

## Newsletter June – August 2013

### A Message from the Chairman

U3AC has acquired a second patron: Professor Martin Rees, Lord Rees of Ludlow OM FRS Astronomer Royal and former Master of Trinity whose Norah Boyce lecture in February last year will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to be there. Nick Coni continues as, we perhaps should say, Patronus Emeritus.

Rowan Williams will give the first lecture of the Autumn term on 16<sup>th</sup> October at Mill Lane. Actually, this is in our second week of term but the University has need of the lecture room in week 1. Demand will doubtless exceed the supply of available seating and this will, therefore, be a ticketed event (though at no extra charge). Tickets will be available from the Office during the first week of term. Further details to follow in the next newsletter.

Roger Salmon has resigned as Treasurer. We are grateful to him for stepping into Jeremy Clare's well-nigh unfillable shoes at no notice and for steering our accounts through to the last AGM. We are in good shape as a result of his endeavours. An announcement as to his successor is imminent but his appointment has of course first to go through full Council which does not meet until after this newsletter goes to press. Watch this space. In the interim Delia Suffling will double up as Treasurer and Administrator and our Examiners, John Chaplin and Marion Peterson, have now agreed to carry on for another year.

Tutors quite understand that from time to time some (many even) of their class members have to absent themselves for one or more of any number of entirely proper reasons. They, and I include myself in this, are very happy when excuses and apologies are tendered in advance. Particularly where there is a waiting list for a class, it is crucial that anyone who cannot sustain a proper commitment and has to withdraw lets their tutor or the Office know so that their place can be allocated to someone else. Most of the time this happens: sometimes it does not and that's a pity.

When, or should I say if, Summer gets off the ground, enjoy what's left of it! Take a look at the splendid programme of classes on offer during the Summer vacation, tell your friends about the Open Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July (11 am – 4 pm), persuade them to join, renew your own membership and look forward to the start of the new academic year.

**Charles Bonney, Chairman**

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## Messages from members of Council

The 2013 – 2014 Programme of Studies accompanies this newsletter. There are 300 courses on offer giving members a wide and varied selection of choice, enough to titillate the imagination. Some of the courses are repeats of popular classes run in previous years but others are new to the programme providing opportunities to stimulate interest and curiosity in areas of study with group leaders who have a special interest in and a passion for the subject. We are very appreciative of the generosity of those members who have offered to tutor the groups on a purely voluntary basis and in keeping with the spirit of U3AC.

The Summer Programme of 70 courses has also been published and circulated on line with hard copies available from the Office.

The Courses Sub-Committee would like to express it's thanks to the Office staff who have worked hard to attract tutors and compile this varied and vibrant programme of courses and activities. This is no mean achievement and the staff are to be congratulated.

Members will be aware that the committee has been scrutinising the cost of hiring outside venues and we are pleased that priority has been given to maximising the use of the Bridge Street premises with alternative provision offered to those classes where this is not available. All courses and activities have been accommodated.

May I make a special plea to members to contact the Office if they wish to withdraw from a class and also to notify the tutors. There have been a number of examples of members being allocated a place on a course and not turning up at all or attending very infrequently. Obviously there are occasions when members cannot attend classes - illness, holidays, grandparenting duties etc. - in which case an apology to the tutor is sufficient. As a matter of courtesy to tutors we do not encourage a casual 'drop in culture'. This is also unfair to those members who may have unsuccessfully applied for a place on the course and have been relegated to the waiting list. The problem is particularly significant when the tutor may have arranged talks or demonstrations from other members of the organisation providing the outside venue - eg British Antarctic Survey. The U3AC depends on the goodwill of other organisations to provide a varied programme of studies and the willingness of our members to offer their time on a voluntary basis. We all hope that members will enjoy browsing the Programme, select the courses that appeal and look forward to a rewarding year ahead.

**Marion Stewart, Director of Studies – Courses**

### **U3AC – Trailer for Wednesday and Norah Boyce Lectures, Autumn 2013**

The Autumn Term Wednesday Lectures programme is in the process of being finalised. Topics are expected to include:

- The Spanish Civil War
- The Press and the role of the Society of Editors
- Angel Roofs of East Anglia
- Apollo: The American Manned Spaceflight to the Moon
- Technology Clusters – Cambridge and Elsewhere
- 75 Years of Computing in Cambridge
- And a topic yet to be finalised to be given by Dr. Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College

The planned topics for the Autumn Term Norah Boyce Science Lectures on Tuesday evenings are:

- Floodplain Meadows: Patterns in Vegetation
- Alzheimer's Disease: Past, Present and Hope for the Future
- A talk by Professor Bill O'Neill Institute of Manufacturing - Title to be finalised

The full programmes will be published in the next Newsletter.

**Peter Woodsford, Director of Studies – Lectures**  
(email: [lectures@u3ac.org.uk](mailto:lectures@u3ac.org.uk))

**Christine Thirkettle – Norah Boyce Lectures**

### **Administrator's Report**

Tickets have sold well for our Garden Parties, two of which have taken place already and we have the delight of three more to come in the months of July and September. We are most grateful to those members who host them and so enable members to enjoy good conversation in such pleasant surroundings.

We are looking forward tremendously to the annual event to be held in the David Rayner Building at Scotsdales Garden Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> July which enables us to thank tutors for the service they have given to the U3AC in the past year. The refreshments will be provided by our Catering Committee and I am sure will be as superb as ever.

We are well served by our volunteer receptionists and are lucky to have members who can be called upon in an emergency. They are the 'face of the U3AC' and enjoy chatting to present and prospective members and assisting tutors in any way they can. We are most grateful for their service.

The U3AC in Cambridge would not be able to exist without all the work and associated activities covered by our Office Staff. They are all unerringly cheerful and charming in dealing with and attempting to solve the problems with which they are presented by us all and so well deserve our grateful thanks.

**Delia Suffling  
Administrator**

### **U3AC Open day, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

This year's Open Day will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, between 11am and 4pm at Bridge Street. We have a strong team of Tutors and Council members who will be on hand to present our activities to potential new members. This is one of our main means of recruiting new members – you can do your bit by publicising the event around your network. Posters are available from the Office or by downloading from the website.

Thanking you for your support

**Peter Woodsford, Beth Morgan - Publicity Committee**

## **Insurance**

### **University of the Third Age Liability Insurance**

The University of the Third Age's insurance provides members and those working on our behalf with liability cover for courses held at the University of the Third Age's premises and external hired venues. Cover is provided by the University of the Third Age for courses held in members private homes, provided the loss/injury is caused by an activity relating to a University of the Third Age course. Certain courses are not covered by University of the Third Age's insurances, and under such circumstances, insurance in relation to these courses will normally be provided by the course instructors: where this is not the case, members participate at their own risk. Activities other than those formally provided by the University of the Third Age and accepted by University of the Third Age's insurer are not covered under the above policy and no liability can be accepted in respect of these. No cover is available for excursions and holidays organised by U3AC groups. Members should therefore arrange their own insurance cover.

## **Programme Amendment**

### **ARTA 02 – Bauhaus Revisited Cancelled**

It is with much regret that the tutor Pat Wyman has had to cancel this course which was due to start in October. She very much hopes that she will be able to re-offer the course at the start of 2014. Should this be the case the course will be advertised again in a future newsletter.

## New Courses

If you wish to enrol, please request this on your application form

### LIT 32: Tongues of fire: word and being in T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*

**Tutor:** Graham Pechey

**Day & time:** Friday 2.15 - 3.15

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 1

**Length of course:** 1 term

**Number of places:** 12

**Start date:** 11 October

Great works of literature are best approached not through a paraphrase of their terms and themes but through a minute attention to linguistic particulars combined with a keen sense of the context in which they were written. This course will examine how the smallest and most powerful words in the *Four Quartets* speak with all the weight of European tradition to a moment of existential threat to these islands in 1939-45, and how they continue to resonate in our own troubled times.

### FRE 12: Lower Intermediate French

**Tutor:** Philip Scott

**Day & time:** Monday 1.45 – 3.00

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 5

**Number of places:** 16

**Length of course:** 3 terms

**Start date:** 7 October

This course will follow on from last year developing knowledge, grammar and listening skills.

### FRE 13: Higher Intermediate French - Self Help

**Tutors:** Marion Houston Suki Sharples

**Day & time:** Thursday 11.30 – 12.45

**Venue:** Montefiore Room, The Michaelhouse Centre (Summer term U3AC, Room 4)

**Length of course:** 3 terms

**Number of places:** 16

**Start date:** 10 October

This is a friendly relaxed self-help course with a mixture of grammar, conversation, listening and reading. You need to be approaching A level standard, and you will need a copy of *Practice in French Grammar* by Michael Gross ISBN 0-7487-6291-4.

## Classes/Events/Trips

### The Bronowski Group

**Tutor:** John Crawley

**Day & time:** Saturday 11.00 – 13.00

**Venue:** U3AC, Room 1

**Number of places:** 25

The Bronowski Group will reconvene on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June until 28<sup>th</sup> September. The agenda will continue as before, following Jacob Bronowski's 'scientific overture' to "human specificity" as expressed through his 1973 series of *The Ascent of Man*.

To continue after 28<sup>th</sup> September until 14<sup>th</sup> December, please apply for PSY 01 on your membership and course application form.

NB: The group will not meet on a Saturday when another group requires Room 1 e.g. no meeting on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July – U3AC Annual Open Day.

Please contact the Office to enrol.

### U3AC Swimming for Exercise and Pleasure July to September

The swimming group meets all year round at the Leys School pool and will swim throughout the summer months. A charge of £30 - £35 is made for the full 3 month period (less than £3 a session if you are able to come each week). New swimmers are offered one trial swim for free.

If you would be interested in coming along to the Leys pool on a Thursday between 1 pm and 2 pm to swim some lengths and would like more detail please contact Sue Green via the Office. We'd be pleased to hear from you. For swimming beginning in the Autumn term, please see the Programme of Studies.

### Histon and Impington U3AC Summer Lunch

**Organisers:** Judy Wilson & Cathy Middleton

Histon and Impington members of U3AC are invited to a Bring and Share lunch on Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 in a member's house. Its purpose is partly social, giving the chance for

members, old and new, living in the same village an opportunity to meet and to get to know each other. But it is also planned to allow members to discuss course and events they have enjoyed – and are looking forward to enjoying in the coming year.

Bookings to Cathy Middleton, via the Office by September 5<sup>th</sup>, who will supply further details.

### **Animals in their habitat**

There will be a break from Animals in their habitat next year as there are no new photographs to show you at the moment. I am offering an introductory course in Hindi next year. No special language skills will be required. We will have an opportunity to learn the Devanagari script, some vocabulary and a present, past and future tense. I will guide you to some resources for further study which you can use during or after the course, as you wish. I hope you will all join me as we try to shine a light on this interesting language. More details can be found in the programme of studies page 37. If the wildlife journeys go as planned, Animals in their habitat will return in 2015.

Gill Watts

## **U3AC Office**

### **Summer Holiday Programme of Courses**

Details of courses available to members during the summer holiday period: 1<sup>st</sup> July – 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

(Feedback can be sent anonymously if wished.)

### **Next Council Meeting**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

### **DEATHS**

We were sorry to hear of the recent deaths of:-

*Daniel Moodie*  
*Eileen FitzGerald*  
*Nick Goodyear*  
*Bill Orton*  
*Mary Shattock*  
*Eirlys Park*  
*Anne Thompson*

### **U3AC Open Day**

We will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013 between 11 am and 4 pm in our Bridge Street premises. This is an important way in which potential new members can find out about what U3AC has to offer. If you are able to display a poster in your local neighbourhood, one can be printed from our website.

## Administrative Information

### Annual Subscription – a reminder

The annual subscription of £63 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.

### Annual subscription payments

The following payment methods can now be used:

**Cheque** – payable to U3A Cambridge

**Cash** – when paid in person at the Office

**Bank Transfer (BACS Payment)** – Contact the Office for details.

### 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.

### Discretionary Fund

A Discretionary Fund is available for members who would find it difficult to pay the full annual subscription. To qualify for the reduced subscription of £10, members should be in receipt of either: pension credit, income support or incapacity benefit. Contact the Office on application providing written evidence of entitlement.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## Short story

Members of the Wednesday Writing Circle, co-ordinated by Lenore Abraham, have chosen one of the pieces from their recent *Creatively* publication to share with Cambridge's U3A.

AN EYE FOR QUALITY by Kate Lawrance

"You've got an eye for quality, Madam, I can see that." His voice was soothing, gentle, caring. It was briskly cold on the forecourt, but he was dressed only in shiny red tie, shirt sleeves and navy trousers that clung rather too closely to toned muscular buttocks.

"Just come in, that one. Stylish colour it is too. Not many were made in that paint finish. A bit special isn't it. Like to take it out for a drive? It would take only a minute to get some plates."

"I was just having a quick look around, not really looking to buy today." Her voice was dry and frail. Fragile hair strayed across her cheeks and she dug thin piano fingers deep into the worn sheepskin jacket pockets. She did not meet his eyes, but glanced across at another car dusted by the first tentative dry flakes of snow.

"I can see you in this one; it's your colour. Do you have a vehicle to exchange?"

She flicked past his grey dancing eyes. "How many miles has it done?"

"Just over 21K on the clock. Full service history. Only two owners from new. It's a neat little car. Clean. Masses of boot space; plenty of room for the weekly shop or ...," his eyes strayed to the third finger of the hand that was now involuntarily twisting frayed ends of her hair, "... the kids' football kit. Or maybe the cat basket?" he smirked. "Come inside, we'll take down a few details and you can take it out for a spin round the block. That your car over there? I can have someone give it a look over while you're out if you like. Give you a good price for it. Can't say fairer than that."

Leaning through the driver's door, he started the engine. "Sweet as a nut," he cooed flirtatiously, massaging the broad knot of his tie.

She paused a moment, then meeting his gaze for the first time, "I *really* don't think so. Just listen to that engine and I think you might hear significant camshaft noise. And going by the year and the general wear and tear, it's hardly likely that the mileage on the clock is anything like genuine. You know that as well as I do, I should imagine."

So saying, she wrapped the sheepskin closer across her chest and turned to go. An unexpected shaft of sunlight caught the golden tips of her hair. "And if you take a proper look at the offside rear wing and offside rear door you'll see that they've been resprayed at some time. A very poor job they've made of it, too."

© Kate Lawrance

## Other Organisations

### What do you want to know from your genes?

Your genes contain information about your past, present and future medical health. It is now possible to look at all 20,000+ genes via a saliva sample. Would you want to know if you were predisposed to getting cancer or heart disease? We are conducting a research project at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute on attitudes towards sharing genetic information. Anyone can participate and no prior knowledge about genetics is needed; the survey has got 10 short films in it that describe all you need to know to answer the questions. If you have a computer and access to the Internet, then you are ready to go! Look us up and participate at [www.genomethics.org](http://www.genomethics.org)

## 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](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)
- ❖ email: [office@u3ac.org.uk](mailto: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 upon request

**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.

Please bring your acceptance slips with you as confirmation of the acceptance of your booking, to avoid any misunderstandings.

### 3. The following events have now been arranged

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September                      Bletchley Park  
Organisers: Margaret Shaw and Janet Rallison

October (tbc)    Houses of Parliament  
Organisers: Margaret Shaw and Clem Messenger

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 be using the **Trumpington** and **Madingley Road Park and Rides** regularly as our 2 pick-up points, except on Sundays, when we shall also be using Bateman Street.