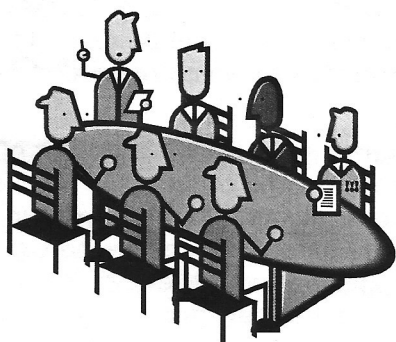


### Chairman's note

I trust you all enjoyed the summer break; we were certainly blessed with some fine weather. In August Pamela Murphy and her supporting cast staged the Summer Show. This was held in Maeve Bhavan's grounds at Offham. Some fine acting and singing was enjoyed by everyone present and my thanks to all involved for such a fun event. As we now enter Autumn we start our new season of activities. One key point arising from the last AGM was a request for greater insight into Executive Committee activity. We have discussed how best to report this but suggestions to use the website or précis the minutes in the Newsletter were both rejected in favour of me reporting key issues in my monthly notes. The minutes are of course always open to inspection by any member, and if anyone wants to see them then please contact our secretary, Judy Hebert.



At a typical Executive meeting we receive reports from all Trustees covering their areas of responsibility and in addition we also receive reports from all the Chairmen of the supporting committees. In this way the Executive is made aware of progress and any issues that may be affecting us. We also address any policy issues from the Third Age Trust.

Key actions arising from our last meeting are:

The Photo Competition - Judging on 3 September resulted in the selection of twelve winning images for our 2014 anniversary calendar. The overall quality was remarkable showing that we have many talented photographers among our members. My thanks to Janet Austin and Mary Allwood for organising this successful event, and to all who submitted entries. In this Newsletter you will find an order form for the Calendar so please order as many as you need for family and friends: it will make an ideal Christmas present.

Constitution - We have identified some anomalies with our current constitution which is not in line

with the new model constitution issued by the Third Age Trust. We will be reviewing this and a small working group is being formed under the leadership of Nick White to address this. Any changes will need to be ratified at the next AGM.

E-News distribution - A working party is to be formed to look at electronic distribution of our Newsletter for those who wish to receive information in this way. A test period will be implemented to highlight and resolve any problems. The existing printed Newsletter will continue for those who prefer the classical approach.

Recruitment - As mentioned in the August Newsletter we have several vacancies on our committees. The Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls centre has been booked for 25 October for those who are interested in helping to run our U3A. Remember if we are to maintain a successful U3A it does depend on volunteers so please think what you can do to help and come along to the meeting.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348 ✉ [chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)



### 2014 Calendar Photo Competition

The fine entries for the competition have now been judged and the winning twelve will make a useful and decorative Calendar to mark our 20th Anniversary.

The Calendar will be in colour and the size (A4) was chosen so that the boxes on the 'diary' page would not be too small; the Calendar would hang anywhere; and the cost (£7) would be very reasonable.

An Order Form accompanies this Newsletter. Its return to me by 3 October, so that we can obtain delivery of the Calendars by the October Monthly Meeting, will be very much appreciated.

*Arthur Russ, 20th Anniversary Committee*

Please send copy for the October Newsletter by **Friday, 11 October 2013** to both ✉ [pethelind@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pethelind@yahoo.co.uk) and ✉ [MASweetland@talktalk.net](mailto:MASweetland@talktalk.net)

## Meetings open to all

**Monthly Meeting**      **Wednesday 23 October**  
Community Centre, Bat & Ball      Start at 2pm

### **Shakespeare and the English**

William Tyler

Not only is Shakespeare our greatest playwright, but he is also the person who, through his cycle of history plays, showed his Elizabethan and Jacobean audience, as well as us, what it means to be English. So prepare to be dazzled once more by his superlative language about us - the English.

**Science Group**      **Monday 14 October**

### **Confounding colour**

#### **The work of the National Physics Laboratory with focus on colour**

Andrew Hanson

Consumer judgements – overtly and subliminally – are influenced by colour. Colour represents information which can be safety critical. People want colours of things to match whether they are clothes, car re-sprays or computer-scanned items reproduced on computer monitors and print outs. This is a tall order. The National Physical Laboratory is the custodian of measurements for the UK and has done its best to contribute to a long history of colour measurement, specification and standards.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.  
£2 entry includes tea.

**Computer Group**      **Monday 21 October**

### **How to Use The Help Button**

Don Scales

Do you find the online 'Help' facilities helpful?

Are they easy to use?

Don will discuss the 'Help' facilities that come with Microsoft and most other software on your PC.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.  
Entry, £2 on the door, includes tea.



**Car parking is always difficult,  
both at Otford and  
at the Community Centre,  
so please share cars if at all possible.**

## News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

✉ [berylmansell@btinternet.com](mailto:berylmansell@btinternet.com)

### **Groups shared by Sevenoaks and Knole U3A**

In 2009 Knole and Sevenoaks U3As drew up an agreement about shared groups. With the passage of time, and the establishment of two new U3As in the Sevenoaks catchment area, we decided to review the operation of the agreement and assess how the arrangements have worked in practice.

In general we conclude that the agreement has worked well and benefited the members of both organisations. We believe that we should continue to collaborate wherever that is to the mutual benefit of both U3As.

**Membership.** One of the initial concerns of both U3As was to avoid the situation where members of one U3A blocked places in popular groups in the other U3A. This has not been a problem so far but now one or two of the shared groups are at the point where they may have to establish waiting lists. In these circumstances the principle is that once someone is a member of a shared group they may remain a member for as long as they wish, regardless of their parent U3A, but priority on the waiting list will be given to members of the U3A to which the group belongs.

**Leadership.** In some cases leadership of a shared group may pass from a member of one U3A to a member of the other U3A. The issue arises of whether ownership of that group should then pass to the parent U3A of the new group organiser. In general we believe that this is what should happen as the new group organiser will be subject to the practices and disciplines of the U3A to which she or he belongs, but cases should be determined on their merits. If this situation occurs a decision on ownership of the group should be taken in consultation with the Group Coordinators, taking account of the wishes of the members of the group in question.

**Assets.** Where equipment is provided to a group it remains the property of the U3A which provided it. The equipment could be recalled at their discretion and would be returned to them were the group to cease. Where a U3A provides a grant or subsidy to a shared group that U3A would have first call on the financial assets of the group were it to cease to function.

In some cases a shared group may have money or assets which have been provided by the group's own members. Where such a group ceases the assets would be the property of the parent U3A.

Subject to the points above, we believe that the principles which underpinned our original agreement on shared groups remain largely valid and should continue to be the basis on which

arrangements are made for shared groups in the future.

Groups can be advertised to members of the other U3A as shared groups where:

- **There is a specialist subject group which cannot attract enough support in one U3A to be viable and there is no parallel group in the other U3A OR**
- **Meeting the hire cost of a hall or other facilities would be impossible or difficult if the group was not shared.**

Group Organisers/Contacts who wish to offer spaces which meet the above criteria should continue to approach either Beryl Mansell (Sevenoaks) or John Stambollouian (Knole) to ensure their group would benefit from advertising within the other U3A. Please do not accept members from another U3A without checking with your Group Coordinator first.

Beryl Mansell

John Stambollouian

### **Sevenoaks - Shared Groups, September 2013**

Apple Group iMac+iPad+iPhone	Dave Simmons
Arabic 1 and 2	Galal Fahmy
Bridge For Pleasure	Colin and Mary Butson
Bridge -Teams Bridge	Pat and David Wells
Chess	Magda Sweetland
Circle Dancing	Sandie Wade
Cycling	Jim Purves
Digital Image Manipulation	Janet Austin
Drama and Crickets Farm Writing Group	Pamela Murphy
Industrial Heritage	Janet Jones
Jazz and Blues 1 & 2	Harvey Mahn
Military History 2 and Science Discussion 2	Bob Ruffles

### **Membership Rules**

At the July meeting of the Executive Committee we agreed the following revised wording to our membership rules.

*'Sevenoaks U3A is open to members of other U3As unless the other U3A does not permit this.'*

If a member of another U3A wishes to join us they are welcome to do so, provided they are permitted to by their other U3A/s. They will pay the membership fee and should be treated as a full member of our U3A. Rules on shared groups will not affect them.

### **Membership Cards**

**A reminder.** As members of the U3A we are covered by a Public and Products Liability Insurance Policy, as long as every member of your group is a paid up U3A member, though one-off visitors are allowed. Please ask to see the membership cards of your group members at the start of the 2013/14 year. If you have any concerns that someone in your group may not be a member please contact Beryl Mansell at once.

### **Group Membership Survey**

We have had a good response to the membership survey forms we issued to Group Organisers but there are still a number outstanding. **Please send the completed form to Bob Ruffles if you have not done so.** The information we have obtained so far is very useful and, for example, can help us identify where we need new groups or should widen the scope of the events we provide for members.

### **Online Courses**

Please see the National Office website for more information in the Members' Section  
<http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Six tutored online courses will be available in the autumn:

Short Stories – Angela Gamby –  
expected start date 15 September.

Just Before Victoria – David Hopker –  
expected start date 30 September.

Three Viking Women – Val Bannister –  
expected start date 30 September.

The First World War; the Home Front –  
Verne Hardinham –  
expected start date 30 September.



Digital Imaging – Peter & Sheila Reid –  
expected start date 30 September.

An Introduction to Anglo Saxon Poetry –  
Val Bannister –  
expected start date 30 September.

In addition National Office is seeking up to a dozen people to try out material on a trial run basis on the topic of 'Music and the Mind' which may form part of a more ambitious and longer course on the study of the mind in relation to a range of human experiences.

Application forms for all of the above are available on the online courses website which can be accessed through the NO website by clicking on the online courses menu item.

### **Italian Intermediate.**

Sadly, we have lost two of our members due to ill health. We are a friendly group of seven (now five) who meet principally to improve our spoken Italian. We are brilliantly supported in this endeavour by a charming and endlessly patient Italian who corrects our written presentations and pronunciation, converses with us and reads amusing stories for us to understand and translate. We would welcome two new members with open arms. Please come and see me at the Open Afternoon, or contact me at  
 [charmian@ackler.co.uk](mailto:charmian@ackler.co.uk) or  01959 522609



## Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

[Pamwalshe@supanet.com](mailto:Pamwalshe@supanet.com)

Advance notice: John Dean has organised a five-day, four-night trip based in Caen, starting 1 May 2014. The flyer will be sent out with the October Newsletter. Please keep the date free if you are interested.



Enclosed is a flyer for two Seminars organised by Knole U3A, where spare places are now offered to Sevenoaks.

### Events Open to All

#### First Friday Lunch

**Friday 4 October**

We meet on Friday 4th October at the Fox and Hounds, Romney Street at 12.45 for lunch at 1pm. Please contact Pat Smith to make a booking on ☎ 01959 523596.

#### Bridge for pleasure

**Weds 9 & 23 October**

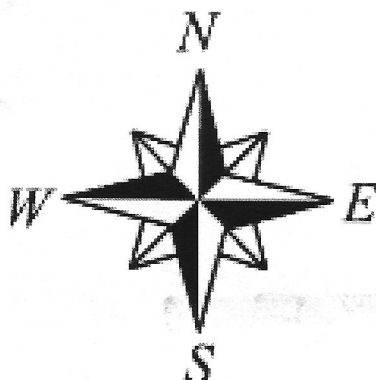
The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. We are an "Open" group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson on ☎ 01732 458356

#### Ambling

**Wednesday 16 October**

Meet in the car park of the Halstead Village Hall and Recreation Ground (Map Ref. 488614) for a 10.00 start. Travelling from Sevenoaks go up Polhill, at the roundabout just after the Garden Centre turn left to Halstead and then, at the T junction by the Cock Inn, turn right. After 100 yards the entrance to the car park is on the left. The walk is followed by an optional lunch. We are an open group and all members of the U3A are welcome.

Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007



#### The Strollers

**Tuesday 15 October**

Meet at 11.00 at the Greyhound pub in Charcott. The walk will be around three miles lasting one and a half hours approximately (NOTE: the information in the Handbook is incorrect. We do not take dogs.) There is an optional lunch afterwards at the pub.

Leader: Hilary Walker ☎ 01732 455168

#### Half Day Walking

**Monday 28 October**

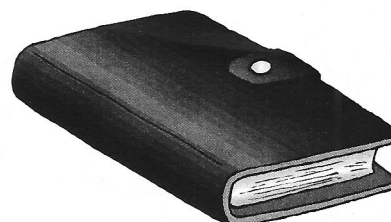
Meet in car park at Dene Park wood GR 606511 in time for a 10am start. A five-mile walk over good ground. Go through Shipbourne and continue south on the A227 towards Tonbridge. 1½ miles after The Chaser, where the main road turns right, turn sharp left towards Plaxtol. The large car park is half a mile up on the left. Optional lunch after the walk at The Chaser.

Leader: Velma Keys ☎ 01732 459001.

### Diary

#### October

Fri	4	First Friday Lunch
Wed	9	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	14	Science Group Meeting
Tue	15	The Strollers
Wed	16	Ambling
Mon	21	Computer Group Meeting
Wed	23	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	23	Monthly Meeting
Mon	28	Half Day Walking



#### Handbook correction:

p.11 **Art - Wot is Art?**

Lynn Mead's email address is:

[lynnmead65@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynnmead65@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Would you like to join the team?  
Do you have any experience of editing or small-scale publishing?  
In any case, if you are interested, please talk to us.