

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 27th June 2018** at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks.

Nominations from Members for Executive Committee vacancies for Vice Chair and External Affairs Coordinator must be lodged with the Secretary by 30th May 2018.

The Secretary and Membership Secretary will have completed their 2-year term of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Further nominations for these posts may be submitted by Members to the Secretary by 30th May 2018.

Any motion that a Member may wish to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 30th May 2018, and be duly proposed and seconded.

AGM papers are included with this Newsletter.

Jackie Bradforth

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 23 May
at the Bat & Ball Community Centre

Kev Reynolds will give a talk entitled ***Mountaineering – A walk in the Clouds***. He is an author, photojournalist and lecturer. Kev has spent fifty years exploring mountain landscapes and thirty writing about his experiences. He will share some of the high points of a full life as a wanderer and writer. He is the leading international authority on many mountain ranges including the Pyrenees, many regions of the Alps and the Nepal Himalayas.

Annual General Meeting. 2.00 p.m. Wednesday 27 June
at the Bat & Ball Community Centre

The meeting will be followed by a talk by the well-known author and journalist, Bob Ogley, on V1s and V2s, or Doodlebugs and Rockets if you prefer.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

On June 27th we will be holding our Annual General Meeting and I would encourage members to join us at the Community Centre and support your Executive Committee in the running of our U3A.

Immediately after the AGM we have a very interesting talk by the ever popular Bob Ogley. This will be followed by our usual tea & cakes when members will have the opportunity to socialise with one another.

At the time of this Newsletter going to press we have vacancies on the Executive Committee for a Vice Chair and an External Affairs Co-ordinator. It is hoped that members will come forward to volunteer for these positions and help the Executive Committee work effectively in serving the membership.

Jim Purves
chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

HANDBOOK 2018-19

LAST CHANCE FOR CHANGES

Changes to your Group Contact details? New Group Organiser? Is the text up to date and does it reflect your Group's activities?

The 2018-19 version of the Sevenoaks U3A Handbook will be going to press at the end of June. If you would like any changes to be made to the text, contact details or group organiser, please notify Sue Christy at as soon as possible and definitely by 14 June.

All changes need to be notified by email or post.

DIARY FOR JUNE

June 13	Science Seminar
June 13	Bridge for Pleasure
June 20	Ambling
June 25	Half day walking
June 25	Apple Group
June 27	Bridge for Pleasure
June 27	AGM and Monthly Meeting

Exploring World Faiths

Would anyone be interested in starting a new Study Group on *Exploring World Faiths*? It seems to me that in this increasingly multi-ethnic/multicultural country we need to make it our business to discover and understand much more about a range of faiths - Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism - and many more. The latest issue of Third Age Matters mentions a Group on this topic, together with some helpful suggestions from Dr Peter Rookes, the U3A national subject advisor for exploring world faiths.

Contact Celia Smith



New Piano Playing Group

Following a good response to the suggestion of a new group to play classical music we held our first meeting planned for the second Wednesday of each month. We played pieces by Beethoven, Chopin and other less well-known composers. Then lots to chat about over a cuppa.

At present, we are a small group so any budding pianists of above beginner standard would be welcome. For any interest and further details please contact me; Tony Buick.



Snooker Group

Three years on and after a rather slow start, the Snooker Group is now thriving with a playing membership of around 15 and an average turn out of 10 players.

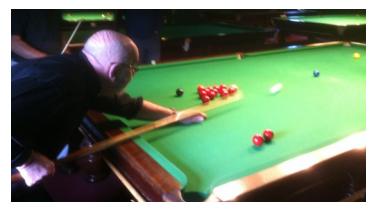
Our base is the Olympic Centre at Swanley. The distance is more than compensated for by free easy parking at the Centre which is owned and operated by the Swanley Town Council. We have the benefit of a purpose built snooker room with 6 tables and all equipment provided. Costs are modest. We play on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2 pm.

Snooker is a great all weather activity and particularly suited to older players whose physical fitness affects their ability to play more energetic sports. Most of our members came saying 'haven't played since I was a lad/girl'. No matter - we are a group of very mixed ability and although we make an attempt to pair members of similar ability, the most important thing is to enjoy oneself! It's an easy game to learn but very difficult to play well and can be wildly frustrating. However there is always someone following who will make an even worse shot!

Most importantly it is a very friendly group and if you would like any further information please phone Liz Lucy



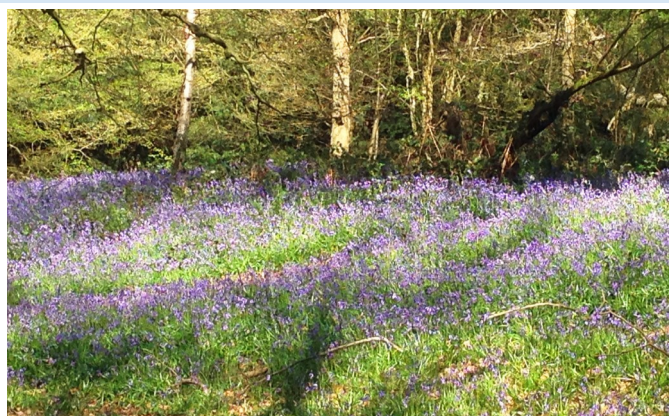
Photo: Liz Lucy



Photos: Brian Brett

All Day Walking Group 1B

A beautiful walk in Staffhurst Wood where the bluebells were stunning!



Photos: David Wells

There are spaces left on the coach for the trip on **Wednesday September 12** to the lively and historic town of **Folkestone**, which was involved in the Dunkirk evacuation. We will visit the Battle of Britain Memorial (with its exhibitions, flight simulator etc) and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum, where there is also much to see and do. There will be time initially to explore Folkestone and the day promises to be full and exciting. Please apply promptly on the form attached or available on the u3a website, where more detailed information is given.



A theatre trip is being organised to see Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at The Vaudeville Theatre Strand on **Thursday October 11 matinee**, travelling by train. We already have enough people to qualify for the £39.50 group reduction tickets, but a few more theatre-goers will reduce the prices to £35 per person. If interested please contact Vicki Joyce on immediately and no later than **Monday June 4 by 10am**.



U3A TRIP TO WINCHELSEA AND RYE

On 14 April, after weeks of dull days and rain, we were, after a misty start, blessed with a beautiful sunny day for our visit to East Sussex. Our goal was the Bastide Town of Winchelsea.

The original Winchelsea was washed away by successive storms in the mid-late 13th century and, as it was an important port, was rebuilt on a nearby hill by Edward I. The design was based on that of the fortified bastide towns of the King's native area in southwest France.

The original grid pattern of the surviving streets and 3 entry gates (if not much of the walls) still exist. Winchelsea is no longer a port and the original town has shrunk in area and its population which in the middle ages was some 3,000 is now around 600.

Beneath the town there are some 50 medieval cellars which were used originally to store wine and other goods. About half of us left the coach in this 'ancient' town to take a guided tour of a few of them. We had a fascinating experience, especially as Robert, our guide, added in a visit to the beautiful church of St Thomas and the rarely-accessible romantic ruins of the monastery of Greyfriars.

Leaving some of the party viewing the medieval cellars in Winchelsea the rest carried on to Rye for the morning. As we

Report by Freda Parker and Joyce Allen

arrived the mist lifted so we were able to enjoy a very good view from the lookout point at the end of the High Street near the Landgate. As it was the weekend the Rye Town Museum was open which, though small, is interesting and also showed a good film on the history and people who lived in the town. The more adventurous climbed the church tower to enjoy an even better view of the surrounding countryside. In the newly refurbished Rye Art Gallery the Society of Rye Artists had their work on display as well other artists and ceramicists from around the country. Rye even has its own chocolate shop, chocolate made locally, but with high quality cocoa sourced from Central and South America.

The afternoon was spent by the whole party in Winchelsea visiting six of the town's 'secret gardens'; secret because they are not visible from the street. These were all in full spring splendour and each of us had his or her own special favourite.

The teas were excellent too!



Photos by John Christy

Bridge for Pleasure **Wednesdays 13 & 27 June**

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12 noon. Dates for your diary are **23 May, 13 and 27 June**.

The winner on 11 April was Iris Willis and on 25 April Denise Record.

New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group, so new players can just come along on the day. We play the 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner. For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy**

Science Seminar **Wednesday 13 June**

Our monthly talks for the 2017-18 season have finished but there is still the Science Seminar taking place on **Wednesday 13th June** at the East Malling Orchards Conference Centre. If you have not been before it is well worth a visit as we have organised three eminent speakers to talk on the subject of **Technology Meets Medicine - Bio Engineering & Robotics**. The speakers will introduce the state of the art robotic surgery techniques being used in modern surgery and how electronic controls are being integrated with the brain to control prosthetic limbs. Application forms were sent out with the March and April Newsletters and an application form can be found on our website:

<https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Flyer-Science-Seminar-2018-3.pdf>

Bob Ruffles

Science Group Open Meetings

We have also set up a series of talks for the 2018-19 season and the first of these will be on the 8th October and the topic will be **Adders & Reptiles** by Rick Hodges. Further details will be posted in the September Newsletter

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm.

Entry £2.00. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome

Bob Ruffles

Computer Group

The computer group does not have a Meeting in June. The next meeting will be in October.

Charles Hebert has offered to supply anyone who wants a write-up about mapping on computers and phones, following his presentation. If you would like a write-up, please email him.

Mike Davies

Ambling

Wednesday 20 June

Meet at 10 am in the Otford Village Hall car park (there is a charge of £1 for 3 hours). The walk is about 4 miles and is a circular route between Otford and Twitton. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leaders: **Derek and Sharon Stevens**

Half Day Walking

Monday 25 June

Meet in the lane opposite the Chaser at Shipbourne in time for a 10am start. TN11 9PE, NGR 593523. A 5 mile walk over flat ground to West Green Farm, Coldharbour, Cataract Cottage and Horn's Lodge. Lunch afterwards for those who wish to stay will be at the Chaser. All U3A members are welcome to join the walk.

Leader: **Nick White**

Apple Group

Monday 25 June

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

- * Whats new forum - discussion
- * Taking full advantage of Calendars - Elaine
- * Podcasts - Gwyn
- * Going paperless - Dave

Round Tables: Calendars, Podcasts & Paperless
Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2 -4 pm

Next Meeting 22nd October after the summer break

Dave Simmons

MEMBERS' CORNER

Some of you may have heard that Antique House in Knockholt where Sevenoaks U3A member Margaret Willis lived with her dog Angus was burned down on May 2. Both Margaret and Angus were saved but Margaret has lost all her possessions. Unfortunately Margaret's house insurance policy had lapsed without her realising it.

A "go fund me" page has been set up which enables people, should they so wish, to make a contribution which will help Margaret at this difficult time.

<https://www.gofundme.com/antique-house-fire>

ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Flyer for trip to Folkestone on 12 September

AGM PAPERS:

Agenda
2017 AGM Minutes
Trustees' Report
Accounts