

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

This is the time of year when we begin to plan our Handbook for next year (2016-2017). The Handbook is an important reference for both new and existing members giving updated information on all our group activities, the contact details of our Group Organisers and members of our various committees.

Susan Henson, the Group Co-ordinator, will be writing to all the Group Organisers requesting updated information on their groups. May I ask you to respond to Susan as quickly as you can, there is much to do in the preparation of the Handbook and your speedy response will assist her in getting the Handbook printed in good time.

On another point, the Chair of the Computer Group, Mike Bamforth, wishes to step down and we are seeking a volunteer to take over his role. If you are interested and wish to find out more - please contact Mike or me.

Some of our language groups, particularly Italian, are struggling to find a native speaker or someone with good language skills to lead their group. If you feel you could help with this, please get in touch.

I hope to see many of you at our Jazz and Blues Workshop in May, and our Science Study Day in June.

Jim Purves. chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Diary

MAY

Wed 11 Bridge
Fri 13 Computer Group
Mon 16 Apple iPad, IMac, iPhone & iWatch
Mon 16 Science Group
Tues 17 Strollers
Wed 18 Dungeness visit
Wed 18 Ambling
Thurs 19 Jazz Study Afternoon
Mon 23 Half day walk
Wed 25 Bridge
Wed 25 Monthly Meeting

JUNE

Thurs 9 Science Study Day
Wed 22 AGM
Wed 29 Outing to Wimpole Estate

BERYL'S BLOG

LIVING WELL

West Kent Social Services has published a very useful 32 page document called "Living life to the full in West Kent". It explains how to make the most of life as you get older and tells you where to find information if you need support.

There are chapters on:

- Keeping healthy and well with sections on lifelong learning and looking after your health;
- Dealing with life changes such as caring for someone and keeping mobile;
- Financial, legal and housing matters, which includes information on entitlements and wills;
- Keeping safe with advice on accident prevention and reducing risks
- Useful contacts and information

The document is on our website, can be downloaded at <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/adult-Social-Services/leaflets-and-brochures/living-life-to-the-full-in-west-kent-leaflet.pdf> or copies (including braille, audio or large print) can be obtained by contacting West Kent Customer Care on: 01732 525187

DO YOU REMEMBER THE COLD WAR?

Jessica Douthwaite, a PhD student working with the Imperial War Museum and the University of Strathclyde, is researching the public's experience of the Cold War from 1945 to 1962 through oral history interviews. She is interested in talking to men and women about their daily lives, families, jobs, leisure time and awareness of the Cold War especially in the 1950s. If you would like to be involved please email her at jessica.douthwaite@strath.ac.uk.

Beryl Mansell. vicechair@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING

**2.00pm Wednesday 25 May
at the Bat & Ball Community Centre.**

The Social and Political Satire of Gilbert and Sullivan. A talk accompanied by music on CD by Bernard Lockett. The speaker is a trustee of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival and ClasicFest.

He has broadcast on BBC radio and television as well as ITV on a number of occasions.

Newsletter Team: Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith

Copy for June Newsletter (which will be distributed on Wednesday 25 May) by Tuesday 10 May
to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Susan Henson groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org

Susan Henson is starting to collate group details for the **2016-2017 Handbook** and will be contacting all group leaders to ask whether there have been any changes to their entries since the publication of the current Handbook. GOs will be asked to respond whatever their group situation but failure to respond means that the entry for that group will be exactly the same as this year!

SINGING FOR FUN: Angela Lister's group remains full, but there is nothing to stop anyone with a piano from inviting interested members to come round for a singsong. If this is successful it could become a regular happening. From little acorns great oak trees grow!



THE APPLE GROUP



If you are thinking of changing to Apple or you want to get more enjoyment from your Apple computer, iPad, or iPhone please come along to one of our open monthly meetings. We will share new and different ways of getting the best from your devices.

Our monthly meetings are now on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm at the Otford Methodist Church Hall. We start with presentations from our committee members or members of the group. These include areas of interest using the excellent software as well as exploring some of the latest Apps available. It doesn't matter whether you have been using your devices for some time or are new to the world of Apple. Our goal is that you will come away from our meetings with something new to explore.

After the initial presentations we then hold round table mini workshops so that everyone can join in. In these groups we share knowledge and attempt to solve any issues or problems our members would like to discuss.

Some of our recent topics have included more iTunes information, organising your photos, getting better use of Siri, using the Cloud, Dropbox, Facebook and social media, finding your way with Apple Maps and event tracking the international space station.

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings just send an email to David.simmons22@btinternet.com and we will send you the agenda prior to the meeting. Our final meeting before the summer break is on 16th May 2016 at 2pm in the Otford Methodist Church. For the May meeting only we are changing to the 3rd Monday in the month

Dave Simmons.

JAZZ

THE BLUES ROLL ON. THURSDAY 19 MAY

The next Jazz event will be on Thursday 19 May when Jazz and Blues Group 1 will be having a study afternoon in Otford Village Hall from 2 to 4pm.

Veteran bluesmen Dave Peabody and Alan Glen will take us with words and music through the migration of blues from its heartland in the Mississippi Delta to Chicago and beyond.

Tickets are £5 each. Flyer in last month's Newsletter or on the Sevenoaks U3A website. Please join us for what should be another excellent Jazz event.



jazz1@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

A SHIPLoad OF JAZZ

Sevenoaks U3A enjoyed a major triumph with its Jazz Study Day held on 24th March at The Ship Theatre. The event, featured as 'The Ragged Road to Swing', proved a magnet for U3A jazz enthusiasts drawn from Sevenoaks and the surrounding area. A product of the Guildhall School of Music Jazz Department, the musicians delighted a capacity audience with a display of virtuosity leavened with informed insights into the origins and the performance of jazz. Already highly accomplished, these young jazz musicians, known at their gigs as 'The Jitter Kings' wowed the audience with a display of jazz ranging over many of the popular standards. Their programme ended with a stunning rendition of *Mack the Knife* laced with words specially adapted for the occasion. Throughout the day vocalist Abbey Mordue contributed a powerful lead in a style closely resembling that of her two great idols: Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. It was a day to remember for all those lucky enough to attend.

Harvey Mahn.



2016 AGM



This year's AGM will be held at the Community Centre at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd June.

Nominations for the posts of Secretary and Membership Secretary have already been received; Judy Hebert and Linda Gilbert will be stepping down at the AGM.

The following papers will be sent to all members with the June Newsletter, published on 25th May; those taking the hard copy Newsletter will receive paper versions and those taking the eNewsletter will receive theirs electronically:

The Agenda

The Trustees' Annual Report

The Accounts

The draft Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Paper versions of the draft 2015 Minutes will be placed on chairs at the AGM; please bring your own copies of the other AGM papers.

If any member wishes to put forward a motion to be debated at the AGM, it must be received by the Secretary no later than Wednesday 25th May. The motion must have a formal proposer and seconder.

Following the AGM, a talk will be given by Nigel Cox and a co-presenter, both Kent magistrates, on the topic *Magistrates in the Community*. They will explain the way the courts work and include a case study for the audience to consider as to verdict and sentence.

At the end of the afternoon, our hospitality team will be serving tea and cakes as usual.

Judy Hebert

Secretary

secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

E-NEWSLETTER WATCH

SIGN UP NOW to receive an electronic copy of the Newsletter in full colour direct into your mailbox. email cstreets@aol.com

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

Reminders and announcements of forthcoming Social Events



June 29

Outing to the Wimpole Estate (National Trust property) There are one or two spaces left for this visit. If interested please apply as soon as possible, using the flyer included in the April Newsletter or available on the Sevenoaks U3A website.



July 28

A coach trip to Highclere, venue for the filming of Downton Abbey, has been organised with a guided tour included. Please see the enclosed flyer for further details.

Flyers with this Newsletter are

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 25 - 28 May | Macbeth with Kentish Opera |
| 13 July | Visit to Woburn Abbey (Knole outing) |
| 28 July | Visit to Highclere |

MEMBERS' CORNER

Please submit items of interest to members to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

Computer Group

Friday 13 May

A POTPOURRI OF IT WISDOM.

Presentation by Tony Fishpool

- How to Upgrade to Windows 10
- Is it Worth it – What are the benefits
- How Secure are Your Tablets and Telephones
- Which Scammers to Look Out For
- Social Networking – Why bother –What are the risks

Oxford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A Members welcome. £2 entry includes refreshments
Mike Bamforth 01732 450491

The Computer Group will be taking a summer break and resuming meetings in October.

Apple Group

Monday 16 May

iPad, iMac & iPhone

- Using Calendars
- Freeing up storage space
- Drop Box
- Photo Apps
- Repairing iPhone & iPad screens

Round Tables: iPad users & photo apps, Mac computer users & storage space, Calendars, Drop Box

Oxford Methodist Church Hall from 2 - 4pm

Next Meeting will be on October 10th 2016 after summer break. Dave Simmons 01732 457646

The Strollers

Tuesday 17 May

Meet at 11am in the Westminster Fields car park, Horton Kirby (MR 560685). At Oxford follow the A225 towards Farningham, where you have to turn left onto the A20. Go right round the roundabout and back again, then take the first left (Eglantine Lane). When you reach the Horton Kirby sign at the bottom turn left onto Rays Hill and bear right at the bottom onto "The Street". Carry on past a left turn, Millen Close and take the next left which takes you over the river into the car park. The walk is all on the flat and should take about one and a half hours to Farningham and back. Optional lunch afterwards in the Fighting Cocks at Horton Kirby.

Leader: Barbara Coleyshaw 01732 884381.

Half Day Walking

Monday 23 May

Meet near to the entrance to the National Trust car park at Chartwell in time for a 10am start. The walk is 5½ miles with some hills and goes to Mariners Hill, Toy's Hill and French Street. Lunch afterwards for those who stay will be in the cafeteria at Chartwell. There is a small charge for non-NT members to use the car park, but it is not necessary to pay the entrance fee to use the cafeteria.
Leader: Nick White 01959 564145.

Bridge for Pleasure

Weds 11 & 25 May

The Group plays at Oxford 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 9th March was Jean Stackhouse and on 23rd March was David Record.

We are an "open" group, so any new players can just come along.

Colin and Mary Butson 01732 458356.

Science Group

Monday 16 May

EXPLORING COMET 67P: THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S ROSETTA PROJECT.

Talk by Stephen Lowry

The European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft has been studying comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko up close for over a year. The images sent back from the OSIRIS optical camera instrument on board the orbiter have revealed a striking and bizarre world. Dr Lowry will summarize the latest findings from the mission with emphasis on the imaging data from OSIRIS, and will also discuss what we still hope to learn as the probe continues to escort the comet around the Sun.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. £2 entry includes tea.

Ambling

Wednesday 18 May

Meet at Weald village green for a 4-mile walk starting at 10:00am.

At the foot of Riverhill (A225) turn right into Morleys Road (signed "Sevenoaks Weald") for ¾ mile. At Weald Village sign go straight ahead and park close to the school (post code TN14 6PY) in Long Barn Road. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Velma Keys 01732 459001.

Science Group Study Day Thursday 9 June

THE AGEING BRAIN: USE IT OR LOSE IT!

The meeting will be held at Orchard Conference Centre, East Malling Research. A flyer with more details and a booking form were included with the April Newsletter. These can also be found on Sevenoaks U3A's web site. Unfortunately at the time of writing, bookings are close to the 150 maximum we can handle. If this number is reached, further bookings will be put on to a reserve list to be confirmed only if and when we have cancellations
Win Gutteridge 01732 454923

Visit to Highclere Castle

Thursday 28th July 2016



This is an all day visit to Highclere Castle, nr. Newbury, Berkshire, home to the Carnarvon Family. In 1838 the 3rd Earl transformed his home into a grand mansion which would impress the world. During the first world war the Castle was transformed into a hospital by Almina, the 5th Countess of Carnarvon and it was in 1922 that the 5th Earl and Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun which at that time was a worldwide global event! More recently Downton Abbey has been filmed here. The State Rooms are of great interest and for art lovers in the State Dining Room is Van Dyck's great equestrian portrait of Charles I.

- Date:** Thursday, 28 July
- Departing:** 9 a.m. Tesco Riverhead (rear of store)
(There will be a coffee stop en route)
- Cost:** £29 per person which includes coach fare, entrance to Castle, Gardens and Egyptian Exhibition and tip to the coach driver
- Numbers:** Limited to 48. Refreshments are available throughout the day in the Tea Room
- Organiser:** Joyce Allen
01959 522915
social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

THIS OUTING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF SEVENOAKS U3A



Please complete the portion below and together with your payment send it to Joyce Allen, 82 Evelyn Road, Otford, TN14 5PU, with a stamped addressed envelope, to arrive no later than 3rd June. **Please make out your cheque to Sevenoaks U3A Social Account. Please also advise your car registration number if parking at Tesco.**

Name:

Address:

Phone No:..... Email address:.....

Please reserve place(s) for Highclere Castle Car Registration No:



Woburn Abbey and Gardens

We have arranged a visit by coach to Woburn Abbey and Gardens, the historic family home of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford for nearly 400 years. The art collection is amongst the finest in private hands, and includes some 250 paintings, including works by Rubens, Van Dyck, Canaletto and Velasquez as well as extensive collections of period furniture, porcelain and gold- and silverware.

Date: Wednesday 13 July 2016

Meeting: The coach will leave Baker's Yard (opposite Wickes in Otford Road) at 8.30am. Car parking is available. There is a maximum of 49 places on the trip.

Schedule: We will arrive at approximately 10.30 for coffee or tea and biscuits. Your tickets will include entry to the house and gardens which you may explore during the day at your own pace. Further refreshments, including lunch are available but are not included in the price. The coach will leave at 5.00pm for the journey home.

Cost: £29 per person includes return coach travel, gratuity, parking paid at Baker's Yard, group entrance to Woburn Abbey and Gardens and coffee & biscuits on arrival.

Organiser: Mike Willsher Tel: 01732 469166 Mobile: 07711 705189
Email: michaelwillsher@talktalk.net

**This visit is open to all members of Knole U3A, and their friends, given space.
Spare places offered to Sevenoaks.**

Please detach and send this slip to Mike Willsher, 7 Morel Court, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3BG.
I/we wish to join the Knole U3A visit to Woburn Abbey and Gardens on Wednesday 13 July 2016.
I enclose a cheque for £..... (£29 per person) made payable to **Knole U3A Extramural**.
I will be parking at Baker's Yard: Yes/No

Name(s).....

.....

Address.....

.....

Tel no..... Mobile no.....

Email.....

Please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope** for your receipt.



KENTISH OPERA



THE STAG THEATRE

Stag Community Arts Centre

London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ

25th ~ 28th MAY 2016

Verdi's
Macbeth



Conductor
ROBYN SEVASTOS

Director
TERRY JOHN BATES

Set Designer
ENID STRUTT

Costume Designer
CAROL STEVENSON

KENTISH OPERA

Stag Theatre

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calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge

administration fee: £2 per sale

www.kentishopera.com

www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk





Macbeth

25th ~ 28th MAY 2016

2016 marks the 400th Anniversary of the death of our greatest playwright, William Shakespeare, which Kentish Opera is marking

with a new production of an opera based on one of his plays.

Verdi was a fervent admirer of Shakespeare composing three operas based on his plays. He described Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as 'one of the greatest creations of man'. He took great source material and used it to compose an opera with choruses that range from eerie (the witches) to heart-wrenching (the people of Scotland).

The Macbeth couple are two of the most thrilling leading roles in all of opera. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth burn with ruthless passion but their reign is finally engulfed by their doomed fate.

Macbeth is an opera teeming with madness, the supernatural, and savagely unrestrained passion, which combined with the brilliance of Verdi's richly emotional score, makes it an opera not to be missed!

This new production is traditionally staged and sung in English with professional soloists and orchestra together with the superb Kentish Opera chorus. The cast and orchestra are conducted by Robyn Sevastos and directed by Terry John Bates, who has worked with English National Opera and Metropolitan Opera. The stunning sets and costumes are created by Enid Strutt and Carol Stevenson, with spectacular lighting by Colin Martin.

Thu, Fri at 7.30 pm & Sat at 6.30 pm
£28 £25 £15

Wed at 7.30 pm
£25 £22 £12

| STAGE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Students and under 16s
£10 any seat any performance

KENTISH OPERA
 55 Hartfield Crescent,
 West Wickham, BR4 9DW
08456 432 987
www.kentishopera.com

THE STAG
 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ
01732 450175
www.stagevenoaks.co.uk
 (administration fee: £2 per sale)

