

# u3a Epsom & Ewell

## Learn, Laugh, Live

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

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**AROUND THE GROUPS – Your Group Co-ordinators are**  
**Jenny Powell & Brenda Griffiths**



### **Beer Group**

This group is going great guns, people are really enjoying meeting each other, why don't you join us?

We have been having one formal Beer tasting per month during the interim period between lockdowns, and relocated this out of our tier 2 pub [when the tiers were introduced] to Epsom. It's been two meetings of 6 recently, to comply. We have also been having the odd informal non-U3A meetings that were just socials for those that wanted to meet more often. Since lockdown 2 we have moved back to zoom, tasting 3 beers that are chosen by one of our members and rating them, we are meeting this way twice a month presently. We have a number of our group members who really do not like zoom meetings, the social side is important to the group and they feel that it's much more stilted on zoom, and it's awkward if more than one person speaks at once as you know. Usually we get 8-12 to a physical meeting and 6-8 on zoom [these are usually a mix but not always the same people].

We also run a WhatsApp group and it's alive with people sending little ditties and keeping in touch, we have to be careful as three of our group are not on WhatsApp, but all are on email.

Ann Norman – Group Leader



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**Don't forget: - to log onto the U3A Epsom and Ewell website where you can view everything that is going on at your U3A and more.**

**On the Web page you will find a list of all the groups, all the outings for next year and a list of the zoom talks that are taking place and how to book onto them.**

**Tony's words is the best place to go for an interesting read and if you have anything you would like to add then please send it to him.**

## Garden Visiting Group



This group formed during lockdown, we have met every month since restrictions relaxed. This month (during lockdown 2) both Wisley Gardens and the National Trust have remained open so 6 of us arranged to visit Wisley in our separately arranged pairs - in the same place but definitely not together. To deal with the distance required we had a hybrid zoom with each other [and those members who were not comfortable travelling presently]. I have tried a zoom only meeting and only got 2 members turned up, it's not what our ladies want I'm afraid, they want to be out. We get up to 12 to a meeting but it's been two meetings of 6 recently, to comply, and lower numbers this month as some are required to be very careful. One of these ladies can't zoom as it is incompatible with her hearing aids. She's more affected by masks and the general restrictions than many. We run a WhatsApp group; all members are part of this. We use it to keep in touch, sending pictures of places we have been and suggestions to add to our long list of groups visiting for the future. Our Group are visiting Wisley Glow in December, we booked our tickets in pairs, just in case!

Ann Norman – Group Leader

## Architecture Group

The Architecture group formed during lockdown and have met every month since restrictions eased. The November meeting has been deferred a month during lockdown 2, hopefully it can be back on next month. None of the group members wanted a remote zoom meeting as they felt the whole point was to meet and view buildings in person, they are not keen on WhatsApp either.



We have been discussing going separately to free online architecture lectures we have been seeking out, it's still early days for that one, it's not worked for all of us yet but we tried.

Ann Norman – Group Leader



## **U3A Jazz Group - The West Coast Ragtime Festival is on this weekend - and very good it is too!**

Hello everyone, I hope you are surviving the second lockdown well. At last the end of this pandemic is in sight, but unfortunately live jazz in the UK is still more for less dormant, except for a few exceptions, some of which I will mention later. I am not currently expecting live jazz to return much before April or May 2021.

The UK Jazz festival scene has been almost dormant since March 2000. A few "virtual festivals" have taken place overseas and The West Coast Ragtime Festival is taking place this weekend and I highly recommend it. I have watched one or two other "Virtual Festivals" but West Coast has really cracked the problem of how to put on a quality virtual festival. I only knew of three performers, namely the incredible Morten Gunnar Larsen, pianist from Norway and the ebullient Jeff Barnhart (piano/vocals) and his wife Anne(flute/vocals) from the USA, but I am glad to be able to report that all the performers at this festival meet the same high standards as Morten, Jeff and Anne. Both performers and the content are of a very high order with fine grand pianos (no electric keyboards thank goodness), all beautifully filmed with excellent commentaries. There is also a fine Ragtime Orchestra.

I am not sure how long the performances will be kept on YouTube, but I am downloading them just in case they are taken down before you have a chance to see them.. The Friday evening concert can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG07LWXeS14>

I suggest you Subscribe on YouTube to the West Coast Ragtime Festival to be notified of the Saturday and Sunday sessions. I am sure you will enjoy these fine performances. If you do watch and enjoy please contribute to the Festival's musicians at the Tip Box at:

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/westcoastragtime>

(By the way they use Pacific Standard Time (PST) which is 8 hours behind our GMT. So their 3pm session starts at our 11pm)

**Several jazz musicians who have performed at one or more of our U3A Jazz meetings have regular live sessions every week:**

Ewan Bleach has a live two- or three-hour Sunday Serenade every Sunday at 8pm on YouTube and FaceBook. Last Sunday's "Sunday Serenade" can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxqlc1hMgQ4>

Ewan plays piano, clarinet/saxes and vocalises. He often plays piano, clarinet and sings all in the same number. Every month he has a 3-hour Blue Moon session with another performer. He has a Tip Box at [PayPal.me/ewanbleach](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/ewanbleach) .

Please donate if you enjoy Ewan's performances.

Enrico Tomasso has a very popular hour-long session at 7pm every Friday evening with many followers. He calls it his "Pop Up Louis". This is on Facebook and I suggest you make Enrico a Facebook Friend so that you get reminders of these find sessions, which he does with different guests for each session. Past guests have been Marton Litton, Martin Wheatley, Keith Nichols and many more. Try:-

<https://www.facebook.com/enrico.tomasso>

If you enjoy this feel free to contribute to the tipping jar at

[https://paypal.me/ricobrassman?locale.x=en\\_GB](https://paypal.me/ricobrassman?locale.x=en_GB)

Sarah Spencer continues to create enjoyable and imaginative sessions with her International Covid Ramblers. She has her own Channel on YouTube. I suggest you search for Sarah Spencer Jazz on YouTube. Sarah's Tip Box (which she shares with her musicians) is at:

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SarahSpencerTipJar>

I worry about our wonderful jazz musicians who can no longer earn a living from playing jazz. That's why I always use the Tip Boxes when available. If you have found other sources of UK live jazz please let me know so that I can include details in future newsletters.

Normally at this time of year I would be buying mince pies and preparing to make mulled wine for our Christmas Jazz Party - No chance this year, but I'm sure 2021 will be much brighter.

I do hope you will enjoy the huge amount of jazz which is available on YouTube and that I will be able to start booking bands for our 2021 U3A Jazz 2021 programme before too long.

Look after yourself - the outlook is getting brighter.

Mike Stevens.

Group Leader

## **PROPOSED NEW GROUP – Ballroom Dancing**



A request has been made for a Ballroom Dancing Group. If anyone is interested please let Brenda Griffiths know. This group will be set up when conditions allow and as soon as there are enough interested members.

## **OTHER NEWS –**

### **Welcome to Tea 'n Talk, Coffee 'n Cake – Rosie & Sue's U3A Coffee Club.**



We meet at Roots Café in the Epsom Methodist Church where we have the opportunity to buy a selection of hot and cold drinks, served with delicious homemade cakes. Make new friends, always plenty to talk about in a friendly relaxed setting and find out more about our U3A.

Sadly, due to Covid Government Guidelines, we don't have any dates or times at the moment, but hope to get it up and running again fortnightly in the New Year, but all places for now, will need to be booked.

Contact Sue on 01372 817497 or email Sue at [david.wood793@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.wood793@ntlworld.com)