

Message from the Chair

Coming up to Christmas and New Year, as with the God, Janus, it is a time both to look backwards and forwards to 2025.

First, I should like to express my warmest thanks to our staff, tutors, and the U3AC Council for their outstanding work throughout the *Legionella* crisis. Because of their efforts, we were able to keep much of our substantial educational programme going, while, at the same time, dealing with the practicalities of the emergency. Now, the water will be tested more frequently and maintained through a strict regime of flushing and temperature checks. Further, various plumbing improvements are being planned as we establish a new 10-year lease with Magdalene College through its Agent, Cheffins. Our Vice-Chair, Michael Gibbs, is also guiding a small Working Group examining what we can learn from the whole experience.



On a slightly less satisfactory note, I must report that, over the last few months, I have been shocked by some unacceptable attitudes towards free speech and learning in our normally tolerant U3AC. One thing I must stress most strongly is that the U3AC will not in any way embrace a 'no-platforming' or 'cancel culture'. As an organisation, we believe passionately in free speech and in tolerance to a wide range of views, **so long as these views do not break the law**. We are in lockstep with one of England's greatest philosophers, John Stuart Mill: 'If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.' [John Stuart Mill, *Essay On Liberty*, 1859].

At the U3AC, we must always welcome challenging views, and we should not be tolerant of any who wish to block these, unless, of course, as I have said, such views are contrary to the law. But, above all, our position is always to be courteous to our guests and to invited speakers.

Now, looking forward to 2025, I am, by contrast, delighted to be able to report on the efforts being made by a number of key Council Working Groups.

Especially exciting is the new U3AC Direct Publishing Working Group employing Amazon/Kindle to publish books by and for our membership. The chair of this group is Suzan Griffiths, Trustee and former University librarian, and I have been especially cheered by the willingness of various talented members from writing, poetry, book and art classes to join the Group. In the New Year, we shall begin commissioning works from members, including from tutors who may wish to consider publishing their course material in some form. Watch this space.

Other Working Groups are also well under way, often dealing with important and serious issues, including the re-writing of our Complaints Procedures (under Trustee, Mark Sanderson), the Premises Group (under Vice-Chair, Michael Gibbs), and the 10-Year U3AC Strategic Planning Working Group, chaired by myself. Your Council is thus highly active, and it always has an eye to the future and to the continuing and growing success of our much-cherished U3AC.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members and staff for their forbearance during the *Legionella* crisis, and to wish everyone 'Season's Greetings' and a most rewarding 2025 with the U3AC.

Philip Stott, Chair U3AC

Christmas closing

The Office will close on Friday 20 December 2024 at 2 pm and reopen on Monday 6 January 2025 at 10 am.

Term dates

Spring Term: Monday 13 January - Friday 21 March 2025

Summer Term: Tuesday 22 April - Friday 13 June 2025

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

2025-2026 Academic year - Autumn Term: Monday 6 October 2025

Legacies & donations news

November feels like the start of winter - and for U3AC, it's also when HMRC sends us the main Gift Aid payment. That's extra income for U3AC at no additional cost to members. A huge thank you to everyone who ticked that Gift Aid box when they joined U3AC - your support is greatly appreciated. We take our stewardship responsibility for your subscriptions and donations very seriously.

If Gift Aid sounds like a mystery or if you want to know more about donations and legacies, reach out to treasurer@U3AC.org.uk. We'll be happy to help!

Message from the Secretary

An important date for your diary

U3AC's AGM will take place on Wednesday 26 March 2025 in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street at 2.15 pm.

The meeting will be preceded by a Wednesday Lecture given by Nigel Fenner author of 'Cambridge Sport: in Fenner's Hands', and leader of sports-related walking tours. We hope as many members as possible will attend this important event in the U3AC calendar.

Sally Livesey

Chat with the Chair

Philip Stott, the Chair will be holding his Chat with Chair sessions on:

Monday 20 January, 14.00 - 16.00

Tuesday 18 February, 11.00 - 13.00

Thursday 20 March, 14.00 - 16.00

in the 2nd floor social area. Do feel free to come along to raise any issues about U3AC, or indeed simply to ask questions, no booking required.

Email scams – be aware

Email scams are becoming increasingly common, and it's important to be aware of the tactics used by scammers. If you receive an email appearing to be from someone you know asking for a 'favour', personal information or payment, be cautious. Never click on links or download attachments from suspicious emails. If an email request feels unusual or urgent, it's best to contact the sender directly using a verified phone number to confirm its legitimacy and do not reply to the email. Remember, if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

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

HIN 01: Hindi for beginners (Spring term)

Tutor: Narinder Kumar

Day and time: Friday 09:45 - 10:45

Venue: U3AC (Orange room)

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

Places: 8

Start date: 17 Jan

Learn to write and read Hindi from absolute beginners' stage. The course will include learning the alphabets, their formation, pronunciation and grammar. It is meant to be a fun project as well as an informative one.

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: I grew up in India studying and speaking Hindi. Since my move to the UK about 44 years ago, I miss it, hence the decision to teach to like-minded people.

HIS 43(z): Anti-Slavery Advocacy in early-Victorian Britain (Spring and Summer terms)

Tutor: Paul Donohoe

Day and time: Alternate Thursdays, 14:15 - 15:15

Venue: Zoom

Length of course: 2 terms. Spring (5 weeks), Summer (4 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 16 Jan

Slavery in the Southern states of America continued long after it was banned in the British Empire. The course is about (1) the slaves who escaped the cotton plantations and found their way to Britain to build funds and support for the anti-slavery campaign and (2) the individuals who provided them with sustenance while they were here. In detail, we will look at the work of black abolitionists William Wells Brown, Henry Hyland Garnet, J W C Pennington and Alexander Crummell who toured the country lecturing against chattel slavery and drew large audiences from across British society. Also on our agenda are their predecessors Moses Roper, Charles Lennox Remond and Frederick Douglass. The slave Narratives of which there are many provide a basis for the course. Prior reading, in no way obligatory,

would include the first two volumes of the autobiography of Frederick Douglass.

Format: Lecture

About me: I was educated at Cambridge University, spent most of my career in the food industry, travelled extensively and participated in U3AC courses for years.

LEI 30: Beginners' Bridge (Spring and Summer terms)

Day and time: Thursday 13:30 - 16:00

Venue: St Mark's Community Centre (Large Hall)

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

Places: 36

Start date: 16 Jan

This course is aimed at complete beginners – people who are interested in playing Bridge but have not yet learned the basics of the game. People who are not complete beginners but who would like to revise their bridge skills would also be very welcome to join this class. We will start by learning how to play a more basic form of the game. We will then gradually learn the bidding and playing of the game of bridge, using Acol, which is the main bidding system used in the UK. In each session there will be a short lecture, followed by tutored play. Bridge is a challenging game, but is great fun and quite addictive! There is bike parking and limited car parking in the church grounds. If this is full, there are other parking places nearby. However, please do not park in Millington Road, which is a private road.

Format: Taught course or activity

About us: We are all moderately experienced bridge players who have played with U3AC for some years. We all love playing Bridge, and would like to share our love of the game with the members of this class.

Spring term courses with vacancies

The following courses commencing in the Spring term had vacancies at the time of going to press. Full details for all courses can be found on the website. Please email the Office to enrol.

CMP 03	Staying safe online
CMP 03(z)	Staying safe online
FRE 13	Vercors: le Silence de la Mer pub. Albin Michel 1951
HIS 09	Cambridge sport: in Fenner's hands
HIS 27(z)	Ten Turning Points in European History
HIS 37	Your family genealogy and history
HIS 37(z)	Your family genealogy and history
HIS 39	The Neanderthals
HIS 39(z)	The Neanderthals
LIT 18(z)	Folk tales of Ireland
LIT 22(z)	Louis MacNeice
LIT 36	The odes of John Keats
MTH 02(z)	Maths can be fun 2
PHL 01(z)	The gospel according to St Luke
PSY 03(z)	Magical thinking
SCE 05	Computers, brains and AI
SCE 13	Our earth, yesterday, today, and tomorrow
SCE 13(z)	Our earth, yesterday, today, and tomorrow
WLL 04	Buddhist meditation 2: 'Exploring states of mind and feeling'
WLL 14	Sort your stuff out 2
WOR 03(z)	Italian cities

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.

About courses

Tutors' proposals for courses

Planning for the 2025-2026 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 **Friday 11 April 2025**.

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.

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 online feedback survey so that you can give the reason for withdrawing.

Please do not wait until the course is about to start or has started.

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

If you cannot attend a course session

For courses held in the 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 below).

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-attendee-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 Office staff if you are unable to attend or wish to withdraw from the course.
- 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.

Open Morning.....

....for anyone interested in proposing a U3AC activity or course.

Have you an interest or hobby that you would like to share with your fellow U3AC members? Or specialist knowledge that you would like to pass on or discuss?

If you would like to talk through your ideas or find out a bit more, please come along to the Pink room on **Friday 28 February** between 11.15 am – 12.45 pm.

Members of the Courses Committee and U3AC staff will be there to chat to you about the 'ins and outs'.

This is an informal drop-in session and won't involve any commitment, or any obligation and there is no need to book – please just pop in!

For further details please click see <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Open-Morning.pdf>

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

New Year Social event

The New Year Social event will be held in The David Rayner Building at Scotsdales Garden Centre on Friday 10 January 2025 from 12 – 2. Cost: £8.50. Application forms are available on the [Social Events](#) page of the website. This is a member only event and places must be booked in advance.

Wine tasting

Date for your diary – Wednesday 12 February 2025. Further details will be in the weekly Bulletin.

General information

A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £110 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.

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.

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.

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.

Local discounts to U3AC members

There is a list of discounts offered by local businesses for U3AC members on our website <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/news/local-discounts/>

General administration

Savings on postage

If two (or more) members live at the same address we save postage by sending communications in one envelope. If you would like future mailings sent in separate envelopes, please inform the Office.

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Donald Cameron in August
Norah Tate in August
Mike Quigley in October
Linda de Chenu in October
Detlev Popp in October

Dorothea Noble in October
Barry Brooks in October
Peter Cowley in November
Barbara Cassey in November

General information

Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 20 February 2025**.

Other organisations

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

Heidelberg Exchange

On the 28th of August, an intrepid band of 13 members of U3AC headed out to visit Cambridge's twin city of Heidelberg to be hosted by AfÄ (Akademie für Ältere) the U3AC equivalent in the city. Given the chaos in the European rail system on a previous visit we decided to risk flying from Stansted with Ryanair. We arrived, rather late, to find our traditional German hotel just off Heidelberg's kilometre-long pedestrianised high street.

Our first morning was taken up with a guided tour of some of Heidelberg's university buildings, which included the Great Hall their wood-panelled equivalent of our Senate house and a trip to the 'student jail'. In the 19th century, recalcitrant students were incarcerated for infringement of university rules although they could leave to attend lectures and could send out for restaurant meals if the jailer's wife's fare was not up the scratch. While there they decorated their cells using any materials to hand; mainly candle-black with silhouettes of fellow students, mottos and coats of arms of the various fraternity houses.

Later we were welcomed by Stefanie Jansen one of the city's deputy mayors in the magnificent city hall and provided with lunch. The press was on hand and our visit was reported in the local newspaper the next day although our hosts were somewhat disappointed that the article billed our respective organisations as an attempt to reduce loneliness among old people. The afternoon featured a guided tour of the old town and was followed by our hosts providing a fine meal in a local restaurant.

Friday saw us travelling to Mannheim by tram and being given a guided tour of the town with its Art Nouveau buildings and gardens and then a boat trip. This slipped between the river Neckar, on which Heidelberg sits and the mighty Rhine passing through a vast automated lock on the way. The huge Baroque Palace of the Prince-electors of the Palatine was unfortunately under restoration although the exterior was still impressive.

In the afternoon we were left to our own devices and many of us headed to the Kunsthalle art gallery where there was a major exhibition by English artist Sarah Lucas. The gallery was a very modern building with a gleaming white interior but if you walked through the gallery you entered the original building which was a dark marble-clad Art Nouveau construction, a tremendous contrast.

Back in Heidelberg, a number of us opted to eat in the university student canteen. This provided a fine buffet and at the till our plates were weighed and the modest price was determined by the weight of our food! There was also a bar!

Baden-Baden was the destination on Saturday and many of us remarked that the town had a very different feel from Heidelberg. Somehow more laid back and restrained (lack of university students?). Here we visited the casino (before the gambling hours) and were astonished by the opulence of the place. The roulette and blackjack tables looked a little out of place.

On Sunday everyone was individually entertained by at least one of our German hosts. This involved walks, and tours of distant museums and included lunch and tea. This was the opportunity to make more personal contact and for some to practice their German in earnest. For many people, this more intimate time was the highlight of the visit.

Ilona Linniger the chair of AfÄ gave us an introduction to the organisation's operation which was remarkably similar to that of U3AC except for the subsidies they receive from local and Federal governments. Given our almost identical aims, there was some discussion as to how we could cooperate given that both organisations use online systems frequently. Language classes seemed an obvious possibility with the idea of language conversation classes being mooted. A more radical idea was an online exchange of the output of the various art classes.

It was then a funicular ride up to Heidelberg castle which dominates the town. Here with almost a touch of magic a picnic suddenly appeared before we were given a guided tour of some of the immense but largely ruined structures. The more intrepid of us set off down to the town using a large number of steps while those of a more delicate disposition used the funicular.

Tuesday morning saw us heading for space; to be specific the Max Plank Institute's planetarium. This involved a bus toiling up the mountainside and then a walk through cool calm pine woods before the magnificent white building of the Max Plank Institute loomed up through the dark trees. Here we were treated to a journey through the universe in their planetarium visiting the various planets and then sweeping out through the edges of our galaxy into deep space and the endless array of galaxies.

Lunch comprised a picnic at the top of the Königstuhl mountain with stunning views of the city and the plains below. As well as a wonderful array of food including what could be only described as a multi-layer sandwich 'cake', we were entertained by an impromptu alpine horn performance.

Our last morning was effectively free and so some of us took a boat trip up the Neckar River to see some of the old castles used to extract tolls by the robber barons of the valley. Back in the city, our hosts provided lunch at the student canteen where we all sat in the sun in the courtyard and tested the quality of the local beer again.

Our flight back to the UK was five hours late and it was amusing to see people at the airport attempting to find power sockets to recharge their phones. At one stage all the children's ride-on toys were unplugged and then some of the airport vending machines! Ryanair blamed Air Traffic Control on 'Exceptional circumstances' and so declined to compensate us.

In all a most enjoyable and enlightening trip with one major downside. What on earth are we going to offer in the way of entertainment to our German friends when they return to Cambridge in 2025? Ideas from anyone in U3AC are welcome, as are offers of expert knowledge.

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 will be processed on a **first come first served basis**. 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:

- to download 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

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 or hand in your completed form to the U3AC Office.**
- **Pay either by BACS or by credit or debit card (in person at the Office).**
- **All communication is by email.** If you do not have an email address **include a stamped self-addressed envelope**, for notification of your successful application.

If your application is successful you will be sent an acceptance email, please bring a copy of this 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 trips have been arranged:

Thursday 20 March 2025 Visit to Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake at Norwich Theatre Royal
Cost: £68
Application forms are now available.

Thursday 1 May 2025 Visit to Bletchley Park
Application forms available next term

June 2025 tbc Proposed Visit to Chartwell (Churchill's home) Kent and Tudeley Church famous for its windows by Marc Chagall

July 2025 tbc Proposed Visit to Saville Gardens with possibly Windsor Castle, Runnymede or Eton College

Autumn 2025 tbc Proposed Visit to Churchill War Rooms and National Gallery

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

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 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 2025

14 January Chinatown Dir: Roman Polanski: USA 1974 (130 mins)

In a legendary performance, Jack Nicholson stars as private eye Jake Gittes. Hired by a mysterious woman to investigate Hollis Mulwray, the chief engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Gittes' sleuthing brings him into contact with Mulwray's wife (Faye Dunaway), a stunning socialite with secrets of her own. As a determined Gittes delves deeper he soon realises that the City of Angels has a dark side.

21 January Wild Strawberries Dir: Ingmar Bergman: Sweden 1957 (91 mins)

Dr Borg an elderly emotionally distant professor, travels to Lund University with his daughter-in-law to receive an honorary degree. The trip forces him to re-examine past choices and his future. The film's original title is *Smultronstället* which literally means "*the wild strawberry patch*" but idiomatically signifies a hidden gem of a place, often with personal or sentimental value, and not widely known.

28 January Mr Klein Dir: Joseph Losey: France/Italy 1976 (123 mins)

Paris 1942. Robert Klein (Alain Delon) cannot find any fault with the state of affairs in German occupied France. He has a well-furnished flat, a mistress, and business is booming. Jews, facing discrimination because of laws edicted by the French government are desperate to sell valuable works of art, and it is easy for him to get them at bargain prices. His cosy life is disrupted when he realises that there is another Robert Klein in Paris, a Jew with a rather mysterious behaviour. Very soon, this homonymy attracts the close, and menacing attention of the police on the established art trader. **(This film follows on from the 27 January 2025 Holocaust Memorial Day)**

4 February La Chimera Dir: Alice Rohrwacher: Italy/France/Switzerland 2024 (130 mins)

Just out of jail, crumpled English archaeologist Arthur reconnects with his wayward crew of accomplices, a happy-go-lucky collective of grave-robbers who survive by looting Etruscan tombs and fencing the ancient treasures they dig up.

11 February The Manchurian Candidate Dir: John Frankenheimer: USA 1962 (126 mins)

A US Army platoon, captured by Communists during the Korean War, is whisked to Manchuria for three nightmarish days of experimental drug and hypnosis-induced "brainwashing". The aftermath transforms one of the captors, decorated with the Congressional Medal of Honor, into an operational assassin with a mission, and with a domineering mother who has intentions to promote her henpecked husband's political career. *(This brilliant thriller is one of my favourite films and seen very many times – Jeremy).*

18 February Hollywoodgate Dir: Ibraham Nash'at: Germany/USA 2023 (91 mins)

This documentary follows with unprecedented access to one of the most secretive cabals in the world, a group of Talib leaders in their first year back in power in Afghanistan. The director captures something of the plight of the ordinary people of Kabul, a distant afterthought for these war-obsessed men consumed by the thrill of new toys- the US weapons and equipment left behind worth an estimated \$7 bn – and the threat of old enemies.

25 February Double Indemnity Dir: Billy Wilder: USA 1944 (107 mins)

Insurance man Walter Neff schemes the perfect murder with the beautiful wife of one of his clients, kill her husband and make off with the insurance money. But Walter's colleague- a shrewd insurance investigator has a feeling that not all is as it seems with the widow's claim.

4 March La Strada Dir: Federico Fellini: Italy 1954 (104 mins)

When Gelsomina (Giulietta Masina) a naïve young woman is purchased from her impoverished mother by brutish strongman Zampanò (Anthony Quinn) to be his wife and partner, she loyally endures her husband's coldness and abuse as they travel the Italian countryside performing together. Soon Zampanò must deal with his jealousy and conflicted feelings about Gelsomina when she finds a kindred spirit in Il Matto (Richard Basehart), the carefree circus fool, and contemplates leaving Zampanò.

11 March The Red Circle (Le Circle Rouge) Dir: Jean-Pierre Melville: France/Italy 1970 (140 mins)

Master thief Corey (Alain Delon) is fresh out of prison. But instead of toeing the line of law-abiding freedom, he finds his steps leading back to the shadowy world of crime, crossing paths with a notorious escapee and an alcoholic ex-cop. As the unlikely trio plots a heist against impossible odds, their trail is pursued by a relentless inspector and fate begins to seal their destinies.

18 March The Taste of Things (La Passion de Dodin Bouffant): Dir Trần Anh Hùng: France 2023 (134 mins)

Set in 1889, the film depicts a romance between a cook and the gourmet she works for. The character of the gourmet she works for is based on Dodin-Bouffant, created by Swiss author Marcel Rouff in his 1924 novel *La Vie et la passion de Dodin – Bouffant gourmet* (The Passionate Epicure).

Our First Show after the Easter break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025

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 2025

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’

14 January Rewilding Britain - busting the myths and making it happen

Speaker Prof Alastair Driver, Director of 'Rewilding Britain', Fellow of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Honorary Professor of Applied Environmental Management, Exeter University.

28 January Is ageing modifiable?

Speaker Professor Carol Brayne CBE FMedSci, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge and Director of Cambridge Public Health

11 February Tree Diversity, a controversial nonsense or an absolute necessity?

Speaker Keith Sacre, Barcham Trees plc

11 March Title TBC

Speaker Prof Sandrine Thuret is Professor of Neuroscience and Head of the Department of Basic & Clinical Neuroscience at Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience at King's College London.

Full details of the above lectures will be added to the website when available.

Norah Boyce Science Lecture recordings

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

Wednesday Lecture recordings

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

Wednesday Lectures – Spring Term 2025

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 are on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15 pm. No entry to the Pink Room before 2.00 pm

Please note that the lecture on 26 February is via Zoom only.

The **AGM on 26 March** will be held in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street at 2.15 pm.

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

15 January David Parr **HYBRID**
Speaker Holly O' Brien / A representative of the David Parr House Charity

186 Gwydir Street, Cambridge is an ordinary terraced house with extraordinary hand-painted interiors. Once the home of Victorian working-class artist, David Parr, the house was lived in continuously for nearly 120 years by three generations of his family. This talk explores David Parr's incredible artistic skill, his dedication to creating a comfortable home for his family, and the ongoing work of the David Parr House Charity.

22 January From Shed to Destination: The story of Scotsdales Garden Centre's growth and vision **HYBRID**
Speaker Johnny Critchley-Salmonson, heads up sales and marketing team at Scotsdales

Scotsdales Garden Centre's inspiring journey from its modest routes from a small number of greenhouses, to becoming a beloved destination and garden centre group.

29 January Pirates of the Caribbean **HYBRID**
Speaker Tim Bartlett, U3AC Member and former Director of Studies (Lectures)

Piracy in the Caribbean reached it's height around mid 17th century and lasted to about 1730 and has become known as the Golden Age of Piracy. Piracy existed long before this time, and even in the Caribbean it had been in existence for almost a century. Depictions by Hollywood rarely give a glimpse of the reality of Pirates and Buccaneers, rather romanticising their exploits and ignoring the harsh reality.

5 February Into the Doughnut; (An introduction to Doughnut Economics) **HYBRID**
Speaker Jeremy Johnson, an active member of Cambridge Doughnut (CamDEAG)

The word economics is originally from the Greek meaning management of the home, so how can doughnuts help us with the management of our home - the planet Earth? This talk goes into the ideas of Doughnut Economics and how we can use a change of perspective to re-frame our problems into something that meets the needs of all within the means of the planet.

12 February Justice and mercy: History and role of the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire **HYBRID**
Speaker Victor Lucas, U3AC member and former High Sheriff

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular Office in the United Kingdom. This talk examines the history of this ancient Office and the role today. (Rescheduled from May 2024).

19 February **The Fluid Earth: Volcanic eruptions and lava flows, as exemplified in Iceland** **HYBRID**
Speaker Professor Herbert E. Huppert FRS, Institute of Theoretical Geophysics, Cambridge

Gigantic volcanic eruptions, either into the atmosphere or under the oceans, can claim many human and animal lives, do enormous and very costly damage, as well as often supplying wonderful sights. I will outline some of the background, describe the initiation of tsunamis and discuss how some scientists believe that eruptions at deep-sea vents, zillions of years ago, resulted in the initiation of life.

26 February **The founding of the Smithsonian Institute** **ZOOM ONLY**
Speaker Raymond Stern has practiced and taught architecture, design, and history in Europe, South-East Asia, the US and Canada

The Smithsonian Institution eventually grew into the largest museum and research complex in the world. James Smithson who never set foot in the US, was the bastard son of the notorious Duke of Northumberland. A talented chemist Smithson became the youngest member of Britain's Royal Society. This is a remarkable personal story of a shadowy figure, of a non-functional family, of a fluke of quirky estate planning, of a man at the centre of the English Enlightenment, and the creation of America's greatest museum born out of English aristocracy. Please note 4th International Wednesday lecture.

5 March **Cambridge Children's Hospital** **HYBRID**
Speaker Dame Mary Archer, co-chair of the Campaign Board raising funds to build Cambridge Children's Hospital

The East of England is the only area of the country that does not have a specialist children's hospital. The unfortunate anomaly will be rectified by the creation of the Cambridge Children's Hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Scheduled to open in 2028-29, this hospital will treat the whole child, mind and body together, using advanced diagnostics and genome medicine not just to treat disease, but in some cases to prevent it completely. (Rescheduled from Oct 2024).

12 March **The heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan** **HYBRID**
Speaker Bernard Lockett, Trustee of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival

A background, overview and assessment of the works; then a consideration of the social and political satire within; finally to see the world wide popularity of the shows in the 21st C and modern production values.

19 March **High Treason and a Medieval Royal insult in a Cambridgeshire Village Church** **HYBRID**
Speaker David Oates, U3AC Member interested in heraldry since his schooldays

The 39 coats of arms on the Orwell chancel ceiling are a remarkable and unique survival from the fourteenth century, commemorating the rise, fall and restoration of Sir Simon Burley, an important figure during the troubled reign of the young King Richard II, executed for High Treason. The arms include not only many of the local gentry but national figures of the nobility – some appearing in Shakespeare's Richard II.

26 March **AGM with lecture: Cambridge Sport in Fenner's hands** **IN PERSON ONLY**
Speaker Nigel Fenner, author of 'Cambridge Sport: in Fenner's Hands'

Frank Fenner, a local tobacconist who, across the middle of the 20th century, did much more than found Fenner's Cricket Ground In the second half of the nineteenth century, England was experiencing a sporting revolution that went global, with Cambridge, and perhaps Frank Fenner, having a significant impact. This was despite the challenging relationship the Town had with the University.

Nomination of trustees

At the AGM on Wednesday 26 March 2025 new trustees will be elected to fill 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 2022-March 2024 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> (disqualifying reasons table).

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 information for potential trustees (available from the Office) that provides 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 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 26 February 2025.**

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