

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



COFFEE MORNINGS

Our coffee mornings at Miller & Carter continue to be popular, and provide a great way of keeping in touch with other members. We now ask for a contribution towards the cost, but parking remains free so long as you enter your registration number on the console inside the building. The next one will not be until **27th April**. In the meantime, there will be a more formal coffee morning for new members at the Holmesdale Cricket Club pavilion on **20th March**.

TALKS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our Speaker's Secretary lives in dread of the speaker for one of our monthly meetings cancelling at the last minute. Many of our members have

given excellent talks to their Groups and it would be good if anyone with a ready-made talk up their sleeve could give details to Barbara Coleyshaw. Her email is

meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Our Communications Officer, David Taylor, recently sent an email to all of our members using the addresses contained in our Beacon database. A large number of those emails were however returned. If you have changed your email address, could you please let him know. His email is communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some of our members have not been paying the correct subscription. It is currently £13 per member and £26 for couples. If you pay by Standing Order could you please ensure that your bank is remitting the correct amount.

Nick White

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

ROB WHITE

Rob has joined the Executive Committee with responsibility for external publicity and to liaise with organisations within the U3A network. His main task is to encourage new members to join. All members are now being asked to help our recruitment drive. Already the Website and Newsletter teams are assisting prospective new members to gain a quick picture of the many advantages of joining, and a full list of the nearly 100 specialist groups, showing those with vacancies, is being provided. Many new members are introduced by existing members and this will remain a major source for us. All members are encouraged to find a friend or colleague who is, or will shortly be, retired or part retired.

Volunteers are being sought:

- ◆ to maintain the stock of publicity flyers and Application Forms at their local clubs, societies and churches
- ◆ to submit articles and diary events for local publications such as the Sevenoaks Chronicle, InShape and CommunityAd
- ◆ to keep an up to date entry in the online publications which list what's on in Sevenoaks

If you can help, please email Rob on external@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or phone on 07597 607309. Application Forms can be obtained from **Jill Davies** on

membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



New Executive Committee member Rob White

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 25 March. 2pm at St Nicholas' Church.

Gilly Halcrow will be talking about *The Restoration of Knole*.

Following the 20 million pound restoration of Knole which spanned the years from 2012-2018 Gilly will talk about the project, the setbacks as well as the progress, which has culminated in Knole being safeguarded for future generations to enjoy. Gilly is an experienced speaker and has visited us before to talk about the Special Operations Executive.

DIARY 2020

MARCH

9 March	Science Group
11 March	Bridge for Pleasure
18 March	Ambling
16 March	Computer Group
16 March	Seminar on iPads
20 March	New Members coffee morning
23 March	Apple Group
25 March	Bridge for Pleasure
25 March	Monthly Meeting

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

AMBLING

Wednesday 18 March

Meet in the car park at Dryhill Nature Park, Dryhill Lane, Sundridge in time for a 10am start. The walk will be 4 miles with easy going. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch at the White Horse in Sundridge. All U3A members are welcome to turn up at the start without giving notice.

Leaders: Mark and Judith Hammer

COMPUTER GROUP

Monday 16 March

The March meeting will be a talk by David Taylor from the Sevenoaks U3A web team on the use of our website and the information we can glean from it. A brief outline of Beacon will be included.

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

£2 entry includes refreshments.

Mike Davies

APPLE GROUP.

**iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch
Monday 23 March**

- Editing your videos in iMovie - Gwyn
- Getting everything working together - Elaine
- Showing your photos in Keynote - Dave
- Get your discount voucher worth £200 at this meeting.
- Round Tables: Basic knowledge sharing & Improving knowledge sharing

Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2-4 pm

Next Meetings: **Monday 27th April** joint meeting with Computer Group

No meeting in May as 4th Monday is Spring Bank Holiday

Call or email **Dave Simmons** for more details

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Wednesdays 11 and 25 March

The Group plays at Otford Village 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 winners in January were Iris Willis and Peter Quick.

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**

SCIENCE GROUP

Monday 9 March

High Power Lasers - Using high powered lasers and plasmas to make compact particle accelerators. Dr Robert J Shalloo

Dr Rob Shalloo is a Research Associate within the John Adams Institute for Accelerator Science working with a group on the development of plasma-based particle accelerators. He predominantly focuses on experimental work, both locally and at national facilities such as the Central Laser Facility. The Central Laser Facility provides a broad spectrum of laser facilities, from high intensity laser systems to ultra-fast sources and laser microscopy techniques. Underpinning the laser facilities are enabling capabilities, from computational plasma physics to target micro-fabrication and engineering. The talk will address the application of High Power Laser technology to future science and engineering activity.

Admission £1.00 at the door

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

Bob Ruffles science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

WARNING: WINDOWS 7 – RIP

Microsoft withdrew support for their computer operating system, Windows 7, in January. There is no need to panic, but you should not carry on using Windows 7 indefinitely. Don't be complacent: you may have used the same road every day for the last 10 years, but there's no guarantee that a sinkhole won't appear in it tomorrow! You should consider the need to move off Windows 7 more urgent if you make payments online, or use online banking.

Upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10 is not a

trivial exercise, and for older machines may well be impossible. The simplest way to move off Windows 7 is to get a new machine.

Whatever you decide to do, don't contemplate it until you have securely backed up your data, and checked that you can retrieve data from your backup.

The Tech Support group may be able to advise on some aspects of any update. You can contact them by email: techsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Charles Hebert, on behalf of the Computer Group Committee



From the Book of Kells

HOLIDAY TO IRELAND May 2021

Joyce Allen has provided a brief summary of a possible **Holiday to Dublin and surroundings for May 2021** and would like to know the extent of the interest in this proposal. Please contact Joyce by phone 01959 522915 or email: social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk to let her know if such a break might appeal to you.

We have been offered a trip to Ireland next year departing from Gatwick airport. The hotel is situated on the outskirts of Dublin close to the Wicklow Mountains (15 single rooms and 14 twin-bedded rooms).

The approximate cost is £699 half-board, (supplement of £99 for a single room).

DAY 1

Flight from Gatwick Airport (coach from Sevenoaks).

Visit to Russborough House and Gardens.

DAY 2

Brief introductory tour of Dublin, including a visit to Trinity College, where the Book of Kells can be seen. In the afternoon, a visit to the National Gallery of Ireland.

DAY 3

Visit to Powerscourt Garden in the Wicklow Mountains and an exhibition in the house, followed by a visit to Glendalough

DAY 4

Visit to Dublin to see the castle, state apartments and the Chester Beatty Library. Visit National Botanic Garden of Ireland, or a free afternoon in Dublin.

DAY 5

Morning visit to the Irish Emigration Museum, and flight home in the afternoon.

SEMINARS**SCIENCE SEMINAR 2020.**

Wednesday 3 June

Orchards Conference Facility, East Malling Research

Our Seminar this year will be looking at **Plastics Pollution**, addressing the market place, alternatives to plastics and the recycling industry. The Plastics industry is the third largest contributor to the UK economy and our speakers will address the following topics

Background to The UK Plastics industry, Output and economic considerations. Stephen Hunt - Director Membership Services – British Plastics Federation

Developing sustainable polymers - the design of new versatile catalysts for polymerisation reactions. Dr Charles Romain - Junior Research Fellow, Imperial College London

The Recycling Industry: Molecular Stewardship – new business models to deliver a circular economy for plastics. Keith Freegard C.Eng, MICHEM E - Keith Freegard Consulting Ltd.

A flyer and application form will be issued shortly.

Bob Ruffles 01732461348
science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

TWO IPAD SEMINARS

Monday 16th March and Wednesday 8th April

A number of U3A members have iPads and would like to get the best use out of these wonderful Apple devices, so the U3A Apple Group have put together two seminars from one of the local experts.

The first beginners' seminar will be held on **Monday 16th March** between 2 and 4 pm, and the second seminar will be on **Wednesday 8th April** between 10am and 12 noon, both at Otford Methodist Church Hall.

The suggested topics are as follows:

Basic Seminar

Apps - Using, moving, deleting, grouping, adding from App Store

Gestures - Settings - iCloud - Contacts setting up and managing - Calendar entries and editing - Emails - sending, replying, adding attachments - Safari - basic tips for using safely.

More Advanced

Settings - Bluetooth - Pages - Numbers - Multi-tasking - Siri - Maps - Photos - Wallet.

To book a place please email Dave Simmons

GROUP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

New members are needed to join this team.

Helping to set up new groups is the main task for this committee. You would also be involved in helping to set up events, such as the 25th Anniversary Party that was held last September; new members' coffee mornings; a biannual Group Organisers' Lunch; the Group Organisers' Open Afternoon, for GOs to attract new members; and finally, gathering information for the production of the Annual Handbook in collaboration with the Communications & Web Teams.

Please contact Elaine

LANGUAGE GROUPS

In recent times we have lost some of our language groups and would welcome any members who feel that they could start a new group. We currently only have French, German and Italian. Perhaps we could look at Spanish? – is there anyone out there who could offer the skills & enthusiasm for opening a new group for our members.

Please contact Elaine



ETHICS GROUP

Photo: Victoria Granville



The Ethics Group relaxing after a rigorous debate on 'Should we apologize for our historic mistakes?' Although the Group is full at the moment, please contact Victoria Granville ethics@sevenoaksu3a.org if you would like to join the waiting list.

THIS MONTH'S LIST OF GROUPS WHICH WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A complete list of vacancies is attached in the flyer.

CROSSWORDS	Sheila Bonnett	01959 522401	crosswords@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
GARDEN GROUP 5	Di Taylor	01732 465052	garden5@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
TABLE TENNIS 2	Diana Esler	01732 465089	tabletennis2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

FLYERS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

List of Group vacancies