

Message from the Chairman

Firstly, I would like to welcome Rebecca Birkett-Smith, our new Administration coordinator, who has joined the Office team. Hopefully you will see her around the premises, so please say hello.

Looking back over 2022, it has been a good year for U3AC; mercifully less impacted by Covid than we might have anticipated. Indeed, the Autumn term has felt as though the whole range of our activities has returned to pre-Covid levels, with the added benefit of a new means of delivering courses, via Zoom. It's a joy to see the building buzzing again, especially the second floor Social area so well used, and the rotating selection of art. While there have been some class absences due to Covid, the overall levels of absence are not so different from any pre-Covid year.

One of the unique features of U3AC is the range of courses and activities that we offer to members. Another is that as all tutors and course organisers are volunteers they can swap between being an attendee in one session and being tutor /organiser in another, unlike almost any other educational establishment where there are few teachers who are also pupils. Our ever-changing catalogue of courses and activities depends on members volunteering to be tutors or organisers. There is always high demand for certain topics such as art history and local history. New members bringing new ideas for courses are always welcome. To that end there will be a meeting on Tuesday 10 January at which prospective tutors can air their ideas and talk to members of the Courses Committee, see further information on page 4.

A word for the unsung heroes of U3AC: our volunteers who support the staff in keeping the organisation running. There are many opportunities for volunteering: Zoom hosts starting and ending Zoom classes and volunteer receptionists giving their time to help members with a huge range of support requests. The Cultural and Social Activities Committee and Catering team plan, organise and deliver a range of events that greatly enrich the social aspects of our participation. Without their collective help it would be a much different organisation and we would have to either buy in these services or not offer them. If you would like to help with any of these activities please contact the Office.

Our next AGM will be on Wednesday 22 March 2023, at which we will be looking to appoint several new Council members who will fill important roles within U3AC; specifically by joining one of the two main committees (Finance and Courses) and assisting in the overall governance of our charity. If you are considering joining the Council and would like to find out what is involved, please contact me on chairman@u3ac.org.uk, I'd be happy to have an exploratory conversation with you (see Message from the Secretary on page 2).

In the meantime, on behalf of the staff and Council I'd like to wish you all the best for the festive season and good wishes for a healthy and enjoyable year in 2023.

Tim Ewbank

Christmas closing

The Office will close on Wednesday 21 December 2022 at 2 pm and reopen on Monday 9 January 2023 at 10 am.

Term dates

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.

2023-2024 Academic year - Autumn Term: Monday 9 October 2023

Message from the Secretary

An important date for your diary

U3AC's AGM will take place on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 2.15 pm. We are pleased to say that it will again be held face to face at a venue in central Cambridge to be announced in the Bulletin in the new year.

The meeting will be preceded by a Wednesday lecture given by a specially invited speaker (details to follow), and we hope as many members as possible will attend this important event in the U3AC calendar.

We now welcome nominations of eligible candidates who wish to become a trustee of U3AC/a member of our Council to fill the vacancies that will arise on 22 March 2023. Further information and the procedure to be followed may be found at the end of this Newsletter.

Penny Carter

New courses and talks – please contact the Office to enrol, places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis

CUR o8: Current affairs (Spring and Summer terms)

Leader: Ian Hunter

Day and time: Thursday 15:45 - 17:00

Venue: U3AC (Blue room)

Length of course: 2 terms. Spring (10 weeks), Summer (9 weeks)

Places: 15

Start date: 19 Jan

A discussion group mainly concerning topics in the news. This course is a repeat of CUR 02.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: Retired Further Education Lecturer/Manager

HIS 32(z): Assassination in History (Spring and Summer terms)

Facilitator: Frank Nicholson

Day and time: Tuesday 14:30 - 16:00

Venue: Zoom

Length of course: 2 terms. Spring (10 weeks), Summer (8 weeks)

Places: 15

Start date: 17 Jan

On learning of Abraham Lincoln's death, Benjamin Disraeli told the House of Commons, "Assassination has never changed the history of the world." Was he right? In this seminar, we'll study the role that murder has played in political change since ancient times, starting with Julius Caesar in 44 BCE, before then moving on to the Duke of Orleans in Paris in 1407; Shaka, the Zulu King, in 1828; Irish Republican Michael Collins in 1922; Marxist Leon Trotsky in 1940; and John Kennedy in 1963. Participants will be encouraged - but not required - to make a presentation covering the context, target, perpetrator, motive, method and consequences of an assassination drawn from a list of sixty choices (please see website for link to the topics). Empty slots will be filled by guest presentations by colleagues from "sister" organizations in the UK and Canada. Time will be reserved for Q&A and 'round-the-table' discussion at each class.

Format: Seminar

About me: I have a doctorate in history and, while I've never taught, am a keen history buff who's facilitated several history study groups at later life learning organisations where peer-learning is the philosophy.

HIS 33: Ancient Egypt for beginners (Spring term)

Tutor: Corinne Duhig

Day and time: Friday 14:45 - 15:45

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 20 Jan

Were the ancient Egyptians gloomily obsessed with death and the afterlife? The media would make you think so, but this course will give you an introduction to ancient Egyptian civilisation, and show the real lives and fascinating history of these vibrant and creative (and argumentative!) people. We will somehow squash 4000+ years of history into one term, and mix overviews of time periods with thematic lectures on topics such as art, religion, the economy, and — of course — temples, tombs and mummies. By the end of the course you will have a basic knowledge of what went on and how society worked over this long time span, 'know' some ancient Egyptians and be equipped to spot the worst excesses of tv channels' 'Egyptology Week!' No background at all is required. Resources will include maps, a detailed chronology, some texts and a reading list for those who want to study further.

Format: Lecture

About me: Archaeologist specialising in ancient Egypt, bioarchaeology and forensic archaeology/anthropology. University lecturer for 40 years, now Director of Studies in Archaeology at two Cambridge colleges and freelance bioarchaeologist. Can't/won't retire!

HIS 34: The cold war and its current implications (Spring term)

Tutor: Jo Whitehead

Day and time: Friday 12:30 - 14:00

Venue: U3AC (Blue room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 16

Start date: 20 Jan

We have lived through the cold war and seen it restarting after a brief pause. A review of how we got to where we are today seems timely. As a generalist, rather than a historian, I will summarise the cold war in terms of its leaders, geopolitics, economics, military trends and other relevant perspectives. The first session is a lecture on the 1945 to 1992 period. The following sessions use a mix of videos, presentation and discussion to explore particular events

and periods that appear relevant to understanding today's situation, such as the Korean War, Suez, the Cuban missile crisis the Yeltsin years and the Putin era. We conclude with a discussion of the situation in Ukraine. The first session I have to present by Zoom and, for this session, participants can either join via zoom from home or from U3AC. Subsequent sessions are at U3AC.

Format: First week lecture followed by seminar format

About me: I have had an informal interest in the cold war for many years.

LEI 24: Croquet for beginners (Summer term)

Coordinators: Dieter Benziger & Mike Bithell

Day and time: Monday 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Histon & Impington Recreation Ground

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (6 weeks)

Places: 10

Start date: 24 Apr

Croquet is a great way to combine fresh air, fun and a social activity. We will introduce course members gradually to all they need to know for spending an enjoyable afternoon playing Association Croquet. The course is intended primarily for beginners, but also for those who have played a little before and would like a refresher course. The main objective of the course is to introduce members to the basic techniques and strategies of the game. After the course finishes, members are encouraged to continue playing on into the summer by joining the Histon & Impington Croquet Club.

Format: Taught course or activity

About us: Mike and Dieter have been playing the game for several years, and particularly enjoy its strategic and social aspects.

SCE 28(z): Cosmology 2 (Spring term)

Tutor: Alan Richardson

Day and time: Wednesday 11:15 - 12:15

Venue: Zoom

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (10 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 18 Jan

The evolution of the Universe from the Big Bang to the far future and the experimental evidence supporting it. The course will cover: 1) The first seconds before big bang nucleosynthesis 2) Big bang nucleosynthesis 3) The radiation age, the recombination and the cosmic microwave background 4) The end of

the dark ages and cosmic dawn; the first stars and first galaxies 5) the synthesis of the chemical elements 6) the matter age 7) dark matter 8) the dark energy age 9) the far future. The course will deal with the phenomena without advanced mathematics. This course is a repeat of SCE 05.

Format: Lecture

About me: I am a Cambridge Mathematics graduate. Since retirement I have been investigating what we know and why we think we know it from a non-mathematical physical viewpoint.

Ron Gray Conference 2023

'Rewilding' Britain: practical environmental management or romantic dream?

The Ron Gray Conference 2023 will tackle the increasingly political and contentious topic of 'rewilding' in Britain. Defining the term is in itself problematic because it means different things to different people, ranging from the re-introduction of large animals, such as beavers, boar, bison, and white-tailed sea eagles, to a more general concept of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity *sensu lato*. There are also those who would like to see an end to certain types of farming, such as sheep grazing in the Lake District and on Welsh mountains, while, in contrast, others are deeply concerned that 'rewilding' will hinder our need to become far more self-sufficient in high-quality agricultural products, especially given the present-day threats to world trade and agricultural production.

The Conference will be assisted in its deliberations by two Keynote Speakers, both with considerable expertise to share on this topic, namely Jake Fiennes (Director, Holkham National Nature Reserve & General Manager - Conservation, Holkham Estate) and Louise McRae (The Zoological Society of London); Louise will provide us with important scientific background information on the state of biodiversity in Britain and Europe. Two U3AC members will respond formally to these presentations, and there will be ample opportunity for questions and general debate from the floor.

This will be held in the McCrum Lecture Theatre at Corpus Christi College on **Saturday 11 February**, 10:00 – 13:00. Please contact the Office to book a place.

About courses

Meeting for prospective tutors

Do you have expertise you would be willing to share with other members? Would you consider leading a group in your subject? There is high demand for art history and art topics, and general history amongst the membership. If you think you could offer these, or any other subject of your choice, then you are warmly invited to attend a meeting with members of the Courses Committee to discuss what is involved. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of course leadership on a strictly 'no commitment' basis. It will take place on **Tuesday 10 January** at 10:30am in the U3AC, Pink room. Please contact the Office to book a place.

Maggie Balshaw, Director of Studies (Courses)

Attending courses

May we kindly remind members that if you feel unwell, particularly if you have a cough or cold or have a temperature, please do not enter the Bridge Street premises or any of our external venues used for courses and activities.

Tutors' proposals for courses

Planning for the 2023-2024 academic year will begin in March when current and prospective tutors will be sent an email advising them it is time to submit their proposals online.

The closing date for proposals to be submitted is **14 April 2023**.

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, we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

If you cannot attend a course session

For courses held by Zoom or in the U3AC premises: 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 below).

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.

You will be emailed a request to complete a short course feedback survey. Previously we asked you to do this once the course had finished but have decided it would be more helpful if it was done at the time of withdrawal.

Tutors will continue to receive feedback reports at the end of the course, but on request we can send them interim feedback.

Tutors' contact 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.

Do you attend a course at a non-U3AC venue?

We could not run our wide variety and large number of courses without using many 'non-U3AC venues' in Cambridge and beyond. We appreciate the way staff at these venues accommodate our needs and we want to continue to be welcome guests. Please help us by responding courteously to requests from venue staff, by being mindful of the needs of other users, by not arriving too early for your course and by leaving promptly afterwards.

Events

CCSO Concert

There will be a concert at West Road Concert Hall given by the Cambridge City Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 4 February 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The programme is Bacewicz: Overture, Brahms: Piano concerto no. 1, Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring. Piano: Alexander Doronin, Conductor: Robert Hodge.

The CCSO has again generously made the U3AC a beneficiary of this concert. In order for the U3AC to gain the agreed benefit, you will need to purchase your tickets via the Office and they are now available. Cost £20.

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 and events arranged throughout the year.

U3AC Investment club celebrates 21st birthday

In Autumn 2001 you needed strong nerves to dip even your toe in the stock market. The dotcom bubble had burst early in 2000 and many shares had halved in value; they would carry on down for another year or more. But Brian Dawson had raised the idea of a U3AC investment club at a U3AC garden party that summer, and by November was ready to take the plunge: the club held its inaugural meeting on the 17th. It survived its first shivery months and has done well by its members, who contribute £50 a month towards investments decided collectively. Several of the earliest participants, including Brian, are still among the club's 20 members. The club, designated OTH 05, welcomes applications at any time of year via the U3AC office. Those who join will find that members learn a lot from each other as well as from the club's subscription to an online stock analysis tool.



Exhibitions

If any U3AC group or individual would like to hold a 3-week exhibition of their artwork in the U3AC premises, please contact the Office to reserve a slot. If you sell your work through the exhibition the U3AC would appreciate a donation from your profits.

Walks around Cambridge

This course, FIT 29, was very heavily oversubscribed as were other similar courses. Jo Edkins, who runs the course, has made a website about the walks, with maps showing the routes, and photos and information about what to look at, and would like to share it with anyone who is interested. The web address is: theedkins.co.uk/jo/walks/u3ac.htm You can also find this under the course description for FIT 29.

Book and jigsaw swap

The free Book and jigsaw swap is in the social area on the second floor of the U3AC premises. Simply take along a book or jigsaw you no longer wish to keep and swap it for something from the shelves. You can keep the swapped item or swap it again for something else. Nothing too battered, please, and books no larger than A4.

Discounts to members

We have negotiated 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.

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Anthony Johnson in August

Monique Morrin in August

Paul Custerson in October

Jane Gooch in October

Bill Kirkman in November

Graham Renshaw in November

Cultural and Social Activities

Details of future trips and visits will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin, once arranged.

Clem Messenger

General administration

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 will be on **Tuesday 14 February 2023**.

General information

Other organisations

Details of events held by other organisations can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.u3ac.org.uk/social/other-organisations/>

Established in October 1999 with the much-valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse Cambridge management, the aim of the U3AC Film Group is to show a wide range of the best in both historic and contemporary world cinema from all countries, generations and genres, and our programmes take a robust and adventurous approach to the history of cinema. The Group's shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time, and our films are shown in Screen 2 or mainly in Screen 3. There are no ads or trailers which means that all of our films commence **promptly at 1.00 pm** other than when an epic or exceptionally lengthy film is shown, and members are kindly requested to adhere to the start time of 1.00 pm as a dark cinema can be hazardous. Members are most welcome to attend our post screen discussions and to make suggestions for future showings. The cost of our season of Tuesday shows remains at **£45 per term**.

Members are kindly requested to ensure that all electronic devices are switched off or in the case of mobile phones switched to silent mode, and under no circumstances should photography/filming take place in the cinema.

Spring Term 2023

17 January Maurice Dir: James Ivory: UK 1987 (140 mins)

The repressed and bourgeois Maurice Hall (James Wilby) tackles the prejudices of Edwardian society as he comes to terms with his sexuality.

From the halls of Cambridge University to the cricket fields of the English gentry, this profound tale of emotional and sexual awakening features star-making performances from Wilby, Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves and perfectly captures the fears and joys of submitting to a forbidden desire.

This is regarded as a landmark film as important as any in the history of gay cinema and one that presents a positive and enriching portrait of first love.

24 January Fanny and Alexander Dir: Ingmar Bergman: Sweden 1982 (189 mins)
(Member's request)

Ingmar Bergman's dreamlike chronicle of an extended family in early 20th century Sweden.

One tumultuous year in the life of the Ekdahl family is viewed through the eyes of ten-year old Alexander, whose imagination finds the magical goings-on leading up to and following the death of his father. When his mother remarries a stern bishop, Alexander and his sister Fanny are banished to a gothic world.

Drawing heavily on Bergman's memories the film highlights the young protagonist's fascination with storytelling, while serving as a kind of confessional critique of the director's films and reworked themes.

31 January The Pianist Dir: Roman Polanski: France/Poland/Germany/UK 2002
(150 mins)

Evoking his own childhood experiences in the Krakow ghetto, Roman Polanski laid some personal ghosts to rest with this poignant Holocaust drama based on the memoirs of survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman. Events are seen through the eyes of a Jewish concert pianist, Szpilman, who escaped the Warsaw Ghetto as deportations to the death camps began but witnessed its systematic destruction while in hiding. This film follows this year's Holocaust Day (27 January).

7 February La Peau douce (The Soft Skin) Dir: François Truffaut: France 1964
(113 mins)

One of Truffaut's subtlest and most richly rewarding films, this account of an extra-marital affair displays the influence of two of the director's idols: Renoir and Hitchcock.

Renoir's compassionate understanding of human nature is reflected in the astute psychological and emotional insights into the at times perverse actions of lecturer Pierre, his volatile wife, Franca, and Nicole, the air-stewardess he first encounters on a trip to Lisbon. But as Pierre begins to sink deeper into a relationship regarded quite lightly by Nicole, the taut editing and the sense of things getting out of control, not to mention the exhilarating precision of direction, reveal just how much and how well – Truffaut had learned from Hitchcock. Wonderfully nuanced performances by the three leads; "Francoise Dorléac, in particular, was never better."

14 February Harold and Maude Dir: Hal Ashby: USA 1971 (91mins)
(Member's request)

Young, rich and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets Maude at a funeral. A lively woman sixty years his senior who encourages the morbid teenager to look on the bright side and live life to the full, Maude is a million miles away from the woman Harold's mother tries to set him up with. However, the substantial age difference raises eyebrows when this relationship takes a romantic turn, and Maude's impending 80th birthday may separate the pair forever.

21 February Souad Dir: Ayten Amin: Egypt/Tunisia/Germany 2020 (102 mins)

In a small city on the Nile Delta, 19 year old Souad (Bassant Ahmed) leads a double life. Conservative and veiled in public, online she obsesses over her appearance and embarks on secret virtual romances. As the reality of her personal situation comes increasingly into conflict with her digital life, she struggles to rectify her ambitions until tragedy strikes.

Featuring astonishing performances from a cast of non-professionals, the film acutely examines the contradictions of teenage life in contemporary Egypt and the challenges of combining traditional values with social media.

28 February Hester Street Dir: Joan Micklin Silver: USA 1975 (89 mins)

In 1896, Russian Jew Yankel Bogovnik has been in America for 3 years and settled where many of his background have: Hester Street, on New York City's Lower East Side. Yankel has assimilated to American life, learned English, anglicized his name to Jake and shaved off his beard. He is working at a \$12 week job as a seamster, saving up his earnings so he can bring his wife Gitl and their son, Yossele, to America from Russia.

Although he has fallen in love with dancer Manie Fein, he is overjoyed when he learns that Gitl and Yossele are coming to America. His happiness at their arrival is damped when he sees that Gitl isn't "American-looking" like Manie and is having trouble assimilating as quickly as he would like. This romantic film is based on Abraham Cahan's 1896 "Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto".

7 March Nights of Cabiria Dir: Federico Fellini: Italy 1957 (115 mins)

Often dismissed as grating and sentimental this is one of Fellini's most accessible films which harks back to his days as a screenwriter during Italy's neorealist phase. The winner of the 1957 Oscar for best foreign film, it boasts a bravura performance from the director's wife, Giulietta Masina as the childlike prostitute who is misused by everyone she encounters, yet still has the sense of self-worth to come bouncing back. This funny poignant classic, inspired the musical "Sweet Charity".

**14 March The Flavour of Green Tea over Rice Dir: Yasujiro Ozu Japan 1952
(Member's request) (116 mins)**

The great Japanese master, Ozu, explores the nature of deceit and companionship in this wry yet touching study of arranged marriage. In showing how a discontented executive (Shin Saburi) and his free-spirited wife (Michiyo Kogure) work through the crisis in their relationship, he highlights the shifting social priorities of the bourgeoisie while also evoking a fond nostalgia for the recent past. The film remains an intimate Ozu offering.

21 March Carol Dir: Todd Haynes: USA 2015 (118 mins)

Trapped in a marriage of convenience, uptown Cate Blanchett begins an affair with naïve shop girl Rooney Mara. But this is early Fifties' Manhattan and scandal beckons. With two high-calibre leads exercising coiffed poise and era – sensitive intelligence in every fabulous-looking frame, this is a stunning masterpiece full of atmosphere and poignant tenderness.

The film is based on Patricia Highsmith's lesbian novel "The Price of Salt" (well worth seeking out - J).

Our First Show after the Easter break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023

Tickets for U3AC Film Group screenings

Tickets for single shows are available on the door for the standard cinema ticket price. U3AC members can get a reduced-price ticket by first purchasing a U3AC 10-week Term Card (or adding this to your existing Picturehouse Membership), and then obtaining a paper ticket (at no additional cost) on the day.

1. Buy a 10-week film term card for the discounted price of £45. This allows you entry to each of the 10 films screened at 1 pm each Tuesday of the term, at no extra cost.
 - To get set up, register at any till at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse near the beginning of a term. Bring your U3AC membership card as proof of eligibility to this scheme.
 - The Picturehouse staff will issue you with a plastic Picturehouse Membership card, which stores your 10 free U3AC screening ticket credits on it, lasting the whole of the 10-week term.
 - Please keep this card and renew it at any Arts Picturehouse till before each term (you cannot do this over the phone or on the U3AC or Picturehouse websites).
 - **Note:** If you already have a plastic Picturehouse Membership card, either one for which you've paid an annual fee or a prior U3AC Term Card, Picturehouse staff will add the current U3AC term to your existing card.
2. You will need a paper ticket to gain entry to each week's U3AC film.
 - Present your plastic Picturehouse Membership card at any till in the cinema to get your 'free' ticket to the current week's U3AC film.
 - Show this to the usher at the door to gain entry to the film.

Norah Boyce Science Lectures – Spring Term 2023

These weekly lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm online via Zoom.

These 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 in the weekly Bulletin in the week preceding the lectures.

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

“Science for Everyone”

24 January The Exoplanet revolution

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

7 February Manufacturing a better world

Speaker Professor Tim Minshall, Head of the Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge

28 February Using Mathematics to understand pandemic strategies

Speaker Professor Julia Gog OBE, Professor of Mathematical Biology, DAMPT, University of Cambridge

21 March Seeing is believing: A hundred years of visualising molecules

Speaker Sir Venki Ramakrishnan OM FRS, Nobel laureate 2009, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology and Past President of the Royal Society

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 Lectures – Spring Term 2023

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 will be on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15pm.

Please note that lectures on 25 January, 1 February and 15 February are via Zoom only.

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

18 January City of Refuge: Evacuation of London Colleges to Cambridge in WWII

Speaker Professor Tony Watts

During the Second World War, 7 colleges of London University were evacuated to Cambridge colleges, raising interesting challenges on both sides. This is the first time the full story has been told.

Tony Watts is Emeritus Professor of Career Development, University of Derby; Fellow Commoner, St Catharine's College; and a U3AC lecturer.

25 January The dilemma: Centralised or decentralised energy?

Speaker Professor Bartłomiej (Bartek) Glowacki

Dependence on the energy supply from a centralised economy leaves citizens unsure whether they could take steps towards decentralised alternatives and “be in charge” of their energy harvesting methods/technologies and use. Choices and preferences have implications both for policies of governments, and for climate change.

Bartłomiej A. Glowacki is Emeritus Professor of Energy and Materials Science at Cambridge, Emeritus Bernal Professor of Energy at Limerick, and active Professor of Energy at the Institute of Power Engineering in Warsaw.

1 February The Blue Commons - Rescuing the economy of the sea

Speaker Professor Guy Standing

Planet Earth is mostly blue - about 70% of the earth's surface is covered by the oceans, which provide half of the oxygen we breathe and three quarters of all life on Earth. But who owns the sea? The Blue Commons peels back the veil of the boundless exploitation and inherent criminality in the ocean economy, and points to a transformative alternative.

Guy Standing is Professorial Research Associate, SOAS University of London, a Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences, and the Royal Society of Arts.

8 February Should the UK return artefacts that were looted in colonial times? The case of the Benin Bronzes

Speaker Professor Veronique Mottier

In October 2021, Jesus College, Cambridge became the first institution in the world to return a Benin Bronze to the Nigerian authorities. This talk explains the international importance of the Benin Bronzes, presents the process which led to the return, and invites discussion of arguments for and against restitution of looted artefacts.

Véronique Mottier is Professor in historical sociology at the University of Lausanne, Fellow and Director of Studies at Jesus College, Cambridge.

15 February The Dickens Code: uncovering the mysteries of Charles Dickens's shorthand

Speakers Professor Hugo Bowles & Dr Claire Wood

Shorthand was an important part of Dickens's toolkit as a writer. Dickens described the system that he used, Gurney's Brachygraphy as a "savage stenographic mystery" and many of his shorthand manuscripts have remained undeciphered for 150 years. The Dickens Code project has been working with the general public to unlock the secrets. Join us to find out the fascinating discoveries that our decoders from around the world have made and the many mysteries that remain.

Hugo Bowles, formerly Professor of English Linguistics at the Universities of Sassari, Rome, and Foggia, is the author of Dickens and the Stenographic Mind and co-founder of the Dickens Code project.

Claire Wood is a Lecturer in Victorian Literature at the University of Leicester, the author of Dickens and the Business of Death, and currently leads the Dickens Code project.

22 February Agatha, Poirot and Me: how I became the Queen of Crime's sidekick

Speaker Sophie Hannah

Sophie Hannah will talk about her lifelong relationship with the work of Agatha Christie, how and why she first started to write mystery fiction, and how she came to take on the role of writing new Poirot mysteries.

Sophie Hannah is published in 51 countries and has sold millions of books worldwide. She runs the Master's degree programme in Crime and Thriller Writing at the University of Cambridge and is Founder and CEO of the Dream Author Coaching programme.

1 March TBC

8 March The Armenians of Jerusalem: a personal history

Speaker Sarah Mnatzaganian

Sarah Mnatzaganian will talk about the 1800-year-old history of Jerusalem's little known Armenian Quarter, illustrated with family stories, photographs and award-winning poems.

Sarah Mnatzaganian, MA English Literature (Oxon) MA Byzantine Art History (London,) is an Anglo Armenian poet and cello specialist.

15 March Policing and legitimacy: exploring policing in independent Ukraine

Speaker Dr Anna Markovska

Anna Markovska will briefly cover Ukraine's recent history since the dissolution of the USSR, before exploring the issues of legitimacy, policing and social changes in independent Ukraine, focusing on policing in war-time Ukraine post 2014, in particular in the city of Kharkiv.

Dr Anna Markovska is Deputy Head PIER (Policing Institute for Eastern Region) and Associate Professor of Criminology, Anglia Ruskin University.

22 March AGM with lecture – details to follow in the weekly Bulletin

Wednesday Lecture recordings

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

Nomination of trustees

At the AGM on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 new trustees will be elected to fill the vacancies arising on our Council. Nominations are therefore now sought for candidates who are eligible to stand.

Eligible candidates must be U3AC members who did not serve their second term on Council in the period March 2021-March 2023 and are not disqualified by charity law to act as a trustee. For guidance on disqualification see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/automatic-disqualification-rule-changes-guidance-for-charities>.

Our trustees have responsibility for U3AC's overall governance, finances, policies and operations. The Charity Commission publishes general guidance on the role of trustees at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>.

In addition, U3AC has notes for potential trustees (available from the Office) that provide more specific details about what the role entails at U3AC. In terms of time commitment, it requires preparation for, and participation in, approximately six Council meetings each year together, as necessary, with participation in the committees and/or working groups essential to the efficient operation of the organisation. Council members are also expected to take part in certain social and new member events.

If you would like to nominate someone to stand as a Trustee, please ensure your suggested nominee is willing and then find another U3AC member to second your proposal. Nominations must include:

- The full name of the nominee, your name as proposer, and the name of the seconder.
- A recent photograph of the nominee.
- A short statement by the nominee summarising their involvement with U3AC activities, including length of membership, the qualifications, skills and experience they would bring to the role and any other relevant information.

Nominations should be sent to: The Secretary, U3AC, 27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1JU; email: secretary@u3ac.org.uk. **no later than Wednesday 22 February 2023.**

If more nominations are received than there are vacancies, a ballot will be arranged.