

Wednesday Lectures – Spring term 2025

The lectures this term are being run as either Zoom or 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 will be in the Pink room here at Bridge Street. Places can be booked 7 days before each lecture. 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 2.15 pm. No entry to the Pink Room before 2.00 pm

Please note that the lecture on 26 February is via Zoom only.

The **AGM on 26 March** will be held in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street at 2.15 pm.

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

15 January David Parr **HYBRID**
 Speaker Holly O' Brien / A representative of the David Parr House Charity

186 Gwydir Street, Cambridge is an ordinary terraced house with extraordinary hand-painted interiors. Once the home of Victorian working-class artist, David Parr, the house was lived in continuously for nearly 120 years by three generations of his family. This talk explores David Parr's incredible artistic skill, his dedication to creating a comfortable home for his family, and the ongoing work of the David Parr House Charity.

22 January From Shed to Destination: The story of Scotsdales Garden Centre's growth and vision **HYBRID**
 Speaker Johnny Critchley-Salmonson, heads up sales and marketing team at Scotsdales

Scotsdales Garden Centre's inspiring journey from its modest routes from a small number of greenhouses, to becoming a beloved destination and garden centre group.

29 January Pirates of the Caribbean **HYBRID**
 Speaker Tim Bartlett, U3AC Member and former Director of Studies (Lectures)

Piracy in the Caribbean reached its height around mid 17th century and lasted to about 1730 and has become known as the Golden Age of Piracy. Piracy existed long before this time, and even in the Caribbean it had been in existence for almost a century. Depictions by Hollywood rarely give a glimpse of the reality of Pirates and Buccaneers, rather romanticising their exploits and ignoring the harsh reality.

5 February Into the Doughnut; (An introduction to Doughnut Economics) **HYBRID**
 Speaker Jeremy Johnson, an active member of Cambridge Doughnut (CamDEAG)

The word economics is originally from the Greek meaning management of the home, so how can doughnuts help us with the management of our home - the planet Earth? This talk goes into the ideas of Doughnut Economics and how we can use a change of perspective to re-frame our problems into something that meets the needs of all within the means of the planet.

12 February Justice and mercy: History and role of the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire **HYBRID**
 Speaker Victor Lucas, U3AC member and former High Sheriff

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular Office in the United Kingdom. This talk examines the history of this ancient Office and the role today. (Rescheduled from May 2024).

19 February The Fluid Earth: Volcanic eruptions and lava flows, as exemplified in Iceland **HYBRID**

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

Gigantic volcanic eruptions, either into the atmosphere or under the oceans, can claim many human and animal lives, do enormous and very costly damage, as well as often supplying wonderful sights. I will outline some of the background, describe the initiation of tsunamis and discuss how some scientists believe that eruptions at deep-sea vents, zillions of years ago, resulted in the initiation of life.

26 February The founding of the Smithsonian Institute **ZOOM ONLY**

Speaker Raymond Stern has practiced and taught architecture, design, and history in Europe, South-East Asia, the US and Canada

The Smithsonian Institution eventually grew into the largest museum and research complex in the world. James Smithson who never set foot in the US, was the bastard son of the notorious Duke of Northumberland. A talented chemist Smithson became the youngest member of Britain's Royal Society. This is a remarkable personal story of a shadowy figure, of a non-functional family, of a fluke of quirky estate planning, of a man at the centre of the English Enlightenment, and the creation of America's greatest museum born out of English aristocracy.

Please note 4th International Wednesday lecture.

5 March 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. The unfortunate anomaly will be rectified by the creation of the 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 genome medicine not just to treat disease, but in some cases to prevent it completely. (Rescheduled from Oct 2024).

12 March The heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan **HYBRID**

Speaker Bernard Lockett, Trustee of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival

A background, overview and assessment of the works; then a consideration of the social and political satire within; finally to see the world wide popularity of the shows in the 21st C and modern production values.

19 March High Treason and a Medieval Royal insult in a Cambridgeshire Village Church **HYBRID**

Speaker David Oates, U3AC Member interested in heraldry since his schooldays

The 39 coats of arms on the Orwell chancel ceiling are a remarkable and unique survival from the fourteenth century, commemorating the rise, fall and restoration of Sir Simon Burley, an important figure during the troubled reign of the young King Richard II, executed for High Treason. The arms include not only many of the local gentry but national figures of the nobility – some appearing in Shakespeare's Richard II.

26 March AGM with lecture: Cambridge Sport in Fenner's hands **IN PERSON ONLY**

Speaker Nigel Fenner, author of 'Cambridge Sport: in Fenner's Hands'

Frank Fenner, a local tobacconist who, across the middle of the 20th century, did much more than found Fenner's Cricket Ground In the second half of the nineteenth century, England was experiencing a sporting revolution that went global, with Cambridge, and perhaps Frank Fenner, having a significant impact. This was despite the challenging relationship the Town had with the University.