

**Annual General Meeting  
to be held in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Corpus Christi College,  
Cambridge**

(Entry to the Lecture Theatre is via the courtyard  
on the left-hand side of the Eagle pub in Bene't Street)

**at 3.15 pm  
on**

**Wednesday 26 March 2025**

(The meeting will follow the Wednesday Lecture at 2.15 pm for which you need to pre-book a place)

**AGENDA**

**\*\*\* Please have your membership card ready to show on arrival \*\*\***

- 1. Chair**  
Appoint the Chair for the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence**  
To note.
- 3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM held on Wednesday 27 March 2024**  
Attached.
- 4. Election of members to Council**
  - 4.a To elect the following five new nominees to Council:**

Patricia Fara	Nominated by Ron Laskey, seconded by Sally Livesey
Jonathan Gillis	Nominated by Philip Stott, seconded by Linda Spiers
Tony Pooley	Nominated by Marie Joelle Gálvez, seconded by Philippe Mathieu
Sue Rhodes	Nominated by Mary Newton, seconded by Reinhard Tenberg
(Heulwen) Jane Williams	Nominated by Dr Martin Thom, seconded by Elizabeth May
  - 4.b To elect Susan Honeyford to Council following her co-option as a Trustee in December 2024 in preparation for assuming the Officer role of Director of Studies (Courses)**  
Nominated by Sally Livesey, seconded by Rachel Meller
  - 4.c To confirm the re-election of Kevin Holmes**  
Nominated by Sally Livesey, seconded by Philip Stott, to his second term on Council and as Treasurer.
- 5. Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**  
Copies available on the website:  
<https://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Annual-Report-and-Financial-Statements-2024.pdf>
- 6. Officers' reports to the AGM**  
To discuss attached reports.  
Please send any questions or comments on the papers by mail or email to the Office to arrive not later than **Friday 21 March 2025**.
- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**  
To appoint Gary Eves FCCA of Fairway Tax and Accounting Ltd as Independent Examiner.
- 8. Any other business**
- 9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 March 2026.**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024 held in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge on Wednesday 27 March 2024**

**Present:** 98 members

**Minutes Secretary:** Carol Spong

- 1. Chair**  
Tim Ewbank welcomed everyone and introduced Susan Honeyford as Chair for the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence**  
20 apologies were received (list at the end).
- 3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on Wednesday 22 March 2023**  
Mike Gibbs proposed acceptance of the Minutes, Mark Sanderson seconded and all AGREED.
- 4. Election of Chair of Council**  
Philip Stott was nominated as Chair of Council by his fellow Trustees to replace Tim Ewbank who was ending his natural term of Office. All AGREED.
- 5. Election of members to Council**  
Four members of Council were leaving Council having completed their term of office: John Abbott, Sheila Bennett, Penny Carter and Geof Tamulonis.  
Mike Gibbs' current term of office had finished, but he was being nominated for a second term. John Tyson had stepped down during the year.  
The following five nominees to Council were duly elected:  
Mike Gibbs                      Nominated by Derek Morris, Seconded by Paul Bullen-Smith  
Suzan Griffiths                Nominated by Sally Livesey, Seconded by Sheila Bennett  
Rachel E Meller                Nominated by Penny Carter, Seconded by Susan Honeyford  
Jeremy Newton                 Nominated by John Procter, Seconded by Philip Stott  
Nicholas Russell                Nominated by Philip Stott, Seconded by Tim Ewbank
- 6. Appointment of Officers**  
Sally Livesey was appointed Secretary to replace Penny Carter.
- 7. Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**  
The Annual Report and Financial Statements were received by the AGM. Jeremy Newton proposed and Nicholas Russell seconded, all AGREED.
- 8. Officers' reports to the AGM**  
Tim Ewbank gave an update on the lease of Bridge Street which is due to end in October 2025. The agents, Cheffins, on behalf of the landlord, Magdalene College, have indicated they would like to keep us as tenants after the end of the lease. However, there is remedial work that needs to be done to the roof which still requires to be quantified. It is not known how this may affect the future rent. We also do not yet know how long we will need to wait for a definitive answer, and, if we do need to plan for a move, this can take a long time. We have therefore commissioned a surveyor to look at other properties. Members will be kept informed of progress.  
Tim said he had enjoyed his seven years on Council, with three as Chairman. He thanked Carol in the Office for her help and Penny Carter who had done a huge amount of work, mostly unseen by others. Kevin Holmes and his predecessor Margaret Kerry were also thanked for their work as Treasurer, making the accounts intelligible and more forward thinking.

Kevin Holmes, Treasurer explained many of the income and expenditure figures shown in the accounts, answering questions along the way which had been lodged before the meeting. He wants to encourage and enable more activities within U3AC and asked those with ideas to come forward.

U3AC is extremely grateful to those members who make donations when renewing their membership and fortunate for the generosity of those who have left money to us in their wills. Leaving U3AC a legacy is something that he intends to raise awareness of in the summer by way of a trial flyer sent with next year's Programme and hopes it sits well with members.

John Procter, Director of Studies (Courses) reflected on his 12 months since taking over from Maggie Balshaw. He thanked the courses committee and Jane in the Office. He also thanked tutors who contribute to our programme; without their support we could not run. We do need more, so please come forward.

Philip Stott, formerly Director of Studies (Lectures), said that unlike U3As, U3AC does not pay its major guest lecturers; this will need to be looked at. Out of 2,500 members, on average only c.130 attend the Wednesday Lectures, which is disappointing, considering the high calibre of our speakers; it would be encouraging if the average could rise to over 200.

Norah Boyce Science Lectures – the report was noted.

Penny Carter, formerly Secretary thanked the Office staff. She welcomed Sally Livesey and said U3AC was very lucky to have her professional experience and knowledge.

Cultural and Social Activities committee - their report was noted.

#### **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Gary Eves FCCA of Fairway Tax and Accounting Ltd was proposed as Independent Examiner by Kevin Holmes, seconded by Penny Carter, all AGREED.

#### **10. Any other business**

Flowers and gifts were presented to Tim Ewbank and Penny Carter with thanks for their work and contribution to U3AC.

The Office staff: Carol, Jane, Gemma and Rebecca were thanked and received a round of applause.

#### **11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 26 March 2025.**

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm

#### **Apologies for absence**

John	Abbott	Sandra	Martin
Brenda	Akester	Diane	Milan
Lorna	Atwell	Charles	Nisbet
Jenny	Blackburn	Jessie	Nisbet
Vanessa	Connolly	Val	Parkes
Dena	Cowdy	David	Pender-Cudlip
Alan	Dench	Christine	Russell
Frances	Dolan	Elaine	Shortt
Maxine	Fay	Cynthia	Smale-Adams
Shirley	Lowe	Georgina	Stephens

## Reports to AGM

### Chair

On behalf of the whole Council, I should like to thank publicly the three Council members who are standing down at this AGM. Sally Livesey has been a wonderfully supportive and knowledgeable Secretary, and she will be much missed, as will be John Procter, who has so ably acted in the key role of Director of Studies (Courses), one of the most important positions in the U3AC. Likewise, we are sad to see Ian Hunter leave us, but we are also delighted to be able to congratulate him on his new position outside the U3AC as a Councillor for Northstowe, one of the fastest growing developments in Cambridge. We hope all three will continue to enjoy the great benefits of, and to contribute to, the organisation they have served so willingly.

I should also like to thank most warmly the five U3AC members who have generously put their names forward for consideration as new Trustees at this AGM, along with Susan Honeyford, who has so encouragingly agreed to replace John Procter as the Director of Studies (Courses) and who has already been co-opted to this position, and as a Trustee, by Council, a position to be ratified formally at this AGM. Susan, a previous Chair of the U3AC, will bring a wealth of experience to this vital role.

Above all, I should like to acknowledge the indefatigable work of our four Office staff in supporting us as members and in keeping the U3AC running efficiently whatever the circumstances, but particularly so for their sterling efforts during this demanding year with its extended Legionella outbreak. The fact that so many classes were able to continue successfully during the forced closure of Bridge Street is a tribute to their, and to our tutors', dedication.

The prime activities of U3AC staff and members during 2024/25 are fully reported in the Annual Report and Financial Statements (including the 'Strategy Report' and 'Trustees' Report') which accompany the AGM papers. May I encourage you all to read these which help everyone to understand how the U3AC works and what has been achieved during this last year.

A subject that remains uppermost in the minds of Council, and of members more generally, is the renewal of our current lease on Bridge Street, which expires in November, 2025. Because of the excellent work of our Vice-Chair, Michael Gibbs, and of our small Premises Working Group linked with our selected commercial property surveyor, we can now report that we have been offered a new 11-Year Lease at an acceptable rental with Magdalene College, through its Agent, Cheffins. In welcoming this most warmly, it must, however, be noted that we shall have to close the premises for much of the summer months of 2025 to allow the complete refurbishment of the roof by Cheffins. As many of you will have noticed, we have for some time been suffering small leaks from both the roof and the terrace, and so it is vital that these are fixed permanently before we enter into the new lease. We sincerely hope that the work can be achieved without any impact on our normal Term-time activities. We are further investigating with the Landlord/Agent how we may be able to improve access to the building from Bridge Street.

Your Council has also been highly active in many other ways, and it has established a number of important Working Groups, including a Working Group developing a 'U3AC Long-Term Strategic Plan' and a Working Group on 'Direct Publishing'. Under its Chair, Trustee Mark Sanderson, a third key Working Group has just completed its task and has produced a fully revised 'U3AC Complaints Policy and Procedure' and a 'Code of Behaviour' which were accepted, and ratified for immediate use, at the Council held on 20th February, 2025. Other initiatives have included open monthly 'Chat with the Chair' Sessions held in the Social Area at Bridge Street and a strong marketing drive to increase membership to pre-Covid levels. In this latter respect, all members can individually contribute by recommending that their friends and contacts consider joining the U3AC, benefiting from the wide range of courses, activities, lectures, and social events that we will be offering in 2025/26. Please also contact the Office if you have any good ideas for local advertising through relevant organisations and publications (e.g., parish magazines).

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the current Council for their strong support through what has been a challenging year. I feel most privileged to be able to work with such colleagues.

As ever, I hope you will all enjoy a rewarding and stimulating year of membership in our unique organisation.

**Philip Stott**

## Treasurer

**Year to 31 December 2024:** Most of the narrative around 2024 has already been covered in the Annual Report and Financial Statements – this report will try and provide some context behind the numbers. The two main statements in the accounts are in the financial accounts (page 10 and page 11) with detailed breakdowns set out in the notes.

Page 10: Statement of Financial Activities – formerly known as profit and loss account.

- Our total income for 2024 was £459,532. This was a significant increase on 2023 (£383,771). We were very grateful to receive donations and legacies from current and former members which helped the financial situation. The generosity, loyalty and support of its members is one of U3AC's greatest assets. Finances also benefitted not only from hiring out of Bridge Street premises but also from a rebate on our Service Charge. In these accounts we still have 7/12 of reduced subscriptions and gift aid being brought forward from 2023.
- Our total expenditure for 2024 was £462,265 an increase on 2023 (£451,619). The 2024 figures represent a typical expenditure level - albeit tightly managed and controlled by all involved. Governance and support costs in 2024 were £191,277, a decrease on 2023 (£211,060).
- The designated funds are for the Botany Club, Bird Club, and the Cultural and Social Committee. The Bird Club and the Social and Cultural Committee operate bank accounts under U3AC's name, which are consolidated into the overall accounts.
- Investments increased in value by £12,217, while producing £15,054 in dividends. There is no doubt that the size and growth potential of our investments are a major factor in the long-term financial sustainability of U3AC.
- We have a significant depreciation charge again this year of £41,140 in respect of the refurbishment costs which are being written off over the length of the current lease. Should we be able to negotiate a new lease of the Bridge Street premises from November 2025, then we would be in the happy position of having everything fully written down as we enter the new lease.
- The upshot of all this is that we have a deficit of -£2,733 compared to 2023 (-£67,848). This is the difference between the total income and total expenditure figures on page 10. Overall, the strength of our balance sheet has increased with the gains made on listed investments providing a welcome boost.

Page 11: Balance Sheet

- The reduction in tangible assets relates to the refurbishment and a few minor equipment purchases.
- Creditors relates to subscriptions paid in advance.
- The total funds carried forward have increased from £670,319 to £679,803.

Due to the generosity of past generations of members, U3AC has a very healthy levels of reserves. As well as giving us stability through the pandemic, these reserves provided the money for the Bridge Street refurbishment. It is this level of financial resilience that not only allow us to sustain short term losses of income but also provide for our long-term financial sustainability.

**Looking to 2025:** The subscription rate for 2025 is £120 (2024 £110). This is to cover not only inflation and general increases in costs but also the increased rent from the new lease and the fact that we're unable to rent out our Bridge Street premises in 2025. We would like to freeze subscriptions at this level in 2026 but will not be able to make a decision on this until the end of 2025. There is a reduced rate subscription (for those on pension credit) of 20% of the full rate which for 2025 is thus £24 (2024 £22). In terms of methods of payment, we offer support to those who are unable to cope with online payments. We hope to reintroduce a Direct Debit option and to consider extending this to allow the potential for spreading payments over the year.

Subscription levels at U3AC have always been kept as low as possible, covering only the running costs of the organisation. One reason the subscription can be kept at a modest level is because our tutors very generously give their time and expertise for no recompense. The cost of running U3AC in 2024 was c.£150 per member and investment dividends, bank interest, gift aid and miscellaneous income combined to produce an effective subsidy of c.£40 per member.

**Kevin Holmes**

## **Director of Studies (Courses)**

As I come to the end of my period of office I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Tutors, Course Organisers, volunteers, Office staff, members of the Courses Committee and Council to the annual course programme. Each year U3AC provides a rich and varied programme with a wide spectrum of choice. Thank you everyone.

My special thanks go to the Office staff and to Tutors and Course Organisers for keeping the show on the road during the problems with the water supply to Bridge Street.

The Courses Committee has met four times since the last AGM. One of its important roles is to monitor the anonymous returns from members about the quality of the courses they had attended and the responses from participants withdrawing from courses. The percentage of participants rating either their courses as 'Exceeding expectation' or 'Satisfactory' is consistently c 92% and as 'Disappointing' c 2%.

As at the point of allocation in August 2024, 96.8% of members secured their first choice. The total number of courses offered increased from 375 to 391 and the number of places from 7268 to 7598.

A short film has been produced by a U3AC member which will be used as part of a number of initiatives aimed at the recruitment of tutors and course organisers for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Over the past year a welcome meeting for new tutors and two forums for tutors/ course organisers have been held as have drop-in sessions for prospective tutors and course organisers. In June a thank you party provided an opportunity for the members of Council to recognise the contribution that tutors, course organisers and volunteers make to the strength of the organisation.

**John Procter on behalf of the Courses Committee**

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## **Directors of Studies (Lectures)**

Four lectures were given in Summer 2024, ten in Autumn 2024 and eleven (including the AGM) over the Spring term. We are very grateful to U3AC members and tutors who stepped in sometimes at very short notice, when illness or a fire adjacent to a railway track prevented speakers from attending. The International Series of Lectures from Canadian speakers has continued with the assistance of Frank Nicholson of the "Canadian later life learning network" with a lecture each term delivered by Zoom. All other lectures have been hybrid, giving members an opportunity to attend in person in the Pink Room or view on Zoom apart from when the U3AC premises were closed during the Legionella outbreak when the lecture was delivered from Oxford by Zoom only. We have tried to offer a variety of lectures reflecting both "Town" and "Gown", current affairs, local enterprises, archaeology, economics and science. The Pink Room was at capacity in the Autumn term, but attendance dropped in the Spring, perhaps linked to respiratory illnesses but the Zoom audience often ranged from 80 to over 150. We would like to thank our moderators Geof Tamulonis, Ruth Meyer and Frank Nicholson and also the Office Staff and Zoom host Mike Gibbs who have done so much to ensure the smooth running of the lecture programme.

**Suzan Griffiths and Nicholas Russell**

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## **Norah Boyce Science Lectures**

The Norah Boyce Science Lectures aim to present “Science for Everyone” with approximately four lectures in each of the Autumn and Spring terms. We try to select speakers who can explain their subject to non-scientists, ideally in an entertaining way.

This year has seen major changes in the Norah Boyce organisers. Some of the outgoing team of Ron Laskey, John Rallison and Lesley Dickinson have chosen speakers for eight years, so they felt it was time to refresh the programme. They are delighted to know that the lecture series will be in the safe hands of John Cook and Jack Price, who have already contributed fascinating speakers for this academic year.

Topics this year have ranged from: “The James Webb Space Telescope”, through Rewilding Britain, Ageing, Tree diversity and Organ donation to “How flowers attract pollinators”. Most speakers have chosen to present by Zoom and audiences have continued to rise this year, with over 160 members viewing several of the lectures.

Talks take place at 4.30 pm Tuesdays and past talks remain available on the U3AC YouTube channel. We welcome suggestions for topics or speakers from Members.

Both the old and new organisers would like to thank Jane Carmichael and Gemma Clare for their help with the Norah Boyce Lectures.

**Ron Laskey**

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## **Secretary**

### **Governance**

The Council held six full meetings during the year, plus one (on line) emergency meeting on 4th November, called by the Chair at the time of the Legionella crisis. This was essential in order to update trustees and to agree the way forward. Regular meetings were also held by the Finance, Courses, Risk Audit Group and Cultural and Social Activities Committees, who submitted reports on all substantive matters to Council for discussion.

The strong preference is to hold Council meetings on a face to face basis when practically possible, but failing that, a venue which allows on line attendance for those who cannot attend in person, is considered as the best alternative. There may, of course, be exceptional/occasional circumstances when a trustee cannot attend either way.

### **Compliance**

U3AC continues to monitor the legal and regulatory requirements that charities and employers must observe, and to review any new guidance provided by the Charity Commission, in order to ensure that our policies and procedures are as up to date as possible.

### **Trustees**

U3AC’s aim is to attract Trustees who, as far as possible, reflect the demographic of the membership and, collectively, have the skills, experience and commitment to manage the organisation effectively. The appeals through the weekly bulletins in the autumn produced a good response from members who were willing to undertake this role and committing themselves by the end of 2024 to stand at the AGM 2025.

During the year, three trustees resigned for a variety of reasons and an additional U3AC member was co-opted as a trustee in December, in order to work alongside the retiring Director of Studies (Courses) in preparation to succeed him when his term of office comes to an end in March 2025.

### **UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

In line with established procedure, data protection is a regular item in the Operations report at each Council meeting, and an annual review on compliance is undertaken. Reminders relating to data protection are mentioned in the weekly Bulletin from time to time, particularly in relation to the confidentiality of email messages and addresses.

## **Health and Safety**

The Site and Activity Risk Assessment for the Bridge Street premises was reviewed during the year. Some relatively minor medical incidents involving members were reported and recorded during the year, but none was as a result of a failure of health and safety policy.

## **U3AC policies**

A number of policies and procedures have been updated during the year as part of our regular review of these documents. In particular, considerable work was undertaken by a group of trustees on our Complaints Policy and Procedures. This revised document is now on the U3AC website. All public facing policies may be viewed on the U3AC website (About U3AC > Constitution, policies).

## **Other**

A group of Trustees (Risk Audit Group - RAG) took considerable time to analyse the various risks that the U3AC might encounter and which could have a serious impact on the operation of the business. A table has been produced (Risk Audit Management Plan - RAMP) and approved by Council, which lists the risks and estimates the impact levels, likelihood and action in mitigation of each of them. This is a live document which is included in Council papers, reviewed regularly and adjusted accordingly.

**Sally Livesey**

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## **Cultural & Social Activities Committee**

This year trips have been to The National Stud & National Horseracing Museum, 'Bruegel to Rubens Exhibition' at The Ashmolean Museum, Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker & Flatford, Henry Moore Studios & Gardens, Down House, Charles Darwin's home and finally Spencer House & Tate Britain.

A group travelled by coach to visit the National Horseracing Stud and Museum in Newmarket in April. It was a very interesting day all round. Our guide at the stud was very informative and enthusiastic, many foals were expected to arrive over the following few weeks, and the stallions were something else, huge beautiful creatures. All the horses were out in the paddocks, they aim to look after all of them as naturally as possible. This part of the trip lasted about an hour and a half /two hours. The museum is at the other end of Newmarket which fortunately wasn't busy with the usual traffic. We arrived there about 12.30, everyone ready for refreshments! The museum was visited independently. We met up again at 2.30 for a guided tour and talk about the retraining of retired racehorses which takes about 4 months. The guide said that they come over as rather misbehaved youngsters, each one with its own personality, but eventually 'coming round'! They go on to work in dressage, possibly jumping or just ridden every day by the owner. Our guide here was full of enthusiasm and the care the horses receive is amazing. The members said how much they enjoyed the outing. The weather was kind too, very helpfully.

Our trip in May was to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, for the Bruegel to Rubens exhibition of around 120 great Flemish drawings from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of these are so fragile that they are rarely seen in public and, after the three month exhibition closed, many of them would be returned to storage. So, this was a rare treat for us to be able to view them. Timed entry to the exhibition was well-organised so that not too many entered at any time and we could get close up to all the exhibits many of which were small.

The exhibition took us through the different functions of drawings from sketches used to build skills, to drawings used in preparation for paintings, and onto drawings as pieces of art in their own right. One of the highlights of the exhibition was a beautiful sketch by Rubens of the Belvedere torso next to a cast of the original sculpture which is on display in the Vatican.

There was also plenty of time to explore the many varied and excellent displays in the Museum. In particular we had the opportunity to view the Wilton Diptych which had been loaned to the Ashmolean as part of the National Galleries 200th birthday celebrations. It was painted about 1395-99 and made for King Richard II. It was stunning!

Kelvedon Hatch Secret Bunker is certainly the 'Hole in the Ground' as it is advertised! I don't know what I was expecting but it wasn't that. If you haven't been I thoroughly recommend it. When it was first suggested to me by our previous U3AC chair, I must admit I was a bit uncertain, but I'm glad I had been persuaded.

Down a 'hole' of 20 feet below the soil surface, a 27,000 sq. ft bunker was hidden. There are three floors of rooms where up to 600 people would have been incarcerated in a self-contained nuclear



fortress. Just after a nuclear attack had taken place, the functions of the occupants were to co-ordinate arrangements for maintaining and restoring essential supplies and services, in terms of allocations of food, energy and other vital resources. It was planned that there would have been enough food, water, air and power to last for up to twelve weeks, thinking that this would be enough time provided for the emergency regional government to implement the plan for the survival and recovery of the region! Then they would emerge!! It was a most thought-provoking experience!

It was good to come to the surface and travel to the beautiful hamlet of Flatford that had inspired the Artist John Constable. We were given guided tours and shown the views that inspired him to paint amongst others the Hay Wain and Flatford Mill. Those of us who sampled the refreshments at the National Trust café were not disappointed. It was a good day out.

Our trip to the Henry Moore Foundation was especially interesting. It had been established by the artist and his family in 1977 to encourage public appreciation of the visual arts. Henry Moore, one of the great sculptors of the 20th century, found inspiration in nature and used the land around his home as a practical working space. The full day guided tour included Hoglands, Henry Moore's home, the studios which were used for different activities from creating small models and enlarging plasters to carving, drawing and printmaking. The tour also focused on The Aisled Barn, a beautiful 16th century barn where a group of tapestries based on his drawings hang, and also the gardens designed by Irina form the backdrop of around 20 sculptures. The Rosey Lea Cafe offered food and drinks. Some people brought their own picnics and ate them in the beautiful gardens. It was an excellent day out and certainly well worth a repeat visit.

Last September a group travelled to Down House, Charles Darwin's delightful home in Kent. It had been purchased in order for the scientist to be away from as many people as possible. Interestingly Darwin even had the road lowered in front of the house in order that passers-by could not see into his property! It is still remote and set in beautiful countryside outside the village of Downe. It took the coach driver some time to navigate the narrow roads and park in the small car park.

We had refreshments on arrival and then guided tours of the house in groups. The tours lasted 45 minutes to one hour and the guides at the House were excellent and very knowledgeable indeed. The House staff were very helpful too. The café on site is small but very well run with lovely food. The wonderful gardens were free to wander in at leisure and there were exhibition rooms on the first floor. All participants enjoyed a good day out and as an added bonus the weather was kind as well.

Our London trip started in an interesting way. We had been dropped off by the coach at the back entrance of Spencer House and ended up entering it through the former servants' staircase, an area not normally open to the public! The house had lots of festive decorations, including a beautiful tree in the entrance hallway. We were the only visitors to Spencer House on that day as the House is only open to the general public on Sundays. Taken first into the impressive Grand Room we had our tea, coffee and biscuits served by our own butlers! Each group was shown around the other grand State Rooms where our guides pointed out all the interesting architectural features, beautiful paintings and gave us a fascinating insight into the Spencer family history over the generations. Both Blue Badge Guides were extremely knowledgeable and exceptionally good speakers, who really made the house come alive. Nothing was too much trouble for them! At the end of the tour, they even took the extra time and trouble to walk back with us to our coach through Green Park, so that we could see and take photos of the back elevation of the house.

We then went onto Tate Britain on Millbank where we had free time to have lunch, explore the various galleries and visit any exhibitions. The London visit was interesting, enjoyable and feedback was positive for the trip.

This coming year's planned trips include those to a performance of Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake, Bletchley Park, Chartwell, Windsor Castle & Savill Gardens and Churchill's War Rooms. We hope that as many members as possible will be interested in supporting these.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our committee (Patricia Burton, Rosie Gordon, Janet Rallison, Margaret Shaw and Monica Williams) for their hard work and commitment. I must also thank Carol, Gemma, Jane & Rebecca for their valuable assistance to us, we would not be able function without them!

**Clem Messenger**

## **Nominations to Council**

There are currently ten U3AC trustees, including the co-opted member Susan Honeyford. Our Constitution allows fifteen in total, which leaves five vacancies. Two current trustees (John Procter and Sally Livesey) will come to the end of their term of office and are not seeking re-election, which means in total there are seven vacancies.

We appealed, via the Bulletin for three successive weeks in the autumn - and in the December Newsletter, for members to come forward. Eleven (informal) responses were received. These members were all invited to attend an in-person meeting with the Chair and Secretary. Of these, five have now provided formal nominations. **On this basis, there will be no need for an election of new trustees.**

Our Treasurer, Kevin Holmes, comes to the end of his initial three-year term of office at this time and wishes to renew his trusteeship for a further three years and to continue in the role of Treasurer.

In addition to the above the U3AC Council, in accordance with the Constitution, co-opted one additional trustee (Sue Honeyford) at their meeting of December 16th 2024. This appointment only lasts until the next AGM and therefore has to be included as part of the formal appointment of new trustees. Her Personal Statement, provided for the purposes of the co-option, is included below. Sue has agreed to succeed John Procter as the Director of Studies (Courses) and a formal election to this post will take place at the next meeting of the Trustees.

### **Dr Patricia Fara - Nominated by Ron Laskey, seconded by Sally Livesey**

I only joined U3AC this September, but have been enormously impressed by the variety and high standard of the courses on offer, the enthusiasm of everyone involved, and the efficiency of the staff. By becoming a Trustee, I hope I can contribute to maintaining current excellence as well as enhancing what the organisation offers its members.

I feel I have plenty of relevant administrative and educational experience to offer. I am an Emeritus Fellow of Clare College, where I was Senior Tutor for ten years; in that role, I chaired two University committees, was Associate Secretary of the Senior Tutors committee, and served on many other bodies at both College and University levels. I am currently the President of the Antiquarian Horological Society, and was previously the Chair of the British Society for the History of Science. I was a Governor of a Cambridge primary school for five years, and am currently a Trustee of two educational charities (Erasmus Darwin House in Lichfield), and a small College charity. As an academic historian of science, I have many years' experience of lecturing, writing popular books, and interviewing for TV/radio. For example, a few years ago, at Ron Laskey's invitation, I gave a Norah Boyce lecture on Isaac Newton.

Less tangibly, I am an energetic, enthusiastic person and would welcome the opportunity to participate in ensuring the future of U3AC.

### **Jonathan Gillis - Nominated by Philip Stott, seconded by Linda Spiers**

Although relatively new to U3AC in Cambridge, I have been a member of the U3A in Australia and I am currently involved, to my great interest and delight, in several courses in U3AC in Cambridge. My professional career, prior to retirement in Cambridge, was primarily as a paediatric intensive care physician and I was the Director of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in Sydney for many years. I also practised as a paediatric palliative care physician. Following my clinical career, I served for several years as National Medical Director of the Australian Organ and Tissue Authority. I believe that I can draw upon these developed governance and organisational skills to make a contribution to the growth and development of U3A Cambridge.

### **Susan Honeyford – Nominated by Sally Livesey, seconded by Rachel Meller**

I have been a member of U3AC for over 10 years, either as an 'ordinary' member, as a volunteer, or as member of Council and as Chair. In fact, I'm a second generation U3AC member: my mother (now deceased) was a member for many years.

When I joined U3AC I volunteered - very tentatively - to help with reception. The ink was hardly dry on my email – as it were – before Gemma had signed me up.

I was elected to Council in 2016 and worked on the Courses Committee and as Vice Chair.

I was Chair from 2019 -2021; the Covid period.

Before I retired, I worked for the WEA Eastern Region organising adult learning in Cambridgeshire. I also worked on digital inclusion projects across the East of England. I have a background in television research and production and in audience and market research.

In my view the job of the Director of Studies (Courses) together with Courses Committee members and office staff, is to ensure, that there is a wide range of excellent courses for members to enjoy and that our volunteer member tutors are encouraged and supported to provide those courses.

**Tony Pooley - Nominated by Marie Joelle Gálvez, seconded by Philippe Mathieu**

I have been a member of U3AC since August 2024. I completed the course *Climate Change – What to Think and What to Do* just before Christmas and I am currently also participating in two other courses, *The Thinking Life: An introduction to Philosophy* (now in its second term) and *Magical Thinking* (which has only just started). I have joined the Wednesday Lunch club and attended several one-off lectures.

At the end of February 2020, I retired from a career in banking that had spanned over 45 years and during which I held senior positions at four international and British banks. I spent the latter part of my career at one of the UK's oldest private banks, R Raphael & Sons, where I was an Executive Board Director and a member of various committees. During this time, I specialised in Governance, Risk and Compliance and held several FCA and PRA Controlled Functions under the Senior Management & Certification Regime (SMCR). This included responsibility for all aspects of the bank's compliance with a burgeoning regulatory environment.

I have a proven track record of being able to think strategically and of implementing practical operational changes to adapt to external threats to a business and/or take advantage of potential opportunities to expand in existing markets or move into new business areas. In my last banking role, I was the Chair of a Committee established to introduce major changes to the risk management structure of a key operating division. In this capacity I championed the introduction of a range of risk management tools, including Key Performance Indicator and Key Risk Indicator dashboards, and I was the lead author of several new policies and associated operating procedures.

I was a trustee and Company Secretary of Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau (UCA) for three years until October 2024. In terms of income, UCA is a similar sized charity to U3AC, although of course operationally the two are quite different. During my time at UCA I introduced various initiatives aimed at strengthening the charity's governance and actively took part in developing its medium term strategy. I was also the principal contact between UCA and the Charity Commission. Should I be elected as a trustee of U3AC I will therefore bring not only the experience I have from my career in banking, but also recent and directly relevant experience of the issues involved in running a charity.

Since the start of 2022 I have also been treasurer of a small charity called Sophie's Fund Uttlesford. I have a degree in Economics and Sociology. I enjoy going to the gym, reading, gardening, eating out and going to the theatre. I am married with three grown-up children.

**Sue Rhodes - Nominated by Mary Newton, seconded by Reinhard Tenberg**

The U3AC is a very well-run organisation, highly valued by the Cambridge community and it would be a privilege to be more involved as a Trustee and help in any way I can. We became members in 2017. We both very much enjoyed the Thursday walking group which was an ideal way to meet other members. Since then, I have belonged to a Book Group continuously and have recently become joint Tutor for Book Group 1. I have thoroughly enjoyed various courses over the years ranging from Cryptic Crosswords, Biographies, English Literature and Art History.

This year I joined the Memoir Writing Class, Barbara Pym literature and a Short stories study group. I have enjoyed a varied career which included secretarial work, teaching in Further Education and, eventually, joined Cambridge University in the Research Services Division. During my time there, I studied for an Art History degree with the Open University, before working for ten years at The Fitzwilliam Museum as their Development Officer. What an exciting time I enjoyed there!

That role involved working as Clerk for the Fitzwilliam Trust, their fundraising arm, so I became familiar with the workings of the Charity Commission. For the last 10 years I have also been a Trustee for a family charity supporting vulnerable children in Tanzania, which is also a UK Registered Charity.

**(Heulwen) Jane Williams - Nominated by Dr Martin Thom, seconded by Elizabeth May**

I joined U3AC in 2023 and my experience of its programme and facilities has been entirely positive. This year I am enjoying dance, drawing, a book group and the weekly recitals at West Road. My professional background is in Further and Adult Education where I was a teacher and later the Principal of a large Further Education College in the Midlands. Subsequently I was the Director of Teaching and Learning in Whitehall and eventually ran my own business as a consultant on Governance and Standards in Further and Adult Education.

I have served as a volunteer on a number of boards of Third Sector organisations and as Vice Chair of a large FE College. I have also been a patient reviewer and quality committee chair for an NHS quality improvement service. Currently I am a volunteer telephone befriender for a Carers Trust and the Vice Chair of a Conservatoire Association which raises money for disadvantaged music students. My leisure interests include painting, music, reading, walking and travel so the U3AC offer is a great match for my enthusiasms. It would be a privilege to contribute my experience of trusteeship to this fine organisation.