

Chairman's note

During this month the Executive Committee (EC) has been examining the structure of our U3A and the way in which we manage ourselves. Our findings will be published shortly, but the basic outcome is a recommendation to reduce the Executive Committee to a minimum effective level, while upholding the constitution and maintaining accountability to the Third Age Trust. In making this change the Chairmen of the new Supporting Committees will no longer be members of the EC but will have the freedom to operate effectively and be more representative of the whole membership, whilst still being accountable to the Executive. This review followed from the meetings we had with Group Organisers last summer where some issues with our current structure were highlighted. The existing sub-committees have evolved over the previous eighteen years and do not correctly reflect what is happening within the groups and overall membership. There is still much work to be done in setting into motion the revised committee structures, but the end result should be a structure that is better matched to our future development.

Thank you to all of you who have responded to the questionnaire sent out with last month's Newsletter. There are, however, still a number of replies awaited and if you have not already responded, please can you do so. This information is needed to help the committee establish ways of improving the U3A for you, the members. Also please add any comments, especially to nil returns, as these help us to form a picture of members' interests and identify innovations for groups old and new.

Replies can be hand-delivered at the Monthly Meeting, or sent by post or, if you have the facility, scanned and e-mailed.

I also mentioned in the last Newsletter that I would be interested in visiting any groups by invitation from the Group Organiser. Please feel free to do so as it will help me to meet more of the members, especially those who I do not see at regular meetings.

Bob Ruffles
☎ 01732 461348

Please send copy for the February Newsletter by **Friday, 13 April 2012** to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting **Wednesday 25 April**
Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2.0pm

Playing Leapfrog behind the barbed wire

Child prisoners of the Japanese in WWII
Nicola Tyrer

Nicola is the author of several books about World War II, and is a freelance journalist who writes for the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph.

Today she will talk about the untold story of the children interned by the Japanese in World War II.

Science Group **Monday 16 April**

The Story of Navigation

by Jeremy Batch
Animal and human approaches to navigation
Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.
All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
£2 entry includes tea.

Computer Group **Monday 23 April**
Software Compatibility

by Vincent Tilley
Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.
All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
Entry, £1 on the door, includes tea.

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

Newsletter Inserts

For many years, we have agreed to carry flyers for other societies, with a small contribution being made to postage costs. However, this has built into a sizeable task, and the Executive decided at its March meeting to discontinue the practice. Members who have used this service may now bring flyers to the Monthly Meeting to put on chairs, although they must uplift any left over at the end of the afternoon.

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

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

Singing for Pleasure

Knole has been running a Singing group for two years now. Designed for those who enjoy singing but don't necessarily read music, the group has made great strides, with performances in 2011 at **Pantomania** and also at the Knole U3A Christmas Party. It now numbers 33, some of whom are Sevenoaks members, but it cannot absorb more.

The Knole organisers are willing to give help and advice, and to attend any launch meeting for a new Sevenoaks group. To make a start, the group will need a number of willing musicians as accompanists, using 'portable' instruments, guitar and keyboard being ideal. We can then call a meeting to start things rolling. Anyone interested, as a co-organiser of such a group (the work is shared by several people) or a musician or a singer, please get in touch with Beryl Mansell.

Military History Group 2

A second Military History group is being established. So far there is a small core of individuals enthusiastic about exploring modern military history over the past 200 years. This is a rich area of study as it covers the growth and decline of the British Empire and will include Maritime, Land and Air warfare and many associated aspects. There are still vacancies ; if you are interested please contact Bob Ruffles ☎ 01732 461348

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

Please note that these events are now full:
Kent U3A Study Day on Opera
London Docklands Trip
Jazz and Blues Study Morning.

Our events are filling very quickly again, so please apply at once. We hold forms for ten days from the Meeting, and then allocate places by ballot.

The next Kent U3A Study Day is on Architecture, and will be held in Rochester on Thursday, 19 July. A form is enclosed.

Events Open to All

Ambling **Wednesday 18 April**

Meet by Holy Trinity Church at Crockham Hill (GR 444507) in time for a 10 am start. On entering Crockham Hill from the Westerham direction on the B2026, turn left into Main Road and after 200 yards turn left down a lane leading to the school, village hall and church. The walk will be about four miles through bluebell woods and will be followed by an optional lunch.
Leader: Velma Keys ☎ 01732 459001

Half Day Walking

Monday 23 April

Meet at Bough Beech reservoir in time for a 10am start. Follow B2042 Edenbridge road past Ide Hill and down the hill. Take the first left then right after half a mile. Park on the right-hand side of the road after the visitor centre. The walk will be about five miles and followed by an optional lunch at the Woodman in Goathurst Common.
Leader: Velma Keys ☎ 01732 459001

The Strollers

Tuesday 17 April

Meet at the car park of the King Henry VIII at Hever for an 11 am start. The walk is about 2.5 miles with a few stiles and slopes. Followed by an optional lunch at the pub.
Leader Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

First Friday Lunch

There will be no First Friday Lunch in April.

Bridge for Pleasure

Wed 11 and 25 April

The Group plays bridge at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 22 February was Eileen Stanton and on 14 March was Richard Baxter. 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

Diary

April

Mon	2	Finances in Retirement (Knole)
Tues	10	Coffee Morning, The Bullfinch
Wed	11	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	16	Science Group Meeting
Tues	17	The Strollers
Wed	18	Ambling
Wed	18	Science Group visit to Kew**
Mon	23	Half Day Walking
Mon	23	Computer Group Meeting
Wed	25	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	25	Monthly Meeting
Mon	30	Opera: Kent U3A Study Day***
Mon	30/4	May York trip

May

Wed	9	London Docklands**
Thu	24	Jazz and Blues Study Morning**

July

Thurs	19	Kent Study Day Architecture*
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* Flyer enclosed
** Flyer in February
*** Flyer in January

Editorial team:

Magda Sweetland,
Linda Young,
Robin Tonge and
John Spurway

