

u3a Epsom & Ewell

Learn, Laugh, Live

<https://u3asites.org.uk/epsom-ewell/home>

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com



Important Your u3a needs a **SECRETARY**

This role needs an organised person who can liaise with the National Office and disseminate and distribute emails to the relevant committee members as they arrive. It is not a particularly taxing role but allows you to become involved with the organisation of your u3a

Hello Friends

Welcome to the second instalment. October went well and we had some new members join us.

The travel team report that the response from members for bookings for outings, walks and short breaks is going well. You obviously all need something to look forward to and that's exactly their brief for the New Year.

Your speaker liaison and I are pleased with your participation in our usual scheduled monthly talks as well as the mid-month specials which are proving popular with members.

Important Announcement Membership

Membership renewals have been deferred due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Please note all current membership will be valid until 31st March 2021.

The usual fee of £15 per person will become due on 1st April 2021 and will be valid for 12 months.

Lest We Forget

As Remembrance Day approaches in this very strange year it's time to reflect and remember. I'm not sure how many of our members were directly affected by the conflicts that have blighted our nation over the years but I find it very sad that this year we cannot properly commemorate those brave men and women who defended our lands.

My own grandfather was killed at the Battle of Arras in April 1917, one of his brothers was killed at Wulverghem in 1916 and another died from wounds after returning home to his wife and daughter. They lived in Banstead Village and the Men of Banstead have been commemorated by All Saints Church in the village on the 100th anniversary of their deaths.

I had the honour of taking my 7-year-old grandson Jack to the service in 2017 and members of the extended family were able to ring the church bell 100 times for each fallen soldier on the anniversary of their death. Jack very proudly took his turn with several other members of the family to ring the bell 10 times for his great great grandfather. At the time his project at school was family history so it was very fitting.

We have since travelled to France and been to the cemetery where my grandfather was buried and also attended the ceremony that is held every night at the Menin Gate where his brother is commemorated.

We Will Remember Them



Your committee & the support team

Chairman
Tony Skelton

Treasurer
David Leggett

Membership Secretary
Peta Hargreaves

Group Coordinators
Jenny Powell and
Brenda Griffiths

Travel Team
Irene Moore and team

Hall/Speaker Liaison
Clive Hargreaves

Website/Publicity
Sue Skelton

Volunteer Liaison
Annie Ralph and
Lynda Jennings

Minutes
Lynne Mason

Almoner
Veronica Wheeler

Secretary
YOUR u3a NEEDS YOU

Travel Team Update

The travel team have been busy listing all the names of members who have expressed an interest in the events for 2021, and Hannah has started emailing out to all members to let them know that their name has been added to the list.

Currently they are not requesting any deposits as the situation is still very fluid and nobody knows quite where we will be by the time the trips are due to take place.

Irene has been in touch with our tour operator for the Llandudno trip and they have agreed to defer payment of the deposit until January. The deposit will then be £50 per person with the balance due 8 weeks before the event. The company is fully bonded so members' money is secure.

Monthly Speaker Update

This month's special guest speaker was Andrew J Baker with his talk entitled Trump – Would you believe it!

Over 60 members registered for a place at the event which was not about the politics but the man.

Obviously, this was always going to be a contentious topic but our members thoroughly enjoyed the event.

When members booked, we'd done a fun poll and most members seemed to think he wouldn't get a second term in office. Obviously, the election is this week so watch this space!!



MONTHLY SPECIALS FOR NOVEMBER

Thursday November 12th at
2.30pm

Laughter in the House

Narrated by Julie Walters

This presentation takes you through some of the best British comedy of the last 60 years.

There will be loads that you remember as well as some best forgotten!!!

You have been warned!!!

Tuesday November 17th at
2.30pm

Fraud & Scams Awareness

Clare Oldfield

Clare is a NatWest community banker and her talk and slide show presentation focuses on Impersonation, Investment & Romance Scams and includes examples of scams with a Corona Virus theme.

PATHFINDER

The pathfinder project is an initiative designed by National Office in collaboration with a number of u3a's to try and increase our presence in the wider community. Everyone has heard of organizations such as the WI, YMCA, Weight Watchers etc. but how many people have heard of the u3a? We do appear at first glance to be a more secret society than even the Freemasons!!

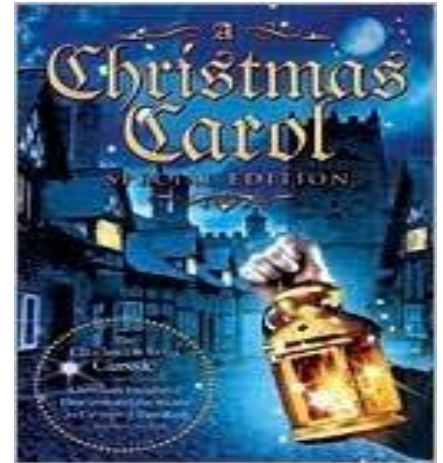
The aim is to make people aware of our place in the local community.

Phase one for us was to set up our own Facebook page for members only, and then to increase our profile in the local community Facebook pages. We now have a presence on 14 local Facebook groups with the potential to reach over 100 thousand members in the local area, admittedly not all in the u3a age demographic but the youngsters all have parents and grandparents and we can spread the word that we are here and still open despite Covid.

We've also now raised our profile on another form of social media, namely 'Nextdoor', which personally I'd never heard of, however Linda our previous chairman had and offered to place our advert on her local neighbourhood page, as did Annie and Sue, two other committee members. From that we have had four enquiries for our most recent new members' coffee morning and gained some new members.

STAY SAFE AND WELL AND WATCH THIS SPACE.

BEST WISHES, TONY



December Special

A Dickens of a Christmas
Presented by
Bertie Pearce

Did anyone really enjoy
reading Dickens at school?

I mean really enjoy!!!

Well, be prepared to be
converted.

Bertie Pearce will be
presenting his Zoom talk on
Monday 7th December

To reserve your place please
book in the normal way by
clicking on the link on the
events page.

Challenges are what
make life interesting
and overcoming them
is what makes life
meaningful.

Joshua J. Marine