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## Message from the Chair

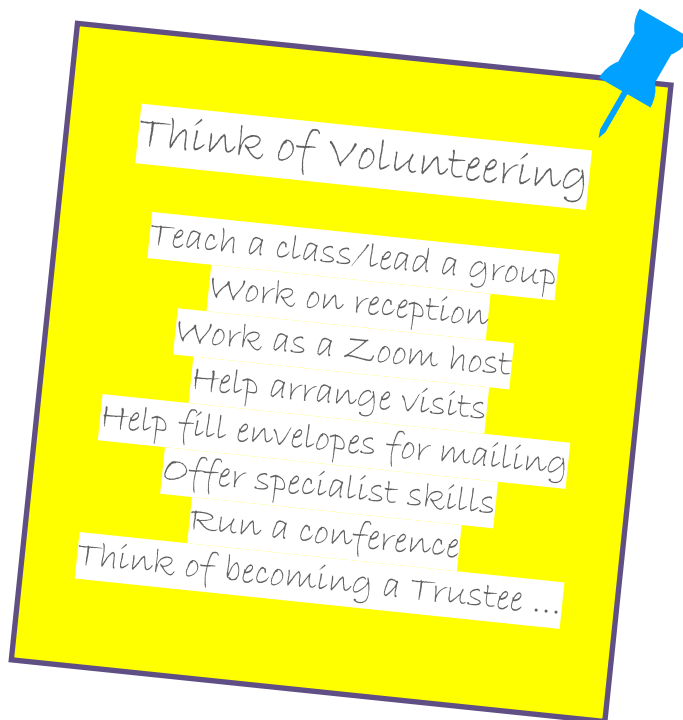
I should like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance for the continuing success of the U3AC of our invaluable tradition of members volunteering to help to sustain our rich programme of education and activities. We too easily forget that we have only four paid staff (three of whom are part-time), and that **the U3AC is essentially run by members for its members**, so that many of the people you see working in our premises and at outside venues, including our friendly receptionists, zoom hosts, dedicated course leaders/tutors, and wonderful caterers, are all themselves member volunteers. Your Trustees are likewise volunteering members, and some of these willingly take on demanding roles, including those of Treasurer, Secretary, and as crucial Directors of Courses and Lectures. **Without this essential volunteering ethos and ethic, the U3AC would simply not exist. Volunteering is in essence the dedication of unpaid time to benefit all in a shared organisation.**

Today, we are increasingly in need of more volunteers who are willing to take on the many complex tasks necessary to maintain a body of some 2,600 members offering over 340 courses, along with many extras, such as weekly lectures, conferences, social events, and organised outings. As an example, you will have seen in recent weekly *Bulletins* that Council has been seeking two volunteers to run the important annual Ron Gray Conference. I was somewhat disappointed to receive responses which simply made suggestions for conference subjects but which were unsupported by any wish to play a part in organising these. The Council was not seeking topic suggestions (there are many of these!) but for members to take on a classic volunteering role.

In respect of volunteering, some old Biblical passages come to mind: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'; 'One gives freely, yet gains even more'; and 'Give, and it will be given to you'. In the future, your Council will be looking for volunteer support in varied roles, often specialist, including IT and AI, and they will be seeking members with such skills to play a part in guiding the U3AC in a changing world. But there, of course, will always remain the constant need for basic volunteering support, from stuffing envelopes to catering to reception and to activity assistance, all of which will grow as the U3AC itself expands and develops.

I should thus like to end by first thanking most warmly all those who keep us going through their generous contribution, in whatever capacity they volunteer their time and abilities, but secondly by asking many more members (after all we number over 2,500) to embrace the volunteering spirit and tradition on which the U3AC was founded nearly 50 years ago. Thank you.

**Philip Stott**



## U3AC premises' temporary closure

We regret that the premises will be closed to everyone from Monday 16 June to Friday 3 October while extensive maintenance work takes place. The staff will be working elsewhere and contact can continue to be made by email or telephone. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## Term dates 2025-26

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Autumn Term: 6 October – 12 December 2025

Spring Term: 12 January – 20 March 2026

Summer Term: 13 April – 12 June 2026

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

## Message from the Treasurer

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### Legacies and donations update

As you sit down with a cup of tea, highlighter in hand, ready to choose your U3AC courses for the next year, we invite you to consider another important decision - how you can help sustain U3AC for years to come.

#### **Legacies: A lasting impact**

Leaving a legacy to U3AC is more than just a financial contribution - it's a statement of trust and commitment to the community we've built together. In recent years, legacies have made an incredible difference, enabling us to refit our Bridge Street space and weather the financial challenges of the pandemic.

If you are considering leaving a legacy, please reach out to the Office for more information. If you'd like a personal discussion, I'd be happy to chat - just email me at [treasurer@u3ac.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ac.org.uk)

#### **Donations: Closing the gap**

As mentioned at the AGM, it costs approximately £160 per member to run U3AC, while membership fees are £120 for 2025. We work hard to balance the budget, but we rely on Gift Aid, investment income, donations, and legacies to bridge the gap - roughly £110,000 per year.

Looking ahead, 2025 is presenting some financial challenges, with greater pressures on our resources. If you are in a position to do so, we'd be deeply grateful if you could consider 'topping up' your membership with an additional donation. Every contribution, big or small, strengthens U3AC's future.

#### **How to make a difference**

You can donate easily in two ways:

1. Add a donation through your paper or online membership form.
2. Make a separate BACS payment using the following details:
  - Payee: U3AC no2 account
  - Sort Code: 08-92-99
  - Account Number: 6586336300
  - Reference: (Your surname) DONATION

Not everyone will be able to contribute, and we completely understand. But if you can, your generosity will help ensure U3AC continues to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your support.

**Kevin Holmes**

## Course information

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### Summer events

A programme of events is now available. Events have started and include tours, visits and garden parties. Places for most of the events need to be booked in advance, preferably by email to [office@u3ac.org.uk](mailto:office@u3ac.org.uk). Full details are in the programme on our website: [www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk) and click on the link on the homepage.

## Amendments to 2025-26 Programme

LEI 13: Online Bridge league (BBO) - Meeting Thursday afternoons (no specific time)

## Closing date for applications and course allocation

We would like to receive your application for courses by 1 August. Applications received after this date will not be included in the automated allocation process. Remember, all courses are allocated using a computer algorithm; details of this process are explained in the Programme.

A letter giving details of which courses you have been allocated will be sent to you by post with your membership card and Newsletter at the beginning of September.

## Hybrid courses

Several courses are running in a hybrid format, whereby some members are in a classroom and others attend simultaneously via Zoom. Courses in hybrid format have the same course code, but the Zoom class has a (z) suffix e.g. HIS 01 and HIS 01(z) - you need to apply for one or the other. If you enrol for the classroom option you can also attend via Zoom if you cannot attend in person one week, but if you enrol for the Zoom course, you **cannot** attend in person.

## Oversubscribed courses

Every year, several courses are oversubscribed - not necessarily the same courses each year and we can't always predict what they will be. However, in case it helps in terms of managing expectations we wanted to let you know that we would expect the following ones to be heavily oversubscribed again this year:

HIS 17: England in the Twenties and Thirties (Summer term)

HIS 36: Ten Turning Points in European History

HIS 42: To the Land of the Rising Sun: Early Japanese voyagers (Summer term)

ARTH 02: Art and industry in Britain, 1760-1960 (Spring term)

GDN 01: Botanic Garden group

HIS 31: Napoleon Bonaparte (Spring term)

CUR 05: Theories of Empire and their current implications

FIT 34: Walks around Cambridge – Tuesday

SCE 07: DNA and identity

FIT 15: Introduction to Pickleball

HIS 01: A brief introduction to life in Georgian England

HIS 20: Ho Chi Minh and the achievement of Vietnamese Independence

HIS 44: Women with a purpose

WLL 01: A mixed bag of complementary therapies (Spring term)

FIT 08: Dance and exercise to Zumba

FIT 17: Qigong general level

FIT 39: Walks in Cambridge city - Saturday (Autumn and Summer terms)

HIS 09 & HIS 10: Cambridge history and the wider context

HIS 38: The Great War 1914-19

WOR 02: Italian cities (Spring term)

## Tutors' details

For data protection reasons, the Programme does not include tutors' contact details or the venue if a course is held in a member's home. This information is given on the members' area of the website. Members without internet access can obtain this information from the Office.

To view the details on the website, log in using your username and password. Your username is usually your first name, then a full stop, then your surname. The first time you log in, you will need to set up a password. To set up a password, click the 'Forgotten Password?' button on the login screen.

Please contact the Office if you have any difficulties using the website.

## General information

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### A reminder

The annual membership subscription of £120 contributes to the administration and accommodation costs of the U3AC. **It is not a payment for courses, lectures or activities.** Members can attend the Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures (space permitting), apply for up to 6 courses and apply for visits arranged throughout the year. You can also join any of our "Xtra activities" groups which are open to all members.

If you apply for only ONE course and that course has a limited number of places we cannot guarantee you a place on that course, so it is advisable to provide an alternative.

### Volunteering

There are many opportunities for ensuring the ongoing success of the organisation by volunteering. Although many members will have joined U3AC to take part in courses, all members are encouraged to commit to volunteering in one of the ways below. When enrolling online please complete the Volunteering section in 'Your Info'. If you are completing a paper application form, please enter the details on there.

### Reception desk

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

### Zoom host

The role entails being in the U3AC premises, digitally opening and closing Zoom classes as a host on our licenses, being alert to anyone having technical difficulties, troubleshooting and giving advice where possible, taking the register, liaising with the Office staff via walkie-talkie and tidying classrooms at the end of the day. Interested members will be friendly and welcoming, have a good understanding of computers and have attended Zoom courses. Could you spare half a day each week in term time? The day would be the same each week and would be fixed by mutual agreement. This is a very important role which benefits a large number of members, without volunteers we will be unable to host Zoom courses.

### Trips and visits

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

### Tutoring

Like getting satisfaction from teaching others something interesting or helpful?

Enjoy sharing your interests with like-minded people?

Teaching for U3AC is particularly rewarding as all the students are not only keen to learn but can also provide knowledge and information from their own experience which enlivens the whole process.

### Access to venues

If you have mobility issues please look at the 'Course venues' pages at the end of the Programme to check whether the course you are interested in is held in an accessible room before applying for it. However, every effort is made to ensure courses are accessible.

### Gift membership

Do you know someone who is retiring shortly? Would you like to give them a retirement gift of a year's U3AC membership? Contact the Office and we can send them a gift card along with a Programme and application form.

### Wednesday Lecture recordings

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

### Norah Boyce Science Lecture recordings

Recordings of previous terms' Norah Boyce Science lectures are now on the Norah Boyce Science Lectures page of our website for you to view.

### Other organisations

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

## Deaths

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We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

*Carol Fraser in February*

*Brian Dawson in April*

*David Page in March*

*Nina Neild in May*

*Jenni Dixon in May*

*Alice Zeitlyn in May*

## U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee

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**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:

<b>Thursday 9 October 2025</b>	<b>Trip to Cartier Exhibition at V&amp;A Museum, London</b> Organiser: Margaret Shaw Application forms are now available.
<b>Tuesday 18 November 2025</b>	<b>Christmas at Blenheim Palace</b> Organiser: Clem Messenger Application forms available on 1 August

Additional events will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin.