

### Chairman's note

This Newsletter is the last before our summer break, and looking back over the year I think we have continued to provide a wide and varied programme of activities. Our membership numbers remain around 900 but the number of groups has increased as a result of the Open Afternoon last September. This event will be repeated again this year, as it is an opportunity for all the Study Groups to show off their work and for members new and old to consider what is on offer. Please look out for the notice with full details in August.

So I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing break from U3A activities, and I look forward to the next season where we have a number of activities planned.

Bob Ruffles  
 ☎ 01732 461348

### Meetings open to all

There are no general Monthly Meetings, nor meetings of the Science and Computer Groups, until October. The full programme for 2012-13 will be printed in the new Handbook.

The next meeting will be the Open Afternoon, to be held at the Community Centre, Bat and Ball on Wednesday 26 September, 2-4pm. Full details will appear in the next Newsletter, which will be sent with the Handbook and Membership cards on Monday 13 August.

### Science Group visit, Wednesday 11 July

There are a few spaces still available on the Science Group's visit to the Shorne Woods Archaeological Site which was advertised in May. Phone Frank Matthews ☎ 01732 456512 if interested, **before Wednesday 4 July.**

### Summer Show

We regret that, due to unavoidable circumstances, the **Summer Show at Cricketts Farm** which was flagged up in the May Newsletter has had to be cancelled.

This is a disappointment to the many fans of these events, and also to the cast! However, the troupe hopes to be back at Christmas with another full-scale entertainment.

### Spare places for Audley End

Knole is running a coach trip to Audley End, near Saffron Walden and has some spare place to offer Sevenoaks members. These lands were originally given by Henry VIII to Sir Thomas Audley, who adapted the abbey buildings to create a personal mansion. Rebuilt and modified by subsequent generations, Audley End is now a text book of English Architecture, featuring in miniature every style from Tudor to Victorian.

**Date:** Thursday 13 September 2012  
**Cost:** £18 per person includes return coach travel, gratuity, parking paid at Baker's Yard, U3A group entrance to Audley End through EH, coffee & biscuits on arrival and a guided tour.

**Contact:** Mike Willsher ☎ 01732 469166

### Diary

#### July

Mon	2	Titsey Place***
Fri	6	First Friday lunch
Wed	11	Science Group: Shorne Woods**
Wed	11	Bridge for pleasure
Tues	17	Strollers
Wed	18	Ambling
Thurs	19	Kent Study day Architecture***
Mon	23	Half Day Walking
Wed	25	Bridge for pleasure

#### August

Fri	3	First Friday lunch
Wed	8	Mansion House and Guildhall**
Mon	20	Half Day Walking

#### Sept

Tues	4	Crossing Temple/Ingatstone Hall*
Tues	18	Strollers
Tues	18	Walk round Edenbridge*
Mon	24	Walk round Edenbridge

\* Flyer this month  
 \*\* Flyer in May  
 \*\*\* Flyer in April

Please send copy for the Summer Newsletter by **Friday, 3 August 2012** to both ☎ [pethelind@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pethelind@yahoo.co.uk) and ☎ [MASweetland@talktalk.net](mailto:MASweetland@talktalk.net)

**SEE U3A 2011 - 2012 HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

## News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

### Some Farewells

At the AGM this year we say goodbye to several members who have served on the Committee, or carried out other essential work for the U3A in Sevenoaks.

**Frank Matthews** has served for six years as Chairman of the Science group, and for four of those on the Executive. In that time, there have been many excellent talks arranged by the Science Group. They have also taken on other activities under Frank's leadership, including successful Study Days, at Bore Place and elsewhere, and visits to sites of special scientific interest. The programme has created a strong following among members, and continues to keep a healthy gender balance and spread of subjects. Frank has also written two booklets in our series to highlight the work of groups or individuals: ***Bygone Industries of Kent*** and ***When Women Flew Spitfires***. The Chairman of the Science Group from the AGM will be **Win Gutteridge**.

**Chris Streets** has been Chairman of the Computer Group for four years, in which the Group has continued with its popular programme of talks and demonstrations on all aspects of computing. Special workshops on computer related topics, usually photographic manipulation, have been well supported. The Group has also arranged training, whether for beginners, or specialist sessions. It continues to offer a wide-ranging service for our members at all levels.

**Mike Bamforth** takes on the role of Computer Group Chairman from the AGM.

**Brian Watson** has been the Hall Manager for the Monthly Meetings since 2009, an important function that involves liaison with the Town Council offices over bookings and the provision of caretaker services, and also a knowledge of where everything is in the Community Centre - and how it works! Health and Safety in the hall is a key consideration, as is the smooth running of all aspects of the afternoon, so that the talk itself is enjoyable for the many members who attend.

**Derrick Shaw** has carried out what is probably the most time-consuming task in the U3A portfolio, that of Membership Secretary. Running a database of 900 names is no easy matter in itself, but in the last four years we have also added the details of Gift Aid and Standing Order payments, creating extra fields and extra work. We also e-mail Group Organisers more than we once did, and extrapolate other data for mailing labels, or making returns to National Office, and so the Membership Secretary is always busy from day to day. Derrick has managed to stay cheerful and patient throughout! Derrick will work off-Committee until we find a replacement.

**Peter George** has worked as the Examiner for the Sevenoaks U3A Accounts since 1995, and has therefore been our only Examiner since we started, and the longest serving member in the same capacity. This was a simple job at the outset, with one account and not a great deal of money in it! We soon added a second account for Social Events, as required by the Charity Commission, and then a Science and a Computer account. Every Treasurer who has dealt with Peter over the years has appreciated his thoroughness, and has come to respect his tact in asking those searching questions. From 2012, **Richard Baxter** will carry out this work.

**John Bonnett** stood down from the Executive four years ago, but has continued as our technical adviser, in charge of purchasing and maintaining equipment. This now numbers five sets of laptop plus projector for use by the various Study Groups, and John needed a computerised diary to manage the sequence of bookings. John has also carried out the routine, two-yearly PAT testing on all our electrical property. The extent of the work becomes apparent when it takes a team of twelve members to split it into manageable proportions. John is now taking a well-earned rest.

We thank all these members for their input to Sevenoaks U3A over the last eighteen years. We are very fortunate to have a membership with a high level of ability, and of commitment to the organisation, so that they are willing to share their skills for the benefit of all.

### Changes in Committee Structure

We have previously reported that the Executive carried out a review of the way it functions, and decided to make changes.

Some of the sub-Committees (**Social Events**, **Science** and **Computer** groups) will no longer be represented on the Executive. We have formed two new Committees, called **Recruitment and Membership**, and **Meetings** (which will incorporate Study Days).

The aim is to have members on the Executive who represent the core functions which are relevant to everyone in the U3A. However, the Chairmen of the other Committees - including the new **Technical Support Team** - will be invited to attend once a year to air their views, and will give a regular report on their area in time for the Executive meetings.

Members of the **Extended Committee** are being incorporated into full Committees, so that everyone has a support system to fall back on.

## News from the Groups

---

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

There are some new or re-launched groups which will appear in the 2012 Handbook. We do prefer members to come to the Open Afternoon at the end of September to talk to the Group Organisers in person, but advance information may be had from them as below.

### Apple Group iMac+iPad+iPhone

Our members discuss how to get the most use and enjoyment from using Apple devices. Topics include Apps that have been the most useful, security, available software with members' experience and popular uses. There is also a round table discussion for areas where group members want more information and problem solving. **Dave Simmons** ☎ 01732 452032

### 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.

**Corinne Milan** ☎ 01732 460560

### Indoors Bowls

We play social games on our own allocated rinks at the modern Hollybush Centre, Sevenoaks, which has free parking and a good cafe. The first four sessions, some tuition and bowls are all provided free of charge. Clothing: smart casual, thick socks or bowls shoes.

**Eleanor Cox** ☎ 01732 456986

**Mike Harries** ☎ 01959 532024

### Migration - People on the Move

A new group studying the movement of people around the world, from religious persecution, for labour requirements, seeking land, intellectual and other reasons. Members are invited to choose a migration group to study.

**Lynda Alleeson** ☎ 01959 525312

### Philosophy and Living

This is a new group covering a wide range of themes such as happiness, fulfilment and good and evil. Reference will be made to the work of Freud, Jung and Adler. Emphasis will be on individual experience and input by group members. **Clive Linke** ☎ 01474 873793

### Jazz and Blues 2

This group will initially run along similar lines to Jazz and Blues Group 1, now over-subscribed, while recognising the latent interest among other U3A members. Initially, members of the first group will be willing to give advice and provide some presentations from their own repertoire.

**Harvey Mahn** ☎ 01732 459295

### Film Studies - Take 2

This new group has met monthly since January 2012, participants having selected their favourite film which is then viewed and discussed by the group. For the 2012-2013 session, our theme will be 'European Cinema' and we are finalising our choices of films which will certainly include some from France and Italy. Contact **Alan Williams**

### Jewellery Making

We make varying types of jewellery and range from beginners to intermediate in ability. The idea is to exchange ideas and help each other while enjoying ourselves. Occasionally an outing or an outside workshop is arranged.

**Janice Harding** ☎ 01732 761076

### Industrial Heritage

This group will look at the range of our industrial heritage with emphasis on the South-East, while exploring its impact on social life. We will meet at members' houses combining presentations with outside visits. Individually or in pairs, members will research and present their chosen topic at one meeting, and lead an outside visit concerning this topic in a subsequent month.

**Janet Jones** ☎ 01959 523553

### Medieval History

This group covers a range of topics in Europe during the medieval period. Last year we looked at the reign of Henry II and the Knights Templar, Castles, Italian City States, customs and beliefs of medieval Christmases, life in a medieval city and Manor Courts. Next year will extend this theme further into the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Linda Gilbert** ☎ 01732 883386

**Jennifer Ruffles** ☎ 01732 461348

### Military History 2

This new group explores modern military history from the formation of the regular service arms. Its focus will be on the past 200 years but topics from earlier times will be considered as required. This is a rich area of study covering the rise and fall of the British Empire, including Maritime, Land and Air warfare and associated aspects.

**Bob Ruffles** ☎ 01732 461348

### Vegetarian Feasts

A re-launch of this enjoyable course - new day, new time. Subjects might include:

fine food on a budget

pudding club

finger foods / snacks

quick menus for busy people

around the world yet again exploring new foods and new recipes

**Gilly Moysey** ☎ 01732 463272

**In addition, these are the shared groups led by Knole members:**

**The Knole Genealogy Group** is looking for new members. It is run by John Phillips, a Sevenoaks member, who has studied the subject for 40 years. Meetings 2-4pm on the first Monday. The group would suit either beginners or those with some knowledge of the subject and who can use a computer. Members learn to find and use different sources of information available, plus how to build and store their family tree.  
**John Phillips** ☎ 01732 884940.

#### **Homer - *The Iliad***

Why not join our lively group as we read Homer's *Iliad* in a modern English translation? This early poem is a gripping tale, powerfully expressed, and it is providing plenty of opportunity to discuss Greek myth, ancient society and its vivid language. **Christine Spillane** ☎ 01959-533093

#### **Poetry - First Lines**

This group started recently and most of us are new, or fairly new, to studying poetry - but that doesn't mean we don't have opinions! We begin with a biographical approach to some 20<sup>th</sup>C British poets but in the future hope to extend our range in whichever way suits the group.

**Val Rea** ☎ 01959 534619

#### **Money Matters**

This new group is for those wishing to make sense of developments in international monetary affairs, including such matters as the credit crunch, the euro and the situation in southern Europe. The group will use ***Paper Promises*** by Philip Coggan (Amazon £10), as a core text and members will read at least the first four chapters before we start. **Geoffrey Dalton** ☎ 01732-457822

#### **Spanish**

We are an enthusiastic group of nine active members, plus several who we hope will rejoin us when possible. One member is a native Spanish speaker who keeps us in line when our grammar and accent get out of hand. We continue to use the BBC publication ***Sueños 2***, but we encourage conversation, helped by reading short stories and other text. **Roy Jones** ☎ 01732-457167

## **Social Events News**

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

Enclosed are two flyers for a Walking tour round Edenbridge with guides, plus a coach trip to Cressing Temple and Ingatestone Hall. Please apply at once as these trips book quickly. We hold applications for ten days before drawing by ballot if necessary. We understand that the Coffee Mornings at the Bullfinch are not attended by our members any longer and so we will remove the dates from the Newsletter Diary.

## **Events Open to All**

**Ambling** **Wednesday 18 July**  
Meet at Chevening Church (GR 489576) for a 4-mile walk, starting at 10am. From Chipstead, the church is at the end of Chevening Road after it continues across the B2211 (Ovenden Road). Park on the road outside the church.  
Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007  
**There will be no walk in August.**

**First Friday lunch** **Friday 6 July**  
The Bucks Head, Godden Green. 12.15 for 12.45. Contact Sally Coston ☎ 01322-866102 for further details and to book.

**First Friday Lunch** **Friday 3 August**  
The Tally Ho, Knockholt. 12.15 for 12.30  
Contact Fay Plant ☎ 01959 522127 or Pat Dallas ☎ 01732 456714

**Half Day Walking** **Monday 23 July**  
Meet outside the Buck's Head at Godden Green in time for a 10 am start. The walk will be 5 miles, all around Knole Park. Optional lunch afterwards at the Buck's Head.  
Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

**Half Day Walking** **Monday 20 August**  
Meet in the National Trust car park north of Toy's Hill GR 470517 for a 10 am start. A four-mile circular walk to Ide Hill to mark the centenary of Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust. Optional lunch afterwards at the Woodman in Goathurst Common.  
Leader: Colin Butson ☎ 01732 458356

**Bridge for Pleasure** **Wed 11 and 25 July**  
The Group plays bridge at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 9 May was Jim Stackhouse, on 23 May was Gillian Simon and on 13 June was Nick White. The group is an 'Open' group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, please call Colin and Mary Butson ☎ 01732 458356. **There will be a summer break until 10th October**

**The Strollers** **Tues 17 July and 18 Sept**  
Not August. For details of summer walks please ring Anne Gutteridge, ☎ 01732 454923

### **Chairs**

The U3A owns 40 stacking chairs, foam padded with a green cloth cover. These are occasionally used by the Drama group, but we are looking for a handful of members who would store 10 apiece until needed (and they could of course use them personally.)

Please contact Pamela Murphy ☎ 01732 365484 if you can help with this.

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