

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

NB: The October 27th Open Afternoon at the Bat & Ball Centre has been cancelled.

The Executive Committee decided to cancel the October 27th Open Afternoon because:

- Covid-19 Infection rates were increasing in Sevenoaks by almost 25% week on week;
- Delays locally with flu and Covid-19 booster vaccinations meant that many members would not be fully immune by October 27;
- In response to an email I sent, 56 Group Organisers said they would attend, but only a few had vacancies so there would have been little to offer to members or visitors;
- Large local events were being only sparsely attended.

Having made the decision to cancel, all members with email were immediately informed. Those NOT on email are being informed by this Newsletter, posted to them. A Monthly Meeting has been reinstated on October 27th – details are at the foot of this page. A Zoom link will be sent in advance. A full programme of Monthly Meetings has been organised in the Bat & Ball Centre. The intention is that initially these will be hybrid meetings (face-to-face, but available simultaneously on Zoom). The layout of the new centre is essentially unchanged from the old building, except that the large hall has been extended.

A New Members' Meeting has

been booked in the Sevenoaks Indoor Bowling Centre on Friday Dec. 3rd 2021. 60 members who have joined since 1st September 2019 will be invited. They will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. They will have an opportunity to discuss their needs and wishes, and how they might contribute to the success of Sevenoaks u3a. Depending on the outcome, similar meetings may become a regular occurrence.

Groups are beginning to meet again, with Covid-19 precautions being taken, as advised in my last Column. The Opera Group I lead, met on October 1st and viewed Bizet's Carmen. It was great to be back together!

Dr. Ken Brown

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING—OCTOBER 27TH at 2 pm (via ZOOM)

Our speaker this month is **Janie Ramsay**, an Antique dealer with many years experience who also worked at Sotheby's as a director and later a consultant. She has visited us before to talk to us about her experience in the Antiques trade but this month's talk reflects her interest in history and is entitled **"The Disgraceful Sons of George III"**. The talk takes a no-holds-barred look at the male members of the Hanover family and what they got up to. Illegitimate children, illegal marriages, mistresses galore, money fraud, court cases and much much more.



This will be an online talk via Zoom and replaces the Open Afternoon, which we have had to postpone. The Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the event and I do hope you will join us.

Barbara Coleyshaw

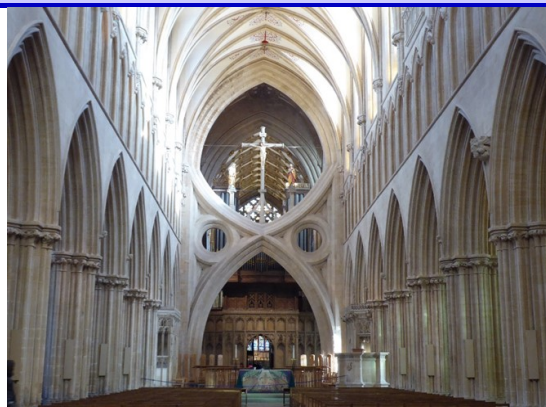
NOVEMBER DIARY

Oct 27	Bridge (9.45)	Oct 27	Monthly Meeting (14.00) via Zoom
Nov 8	Science Open Meeting (14.00) via Zoom	Nov 10	Bridge (9.45)
Nov 13	Nordic Walking (10.30)	Nov 18	Computer Open Meeting (14.00) via Zoom
Nov 20	Ambling (10.00)	Nov 24	Bridge (9.45)
Nov 24	Monthly Meeting (14.00)		

MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 24th at 2 pm

Our speaker this month is **Imogen Corrigan**, who has visited us before giving talks about Sutton Hoo, Medieval Etiquette and the Searchlight Girls of WW2, which some members may remember.

After a gap of several years we are delighted to welcome her back to give a presentation entitled **"The Master Masons – The Men Who Built The Cathedrals"**. In this talk we meet the men who designed the buildings, sourced the materials, ran the site and recruited the work force. Their creations remain to this day causing us, centuries later, to stand in awe and wonder at their exquisite work.



At the time of writing meeting arrangements, whether we meet in the Bat & Ball Centre or virtually via Zoom, have not yet been finalized, and will be confirmed nearer the time. Whatever is decided I do hope you will join us.

Barbara Coleyshaw

COMPUTER GROUP

2.00 p.m. Thursday 18th November on Zoom
A talk on **Artificial Intelligence** by **Professor Bernard Jones** of Groningen University in the Netherlands. Professor Jones has spoken to the Science Group before, and is tailoring this talk to suit the interests of the members of the Computer Group. Any member of either Sevenoaks or Knole u3a who wishes to join the meeting will be very welcome. Anyone who has already given us an email address will be invited automatically, but others should send an email to computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk and leave an email address so that we can send a link to join the meeting.
Mike Davies

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

9.45—12.00 Wednesdays 27th October, 10th November and 24th November. Our second extra session on 22nd September was attended by a disappointing 11 members - 2 less than the first one on 8th. Our new season began on Wednesday 13th October and, at the time of writing, we are hopeful that significantly more members will turn out now that the normal U3A season has started; autumn has arrived and people are hopefully getting more confident in meeting face to face. We will keep the situation under review. For more information contact **John** and **Sue Christy** on 01732 463911 or email bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

FESTIVE LUNCH

Advance Notice
The next Lunch will be at Wildernesse Golf Club on Friday, February 18th, 2022.
A booking form will accompany the next newsletter.
Pam Walshe Social Events

AMBLING

Wednesday 17th November 10.00 a.m.
Meet outside the George & Dragon at Ightham, TN15 9HH. The walk will be about 4 miles. Follow the A25 towards Borough Green, pass recreation ground on left and turn right into Sevenoaks Road immediately after a pedestrian bridge. Turn left at T-junction. Lunch for those wishing to stay will be at the George & Dragon. Leaders: **Tineke** and **John Regan** ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SCRABBLE

From **October 13th** this group is now meeting in **Sevenoaks Library**. The new leader is **Anne Gutteridge**. scrabble@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CROCHET

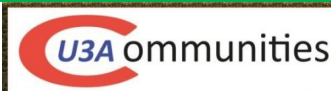
Our members were hoping to display the work they had completed via zoom sessions during "lockdown" at the Open Afternoon, but this will not now be possible. The group have been meeting face to face since the summer and have been very busy with our latest project, which was for each member to make a crochet rose. A photo of our work will appear in the next newsletter.
Pauline Gofton crochet@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesday 10th November 10.30am
Meet opposite the Buck's Head at Godden Green, TN15 0JJ. The walk will be about 3 miles. Lunch for those members who wish to stay will be at the Buck's Head. nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

U3a COMMUNITIES

This site (<https://u3acommunities.org/>) is run by a group of volunteers who share an interest in the use of technology to enhance the u3a experience. They are currently focused on sharing activities via Zoom technology. They work closely with World u3a, which has pioneered the use of video technology through its regular International Forum and websites, www.worldu3a.org and www.myu3a.org. Zoom talks are held regularly on the following subjects:



- **Art History** - explore where art and history meet. <https://u3acommunities.org/arhistory/>
- **Books** — childhood favourites and current trends. <https://u3acommunities.org/books/>
- **Climate Crisis** - inside every problem lies an opportunity. <https://u3acommunities.org/climate/>
- **Current Affairs** - a Forum for *polite* discussion of world affairs. <https://u3aforum.org/programme.html>
- **Dickens** - studying the man and his works. <https://u3acommunities.org/dickens.htm>
- **History** - the immediate and/or the far past <https://u3acommunities.org/history/index.htm>
- **Rocket Science** - becoming a multi-planet species <https://u3acommunities.org/rockets.htm>
- **Science & Technology** - the discoveries, ideas and people <https://u3acommunities.org/science/>

Beryl Mansell

SCIENCE OPEN MEETING

Dying to be Beautiful by Dr Kathryn Harkup

Monday 8th November at 2.00 p.m.

Dr Harkup is a Science Communicator and Chemist. Her talk will look at some of the stranger and more dangerous fashion trends in history. Toxic and corrosive substances were applied, swallowed and injected for the perfect complexion. Agonies were endured and lives risked for a perfect smile.

For this talk the Science Committee have decided to proceed as a Zoom webinar but we will keep the situation under review and return to face to face meetings as soon as practicable. If you attended our Zoom webinars earlier this year, we have retained your registration details and you will automatically receive an invitation nearer the time. If however, you have not registered then please send us your details via the following link. science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk **Bob Ruffles**

WALKING CRICKET

Walking Cricket is a slower paced form of the outdoor game - and it can be played indoors or outdoors. Both men and women can form teams of 6 or 8 players. All players are involved in all aspects of the game - batting, bowling and fielding. All players are Batters and are in for 2 full overs. If bowled, caught etc they remain at the wicket but lose runs from the team score. All players are also Bowlers and bowl for 2 overs. Any wickets taken add to their team score. When not bowling they are fielders. Running loses team points. Equipment is light and is similar to youngsters equipment (light air ball, light bat) so no protective clothing is needed.

There is no league to play in as yet but it is good exercise, good company and fun.

More information can be obtained on the internet from the "Walking Cricket" website. <https://www.walkingsports.com/walking-sports-knowledge-base/walking-cricket-rules/>

For more information please contact **Ray Leathers** at walkingcricket@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

SINGING FOR FUN

We have now – at last – resumed our twice monthly get-togethers. Because of Covid, we have moved to a safer, more spacious venue at the Otford Methodist Hall in Otford High Street. As always, we are accompanied by our excellent pianist, Janet Sharpe, and sing a wide range of popular songs.

As some people have now left the group, we have some vacancies (the first for many years!). As usual, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month between 2 & 4pm.

If you think you would be interested in joining us (you don't need to have a great singing voice – enjoyment is the main objective!), then please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Laurence Hickey singing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CHARITY BIKE RIDE FOR DEMENTIA UK—LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS

As reported in last month's newsletter Sevenoaks u3a member Mick Turner set off on September 14th from Land's End to try and reach John O'Groats by October 14th on his electric bike. The overall trip was 1,308 miles.

His progress so far is :

Sept 18th—Barnstaple **Sept 19th**—Taunton **Sept 23rd**—Worcester

Sept 28th—Lancaster **Oct 1st**—Gretna Green **Oct 4th**—Glasgow

Oct 6th—Pitlochry **Oct 9th**—Inverness **Oct 10th**—Lairg

Mick is doing the cycle ride to raise money for Dementia UK. If you would like to make a contribution, please go to : <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MickTurner70>



AN ADVENTUROUS HEN NIGHT

I received an invitation to join my granddaughter and her friends on her hen night. We would take the train to London, get a boat to Greenwich, then climb the Millenium Dome, followed by a meal out. There were nine of us in the group with ages ranging from 22 to 50, and myself well over 80.

At the dome, shoes and personal belongings were put in a special box. We were given trainers to wear and fitted with a harness, which would be clipped onto a thick wire running all the way up and over the dome. My granddaughter went first, I went next with the other seven members of the group behind. There was a guide going backwards and forwards checking all the harnesses were clipped on securely, and there was a thick wire rope which we used to pull ourselves up. The first few steps were easy, then came the more challenging bit. We hauled ourselves gradually up until we reached the viewing platform on top of the dome. The views over London were fantastic and well worth the climb.

Going down seemed steeper than the climb up. We were advised to go down backwards as it would be less stressful on our knees. Gradually we reached the end, then the cheers and clapping started. When I told the guide how old I was, he said that the oldest person who had previously attempted to climb the dome was 80, but they could not make it and had to be helped down. He said that I was the oldest person who had ever climbed the dome.

After we reached the ground, a photo was taken and we were led into the shop where I was presented with a teddy bear and photo for being the oldest person to climb the dome. My granddaughter contacted me the next day to thank me for making her day so memorable.

Jennifer Mahn



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Please send items to be included to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk by 10th November.

2021/2022 HANDBOOK AMENDMENTS

Unfortunately there were errors in the published handbook. Below is a list of corrections.

Page	Group	Amendment
7	This item was originally scrambled across page 7 and a number of subsequent pages.	<p>Suggestions We welcome input from our members with suggestions, as follows:</p> <p>Monthly Meetings For speakers who may be suitable, contact Barbara Coleyshaw on 01732 884381 or meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk</p> <p>Science Meetings For speakers who may be suitable, contact Bob Ruffles at scienceopen@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk</p> <p>Computer Meetings For speakers who may be suitable, contact Mike Davies at computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk</p> <p>Visits which may be of interest to our members. Contact Joyce Allen on 01959 522915 or socialsec@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk</p> <p>Topics for study days or new groups – please contact groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk</p> <p>Insurance National Office provides insurance cover for the liability of members when engaged in a u3a activity. Cover is also provided for non-members who may be attending for a “taster” session as a potential member. In all other circumstances it is important to ensure that everyone participating in any u3a activity is a fully paid up member.</p> <p>The Handbook The Handbook is updated annually in August and contains all the key information to enable members to contact the right person.</p> <p>The Newsletter The Newsletter is issued monthly 10 times a year (not in December or July). Members will receive the Newsletter either as a black & white printed version by post or a digital colour version by email. If you wish to transfer to the digital Newsletter please advise membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk providing your name and email address. The Newsletter Team welcomes articles and entries about group activities and u3a social events. These should be submitted to the Newsletter Team at news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk by the cut-off date advised in the previous month’s Newsletter.</p>
13	TABLE TENNIS 1	This is now a Knole group, run by Margaret Thorpe, (01732 460307) tabletennis@knoleu3a.org.uk
13	WALKING - THE STROLLERS	Although the information about the group was accurate, the description of the group appeared twice.
15	INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE	“We look at the varied Industrial Heritage of the UK,....” The words “look at” were originally omitted.
17	FRENCH FOR NOT QUITE BEGINNERS	This group no longer has any vacancies.
17	FRENCH CONVERSATION	This group has now agreed to meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 14:30-16:30 , <u>not</u> the 3rd Thursday as originally shown.
18	BOOK CIRCLE - THURSDAY	This group meets on the 2nd Thursday each month from 14.00-16.00 . Those details were originally omitted.

The following items appear on pages 24 to 26 under the heading of **Group Timetables**.

Italian Conversation	This group meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays , <u>not</u> 1st & 3rd.
Cycling	This group meets weekly .
Nordic Walking	This group meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month, <u>not</u> the 1st.
London Studies 2	This group meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month, <u>not</u> Thursday.
Digital Image Manipulation 1	This group meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month, <u>not</u> Thursday.
French Discussion	This entry should be deleted from the timetable.
Film Studies	Shown as a Wednesday morning group. This should be deleted.