

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Brian Cairnie, our Treasurer, comes to the end of his term of office next year and we are looking for a volunteer to take his place. The role of Treasurer is an important post within our structure, without it we would be unable to continue as a viable U3A, so it is important that we find a replacement to take over, ideally after our financial year end at the end of March.

The role does not necessarily require an accounting background (our last two Treasurers have been a Teacher and an Engineer) and we operate a very simple Excel system, so the role is not onerous.

If any Members are interested in becoming our Treasurer, please call myself or Brian for an informal chat.

A big thank you to Brian for his contribution to our U3A.

As we approach the festive season I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at "Hamalot" on December 9th and our Festive Lunch on February 10th next year.

Jim Purves [chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)  
01732 463041

## MEMBERS' CORNER

Please submit items of interest to members to The Newsletter Team.  
[news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

Two large Gazebos (4m x 2m) owned by the U3A, but no longer needed are available for a small donation. Please contact Pamela Murphy on 01732 365484



## DIARY December January and February

### DECEMBER

Fri	9	Hamalot!
Mon	12	Science Group
Wed	14	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	19	Computer Group

### JANUARY 2017

Mon	9	Science Group
Mon	16	Computer Group
Wed	18	Ambling
Mon	23	Apple Group
Mon	23	Half day walking
Wed	25	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	25	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>

### FEBRUARY

Fri	10	Festive Lunch
Mon	13	Science Group
Mon	20	Computer group
Wed	22	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
Thurs	23	Canterbury trip
Mon	27	Half day walking

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**2.00 p.m. Wednesday 25 January 2017 at the Bat and Ball Community Centre.**

**German Democracy.** John Guyatt will talk about German democracy. The speaker was head of history at Sevenoaks School and has a particular interest in recent historical developments in Germany.

**2.00 p.m. Wednesday 22 February 2017 at the Bat and Ball Community Centre**

**Tom Crean, Antarctic Explorer.**

Michael Smith will talk about Tom Crean, the unsung hero of Antarctic exploration. Tom Crean was a member of expeditions lead by Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton. The speaker specialises in the history of Antarctic and Arctic exploration.

**Newsletter Team: Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith**

Copy for February Newsletter (which will be distributed by 20 January) by **Tuesday 10 January** to:  
[news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

**There will be no Newsletter distribution in December.**

## Film Studies Group – place available

A place has become available in the Film Studies Group which meets at 1.30 on the first Wednesday of each month. The meeting lasts most of the afternoon as we watch (on DVD) and then discuss a film which is presented by a different member of the group each time. The films are chosen from all over the world and from all eras of film making.

The group has been active since 2010 and each year covers a different theme. This year the theme is 'World Social and Political Cinema'. We are by no means experts in film, but have enjoyed exploring many aspects of cinema, and have learned a lot in the process ourselves. Our discussions are fuelled by tea and home-made cake, and we meet in the group leader's home in Otford. If you are interested, please contact Peter Nixon on 01959 524688 or email at [peterlyn.nixon@gmail.com](mailto:peterlyn.nixon@gmail.com)

## Historic Houses

This is a new group which Knole U3A has established and which members of Sevenoaks U3A would be welcome to apply to join. The Group is aimed at those interested in visiting historic houses having first researched and discussed a range of topics associated with the house in question. Responsibility for research and enquiry would be shared as would responsibility for arranging visits.

This is not a group for those who want simply to be part of joint visits to historic places. It is for those who are interested in finding out a bit more about the places they visit and who are prepared to commit to taking an active part in the group's programme.

We plan to meet monthly on the morning of the third Monday to hear reports of research and enquiries which members have made about the houses we will be visiting. Visits will be arranged according to when houses are open and members available.

John Stambollouian 01732 462680

[stambollouian@gmail.com](mailto:stambollouian@gmail.com)

## Walking the Waterways of London

Walking Group 1B along with members of Walking Group 2 recently enjoyed a walk along the River Thames and Regents Canal.



Our walk took us from Tower Bridge along the north bank of the Thames past the old London Docks of St Katherine's and Shadwell Basin to Limehouse Basin which is the junction of the Regents Canal with the Thames.

We then ventured northwards along the Regent's Canal towpath through Stepney and Bethnel Green to Haggerston, where we left the canal and made our way via City Farm to Brick Lane where we all enjoyed a well deserved curry lunch.



Photos: Allen Lanceley

Suitably fortified we strolled through Spitalfields and Leadenhall Markets back to London Bridge Station to board our train home.

Jim Purves

## KENT STUDY DAY The Lesser-Known Churchill

Report by Merilyn Canet

I was intrigued by the prospect of learning more about the great man at a U3A study day on 10<sup>th</sup> October at Salomons Centre near Tunbridge Wells.

Sadly local author Jonathan Smith was unwell but I had already read the book about Churchill's serious stroke when he was Prime minister in 1952 and the cover-up.

"Churchill, poisoned gas and the Middle East" made an amazing lecture subject and relevant to the crisis that we are observing today in Syria etc. ably delivered by Christopher Catherwood at very short notice.

David Lough spoke about Churchill's troubled relationship with money including a serious gambling habit and champagne tastes.

Lady Clementine was the subject of Sonia Purnell's perceptive and sympathetic talk (and book) about a strong woman living and supporting, an incredibly difficult and complex man.

As with most U3A events I learnt some new things about the subject, Sir Winston, and was challenged to find out more. Our greatest Englishman was the right man at the most perilous time for our nation but what a complex one!!

This proved to be the last Open Study Day to be arranged by Magda Sweetland and her team. Many thanks to them. I was interested to meet members from other U3A groups in Kent.



### Visit to Canterbury

There will be a visit by train on **Thursday Feb 23** to Canterbury for a guided tour of the Cathedral. After the tour, which will last one and a quarter hours, you will be free to explore as many of the attractions of Canterbury as you wish. Full details, including suggestions about what to do in Canterbury are on the flyer included on the website.

Vicki Joyce

### Report by John Esler on the visit to Sheffield Park & Standen on the 19<sup>th</sup> October

Organised by Sue Christy and led by Rosina Cole



Fortunately, it was a bright Autumnal day so we could enjoy the scenery in its full glory, on the Sevenoaks U3A outing to Sheffield Park Gardens and Standen House. Both of these properties are in Sussex and run by the National Trust.

**Sheffield Park** was mentioned in the Domesday Book but was latterly designed by Capability Brown in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and is Grade 1 listed. It has a wide selection of both exotic and native trees surrounded by lakes and paths which lead you around the 300 acre estate. The House, also grade 1 listed is in private hands and is not open to visitors.

One of the attractions is a cricket pitch in the grounds which hosted a match between England and Australia in 1884, the Colonials won by an innings.

**Standen House** was built in the 1890s for the Beale family and decorated by William Morris with his colourful designs of fabrics, carpets and wallpapers being obvious throughout the house. Today the house is much as it would have been in the 1920s and is described as an Arts and Crafts family home and is again Grade 1 listed. The property consists of 3 farms and a 12 acre garden in both formal and natural styles.

The visits were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Photos: John Esler

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

### Ambling

Wednesday 18 January 2017

#### There will be no walk in December

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. The car park is a short distance further on the right and is signposted Toy's Hill. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Grahame Lee

### Science Group

#### Monday 12 December

Behind the Scenes at Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.

#### Talk by Ted Fullelove

The KSS Air Ambulance Trust is a registered charity dating back to 1989 and exists to relieve sick and injured people in South East England and surrounding areas by providing a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) and Air Ambulance service for the benefit of the community.

Responding to 999 calls helicopters fly at speeds of up to 150mph and between them can reach any part of Kent, Surrey or Sussex in less than 25 minutes flying time. Their new Austa-westland 169 Helicopter can operate at night and has state of the art medical equipment on board. The highly skilled teams of Specialist Doctors and Critical Care Paramedics effectively bring the equivalent of an A&E department to the scene of an incident and can transport patients to the most appropriate specialist unit or nearest major hospital in a fraction of the time taken by land ambulance.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

**Free entry includes tea and seasonal fare**

Bob Ruffles

#### Monday 9 January 2017

**From Marconi to Smart Phone. Talk by Bob Martin-Royle**

It is just over one hundred years since the first wireless transmission across the Atlantic Ocean occurred. The talk will address the history of wireless communications and the exponential growth in portable wireless technology such as used in today's smart phones.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. Entry £2.00

Bob Ruffles

### Science Study Day 2017

The Science Committee is planning a Science Study day in June 2017. The topic will be Climate Change and we will again be using the East Malling Conference Centre. Further details will be published once plans are confirmed.

Bob Ruffles

### Bridge for Pleasure Wednesday 14 December

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12.15 p.m. The winner on 12th October was Nick White and on 26 October was George Thompson.

Please note that there will be no Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 as the Club Room at OVMH is being refurbished, so the first meeting in the New Year will be Wednesday 25 January

We are an "open" group, so new players are welcome to just come along.

John and Sue Christy

### Apple Group

Monday 23 January

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2 -4 pm (4th Mondays)

Dave Simmons 01732 457646 email.

[david.g.simmons22@gmail.com](mailto:david.g.simmons22@gmail.com).

### Computer Group

#### Monday 19 December

Useful Apps. Presentation by Various Members of the Computer Group

The speakers will demonstrate apps that they have found useful. Apps for Android and Apple and tablets and smartphones will be included.

#### Monday 16 January

Using Excel Spreadsheets

Presentation by Chris Streets showing how Excel can be used for everyday tasks and ways of making it more useful.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. £2 entry includes refreshments

Mike Davies

### Half Day Walking

#### Monday 23 January

Meet in the road opposite The Chaser at Shipbourne in time for a 10 a.m. start. Grid reference 593523, post code TN11 9PE. The walk is 4½ miles and goes to Budd's Green, Wilmot Hill and Ightham Mote. There are some hills. Lunch for those who wish to stay will be at The Chaser.

Leader: Nick White

#### Monday 27 February

Meet by the entrance to Bough Beech Visitor Centre in time for a 10 a.m. start. Grid reference 496494, post code TN14 6LD. The walk is 4½ miles and goes to Cooper's Corner, Henden Manor, Boarhill and Scallops Farm. The going is easy. Lunch for those who wish to stay will be The Cock in Ide Hill.

Leader: Nick White