

## Message from the Chairman

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Welcome to all new and returning members at the start of our year. Despite the enervating heat, I hope you've been able to enjoy the summer and participate in some of our 40th Anniversary events.

By now we have all been through the indecision of choosing which courses to apply for and will have been waiting to see which courses and activities we have been allocated. Please be aware that despite having over 300 courses and activities to choose from, there are always some that are over-subscribed, even now that Zoom has increased attendance capacity. The first principle of our allocation is to ensure that as many people as possible are allocated their first choice (usually around 97%). In the event that you are on a waiting list, there is always a degree of churn between now and the start of term, so there is a chance you may be offered a place.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned the importance of volunteers to the smooth running of our organisation. We have a specific need in the coming term for more Zoom hosts, full details are on page 3. If you think you could help, but would like to know more about what's involved, please contact the Office.

Our membership numbers have recovered slightly over last year, so thank you to everyone who encouraged friends and contacts to join us. However, we are still below our breakeven point and continue to nibble into our reserves, which is financially unhealthy. Consequently, the Council has decided to create an Officer role for marketing and development; a post we have never needed in our forty-year history. Perhaps a reflection of how the world has changed around us and our need to adapt. In the coming months you will see the results of this development and may well be invited to contribute.

Inevitably, I must return to Covid-19. While it is receding in the public consciousness and is completely out of the news, we remain a vulnerable cohort. We continue to monitor government guidelines and will advise on any U3AC specific precautions in the weekly Bulletin prior to the start of term.

I hope you enjoy your courses and activities through the Autumn term and are able to participate in some of our social activities.

**Tim Ewbank**

### Term dates

**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 and in the Programme.

New courses, talks and groups – please email or phone the Office to enrol; places will be allocated on a first come first served basis

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### CMP 07: History of programming languages (Spring term)

**Tutor:** Peter Burkinshaw  
**Day and time:** Tuesday 15:35 - 16:35  
**Venue:** U3AC (Orange room)  
**Length of course:** 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)  
**Places:** 7  
**Start date:** 17 January  
The course will trace the development of programming languages from machine code to the present, giving the background for innovations. Further reading: Robert Clark Comparative Programming Languages, 3rd edition (Addison - Wesley, 2000) ISBN 0201710129. Out of print, but used copies available via Amazon.  
**Format:** Lecture  
**About me:** I started programming in 1956 and still do it as a hobby.

### FRE 10: French conversation

**Leaders:** Elizabeth and Roger Thorn  
**Day and time:** Thursday 11:00 - 12:30  
**Venue:** Members' home, (Cottenham CB24 8QU)  
**Length of course:** 3 terms. Autumn (8 weeks), Spring (8 weeks), Summer (8 weeks)  
**Places:** 6  
**Start date:** 13 October  
People wanting to converse and are able to discuss a variety of subjects with relevant fluency.  
**Level:** Intermediate  
**Format:** Discussion  
**About us:** Elizabeth: I have spent 37 years in France and taught English for 28 years.

### Chaucer's Canterbury Tales - a simple introduction

**Speaker:** Jennifer Robinson  
**Day and time:** Tuesday 11:00 - 12:00  
**Venue:** U3AC (Yellow room)  
**Length of course:** 2 sessions  
**Places:** 16  
**Dates:** 18 & 25 October  
Chaucer studies have spawned a whole academic industry, like Shakespeare, but

even his popular Canterbury Tales are not so well known today. My English degree included Chaucer and other early texts, but so long ago I had to begin again. Intrigued, I found the man, his life, and his poems more and more fascinating. In these two short sessions I hope to share my enjoyment, so you can explore Geoffrey Chaucer's works for yourselves. Session One: Lecture: Life and times, and his audience; Session Two: Seminar: A closer look at one Tale (extracts provided) with discussion and group participation.

### Ukraine, Russia and the West: Is Putin right to think the liberal West is too divided, self-interested and short-termist to prevail?

**Speaker:** Sir David Logan  
**Date and time:** Thursday 27 October, 14.45 – 15.45

**Venue:** U3AC (Pink room)  
**Places:** 30

The war will last a long time. But it no longer occupies Western newspaper headlines, and has been replaced by the cost of living crisis, energy price hikes and climate change. Western sanctions have had some impact, but Russia still makes big profits from energy sales, and it has a stranglehold on the supply of gas and grain to the rest of the world. Russia has bigger military resources than Ukraine which is heavily dependent on Western and in particular US aid. Putin doubtless calculates that this level of aid will not be sustained by Western governments because their political survival depends on dealing with major economic, energy and environmental crises rather than helping Ukraine. Is he wrong?

**About me:** Sir David Logan is a retired diplomat who served in Moscow and specialised for much of his career in east-west relations and defence policy issues. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and holds an Honorary Doctorate at Birmingham University.

## U3AC Round Table lunch group

One of our members, Celia Martyn, has suggested setting up a group to socialise over lunch with other members. The plan is for a maximum of ten members to meet for lunch once a month. Everyone can make suggestions about venues, once the venue is agreed, Celia will book it; the first venue will be set by Celia. Payment for food and drink will be done individually and communication within the group will be by mobile phone.

If you are interested please contact the Office by **Friday 16 September** and let us know the best phone number for you.

## Urgent appeal – please contact the Office NOW if you can help

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There are many opportunities for ensuring the ongoing success of the organisation by volunteering, and we are currently urgently in need of 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.

## About courses

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### Course amendments

GEO 01(z) World Regional Geography - The Islamic World - time changed to 14:15 – 15:15

GER 09(z): Advanced German conversation - cancelled

HIS 27(z): The history of England AD 410 to 1066 – now starts 19 October

### 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 before term starts, 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 outside: 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 overleaf).

## 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.

## General information

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### A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £97 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.

### Volunteers – please contact the Office if you can help

#### Reception desk

Friendly and welcoming members are needed to meet and greet fellow members and prospective members as they come into the first floor and be there to assist with any enquiries they have, plus doing photocopying for tutors. You will need to know your way around the website and 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.

#### Trips and visits

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

### Events coordinator

Every year we hold a series of social events. For the past few years these have been ably 'pulled together' by one of our members, Pauline Grounds, who is stepping down from this role. We would like to thank Pauline for all her cheerful help with this, and the energy and enthusiasm she brought to the role.

We are now looking for a new volunteer to take this on. This is a sociable, fun role and involves liaising with the Office, catering team and 'back of house' volunteers. Our regular annual events are the New members meeting, New Year Drinks, and Tutor thank you party. There are plenty of guidelines to help you and Pauline is very happy to talk through the role.

If you are interested please contact the Office.

### 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 staff without needing to bend down.

### Coffee cups in U3AC premises

We will no longer be using disposable coffee cups in the U3AC premises. There are china cups in the cupboard in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor kitchen area, which should be placed in the dishwasher after use.

### Discounts to members

We have a number of discounts for U3AC members in shops and restaurants around Cambridge. Many of these display a U3AC logo in their window or by the till to make it easier for you to spot. 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.

## Social events

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### U3AC Xmas lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held in Wildwood restaurant (below the U3AC premises) on **Monday 19 December**. Application forms will be available in November, more information will be included in the weekly Bulletin nearer the time.

### New Year social event

The annual New Year event will take place in the David Rayner Centre, Scotsdale's Garden Centre on **Friday 13 January 2023**. Application forms will be available in November.

### Wine Tasting

The next Wine Tasting evening will be held on **Wednesday 16 November** at 5.30 pm. The theme is *The best winter warming reds*. Cost is £17 per person. Places can be booked via Eventbrite (who charge a non-refundable booking fee): [www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-november-tickets-405195569857](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-november-tickets-405195569857) or in person at the U3AC Office.

## General administration

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### 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.

### Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting is on **Tuesday 18 October 2022**.

## Other organisations

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

## Deaths

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We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Julian Ofverberg in January*

*Phil Myles in May*

*Eddie Fisher in June*

*Beryl McKechnie in June*

*Audrey Osborne in July*

*Barry Louth in August*

## Cultural and Social Activities

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The next Cultural and Social trip on **Monday 3 October** will be to English Heritage's Wrest park, Silsoe, Luton. Application forms are available on the website to download. <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/social/trips-and-visits/>

Closing date for receipt of application forms is **Friday 16 September**.

## U3AC Film group programme - Autumn term 2022

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At the time of going to press, the schedule had not been finalised. As soon as it is, details will be in the weekly Bulletin. We apologise for the inconvenience.



## **2 November**      **Where do novelists get their ideas from?**

Speaker              Bobbie Darbyshire

**HYBRID**

The question in the title is the most common question that writers are asked. In a light-hearted, informative talk, Bobbie will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.

Bobbie Darbyshire, author of four published novels to date, won the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Nonfiction Prize 2010.

Bobbie's four novels can be viewed on Amazon. She'll bring signed copies of each for sale at £5. If you cannot attend and would like to reserve a pre-paid copy, please email her on [darbob8@gmail.com](mailto:darbob8@gmail.com).

## **9 November**      **Richard III – The king under the car park**

Speaker              Mathew Morris, MA ACIfA

**ZOOM ONLY**

The discovery of King Richard III's remains during an archaeological excavation in 2012 was a world-wide sensation; a 500-year-old missing persons case brought to life through modern archaeological and forensic investigation. In *Richard III: The king under the car park*, Mathew Morris, will reveal how this amazing discovery was made; showing how archaeologists knew where to look and what was found during the excavation, and taking a close look at how forensic scientists were able to successfully identify 500 year old skeletal remains as Richard III, the last Plantagenet king of England (d.1485).

Mathew Morris is Project Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services, supervised the archaeological search for the lost grave of King Richard III and co-authored books on Leicestershire archaeology.

## **16 November**      **The future of orchestras and classical music**

Speaker              Stephen Maddock OBE

**HYBRID**

Classical music, an artform that often seems so slow to change, and so in love with its traditions, now has to deal with several simultaneous challenges: the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, a digital revolution, and new calls for it to demonstrate and improve its relevance and inclusivity. Stephen Maddock OBE, the longest serving current CEO of a UK orchestra, reflects on these challenges and offers some thoughts on what the future might hold.

Stephen has been Chief Executive of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra since 1999, was Administrator of the BBC Proms for 7 years, and is one half of the Midlands team on BBC Radio 4's Round Britain Quiz.

## **23 November**      **The Darwins & Cambridge: The evolution of a family**

Speaker              Em Prof Philip Stott

**HYBRID**

Darwin and his works have been central to Emeritus Professor Philip Stott's academic life. In this lecture, he examines the profound influence Cambridge had on both Charles Darwin and his family, from his paternal grandfather, Erasmus, to his children and grandchildren, such as Gwen Raverat. It also explores the reverse, namely the significant impact the Darwins have had on Cambridge, on both its colleges and the city itself.

Philip is former Professor of Biogeography, University of London; a former Dean of Students, SOAS; was the editor of the *Journal of Biogeography*, a frequent broadcaster, a composer and for many years conducted an Early Music Consort for Kent Music School.

### **30 November Water - Sewage - Microbes**

Speaker

Natalie Lamb

**HYBRID**

England's river system has for decades been used as an extension of our sewerage system - diluted sewage was discharged into rivers over 200,000 times in 2019 alone. This is a scandal which is finally now receiving the media and public attention it deserves. What is to be done? While massive investment will be required to end this practice by our water companies, the first requirement is to properly police them, by monitoring water quality – which is a massive task beyond the resources of a demoralized and underfunded Environmental Protection Agency. In this lecture, Natalie will put the problem in context before exploring how technology can assist.

Natalie Lamb is the National Water Industry Account Manager at QCL, has a PhD in Civil Engineering and Microbiology and an MSc in Microbiology and is a STEM Ambassador.

### **7 December Should we aim to live forever?**

Speaker

Stephen Cave

**HYBRID**

Huge investments are today being made in anti-ageing technologies, in the hope of fulfilling the ancient dream of radically extending the human lifespan. But are we prepared for the consequences? This lecture will explore the arguments for and against much longer lives. It will look at the potential implications for the individual, such as whether boredom and ennui would be inevitable, and the potential risks for society, such as stagnation and overpopulation. Finally, it will explore some potential solutions to these challenges, so longer lives could be happier ones.

Dr Stephen Cave is Director of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at the University of Cambridge. He writes on the intersection of philosophy, technology and society - in particular the ethics of AI and life extension. He has also served as a British Diplomat.

### **14 December The Eighteenth-Century advent of the egalitarian handshake**

Speaker

Prof Penelope Corfield

**HYBRID**

How people in real life (rather than in etiquette books) greet one another throws a fascinating light upon social and inter-personal relationships. In eighteenth-century Britain, there was a slow transformation in styles of greeting, with a decline of the traditional deep bowing and curtseying, and the advent of the egalitarian handshake. Penelope will explain how these changes happened - and why (and ends with a prediction).

Penelope is Emeritus Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London; Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and President of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.



## Norah Boyce Science Lectures – Autumn term 2022

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These lectures (**except 29 November**) will take place by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm by Zoom.

The lecture on **29 November** is a face-to-face lecture at Downing Place United Reformed Church, 4 Downing Place, Cambridge CB2 3EL.

The Zoom lectures are open to members only. You will need to log in to access the Zoom link. The link for each lecture is on the Norah Boyce Lectures page of the website and will be included in the weekly Bulletin the week prior to the lecture.

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

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### “Science for Everyone”

#### **18 October      How the new science of ageing may help us to age well**

Speaker                      Professor Lynne Cox, Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford

My lab researches the biological processes underlying ageing, including human premature ageing syndromes and cell senescence, in which normal body cells change following damage, stress or many cell divisions, to a harmful state that contributes to diseases associated with ageing. We are using that core information to identify and test possible new treatments with the aim of improving health in later life.

#### **8 November      The exoplanet revolution**

Speaker                      Professor Didier Queloz FRS, Nobel laureate 2019, Centre for Experimental Astrophysics, Dept of Physics, University of Cambridge

The wealth and diversity of planetary systems that have now been detected modified our perspective on planet formation as a whole and more specifically our place in the Universe. It also presents an opportunity of historical perspectives and an irresistible call to look for signs of life on these new worlds as a way to explore our own origins. I will introduce the audience to the challenges and recent progresses in this new field of research and will touch upon the emergence of a new paradigm for the origins of life on Earth.

#### **29 November      Reading your DNA: What does it tell us?                      LIVE LECTURE**

Speaker                      Professor Sir Shankar Balasubramanian FRS, Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

DNA is made up of four building blocks (abbreviated to the letters G, C, T and A) and 3.2 billion DNA letters are arranged in a particular sequence in one copy of the human genome. About 20 years ago Professor Balasubramanian co-invented a technology that is now used for routine sequencing of human genomes. He will discuss the genesis of the technology and its impact on life sciences, medicine and society along with a vision of what the future holds.

#### **6 December      Physics of the everyday**

Speaker                      Professor Dame Athene Donald FRS, Emeritus Professor of Experimental Physics and Master of Churchill College, University of Cambridge

Physics can be found in the everyday materials around us, ranging from food to paint. Humdrum materials can nevertheless provide fascinating insights. My research has taken me from plastics to biological biophysics. I will also discuss the challenges women in physics can still face and what can be done about it.