

Message from the Chairman

You may be wondering what's been happening in Bridge Street since you were last able to visit about fifteen months ago. Firstly, and most importantly, Carol, Gemma, Jane and Joe have been continuing to come in daily to run all our courses and the administration. Secondly, the office space is currently being substantially made-over, both our present floor and the one above.

Looking forward, you may also be wondering what's going to happen in the coming term. Firstly, we'll be delighted to welcome you back into the building and to offer face-to-face classes again in our smart class rooms. Secondly, we will be offering a more varied form of programme delivery from this year onwards, namely face-to-face, online via Zoom and "hybrid" (some attendees in class and some remote).

The key features of our refurbished premises are:

- 30% more space overall
- six class rooms, compared with five previously
- all class rooms will have external windows and air-conditioning
- expanded social space on second floor, out of the way of members moving between classes
- new projection facilities in all class rooms, plus hearing loops
- administrative meeting room
- refreshed decoration throughout
- clear signage on all floors of the building
- wherever possible we've recycled or repurposed materials.

So far, work is proceeding to plan; with completion scheduled for the end of July. Immediately thereafter, we plan to offer an occasion on which members can visit the new premises and a pared down Open Day for potential new members. However, the scheduling of these events are dependent on the completion of the refurbishment (watch the Bulletin and website for details).

Understandably, you will want to know about our Covid precautions. We will be adhering to the government's current guidance, whatever it may be by the autumn. We will not be applying any additional local requirements on staff, tutors or members who come to the premises. However, at present some of our external venues plan to offer only reduced capacity to allow for social distancing, so there will be fewer places available on those courses. Although this may change by the autumn, I would ask for your continued understanding of the uncertain times. There will be updates in our weekly Bulletins nearer the start of term.

As always, it's not all good news, which is where you come in. As you know U3AC is a self-help members' organisation, not a service provider. Our membership has fallen significantly over the last year, consequently we have a collective need to recruit new members and encourage lapsed members to rejoin. So anything you can do to promote U3AC to your friends and contacts would be helpful, even if it is only to direct them to our website (our 2019 members' survey showed 70% of our members joined on recommendation from a friend.) To that end, we have included two leaflets with this mailing. As an encouragement, for every new member you introduce who joins (and quotes your name on their application), you will be entered into a prize draw, where the prize is a year's free membership. Beyond that, if you persuade five new members to join, you will automatically get a free membership. In addition, I'd welcome any suggestions for organisations that you feel might be receptive to our marketing materials.

Tim Ewbank

From the Treasurer

As was the case last year, there are two methods of paying your subscription: either online via PayPal (you do not need to have your own PayPal account for this) or via bank transfer (BACS); full details are on the application form. If these options pose difficulties for you, please contact the Office who will be happy to help. As well as subscriptions we are always grateful for any donations. U3AC members are consistently generous and at a time when U3AC has had a reduced income and increased expenditure, gifts of any amount are especially welcome. We can also claim Gift Aid on donations which means the government do their bit as well. Thank you for your support.

Margaret Kerry, Treasurer

Term dates 2021-22

Autumn term: Monday 11 October - Friday 17 December 2021

Spring term: Monday 17 January - Friday 25 March 2022

Summer term: Monday 25 April - Friday 17 June 2022

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

Amendment to Programme of Courses

FRE 04: Play-reading in French. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we regret this course is cancelled.

About courses

Hybrid courses information

Several courses are running in a hybrid format, whereby some members will be in a classroom and others will attend simultaneously via Zoom. Courses in hybrid format have the same course code, but the Zoom class will have a (z) suffix eg HIS 01 and HIS 01(z) - you need to apply for one or the other. If you enrol for the classroom option you can also attend via Zoom if you cannot attend in person one week, but if you enrol for the Zoom course, you **cannot** attend in person.

Tutors' details

For data protection reasons, the Programme of Courses 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.

Access to venues

If you have mobility issues please look at the 'Course venues' pages at the end of the Programme of Courses to check whether the course you are interested in is held in an accessible room before applying for it.

Closing date for applications and course allocation

We would like to receive your application for courses by 13 August. Applications received after this date will not be included in the automated allocation process.

A letter giving details of which courses you have been allocated will be sent out with your membership card and Newsletter at the beginning of September.

General information

A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £95 contributes to the administration and accommodation costs of the U3AC. **It is not a payment for courses, lectures or activities.** Members can attend the Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures (space permitting), apply for up to 6 courses and apply for visits arranged throughout the year.

If you apply for only ONE course and that course has a limited number of places we cannot guarantee you a place on that course, so it is advisable to provide an alternative.

Gift membership

Do you know someone who is retiring shortly? Would you like to give them a retirement gift of a year's U3AC membership? Contact the Office and we can send them a gift card along with a Programme of Courses and application form.

Norah Boyce Science Lecture recordings

Recordings of last term's Norah Boyce Science lectures are now on the Norah Boyce Science Lectures page of our website for you to view.

Wednesday Lecture recordings

Recordings of last term's Wednesday lectures are now on the Wednesday Lectures page of our website for you to view.

Cultural and Social Activities

These activities are organised by the U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee. The Chair of the Committee is Clem Messenger.

When activities resume, information about the trips will be given in the weekly Bulletin and Newsletter.

Environment group

Recent activities and reports can be found on the website <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/social/xtra-groups/environment-group/> Contact the Environment group: environmentu3ac@gmail.com

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Rosemary Huggins in April

Madge Quinn in May

Philip Oswald in May

Philip Lewis in June

Denis Bartlett in June

General administration

Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting will be on Tuesday 24 August 2021.

Other organisations

Details of events held by other organisations can be viewed on our website: <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/social/other-organisations/>