

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The Executive Committee meets on September 1st, the first day of Autumn, but Summer is very much still with us. Following the driest first 7 months of the year since 1976, Kent is now included in a Drought Declaration affecting a swathe of Southern and Eastern English Counties. My wine group continues to meet to enjoy Summer evenings, but the other 6 or so groups I am involved in are "resting".

The first Monthly Meeting in the Bat & Ball Centre is on October 26th. Have a look at the list below of speakers organised by Speakers Secretary, Barbara Coleyshaw, and enter the topics and dates in your diaries. To improve publicity further, the reminder email will be sent a week or so beforehand. I hope that more members will attend, following the closure of the Apple Group, whose members will I hope be attracted by the first 3 sessions – all with opening talks on mobile phone topics.

Covid-19 should not be forgotten, as Groups begin meeting in September/October. Please take note of the latest TAT guidance which I have summarised below.

Finding a Group Organiser (GO) to run any potential new group has become increasingly difficult. I am grateful to Mike Davies (GO), for his item (below) aiming to reinvigorate the long established Open Computer Group. Mike kindly invited me to sit in on a committee meeting. This decided to broaden the remit of the Computer Group to include mobile phones and tablets, following the closure of the Apple Group, whose members will I hope be attracted by the first 3 sessions – all with opening talks on mobile phone topics.

And finally - THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST PRINTED COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. If you are ON EMAIL, currently receive a printed version, and have NOT contacted the Communications Officer (details below) you will not receive a printed copy of the October Newsletter.

For the rest of August -do enjoy - in the words of that popular book title - "The Last Days of Summer".

Dr Ken Brown Chairman

PRINTED NEWSLETTERS

The AGM in June agreed by a large majority that : a printed version of the monthly Newsletter be posted ONLY to members who do NOT have email, UNLESS members who have email inform the Communications Trustee that, for whatever reason, they feel they still need a printed version to be posted to them.

Those who are NOT on email need have no concerns – they will continue to receive the printed version.

The EC asks those who ARE on email to review whether, like the other 500 or so members, they could read the newsletter on whichever computer device they use.

To improve what you can see on a tablet or a smartphone, Google "How to" questions to get helpful instructions, e.g - "How to make (name and version of mobile) text easier to read". One simple option is to turn your mobile or tablet on its side (landscape). The screen should rotate, text lines will be longer, and with 2 fingers you can zoom in and out. If the screen does not rotate Google - "How to automatically rotate your screen", and so on. Children or grandchildren are usually happy to give advice! **Next month (October) those ON email, currently receiving a printed version of the Newsletter, will only receive it by email.** So far only a very small number of members have contacted the Communications Trustee on communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk **but if for whatever reason, even though you are on email, you still wish to receive a printed version, you need to contact him as soon as possible.**

The deadline will be September 10th

Dr. Ken Brown Chairman

The deadline for inclusion of items in the October Newsletter is September 15th.

OPEN COMPUTER GROUP

In recent months the computer group, in common with other groups, has suffered a decrease in attendance at its monthly open meetings such that the entrance fees received do not cover the cost of hiring the hall.

The committee has thought about ways of improving attendance whilst keeping the 'open group' format. Believing that a more hands-on approach might work, in the first 3 meetings of the 2022/23 season we are trialling a revised running order. Each meeting will therefore start with a short talk of about 20 minutes, which it is hoped would give members enough confidence to try out the topic for themselves.

- 17th October will be WhatsApp,
- 21st November—SatNav
- 19th December—Local Travel on Buses and Trains.

The rest of each session will be opened up to the audience and members will be encouraged to raise any problems which they have encountered and to bring their own tablets and phones and to discuss issues with more experienced members.

The committee want to make it quite clear that the first 3 months will be used to give us feedback for the improvement of future meetings. We hope that members will help the committee to ensure the future of the group by regular attendance and contributing to the discussions. This is the only way that the group can survive.

Mike Davies computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NATIONAL U3A ONLINE EVENTS—AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

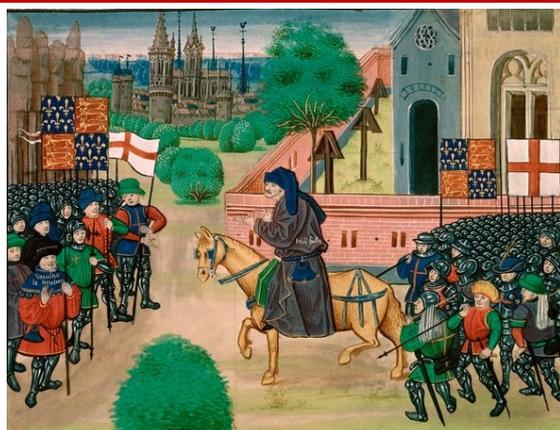
August 19th, 14.00—15.00	Going Back to the Moon: NASA's Artemis Programme	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/going-back-to-the-moon-nasas-artemis-programme-tickets-386963577477
Sept 5th, 10:00 – 11:30	Exploring World Faiths - Holy Wars or Holy Peace	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-world-faiths-holy-wars-or-holy-peace-tickets-392486546827
Sept 8th, 10:00 – 12:00	Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-cryptic-crosswords-tickets-388143255927
Sept 16th, 14:00 – 15:00	Yiddish Theatre	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yiddish-theatre-tickets-392374260977
Sept 29th, 13:45 – 15:00	Maths Activities and Games Workshop	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maths-activities-and-games-workshop-tickets-386930147487

WORLD HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES

This year we are changing the focus of the group to enable us to concentrate on a particular period covering world history. Each year our members will collectively choose a period to research and present a talk/presentation to the group enabling us to look at Art, Literature, Science, Transport, Pivotal Events, Political figures – and of course Royal Dynasties in a set time period. We have had a number of visits to various exhibitions (pre Covid) and we hope to be able to arrange a visit or two next year. And of course, we have a festive lunch! We are now meeting in each other's homes after using Zoom over the last couple of years and have room for 1 or 2 more members.

If you feel you would like to join us, please contact:

Linda Gilbert/Jennifer Ruffles medieval@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



MONTHLY MEETINGS - PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR THE 2022/2023 SEASON

26/10/22	Caroline Piper	The British Love Affair with "Tea"
Caroline is a London-based Blue Badge Tourist Guide and a Cambridge History Graduate. She will explore the history of tea drinking, starting in China, its growth in popularity amongst Europeans and finally in Britain during the Restoration.		
23/11/22	Michael Smith	The Race to the South Pole
Michael will tell us about the dramatic Race to the South Pole, recalls the intrepid mariners who braved the perilous pack ice in sailing ships and the tragic climax in the contest between Amundsen and Scott.		
25/1/23	Andy Thomas	The Story of English Freedom
Andy shines a light on England's most significant fights for 'freedom' and the movers and shakers behind them.		
22/02/23	Bob Ogley	My Life as a Journalist
Bob is a former editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle, and subsequently a writer, speaker and broadcaster and is known to the Membership from his previous visits to us. This time he will be entertaining us with stories from his time as a journalist.		
22/03/23	Toni Mount	They Dared to be Doctors
Toni is a writer, a history teacher and speaker and her presentation will tell the fascinating story of the first Victorian ladies to succeed in a man's world. Despite endless rejection they went on to pioneer women's careers in the medical profession.		
26/04/23	Ian Bevan	Historic Greenwich
Ian is a historian and lecturer and was also granted the Freedom of the City of London in a ceremony at the Guildhall. His talk tells the story of Greenwich over 2000 years with its rich Royal, Maritime and Scientific history.		
24/05/23	Ian Porter	The Real Mr Selfridge
Ian is a historian, novelist, public speaker and London walks guide. He will be telling us about Mr. Selfridge's real life and will cover his invention of things we take for granted when shopping today, his many lady friends, his incredible high spending lifestyle and ultimately his downfall.		
28/06/23	Guy Bartlett	The History of the Red Arrows
Guy's talk includes a significant amount of video footage to give the audience an immersive experience of flying with the team. (<i>This will also be our AGM</i>).		

Please put these dates in your diary.

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

The Group plays at **Otford Village Memorial Hall** on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** mornings of each month from October to the end of July, from 9.45 a.m. until 12 noon.

The winner on 27th July was Sue Christy .

New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group so new players can just come along on the day. We play ACOL in a 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner.

For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy 01732 463911** or email

bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk .

August and September – summer break.

Next sessions 12th October, 26th October

MISSING PROJECTOR & SCREEN

Please can the person who borrowed the u3a Epson Projector (Assert Ref - SU3A 31) and Portable Screen please contact me.

I loaned out the items at the end of April just before going on holiday and forgot who collected it.

We are now approaching a new season of activities and I would like to reunite the items with the appropriate kit.

Bob Ruffles

Email to :

techsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

or phone : 01732 461348

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE !

Please note that membership renewals are due in **September**. The annual membership fee is £13.00 (individual) or £26.00 (joint).

If you pay by **cheque**, please send your cheques, payable to 'U3A Sevenoaks', to:

Membership Secretary, Jennifer Ruffles, 59 Chesterfield Drive, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2EQ before the end of **September, 2022** at the latest.

If you pay by **Standing Order**, please check the date of payment with your bank. These should also be paid in **September** but some banks have been paying them much later, which can lead to confusion and could result in your membership lapsing.

Thank you.

Jennifer Ruffles, Membership Secretary membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

TWO MEMORABLE SUMMER VISITS

On a beautiful June day this summer the Social Events Committee organised a visit by coach to **Winchelsea**, one of the best preserved medieval Bastide towns in Britain. Each year some residents open their 'hidden gardens' to the public in support of the National Garden Scheme. This year there were 10 different ones to see and it was also an opportunity to visit the beautiful Parish Church of St Thomas and Wesley's charming Chapel.

Later on, at the beginning of August, there was another treat in store, a trip to **Frogmore House and Gardens** which stand in the Home Park at Windsor Castle and were purchased by Queen Charlotte in 1790. Such a visit is only possible when the House and Gardens are open to the public when Her Majesty the Queen is at Balmoral.

All of our members who went on one or both of these trips were fulsome in their praise of the trips and gratitude to the organisers.

BUT such outings are only possible because of the members of the Social Events Committee who take it in turns to organise them. The small committee is in desperate need of one or two extra members. Please consider joining us. We are a very friendly bunch and organising the trips is fun; there is always someone to give you the benefit of their experience and, if you wish, to help you with the organisation and to offer another pair of hands on the day.

INTERESTED? Contact **Pam Walshe** Tel: 01732 454769; email: social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

or **Joyce Allen** Tel: 01959 522915; email: socialsec@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NORDIC WALKING – SEPTEMBER 7TH

Meet in the parking area on the right side of the road from Leigh to Penshurst shortly before entering Penshurst for a 10.30 start. The walk will be 3½ miles in Penshurst Park. Lunch after the walk will be at the Leicester Arms.

nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AMBLING — SEPTEMBER 14TH

Meet in the parking area in the road opposite the church and the Chaser in Shipbourne for a 10.30 start. The walk will be 4 miles in the area at the back of the church. Lunch after the walk will be at the Grasshopper. The leader will be Velma Keys.

ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

LATEST COVID 19 GUIDANCE FOR U3A'S

The Third Age Trust (TAT) has updated their website to reflect the latest government advice. Currently there are no legal requirements, but TAT recommends choosing to follow these actions: 1) Get vaccinated. 2) Let fresh air in if meeting others indoors. 3) Practice good hygiene: a. Wash hands b. Cover coughs and sneezes. 4) Wear a face mask in crowded situations. Members may be encouraged to self-isolate if they have symptoms suggestive of Covid, and to take a lateral flow test before attending a u3a activity, but there is no requirement for them to do so. Also you cannot ask for another person's vaccination status, or share it with other members.

Dr Ken Brown chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 7th Nordic Walking	September 14th Ambling
October 11th Walking Tour of Soho	October 12th Bridge for Pleasure
October 17th Open Computer Group-WhatsApp	October 26th Bridge for Pleasure
November 17th Open Computer Group—SatNav	December 19th Open Computer Group—Local Travel on Buses & Trains