europe and indeed the rest of the world. This lecture will discuss some of the main dimensions of the relationship from the days of Louis XIV to the days of M. Hollande, and look at why it has been so important.

19 February **The First Eastern General Hospital in Cambridge, a large WW1 military hospital whose memory has been erased by time**
Philomena Guillebaud, local historian

The speaker came by chance upon a huge WW1 military hospital whose existence had been almost entirely forgotten, although it was Cambridge's biggest single contribution to the war effort. Built on what had been the joint King's/Clare cricket field, the First Eastern General Hospital (TF) vanished from sight and memory after it was dismantled and the University Library built on the same site.

26 February **Media/Press ethics and practice in the UK**
Stuart Weir, Formerly Editor of the New Statesman and Director, Democratic Audit, University of Essex and U3AC member

Major concerns that surfaced during the Leveson inquiry derive from systemic features of practice in the print and broadcast media and are never likely to be fully resolved. Stuart Weir draws on his career in journalism and pressure groups for a picaresque review of the post-Leveson debate and the likely outcomes.

5 March **The Tour de France: its history, geography and cultural significance**
Dr Alan Baker, Fellow of Emmanuel College and U3AC member

As an historical geographer, Alan's research has focused on the development and spread of voluntary associations (including cycling clubs) in France, mainly between 1815 and 1914. Stage 3 of the Tour de France this year starts in Cambridge on 7th July.

12 March **John Clare's Particulars**
Dr. Mina Gorji, Faculty of English and Fellow of Pembroke College

John Clare is a great poet of little things (birds, insects, nests). This lecture explores his particularity and considers his distinctive handling of that favourite of little poetic forms, the sonnet.

19 March **No Lecture**
AGM

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

At the AGM on Wednesday 19 March 2014 six seats on U3AC’s Council will become vacant. Nominations are therefore sought for six Council members.

If you would like to nominate someone please ensure your suggested nominee is willing and eligible to stand (members of Council during the period March 2012 – March 2014 are not) then find another member to second your proposal. Nominations should be submitted using the attached form and accompanied by:

- A photograph of the nominee
- A short statement summarising his/her involvement with U3AC activities, including length of membership and any other relevant information

Nominations must have the signature of the nominee to indicate his/her consent. If more than six nominations are received there will be a ballot at the AGM.

NOMINEE	PROPOSER <i>(please print)</i>	SECONDER <i>(please print)</i>	NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE
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 Wednesday 19 February 2014.***