
27-28 Bridge Street
Cambridge
CB2 1UJ

Email: office@u3ac.org.uk
Tel: 01223 321587
Website: www.u3ac.org.uk

Message from the Chair

U3AC Haiku (俳句)

the past guides our way
gives strength for future challenge
new days boldly met

As I step down from my roles as Chair of the Council and as a Trustee, I have been pondering our evolutionary story to date and what the long-term future might hold for the U3AC. Keeping faith with our founding ethos and adapting to a rapidly changing world are surely essential to our continuing success as an organisation.

First, we must celebrate the vision and drive of our two founder members, Dr Nick Coni, consultant in Geriatric Medicine at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and Dr Peter Laslett, Fellow of Trinity College with an interest in the sociology of populations and the ageing process. Inspired by what Dr Coni had observed in France with its pioneer Université du Troisième Âge founded in 1973, they immediately went about founding a parallel, though slightly different organisation, here in Cambridge which was to be run 'by its members for its members'. A Steering Committee was set up in 1982 'to provide opportunities for retired people to learn and teach both academic and non-academic subjects in a spirit of self-help or mutual aid on a non-profit making and non-competitive basis'. On March 22 of that year, the first day of a five-day Easter School was organised by the Steering Committee, and this was attended by 80 people - the seed of our U3AC had been planted.

Over the next 40 years, this tender new plant grew into a sturdy young oak, able to withstand many challenges, moves, and dangers, none more so than the recent deadly pandemic, the threat of *Legionella*, and a decaying building infrastructure.

Yet, we now have a new 15-year Lease for a building which, although challenging in terms of space, is in good order along with a thriving membership that has risen from those pioneer 80 to approaching 3,000.

Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our laurels. We too must have the vision and drive of our founders in the face of the novel challenges which will surely present themselves. The demographics of Cambridge are already altering dramatically, a process that is most likely to accelerate. We now expect our membership to grow with enhanced marketing and targeting of places to recruit. AI will unquestionably play a much greater role in all we do. Moreover, as the membership expands and changes in character, so too will the demands of members. Much loved as our current facilities are, will they suit and be enough for our future needs? Will we require satellite premises, or, indeed, a building we own, chosen to fulfil our specific needs? Already, the desire for more social and teaching space is tangible. And, with an 11-year breakpoint clause for the U3AC built into the new Lease, future planning may be more desirable and urgent than one might think.

I thus end by wishing our new Council and its future manifestations, and all of us as members, continuing success in showing a founding vision for an exciting future in which we flexibly adapt to whatever challenges this Brave New World presents.

Bon voyage!

Philip Stott

Legacies & donations news

Over the years, many past members have chosen to support U3AC with a legacy, and each gift is a reminder of the friendships, learning, and sense of belonging they found here. Their kindness continues to impact our community - helping us offer new opportunities, welcome new members, and keep the spirit of shared learning alive.

If you would like to explore leaving a legacy or making a donation, you're very welcome to get in touch at treasurer@u3ac.org.uk for guidance.

Programme 2026-27

We have started planning next academic year's course programme. If you would be willing to run a course or activity, please contact the Office for further information and instructions on how to submit the details.

The closing date for submitting proposals for inclusion in the printed Programme is **10 April 2026**.

Gaps in Provision

Thank you to all members who recently provided suggestions for courses they would like to see in the next course Programme, a list can be found here: <https://www.u3ac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Gaps-in-provision-2026.pdf>

Would you consider running a course in one of these subjects?

Need to know

Summer term

Mon 13 Apr – Fri 12 Jun 2026
The start date for each course is given on the website.

2026-2027 Academic year

Mon 5 Oct – Fri 11 Dec 2026
Mon 11 Jan – Fri 19 Mar 2027
Mon 12 Apr – Fri 11 Jun 2027

Chat with the Chair

If you would like to meet the new Chair, share a thought about U3AC, or just have a relaxed chat, there will be a few drop in sessions over the coming weeks:

- Tue 28 Apr, 2 pm - 4 pm
- Wed 20 May, 11 am - 1 pm
- Thu 4 Jun, 2 pm - 4 pm

We will be in the 2nd floor social area, and you are welcome to pop in at any point during the session. No booking, no agenda - just an opportunity to talk, ask questions, or raise anything on your mind.

These Summer term courses still have vacancies – full details on the website – contact the Office to enrol

ART 18: Experiments in relief printing
CUR 08(z): Understanding US Conservative viewpoints
FIT 43: 3 mile walking group - Friday fortnightly
HIS 12: Cambridge sport: in Fenner's hands
HIS 32: Objects, artefacts and heirlooms
LIT 26(z): "Much madness is divinest sense..."
MUS 15: Summer singers
PHL 01(z): St Paul

HIS 57: Adventures in High Places (Summer term)

Tutor: Henry Edmundson

Day and time: Thursday 12:00 - 13:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (3 weeks)

Places: 30

Start date: 16 Apr

Henry Edmundson will draw on a lifetime of exploration, climbing and trekking in the greater Himalayan range to communicate the excitement, the danger, and the wonder of traveling among the world's highest mountains. Focusing on just a few of his many expeditions, Henry will offer three differing perspectives on Himalayan travel, with frequent references to the region's history and culture:

Week 1: Exploring and climbing in unmapped Kashmir and the Hindu Kush: the golden age of student expeditions in the 1960s.

Week 2: Going for the top in Tibet and Nepal: Cho Oyu and Putha Hiunchuli.

Week 3: The Grand Himalayan traverse: forced marches in the Karakoram and Nepal.

Format: Lecture

About me: Henry Edmundson has explored, climbed and trekked in the wider Himalaya since 1965. He has written a widely praised book on the region called "Tales from the Himalaya". He is a member of the Alpine Club, the Himalayan Club, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

LEI 29: Punting on the River Cam (Summer term)

Tutor: Ursula Stubbings

Day and time: Thursday 11:00 - 12:00

Venue: Cambridge Chauffeur Punts, Silver Street

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (4 weeks)

Places: 5

Start date: 30 Apr

Would you like to learn how to punt or even refine your punting skills in a friendly group on the River Cam? We meet on Silver Street Bridge (near the toilets). Only swimmers need apply! Participants need to pay roughly £5 per session to cover cost of punt hire from Cambridge Chauffeur Punts (please bring £25 in cash to the first session). There will be four consecutive sessions plus an outing to Grantchester later in the Summer. At the end of the course, you should feel confident enough to take your own guests out punting.

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: I have led this course for many years.

LIT 52(z): Literature and Language Challenge (Summer term)

Tutor: Jenny Knight

Day and time: Thursday 11:30 - 12:30

Venue: Zoom

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

Places: 14

Start date: 16 Apr

Here is another opportunity to test your knowledge in the comfort of your own home. These quizzes are intended for friendly rivalry rather than fierce competition. Topics encompass adult and children's fiction, the alphabet, etymology, poetry, plays ancient and modern, quotations, slogans, spelling and word games. In recent years eponyms, exotic animals and nursery rhymes have been featured. Some quizzes will be emailed in advance (looking up the answers online will spoil the fun for you and for others). Others will be issued in class, and a few will be topics for discussion. Most activities will be new to U3AC; any that are reused won't have been aired for at least four years.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: I enjoy devising quizzes for U3AC and other local organisations. A long career in publishing makes literature and language my favourite subjects.

MUS 23: From The Beach Boys to Neil Young - Appreciating Music from the '60s and '70s (Summer term)

Tutor: David Poulter

Day and time: Monday 11:00 - 12:30

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (7 weeks)

Places: 20

Start date: 13 Apr

A music appreciation session based around my own album collection. Based on a selection of random tracks from the 1960s and 1970s (where the bulk of my collection sits) I will try to play album tracks and not too many 'hits'. Maybe one of my tracks could lead you to a whole new artist!

Format: Discussion

About me: Born in Cambridge as it became a city in 1951. Ever since then I've built up a collection of around 800 albums of various music styles.

MUS 24: Exploring Wagner's The Ring before the music (Summer term)

Tutor: Robin Holloway

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

Venue: Member's home (Finella House, situated on Queens Road between West Road and Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9AH)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (4 weeks)

Places: 25

Start date: 13 Apr

Robin Holloway, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Cambridge, invites U3AC members to visit him at Finella House. Guests will gather in his principal music room, seated among vintage furnishings beside his two grand pianos. Classes begin at 2.00 pm, and members are asked to arrive no earlier than 15 minutes beforehand. Entry is through the main front door; disabled access is available, though the approach includes a gravel path. Toilets are on site.

The course explores Wagner's *Ring* cycle as spoken drama, focusing on story, characters, and text before the music. This course will explore the narrative, tracing Wagner's reverse-ordered creation from *Twilight of the Gods* back to the Ring's origins in the Rhine gold. By asking what the gold is, who seeks it, and why, the sessions illuminate the drama's foundations. If time permits, the course will move on to the music itself and Wagner's unique fusion of drama and sound.

Format: Discussion

About me: Robin Holloway is a composer, teacher, writer, and Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Cambridge.

SCE 30: DNA: The Facts, the Myths, and the Surprises (Summer Term)

Tutor: David Applin

Day and time: Friday 10:00 - 11:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Length of course: 1 term. Summer (3 weeks)

Places: 30

Start date: 17 Apr

In the early 1950s, using the research data available to them, Francis Crick and Jim Watson at the Cavendish Laboratory Cambridge, UK worked out the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). In March 1953, their two-metre-high model of the molecule stood on a table in their office for all to see. They had fired the starting gun on the DNA revolution that today is changing the way we do medicine and so much more that is vital to our everyday lives. The story has been well told many times, complete with differences of opinion, expressed in articles, books, films and on theatres' stage. But what is fact, what is myth and what is hardly known at all? *DNA*:

The Facts, The Myths and The Surprises aims to add new perspectives to the familiar account.

Format: Lecture

About me: David is an elected Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Entomological Society and an elected Member of the Royal Society of Biology, former editor of *Country-Side* magazine and accomplished author.

SP 61: Cambridge history and the wider context

Tutor: David Berkley

Day and time: Thursday 11:00 - 13:00

Number of sessions: 7

Places: 20

Start date: 18 Jun

The highly religious and secular history of Cambridge. Influences in/out to/from the Western world. Monasteries, Renaissance, Reformation, Puritans, Cromwell, Wilberforce, Simeon and missionaries, F. Bacon. Science – Newton, Darwin, discovery of electron, 1st splitting of the atom, DNA. University and college educational system, world's 1st Debating Society, Architecture. Other buildings covered – Old Divinity School, and Gates of Humility, Virtue and Honour. Also - Student pranks. Colleges: Emmanuel, Pembroke, Queens', Trinity Hall, Magdalene, Jesus, Christ's, St Johns – and Sidney Sussex. Churches: Round Church, Great St Mary's and St Edwards. Meet first week at the U3AC, 1st floor gallery area, thereafter different weekly venues (as per programme to be distributed 1st week).

Format: Learning as we walk round town and visit colleges

About me: I am interested in history, both secular and religious, explaining why society is as it now is.

One-off talks – please contact the Office to enrol

TLK 01: Neutron Stars - nature's most extreme objects

Speaker: Alan Richardson

Date and time: Monday 13 Apr, 12:30 - 14:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

Neutron stars are the densest matter we can see and as such are the densest laboratories for high energy physics. Wild conditions include extremely fast rotation and unimaginably strong magnetic fields. Their cores may be home to unique states of matter not seen since the early universe. This talk will cover theories about their composition, their properties and observations that inform them.

About me: I am a Cambridge Maths graduate with an interest in fundamental physics and cosmology.

TLK 02: Providing a Sustainable Bus Network in the Post-COVID World, sharing innovative ideas for the future of bus travel

Speaker: David Boden, Business Development Director, Stagecoach East and Chair of CP Bus Alliance

Date and time: Wednesday 15 Apr, 12:00 - 13:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

People's need for bus services are not the same as they were 40 years ago. With the average bus costing £180k+ to put on the road and the average fare being £2, you need to ensure that buses actually go where and at the right times when people will use them. It also means using innovative ways to meet bus resource to demand, which could be a small bus, picking up in rural areas and feeding into other bigger buses. It also means operators competing but also working together for the common good of passengers. It also means bus operators delivering reliability but local authorities/utility companies and others minimising their impacts on the road network, to allow bus operators to deliver punctuality.

About me: With 29 years in the industry, David is passionate about customer-centric, multi-modal transport that seamlessly integrates bus and rail.

TLK 04: Discovery of the Higgs Boson

Speaker: Alan Richardson

Date and time: Monday 11 May, 12:30 - 14:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

In 2012, the world's media rushed to CERN for the announcement of the discovery of the Higgs Boson. Dozens of particles have been discovered since World War II, so what was special? This talk will cover one hundred years of observation and theories that culminated in the discovery of the Higgs Boson, its associated field and mechanism, which completed the Standard Model of Particle Physics.

About me: I am a Cambridge Maths graduate with an interest in fundamental physics.

TLK 05: Edward Elgar and the Great War

Speaker: Colin Hurst

Date and time: Monday 18 May, 10:00 - 11:30

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

Sir Edward Elgar may have made a brief appearance in the recent film, *The Choral*, but his reaction to the Great War was much more intriguing, complex and surprising than you might at first imagine. This one-off lecture aims to shed light on this period of the composer's life, and it is for anyone who is interested in musical and cultural history.

About me: I am a retired parish priest and life-long Elgarian. I enjoy teaching adults, both in the Church and beyond, and have run history courses at Peterborough City College and U3AC.

TLK 06: More Than Memory: Dementia and the roles of nature and nurture

Speaker: Elena Herrero

Date and time: Wednesday 20 May, 11:00 - 12:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

Places: 30

Dementia is an umbrella term that encompasses a variety of different diseases with many different underlying causes. Research over the years has helped us understand that we may have some control over our overall risk of developing a dementia, such as lifestyle choices, but research has also shown us that dementia is a problem of both nature and nurture. This talk will discuss what dementia is overall, the different types of dementia and what we know currently about how our environment and genetics play a role in the development of a dementia.

About me: I am a research assistant at the University of Cambridge where I work across studies related to neurodegeneration, with a focus on a rarer type of dementia called dementia with Lewy bodies. I coordinate research studies aimed at investigating changes in blood and brain imaging to increase our understanding of underlying disease processes.

TLK 06(z): More Than Memory: Dementia and the roles of nature and nurture

Speaker: Elena Herrero

Date and time: Wednesday 20 May, 11:00 - 12:00

Venue: Zoom

Places: 50

As for TLK 06 but attending by Zoom.

Code of Behaviour

Principles

All U3AC members, staff and guests are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. We aim to prioritise the safety of members and support them in making choices and having control about how they participate in courses and activities. We are also committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion amongst our membership and not allowing discrimination to occur.

Meeting your responsibilities

To give positive guidance this Code of Behaviour provides a list (not exhaustive) to help you as a member ensure that U3AC follows the principles in the paragraph above.

Code of Behaviour

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Treat everyone equally and equitably.
- Remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned. Ensure your behaviour is always appropriate.
- Respect everyone's right to personal privacy.
- Observe the rules established for everyone's safety and security.
- In all activities avoid dominating discussions or aggressively contradicting those leading the activity.
- If you are a tutor or leader of a course or activity, provide an inclusive and encouraging learning environment particularly for the quieter, less confident members.
- Use appropriate language – speaking, writing, phoning, emailing or using social media.

Other People's Behaviour

- Allow members and staff to talk about any concerns they may have.
- Encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like.
- For tutors or leaders there are no perfect, standardised methods of dealing with disruptive behaviour. They vary from group to group and from tutor/leader to tutor/leader. Even when someone's behaviour is irritating, courtesy is essential, but tutors/ leaders should never replicate disruptive behaviour.
- 'Disruptive behaviour' is defined as departing from what is normally perceived as appropriate behaviour by participants in courses and activities, both during classes and activities themselves and/or outside of them (including written and verbal communications), which prevent the class or activity from properly fulfilling its objectives, and/or makes participants (including the tutor/organiser) feel uncomfortable, frustrated or intimidated.

Practical Arrangements

It is helpful for tutors/leaders and members to develop a joint understanding about how their sessions together can be made as enjoyable, respectful and productive as possible. You will find detailed guidance in the Tutor Support Handbook: Part 3 'Delivering a course or activity' and Part 4 'Issues you may encounter'.

When problems arise

From time to time, despite every effort, problems do arise. However, in the first instance, try to resolve the situation informally through discussion with those involved/concerned. Recourse to the U3AC Complaints Policy procedure early on might lead to a more protracted process and entrenched positions.

Feedback for courses

We have sent an email request to members to complete a feedback survey for courses they have attended that finish this term. This applies to two-term autumn/spring and one term spring courses.

The information that you offer about your experiences is appreciated by tutors as they can use it to inform their own reviews and in planning their next course. We have received appreciative emails from tutors who value this feedback.

The information is also useful for the Office and Courses Committee in identifying overall satisfaction and engagement patterns from members. All feedback is treated confidentially.

Applying for additional courses

Would you like to apply for additional courses? The list of courses with vacancies can be accessed via 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, we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

If you cannot attend a course session

For courses held in our Bridge Street 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).

Summer events

We will again be organising a programme of sporting and other outdoor activities over the summer, details of which will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin at the end of May.

If you would be willing to arrange a visit or event please contact the Office team.

Wine Tasting

Matthew will be delivering another Wine Tasting session entitled Summer Sizzlers on Wednesday 3 June at 5.30 pm. Cost is £17 per person. Please arrive after 5.15 pm. Bookings open from **Tuesday 5 May**.

Open Day

An Open Day for prospective members will be held on **Thursday 2 July 2026** from 10 am - 1 pm. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

Please note staff will not be able to assist current members with enrolments or enquiries on this day.

Forthcoming social trips (see p10 for details)

- Tuesday 12 May - Royal Ballet & Opera Production Company & RHS Hyde Hall
- Wednesday 10 June - 'War Horse' at National Theatre, London
- Tuesday 7 July - Althorp House & Coton Manor Garden
- Wednesday 4 November - Frida Khalo Exhibition at Tate Modern, London

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

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 and events arranged throughout the year.

Recordings of Wednesday Lectures and Norah Boyce Science Lectures

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

<https://www.u3ac.org.uk/lectures/wednesday-lectures/>

<https://www.u3ac.org.uk/lectures/science-lectures/>

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.

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.

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/>

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.

Council meeting

The next U3AC Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1 April 2026**.

Other organisations

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

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Judy Houghton in December 2025

Mary Louise Hashemi in December

Gillian Balsom in January 2026

Janet Dye in February

Kazia Gaseltine in February

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:

Tuesday 12 May	Royal Ballet & Opera Production Company & RHS Hyde Hall Application forms now available
Wednesday 10 June	'War Horse' at National Theatre, London Application forms available nearer the time
Tuesday 7 July	Althorp House & Coton Manor Garden Application forms available nearer the time
Wednesday 4 November	Frida Khalo Exhibition at Tate Modern, London Application forms available nearer the time

Additional events will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin.

U3AC Film Group programme – Summer Term 2026

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 and encouraged 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.

Summer Term 2026

14 April

Empire of the Sun

Dir: Steven Spielberg: USA 1987 (152 mins)

A British boy living in Shanghai becomes separated from his parents when Japan invades China at the outset of World War II. The film based on J G Ballard's autobiographical novel traces his progress through prison camp life and his steady determination to survive.

21 April

An Actor's Revenge

Dir: Kon Ichikawa: Japan 1963 (113 mins)

Yukinojo, a Kabuki actor, seeks revenge by destroying the three men who caused the death of his parents. Also involved are the daughter of one of Yukinojo's targets, two master thieves, and a swordsman who himself is out to kill Yukinojo.

28 April

The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog

Dir: Alfred Hitchcock: UK 1927 (91 mins) [SILENT]

For all those interested in the history of cinema this is a very rare chance to see one of Hitchcock's first ever films which is based on the story of Jack the Ripper. As the suspicion that a neighbour may not be all he seems, the cat and mouse tension becomes almost unbearable. This silent film is accompanied by a Paul Zaza music soundtrack.

5 May

Little Trouble Girls

Dir: Urska Djukić: Slovenia/Italy/Croatia 2025 (89 mins)

Sixteen-year old Lucija, a shy student at a Catholic school, joins the all-girls' choir and befriends the charismatic Ana-Marija. During a retreat at a countryside convent Lucija's attraction to a restoration worker creates tension with Ana-Marija and the choir. As she navigates her emerging sexuality, she begins to question her beliefs causing conflict within the group.

12 May

Blue Velvet

Dir: David Lynch: USA 1986 (120 mins)

There's something going on behind the white fences of Lumberton, North Carolina. After stumbling upon a severed human ear in a field, mystery-loving college student Jeffrey Beaumont is determined to find out what. Teaming up with the daughter of a local police detective, Jeffrey's investigation leads him into a strange world of sensuality and violence, with the intrigue of the missing ear, seemingly stemming from the relationship between a troubled nightclub singer and a sociopathic sadomasochist. (This brilliantly creepy and disturbing film may be offensive to some members).

19 May

The Kid Brother

Dir: Ted Wilde/J A Howe: USA 1927 (81 mins) [SILENT]

"The Kid Brother" is Harold Lloyd's masterpiece and his favourite of all his films. Harold is a country boy who is the "Cinderella" of the Hickory Family. Shy and bespectacled, his wit and ingenuity are not appreciated by his physically robust but none-too-bright father and brothers. When Mary arrives with the travelling road show, Harold needs all his quick wits and courage to defeat the villains, win the girl of his dreams and finally gain his father's approval.

26 May

Cold War

Dir: Pawel Pawlikowski: Poland/France/UK 2018 (88 mins)

Two individuals from contrasting backgrounds fall in love with each other in the aftermath of the war in Poland, and soon the man begins to persuade the woman to leave communist Poland for France.

2 June

The Deep Blue Sea

Dir: Terence Davies: UK 2011 (98 mins)

"The Deep Blue Sea" is a British romantic drama starring Rachel Weisz as Hester Collyer who leaves her judge husband for a passionate affair with a former RAF pilot (Tom Hiddleston). Based on Terence Rattigan's 1952 play, it depicts a tumultuous self-destructive and obsessive love story set in the Fifties.

9 June

Teorema (Theorum)

Dir: Pier Paolo Pasolini: Italy 1968 (98 mins)

"Teorema" is a 1968 Italian allegorical art film written and directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. The film centres on an upper-class Milanese family who are introduced to and then abandoned by an otherworldly man with a mysterious divine force. The film's themes include the timelessness of divinity and the spirited corruption of the bourgeoisie.

16 June

My Fair Lady

Dir: George Cukor: USA 1964 (170 mins)

This American musical comedy drama film was adapted from the 1956 Lerner and Loewe stage musical based on George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play *"Pygmalion"*. With a screenplay by Alan Jay Lerner and directed by George Cukor, the film depicts a poor Cockney flower-seller (Audrey Hepburn) named Eliza Doolittle who overhears a phonetics professor, Henry Higgins (Rex Harrison) as he casually wagers that he could teach her to speak English so well that she could pass for a duchess in Edwardian-era London, or better yet from Eliza's viewpoint, secure employment in a flower shop. This highly regarded adaptation is being shown to coincide with the opening day of Royal Ascot.

Our First Show after the Summer break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 29 September 2026

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 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.

Wednesday Lectures - Summer Term 2026

Lectures this term will run as hybrid events. Members can attend online or apply for a limited number of in-person places in the Pink Room at Bridge Street. Booking for in-person attendance opens 7 days before each lecture.

Zoom links are available on the website and will also be included in the Wednesday Bulletin.

Lectures start at **2.15 pm**, and entry to the Pink Room is from **2.00 pm**.

Please note that the lecture on 13 May will also be shared with the Ancient Worlds study group in Canada and will therefore commence at the later time of 3.00 pm.

15 April - How can you help protect our chalk streams

Speaker: Emma Dominic, Research Assistant for Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project.

Did you know that 85% of the world's chalk streams are found in England, yet only 5% are protected, and as recently as 2019 just 17% were in good ecological condition? These globally rare ecosystems are quietly disappearing, and they need our help. The Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project (GCCSP) brings together Anglia Ruskin University and Cambridge City Council in a collaborative effort to better understand and protect these fragile waterways. My presentation will explore the current risks to chalk streams, share the GCCSP data collected so far, outline our future work and show how you can help shape the future of Cambridge's chalk streams.

29 April - Cambridge and the Child Refugees 1937–1947

Speaker: Mike Levy is a writer, ARU consultant researcher, playwright, and Cambridge Critique reviewer, and the author of *Get the Children Out* (2023).

Cambridge has a proud but largely forgotten history of taking in children escaping from war and persecution. Mike will reveal the work of the two Cambridge refugee committees set up by volunteers to look after Spanish children fleeing brutal civil war and Jewish youngsters escaping the Nazis. It is, says Mike, a story of local heroes who deserve to be remembered.

22 April - Why killing the dead is better than killing the living

Speaker: John Blair, Emeritus Fellow of The Queen's College and Emeritus Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology at Oxford University.

Although people usually think of 'vampires' as a distinctively Balkan phenomenon, fear of malevolent corpses has been widespread across the world and throughout human history. Although not universal, it tends to be stimulated by the kinds of traumatic events that have so often, and so tragically, caused people to look for scapegoats. Opening graves to mutilate the corpses might seem a bizarre and repellent practice, but it is preferable to burning living people as witches or heretics.

6 May - Silent letters, Magic Es and Q needing U: how did English spelling end up this way?

Speaker: Danny Bate is a linguist and writer with a PhD from the University of Edinburgh.

While claiming to write down the individual sounds of the language, English's system of spelling has got itself into a bit of a quirky state. Silent letters, like the K and B in knight and doubt, are littered across its words. Mute 'Magic E' distinguishes fat from fate, while letters partner up with H to spell the common sounds of CH, SH and TH in chin, shin and thin. But how did we get here? Linguist and author Danny Bate offers an answer through two key themes: the distinctive history of English speech, and the distinctive history of English speakers.

13 May - A small town in Belize - Cahal Pech N.B. This lecture will start at 3.00 pm

Speaker: Tim Bartlett Tim, a former RAF serviceman and U3AC member.

Cahal Pech may be one of the smallest Mayan archaeological sites, but it is also one of the longest-occupied. Join me as I trace the life of this fascinating town, from its earliest inhabitants through its peak as a prominent Mayan centre, and finally to its eventual collapse. I will begin with a brief overview of the rise and fall of the Maya before diving into the specific architecture, plazas, and intriguing artifacts discovered within the tombs of Cahal Pech. I will also share insights into its relationship with its much larger neighbour, the impressive city of Xunantunich.