

Message from the Chairman

As our summer term has just ended, now seems a good moment to reflect on what we have achieved over the last academic year. At the start of the Autumn term, the Covid-19 pandemic was still very much with us. Nonetheless, we managed to lay on a full programme of courses and activities, with over half being face-to-face and the remainder online (Zoom or hybrid). Members were able to make their own choices, based on their attitude to Covid risk, as to whether to attend classes or sit it out, attend in person or remotely. We owe a debt of gratitude to tutors for not only offering courses or organising activities, but also being prepared to adapt their materials and delivery to accommodate members' preferences. Our more physical activities taking place in external premises also needed to adapt to their specific requirements of the premises in which their events were held. We have also been able to revive our Summer School and social events, such as 'Thank You' parties for tutors. Dealing with the continual stream of new challenges that circumstances presented, our Office staff really have 'held up the sky' for us all through the last year. Which brings me to the coming year.

You will have received the Programme with this Newsletter. As every year, it contains a truly astonishing range of subjects and activities. We are very fortunate to have access to such a talented group of members who offer their time and expertise in running or organising our activities.

While the bulk of the administrative work of the organisation is done by our staff, there are various tasks for which we need the help of volunteers; some one-off or sporadic jobs are e.g. stuffing the envelopes in which you received this Newsletter and Programme. Please see details of how you can help on page 3 of this Newsletter. Essentially, we are a member-based organisation, run by its members for the benefit of the members, not a service provider from which services are purchased. If you would like to be involved in helping the organisation to continue to run smoothly, please consider volunteering.

Another way in which you can contribute is by helping to recruit new members. As you know our membership is still about 15% below its financial breakeven point, so we are nibbling into our financial reserves. The members' survey in 2019 showed that over two thirds of new members joined through being referred by a friend, so you are all our best recruiting agents. Historically, I am aware that there has been a reluctance to grow the organisation for fear that members would not be able to get onto their chosen courses. However, new members bring new tutors, as about one in eight members offers to run a course or activity, so new members will mean new courses and activities.

As an inducement to encourage your contacts to join, we are repeating the offer we made last year: 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 the meantime, I hope you will find something of interest in our Summer School programme and be able to participate in our 40th anniversary events. Finally, on behalf of the staff and Council I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Tim Ewbank

U3AC premises

Please note that the U3AC premises will be closed to visitors from Monday 8 August to Friday 2 September to enable staff to deal with course allocations. Contact can continue to be made by email or telephone.

Promotion of our Open Day on Thursday 7 July

We will be holding our Open Day for prospective members on 7 July from 10 am to 1 pm. This is an important recruiting opportunity at which we showcase the range of courses and activities we offer members and give them a chance to meet some existing members and tutors/organisers.

To promote the event, we have designed and produced a poster (copies available on request from the Office), and would like your help with getting it as widely distributed as possible. As you know your local area, you will be the best judge of which locations and organisations are likely to attract the most attention. So, please give some thought to where in your locality it could be most beneficially displayed. Then print off the required number of copies and make the necessary arrangements for it to be put up (e.g. parish office approval).

Your help in promoting U3AC is both necessary and appreciated, as we need to recover our membership to pre-pandemic levels.

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

Mode of delivery of Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures

We recently sought your views on the use of Zoom as opposed to face-to-face ('F2F') delivery of our Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures. We did the same last year and members' views have not materially changed – there is a 3:1 preference for Zoom, but some clearly prefer F2F. The survey did not ask your views about the possibility of hybrid delivery (e.g. a speaker physically present in Cambridge, attended by a small F2F audience of up to 30 and a Zoom audience of unspecified size). Hybrid delivery has become increasingly popular in educational contexts over recent years as social distancing has impeded F2F meeting. We therefore diligently reassessed whether we might be able to make it work for U3AC, and (while not yet finally confirmed) we think we can for the Wednesday lectures. The idea would be that the scheduled speaker is given the option of a pure Zoom lecture (obviously, speakers based abroad etc. would always choose this!), or physical attendance at our premises in Bridge Street. (It has proved extremely hard and not cost-effective to find and secure larger central Cambridge venues for the Wednesday lectures, so the best we can do is use the Pink Room, which is our largest and seats 30.) For speakers electing to stay with Zoom, there would be no change to current arrangements. If instead the speaker opts for F2F delivery, we would offer up to 30 F2F seats to members, reserved under a first-come-first-served basis. Most of those preferring a F2F event should therefore be able to obtain a seat. We will report more fully and confirm arrangements in the August Newsletter.

The situation for the Norah Boyce Lectures is slightly different as a possible venue for F2F lectures is available on Tuesday evenings, whilst staffing the U3AC premises is more difficult in the evening. Therefore, we propose to continue with a similar arrangement to last year, offering speakers a choice between Zoom and F2F, which we expect to be in Downing Place URC. We expect most Norah Boyce Lectures to be presented by Zoom, with only occasional F2F lectures.

Alastair Breward, Director of Studies (Lectures)

40th Anniversary events

A programme of events to celebrate our 40th Anniversary is now available. Events have now started and include garden parties, tours and wine tastings. Places need to be booked in advance and payment can be made at the U3AC Office in person using a debit or credit card or online using Eventbrite (who charge a non-refundable booking fee). Full details are in the programme on our [website](#)

Summer School 2022

This year's Summer School will be held from Monday 11 July to Friday 5 August. Thank you to everyone who has offered to give a talk or course for inclusion; there is a wide range of topics from which to choose.

The Programme is now available and members may:

Download a copy from the [website](#)

Request an emailed copy

Collect a paper copy from the U3AC Office

Volunteers – please contact the Office if you can help

Further to the Chairman's message, there are many opportunities for ensuring the ongoing success of the organisation by volunteering. We are currently in need of receptionists, Zoom hosts and members willing to arrange trips and visits.

Reception desk

You will be meeting and greeting members as they come into the first floor and be there to assist with any enquiries they have, plus doing photocopying for tutors. Interested members will be friendly and welcoming, and need to know their way around the website to confidently be able to answer members' queries. There is a small team of volunteer receptionists who each work one day a week and we are in need of cover for them in case of holiday or illness.

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 will be unable to host Zoom courses.

Trips and visits

The Cultural and Social Activities Committee welcome members to join them in arranging day trips and visits.

Term dates 2022-23

Autumn term: Monday 10 October - Friday 16 December 2022

Spring term: Monday 16 January - Friday 24 March 2023

Summer term: Monday 17 April - Friday 16 June 2023

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

Courses

Amendments to Programme

SPA 06: La Tertulia de la U3AC – tutor is Mansel Bunford

SPA 06(z): La Tertulia de la U3AC – we regret this is cancelled

MUS 04: Flute choir – we regret this is cancelled

New course – please enrol on your application form

LIT 33: Jane. Again. The six published novels

Tutor: Bob Finch

Day and time: Friday 12:00 - 13:00

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

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

Places: 15

Start date: 14 Oct

Format: Discussion

This is a course for members who love Jane Austen's novels, are very familiar with all six of those published and will be happy to share their own expertise with the class.

About me: An enthusiast rather than a scholar, I have led U3AC literature classes before.

Tennis

We need sixteen members to ensure an enjoyable tennis experience. Unfortunately, this year we failed to reach that number and had to cancel.

Please register your interest with the Office if you would like to play in 2023.

We will review in the New Year, and if we have the required numbers we will organise a tennis programme starting in April 2023.

About courses

Hybrid courses information

Several courses are running in a hybrid format, whereby some members are in a classroom and others attend simultaneously via Zoom. Courses in hybrid format have the same course code, but the Zoom class has 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 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 to check whether the course you are interested in is held in an accessible room before applying for it. Though every effort is made to ensure courses are accessible.

Closing date for applications and course allocation

We would like to receive your application for courses by 1 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 £97 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 and application form.

Norah Boyce Science Lecture recordings

Recordings of previous 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. Date for your diary: A trip has been arranged to visit Wrest Park on Monday 3 October. Further details will be in the August Newsletter and application forms will be available nearer the date.

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Derek Wood in March

Sally Turnidge in May

Anne Murley in March

Carmen Hassett in May

John Levett in April

Guinevere Ventress in May

Eileen Benroy in April

Jane Quigley (Healy) in June

General administration

Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting will be on Tuesday 24 August 2022.

Other organisations

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