

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



This will be the last newsletter produced by the existing team. Elizabeth Purves, Victoria Granville Baxter and Celia Smith have done a magnificent job for a number of years, but the time has come for other members to take their places. **HELP NEEDED!** We have volunteers,

at least in the short term, for setting out and proofreading, but we still need an editor. That role involves reminding the regular contributors a few days in advance, making sure that all the text is in the same font and size, and then transferring the material onto a single Word document. That document together with photographs is sent to the other members of the team. It is then set out in Microsoft Publisher, and after proofreading it is sent to the printers in Maidstone. There are still 370 members who have their newsletters delivered in printed form. Most members though receive theirs by email, which has the advantage of being in colour and arriving several days earlier.

Government rules regarding meetings seem to be changing almost every day. As at 9th September it seems that meetings of any six people in homes are now permitted – but it may be different next week. That may allow some groups to resume meetings in members' homes. However, meetings of more than six in parks, pubs, clubs and restaurants are no longer permitted. No mention has so far been made of halls, some of which have been allowing meetings of up to 30. If your group would like to meet in a hall you should make contact with the hall management to find out what is permitted. Any costs for hiring a hall have to be met by the group.

We will shortly be sending out a questionnaire. The purpose is to find out what you do in U3A, what improvements you can suggest, ways in which you could use your skills, and ways in which you could offer help. I hope you will be able to find the time to complete the form when it arrives.

Best wishes

Nick White [chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## MONTHLY MEETING & AGM

Because of the Covid-19 situation, we will be holding the October Monthly Meeting and AGM 'virtually' using Zoom on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. The **Monthly Meeting** will start at **2 pm**, followed by the **AGM** at **3 pm**.



At the Monthly Meeting, our speaker, **Dr Richard Rawlins**, will give a presentation entitled ***Secrets of Alternative Medicine***. Amongst other things, he is a consultant surgeon, lecturer, expert witness and author. He will be exposing the myths and the truths about alternative medical

therapies. One of our members has already heard his talk which is factual, but also amusing and entertaining, and is highly recommended.

To give all members the opportunity to vote on the **AGM Motions**, and to simplify the proceedings of the meeting, members are being given the opportunity to vote on the motions in advance of the meeting. Members who receive the Newsletter by post will find an enclosed **Postal Voting Form**. Members for whom we have a valid email address will receive an email giving a link to an **Online Voting Form**. (If you receive both, please use the Online Voting Form in preference to the Postal Voting Form.)

The **AGM Motions** include nominations to the Executive Committee and acceptance of the 2020 Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2019/20, which were distributed with the July Newsletter.

The main purpose of the virtual AGM will be to endorse the result of the voting process, but there will also be an opportunity to discuss matters arising from the Trustees' Report and the Annual Accounts, which were distributed with the July Newsletter.

If you wish to attend the virtual AGM, please email the Secretary, who will send you a web link in the week before the meeting to enable you to join the Zoom meeting.

Chris Dance

[secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

[social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

The Social Events committee will start to send out flyers and information in the New Year, by which time we hope that it will be clearer to us what might be possible. In the meantime it would be very useful to know from members what places they might like to visit (assuming it is safe to do so) and by what mode of transport. You might also take this time to consider what you might have to offer the committee - new helpers on the committee always welcome.

Please contact the chairman Pam Walshe with any ideas and offers to assist.

You are also alerted to the fact that The Stag has opened and is running a very attractive programme in a COVID-friendly, socially distanced way. Some of us have seen the latest version of **Emma** (excellent) in the cinema and found that everything was running very smoothly and safely.

**Vicki Joyce**

[social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## DIARY 2020

### OCTOBER

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 October         | Nordic Walking                |
| 12 October        | Science Group                 |
| 19 October        | Computer Group                |
| 21 October        | Ambling                       |
| <b>28 October</b> | <b>Monthly Meeting</b>        |
| <b>28 October</b> | <b>Annual General Meeting</b> |

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Elaine Knight-Elston

[groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### TABLE TENNIS 2

Table Tennis 2 group are delighted to announce that the group recommenced on 19th August. The Group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning from 10.00 - 12.00 at Otford Village Memorial Hall for informal singles play. New players welcome. Please contact Diana Esler if you are interested in joining.

**Diana Esler**

[tabletennis2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)



## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS (cont'd)

### **SCIENCE OPEN MEETING NEWS**

As reported last month we will be starting our Science talks on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 14:00hrs**. This will be run as a Zoom webinar. In preparation for this our U3A has purchased the Pro-Zoom version that gives much greater flexibility over running such meetings.

Our subject, not as advertised in the Handbook, is:

***The manufacture of Ammonium-nitrate based fertiliser products and some major Ammonium nitrate accidents*** by **Rob Weighill**.

The talk will describe high profile incidents where ammonium nitrate (AN) has detonated causing widespread devastation, Beirut being the latest in quite a large number. Ammonium nitrate is commonly used in agriculture as a fertilizer and is generally safe if stored and used appropriately. However, it can be energetic and if stored or used improperly it may detonate.

Rob is one of our members and had a 50-year career at Fort Halstead, spending a considerable part of his time researching and analysing AN, and carrying out trials into its misuse. Rob is hoping to relay some information from one of our members who was in Beirut at the time of the recent explosion.

To join this webinar we do ask that you register with the Science Committee via the following link by giving your name and email address so that we can then send out joining instructions. [scienceday@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:scienceday@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

Please keep watch on our website where we will post information about further meetings.

<https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk>

**Bob Ruffles** [science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### **COMPUTER GROUP**

**Monday 19 October**

The Computer Committee is hoping to organize a virtual meeting using Zoom on the 19<sup>th</sup> October at 14.00. The format will be a question and answer session. This will require help from members and you are invited to submit details of an IT issue which is troubling you, for comments by a panel, which the committee will put together.

Please submit questions to

[computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

Any member who wishes to join the meeting but not submit a question will be welcome but will need to inform us in advance, using the address given, and leaving an email address to which we can send a link to join the meeting.

**Mike Davies**

[computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### **APPLE GROUP**

**Ipad, imac, iphone and Apple Watch**

We had booked the Otford Methodist Church Hall for the 26th October to run the next Apple Group Meeting. Boris has just said that we can only have 6 people at a time and the Methodist Hall has decided not to rent out the hall until 2021. Paul, Elaine, Gwyn, Shirley and Dave are meeting on Monday 14th September to discuss where we go from here. If you are not a member of the Apple Group please send an email to David Simmons with your name and email address and we will send you any updates.

Elaine, Shirley, Gwyn, Paul & Dave

The Apple Group Committee

[apple@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:apple@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### **AMBLING**

**Wednesday 21 October**

Meet outside the Green Man pub in Hodsoll Street, TN15 7LE in time for a 10.30 start. Turn left off the Wrotham to Meopham road to reach the village and follow signs to the pub. The walk is 3 ½ miles to Fairseat and Stansted. It goes through some lovely countryside with one moderate hill. There will be an optional lunch in the garden of the Green Man after the walk.

Leader: **Nick White**

### **NORDIC WALKING**

Joint group with Knole U3A

**Wednesday 7 October**

Meet in Dryhill Nature Park, Dryhill Lane, Sundridge, in time for a 10.30 start. The walk will be no more than 3 miles and will include some exercises. A few spare sets of poles will be available for those without their own to borrow. There will be optional lunch outside a nearby pub after the walk.

Leaders: **Ian Galletti** (Knole) and **Nick White** (Sevenoaks)

### **EUROPE TODAY**

The group have space for another member. If interested, please contact John Harris.

**John Harris**

[europe@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:europe@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)



## AGM ELECTIONS



Rob White has been nominated to join the Executive Committee as member for External Affairs and Publicity. The Membership Secretary, Jill Davies, and Chair of the Social Committee, Pam Walshe, have completed their terms of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution.

## GOODBYE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM



## Goodbye from us! Celia, Elizabeth and Victoria

After 5 years in the job, this is the last Newsletter we shall be putting together. We hope you have found it useful as a way of keeping in touch, and liked reading the 50 or so issues we have enjoyed working on. Of course, there wouldn't be a Newsletter at all without the contributions

of many members, so thank you for those. A special thank you to the regular contributors and, of course, to all our readers. It's time now for others to take over.

**Celia Smith, Elizabeth Purves and Victoria Granville**

**DON'T FORGET** to visit the Sevenoaks 2020 exhibition at the Kaleidoscope gallery at Sevenoaks Library. All your favourite town centre people are featured. Visit the website [www.sevenoaks2020.com](http://www.sevenoaks2020.com) to watch the video and buy the book. *Elizabeth and Victoria*

# SEVENOAKS

## IN A TIME OF CHANGE

DYNAMISM DIVERSITY RESILIENCE





**KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY**  
7th September - 17th October 2020  
10AM - 4PM DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

240 photographic portraits of people and places throughout Sevenoaks Town in the year 2020

Sevenoaks **kaleidoscope** gallery  
A Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum artist led space  
Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 1LQ

[www.svaf.co.uk](http://www.svaf.co.uk)

