

Chairman's note

The Arts Group recently exhibited some of their work in the Stag Theatre and I hope many of you managed to view the excellent exhibits on display. My thanks to Pamela Murphy for organising this event, and to everyone who contributed.

Last month's resulted in the cancellation of our Computer meeting at short notice. We will do our best to notify members of such changes, but please remember that, when inclement weather strikes suddenly, information will be posted on our website under the 'Stop Press' tab.

I have recently been invited by the Vice-Chairman of the Third Age Trust, Beryl Mellish, to get involved in an Inter School-U3A debate. This initiative is being promoted by the Bromley Education and Learning Centre as a follow-on from the highly successful House of Lords debate last December, run on a National basis between schools and the U3A. A Hansard report was produced, and a video report is available on the National U3A Website if you wish to find out more. A group of Schools in Bromley want to link up with local U3As and the Topic will be *Education – who is responsible?* The date is set for 19 March at the Hayes Academy. We are currently seeking members to assist in preparation for this event: if you are keen to participate, please contact me or Beryl Mansell for further information.

We have started making plans for our 20th Anniversary. Various ideas are being considered but, initially, we are planning a Photographic Competition for all members in 2013, with the aim of producing a calendar for 2014 which will be on sale in time for Christmas. More details are to be found inside.

Bob Ruffles ☎ 01732 461348

Please send copy for the March Newsletter by **Friday, 15 March 2013** to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

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

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting **Wednesday 27 March**
 Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

Tales of a Scotland Yard detective

Steve Roberts

will give us an insight into working on the Flying Squad, Kidnap and Specialist Investigation Unit, and he will describe how he became a detective in the Metropolitan Police.



Science Group **Monday 11 March**

The Shale Gas Controversy

Derek Thomas

Starting with the basics of hydrocarbon formation and trapping, this talk will explain how oil and gas are produced, alleviating some of the current concerns about 'fracking', but raising another that, so far, is largely ignored. With the Weald of Kent a target area for exploration, this has local relevance.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
 £2 entry includes tea.

Computer Group **Monday 18 March**

Spring Cleaning Your PC

Martin Stoneham

Is your computer running slow? Martin Stoneham will focus on Speeding Up and Cleaning PCs. This will include transferring files/data between computers.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, **10am**.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
 £2 entry includes tea.



Sevenoaks U3A 20th Anniversary Photographic Competition

As part of our celebrations we are organising a Digital Photographic Competition. The winning images will be featured on a 2014 calendar which will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Sevenoaks U3A. They will also be displayed at an exhibition during the year.

Entries must be submitted by the end of June and will be judged on 3 September at the Bat and Ball Community Centre between 10am and 12.30pm.

The final details of the competition and how to submit entries will be announced in the March Newsletter. You will be able to enter two images each and the layout must be landscape format.

Please make sure the date is in your diary and get ready to put your thinking caps on for some creative and imaginative ideas.

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

Writing Group

Cricketts Farm Writing Group is looking for up to three new members. Members of the group make their own choices about what they wish to do, which might be an article, a novel, a short story or a play. The aim is to have their work accepted for publication. Even if that may not happen, members have fun trying! For more information contact Pamela Murphy ☎ 01732 365484

Language and Linguistics

This group is keen to see the addition of one or more new members. The main focus of our meetings (held on 3rd Wednesdays 10-12 when a group member introduces the discussion) is on all aspects of the English language today.

Here, and also more widely, we might be discussing dialects, word derivations, language development, translations, the naming of colours or landscape features, epitaphs, sayings and clichés, or the language of chosen authors, to name but a few of the topics we have covered. We aim to maintain and extend this breadth of interests with contributions from all participants. (More available on the U3A website.)

Contact: Richard Bird ☎ 01732 760428

Science Discussion Group 2

We now have a second Science discussion group established. At the moment we are a relatively small group so there is room for one or two more members. The Group is shared with Knole U3A. It does not require any in-depth experience of science or technology but just an enthusiasm to explore topics that are of interest. If you feel you would like to join, then please contact Bob Ruffles ☎ 01732 461348

Military History 2

This group is currently discussing modern military history events. It is not just about the military campaigns but also looks at the background to conflict, and the consequences that shape our lives today. At the moment, the group is looking at the background to WW1. Next year we may continue this theme looking at key events in WW1 and the aftermath. There is room for one or two new members so, if you feel you would like to join, please contact Bob Ruffles ☎ 01732 461348

Science Group Thursday 14 March 2013 Outing: Cook Sittingbourne



*Tour of the factory and
sampling of the products!*

*The visit is free, but you will be responsible
for your own transport to Sittingbourne and
will have to agree to Cook's food factory
rules and regulations.*

*The outing is limited to two groups of ten,
one in the morning and one in the afternoon.*

*Requests to attend, on a 'first come, first
served' basis, should be made to
John Bonnett ☎ 01959 522401, who will
provide successful applicants with exact
information on time and place and all the
other information they require to attend.*

*Since this outing is likely to be
oversubscribed, we will attempt to arrange a
repeat visit later in the year.*

**SEE U3A 2012 – 2013 HANDBOOK FOR
FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE
REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



The Pope's Palace and the Saint Bénézet Bridge at Avignon

HOLIDAY IN PROVENCE OCTOBER 2013

A 6-day Holiday in Provence for U3A Sevenoaks Members and their Spouse, Partner or Friend

This is a 6-day (5 nights) holiday to beautiful Provence travelling by Eurostar to Lille and then by TGV to Aix-en-Provence. The itinerary includes a full day to explore Aix-en-Provence, the capital of Provence and birthplace of Cezanne with its fountains, its outstanding architecture and museums and its daily, flower, food and antique markets. This will be followed by coach visits to Avignon, famous for its ramparts and the Pont Saint-Bénézet and with an option to visit the Palais des Papes where Popes resided from 1309 to 1364; Sainte Marie de la Mer ("St. Mary of the Sea"), capital of the Camargue, famous for its wild horses and bird-life; historic Arles including a visit to the world famous Roman Amphitheatre built in 90 AD; and a full-day tour of the Luberon Mountains.

DATES: Sunday, 6th October to Friday, 11th October 2013

TRAVEL: to Aix-en-Provence by Eurostar and TGV via Lille.

HOTEL: 3* EScale Oceania, Aix-en-Provence, half board.

COST: £763.00 per person sharing based on a minimum of 35 persons travelling. Single supplement: £190.00. Six single rooms available.
The cost includes return train journeys from London, coach travel in Provence, five nights half-board accommodation as above and entrance fees to Pont Saint-Bénézet at Avignon and the Roman Amphitheatre at Arles.

EXTRAS: Travel insurance, coach to Ebbsfleet and return, lunch each day, entrance fees to Palais des Papes, Avignon (optional, about €10.50 payable locally), wine and gratuities.

BOOKING: Booking forms and a brochure are available on-line at the Sevenoaks U3A website - www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk - or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

John Dean, Moretons End, High Street, Westerham, Kent TN16 1RQ.

CLOSING DATE for completed booking forms - Wednesday 13th March 2013

The visit will be limited to a party of 40 persons and a random draw may be necessary if the holiday is oversubscribed.

ORGANISER/QUERIES: John Dean ☎ 01959 563373

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

A flyer for the next foreign holiday to **Provence** is printed on the previous page. Application forms may be downloaded from the Internet, or obtained from John Dean by sending him a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This trip, starting on 6 October, offers a variant for those who prefer not to fly, and involves taking Eurostar, and the TGV from Lille to Aix-en-Provence.

The trip to **Bletchley Park** on 20 March is now full.

Knole U3A has arranged a visit to the Sevenoaks garden of Doris and Jack Wheeler, a unique one-acre **Japanese Garden**, designed and planted - and now maintained - by the owner. It is an ongoing surprise, with several water features, an aviary and many small sculptures and stopping points. In May, the rhododendrons and azaleas are at their best. There are a few spaces left. The dates are morning 10am or afternoon 2pm on Friday 10 May or Thursday 16 May.

The cost is £5 to include tea and biscuits. This sum will be donated to the Ellenor Hospice.

Cheques payable to Knole U3A Extramural should be sent to Judy Bunn, Woodlands, Caxton Lane, Limsfield Chart, Surrey RH8 0TD, with your e-mail address or a stamped, addressed envelope for a receipt.

Gravesend U3A is looking for members to fill their trip to **Normandy** in May. Details on the Sevenoaks U3A website.

Kent U3A Study Day on **Florentine Renaissance Painting**. This event has proved very popular with Sevenoaks members. We have received a total of 160 applications so far and the first date, 22 April, is now fully booked. There are spaces available for 3 June if anyone wishes to apply to Linda and Peter Young. The flyer was issued in January, or can be downloaded from the Sevenoaks U3A website.

Events Open to All

Bridge for Pleasure

Wednesdays 13 & 27 March

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 13th February was Geoff Howson. The group is an 'Open' group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson ☎ 01732 458356

First Friday lunch

Friday 1 March

The Crown, 84 High Street, Shoreham, 12.45 for 1pm. To book, contact Alastair and Christine Macpherson ☎ 01959 523566

Ambling

Wednesday 20 March

Meet at the 'Green Man' Hodsoll Street (GR 625630) for a 4-mile walk, starting at 10.00 am. From Borough Green take the A227 towards Meopham. After approx. 4 miles turn left into 'Hodsoll Street'. At the first fork take the left, at the second fork go right; both are signed 'Green Man'. The pub is on the left of the green: please park at the far end of the car park. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007

Half Day Walking

Monday 25 March

Meet at Bough Beech Reservoir in time for a 10am start. Park at the side of the road just past the visitors' centre GR 496493. From Sevenoaks take the Edenbridge road and turn left a mile after the Ide Hill bends. A five-mile circular walk to Four Elms followed by an optional lunch at The Woodman in Goathurst Common.

Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

The Strollers

Tuesday 19 March

Meet in the car park at Otford for a walk starting at 11.00. There will be an optional lunch in Otford afterwards.

Leader: Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923



Diary

March

Fri	1	First Friday Lunch
Mon	11	Science Group Meeting
Wed	13	Bridge for Pleasure
Thu	14	Science Group COOK visit
Mon	18	Computer Group Meeting
Tue	19	The Strollers
Wed	20	Ambling
Thu	21	Bletchley Park**
Mon	25	Half Day Walking
Wed	27	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	27	Monthly Meeting

April

Mon	22	Kent U3A Study Day**
	& June 3	Florentine Renaissance Painting

May

Wed	22-25	Trip to Bowden Hall Hotel
Thu	23	Piano Jazz Study Morning

** flyers last month

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