

Chairman's Note

As November draws to a close our thoughts turn to Christmas with the normal shopping expeditions and planning for festive events and I am sure many groups will also enjoy a festive get-together.

Last month I reported that testing of electronic distribution of our Newsletter would be undertaken. I am pleased to say that over 70 members have volunteered and in parallel with this paper copy an electronic version will be emailed to the volunteers. The first test will be to establish connections and to identify any technical difficulties in receipt of the information. Subsequent tests will be run on a monthly basis until such time as the Working Party under Chris Streets' leadership is confident that we are ready to go live. At that point Members will be asked to opt into this system if they so wish. It will bring a number of benefits and of course will help in reducing our printing and postage costs which amount to approximately 30% of our annual expenditure. The existing paper copy will be maintained for those who prefer that and will continue to be distributed in the normal way.

At the recent EC meeting a discussion on the Newsletter was undertaken. It is noted that the amount of copy for the Editorial Team has been in short supply recently. It is planned to refresh the look of the Newsletter in the New Year with a view to providing a more informative and interesting Newsletter. However, your co-operation is important as we do need regular input of suitable material. If your group has something of interest to report, or perhaps has made a visit to a place of interest, then let the whole membership know about it.

I am pleased to announce that Vicki Joyce has joined the Social Committee and I am sure her skills and knowledge will be an asset to the team. More members are required and if you can help please contact Pam Walshe. The Social Committee has organised a Trip to **Paris in the Spring for April 17-20th 2015**. A flyer for this was published in the September Newsletter and is also available from our website. Please book now as the closing date for application is this month.

The Kent Network met on the 7th November and now comprises twenty seven U3As representing 10,500 members in Kent. The number of U3As in Kent continues to increase and a new neighbour will be established in Meopham during 2015. The Kent Network Committee has been extended to reflect the growth in the Organisation and now has added a Vice Chairman and Treasurer to the Committee.

Included in this Newsletter is a brief report of key items discussed at our Executive Meeting on the 6th November.

This is the final Newsletter for 2014 as there will not be one in December. May I therefore wish you all a Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year as our programme of events continues.

Bob Ruffles chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Tel: 01732-461348

News from the Executive Meeting held on the 6 November

Recruitment is still very much at the top of our priorities. Some members have volunteered to help on committees but we still need more. In particular, we need support for the Publications and the Social Committee teams, but there are other vacancies as advertised previously. Without support the work of these committees may have to be reduced and that will have an impact on the membership as a whole. There have been three new members for the Computer Group Committee and we are seeking additional members for the Science Committee.

The Newsletter publication was discussed and it was decided that refreshment needs to be undertaken. The first step will be to provide a dedicated space for Social Events thereby reducing publication costs and EC members would contribute articles on a regular basis on items of interest. In addition Groups will be encouraged to submit items about their activities especially if visits to places of interest have been undertaken.

The EC agreed that a review of our Communications Policy needs to be undertaken and this will be a priority for the EC.

Another attempt at setting up a Shared Learning Project with Knole House is being explored. A previous attempt did not succeed but we are now aware that a significant grant has been made to Knole House by the National Trust for conservation and if we can start a shared project, it will be to the mutual benefit of both organisations.

(continued overleaf)

January Newsletter

Please send material by Friday 16th January to both **Linda Young and Magda Sweetland**

Planning for the 2015 Group Organisers' Conference will start shortly and in preparation for this a revision of our '**Time to Learn**' publication will be undertaken by Magda Sweetland along with Sue Henson's Group Development Team to complement the recent updated version issued by the Third Age Trust.

At the last Monthly Meeting a revised system for serving Tea and Cakes was introduced. This seems to have worked well and reduced the waiting time involved; it also enabled a much better social interaction to take place after the formal talk.

The next EC meeting will be held on 8 January 2015.

Bob Ruffles chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Tel: 01732-461348

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 28 January
Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

Tax, Care and Toy Boys: John Ambrose

A lawyer specialising in inheritance tax planning will raise awareness of some real life issues in an informal humorous way. He will introduce the problems of inheritance tax, highlight the costs of long term care, look at sideways inheritance after re-marriage, and explain what steps can be taken to protect against them.

Science Group Monday 8 December

Scientific aspects of our weather: Peter Rogers

An amateur's view of 40 years of Sevenoaks weather, past and future

The speaker will explain how he became interested in weather: he was brought up in Edmonton in the Prairies in Canada. One day in December, the temperature dropped from +40F to -40F overnight, leading to a lifelong fascination with the weather. He began a daily weather diary at that time and he is still doing so over 60 years later! In his retirement, he writes a column on the weather for the Sevenoaks Chronicle. *Note that as an early Xmas present and for this one meeting only, the usual entry fee will not be charged!*

Science Group Monday 12 January

Modern management of the osteoarthritic knee: Paul Gill

Knee osteoarthritis is an increasing problem in most societies including the UK. Today's presentation describes the nature of knee osteoarthritis, its prevalence, signs and symptoms, investigation thereof and diagnosis, and a stepwise approach to the management of this painful condition.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

£2 entry includes tea.

Computer Group

Monday 15 December

Your New Christmas Present !

An opportunity to enjoy a presentation by Sevenoaks Sound and Vision.

This will include the latest high technology home entertainment systems.

Music to enjoy all over the home including Sonos and Spotify.

Smart TV technology.

4K technology – What is it? – Is it for you ?

Time to treat yourself for Xmas.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

Entry free, includes tea, wine and mince pies

Monday 19 January

Age UK Computer Learning Centre: Nigel Pritchard

Would you enjoy one on one tuition at the local AGE UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Computer Learning Centre?

Need help with your laptop or tablet?

Nigel Pritchard will give an overview of the services available at this friendly local AGE UK Centre in Sevenoaks.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

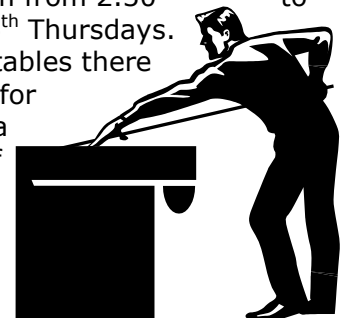
Entry £2 on the door, includes tea.



News from the Groups

Sue Henson

Hall sharing. The new Snooker group has booked the club room at Ightham from 2.30 to 4.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Apart from the snooker tables there is seating around tables for about twelve as well as a darts board and a bar. If any group is interested in sharing the facilities please contact Liz Lucy on or Nick White.



COME AND JOIN US!

THE DRAMA GROUP

is getting together to decide

what we are going to do in 2015.

Will it be a Music Hall, some short plays,
a Christmas pantomime, a summer revue?

Or something entirely different?

Whatever it is to be we know that it will
all be fun, both the rehearsals and
the performances.

We would love to have some others to
join us – you don't have to learn lines
if you think you can't. We like everyone to feel
comfortable !

Come and meet us at

the Seal Village Hall

on Friday January 23rd at 2.30pm.

for further information please contact

Pamela Murphy

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Is this a good year to play Santa to yourself? It might be a good time to upgrade especially if you are struggling with that wretched old PC operating system. New products include new iPhones, the iPad Air and the unbelievable 5K iMac 30% better than the latest 4K TVs. At the Apple Group we will be covering the new inventions and many of the old ones. We meet on the 2nd Monday in the Otford Methodist Church at 2pm and everyone is welcome. Contact David Simmons and we will send you the next meeting agenda plus a free copy of Apple Watch Information, with details of the latest new invention from Apple.

Social Events News

Pam Walshe

Wednesday 18 March matinee theatre visit

We have been offered 16 tickets at the bargain rate of £29.50 (reduced from £57.50 in Stalls or Royal Circle) to see **Shakespeare in Love** at The Noel Coward Theatre, St. Martin's Lane. Make your own way to the theatre.

If you would like a ticket, please send a cheque for £29.50 per person, payable to **U3A Sevenoaks Social Account**, plus a covering letter which gives your address and e-mail, TOGETHER WITH a sae for return of ticket **by Dec 4** to Vicki Joyce 3, Egdean Walk, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3UQ.

In case U3A members are unaware, the Stag in Sevenoaks shows 'live' screenings from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, including: **Love's Labours Lost** (Feb 11); **Love's Labours Won** - or **Much Ado About Nothing** (Mar 4); Tom Stoppard's latest play **The Hard Problem** (April 16); G B Shaw's **Man and Superman** (May 14). Tickets from The Stag.

Paris trip 17-21 April

We are aiming for 40 on this trip and currently have 23. We have extended the entry date to **10 December** and will be offering it to other local U3As. Please do sign up for this trip and help make it as successful and enjoyable as our previous overseas trips.

UK trips for September 2015

Currently we have no-one to organise the longer 4 or 5 day trips in the UK which we have previously run. If you have enjoyed them in the past or like the idea of UK holidays with a convivial bunch of U3A members, could you find the time to help organise them? We will now use one of the specialist travel agents, who cater for the interests of U3A members, which makes it much easier. Full training/support given. Two members could work together.

U3A Cycling Group

Our small friendly group (photo) has just completed a second trip to France – cycling in the Loire Valley for four days. We meet twice a month for a c25 mile ride in the lanes and villages of West Kent area. Occasionally, we go further afield travelling by car or train. New members very welcome!

Please contact Jim Purves.



Events open to all

First Friday Lunch Friday 5 December

Stanhope Arms, Brasted. 12.45 for 1pm

Please phone Sally Coston for the seasonal menu and to arrange payment of a deposit, although the usual menu is also available if preferred.

First Friday Lunch Friday 2 January

The Buck's Head, Godden Green. meet at 12.45 for 1.00pm.

Please contact Norna Munson if you would like to join us.

Half Day Walking Monday 26 January

Meet outside the Buck's Head at Godden Green in time for a 10am start. A 4½ mile walk to Bitchet Green and Stone Street followed by an optional lunch at the Buck's Head.

Leader: Nick White

NOTE: There will be no walk in December.



The Strollers

There will be no stroll in December. Instead we will meet for our Christmas lunch.

The next walk will be on 17 March 2015. Information will appear in the February Newsletter.

Happy Christmas and Best wishes to all for 2015.

Anne Gutteridge

Bridge for Pleasure Wed 10 December

Wed 14 & Wed 28 January

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12.15 p.m. The winner on 22 October was Nick White and on 12 November was Gillian Simon.

We are an 'open' group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson.

Ambling Wednesday 21 January

There will be no walk in December

Meet in the car park at Stubbs Wood, Goathurst Common (NGR 497518) in time for a 10am start. The car park is in the woods at a small cross roads at the top of York's Hill. The walk is followed by an optional lunch. New walkers are always welcome.

Leader: Grahame Lee.

Diary

2014

Dec.

Fri 5 First Friday Lunch
Mon 8 Science Group Meeting
Wed 10 Bridge for Pleasure
Mon 15 Computer Group Meeting

2015

Jan

Fri 2 First Friday Lunch
Mon 12 Science Group Meeting
Wed 14 Bridge for Pleasure
Wed 21 Ambling
Mon 19 Computer Group Meeting
Mon 26 Half Day Walking
Wed 28 Bridge for Pleasure
Wed 28 Monthly Meeting

Feb

Fri 6 Festive Winter Lunch

Mar

Wed 18 Matinee Theatre visit
Tue 24 Barnes Wetland Centre

Apr

Fri 17 – Mon 20 Paris in the Spring

May

Wed 20 Maldon and Layer Marney Tower

Newsletter Editorial team : Victoria Baxter, John Cox, Magda Sweetland, Linda Young