



# u3a Epsom & Ewell

## Learn, Laugh, Live

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

Email enquiries to: [u3aepsom@gmail.com](mailto:u3aepsom@gmail.com)

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

### Exploring London 8: Group Leader Maureen Norton



Tuesday 26th January exploring London 8 caught up for a coffee morning, taking advantage of the Zoom Pro Licence facility to have a long chatty meeting.

We missed a couple of members who weren't available on the day for various reasons however, we did manage to catch

up with Helen for the first time on one of our zoom meetings which we've tried to have every couple of months. All members seem to have had a quiet Christmas and New Year but were thankfully staying well and awaiting their call for their vaccination.

We enjoyed a short YouTube video of the Inns of Court by a very informative and fun gentleman named Jools, he took us into an old pub with people enjoying a few beers, hopefully we can look forward to that pastime again soon. Then we spent time catching up on each other's news and arranged our next meeting for Thursday 18th March.

### Russian Studies – Group Leader – Dora Jothi



Are you interested in Russia and all things Russian? There is a small friendly group waiting for you to join them. In order to enjoy the group some preparation on a Russian topic will be required to talk about and discuss with the rest of the group. Why not give it a

try? For further details contact Dora Jothi at [d.jothi@hotmail.com](mailto:d.jothi@hotmail.com) or via the website.

**If you have had your vaccination then please let Tony know by visiting the U3A website and filling in the form on line.**

**Visit 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 are 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.**

## Beer Group – Group Leader – Ann Norman

The beer group is currently meeting on two Zoom meetings fortnightly to taste beer that we have bought in directly from selected brewers and distributed to doorsteps in advance. It has become a fun thing to do on a Thursday evening, if anyone wishes to join us during the current period, we will be happy to welcome you.



## Beginners Italian Update – Group Leader Tony Skelton

January started on a sad note for our group as we lost one of our members to this awful pandemic.

Mike Reed and his partner Carol joined our group about a year ago, just before lockdown. They had become our friends and our group is like old friends meeting every week to attempt to learn Italian. Sadly, at the beginning of the year Mike and Carol both contracted Covid. Carol is gradually recovering but sadly we lost Mike. His input at Christmas with his letter to Santa was lovely and every week as soon as the zoom invitation went out on Friday you could guarantee there'd be a Whatsapp message from Mike with some obscure Italian phrase that would send the rest of the group scrambling for a dictionary. He will be sadly missed.

Hopefully Carol will be well enough to rejoin us in the coming weeks and our group will continue and support each other for as long as it takes.

## Jazz Group – Mike Stevens

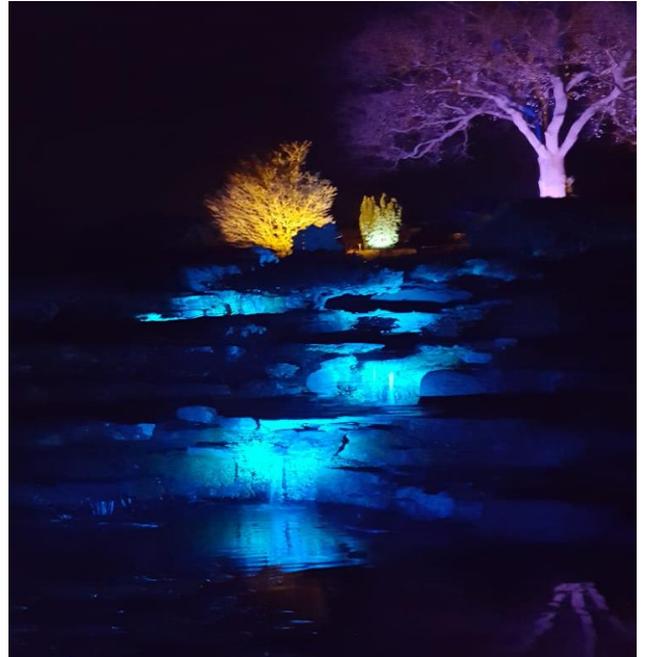
Pending the return of live performances, the Jazz Group is publishing weekly virtual jazz presentations every Tuesday. Anyone who is on the u3aJazz mailing list will receive notifications by email of each presentation. There is no charge for the virtual presentations.



Occasionally, viewers will be reminded that they may, donate to our jazz musicians providing live performances during the covid pandemic. **To join our u3aJazz mailing list those interested should just send an email request to me at [michael@mcstevens.co.uk](mailto:michael@mcstevens.co.uk).** With best wishes Mike

## Garden Visiting Group – Group Leader - Ann Norman

In December the group visited Wisley for Glow, Festival of Light. We visited on a cold but clear evening and were very impressed with the incredible efforts made to display the garden at night. It was both a sound and light event, many of us felt it was better than anything we had previously seen at Kew Gardens.



January we had a short zoom meeting followed by an online talk on gardening called A Yorkshire Spade in a Tuscan Garden that I found on Eventbrite, here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-yorkshire-spade-in-a-tuscan-garden-tickets-128279392115>

We are hopeful that our booked trip to Ignite at Polesden Lacey in February will go ahead, but it's looking a bit doubtful.

This month the Garden Visiting group has been remotely visiting gardens via internet streaming and attending zoom talks. We are happy to accept more online members during the present time. I'm afraid the zoom link has now closed for the first talk we attended, but people can see the YouTube link to the Highgrove presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbJgNXgppl>

## OTHER NEWS –

In December a shout-out was made on our local U3A Facebook page for volunteers to work at Nonsuch Mansion House Vaccine Clinic. Six of the Epsom & Ewell local U3A Members have since been seen working shifts as Marshals assisting the patients safely to their appointments. It's very rewarding to see so many happy people from around the local area. We have a few tips for those yet to attend their appointment:

1. Be prepared to queue - it can be busy at times.
2. Dress warmly, you may be briefly queuing outside if the clinic becomes very busy.
3. Bring a pen, facemask and hand sanitiser. They can be supplied but bringing your own is always safer and quicker.
3. Please remember the name of your GP clinic, [if you don't attend there for the vaccine] you will be asked for this and your NHS number.
4. Don't arrive early - 15 minutes early is plenty early enough to ensure that we have a car park space for you

5. Drive slowly, 10mph is the request, and please avoid getting too close to your volunteer marshals!

**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 when we are able to, 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)

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***A NOTE TO GROUP LEADERS***

If any group leader would like to share your groups activities then please send it to me at [masonv85@gmail.co.uk](mailto:masonv85@gmail.co.uk) and I will make sure it goes into following Newsletters.

A reminder that Tony has set up a Zoom Pro Licence which can be used by group leaders enabling you to run an uninterrupted zoom meeting. This facility needs to be booked with the Chairman who can then set up your meeting for you, but you run the meeting yourself. All the details are on the u3a Epsom and Ewell webpage under **ZoomProDiary**.