

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to all new and returning members at the start of our year. I hope you've been able to enjoy the Summer, despite the indifferent weather.

By now we have all been through the delicious indecision of choosing which courses to apply for and now know which courses and activities have been allocated. Despite having over 320 courses and activities to choose from, over 50% are over-subscribed, even now that Zoom has increased attendance capacity. We have a mechanism for fairly allocating places on over-subscribed courses. The approach we use is to ensure that as many people as possible are allocated their first choice (usually around 97%). In the event that you are not allocated a place you are automatically placed on the course waiting list (unless you provided an alternative choice). There is always a degree of churn between now and the start of term, so you may get a returned place.

Our recruitment has benefited from various marketing initiatives throughout the year (you may well have seen our adverts in your local paper). Consequently, our membership numbers have recovered to some extent, so thank you to everyone who encouraged friends and contacts to join. I'd like to specifically welcome back those returning members who have stayed away over the last couple of years. With the addition of the income from hiring out our premises through July, we start the year in a financially healthier position than this time last year, albeit not quite back to pre-pandemic levels.

I hope you enjoy your courses and activities through the Autumn term and are able to participate in our social activities. If you'd like to be more involved, there are a number of ways of doing so. As a members' organisation, volunteers are critical to the smooth running of our activities. We have a specific need in the coming term for more Zoom hosts (details on page 6). If you think you could help, but would like to know more about what's involved, please contact the Office. New tutors with course proposals are also particularly welcome!

Tim Ewbank

Donations & legacies news

It's the time of the U3AC year when both Office staff and the finance team have been working hard to manage your membership renewals and subscriptions. Each year we are very grateful to the many members who - either online or using the paper form - choose to tick the box and top-up the amount of their subscription with an additional donation to the work of U3AC. To all of you - many thanks for taking that simple step - it's greatly appreciated.

Do reach out to treasurer@u3ac.org.uk if you have any questions or comments about making donations to U3AC.

Term dates

Autumn Term: Monday 9 October - Friday 15 December 2023

Spring Term: Monday 15 January - Friday 22 March 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15 April - Friday 14 June 2024

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

New courses

The courses below have been set up since the Programme was published. Please contact the Office if you would like to apply. Until 18 September priority for places will be given to members who have been allocated fewer than 3 courses.

ARTH 08: Cultures of Japan (Spring term)

Tutor: Paul Hartle

Day and time: Wednesday 15:30 - 16:30

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 1 term. Spring (8 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 17 Jan

The course covers several - but far from all - aspects of Japanese art and culture. I plan to discuss - with the use of many illustrative images - and probably in this order: 1: Introduction. Writing: Calligraphy, Women's Writing of the Heian Period, Haiku; 2: The Kimono and its Accessories; 3: Lacquer, Metalwork and Ceramics; 4: Samurai Arts; 5: Painting and Woodblock Prints; 6: Theatre: Noh, Kabuki, Kyogen, Bunraku; 7: Gardens and Ikebana (Flower Arrangement); 8: Leisure: Tea, Sake, Geisha Arts. The aim of the course is to introduce these various aspects of Japanese culture to those who are interested, leading perhaps to a broader understanding of Japanese aesthetics. Our cultures first encountered one another more than four centuries ago and the course will explore the arts of Japan through their reception in the West. I hope those who attend will enjoy the continuing conversation.

Format: Lecture/seminar

About me: I am fascinated by Japan, and spent two semesters teaching Shakespeare in Kyoto. I have published articles on 17th-century Britain and Japan and continue to struggle to learn Japanese.

ARTH 09: Art and Industry in Britain, 1760-1960 (Spring term)

Tutor: Chris Owen

Day and time: Friday 14:50 - 15:50

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

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

Places: 20

Start date: 19 Jan

As Britain experienced both the increasing wealth and the social challenges presented by its role at the forefront of the industrial revolution, the history of its art and design reflected different views on the benefits and

problems associated with the rise of industrial production. By means of slide talks, visual analysis of individual works and class discussions, this course will explore the careers of many well-known artists, from Hogarth to Hockney, with a particular focus on how their work illustrates the development of our industrial, and later post-industrial, society. No prior knowledge or reading is required, but an interest in and general knowledge of both history and the visual arts would be beneficial.

Format: Lecture/ Class discussion

About me: I taught Art History in universities and art schools, becoming Head of Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University, before retiring in 2019. My research specialism is British Modern Art.

ARTH 09(z): Art and Industry in Britain, 1760-1960 (Spring term)

As for ARTH 09 but attending via Zoom.

FIT 40: Table tennis (Friday)

Coordinator: Jonathan Clough

Assistant coordinators: Deborah Clough, Simon Pearl, Sue Purseglove

Day and time: Friday 14:30 - 16:30

Venue: St George's Church Hall (Community room)

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

Places: 26

Start date: 13 Oct

Have fun, make friends and get fit playing table tennis. All levels of play welcome as we try to pair off newcomers with more skilful players. We play doubles which can be fast and furious! Your skills will soon improve and there will be lots of laughs. You will need your own bat and white balls only are provided so if you prefer colour bring your own. Wear loose sports clothes and bring a drink (water is available on site).

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About us: We're not fiercely competitive, so if you've always fancied having a go at table tennis we look forward to seeing you - we're a friendly bunch.

FRE 11: Camus, le grand rebelle

Tutor: Penny Hayman

Day and time: Friday 12:30 - 13:30

Venue: U3AC (Blue room)

Length of course: 1 term. Autumn (8 weeks)

Places: 10

Start date: 20 Oct

Quel est le sens de la vie? C'est une question qui a preoccupee les philosophes a travers l'histoire. Au 20ieme siecle la question continue avec le debut de l'existentialisme, temoignee dans les oeuvres de Jean-Paul Sartre et d'Albert Camus. Dans ce cours on va lire ensemble le roman clef de Camus: L'Etranger. Quel est le sens de la vie pour le heros de ce roman? Quel est le sens de la vie pour vous ? On va lire et discuter le texte dans une ambiance sympa. Mais attention, il faut pouvoir supporter poser une question sans trouver la reponse! Intermediate to Advanced

Format: Discussion/reading aloud

About me: I have loved French for many years and am fascinated by the literature.

HIS 39: Britain begins (Summer term)

Tutor: Sheila Farrant

Day and time: Wednesday 11:45 - 12:45

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (9 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 17 Apr

The title is taken from the book by Barry Cunliffe and in the latter half of the course we will look at some of the maps he provided re the UK. Initially we will look at the period 3-2 million years ago, then progress to the last 1 million years noting the changes and adaptations taking place in our ancestors and forebears and our views regarding Neanderthal and Homo Sapiens contacts etc.

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: My interest in archaeology stems from my student days doing Arch and Anth here in Cambridge.

INV 01: Property investing for beginners

Tutor: Neil Harding

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

Venue: Zoom

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

Places: 10

Start date: 11 Oct

Property investing for beginners! Learn the tools needed to invest in residential property in the UK from an property investor with over 18 years of experience. How to find the right deal for you, for the right level of return on investment, and return on effort! How to fund your property investment. This course is designed for those interested in investing in property who have been thinking of doing so for some time and want to know more about how to do it. It is relaxed and fun whilst also providing the content you need. Please note the course does not constitute financial, accounting, tax or investment advice and the tutor is not an independent financial advisor nor registered with the financial conduct authority. The course content is intended for educational content purposes only.

Format: Discussion/taught course

About me: I have been investing in residential property in the UK since 2005 and successfully built a portfolio of assets that provided a job replacing income.

LIT 38: European Writing

Tutor: Adrian French

Day and time: Tuesday 10:15 - 11:30

Venue: St Clement's Church (Upper Room, NB: First Floor - no lift)

Length of course: 3 terms. Autumn (3 weeks), Spring (3 weeks), Summer (3 weeks)

Places: 12

Start date: 10 Oct

This is a discussion group. We will read recent writing from or about Europe concentrating mostly but not necessarily exclusively on novels. Starting with titles from Nobel Laureates we will discuss what sort of writings and from what parts of Europe will prompt and satisfy our interests. So we might venture into poetry and some short non fiction such as biography or travelogue. Bring your ideas. Meeting dates after June 2024 will be arranged nearer the time.

Format: Discussion

About me: Most of what I know about fiction and poetry I have learned from U3AC groups. I enjoy doing my learning through robust but respectful dialogue.

SCE 22: Eat well, live longer, live well (Spring term)

Leader: Alan Winfield

Day and time: Tuesday 15:45 - 16:45

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

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

Places: 20

Start date: 16 Jan

What to eat, what to avoid, how to cook it. We will look at safe simple lifestyle prescriptions based on solid scientific evidence referring regularly to a whole host of published research papers. 100 years ago the major causes of death were pneumonia, tuberculosis and diarrhoeal disease, also malnutrition in some parts of the world. Today death in the developed world is largely due to lifestyle diseases. No fads, no moral crusades, just solid scientific evidence based on peer reviewed research publications.

Format: Lecture

About me: It is important to say that I am not medically or nutritionally trained. I have a scientific background and some scientific research experience. I see my role as a facilitator.

SCE 22(z): Eat well, live longer, live well (Spring term)

As for SCE 22 but attending via Zoom.

SCE 24: Climate Change - What to think and what to do

Tutor: Alastair Breward

Day and time: Thursday 15:15 - 16:45

Venue: U3AC (Blue room)

Length of course: 1 term. Autumn (8 weeks)

Places: 16

Start date: 19 Oct

The course will look at all aspects of Climate Change - the history, human influence on climate, other challenges like bio-diversity loss, soil erosion, drought, food insecurity etc, the conduct of businesses, government, scientists and activists, the psychology behind inaction, and finally what we can do both individually and collectively so that we, our children and grandchildren can live on a habitable planet in a sustainable way, wherever possible without sacrificing the benefits of modern life. If we don't, our generation will live in infamy – the first to know, yet look the other way. The course will help you (a) grasp the urgency of the issue and the imperative to push for change, and (b) provide the resources to enable you to make and bring about those changes – including things like investing better, life style and engaging others. This course ran twice last year by Zoom only – there will be new material and more time for Q&A.

Format: Seminar with Q & A

About me: I am an amateur, but it turns out that we amateur inhabitants are the crucial actors in this slow-burn existential crisis - there is no Planet B. Many past attendees said it really helped them work out what to do.

SCE 24(z): Climate Change - What to think and what to do

As for SCE 24 but attending via Zoom.

Course amendments

HIS 22: Horses: Their role in the history of man (Spring term) - Time now: 10.00 - 11.30.

HIS 19: From Parnell to the 1916 Rising and its aftermath - Cancelled.

HIS 05: Bavaria, the 'special' German federal state - a look behind the curtain - Cancelled.

FLM 03 The art of the Silent Cinema – Cancelled.

FLM 02: Moviemaking - Start date is now 23 October.

About courses

Tutor / member protocol

A Protocol has been drawn up by members of Courses Committee that should support and guide both tutors and class/activity members. It is intended, above all, to emphasise mutual respect amongst all participants in order to encourage a positive learning environment. This can be found below and is also on the website here <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/about-courses/tutor-and-attende-protocol/> and in the Tutor Support Handbook.

We would encourage class and activity members to read it so they understand its relevance and both their role and that of the tutor in creating a mutually supportive learning experience.

John Procter, Director of Studies (Courses) on behalf of Courses Committee

It is helpful for tutors and members to develop a joint understanding about how their sessions together can be made as enjoyable, respectful and productive as possible. The guidance that follows will help to create that kind of learning environment and all participants are encouraged to note and follow it.

Tutor

- Be punctual and allow time for any equipment set up necessary.
- Deliver the course as described in the programme.
- Lead the session in an engaging manner.
- Provide an inclusive and encouraging learning environment.
- Encourage class participation, including the quieter, less confident members.

Attendee

- Attend all classes, rather than pick and choose sessions.
- Notify tutor or admin staff if you are unable to attend or wish to withdraw from the class.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Avoid dominating class discussions or aggressively contradicting the tutor.

Joint commitment

End the class on time to vacate the room/premises to allow the next class in promptly.

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 elsewhere: 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.

Volunteers' Day

Volunteering for U3AC

The contribution that our members make by volunteering is crucial to the ongoing success of U3AC - it is highly valued and there is no doubt that we could not manage without you.

Members who volunteer say they have found it enjoyable and fulfilling, it is also part of the ethos of the U3AC, as a member organisation.

Please come along to our Volunteers' Day in the U3AC premises on Wednesday 1 November between 11 am and 2 pm and find out about all current volunteering opportunities.

Appeal for Zoom hosts

There are many opportunities for ensuring the continuing success of the organisation by volunteering, and there is an ongoing need for 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 would be unable to host Zoom courses.

General information

A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £105 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 and join all the eXtra groups and activities.

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 stick without needing to bend down.

Discounts to members and help needed

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.

We need a volunteer to go through the list and visit each business to check they are still willing to give our members a discount and perhaps find other businesses willing to do the same – if you can help with this, please contact the Office.

Social events

U3AC Xmas lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held in Wildwood restaurant (below the U3AC premises) on **Monday 18 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 12 January 2024**. Application forms will be available in November.

Wine Tasting

The next Wine Tasting evening will be held on **Wednesday 15 November** at 5.30 pm. The theme is *Port and fortified wines*. Cost is £17 per person. Places can be booked via Eventbrite (who charge a non-refundable booking fee): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-november-2023-tickets-695318876477?aff=oddtcreator> or in person at the U3AC Office.

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 is on **Tuesday 24 October 2023**.

Other organisations

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

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Eric Guessarian in June

Helga Harnor in July

John House in July

Valerie Holt in July

U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee

The Cultural and Social Activities Committee, chaired by Clem Messenger, organises trips and visits throughout the year. Information about these can be obtained from:

- weekly email Bulletin
- U3AC website: [Trips and visits](#)

Applications open at least 4 weeks before each outing and if oversubscribed a draw is held after the deadline. You can apply either via the website, or by completing a paper application form. Places can only be offered to a non-member if there is no waiting list and arrangements must be made through one of the organisers.

Applying online

On the Trips and Visits area of the website: log in, select the relevant event and complete the requested information. Payment is by bank transfer, and all communication is by email.

Applying using a paper application form

Forms are available:

- downloaded from the website, in the Trips and Visits area (you will need to log in)
- from the reception area at the U3AC premises
- by emailing the Office
- by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Office with the name of the event in the top left-hand corner

Please remember to:

It is important that you:

- **Complete the application form correctly** - especially the section at the bottom specifying a contact number for emergency purposes as this is a U3AC requirement.
- **Send your completed form to the U3AC Office** or place it in the Collection Box in the U3AC Reception area before the closing date.
- **Pay either by BACS or enclose your cheque, clearly marked on the back with the name of the trip**
- **Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope**, for notification of your successful application.

If successful, you will be sent an acceptance slip, otherwise your payment will be returned. Please bring your acceptance slip with you on the trip.

Pick-up points: Our standard pick-up points are the Trumpington and Madingley Road Park & Ride sites (where parking for the day is free).

The following trip has been arranged:

Thursday 9 November 2023

International Bomber Command Centre & Lincoln Cathedral

Cost: £38

Closing date for applications: Friday 13 October

Organisers: Clem Messenger and Janet Rallison
Application forms are now available.

Additional events will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin.

U3AC Film group programme

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 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.

Autumn term 2023

3 October Thelma & Louise Dir: Ridley Scott: USA 1991 (130 mins)

Thelma and Louise - a bored housewife and a straight-laced waitress at a coffee shop - are best friends who are sick of what they've settled for. Deciding to escape the tedium of their everyday lives, the pair sneak off in Louise's '66 T-bird convertible for a three-day trip with no husbands, no boyfriends and no problems. But things don't go quite according to plan when an encounter with a drunken, foul-mouthed would-be rapist transforms their quiet getaway into a cross-country escape that will change their lives forever.

10 October The Talented Mr Ripley Dir: Anthony Minghella: USA 2000 (139 mins)

The Fifties-Manhattan lavatory attendant, Tom Ripley, borrows a Princeton jacket to play piano at a garden party. When the wealthy father of a recent Princeton grad, Dickie Greenleaf, chats Tom up, Tom pretends to know the son and is soon offered \$1,000 to go to Italy to convince Dickie to return home. In Italy Tom attaches himself to Dickie and to Marge, Dickie's cultured fiancée, pretending to love jazz and harbouring homoerotic hopes as he soaks in luxury. Besides lying, Tom's talents include impressions and forgery, so when the handsome and confident Dickie tires of Tom, dismissing him as a bore, Tom goes to extreme lengths to make Greenleaf's privileges his own. This is a fine adaptation of the original Patricia Highsmith novel.

17 October EO Dir: Jerzy Skolimowski: Poland/Italy 2022 (88 mins)

Directed and co-written by *Deep End* Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski, *EO* is a strikingly beautiful and mesmerising vision of modern Europe through the eyes of a donkey who embarks on an epic journey experiencing cruelty and kindness, while bearing witness to the follies and triumphs of humanity. Inspired by the great French film director Robert Bresson's 1966 film, *Au Hazard Balthazar*, this visually inventive film places the viewer directly in the heart and mind of the four-legged protagonist. **[Jeremy Warning – U3AC animal lovers should bring tissues]**

24 October CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL – NO U3AC FILM GROUP FILM

**31 October Jules et Jim Dir: François Truffaut: France 1962 (106 mins)
[Member's Request]**

Truffaut's hugely popular French New Wave classic sees the late Jeanne Moreau at her most ebullient as Catherine, a Parisian beauty caught up in a complex ménage à trois with the two friends of the title – one Austrian, the other French – just before World War 1. A romantic roller-coaster of a movie, it's fast, funny, stylish and affecting all at once.

7 November All Quiet on the Western Front Dir: Lewis Milestone: USA 1930 (136 mins)

This classic film follows a group of German schoolboys, talked into enlisting at the beginning of World War 1 by their jingoistic teacher. The story is told entirely through the experiences of the young German recruits and highlights the tragedy of war through the eyes of individuals. [I urge U3AC readers to read/re-read the great novel by the German writer Erich Maria Remarque, and on which this film is based - as powerful today as when it was written].

14 November Faces, Places Dir: Agnès Varda/JR: France 2017 (94 mins)

In this documentary the late French director Agnès Varda, and the photographer and muralist JR journey through rural France and form an unlikely friendship. [I am showing this as a tribute to one of our long - standing members, the late Brian Westcott who died earlier this year and was a great fan of Varda's work].

21 November Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans Dir: Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau: USA 1927 (95 mins)

One of the undisputed pinnacles of **silent** cinema, this lyrical masterpiece from the director of *Nosferatu*, and *Faust*, is a study of betrayal, love and reconciliation. Seduced by a vamp from the city, a man from a small fishing village plans to murder his wife during a boat trip to town. However, both reach their destination unscathed and there amid a dazzling panoply of urban attractions, the couple rediscover their love for each other. This restored masterpiece "one of the most enchanting and heart-rending experiences that cinema can offer", and last shown to this Group in 2005, now incorporates the first restoration of the film's wonderful original soundtrack.

28 November The Blue Caftan Dir: Maryam Touzani France/Morocco/Belgium/Denmark (118 mins)

This Moroccan Arabic-language drama film directed by Maryam Touzani depicts a woman (Mina) and her closeted gay husband (Halim) who run a caftan store in the medina of Salé, Morocco, and hire a talented young man as an apprentice. Slowly Mina realises how much her husband is moved by his presence. *The Blue Caftan* is an emotionally complex, richly empathetic depiction of a partnership sustained through storms and challenges. Superb performances, sly humour, glowing photography and a strong throughline of social defiance make this a profoundly satisfying pleasure.

5 December Babette's Feast Dir: Gabriel Axel: Denmark 1987 (103 mins) [Member's Request]

Babette's Feast is an Oscar-winning tale of everyday passion, magic and miracles in which a chef (the late Stéphane Audran) prepares an extravagant banquet for her employers. This marvellous film is based on the story of the same name by Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen), and was the first Danish film of a Blixen story, and also the first to win the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

12 December The Shop Around the Corner Dir: Ernst Lubitsch: USA 1940 (98 mins)

Set in a lovingly evoked Budapest in the run-up to Christmas, Lubitsch's deliciously delicate comedy focuses on the various obstacles blocking the path of potential lovers, played by James Stewart and Margaret Sullaven, fellow workers in a gossip-ridden emporium who are unaware they're in fact courting one another by mail in an anonymous correspondence. Lubitsch's fabled 'touch', here at its highest, contributes to what is arguably Hollywood's most exquisitely romantic depiction of the old central Europe and is of course "*perfect seasonal fare*".

Our first show after the Christmas break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 16 January 2024

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 – Autumn term 2023

These lectures will take place by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm.

These are open to members only. The link for each lecture is on the Norah Boyce Lectures page of the website (you will need to log in to access this) and will be included in the weekly Bulletin the week prior to the lecture and also emailed to Bulletin recipients in the morning of the Lecture.

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

“Science for Everyone”

24 October The treeline: the last forest and the future of life on Earth

Speaker Ben Rawlence, Award winning writer and Director of the Black Mountains College, Wales

For the last fifty years, the trees of the boreal forest have been moving north. Ben Rawlence will take us along this critical frontier of our warming planet to meet the scientists, residents and trees confronting huge geological changes. It is a journey of wonder and awe at the incredible creativity and resilience of these species and the mysterious workings of the forest upon which we rely for the air we breathe.

7 November The World in 2050 and beyond

Speaker Professor Martin Rees, Lord Rees of Ludlow OM FRS, Patron of U3AC, Astronomer Royal, Past President of the Royal Society

We can venture two fairly firm predictions about the next few decades; the world will get hotter, and global populations will rise. But we can't predict the changing political backdrop, nor the speed and direction of technological advance (in biological sciences, artificial Intelligence and in space). There are reasons for great hopes, but also great fears.

21 November Life after death: how behaviour influences evolution in the burying beetle

Speaker Professor Rebecca Kilner FRS, Head of Department of Zoology & Director of the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology

How does behaviour evolve and how does it then determine subsequent evolution? Our research focuses on the burying beetle (or sexton beetle). The natural history of these animals, and their capacity to undergo experimental evolution in the lab, lets us test directly how behaviour influences evolution.

5 December Design Engineering for Artificial Intelligence Engineering

Speaker Professor Per Ola Kristensson, Co Director of the Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence, University of Cambridge

Professor Kristensson will lecture on the use of techniques from systems engineering to build effective, efficient and safe Artificial Intelligence systems that work for people including systems that allow users to type with their eyes and to use virtual tools through augmented reality glasses.

12 December Some progress in understanding the nausea and vomiting of human pregnancy

Speaker Professor Sir Stephen O’Rahilly MD FRS FMedSci, Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine & Director, Medical Research Council Metabolic Diseases Unit

Most pregnant women experience some nausea and/or vomiting particularly in early pregnancy. In many, these symptoms are sufficiently severe to interfere with working, family and social life. In ~1% of pregnancies the symptoms are extremely severe (hyperemesis gravidarum) and can threaten the life and health of the mother and offspring. In collaboration with colleagues in California, Scotland and Cambridge, we have recently identified the mechanisms responsible for these symptoms. This should lead to effective and safe means of treatment and prevention.

Wednesday Lectures – Autumn term 2023

All lectures this term are being run as 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. Please contact the Office to book, giving your name and membership number. Zoom links are on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15pm. No entry to the Pink room before 2.00pm.

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

11 October The possibilities and limits of forgiveness

Speaker Rev Dr Stephen Cherry

Over the last four decades, the idea and practice of forgiveness has attracted more attention than previously with personal stories of forgiveness being told in the media and written up as memoirs. In addition, psychologists have explored different ways in which people might be helped to forgive, and philosophers have asked questions, such as: ‘was Dryden right in saying that “forgiveness to the victim doth belong”?’ In this talk Stephen will explore these important issues. Although he finds much to admire when people forgive, he also wants to question whether there are limits to forgiveness – and, if so, what lies beyond them?

Stephen Cherry is Dean of Chapel at King’s College, Cambridge, and Fellow and Director of Studies in Theology. He has written a number of books including *Healing Agony* and *Unforgivable? Exploring the Limits of Forgiveness* due out early in 2024.

18 October Drawing in the Dark: Henry Moore’s Coalmining Commission

Speaker Dr Chris Owen

Henry Moore was acclaimed as one of the World’s leading sculptors of the C20th, most famous for his stone and bronze depictions of the female form, and abstract sculptures, which still grace the plazas of many major cities. He was also a renowned draughtsman. He made highly expressive drawings of Londoners sheltering from the Blitz, and, less well-known, he spent two weeks sketching underground at Wheldale Colliery in Castleford, Yorkshire, where his father had worked as a miner. This illustrated talk is based on Owen’s recently published book, *Drawing in the Dark: Henry Moore’s Coalmining Commission*, and the accompanying exhibition, held at St Albans Museum and Gallery, and The Danum, Doncaster.

Chris Owen studied History of Art at Cambridge before a career in education. From 2011-19, he was Head of Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University, and recently published *Drawing in the Dark: Henry Moore’s Coalmining Commission*.

25 October Is an unwritten constitution still a good idea?

Speaker Lord Wilson of Dinton (Richard Wilson)

This talk will discuss why, unlike most countries, we don’t have a written constitution in the UK; what it’s like in practice working without one; and, what the arguments for and against having one are. It will argue that, although we are in the middle of a period of major constitutional change, it would be better not to try to set out all our constitutional principles, rules, and laws in one document. It would run contrary to our history, it would lose us flexibility in public affairs, and it would open up enormous arguments - for instance about whether we should abolish the monarchy - which would take up a lot of time and be impossible to resolve. It also argues that the British people are not very interested in constitutional matters.

Richard Wilson attends the House of Lords as a cross bencher, and is a Life Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. After entering the Civil Service in the Board of Trade in 1966, he became Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service in 1998. In 2002 he received a peerage and was elected Master of Emmanuel College.

1 November Fenrir's Fetter and the Power of Stories

Speaker Katherine Langrish

As a writer of fantasies for children, and academic essays and books for adults on fairy tales and folklore, Katherine has long been interested in the power of stories to influence us for both good and ill. In this talk, she will look at legends and fairy tales, the gruesome urban myths children tell one another at sleepovers, and those stories handed down in families, communities and nations which confer a sense of common identity and pride – sometimes at the cost of excluding others. Such stories have the power to change our perceptions of ourselves and others, and of the world around us.

Katherine Langrish is an author and the creator of the award-winning blog *Seven Miles of Steel Thistles* and collection of essays of the same name. Her books for children include *Dark Angels*, and most recently *From Spare Oom to War Drobe: Travels in Narnia with my nine year-old self*.

8 November Britain's war aims and global expansion in the Napoleonic Wars: the role of Sir Home Popham

Speaker Dr Jacqueline Reiter

During the war with Revolutionary and Napoleonic France, Henry Dundas' 'blue-water' approach, or the application of Britain's naval predominance to colonial expansion at the enemy's expense, came to dominate British grand strategy. But how did the British decision-makers decide their strategy? In the absence of any central military decision-making, they sought advice from military men they considered capable of thinking holistically. This talk will discuss the role of one of these advisers, Sir Home Riggs Popham, whose career sheds light on how Britain's political, economic, and colonial objectives could be married as a way of achieving victory.

Jacqueline Reiter is a historian specialising in late 18th and early 19th century British political, military and naval history. Her first book was *The Late Lord: the Life of John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham*. Her articles have also appeared in *History Today* and the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*.

15 November Anglesey Abbey: The Life of Lord Fairhaven

Speaker Helen Ackroyd

Helen's talk will take a look at the history of the Priory (N.B. it wasn't actually an Abbey) from 1135 until 1536, and then as a private house, from 1609 until 1966. However, the main part of her talk will cover the family history of Lord Fairhaven, especially the source of his wealth, and will present a 'virtual tour' of the House, punctuated with stories of how Lord Fairhaven used the rooms and designed the famous gardens.

Helen Ackroyd has been a volunteer in the House at Anglesey Abbey for more than 14 years, and also a Tour Guide, both inside and outside the House. She has been presenting talks about Anglesey Abbey for the National Trust for over six years.

22 November Participatory film and gender justice in postcolonial Africa

Speaker Professor Lucy Delap (with Dr Dominique Chadwick)

This talk explores practices of participatory film making, which grew in popularity in the 1990s and 2000s, inspired by critical pedagogy, newly affordable technologies and commitments to decolonising 'development' initiatives in the global South. This collaborative investigation by historian, Lucy Delap, and film director, Dominique Chadwick, outlines the practical and ethical concerns of feminist film-making as 'action research', and locates it within the mediascape of the turn of the millennium, as well as the context of the HIV-AIDS epidemic.

Prof Lucy Delap teaches history at Cambridge and is a Fellow of Murray Edwards College. She has published widely on the history of feminism, gender, labour and religion, including *The Feminist Avant-Garde: Transatlantic Encounters of the early twentieth century*.

Dr Dominique Chadwick is an independent film consultant, reporting on humanitarian issues in over 40 countries.

29 November Darwins and Wedgwoods: A Creative Legacy Beyond Charles

Speaker Dr Emma Darwin

Books about Emma's great-great-grandparents, Charles and Emma Darwin, are legion, but when she agreed to write a novel about her family, she looked for the stories less often told: as well as polymath Erasmus Darwin, there was Thomas Wedgwood, pioneer of photographic processes; novelist and historian, Julia Wedgwood; composer Ralph Vaughan Williams; engraver Gwen Raverat; poet Frances Cornford; and her son, the radical poet, John Cornford, the first Briton killed in the Spanish Civil War. Join Emma on this illustrated journey through the Darwin-Wedgwood-Galton clan, as seen through the lens of her creative struggle to write fiction about them.

Dr Emma Darwin is a writer and teacher. Her first novel, *The Mathematics of Love*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' award while her best-selling *A Secret Alchemy* earned her a PhD. Her latest book is *This is Not a Book About Charles Darwin*.

6 December Before Evolutionary Theory and the Dinosaurs: Adam Sedgwick's Geological Museum of the 1840s and what Queen Victoria thought of it all

Speaker Dr Douglas Palmer

By the 1840s, Woodwardian Professor Adam Sedgwick's collection of fossils had grown so large that the University allocated space in the new Cockerell Building for a Museum of Geology. So, what were the prize museum exhibits of the time before evolutionary theory and the 'invention' of the dinosaurs? And which specimens did Queen Victoria take an especial interest in when she visited the Museum with Prince Albert in 1847?

Dr Douglas Palmer is a Cambridge-based earth science writer and lecturer who works part-time for the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences. Most recently he has contributed to *Timelines of Science*, DK 2023, and *Strata: William Smith's Geological Maps*, T&H 2020.

13 December The Box with the Sunflower Clasp – the story of a Jewish family who escaped Hitler by fleeing Vienna for the unlikely haven of Shanghai

Speaker Rachel E. Meller

Rachel's Aunt Lisbeth was always a reserved, uncommunicative woman, who never spoke about her childhood in Vienna, or her experiences in Shanghai. Lisbeth and her mother (Rachel's grandmother) fled to the Chinese port in 1940, to join Rachel's grandfather, who had escaped Austria the previous year. Decades later, Lisbeth unexpectedly bequeathed Rachel a box containing a collection of documents and photographs. In this talk, Rachel will discuss how she embarked on putting together the pieces of her silent aunt's life, using the contents of the box together with her own research. She will also describe a little-known chapter of World War II history: the story of the 20,000 European Jews whose lives were saved from the Nazi threat by their flight to the challenging and complex destination of Japanese-run Shanghai.

After studying Neurobiology at Sussex and research at Cambridge, Rachel became a writer in a local communication consultancy. Her book *The Box with the Sunflower Clasp* came out in May 2023 and has been well reviewed in various publications.