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Message from the Chair

A very warm welcome to all our new members, and welcome back to those returning for another year with U3AC. If you're joining us for the first time, I hope you quickly feel at home. One piece of advice I was given when I first arrived was to treat U3AC as a marathon rather than a sprint - there's no need to try to do everything in your first year. Take your time, explore, and settle into the rhythm that suits you.

This year we're offering a record number of courses and activities across the programme. We're hugely grateful to our tutors and course leaders for the inspiring range they make possible - their commitment is at the heart of everything we do. Whether you've been allocated all of your choices or just a few, I hope you'll make the most of the rich mix of lectures, social activities, extra groups and one-off events that run throughout the year. The website and weekly Bulletin remain the best places to keep up with new opportunities as they appear.

My thanks also go to the Office team, who have once again handled a very busy summer of renewals and member queries with their usual calm efficiency. The team – Carol, Gemma, Rebecca and Luissa – are a great blessing to U3AC and we are grateful to them.

Also, behind the scenes, our IT systems continue to do a lot of the heavy lifting that underpins much of our administration and allows us to operate in a lean and efficient way. This year we've invested heavily in strengthening the resilience of those systems, and I'm very grateful to the volunteers who have lent their expertise to help us work through the necessary modifications.

We've also been looking again at the entrance to our Bridge Street premises. I mentioned this briefly at the AGM in March, and in June we carried out a trial dig to understand what lay beneath the rather uneven set of steps. Rumour had it that a steel beam would prevent any further changes - happily, that turned out not to be the case. In late August we will be making improvements to the steps in time for the new term. If that work goes well, we'll move into further discussions with Magdalene about the potential re-siting and modification of the door itself. Any changes at that stage would likely require planning permission, and I'll keep you updated as things progress.

I look forward to meeting our new members at our welcome sessions in September - details will follow shortly - and to seeing everyone else once term begins in October. Do enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Kevin Holmes

Chat with the Chair

The Chair will continue to hold his Chat with the Chair sessions in the second-floor social area of the Bridge Street premises. Please come along on: Tuesday 3 November at 10:00 or Monday 10 December at 14:00.

Term dates: 2026-2027 academic year

Monday 5 October – Friday 11 December 2026

Monday 11 January – Friday 19 March 2027

Monday 12 April – Friday 11 June 2027

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

Wednesday Lecture Programme - Volunteers needed

As many members will know, our Wednesday Lecture Programme is one of the highlights of the U3AC year. It brings in speakers from across the arts, sciences, history, politics, medicine and current affairs, and regularly attracts 100–200 members each week. The lectures are usually hybrid - held in the Pink Room and streamed on Zoom - and we already have a full programme of speakers booked through to Easter 2027.

After three years of exceptional service, Nicholas Russell and Suzan Griffiths will be stepping down as Co-Directors of Studies (Lectures) next spring. We are therefore looking for one or two volunteers to take over the organisation and running of the Wednesday Lecture Programme from Easter onwards.

This role would suit new members finding U3AC for the first time just as much as long-standing members. What matters most is curiosity, a range of interests, and enjoyment of bringing people together. It works well as a shared responsibility - two (or possibly three) people supporting each other - and you would not be starting from scratch. Successful applicants would shadow Nicholas and Suzan during the Autumn and Spring terms to learn the rhythm of the role.

The rhythm of the work is steady rather than overwhelming - typically a few hours a month, with slightly more activity when booking speakers or hosting a lecture. The Office team provides practical support with communications, room bookings and speaker arrangements, and a small group of rapporteurs supports the Zoom side of things. The role involves shaping the programme, inviting speakers, and helping ensure the lectures run smoothly.

It's a rewarding role, central to the intellectual life of U3AC, and a chance to help shape one of our most valued offerings.

At this stage we are simply seeking expressions of interest. If you think this might be something you'd enjoy, please get in touch by email. We will then arrange an informal chat with me and with Nicholas and Suzan so you can hear more about what's involved before deciding.

Kevin Holmes, Chair of Council

Donations & Legacies

We are pleased to report that the level of membership renewals and subscriptions is high, and we are on course to exceed last year's excellent figures. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their subscription and a big welcome to all new members. As ever, we are extremely grateful to those people who have made a donation in addition to their annual subscription as well as those who have made a legacy to U3AC in their will or are considering doing so. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions about subscriptions, legacies or donations, please email treasurer@u3ac.org.uk

Tony Pooley

Ron Gray Conference - date for your diary

The next Conference entitled *The UK's Place in the World* will be held on

Saturday 31 October 9:30-16:30

at The Queen's Building, Emmanuel College, St Andrews Street.

Bookings open 28 September. Further details will be in the Bulletin nearer the time.

Volunteers' Day - Thursday 5 November

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

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

Please come along to U3AC premises between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm and find out about all current volunteering opportunities.

Wine Tasting

The next Wine Tasting evening will be held on Wednesday 18 November at 5.30 pm. The theme is *Choosing the best wines for Christmas*. Cost is £17 per person and places can be booked from Wednesday 21 October. Full details will be in the weekly Bulletin nearer the time.

U3AC Christmas lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held in The Park Seasons restaurant at Cambridge Regional College on Wednesday 16 December. Application forms will be available Monday 2 November.

Amendments to Programme 2026-27

ARTH 05: Greek sculpture at the Museum of Classical Archaeology - **CANCELLED**
CUR 08: Understanding sexual orientation and gender identity - **CANCELLED**
FRE 03: Express yourself in French - **starts 8 Oct**
HIS 34: The Neolithic Revolution - **CANCELLED**
HIS 35(z): The Neolithic Revolution - **CANCELLED**
LIT 26: Introduction to James Joyce's 'Ulysses' - **Autumn & Spring terms**
LIT 48: Three American Poets: Stevens, Williams, Bishop - **running for 9 weeks from 16 Oct**
MTH 03: GCSE/O Level Maths - **runs on Fridays, start date 10 Oct**
POL 01: Liberal democracy under challenge in the West (Spring term) - **CANCELLED**
SCE 03: Biological sex - **CANCELLED**
SCE 22: The energy landscape - **starts 8 Oct, no session on 5 Nov**
SCE 27: The Pale Blue Dot - **no session on 5 Nov**
SCE 30(z): Introduction to weather and climate - **starts 6 Oct**

New courses

The courses below have been set up since the Programme was published. Please contact the Office if you would like to apply. **Please note: until Friday 18 September, priority for places will be given to members who have been allocated 2 or less courses.**

FIT 40: Mindful movement (Spring and Summer terms)

Convenor: Aurora Albano

Day and time: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30

Venue: Downing Place URC (Gibson Hall)

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

Places: 15

Start date: 13 Jan

“Mindful movement” is exactly that: a unique and enriching class that teaches you how to move with greater awareness, ease, and fluidity. Drawing on over 30 years of development, this class blends key elements of Pilates, Qigong, Strength and Balance, Dance and the Alexander Technique into a gentle yet transformative movement practice. Designed to reduce muscular tension and stress “Mindful movement” helps you discover how relaxed, coordinated movement can bring both physical comfort and mental calm. As the body softens and becomes more aligned, the mind often follows – leaving you feeling lighter, clearer, and more at ease.

Whether you’re looking to reduce stress, improve posture, or simply move more freely, this class offers a welcoming and supportive space to reconnect with your body and move with mindful intention.

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: Pluri-qualified Movement teacher (Dance, Pilates, Postural Stability, Strength and Balance, Chinese Qigong)

bringing together East and West movement traditions in order to find a synthesis.

FIT 41: Dance-harmony (Spring and Summer terms)

Convenor: Aurora Albano

Day and time: Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30

Venue: Downing Place URC (Gibson Hall)

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

Places: 15

Start date: 13 Jan

Have you ever thought you would love to dance but just did not know where to start? Would you like to learn how to articulate this natural yearning in a series of clear, and easy to follow movements, accessible to persons of all ages, shapes and physical conditions? If the answer is yes, then Dance-harmony is for you. What is Dance-harmony? It's a movement system arising from an instinctive response to musical stimuli, based on the observation of natural movements of the spine in everyday life.

Format: Taught course or activity

About me: I strongly believe that dance is an instinctive response to musical stimuli and therefore universally accessible. It's particularly recommended for the third age for its intrinsic characteristics.

FRE 13: French poetry translation

Convenor: Penny Hayman

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

Venue: Member's home (CB2 1JQ)

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

Places: 6

Start date: 16 Nov

The four poets in question are: Boris Vian, Paul Verlaine, Charles Baudelaire, Arthur Rimbaud

We will begin with 'Le Deserteur' by Boris Vian.

Please avoid the temptation to look up translations on the internet. Or to translate literally. Feel free to take the poems as starting points for your own imaginative leaps and soar!

I will hand out copies of the first poem at our first session. I look forward to meeting you.

Level: Advanced

Format: Discussion

About me: I have taught U3AC courses before and am a lover of French literature.

GER 12: Intermediate German

Convenor: Friederike Jeans

Day and time: Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30

Venue: Autumn term: Member's home (CB3 9AD), Spring term: St Clements Church (Upper room)

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

Places: 12

Start date: 7 Oct

We do our own conversation, vocabulary-work and grammar. What is discussed in class should be repeated at home, in form of exercises, given or made up. 'That improves the learning process enormously'. We have done cases, pronouns, strong and weak verbs in their 3 main tenses, word order and many words! Anyone with even a basic idea about the language is very welcome, it is a friendly, cooperative group.

Level: Intermediate

Format: Taught course

About me: I have taught German at Uni for 20 years and still love it!

HIS 44: Britain in the Caribbean 1600 to present day

Convenor: John McGill

Day and time: Thursday 14:00 – 15:00

Venue: U3AC (Pink room)

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

Places: 30

Start date: 8 Oct

The course is intended as a broader and deeper examination of the subject as it was first delivered in 2025 (HIS 07). There is probably no other region in the world that has been subject to as much demographic, cultural and vegetative, and economic, change as the Caribbean islands. The original inhabitants have been almost exclusively replaced, or mutated, by populations introduced by colonising European countries, largely through slavery. This course intends to explore Britain's involvement in the region's turbulent history. from the 17th century to the present day. No in-depth knowledge is required, though an acquaintance with the area's geography would be useful.

Format: Discussion

About me: I lived and worked in Central America for approximately 15 years and have gained a widespread knowledge of region as well as the Caribbean.

ITA o8: Basic Italian for short trips

Convenor: Sian Morgan

Day and time: Wednesday 13:15 – 14:15

Venue: U3AC (Green room)

Length of course: 1 term. Autumn (5 weeks)

Places: 12

Start date: 11 Nov

In this short course which is intended to be relaxed and enjoyable, we will learn basic vocabulary and simple phrases for a short trip to Italy. Participants will practice with each other with a focus on communication rather than grammar.

Level: A1 Beginners

Format: Taught Course or activity

About me: I am a trained teacher and lived and taught in Italy for 30 years.

LEI 29: Advanced Scrabble

Convenor: Denise Bardan

Day and time: Thursday 15:30 – 16:30

Venue: Member's home (CB5 9EN)

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

Places: 6

Start date: 8 Oct

This advanced Scrabble course is designed for people who already enjoy the game to an advanced level and wish to refine their skills. Through friendly competition, the course fosters both mental stimulation and social connection. Learners will expand their vocabulary, improve tactical thinking, and gain confidence - all within a relaxed, supportive environment. Ideal for those who love language, puzzles, and strategic challenges, this course offers a rewarding way to keep the mind sharp while enjoying the timeless fun of Scrabble.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: I am a scrabble enthusiast and enjoy playing.

LIT 51: Exploring the work of P.G. Wodehouse

Convenor: Maggie McCann

Day and time: Tuesday 10:30 – 12:00

Venue: Museum of Cambridge (Enid Porter room)

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

Places: 20

Start date: 6 Oct

We are encouraged to merely bask in the splendour of the works of P.G. Wodehouse and there is much to be said for sitting in a deckchair and revelling in the beauty of the worlds he creates. However, I have been curious to explore the tricks he uses to enchant us, and I would relish the opportunity to reflect on just why we sit at the feet of Jeeves, laugh and cringe at Bertie and adore the vague unworldliness of the master of Blandings Castle. Will you come on the journey with me?

Format: Lecture

About me: I am a former Head of Sixth Form and teacher of English Literature. I adore the superb comedy created by P.G. Wodehouse and would love to share my reflections and learn from those of others.

MUS 15: Piano group

Convenor: Catherine Snelson

Day and time: 2nd Thursday of the month 14:30 – 16:00

Venue: Member's home (CB24 8TU)

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

Places: 5

Start date: 8 Oct

This is a group for people who enjoy playing the piano to a reasonable standard and who would like to gain confidence in playing in front of others. The idea would be for a couple of members of the group to prepare something to play each time we meet, giving everyone the opportunity to be heard by a small, supportive and totally non-judgemental audience. It would also be a forum for discussing our playing, sharing helpful encouragement and piano playing tips and discussing pieces to play. I would suggest that course participants should play fluently but I hesitate to specify grade levels as this is not important. I have recently been on a piano course where people from grade 6 up to diploma level played happily to each other. My own piano playing is generally but not exclusively influenced by classical music, but I would not wish to restrict the groups' playing choices.

Format: Course or activity without teaching

About me: I returned to the piano after a long break and have worked on overcoming self-consciousness about playing in front of others. I would love to continue this process for myself whilst also helping others do the same.

MUS 16: The long twentieth century in music

Convenor: Robin Holloway

Day and time: Monday 15:00 – 16:00

Venue: Member's home (CB3 9AH)

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

Places: 25

Start date: 5 Oct

Modern classical music is now well over a century old, yet it can still pose challenges-provoking difficulty, resistance, even dislike or repugnance, rather than straightforward enjoyment.

This new course seeks to engage with all these responses. It is not conventional history, but instead a series of carefully chosen examples: works of significance and substance from around 1900 to the present day. Each will be explored within its cultural context - described, evaluated, and, most importantly, heard. The principal aim is to listen together and then discuss, with conversational exchange as the central goal. I look forward to meeting you.

Format: Discussion

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

One-off Talks

TLK 01: Emma's Highbury

Convenor: Marina White

Date and time: Tuesday 17 Nov 15:35 – 16:35

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Places: 20

Unlike her other completed novels, Austen has confined her eponymous heroine to one location; Highbury and its immediate environs. This course will look at how Austen conveys an impression of frequent motion in Emma, without the need for significant journeys or great distances. Emma is 'fixed, so absolutely fixed' in one location, and yet the narrative is all about movement. A knowledge of the novel will make the course more enjoyable!

Format: Lecture style

About me: I have a BA(Hons) in English Language and Literature, and an MA in English Literature. My dissertation subject was 'Walks and Carriage Rides in Austen's Novels'.

TLK 02: Emma's Highbury

Convenor: Marina White

Date and time: Tuesday 8 Dec 15:35 – 16:35

Venue: U3AC (Red room)

Places: 20

This is a repeat of TLK 01.

Principles

All U3AC members, staff and guests and members of the public 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.

About courses

Applying for additional courses

Would you like to apply for additional courses?

The list of courses with vacancies is on the homepage of the U3AC website and is updated regularly. To apply for a course, contact the Office.

Withdrawing from a course

If you are no longer able to attend a course in which you have a place, please inform the Office at the **earliest possible** opportunity, so that the place can be given to someone on the waiting list. Please do not wait until the course is about to start or has started. Thank you.

If you cannot attend the first session of term

If you are unable to attend the first session of your course please inform the tutor or the Office **before term starts**. Many courses have long waiting lists and we must be fair to other members, so if we do not hear from you, we will replace you with someone from the waiting list immediately after the first session.

If you cannot attend a course session

For classes held in U3AC premises or by Zoom: please inform the Office.

For courses held elsewhere: please send apologies directly to the tutor.

Contact details are on the website underneath each course description. You will need to log in to the website to access this information (see below).

Tutors' and course leaders' 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.

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 classes, lectures or activities**. Members can attend the Wednesday and Norah Boyce lectures (space permitting), apply for up to 6 courses and apply for visits and events arranged throughout the year and join all the eXtra groups and activities.

Access to the Bridge Street premises

There are handrails on the left-hand wall to hold onto when you enter the premises. If you have difficulty with the steps or need assistance there is a bell to alert staff to your presence, there is also a folding ramp for those in a wheelchair. The bell is on the left-hand wall at step level so you can press it with a foot or walking stick without needing to bend down.

Discounts for U3AC members

We have a number of discounts for U3AC members in shops and restaurants around Cambridge. You can download the full list (giving any terms and conditions for the discount) from the U3AC website; there is a link on the homepage.

Savings on postage

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

The June and August Newsletters are sent by post; the December and March Newsletters are sent by email to those receiving the weekly Bulletin and by post to those who don't.

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.

Other organisations

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

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

Deaths

We were sorry to hear recently of the deaths of:

Michael Wallis in February

Edna Blake in July

U3AC Cultural and Social Activities Committee

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

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

Applications open at least 4 weeks before each outing and 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. Our standard pick-up points are the Trumpington and Madingley Road Park & Ride sites (where parking for the day is free).

The following trip has been arranged:

Friday 11 December

Holkham Hall

Application forms available nearer the time

Additional events will be advertised in the weekly Bulletin.

U3AC Film group programme

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

The cost of our season of Tuesday shows remains at £45 per term.

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

Autumn term 2026

29 September Amistad Dir: Steven Spielberg: USA 1997 (155 mins)

American historical drama film based on the events in 1839 aboard the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad*, during which Mende tribesmen abducted for the slave trade managed to gain control of their captors' ship off the coast of Cuba, and the international legal battle that followed this capture by the *Washington*, a US revenue cutter. The case was ultimately resolved by the US Supreme Court in 1841.

6 October In the Heat of the Night Dir: Norman Jewison: USA 1967 (110 mins)

This American mystery drama film is based on John Ball's 1965 novel of the same name. The film centres on a black police detective from Philadelphia (the brilliant Sidney Poitier), who becomes part of a murder investigation in a small town in Mississippi. This has quite outstanding performances both from Poitier, and from the great Rod Steiger, who won an Oscar for *Best Actor*.

13 October The Stranger [L'Étranger] Dir: François Ozon: France/Belgium 2025 (122 mins)

In French Algeria the central character, Meursault, lives a life of indifference and detachment. Following the death of his mother, he stands accused of the murder of an Arab man. The ensuing trial explores both the crime, and Meursault's character. The original Camus novel is considered a landmark of existentialism and is widely regarded as the writer's masterpiece.

20 October The Last Metro [Le Dernier Métro] Dir: François Truffaut: France 1980 (131 mins)

Set in Nazi-occupied Paris in 1942, the film follows the fortunes of a small theatre in the Montmartre quarter which keeps up passive resistance by maintaining its cultural integrity despite censorship, antisemitism, and material shortages. The title evokes two salient facts of city life under Nazi-occupation: fuel shortages led people to spend their evenings in theatres, and other places of entertainment, but the curfew meant that they had to catch the last Metro train home.

27 October CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL – NO U3AC FILM GROUP FILM

3 November The Ipcress File Dir: Sidney J Furie: UK 1965 (107mins)

This quite brilliant British spy film based on Len Deighton's 1962 novel, *The Ipcress File*, stars Michael Caine as Harry Palmer, an intelligence officer from the War Office investigating the disappearances of high-level scientists. Highly entertaining with memorable music by John Barry.

10 November Oh! What a Lovely War Dir: Richard Attenborough: UK 1969 (144 mins)

This British satire directed by Richard Attenborough in his debut as a director was based on the original stage musical, *Oh! What a Lovely War!* The film's title is derived from the musical hall song of the same name, which is one of the film's major numbers. The film uses contemporary songs and allegorical settings to criticise the conduct of the First World War. A quite brilliant, and ultimately very moving film, appropriate as we approach Remembrance Sunday.

17 November Nosferatu the Vampyre Dir: Werner Herzog: West Germany/France 1979 (107 mins)

A classic gothic horror film written and directed by Werner Herzog, and adapted from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. Herzog's film is set in 19th century Wismar, Germany, and Transylvania.

24 November M**Dir: Fritz Lang: Germany 1931 (111 mins)**

This is a 1931 German mystery thriller film directed by Fritz Lang and starring Peter Lorre in his third screen role as Hans Beckert, a serial killer who targets children. Both Lang's first sound film and an early example of a procedural drama, *M* centres on the efforts of both a city's police force and its criminal syndicates to apprehend a serial child-murderer.

The film's screenplay was written by Lang and his wife, Thea von Harbou. It features many cinematic innovations, including the use of long tracking shots and a musical leitmotif in the form of "In the Hall of the Mountain King" which is repeatedly whistled by Lang's character. Lang regarded the film as his magnum opus, and it is widely considered as one of the greatest films of all time and an indispensable influence on modern crime and thriller fiction, quite definitely essential viewing for Film Group members.

1 December Kind Hearts and Coronets**Dir: Robert Hamer: UK 1949 (106 mins)**

A classic British crime black comedy from 1949 following Louis D'Ascoyne Mazzini, the son of a woman disowned by her aristocratic family for marrying out of her social class. After her death, a vengeful Louis decides to take the family's dukedom by murdering the eight people ahead of him in the line of succession to the title.

8 December You Were Never Lovelier**Dir: William A Seiter: USA 1942 (97 mins)**

1942 American musical romantic comedy film starring Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth. The film's music was composed by Jerome Kern and the lyrics were by Johnny Mercer.

Our First Show after the Christmas break will be at 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday 12 January 2027

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 - Science for Everyone - Autumn term 2026

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

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

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

6 October Brain development and brain repair - two sides of the same coin or different currencies?

Speaker Charles Ffrench-Constant (Norwich Medical School)

The brain is the most complex organ in the body, and damage or disease can have major personal and societal impacts. This lecture explores brain repair by examining how lessons from brain development can support regeneration, alongside new approaches unique to regenerative medicine. It will highlight emerging discoveries, treatments, and delivery methods that are beginning to make brain repair a reality.

20 October The Divided Mind

Speaker: Ed Bullmore Regius Professor of Psychiatry at King's College London. Fellow of the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences

I will review the twisted history of how our understanding of schizophrenia has evolved since the work of 20th century pioneers like Kraepelin and Freud. I will summarise some of the 21st century research in genetics, imaging and immunology which is pointing to a clearer concept of schizophrenia as a disorder of brain network development, with potential implications for prediction and prevention in future.

3 November Space photovoltaics

Speaker Professor Louise Hirst, Dept. of Physics/Dept. of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge

More details to follow.

17 November Is forestry an art or a science?

Speaker Hilary Anderson (Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, & Northants)

Foresters rely on a blend of creativity, sound judgement and good science in order to design forests for an uncertain future. This talk will explore how forestry sits at the intersection of multiple scientific disciplines from climatology and plant epidemiology to genetics and ecology, and the evidence for why the protection and restoration of forests are crucial to human health and wellbeing.

1 December Did life on earth originate in the clouds of Jupiter?

Speaker Dr. Ben Jeffries (retired from Schlumberger)

Any discussion of how and when life on earth originated is necessarily speculative as little physical evidence remains, and everything living today is the result of billions of years of evolution. Occam's Razor might lead us to assume that life started on earth itself, but if that were the case, there are puzzling aspects both as to the timescale and the subsequent development of primitive life. Locations such as Mars, Jupiter's moons and other solar systems have all been suggested as its original source.

In this talk I shall show how Jupiter's clouds provided an original environment consistent with both the timescale and the nature of early life, how transfer to the earth might have taken place and also how this extra-terrestrial source provides an explanation for other features of today's fundamental biochemistry.

Wednesday Lectures - Autumn term 2026

The lectures this term are being run as either Zoom or hybrid events, giving members the opportunity to apply for a limited number of pre-booked places to attend in person. The talks will be held in the Pink Room here at Bridge Street. Places can be booked 7 days before each lecture. Please contact the Office to book giving your name and membership number. Zoom links are on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15pm. No entry to the Pink Room before 2.00pm.

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

7 October The Remarkable Lady Bible Hunters Hybrid

Speaker Professor Janet Soskice

Agnes and Margaret Smith are amongst the least known and most unusual of 19th century Cambridge residents. In 1892, middle-aged and without any formal academic qualifications, the Scottish twins made their way by camel and foot across the Sinai desert to St. Catherine's Monastery where Agnes made one of the most important Bible finds of the century. This launched the twins on a career of eastern Bible hunting, sleeping in tents, placating sceptical monks and coping with unscrupulous dragomans, in the midst of which they founded Westminster College, Cambridge. Their struggles for recognition from Biblical scholar back home in Cambridge would prove as taxing as their desert travels. Their finds have made them central to Christian, Jewish and Muslim text scholarship.

14 October Rhyme and Reason - Political satire or nursery fodder? Hybrid

Speaker Susan Ackroyd

What can 26 'nursery' rhymes tell us about the changes in England from the 1200s to the 1700s? From the 'sheep' rhymes to the baby rocking on a treetop, the rhymes tell us much about religion, politics, taxation, and more. Who was Mother Hubbard? Why were the mice being persecuted? What plum did Jack Horner covet?

21 October Modern shipping and the economic and social impact of containers Hybrid

Speaker Miles Dodd

The talk will briefly describe the traditional methods of carrying cargos across the seas; the labour, time, loading methods, and port implications. It will then go on to touch upon a number of solutions which attempted to improve the system, and the main reasons for the emergence of containers as the optimal method for all but short voyages. It will then discuss the implications of the new system for loads unsuitable for containers; for port design and operations; for port workers; and most significantly, for trade and the movement of cargo.

28 October Eddington, Past, Present and future Hybrid

Speaker Matt Johnson

Eddington is one of Cambridge's new neighbourhoods and offers a fascinating case study in how Cambridge seeks to reconcile growth, sustainability, affordability and quality of life, but its story began decades before the first residents arrived. The University of Cambridge's search for space, affordable staff housing and room for research evolved from discussions in the 1980s into the ambitious North-West Cambridge Development. We examine the ideas behind its homes, school, community buildings, public art, green spaces and pioneering environmental infrastructure and look ahead to proposed future phases, including thousands of additional homes, expanded amenities and open spaces, and improved walking, cycling and public-transport connections.

4 November Intersecting lives: Captain James Cook (1728-1779) and HMS Endeavour (1764-1778)

Zoom

Speaker Peter Atkinson

A lecture on the round-the-world voyage of discovery (1768-1771) made by James Cook on HMS Endeavour and the careers of Cook and Endeavour before and after their voyage together. Endeavour began life as a collier; later she was a supply ship for the Falklands Islands, a troop carrier and a prison ship. Before being assigned to Endeavour, Cook had a significant role in the Seven Years' War. Afterwards, he made two more voyages of discovery across the Pacific, dying on the second during a conflict with Indigenous people on Hawaii.

11 November The vulnerable West Antarctic ice sheet and global sea-level rise

Hybrid

Speaker Michael Haigh

The ice sheet in West Antarctica is melting faster than anywhere else in the continent. The resulting meltwater is entering the ocean and is driving global sea-level rise. Melting of the ice is accelerating at an alarming rate, and could raise sea levels by several metres over the coming centuries. For these reasons, accurate predictions of the future of West Antarctica are critical in order for the UK to develop effective climate-change response strategies.

18 November Gwen John: Intimism, the Inner Life, and Public Presence

Hybrid

Speaker Philip Stott

2026 witnessed the National Museum Cardiff's major retrospective of the 'strange beauties' of Welsh-born artist, Gwen John (1876-1939). This talk examines the life and work of the artist, now regarded as one of the most significant of the C20th. Focusing on London and France, we explore John's relationships with friends and leading cultural figures, including younger brother, Augustus, Modersohn-Becker, Picasso, Rilke, and Whistler; her impassioned affair with Auguste Rodin; and her conversion to Catholicism. While playing a key role in promoting the visibility of women artists, John always sought an intimate inner life devoting herself entirely to her unique art.

25 November Botanical expeditions in the 21st Century

Hybrid

Speaker Matthew Jeffrey

Cambridge University has a long history of plant collecting in the wild, with one particularly famous alumnus attending a certain 'Voyage of the Beagle'. But how do you organise a plant hunting expedition in the modern era? Matthew will tell some stories from the field and describe how the Cambridge University Botanic Garden conducts fieldwork across temperate regions of the world.

2 December Your life is manufactured - Revealing the secrets of how things get made and delivered to you

Hybrid

Speaker Tim Minshall, Dr John C Taylor Professor of Innovation, Head of the Institute for Manufacturing, and Fellow of Churchill College, University of Cambridge

We all live in a manufactured world. Everything around us other than people, plants, rocks and animals has been made by someone and delivered to where it is needed. And yet the processes by which these things appear in our lives are largely invisible. This talk will make that largely invisible world, visible, and discuss why – if we want to have a more sustainable and equitable world - we need to re-think what we make, and how and where we make it.

9 December Science of laughter

Hybrid

Speaker Prof Sophie Scott CBE

Professor Sophie Scott is perhaps best known for her groundbreaking work on the science of laughter, demonstrating how it supports social bonding and engages both emotional and motor brain systems.