

Notice of **Annual General Meeting**

The Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 27th June 2018** at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks.

Nominations from Members for Executive Committee vacancies for Vice Chairman, Monthly Meetings Organiser, and External Affairs Coordinator must be lodged with the Secretary by 30th May 2018.

The Secretary and Membership Secretary will have completed their 2-year term of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Further nominations for these posts may be submitted by Members to the Secretary by 30th May 2018.

Any motion that a Member may wish to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 30th May 2018, and be duly proposed and seconded.

AGM papers will be included with the June Newsletter.

Jackie Bradforth

secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Diary for April

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| April 9 | Science Group |
| April 11 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| April 14 | Trip to Winchelsea |
| April 16 | Computer Group |
| April 18 | Ambling |
| April 23 | Half day walking |
| April 23 | Apple Group |
| April 25 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| April 25 | Monthly Meeting |

Chairman's Chat

I hope you all kept warm during the recent cold snap. It was unfortunate that our monthly meeting had to be cancelled (and rather ironic that the talk was to be *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventures*).

Please remember to check on the U3A website if there is any doubt about a meeting going ahead.

I am sure that many of you are aware that new data protection regulations come into force in May of this year and a paper is attached to this Newsletter explaining how the Membership Database operates within our U3A and your rights in relation to the information we hold on you.

Our Science Group is putting on its annual Seminar in June entitled *Technology meets Medicine - Bio-Engineering & Robotics*. They have arranged a most interesting programme with expert speakers and I hope as many members as possible will attend.

Jim Purves

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

AT THE BAT & BALL COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 2PM

WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH

Jacqueline Aviolet will talk about her experiences in running a garden centre for 20 years. Members will be able to ask questions on any topic related to gardening, so if you have a plant that won't grow, or you can't decide what to plant in a favourite spot, here is your chance to hear from an expert.

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL

Antiques - The Good the Bad and the Ugly

Janie Ramsay, a former expert at Sotheby's, will talk about her experiences in the world of antiques.

The February meeting had to be cancelled at short notice due to the snow. We did all we could to inform the membership although, unfortunately, the member who holds the email database was abroad on holiday. Michael Smith will give his talk on Shackleton at a future date.

Aviation Group



Photo: Red Arrows, taken by Richard Matthews (Grandson of Frank Matthews)

The Aviation Group held its first meeting in November last year. The group is organised on conventional U3A study group lines with members taking it in turns to present a talk on a subject of their choosing.

So far we have had four well received talks on *Zeppelin Airships*, *The Experiences of a De Havilland Engineering Trainee*, *The Engine Designer Stanley Hooker* and *The Activities of BOAC during the 2nd World War*.

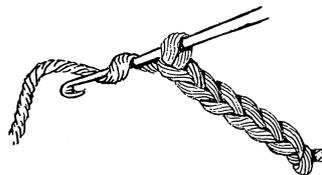
Future talks will cover *Aircraft of the Pacific War* and *A History of Dan-Air*. Outings to places of aviation interest will be arranged for the summer.

Currently we have space for one or two more members. If interested please contact **Frank Matthews**

Crochet Group

Would you like to learn to Crochet?

We now have a new group 'up and running' of ladies who are learning to crochet. The Group is small to enable us to sit around a table and for everyone to be helped individually by the Group Organiser. Everyone is learning at their own pace so you can be a complete beginner, or someone who has 'done a little bit' and wants to improve.



We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the afternoon 2pm-4pm and members take turns in holding a meeting at their house.

All you need to start is a crochet hook (ideally size 4) and some double knitting wool.

Please email crochet@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk if you are interested in joining the group or if you have any queries.

Europe Today



This Group is already full and cannot accommodate the four people on the waiting list. We would therefore like to call a meeting as soon as possible to begin a further group, and hope there are others who would be interested in joining at the outset.

This is one of the founder Groups in Sevenoaks U3A, starting in 1994, but we have been running in our current format for 13 years. The programme is decided in the summer and each month, the members introduce a topic that interests them, before a general discussion. On occasion, we choose several different newspapers and compare their priorities and alternative bias. After the first meeting, we will give the new group advice and help until they are established. Brexit features highly on the national agenda at the moment and is discussed by the Group, but there is also continuing interest in comparing health services, law, education provision or transport links across the whole spectrum of European countries.

If you are interested in this new group, please contact

John Harris or **Magda Sweetland**

New Piano Playing Group

The group would be for anyone above beginner standard with a real piano, not keyboard, to prepare a piece to play in front of other members, meeting monthly in members' houses. Simple pieces or advanced, with mistakes, would be fine in a very relaxed, friendly and understanding group of enthusiasts.



For any interest and further details please contact **Tony Buick**

On **Wednesday July 4** there will be a ferry trip from **Westminster Pier**, where we will meet, to the **Thames Barrier** for a guided talk on the history, environment and wildlife of the river and the risk of flooding in London.

There are limited spaces available so be sure to apply promptly on the flyer attached/enclosed, where more information is given.



New Members Coffee Morning

Members of the Executive Committee, Group Development and Membership teams entertained 22 new members at a coffee morning on March 9th. The background and ethos of our U3A was outlined to new members who then had the opportunity to exchange views and determine what activities offered by our U3A may be of interest to them. It was encouraging to note their enthusiasm to get involved and this bodes well for the future of our U3A.

Coffee mornings to welcome new members are normally held twice a year and are a great opportunity to get to know one another and help new arrivals integrate into our U3A.



Flyers with this Newsletter

Thames River Trip to the Barrier
Science Seminar
Data Protection

U3A South East Summer School

18 – 21 June at Chichester

The South East Summer School at Chichester University offers 13 subjects suited to a wide range of abilities and interests, plus a full programme of evening entertainment, in a historic city in the beautiful Sussex countryside. Accommodation is available in single rooms on the University campus.

Subjects include music (jazz and ukulele), arts and crafts (painting and knitting), games (bridge and mah-jong), self (life story and well-being), out and about (walking and exploring), plus maths, culture and rituals, and people, events and nature.



Details and application forms are at
[https:// u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum](https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum).

Meetings and events open to all

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

Science Group Open Meeting Mon 9 April

Our talk for April - **Wye Bugs – Why Plants talk to Insects** by Dr Mike Copland

Dr Copland, a Senior Lecturer, leads a team in the Entomology Group at Wye College, University of London addressing the use of biological control agents, mainly predators and parasites, being used as a first choice for pest control by amateur gardeners. Wye College publish the renowned *WyeBugs Biological Control Handbook*, which demystified the science behind the technique and gives home horticulturalists access to some of the knowledge previously only enjoyed by professionals. Mike will present aspects of this work in his talk.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall 2pm.

Entry £2.00, including refreshments.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome

Bob Ruffles

Ambling Wednesday 18 April

Meet at 10 am in the Filston Lane public car park in Shoreham for a 4 mile walk.

Enter Shoreham from the A225, under the rail bridge and over the river bridge to a T-junction. Turn left and the car park is on the left after 100 yards.

The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leaders: Jill and Mike Davies

Bridge for Pleasure Weds 11 & 25 April

The Group plays at Oxford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12 noon. Dates for your diary are 28 March, 11 and 25 April.



We are an "open" group, so new players can just come along on the day. We play the 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner.

New members are always welcome.

For more information, please ring
John and Sue Christy

Half Day Walking Monday 23 April

Meet in the public car park 50 metres south of the Blacksmith's Arms in Cudham in time for a 10a.m. start TN14 7QB; Grid reference 446597. The walk is 5 miles, mostly flat. Some of the stiles are not dog-friendly. Lunch afterwards will be at the Blacksmith's Arms. All U3A members are welcome.

Leader: Nick White

Apple Group Monday 23 April

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

- ◆ What's new forum - discussion
- ◆ What's new in Photos - Dave
- ◆ Taking better photos - Elaine
- ◆ System Preferences - Gwyn

Round Tables: New in Photos, taking better photos & System Preferences

Oxford Village Memorial Hall from 2 -4 pm

Next Meetings 25th June (4th Mondays at 2pm)

Please note no meeting in May as the 4th Monday is the Spring Bank Holiday

Dave Simmons

Computer Group Monday 16 April

This month's talk will be given by Bob Ruffles who is probably well known to most Sevenoaks U3A members having served as the Chairman in the past and is now part of the team looking after the Website. Bob is involved in preparing our U3A for the new data protection legislation due to be implemented very soon.

Bob has put together a presentation which includes what it is, what rights it gives the individual and more importantly what should be done by individuals handling data and how to secure it.

This will also be a chance to quiz Bob on other topics such as discounted software etc and should be a lively and informative afternoon.

Oxford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome. £2 entry includes refreshments.

Mike Davies