

### **Chairman's Note**

In September we enjoyed the Anniversary Party which concluded the celebrations of our twentieth year. There is a separate account with this Newsletter but I must thank all of you who contributed and attended the Party to make it such an enjoyable and successful event.

Our recent New Members Meeting welcomed a significant number of members who had joined over the previous months. It was good to meet you all and gain some insight into your particular interests. I hope the team conveyed sufficient information about our U3A and were able to answer any questions you had which will enable you to quickly get involved in groups or meetings.

Chris Streets will shortly be exploring the optimum way to distribute our Newsletter electronically to those who may wish to opt for this method of communication. The first phase is to test various layouts and for this a number of volunteers are required. If you would like to participate in this exercise please email Chris Streets and Beryl Mansell [enews@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:enews@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk) so that an initial test distribution list can be established.

Bob Ruffles [chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)  
01732 461348

### **Meetings open to all**

**Monthly Meeting** Wednesday 26 November

**Mud, Blood and Poppycock: Britain and the First World War:** Major Gordon Corrigan

A military historian and former officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles, Gordon Corrigan served mainly in the Far East, but also in Berlin, Cyprus, Belize and Northern Ireland. He is an Honorary Research Fellow of the Universities of Birmingham and Kent, a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and a Member of the British Commission for Military History and has written several books with a military theme.

**Science Group** Monday 10 November

**Cornish Mines, Maps & Models:** Keith Russ  
This talk will present a remarkable display of 3D computer-generated models of Cornish mines and mine planning around old workings. The speaker commenced modelling underground workings in the Camborne-Redruth area of Cornwall about 20 years ago and has continued to develop this sophisticated mine survey tool. His talk will fascinate everyone, but especially those members interested in mine surveying or in mining history.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm  
All Sevenoaks U3A Members Welcome  
£2 entry includes tea

**Computer Group** Monday 17 November  
**Telecommunications UK Fraud Forum TUFF**  
Jack Wraith MBE, former CEO

The Role of the Telecommunications industry in addressing crime, fraud, data security and information sharing. The speaker will also look at the role of the national mobile phone crime unit, and of the national fraud intelligence bureau and section fraud.

How safe is banking on your mobile phone?

What to do if you are caught by a scam?

Bring your questions.

**Meeting details as for the Science Group.**

### **Social Events News**

**Pam Walshe**

**Paris in the spring** - 17-20 April  
travelling by Eurostar, with visits to the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Musee d'Orsay, Versailles and a boat trip included.

If you are interested, please contact John Dean for a booking form.

### **November Newsletter**

Please send material by Friday 14 November  
to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

**Car parking at Otford Village Hall : charges have been introduced from mid-October.**

**This may affect members who attend the Science or Computer Group meetings.**

## Dates for your diary

We have an interesting programme of events for the first part of 2015. Please make a note of these in your diary for the New Year. Flyers with the Monthly Newsletters as usual. We look forward to seeing you!

- Friday 6 February, the Festive winter lunch at a new venue, namely Knole Golf Club.
- Tuesday 24 March we go to Barnes Wildlife and Wetlands Trust reserve, to see the birds in breeding plumage, otters being fed and more. There is a heated observatory, as well as paths, gardens and ponds to view.
- Wednesday 20 May we visit Maldon in Essex for a guided tour of the old town and after lunch a visit to Layer Marney Tower.
- Knole has a five day trip to Shropshire, 8- 12 May 2015, staying at the 4\* Telford Hotel. Cost is £369 pp, plus a single supplement. Visits are arranged to Shugborough, Ironbridge, Shrewsbury, Powis Castle and Gardens, Bridgnorth, Stratford on Avon, Charlecote Park. Contact **Sandy Hull** or send an A5 stamped addressed envelope to 19 Park Lane, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NX. Flyer on Website

## News from the Groups

### Sue Henson

### Pity You Missed It

On 30th September three members of the U3A Women in the World Group attended an afternoon of lectures at the Royal Institution organised by the RI in conjunction with U3A. If the occasion was advertised on the Sevenoaks U3A website, it was a shame that not more members spotted it because it was an unforgettable afternoon. It was optionally preceded by a talk on the Institution, then three lecturers, Kathryn Harkup on Poisons, Essi Viding on Psychopathy and Zoe Laughlin on Material Science, held the audience spellbound. If these women scientists were teachers in a classroom, the number of children wanting to go on to become scientists would rocket! Look out for the next U3A Explores Science at the RI on 23 March 2015.

### Sevenoaks U3A will be crossing the Namibian Desert in 2016!

The October Science Group meeting received a talk from Mary McKinley the Project Director for the Bloodhound SSC (Super Sonic Car) who described the project attempting to raise the World Land speed record to 1000 MPH. The project is a complex engineering challenge embracing technologies from F1 Car Racing, Military Aircraft and Spacecraft. Some may consider this to be frivolous but in fact it is designed to inspire the next generation of Mathematicians, Engineers and Scientists and much of the spin-off is already occurring in our Schools and Colleges around the UK. As part of Mary's fee for the talk we have received a certificate confirming that Sevenoaks

U3A will be engraved on the tail fin of the car which is due to hurtle across the Namibian Desert in 2016 and hopefully achieve the goal they have set themselves. A copy of the certificate is on our website [www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk) and additional information can be obtained from the Bloodhound SSC website.

## Songs from the Shows

Knole U3A are trying to set up this relaxed singing group. They need an accompanist and would be very interested to hear from anyone who could help. It would only involve a couple of hours a month with perhaps a short discussion in advance with regard to songs to be sung. Please contact Sue Johnson.

## Events open to all

**Bridge for Pleasure** Weds 12 and 26 November  
The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12.15 p.m. The winner on 8<sup>th</sup> October 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**

**First Friday Lunch** Friday 7 November Darent Valley Golf Club, Shoreham Meet at 12.45 for 1pm. Contact: **Pat Dallas** by Wednesday 5 November

**Half Day Walking** Monday 24 November Meet on Station Road, Shoreham, 250m west of the railway bridge, in time for a 10am start. It is normally possible to park on the north side of the road. A mile circular walk to Lullingstone Visitor Centre then west for one mile before returning via Filston Mill and the Darent Valley golf course. The going is easy with a few hills. Optional lunch afterwards at The George in Shoreham.  
Leader: **Nick White**

NOTE: There will be no walk in December.

**The Strollers** Tuesday 18 November Meet at 11.00 in the car park behind the swimming pool in Tonbridge (there is a parking fee, please pay for 2 hours). The walk will be in the level area of Haysden. There will be an optional lunch afterwards at the Hilden Manor.

Leader: **Pam Kemp**

**Ambling** Wednesday 19 November Meet at Shipbourne Common car park for a 4 mile walk starting at 10 am. The car park is about 100 yards along Upper Green Road, which is opposite The Chaser Inn (post code TN11 9PE) on the A227 Tonbridge to Ightham road. New walkers are always welcome.

Leader: **Grahame Lee**

## VACANCIES IN U3A STUDY GROUPS 2014-2015 AS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Group	Vacancies	Comments
Art – Painting	Several	
Art – Wot is Art?	1-2	
Book Circle – Wednesday	2+	
Books – 20C & 21C Novels	Several	
Botanical Illustration 2	1-2	
Bridge – Teams	Several	
Bridge for Beginners	4	*see over
Bridge for Pleasure	Open	
Chess		
Churches – Looking at Churches & Chapels	Several	
Churches – Looking at London Churches	Several	*see over
Circle Dancing	Open	
Classical Studies	2	
Computer	Open	
Current Affairs	1-2	
Crosswords	1	
Cycling	Several	
Digital Camera 2	1-2	
Digital Image Manipulation 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years	Several	
Drama	Several	
E-Publishing	Several	
Embroidery	Several	
Family History 2	2	
First Friday Lunch	Open	
French Discussion	Several	
Garden Group 1	Several	
Garden Group 2	2-3	
Garden Group 4	1-2	
Garden Group 5	Several	
Geology Past & Present	2	
History of a House	1	
History of Transport	Few	
Industrial History	1-2	
Jazz and Blue 2	2	*see over
London Studies 1	Several	*see over
Makers of History	Several	
Medieval History	1-2	
Migration – People on the Move	Several	
Peace and Conflict Studies	1-2	
Philosophy	1-2	

Group	Vacancies	Comments
Photography	2	
Playreading 1	1-2	*see over
Poetry 2	1-2	
Recorders 1 and 2	Several	
Science Group	Open	
Sculpture	Several	Dependent on new premises
Sunday Club	Variable	Contact organiser
Tai Chi	3-4	
Walking Group 1a	1-2	
Walking Group 2	2-3	
Walking – Ambling, Half Day & Strollers	Open	
Whist	Several	
Wine Appreciation 1,2,3,4, and 5	Possibly	Contact organisers
Wire & Beaded Jewellery Making	1-2	
Women in the World	2	
Writing for Pleasure	1-2	
Writing Cricketts Farm Group	Several	

**Note: New Group :** Snooker - contact Liz Lucy  
 \*Have put in a particular request for new members.

## Diary

2014	2015
<b>Nov</b>	<b>February</b>
Tue 4 Guildford Cathedral and Wisley Xmas shop**	Fri 6 Festive Winter lunch
Fri 7 First Friday Lunch	<b>Mar</b>
Mon 10 Science Group Meeting	Tue 24 Barnes Wetland Centre
Wed 12 Bridge for Pleasure	<b>April</b>
Mon 17 Computer Group Meeting	Fri 17 – Mon 20 Paris in the Spring**
Tue 18 The Strollers	<b>May</b>
Wed 19 Ambling	Wed 20 Maldon and Layer Marney Tower
Mon 24 Half Day Walking	
Wed 26 Bridge for Pleasure	
Wed 26 Monthly Meeting	