

Chairman's note

This Newsletter is the last before our summer break. There are some key issues that the Executive will be addressing before we start our new season of activities. The first of these is the need to find new members for the Executive and other supporting committees. We need to find successors for two Executive posts, the Treasurer and Group Development, as soon as possible, to enable them to shadow the existing members up to the point of changeover in 2014: this helps to maintain continuity. In addition, I would like to appoint a Vice-Chairman to share my workload. This is in agreement with our Constitution and will be ratified at our next AGM in 2014 once we have found a suitable person. For our supporting committees there are vacancies in the Social and Science committees.

There will be a recruitment event in October to provide the opportunity for more members to become involved in the running of our U3A. Please look out for more details in future Newsletters. In the meantime, if anyone wants to find out more information then please contact me.

Our next Newsletter, marking the beginning of our new season, will include the new Handbook detailing all of the groups currently running plus the regular events planned. Remember that entries for the Photographic Competition close at the end of this month. Judging will take place on 3 September. Then the Open Afternoon is scheduled for 25 September. Please mark these dates in your diaries.

Finally, may I wish you all a good summer break.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348 ✉ chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Sevenoaks U3A Calendar Photographic Competition

Don't forget!

You only have a few days,
until 30 June,
 to get your entry to Janet Austin.

Rules of Entry were in the **May Newsletter**. If you've already recycled yours it is on the website, or click **Photography** in the *Stop Press* column.

Twelve winners will be selected by a professional judge on 3 September and their photos used to create a 2014 celebration calendar.

Group Organisers' Conference

Group Organisers met on Monday, 17 June, at Salomons in Southborough. Their agenda covered a variety of issues affecting the Sevenoaks U3A, now and in the future. Chairman Bob Ruffles felt the morning had been successful and rewarding: there had been a buzz in the meeting, and GOs had produced much for the Executive Committee to absorb and distil in formulating new plans.



Pam Jones, South-East Region Trustee, told us it had been wonderful to encounter such dedication and enthusiasm among the Sevenoaks Group Organisers: she was glad to have been invited.

Science Group

The 2013-2014 session opens on Monday 14 October when Andrew Hanson will discuss **Confounding colour: the work of the National Physics Laboratory** with focus on colour. Details coming in the September Newsletter.

Places are still available on the Group outing to the **Shuttleworth Collection** 50th Anniversary Pageant Flying Day on Sunday 1 September. For details see the flyer circulated with the May Newsletter or contact Win Gutteridge (win.gutteridge@btopenworld.com).

If you are interested in joining a repeat visit to the **Cook factory at Sittingbourne**, which the Group is trying to arrange for October/November 2013, please express your interest now in an email to John Bonnett (joshotford@waitrose.com).

If you might be interested in membership of the **Science Committee** which organises these events, please contact Win Gutteridge, as above.

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

✉ berylmansell@btinternet.com

Digital Camera 3

In 2007 Jean Judge convened a Digital Camera Beginners' Short Course for 'those who are just starting out with a digital camera, and ideally have some experience using Microsoft Windows'. At the end of this course our Group was formed with fourteen members and with Virginia Milnes agreeing to be Organiser. Lucky she still is!

Our membership has fluctuated over the years: currently we are ten, six of whom were part of the original group. Newcomers have found a very warm welcome, and are offered help by the more experienced. It's a great way to learn about photographic manipulation in a friendly atmosphere.



When we started, we had very little idea about our compact, bridge and SLR cameras and even less idea about how to manipulate photographs with an Adobe Photoshop program. To begin with we obtained from another U3A a Beginners Course CD about Adobe Photoshop, and began to teach ourselves about the program, and how we could use it to manipulate our photographs.

We decided to break into small groups of three (and, later, two) to get together, find out all about a chosen topic, prepare a handout, then demonstrate it to the other members. After a cup of tea, there is usually time for us to practice.

Through this process we have grown in confidence and are now able to perform many types of operation such as changing the sky, making a montage, altering the colours and cloning out unwanted parts of the photograph.

We have also learnt to print photographs and enhance them with borders; to create CD/DVD labels; and to improve old prints. We learnt how to make Audio-Visual videos, including narration, then had great fun showing these to the Group.

We have open sessions where we bring our problem photographs and discuss how we can improve them including their composition. We have learnt about camera settings and how these influence quality, and we have visited local

areas to take photographs and later show and discuss them with the Group.

Our most recent recruit writes:

'As the newest member I have enjoyed the friendship and enthusiasm of the rest of the group and benefited from their extensive knowledge. The demonstrations have been varied including such items as rescuing poorly exposed photographs, taking a person out of one photograph and adding them into another and blending two photographs. I look forward to another year of exploring what the Adobe Photoshop program has to offer, and to facing even more challenges.' So do we all.

- Digital Camera Group 3

Peloton à Paris, May 2013

Very early one wet Monday morning, five intrepid members of the Sevenoaks U3A Cycling Group set off on the 40-mile journey to the south coast to catch the 11am ferry for Dieppe. Whose idea was this again? Ah yes, dreamt up in the comfort of a pub in winter at a time when May was a dim and distant prospect of warmth and light evenings!

200 miles and 9000 calories later we huddled under the Eiffel Tower waiting for a break in the rain to take our triumphant photograph. Not bad for a group of five with a combined age of 319.



Together we had travelled down the Avenue Verte, a designated (and flat) cycle route, admired glorious country scenery, lunched in a forest and stopped every evening for an early aperitif about ten miles from our destination of hotel for the evening. We posed in front of Versailles palace with our bikes, fast becoming a fit and honed team of crack cyclists.

Best of all was the route to Paris through beautiful woods with only a mile of Parisian road to reach the Eiffel Tower. A well-earned lunch in Montmartre before heading back to the Gare du Nord.

Would we do it again? A resounding yes – great fun and with good company. Perhaps we will order better weather next time.

Lesley Glencross

Cobnuts

Sevenoaks member Gillian Jones (who wrote the piece in the autumn about her cobnut plantation at Ivy Hatch) is running a Cobnut safari on Sunday 21 July to raise funds for the **Cobnuts Restoration Project**. The cost is £5 and will be a walk (or cycle) round the plantation followed by tea and cakes. Flyer on the website.

Details from Gillian Jones ☎ 01732 761466

✉ snow.drops@yahoo.co.uk

🌐 www.motecobnutsproject.blogspot.com

A Century of Jazz Piano Music

The May Study Morning run by the Jazz & Blues Groups was presented by Geoff Eales, whose lifetime love of jazz and deep insight into piano jazz infected all those lucky enough to attend.

A whistle-stop journey starting with the rags of Scott Joplin culminated in some convincing playing of the more sophisticated jazz of Dave Brubeck, Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett. Geoff's mastery of the keyboard emerged through the fireworks of Art Tatum and such idiosyncrasies as the 'block-chord locked-hands' technique of George Shearing. He romped through the styles of nearly twenty great jazz pianists with apparent ease.

Geoff has the gift of bringing to his audience fascinating insights in a way that is accessible to everyone. All this from an unassuming master of the keyboard who tossed off the most excruciatingly challenging technicalities with both ease and obvious pleasure.



Harvey Mahn

The Apple Computer Group

Apple have recently announced new hardware and software. The U3A Apple group will be discussing all these developments in the autumn. If you want to stay up to date come and join us. We meet at the Methodist Church Hall in Otford. The next meetings are at 2pm on 7 October, 4 November and 2 December. If you have an iPad, iMac or iPhone come along to see what the new features are all about.

For more information contact Dave Simmons:

☎ 01732 457646

✉ david.simmons22@btinternet.com

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

✉ Pamwalshe@supanet.com

Recently advertised

Two recently advertised trips have overfilled: the Thames river trip finishing at Syon House attracted almost 70 applications, and the summer visit to Margate Turner Gallery and the Salutation gardens at Sandwich drew over 90 requests for 45 places. This means we have to disappoint a very large number of members, for which we apologise. However, we hope to run a similar Thames trip next summer, and also repeat the Margate/ Sandwich trip.

Gloucester trip

The trip to the west country in May, staying at Bowden Hall Hotel in Upton St Leonards, was considered a great success by the 37 members who attended. (Unfortunately, three others had to drop out at the last minute for health reasons.)

A hit with everyone was the Arts and Crafts property south west of Gloucester, **Rodmorton Manor**, which is full of furniture made by the famous Cotswold cabinet makers, Edward, Sidney and Ernest Barnsley, and their friend Ernest Gimson. The landscaped garden was a splendid indicator of how design and good planting can overcome the presence of the odd weed.

Another success was the trip to **Westbury Court Garden**, a restored Dutch water garden near Gloucester. Our guide was the gardener himself; a true enthusiast, knowledgeable, amusing and immensely helpful. 17th century vegetables and espalier fruit trees made the plot utilitarian as well as handsome. Then he led us through the churchyard to afternoon tea in the church! Unforgettable cakes were a recurring theme of this trip.

Thinking ahead

The Social Events committee is exploring the idea of a trip to Caen in the late spring, to commemorate the D-Day landings, and then a trip to sunnier parts in the autumn of 2014. John Dean is contacting ALL those who have travelled abroad with him in years past, to get an input on preferences among our loyal supporters.

Open to U3A members

Sevenoaks School is organising a series of concerts and also lectures, the latter free of charge, at The Space, the Performing Arts centre which includes the acoustically-perfect Pamoja Hall.

These events will be advertised in the coming year by e-brochures which will be placed on the Sevenoaks website.

Note that all events have to be pre-booked, even if they are free of charge.

Three flyers are enclosed:

22/23 August: **A Concert Party** - the summer bonanza which is organised by Pamela Murphy's Drama group. Please apply quickly to help the group with their arrangements.

7 September: Knole Study Day on **Pompeii and Herculaneum**, and a linked visit to the British Museum on 9 September.

14 September: Kent U3A Study Day on **The History of Gardening**.

Events Open to All

First Friday Lunch Friday 5 July

The Bucks Head, Godden Green, 12.45 for 1pm
To book, please contact Sally Coston
☎ 01322 866102

First Friday Lunch Friday 2 August

The Stanhope Arms, Brasted, 12.30 for 12.45pm
Contact Christine or Alastair Macpherson
☎ 01959 523566 by Monday 29 July.

Bridge for pleasure Wednesdays 10 & 24 July

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 22 May was Jackie Bradforth and on 12 June was Denise Record. We are an 'Open' group, so new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson,
☎ 01732 458356

There are no meetings in August or September.

Ambling Wednesday 17 July

Meet in the car park of the White Rock Inn at Underriver (Post Code TN15 6SB) in time for a 10am start. Please park at the rear of the car park. From Morley's roundabout take the B245 towards Hildenborough, take the first left into Bank Lane and after three quarters of a mile turn left into Underriver. The pub is on the right after the church.

Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007.

There will be no walk in August.

The Strollers Tuesday 16 July

Meet in the car park of Edwards Brasserie at Weald. The walk will start at 11am. It will be followed by an optional lunch at the Brasserie.
Leader Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

There will be no walk in August.

Half Day Walking Monday 22 July

Meet outside the Buck's Head, Godden Green in time for a 10am start. A five-mile circular walk to Seal St. Lawrence and Oldbury Hill followed by an optional lunch at the Buck's Head.

Leader: Ann Matthews ☎ 01732 456512

Half Day Walking

Monday 19 August

Meet in the lane outside the school and church on the east side of Crockham Hill in time for a 10am start. A five-mile circular walk to Pootings and to the north of Edenbridge followed by an optional lunch at the Royal Oak.

Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

Diary

July

Wed	3	Thames River Trip
Fri	5	First Friday Lunch
Mon	8	Kent Study Day: Aspects of Law
Wed	10	Bridge for Pleasure
Thu	11	Westerham U3A launch
Tue	16	The Strollers
Wed	17	Ambling
Mon	22	Half day Walking
Wed	24	Bridge for Pleasure
Tue	30	Edenbridge U3A launch

Aug

Wed	14	Turner Gallery and Salutation Gardens visit **
Mon	19	Half day Walking
Thu 22/Fri 23		'A Concert Party' *

Sept

Sun	1	Shuttleworth Collection visit **
Sat	7	Seminar on Pompeii and Herculaneum *
Mon	9	Knole Visit to British Museum *
Sat	14	Kent Study Day: History of Gardening *

* Flyer this month

** Flyer in May

There will be no Newsletter in July.

Please send copy for the August Newsletter by **Friday, 2 August 2013**

to both ☎ pethelind@yahoo.co.uk
and ☎ MASweetland@talktalk.net

Editorial team: Magda Sweetland, Linda Young,
Robin Tonge and John Spurway