

Chairman's note

Welcome to a new season of U3A activity, which started with the Open Day organised by the Group Development Committee in response to the output from the series of Group Organisers Meetings last June. It was very well supported by Group Organisers and the membership as a whole. My thanks to all involved for the time and effort put into making the afternoon a success.

The Executive would like to get feedback from all Group Organisers as communication is key to building the U3A into an organisation you want. It exists on the basis of self-help, and everyone needs to play a part. To this end the next Group Leaders' coffee morning, planned for 2 February, will be an opportunity for you to give us your thoughts on some of the other topics raised in June. This is a two-way process, and I would also like to understand more about the profile of each study group. So do not be surprised if, in due course, Beryl and her team seek out information about your group: your co-operation would be most helpful. The reason for this exercise is to help the Executive Committee plan for the future. The U3A nationally is growing and we can see that our own group is following the national trend. In Kent there are new groups being formed. I represent us in the Kent Network therefore, to play an effective part in this, I need a better understanding of our own internal affairs.

We are always seeking potential new members to assist in running the organisation. If you feel you can play an active part then please talk with one of us.

Bob Ruffles

Paxiscope

We are looking at equipment we no longer use, and wonder if members could use this item in their group, or possibly in another organisation. The Paxiscope (a light, modern version of the traditional epidiascope) is in good working order. It is basically a box with a bulb, and can project the image on a postcard or a book onto a screen, with no need for either the laptop or the MMP. Free of charge to a good home.
Contact John Bonnett 01959-522401

Newsletter

October 2011

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 23 November
Community Centre, Bat and Ball, start at 2pm.

The Story of Knole and the Sackvilles

Robert Sackville-West, 7th Lord Sackville (2004), writer and journalist, published his book *Inheritance: the Story of Knole and the Sackvilles* in 2010. He will be telling us the story of a great house, describing its history and, according to the historian and journalist Lucy Worsley, of its 'peculiar family'. Indeed Vita Sackville-West found her ancestors fascinating but repellent: 'a rotten lot, and nearly all stark-raving mad'. The author himself suggests that Knole itself drove many of his ancestors to despair.

Science Group Monday 14 November
Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. £2 entry includes tea.

The Shorne Woods Community Archaeological Project

Andrew Mayfield describes a seven years' investigation covering 8000 years of habitation.

Computer Group Monday 21 November
Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. £1 entry includes tea.

Computing for the Older and Wiser

The speaker will be **Sean McManus**, author of several books in the 'Computing for the Older and Wiser' series, published by the U3A Trust, including guides to Social Networking, Microsoft Office and the iPad. He also writes for a number of computer magazines.

Further details of Sean and his full list of publications can be found at www.sean.co.uk

Car parking is always difficult, both at Otford and at the Community Centre, so please share cars if at all possible.

Please send copy for the November Newsletter by **Friday, 11 November 2011**
to both Linda Young
and Magda Sweetland

SEE U3A 2011 HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER

News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

Actions on the Group Development Report

The recommendations made as a result of the four Group Organisers' meetings in the summer were:

1. Take a survey of current group membership.
2. Introduce a register of study group interests.
3. Hold Group Organisers' Coffee Mornings.
4. Reintroduce the Open Afternoon.
5. Write a Group Organisers' Handbook.
6. Encourage Subject Networks, to suit GOs.

Here is the progress so far, and some plans for the future:

1. We intend to start on this process this autumn.
2. David Jackson, Organiser of the ***Europe Today*** group, has agreed to start to compile a register of the interests of new members. We hope this may lead to the formation of groups in unusual subjects, and those that we don't already run.
3. The first Group Organisers' **Coffee Morning** was held on 5 September. We will repeat these in a more structured way, with a different topic for discussion at separate tables, led by the Group Development Team. Next date is **Thursday 2 February 2012** at 10.30am at The Bullfinch, Riverhead.
4. The Open Afternoon was held on Wednesday 28 September and, although the attendance was lower than it has been in the past, it produced some very pleasing results. See report below.
5. ***Time to Learn in Sevenoaks***



This booklet on running a Group was compiled by Celia Smith and Magda Sweetland and has been issued to all GOs. It has been well received and should continue to be a reference guide for some time to come. A digital copy is on the Sevenoaks website for all the members to consult or download.

www.sevenoaksu3a.org.

6. Subject Networks - this development has not really taken place, but it is in hands of the GOs themselves. We would like to encourage co-operation between the groups, so that each GO knows what happens in parallel groups, where there are some spaces to which they can direct inquiries they receive, and that the groups share resources, visits, etc as they find convenient.

In addition:

We hope to hold a single **Consultation Meeting** every TWO years, and follow that with a lunch for all the Group Organisers who attend. Very many GOs said they found the process more interesting and valuable than coming to a purely social lunch. They appreciated having a chance to 'talk business' with their colleagues, as well as to renew acquaintance.

Magda Sweetland

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

The Open Afternoon was attended by about 80 Group Organisers. There were some excellent outcomes with seven or eight new groups starting as a direct result of the afternoon (see page 3/4), while many existing groups recruited a few new members and about a dozen newcomers joined on the day.



There was a very lively atmosphere, with members not only enrolling in groups but catching up with friends and the latest news. Tea and the delicious cakes made and served by Ann Howard and her group of helpers were well received too.

Groups with spaces:

These are Study Groups which have a few spaces. Full details of times, etc are in the 2011 Handbook. Please apply direct to the Group Organiser.

Art - History of Art

The group discusses all areas of the history of art. Members choose the topics and the selection is stimulated by exhibitions or personal taste. Each member is asked to introduce one subject a year.

Peter Brignell ☎ 01732-457238

Book Circle – Thursday

We continue our mix of mainly contemporary fiction, biography, travel and two classics, all chosen by members, who then introduce their choice and lead the ensuing discussion.

Gwyneth Miller ☎ 01959-522115

Bridge - Teams Bridge

Friendly games of Teams Bridge are played each month in members' homes. We hold introductory sessions on teams bridge for newcomers. A bridge partner and an email address will be needed.

Pat and David Wells ☎ 01883-716628

Ceramics

Beginners and more experienced members work in clay to develop their ideas and produce a range of vessels and sculptures. £10 per term to cover lighting and heating. Materials charged by weight.

Abigail Bicheno ☎ 01959-525388

Circle Dancing

Circle dances can be lively or gentle, meditative or exciting. You don't need experience or a partner. Dance bare-foot or in soft-soled shoes. Cost £4 or £18 for 6 sessions.

Sandie Wade ☎ 01732-451223

French - Further

For fairly fluent members: we prepare short passages which we read out. We vary sessions with conversation, grammar exercises and listening to tapes and records. 3 vacancies.

Gwyneth Miller ☎ 01959-522115

Garden Group 5

A practical gardening group meets to exchange advice and ideas drawn from experience on all things gardening. Occasionally we visit a local private garden or nursery, if the group wishes.

Jennifer Mahn ☎ 01732-459295

Geology - Past and Present

This group studies the geological history of the Earth with relevant dates. Each topic leads to wide-ranging discussion. 2 vacancies.

Tove Horntvedt-Phillips ☎ 01732-465396

History of Transport

The group covers all land transport. Members prepare topics of their choice. The talks are followed by lively discussions.

Michael Harwood ☎ 01732-460990

Indoor Bowls

The group plays at the Hollybush Centre, and is for those who are keen to learn and play bowls but experience is not necessary. Sessions cost £5 (£3 for members of Hollybush).

Barbara Hine ☎ 01732-459779

Italian Self-help Year 4

Our Group will continue to develop a range of oral, comprehension and written skills using Textbooks, CDs, radio and newspaper extracts. 2 vacancies.

Linda and Peter Young ☎ 01732-465615

Recorders Group 2 (Consort Recorder)

We enjoy playing a variety of music written for ensemble groups and would welcome players of any member of the recorder family who would like to join us for fun and enjoyment.

Mary Wakeling ☎ 01732-455579

Walking - The Strollers

A gentle walk followed by a pub lunch if desired. Starting at 11 am for a walk of about one and a half hours. This group is aimed at those who no longer feel able to manage the Ambling group.

Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732-454923

Whist

Our aim is to play whist in a friendly, informal manner. Meetings are held in members' homes for both beginners and more experienced players. At present we meet twice a month.

Jill Saunders ☎ 01732-761790

Writing for Pleasure

We are a friendly group, who write prose, poetry and stories which we share with each other in a warm and supportive atmosphere.

(Mrs) Sam Burford ☎ 01732-838055

New Groups

If you are interested in joining any of these study groups, please contact the Organiser directly.

Industrial Heritage

This new group will look at aspects of industrial heritage, and its impact on social life. Members research and present their chosen topic at one meeting, then lead a visit concerning this topic.



Ron and Janice Harding

☎ 01732-761076

Easy French Conversation

This is a group for people with some knowledge of the language who wish to improve their fluency in French in a laid-back manner. There will be no grammar, and no formal set homework. 1st & 3rd Wednesday am. **Corinne Milan** ☎ 01732 460560

Film Studies 2

The original Film Studies group has chosen to focus on aspects of world cinema but it will be for members to decide how the new group will run.

Peter Nixon from Film Studies 1 will offer advice about practical aspects of running the group such as obtaining films. Space for one more. Contact

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

Military History 2

There has been strong demand for Military History, so that a second group is to be formed running along similar lines to the original group who are offering help. There will be an initial meeting on Monday 7 November at 2pm. To attend, or be kept advised of developments, contact **John Stanton** ☎ 01732 886647

Painting and Drawing 2

This new group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Cricketts Farm. The cost is £10 for the year (to October 2012). There is no formal instruction, but help comes from each other.

Pamela Murphy and Jack Parker will take it in turns to help. Room for 2 more members. Contact

Pamela Murphy on ☎ 01732 365484

Spanish

A meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 November 2.30pm to launch a new group in Spanish. We will decide on a time and day, locate someone who will organise the list of members, and try to find the right level. Two separate groups, **Beginners** and **Spanish Conversation**, might be formed. Contact **Magda Sweetland** ☎ 01732 461901

Telling Stories

This subject appeals to a strong instinct: to hear and to recount stories in the ancient way, by talking together in a group. This is the source of many of favourite stories, rhymes, fairy tales and ballads. But it appeals to grown-ups too! The group has a handful of members, ready to try something different. No need to feel daunted. We are all beginners! **Janet Austin** ☎ 01732 460578

Women in the World 2

This group - supported by members of Group 1 - will look at the role of women everywhere, taking it in many directions. The original group has covered diverse themes: Women in the Lancashire Cotton Industry, C18th Bluestockings and Women in Science.

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

NOTE: There are some spaces left for the double visit by coach to The Wallace Collection and **Leonardo in Milan** at The National Gallery. Dates are Sunday 20 November and Sunday 4 December. Flyer in September Newsletter and on the website. Ring Jenny Smith ☎ 01732-453314

Enclosed are flyers for three forthcoming events. Please apply at once but remember, where we expect heavy demand, we keep applications for 10 days or so and then hold a ballot. Any spare places are then offered to Knole and they operate a similar system so that the 'home' U3A has priority.

- **Pantomime** organised by Pamela Murphy and members of the inexhaustible Drama group, Friday 2 December.
- **Festive Lunch** Friday 6 January, Westerham Golf Club, our favoured venue for this event.
- **Trip to York** Monday 30 April - Friday 4 May 2012. This is a 5-day rather than 4-day trip,

but we have managed to keep the cost around £300 with a moderate single supplement.

- Informal members' **Coffee Mornings** continue at 10.30 on the second Tuesday of the month, at The Bullfinch Pub, Riverhead.

Events Open to All

Friday Lunch

Friday 4 November

The Padwell Arms, Stone Street, 12.15 for 12.30.

Please confirm by Wednesday 2 November to Norna & Derek Munson ☎ 01959 523076

Bridge for Pleasure

Wednesdays 9 & 23

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 12 October was Franz Berger. This is an 'Open' group: new players are always welcome.

Contact Colin and Mary Butson ☎ 01732 458356

Strollers

Tuesday 15 November

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Lullingstone Park.

The walk will start at 11.00am. It is along the river in the direction of Eynsford, and will be followed by an optional lunch at the Visitor Centre.

Leader Penny Watts ☎ 01732 886844

Ambling

Wednesday 16 November

Meet at Kemsing Village Hall car park (MR 557588) for an approx. 4-mile walk starting at 10.00am.

Kemsing Village Hall is next to the church, and close to the junction of High Street with St Edith's Road. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007

Half-Day Walking

Monday 28 November

Meet outside the Leicester Arms, in the centre of Penshurst, for a 10am start. Park behind the hotel or on-street. The walk will be about five miles, followed by optional lunch at the Leicester Arms.

Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

Diary

November

Fri	4	First Friday lunch
Tue	8	Coffee Morning, The Bullfinch
Wed	9	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	14	Science Group Meeting
Tue	15	Strollers
Wed	16	Ambling
Sun	20	Wallace Collection & Leonardo**
Mon	21	Computer Group Meeting
Wed	23	Bridge for pleasure
Wed	23	Monthly Meeting
Mon	28	Half Day Walking

December

Fri	2	Christmas Entertainment*
Sun	4	Wallace Collection and Leonardo **

January 2012

Fri	6	Festive Lunch*
-----	---	----------------

* Flyer this month

** Flyer in September

Editorial team: Magda Sweetland, Linda Young, Robin Tonge and John Spurway