

Message from the Chair

To begin, I should like to thank all those who have so promptly rejoined the U3AC for the next academic year, and, more particularly, to welcome new members, including returning members, some of whom I had the pleasure of meeting at the 4th July Open Day. I am delighted to be able to report that, by 1 August, the Office had recorded no fewer than 2438 members, a most encouraging increase of 100 over the same date last year.

I should also like to express our warmest thanks to the outstanding panel of tutors and course leaders who offer us such rich fare, year in and year out. They truly represent the beating heart of our lively life-long learning and sharing world.

I'm further excited to be able to announce that, in the near future, for the princely sum of £1, members will be able to purchase a new U3AC soft metal members' pin badge (see right). These little badges are really beautiful, and we must thank Rebecca, our Administration Co-ordinator, for arranging their design and timely production. Badges will be available to purchase from the U3AC reception desk from the beginning of October.



I'm also keen to engender better links between our Trustees/the U3AC Council and members. To this end, as Chair of the Council, I shall be holding **'Chat with the Chair'** open sessions once a month during term times. These will be held around a reserved table in the Social Area, where we can take coffee and, hopefully, cake and biscuits, while we talk. Do feel free to come along to raise any issues about the U3AC, or indeed simply to ask questions. These sessions should also be a good opportunity to learn about volunteering for the U3AC, whether as a trustee, a tutor, course leader, or in one of the many supporting roles that are so vital for the smooth running of the organisation. My first session will be on Wednesday, 23 October, between 11.00 and 13.00, with later sessions, on different days and at different times, announced in Newsletters and Bulletins. The coming term's dates are given overleaf. I greatly look forward to meeting you at one of these.

Finally, though inevitably slowed a tad during the summer months, I am pleased to be able to report that your Premises Working Group, under its dynamic Chair, Mike Gibbs, continues to make good progress with planning the renewal of our lease on 27-28 Bridge Street. We are currently checking over the details of the offered lease with our chosen advisers, and hope to be able to tie up matters fairly soon.

I'm thus looking forward greatly to welcoming everyone back for what I'm sure will be a most rewarding Autumn term. And do please look out for the Norah Boyce 'Science for Everyone' Lectures co-ordinated by Ron Laskey (Tuesdays at 16.30) and our famous Wednesday Lecture Programme (14.15, every Wednesday during term time). The Directors of Studies (Lectures), Suzan Griffiths and Nicholas Russell, have put together a superb programme to suit everyone's interests.

Philip Stott

Chat with the Chair

As mentioned in the Chair's message on the previous page, the dates are Wednesday 23 October, 11 am-1pm, Monday 18 November 2-4 pm and Thursday 12 December 11 am-1 pm.

Donations & legacies news

It's the time of the U3AC year when both Office staff and the finance team have been working hard to manage your membership renewals and subscriptions. We are very grateful to those who have made additional donations to the work of U3AC or have asked for information about leaving a legacy to U3AC in their will. To all of you - many thanks for your support - it's greatly appreciated.

Do reach out to treasurer@u3ac.org.uk if you have any questions or comments about legacies or making donations to U3AC.

Term dates

Autumn Term: Monday 7 October - Friday 13 December 2024

Spring Term: Monday 13 January - Friday 21 March 2025

Summer Term: Tuesday 22 April - Friday 13 June 2025

The start date for each course is given on the website.

U3AC Champions

Do you have a background in communications, PR, marketing, events or advertising?

We are looking to create a team of members who are willing and able to represent U3AC at various local events and networking opportunities. This would be a voluntary role that may require some travel within the city. For instance, we missed the opportunity to represent U3AC at this year's Seniors' Fair at the Abbey Football Stadium, as we didn't have a team to staff an exhibition stand, put up a banner, hand out flyers and talk to attendees about U3AC.

Being a U3AC Champion requires a good understanding of the organisation, what we offer, how membership works and a keenness to share the benefits of being a member (e.g. staying physically and mentally active, learning new things and making new friends).

You would be provided with an in-depth brief before starting to represent U3AC at events.

If you've got a relevant background in communications, PR, marketing, events or advertising and the time and willingness to promote U3AC when opportunities arise, please contact the Office.

The closing date for finding our U3AC Champions is 1 November.

New courses

The courses below have been set up since the Programme was published. Please contact the Office if you would like to apply. Until Thursday 19 September, priority for places will be given to members who have been allocated 2 or less courses.

CMP 04: History of programming languages (Summer term)

Tutor: Peter Burkinshaw

Day and time: Tuesday 13:10 - 14:10

Venue: U3AC (Orange room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (7 weeks)

Places: 8

Start date: 22 April

This course will review the development of programming languages starting with machine code up to the present day.

Format: Lecture

About me: I spent over 40 years designing and developing software for several multinational companies including IBM, Rolls-Royce, Rank-Xerox and Telenova.

FIT 39: Eco -friendly walks using public transport - Friday (Summer term)

Leader: Alan Kent

Day and time: Friday 09:30 - 14:30

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (8 weeks)

Places: 24

Start date: 25 Apr

Friday: 5-7 miles - 1 term.

This group is primarily aimed at members who do not drive or have no car. However, it may be of interest to car drivers who enjoy country walking, but for ecological reasons prefer to leave their car at home. It may also interest car drivers more generally, as an engaging and enjoyable way to learn more about Cambridge's public transport network. The walks start at locations reached by bus or train from central Cambridge. They finish at a bus stop or station for return to Cambridge, although some members stay on for a pub lunch where there is one conveniently located. Walk details, including bus and train times - are provided by walk leaders. We are a comparatively small group who walk at a reasonable pace, with walks varying from 5 to 7 miles in length. Half of the walks will be led by the Course Leader, and the others by volunteers from within the group. The Course Leader will contact all members by email earlier in the year to organise a programme of walks for the Summer term.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: I am an experienced long-distance walker across the UK, who is enjoying learning more about walking opportunities provided locally.

FIT 40: Swimming

Coordinator: Mike Quigley

Day and time: Tuesday 12:45 - 13:45

Venue: Leys School

Length of course: 3 terms. Autumn (9 weeks), Spring (9 weeks), Summer (7 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 08 Oct

The Leys pool is a traditional 25m school pool, with 1m and 2m depths respectively at the shallow and deep ends, and with no lane divisions. There are communal changing rooms with showers. Car parking is available at the far side of the Leys site, a 7-10 minute walk from the pool. The session is supervised by trained lifeguards. There is no tuition or organised activity. For anyone with restricted

mobility, the lifeguards can help with entry to the pool, and with exit. Most people swim lengths but how you swim is up to you. We are a friendly group and sometimes organise end-of-term socials. A free trial swim can be arranged. There will be no sessions during school half-terms - 29 Oct, 18 Feb and 27 May.

Note: A fee of £74, is payable with your course application; this covers the hire of the pool and lifeguards.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: Swimming is my favourite sport and I particularly enjoy the sessions at the Leys, with its spacious pool and tranquil atmosphere.

HIS 38: The Ascent of Man

Leader: John Abbott

Day and time: Friday 14:45 - 16:00

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 2 terms. Autumn (9 weeks), Spring (4 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 11 Oct

The title alludes to Darwin's *Descent of Man*, and repeats the much-acclaimed series commissioned by David Attenborough on BBC2. (It complemented *Civilisation*). Jacob Bronowski took 3 years travelling the world tracing the development of human society through its understanding of science. He had a unique, comprehensive grasp of science, but also its historical and social context. He disliked the dichotomy of the arts and the sciences, and was uniquely qualified to take on this *magnus opus*. You may remember the original TV series, and the book, and would welcome the opportunity to explore it all again: -'Lower than the Angels', 'The Harvest of the Seasons', 'The Grain in the Stone', 'The Hidden Structure', 'Music of the Spheres', 'The Starry Messenger', 'The Majestic Clockwork', 'World within World', 'The Ladder of Creation', 'The Drive for Power', 'Knowledge or Certainty', 'Generation upon Generation', 'The Long Childhood'. It was seminal and ahead of its time, but how relevant are its themes and conclusions after 50 years?

Format: Each session - DVD followed by discussion

About me: I have presented classes on many subjects, and the previous running of this one provided some interesting, and nostalgic insights.

HIS 39: The Neanderthals (Spring term)

Tutor: Stephen Jones

Day and time: Monday 15:45 - 16:45

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (8 weeks)

Places: 16

Start date: 27 Jan

The Neanderthals were an extinct group of humans who lived in Eurasia from 400,000 to 40,000 years ago. In this course we will consider the Neanderthals in the context of human evolution and ask: who were they, how did they live, where did they come from and why did they disappear? Over the last 30 years, innovative scientific methods, including genetic analysis and new dating techniques have improved our understanding of these people. We will review these methods and also consider the way Neanderthals have been described in literature and popular culture, and how this is changing in light of new knowledge.

Format: Lecture

About me: Sometime social scientist fascinated by pre-history.

FRE 13: Vercors: le Silence de la Mer pub. Albin Michel 1951 (Spring term)

Tutor: Penny Hayman

Day and time: Monday 15:45 - 16:45

Venue: U3AC (Green room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (8 weeks)

Places: 12

Start date: 13 Jan

On va lire ensemble le Silence de la Mer de Vercors qui fait partie d'un petit volume de recits paru en 1942. La date est significative. 'L'armée allemande vient d'occuper la France. On découvre le tableau d'une famille française et l'histoire continue'.....s'il nous reste le temps on abordera quelques-uns des autres recits. Evidemment nos questions et nos commentaires seront importants.

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Format: Discussion/reading aloud

About me: I have taught U3AC courses before and am a lover of French literature.

FRE 14: A tale of two plays: a bilingual course (Summer term)

Tutor: Melina Heaton

Day and time: Thursday 12:00 - 13:30

Venue: U3AC (Orange room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (8 weeks)

Places: 8

Start date: 24 Apr

Can classical theatre pierce the fog of war? We will read two novels about staging a classical play in a war torn country. One of the books is in French and is not available in translation, the other was written in English. We will discuss the novels in class and read certain passages aloud.

Format: Seminar/Discussion

About me: I was educated in French schools and have lived in France and French speaking countries for half my life.

SPA 06: Spanish for beginners

Tutor: Carlos Toranzos

Day and time: Thursday 09:45 – 11:00

Venue: U3AC (Green room)

Length of course: 2 terms. Autumn (10 weeks), Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 10

Start date: 10 Oct

This course will provide the basic language skills to communicate in Spanish - greetings, meeting people, asking for tickets, and directions, booking a hotel room, and ordering a meal and drink. The course will be based on a Spanish textbook introducing basic grammar and practical vocabulary. We will also use video and audio materials from Instituto Cervantes. I will encourage participants to take the Cervantes Institute official language examinations.

Communicative skills will be developed via role-playing and active participation. We will encourage some basic readings and some listening practices to familiarise the hearing of accents and speeds.

Level: Beginners

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: I am originally from Bolivia and have taught Spanish and history at Anglia Ruskin University for over 30 years.

LEI 28: Passionate gardeners

Co-ordinator/Organisers: Rosie Wilson & Buntly Akister-Rawlings

Day and time: 2nd Weds of month 10:30 - 12:30

Venue: Members' homes (first meeting CB1 3AL)

Length of course: 3 terms. Autumn (3 weeks), Spring (3 weeks), Summer (3 weeks)

Places: 8

Start date: 09 Oct

This course is about sharing our love of gardening: visiting one another's gardens. We will share tips, plants seeds and inspiration. We will also arrange visits to other well-known gardens, Spring/Summer plant fairs and RHS garden shows. The only course requirement is a love of gardening. Meetings will take place out of term-time during April and July, i.e. on 9 April & 9 July.

Format: Garden visits, sharing tips

About us: We are passionate, self-taught gardeners, who love to share tips, plants and ideas.

LIT 44: George Eliot's 'Middlemarch' (Spring term)

Tutor: Mike Lynch

Day and time: Thursday 13:30 - 14:45

Venue: U3AC (Yellow room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 16

Start date: 16 Jan

We will study 'Middlemarch' together as a group. The book will be divided into five sections, and we will consider each section over two-week periods. Critical summaries will be provided for each of the five sections, and these will be used as a starting point for discussion.

Format: Lecture-based discussion

About me: I have a degree in English Literature and enjoy reading George Eliot's novels.

PHL 07: The Thinking Life: An introduction to Philosophy

Tutor: Philippe Mathieu

Day and time: Friday 15:15 - 16:45

Venue: U3AC (Green room)

Length of course: 2 terms. Autumn (8 weeks), Spring (8 weeks)

Places: 12

Start date: 11 Oct

This is very much a course for beginners and meant to be highly interactive. Each session will revolve around a topic such as knowledge, justice, the state, morality, God, free will, language, history etc., and where relevant Philosophers will be introduced to help bring focus and content to the issues, questions and discussions. The overall purpose is to explore significant thinkers as well as to challenge and broaden our own thinking and hopefully do it better. Pen and paper are all that is required.

Format: A mix of discussion and presentation

About me: I have taught Philosophy in one guise or another for over 30 years and would like to share my experience.

PSY 03(z): Magical thinking (Spring term)

Tutor: Dr Anabela Pinto

Day and time: Friday 10:00 - 11:15

Venue: Zoom

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 25

Start date: 17 Jan

Magical thinking is a cognitive process where individuals attribute causal relationships between events that are not logically connected. This type of thinking often involves believing that one's thoughts, actions, or rituals can influence outcomes in ways that defy conventional scientific understanding. This course explores the psychological mechanisms behind magical thinking, its role in human development, and its impact on culture, religion, and daily life. The course will include a mix of lectures, discussions, and practical activities to understand how and why magical thinking persists in modern societies. During the course we analyze the historical evolution of magical thinking looking at examples of magical thinking from the past and contemporary society. This includes the psychology of superstition, comparative religion and the meaning of rituals. The course also dwells on the impact of magical thinking in healing, decision making and dealing with unpredictability. Trigger warning: This course challenges and applies critical thinking to all religious beliefs.

Format: Lecture with discussion

About me: Dr Pinto is a Biologist and a Psychologist with an interest in Evolutionary Psychology.

SCE 21: Popular Science reading group

Convenor: Beth Morgan

Day and time: 4th Thursday in month 15:00 - 16:30

Venue: U3AC (Yellow room)

Length of course: 2 terms. Autumn (2 weeks), Spring (3 weeks)

Places: 15

Start date: 24 Oct

It is something of a golden age for well-written, easily accessible books on science for the general public. Our group is for people who already enjoy such books, and for people who would like to know where to start. Our first book will be Calvo, Paco: 'Planta Sapiens - Unmasking Plant Intelligence'.

Other suggestions will be offered at the first meeting, and it is hoped that members of the group will recommend their own favourites. Please note: Group members will need access to the internet as all communication will be via email.

Format: Discussion

About me: I have organised several things in U3AC over the years, most recently the Geology Group and the Cycling Club

Amendments to Programme 2024-25

GRM 02: Modern Greek: Intermediate - start date is 14 October.

LIT 41: Wearing purple - start date is 11 October.

SCE 02: Ageing populations and the social sciences - cancelled.

WLL 05: Buddhist meditation 3: 'Aspects of the practice of mindfulness' (Summer term) - cancelled

One-off talks

Please contact the Office to book a place on the talks below. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Age/ageing in art - What are we looking at? Re-VIEWING images of "the third age"

Speaker: Dr. Britta Dwyer

Dates and time: Friday 25 October & Friday 1 November 11:00 – 12:15

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

These **two** chronologically linked talks on age in art are an attempt to present a theme in art history that has until recently only received scant attention. I want to take on the challenge of looking at how images of old age are variously represented. Aside from portraits, reflecting the ageing process per se (uniquely Rembrandt) what are some of the narratives embedded in illustrations about older people? Crucially, are there varying standards for judging the ageing of men and women? Why is the old male invariably idealised? Why is youth and beauty a woman's only worthwhile possession? Moving to modern times, how are attitudes about age, gender and race rendered by today's artists? Finally, how does our mass media culture deal with the theme of old age? Join me for this exploratory journey on 'age in art' - past to present.

About me: I am a retired university lecturer who has taught art history courses at the U3AC for very many years.

Please note: booking a place means attending both sessions

The Great War 1914-1920: shaping loss, mourning and commemoration

Speaker: Colin Hurst

Date and time: Thursday 5 December, 9:30 – 11:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

How the Great War is remembered and written about is a continuing process, and one which is shaped by prior experiences and begins in the War itself. The whole area remains academically contested with new studies and new controversies still regularly appearing. It is the war that we think we know and yet it remains alien to us. I would ask you to put aside (for a while) 'O What Lovely War!', the 'War Poets' and the last series of 'Blackadder' and come to the War as 'first travellers'; as L.P. Hartley put it 'the past is a foreign country, they do things differently there'. This lecture sets the War in its contemporary context and then focuses on the great national commemorations of 1919 and 1920. Consideration is also given to local expressions of loss and grief and the War's continuing influence.

About me: A retired parish priest with a life-long interest in history. I enjoy teaching adults, both in the Church and beyond, and have run history courses at Peterborough City College.

About courses

Tutor / member protocol

A Protocol has been drawn up by members of Courses Committee that should support and guide both tutors and class/activity members. It is intended, above all, to emphasise mutual respect amongst all participants in order to encourage a positive learning environment. This can be found below and is also on the website here <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/about-courses/tutor-and-attendee-protocol/> and in the Tutor Support Handbook.

We would encourage class and activity members to read it so they understand its relevance and both their role and that of the tutor in creating a mutually supportive learning experience.

John Procter, Director of Studies (Courses) on behalf of Courses Committee

It is helpful for tutors and members to develop a joint understanding about how their sessions together can be made as enjoyable, respectful and productive as possible. The guidance that follows will help to create that kind of learning environment and all participants are encouraged to note and follow it.

Tutor

- Be punctual and allow time for any equipment set up necessary.
- Deliver the course as described in the programme.
- Lead the session in an engaging manner.
- Provide an inclusive and encouraging learning environment.
- Encourage class participation, including the quieter, less confident members.

Attendee

- Attend all classes, rather than pick and choose sessions.
- Notify tutor or admin staff if you are unable to attend or wish to withdraw from the class.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Avoid dominating class discussions or aggressively contradicting the tutor.

Joint commitment

End the class on time to vacate the room/premises to allow the next class in promptly.

Applying for additional courses

Would you like to apply for additional courses?

The list of courses with vacancies is on the homepage of the U3AC website and is updated regularly. To apply for a course, contact the Office.

Withdrawing from a course

If you are no longer able to attend a course in which you have a place, please inform the Office at the **earliest possible** opportunity, so that the place can be given to someone on the waiting list. Please do not wait until the course is about to start or has started. Thank you.

If you cannot attend the first session of term

If you are unable to attend the first session of your course please inform the tutor or the Office **before term starts**. Many courses have long waiting lists and we must be fair to other members, so if we do not hear from you, we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

If you cannot attend a course session

For classes held in U3AC premises or by Zoom: please inform the Office.

For courses held elsewhere: please send apologies directly to the tutor.

Contact details are on the website underneath each course description. You will need to log in to the website to access this information (see below).

Tutors' and course leaders' contact details

For data protection reasons, the Programme does not include tutors' contact details or the venue if a course is held in a member's home. This information is given on the members' area of the website. Members without internet access can obtain this information from the Office.

To view the details on the website, log in using your username and password. Your username is usually your first name, then a full stop, then your surname. The first time you log in, you will need to set up a password. To set up a password, click the 'Forgotten Password?' button on the login screen.

Please contact the Office if you have any difficulties using the website.

Volunteering

Volunteers' Day - 6 November

The contribution that our members make by volunteering is crucial to the ongoing success of U3AC - it is highly valued and there is no doubt that we could not manage without you.

Members who volunteer say they have found it enjoyable and fulfilling, it is also part of the ethos of the U3AC, as a member organisation.

Please come along to our Volunteers' Day in the U3AC premises on **Wednesday 6 November** between 11 am and 2 pm and find out about all current volunteering opportunities.

Appeal for Zoom hosts

There are many opportunities for ensuring the continuing success of the organisation by volunteering, and there is an ongoing need for Zoom hosts. The role entails being in the U3AC premises, opening and closing Zoom classes as a host on our licenses, being alert to anyone having technical difficulties, troubleshooting and giving advice where possible, taking the register, liaising with the Office staff via walkie-talkie and tidying classrooms at the end of the day.

Interested members will be friendly and welcoming, have a good understanding of computers and have attended Zoom courses. Could you spare half a day each week in term time? The day would be the same each week and would be fixed by mutual agreement. This is a very important role which benefits a large number of members, without volunteers we would be unable to host Zoom courses.

General information

A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £110 contributes to the administration and accommodation costs of the U3AC. **It is not a payment for classes, lectures or activities.** Members can attend the Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures (space permitting), apply for up to 6 courses and apply for visits and events arranged throughout the year and join all the eXtra groups and activities.

Access to the Bridge Street premises

There are handrails on the left-hand wall to hold onto when you enter the premises. If you have difficulty with the steps or need assistance there is a bell to alert staff to your presence, there is also a folding ramp for those in a wheelchair. The bell is on the left-hand wall at step level so you can press it with a foot or walking stick without needing to bend down.

Discounts to members

We have a number of discounts for U3AC members in shops and restaurants around Cambridge. You can download the full list (giving any terms and conditions for the discount) from the U3AC website; there is a link on the homepage.

Events

Wine Tasting

The next Wine Tasting evening will be held on **Wednesday 13 November** at 5.30 pm. The theme is *Limbering up for Xmas - What Should I consider?* Cost is £17 per person. Places can be booked via Eventbrite (who charge a non-refundable booking fee):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/949759515277?aff=oddtcreator> or in person at the U3AC Office.

CCSO concert

The City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra has a link with U3AC, whereby for one concert each season U3AC benefits financially from tickets sold. This season's concert will be held on Saturday 30 November in the West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge CB4 9DP. The programme includes George Gershwin *An American in Paris*; Erich Korngold *Violin Concerto*; Sergei Prokofiev *Symphony No. 7*.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/city-of-cambridge-symphony-orchestra> where full details of the concert can be found. Cost £20, £10 (students), £6 (under 14). Members should enter **CHARITY** in the discount code box for U3AC to benefit from the ticket sales. You will get a 1p discount as it cannot be set to nil!

If you do not have internet access, please contact the U3AC office who can order tickets on your behalf.

U3AC Xmas lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held in The Park Seasons restaurant at Cambridge Regional College on **Tuesday 17 December**. Application forms will be available in November.

New Year social event

The annual New Year event will take place in the David Rayner Centre, Scotsdale's Garden Centre on **Friday 10 January 2025**. Application forms will be available in November.

General administration

Savings on postage

If two (or more) members live at the same address we save postage by sending their documents in one envelope. If you would like future mailings sent in separate envelopes, please inform the Office.

The June and August Newsletters are sent by post; the December and March Newsletters are sent by email to those receiving the weekly Bulletin and by post to those who don't.

Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting is on **Thursday 3 October 2024**.

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Carol Shedd in December

Arnold Verbeek in May

Peggy Heap in July

David Bass in July

Claire Phillips in July

Jill Gawne in August

Other organisations

Details of events held by other organisations can be viewed on our website:

<http://www.u3ac.org.uk/other-organisations/>

Cultural and Social activities committee

This last academic year we have run 6 trips: Charles Rennie Mackintosh House & Northampton Museum and Art Gallery; International Bomber Command Centre & Lincoln Cathedral; The National Stud & National Horseracing Museum; 'Bruegel to Rubens Exhibition' at The Ashmolean Museum; Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker & Flatford, East Bergholt and Henry Moore Studios & Gardens.

While most of the trips were popular, we had to run a couple at a loss. We can absorb these losses, but as a charity we need to break even, so balancing the books, as you can imagine, can be a bit of a challenge.

As individual members of the committee we pay for our own tickets, with a small allowance for the coach fares of the organiser and assistant organiser of each individual trip.

When a trip is oversubscribed, 'first come, first place' allocation is not employed, but random selection processes are used to allocate the places, only the organiser and assistant are guaranteed a place. If places are not filled with U3AC members on trips then we open it to non-members.

When choosing trips we endeavour to choose those we hope will be popular but we can't always 'get it right'. In the past we have re-run trips that have been most popular.

Next academic year we are going to Down House (Charles Darwin's home) in September, Spencer House & Tate Britain in November and Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake at the Norwich Theatre in March 2025. Other trips are being planned including a visit to Bletchley Park, The Churchill War Rooms and Saville Gardens, Windsor.

We rely on your support for our trips, without it we would not be sustainable. Please contact us if you have suggestions of places or events that you think might be of interest.

Clem Messenger, Chair of Cultural & Social activities committee

Please see overleaf for the current information.

The Cultural and Social Activities committee, chaired by Clem Messenger, organises trips and visits throughout the year. Information about these can be obtained from:

- weekly email Bulletin
- U3AC website: [Trips and visits](#)

Applications open at least 4 weeks before each outing and if oversubscribed a draw is held after the deadline. You can apply either via the website, or by completing a paper application form. Places can only be offered to a non-member if there is no waiting list and arrangements must be made through one of the organisers.

Applying online

On the Trips and Visits area of the website: log in, select the relevant event and complete the requested information. Payment is by bank transfer, and all communication is by email.

Applying using a paper application form

Forms are available:

- to download from the website, in the Trips and Visits area (you will need to log in)
- from the reception area at the U3AC premises
- by emailing the Office
- by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Office with the name of the event in the top left-hand corner

It is important that you:

- **Complete the application form correctly** - especially the section at the bottom specifying a contact number for emergency purposes as this is a U3AC requirement.
- **Send or hand in your completed form to the U3AC Office** before the closing date.
- **Pay either by BACS or by credit or debit card (in person at the Office).**
- **All communication is by email.** If you do not have an email address **include a stamped self-addressed envelope**, for notification of your successful application.

If there are more applicants than places a draw is held, about 2 weeks before the event, to make it fair for everyone. If your application is successful you will be sent an acceptance email, please bring a copy of this with you on the trip.

If you are not successful and have asked NOT to be placed on the waiting list, your payment will be refunded to you after the draw has taken place.

If you are not successful and have asked to be placed on the waiting list, your payment will be returned after the visit has taken place if you are unsuccessful in gaining a place.

Pick-up points: Our standard pick-up points are the Trumpington and Madingley Road Park & Ride sites (where parking for the day is free).

The following trip has been arranged:

Thursday 25 November 2024 **London Trip: Monday Morning at Spencer House**
Cost: £45.50
Closing date for applications: Monday 11 November
Organisers: Clem Messenger & Rosemarie Gordon
Application forms available Monday 7 October.

Date for your diary:

Thursday 20 March 2025

Tickets have been reserved for the 30th anniversary revival of Mathew Bourne's Swan Lake at the Norwich Theatre Royal. Application forms later in the year.

Additional events will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin.

U3AC Film group programme

Established in October 1999 with the much-valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse Cambridge 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 countries, generations and genres, and our programmes take a robust and adventurous approach to the history of cinema. The Group's shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time, and our films are shown in Screen 2 or mainly in Screen 3. There are no ads or trailers which means that all of our films commence promptly at 1.00 pm other than when an epic or exceptionally lengthy film is shown, and members are kindly requested to adhere to the start time of 1.00 pm as a dark cinema can be hazardous and late seating causes considerable disturbance for those already seated. Members are most welcome to attend our post screen discussions and to make suggestions for future showings.

The cost of our season of Tuesday shows remains at £45 per term.

Members are kindly requested to ensure that all electronic devices are switched off or in the case of mobile phones switched to silent mode, and under no circumstances should photography/filming take place in the cinema.

Autumn term 2024

1 October **Bonnie and Clyde** Dir. Arthur Penn: USA 1967 (111 mins)

In the Thirties, car thief Clyde Barrow teams up with Bonnie Parker, the daughter of one of his victims, and together they become notorious bank robbers and Depression-era folk legends. They form a gang with Clyde's brother Buck, Buck's wife Blanche, and gas station employee CW, but they find themselves constantly on the run after one of their robberies goes wrong and Clyde commits a murder. From then on, the police are hot on their trail, and the seemingly unstoppable pair finally face justice.

Bonnie and Clyde is considered one of the first films of the New Hollywood era and a landmark picture. It broke many cinematic taboos and for some members of the counter culture was considered a "rallying cry". Its success prompted other filmmakers to be more open in presenting sex and violence in their films. The film's ending became iconic as "one of the bloodiest death scenes in cinematic history" (**Jeremy severe warning – this brilliant film contains a great deal of violence**).

8 October **Tess** Dir. Roman Polanski: France/UK 1979 (186 mins) (Member Request)

Based on Thomas Hardy's 1891 novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, a young strong-willed peasant girl becomes the object of affection of two men, in the end tragically falling into the arms of one of them. This film took 3 Oscars for best Cinematography, Best Art Direction, and Best Costume Design (**N.B. the running time of this long film**).

15 October **Perfect Days** Dir. Wim Wenders: Japan/Germany 2023 (124 mins)

Hirayama works as a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo's upscale Shibuya ward, across town from his modest home in an ungentrified neighbourhood east of the Sumida River. He repeats his structural, ritualized lifestyle every day starting at dawn. He dedicates his free time to his passion for music which he listens to in his van to and from work and to his books which he reads every night before going to sleep.

22 October **Cabaret** Dir. Bob Fosse: USA 1972 (124 mins)

Cabaret brings 1931 Berlin inside and outside the Kit Kat Klub. There, starry-eyed American Sally Bowles and an impish emcee sound the call for decadent fun, while in the street the Nazi Party is beginning to grow into a brutal political force. Into this heady world arrives British language teacher Brian Roberts who falls for Sally's charm and soon the two of them find themselves embroiled in the turmoil and decadence of the era.

29 October **CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL – NO U3AC FILM GROUP FILM**

5 November **The Zone of Interest** Dir. Jonathan Glazer: UK/Poland/USA 2023 (105 mins)

The Zone of Interest is a 2023 historical drama film written and directed by Jonathan Glazer. Loosely based on the 2014 novel by the late Martin Amis, the film focuses on the life of the Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss and his wife Hedwig who live with their family in the "Zone of Interest" next to the concentration camp. The film, which has received several awards, is an attempt to demystify the perpetrators of the Holocaust as "mythologically evil".

12 November **Charulata (The Lonely Wife)** Dir. Satyajit Ray: India 1964 (117 mins)

The director's own favourite of his films set in late 19th – century Bengal, boasts a marvellously Victorian heroine: Charulata, spellbindingly portrayed by Madhabi Mukherjee, is beautiful, intellectual and dangerously bored. Charulata's household, a vast ornate mansion, is one of seething suppressed emotions, subtly revealed by Subrata Mitra's eloquent camera.

Norah Boyce Science Lectures – Autumn term 2024

These weekly lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm online via Zoom, **except 29 October** when the lecture is an in-person event (not on Zoom) held at the United Reformed Church, Downing Place. Doors open at 4.15 pm. Please note that work has been done to improve the acoustics at the venue since our last event.

The lectures are open to members only. When held by Zoom, the link for each lecture is on the *Norah Boyce Lectures* page of the website (you will need to log in to access this) and will be included in the weekly Bulletin during the week prior to the lecture and also emailed to Bulletin recipients on the morning of the Lecture.

Any last-minute changes to the programme will be publicised in the weekly Bulletin.

'Science for Everyone'

15 October How do flowers produce petals that attract pollinators?

Speaker Professor Beverley Glover, Director of Cambridge University Botanic Gardens.

Petals act as long-range advertisements that attract pollinators to flowers. We will discuss some of the clever tricks that enable them to stand out to the insect eye.

29 October Scientists and politicians, why are they incompatible?

Speaker Professor Herbert Huppert FRS, Institute of Theoretical Geophysics, Cambridge

Politicians very rarely know or understand much science, even though they have frequently to consider and make important scientific decisions, often rather rapidly. Scientists are generally not in a hurry to make a decision and if further data or ideas change their conclusions, they generally say so, and may even increase their reputation by doing so.

Please note: this lecture will take place in-person at the United Reformed Church, Downing Place. (Doors open at 4.15 pm).

12 November Pattern formation: the secret of (multicellular) life and the key to understanding development of the brain

Speaker Professor Jack Price, Emeritus Professor of Developmental Neurobiology, Institute for Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London.

How the ability to form patterns has driven evolution and development. How patterning is the key to understanding the complexity of the brain.

26 November New views of our universe with the James Webb Space Telescope

Speaker Dr Robin Catchpole, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge

After an introduction to the telescope; where it is, how it got there and how it works, we will see how, close to home, the telescope is finding evidence for possible life on planets around nearby stars and far away, what it tells us about the first few hundred million years of the life of the Universe.

Wednesday Lectures – Autumn term 2024

Except for 23 October, lectures this term are being run as hybrid events, giving members the opportunity to attend either via Zoom, or apply for a limited number of pre-booked places to attend in person. The talks take place in the Pink room here at Bridge Street. Places can be booked 7 days before each lecture. Please contact the Office to book, giving your name and membership number. Zoom links are on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15pm. No entry to the Pink room before 2.00pm.

Any last-minute changes to the programme will be publicised in the weekly Bulletin.

9 October **Cambridge Children's hospital** **HYBRID**

Speaker Dame Mary Archer, co-chair of the Campaign Board raising funds to build Cambridge Children's Hospital.

The East of England is the only area of the country that does not have a specialist children's hospital. This unfortunate anomaly will be rectified by the creation of Cambridge Children's Hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Scheduled to open in 2028/29, this hospital will treat the whole child, mind and body together, using advanced diagnostics and genomic medicine not just to treat disease, but in some cases to prevent it completely.

16 October **'One of our own' Victor Ekins** **HYBRID**

Speaker David Duker, editor of diaries.

One of Our Own tells the remarkable story of local Battle of Britain pilot Victor Ekins, based on the wartime diaries that he began in 1940 and meticulously kept every single day of the war. These diaries had lain unread for over 80 years. The book of the same title was released in July last year.

23 October **MAiD-The Journey So Far - The Road Ahead** **ZOOM ONLY**

Speaker Dr Jean Marmoreo, one of Canada's first practitioners to provide Medical Assistance in Dying.

The history of the legislative changes in Canada that introduced MAiD to Canadians and moving into the changes and evolution of the more controversial changes that occurred in 2023: mental disorders as the sole underlying cause of the request as well as advanced requests.

Please note: 3rd International Wednesday lecture live from Canada

30 October **Trailblazer: the extraordinary life and work of Barbara Leith Smith Bodichon** **HYBRID**

Speaker Jane Robinson, Senior Associate of Somerville College, Oxford.

Victorian Barbara Bodichon was responsible for the development of feminism in Britain. She campaigned for equal opportunity in the workplace, the law, the polling booth, at home, and in the world beyond the kitchen or the drawing-room; she co-founded the first university college for women in Britain (Girton) and the first women's suffrage society.

PTO

6 November Russians at war: what the Russian people think HYBRID

Speaker Alla Viktorova, from Russia, had a successful career in business and journalism in Moscow.

The War in Ukraine is likely to be long and presents the West with numerous challenges, economically, militarily and strategically. The Lecture provides a unique perspective; Alla draws on Russian public sources, data and research, as well as information from her contacts inside Russia, to describe public opinion in Russia, and related topics such as propaganda, trust in information sources, the fluctuating popularity ratings of Putin and the effect of the War on Russian attitudes to the West.

13 November The USA elections: consequences for the UK and Europe HYBRID

Speaker Lord Balfe of Dulwich, Member of The House of Lords since 2013

Richard was a member of the European Parliament sponsored Transatlantic Policy Network from the Mid 1980s until 2004 during which time he made many visits to the United States. Since then, he has visited on several occasions and has been part of the briefing programme for newly elected Members of the House of Representatives. He has lectured on modern United States social and political policy developments post 1912 and on the Lyndon B Johnson Presidency.

20 November An Archivist's View of 490 Years of Cambridge University Press HYBRID

Speaker Dr Rosalind Grooms, Cambridge University Press Archivist.

In 1534, Henry VIII granted Letters Patent to Cambridge University authorising the printing of 'all manner of books', marking the beginning of Cambridge University Press. Celebrating the 490th anniversary of the world's oldest university press, Rosalind Grooms will give an illustrated talk presenting the archival documents which bring to life the history of the people, the publishing landmarks and the changing technologies of Cambridge University Press.

27 November The versatile nerve cell HYBRID

Speaker Dr Brian McCabe, Fellow and Deputy Senior Tutor of Robinson College Cambridge.

Nerve cells are quite astonishing. Simple modifications of their basic design have led to exquisitely sensitive sense organs and some bizarre lifestyles. I'll be focussing on the use of electric fields for hunting and social communication, how a simple molecular accident enables an otherwise lethal lifestyle, and how this modification has implications for pain control.

4 December A suitable stone HYBRID

Speakers Lida Cardozo Kindersley &/or Roxanne Kindersley, Sculptors

Geology has shaped the beautiful variety of British stones used for fine carving and letter-cutting, but how do we choose which one to use? Coming from renowned letter-cutting studio The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, Roxanne and Lida explore the properties and qualities of several categories of British rocks and stones, looking at their colouration, lastingness and response to a chisel.

11 December British Antarctic Survey report HYBRID

Speaker to be confirmed