

### Chairman's note

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

Welcome to the new season of U3A activity. I trust you have all had a good break and will return with renewed enthusiasm for the forthcoming year. Enclosed is the Handbook for the 2014-15 season which gives a good overview of all the group activities available. Study Groups with vacancies are listed inside, on page 3.

Next month we look forward to our Anniversary Party on **Saturday 20 September**. The demand for tickets has been high and we have members waiting for returns. **If you have tickets but now cannot attend, then please return them to Arthur Russ for redistribution.** Remember, this event replaces the normal Annual Open Afternoon but among the attractions on the day will be room for a small exhibition of group activities in a side room at the Community Centre. The display will be on stands with limited table space but, to represent all group activity, a continuous slide show is being prepared. If you have any information or photographs of your group activity you wish to present then please forward them to me to be included.

### Committee Notes July 2014

In July, we introduced two new Trustees to the Executive Committee; Sue Henson assumes the role of Group Development from Beryl Mansell, and following the appeal at the AGM, David Simmons has volunteered to take on the post of Treasurer from Jim Purves. David will be co-opted to the Committee for the rest of this year. In both cases Beryl and Jim deserve our thanks and gratitude for the work and commitment they have made to our U3A over the past 4 years.

In addition to these appointments there have been a number of changes to the sub-committees as detailed in the 2014-5 handbook. My thanks to all of those who have stepped down and for the contribution they have made.

Whilst we have been successful in filling a number of posts, there is an ongoing need to find more. The particular vacancies at the moment are as follows:

**Vice Chairman** to support the Chairman with a focus on communications.

**Social Committee** – Vacancies to shadow current committee members with a view to taking over and allowing the existing members to step down.

**Meetings Team** – Vacancies for a person to manage the Catering Team, also volunteers to help with cake making and teas at the Monthly Meetings. The more who volunteer the better, as this eases the workload for all involved.

**Computer Group** - Committee members required to assist in various IT related activities including organisation of talks and perhaps transfer of skills and knowledge to those needing assistance.

**Science Group** - Vacancies for one or two members to help with arranging talks and visits.

**Web Team** – If you are experienced in IT and web based activities then we can use your skills to support the web team.

**Technical Support** - To assist in setting up media kits at Open Meetings and assist in resolution of technical issues in software and hardware.

If you can find time to help on these committees, please contact the respective Chairmen as printed in the Handbook or contact me as above.

### Issues Arising from the AGM

The key issue from the AGM and the revision of the Constitution was the need to reappoint a Trustee from the Social Committee to the Executive. The revision of our Committee structure undertaken in 2012 did not fully reflect the Third Age Trust and Charities Commission ruling on accountability regarding sub-committees holding accounts. We managed to negotiate a compromise on the small scale funds held by committees such as Computers, Science and Drama but this could not be extended to the Social Committee as they represent the bulk of our turnover. We must find a Trustee to represent the Social Committee on the Executive. The other changes in the revision were comparatively minor but allowed us greater flexibility in managing our own affairs.

### E-News distribution

The Executive agreed a proposal exploring more fully the distribution of the Newsletter by electronic means to run alongside the existing system. The next step is to assess the best way forward and test options suited to our members. Bob Ruffles

Please send copy for the September Newsletter

by **Friday, 12 September 2014**

to both ✉ [pethelind@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pethelind@yahoo.co.uk)

and ✉ [MASweetland@talktalk.net](mailto:MASweetland@talktalk.net)



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## News and Views

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Magda Sweetland ☎ 01732 461901

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### Music Groups

Between them, Sevenoaks and Knole U3A run an impressive tally of eleven Study Groups which can be called broadly 'Musical.' They range from the groups that concentrate on listening to and discussing music e.g. **Music Appreciation** of which there are two groups in Sevenoaks and one in Knole, while Sevenoaks has an **Opera** and two shared **Jazz and Blues** Groups.

Each U3A has a **Singing** group, although both are now full, with over 30 members apiece, and are trying to start a second group to meet demand.

Then there are the practical music groups. Sevenoaks runs two Recorder groups, the second of which (**Consort Recorders**) is shared, as is **English Concertina**. The latter two groups sometimes play together. All of this reflects the great musical talent which is to be found in the Sevenoaks area.

So, if you have a musical gene longing to be developed, now is the time to sign up to a U3A group. You will receive help and encouragement. Many of the playing musicians had not read music but can, with perseverance, learn to play along with other group members. And the bonus is - they say this is one of the best forms of therapy!

### Singing for Fun

This is an informal, relaxed group for those who enjoy singing traditional and folk melodies as well as songs from the shows. We meet on the first and third Monday afternoon of the month at the Unitarian Church in Bessels Green. For our last group session of the summer season, we had a sing-along for the old/er timers at Sunrise Care Home in Bessels Green. Angela Lister, our social arranger, organised the event and Janet Sharp, our brilliant pianist, chose a really good variety of songs that everyone knows from the old days.

The response from the audience was very uplifting. In fact, they have asked us back for a future event and when we mentioned Christmas time, they weren't inclined to wait that long! That's the sort of reaction we find very encouraging. At present we have 35 members on our list - enough for one group to cope with. However, we are starting a waiting list once again for future members and are willing to share our experience and thoughts with a new group.

Liz Bradney ☎ 01732 452051

✉ singing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

### English Concertina

This Group has been running for five years under the expert musical leadership of Angela Fairhead and we have six members drawn from both Knole

and Sevenoaks. We meet on alternate Monday afternoons throughout the year.

The English concertina, invented by Charles Wheatstone in the first half of the 19th century, was widely used by Salvation Army players. They would be astonished to know that a playable instrument would, today, sell for over £1000 and many are changing hands for £3000 or more.

To date, our Group has a repertoire amounting to some 45 pieces as well as 20 Christmas carols, playing from sheet music, and it is our aim to continue to extend the range and complexity of our music whilst having fun in doing so.

On several occasions we have held joint sessions with Sevenoaks U3A Recorder Group 2.

Over the last few Christmases, we have occasionally played carols in local pubs and restaurants and recently we held a concert in the garden of one of our members where we raised £350 which was shared between Alzheimer's Research UK and Ellenor Lions Hospices. We also organise little social events such as a summer BBQ and the occasional pub lunch or outing.

Although new members with experience of playing the concertina would be most welcome, we are somewhat restricted by space as we meet in our homes on a rotation basis, but if anyone is interested please contact me.

David Robson ☎ 01959 532591

### Jazz and Blues for U3A

Five years ago a new group called *Discovering the Diversity of Jazz* was launched and, with the help of Peter Moss, it snowballed.

Since then, we have had to split into two groups: Jazz & Blues I and II with Peter running Group I. Most of those who have joined remain group members - testament to the pleasure they all get from listening and learning in convivial company. Ever popular annual events run by the groups are the Jazz Study Mornings. These feature live performers and all U3A members are able to enjoy hearing about the many aspects of jazz including the story of jazz with insights into the world of jazz performance; all of this supported by practical demonstrations on the instruments represented.

When we started out our aim was stated in the words: 'to find out more about jazz . . . part of the purpose of the meetings will be to have the chance to hear examples of a wide variety of jazz styles and to enjoy some numbers or artists that are now unfamiliar'. Despite the fact that we dropped the mildly pretentious label used at the launch, our aim is largely unchanged. We do now have a number who also play jazz and this can enliven our meetings especially in the festive season. But most of us simply enjoy listening to jazz and finding out more about Jazz and The Blues in agreeable company.

Harvey Mahn ☎ 01732 459295

✉ Harvey33mahn@btinternet.com



## News from the Groups

Sue Henson ☎ 01732 490383

✉ [sue@diablo-designs.co.uk](mailto:sue@diablo-designs.co.uk)

### Vacancies

The following Groups have indicated that they have space for new members. Please approach the Organiser concerned, as listed in the Study Group entries in the new 2014-15 Handbook.

Group	Vacancies
Art – Painting	Several
Art – Wot is Art?	1-2
Book Circle – Wednesday	2+
Botanical Illustration 2	1-2
Bridge – Teams	Several
Bridge for Beginners	4
Bridge for Pleasure	Open
Chess	Open
Churches & Chapels	Several
Circle Dancing	Open
Classical Studies	2
Computer	Open
Current Affairs	1-2
Crosswords	1
Cycling	Several
Digital Camera 2	1-2
Digital Manipulation 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years	Several
Drama	Several
E-Publishing	New Group
Embroidery	Several
Family History 2	2
First Friday Lunch	Open
French Discussion	Several
Garden Group 1	Several
Garden Group 2	2-3
Garden Group 4	1-2
Garden Group 5	Several

Group	Vacancies
Geology Past & Present	2
History of a House	1
History of Transport	Few
Industrial History	1-2
Makers of History	Several
Medieval History	1-2
Migration of People	Several
Peace & Conflict Studies	1-2
Philosophy	1-2
Playreading 1	1-2
Poetry 1	1-2
Poetry 2	1-2
Recorders 1 and 2	Several
Science Discussion 2	Several
Science Group	Open
Sculpture	Several
Sunday Club	Variable
Tai Chi	3-4
Walking Group 1a	1-2
Walking – Ambling, Half Day & Strollers	Open
Wine Appreciation 1,2,3,4, and 5	Possibly
Wire & Beaded Jewellery	1-2
Women in the World	1
Writing for Pleasure	1-2
Writing, Cricketts Group	Several

### Snooker Group

Some members have expressed interest in starting a snooker group. The best venue appears to be at the club at Ightham where there are two good tables.

Please contact Liz Lucy ☎ 01732 789516 or Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

### Wednesday Book Group

This group would welcome a couple of new members. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (October to May, 2-4pm) in different houses. We read mostly fiction, new and old, and we obtain sets of books from the library. Contact:

Ann Evans ☎ 01732 834243 or

Kate Cox ☎ 01732 833592



## Self-Publishing

Gillian Jones is a long term member of Sevenoaks U3A. Some of you may remember the article in this Newsletter almost two years ago where she wrote about the historic cobnut plantation at Ightham which she was attempting to revive. Gillian is also starting a new Study Group this autumn, on the subject of E-publishing (see page 18 of the new Handbook.) On Tuesday September 9, from 10.30am to 2.30pm, Gillian will be signing and selling copies of three books of her own, **Blade of Light, The FARIS Affair** and **A Misted Mirror**. The venue is The Lodge Coffee Shop, which is 'Upstairs at the Stag'.

## Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

✉ Pamwalshe@supanet.com

- ❖ We have planned a trip to **Paris** 17-20 April 2015, to include visits to the **Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Versailles** and a trip on the **Seine**. Flyer in the September newsletter.
- ❖ This month we enclose a flyer for our visit on Tuesday 4 November to **Guildford Cathedral** and the renowned **Christmas Shop** at Wisley.

### Other flyers:

- ❖ A talk on **Aspects of Gardening** to be held at Coolings on Tuesday 23 September, followed by a tour of the plant centre.
- ❖ A Seminar on the subject of **Art Deco and Design**, to be held on Tuesday 7 October at the Community Centre. Cost £5 per person. Booking is essential. Double sided flyer with -
- ❖ A follow-up visit on Monday 13 October to **Danson House** (Borough of Bexley) with a guided tour and then on to **Eltham Palace**, the mecca for admirers of Art Deco style.

Both of these events are organised by Knole and spare places are being offered to Sevenoaks U3A.

### 20th Birthday Party: Saturday 20 September

The car park at the Community Centre will be very busy indeed; please share cars if at all possible. If you hold a Blue Badge, please tell the car park organiser when you arrive.

**Found :** These items were left on the coach after the Thames/Marble Hill House trip on 9 July:

Navy-blue collapsible umbrella

Lady's waterproof jacket in plastic holder

Claim from John Dean ☎ 01959 563373

## Events Open to All

### First Friday Lunch Friday 5 September

12.45 for 1pm at the Kings Head, Bessels Green.  
Book with Pat Smith ☎ 01959 523596

### Half Day Walking Monday 22 September

Meet at Shoreham Station for a 10am start. A hilly circular walk of nearly five miles to Upper Austin golf course and Romney Street followed by an optional lunch at a Shoreham pub. Cars can be parked in Station Road, between the station and the village. Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

### Bridge for Pleasure Wednes 8 & 22 October

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 25 June was Pam Kemp, on 9 July was George Thompson and on 23 July was Bill Taylor. 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. No meetings in September.

### The Strollers Tuesday 16 September

Meet in the car park of The King Henry VIII, Hever, at 11.00. The walk is mainly on the flat and should take about 1 and a half hours. Optional lunch afterwards in the pub. Leader Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

### Ambling Wednesday 17 September

Meet in the National Trust car park at Toy's Hill (GR 470517) for a 10am start. From Sevenoaks, turn left off the A25 at Brasted, up Chart Lane passing the Fox and Hounds on the left. Car park is a short distance on the right, signposted Toy's Hill. The walk is followed by an optional lunch. Leader: Velma Keys ☎ 01732 459001

### Helpers for Sevenoaks Hospital Coffee Shop

Could you spare 3-4 hours a month for a good cause? Volunteers are wanted for the Coffee Shop at Sevenoaks Hospital Outpatients. It is easy work, and training is given, while no experience is required. For further information, please contact Sue Christy ☎ 01732 463911 or ✉ suechristy@hotmail.co.uk

## Diary

### Sept

Fri	5	First Friday Lunch
Mon	8	Kent Study Day: Kent in WW1**
Wed	10	Historic Dockyard Portsmouth**
Tue	16	The Strollers
Wed	17	Ambling
Sat	20	20th Anniversary Party
Mon	22	Half Day Walking
Tues	23	Talk and visit to Coolings Plant Centre*

### Oct

Tues	7	Seminar Art Deco and Design (Knole)*
Wed	8	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	13	Visit to Danson/ Eltham Palace (Knole)*
Wed	22	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	29	Monthly Meeting

### Nov

Tues	4	Guildford Cathedral and Wisley Xmas Shop*
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Flyer sent previously\*\*

Flyer enclosed\*

**Editorial Team:** Victoria Baxter, John Cox, John Spurway, Magda Sweetland, Linda Young