

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks.

Nominations from Members for Executive Committee vacancies for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Group Development Coordinator and External Affairs Coordinator must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2019.

Richard Baxter and Barbara Coleyshaw were co-opted on to the Committee and stand for election to the Executive Committee as Meetings Manager and Speakers' Secretary respectively.

The Social Committee Chair and Communications Chair will have completed their 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 31st May 2019.

Any motion that a Member may wish to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2019 and be duly proposed and seconded.

AGM papers will be included with the June Newsletter.

Jackie Bradforth secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

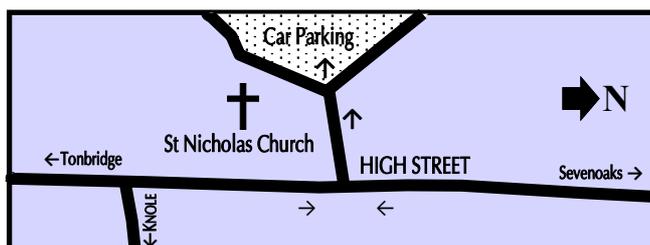
MONTHLY MEETING

**2.00 p.m. Wednesday 22 May at
St Nicholas Church, Upper High Street ***

Sian West will talk about *Prisons and Rehabilitation*

Sian worked in the prison service from 1978 until she took early retirement in 2010, having served as Prison Governor at Cookham Wood, High Down and finally Cardiff. She was subsequently involved with various rehabilitation charities and provided music coaching in three prisons in the Medway. She still has a strong interest in what is going on in our prison and probation system and will be addressing the question 'What is wrong with our prisons today?'

*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I recently attended a very lively coffee morning for new members. There was a lovely buzz of noise in the room as our new members shared their views on the activities they had joined, how they were enjoying the Wednesday afternoon general meeting and where they felt they were able to contribute to our U3A. My thanks, as always, to the volunteers who made this friendly session go so well.

Early in May it will be the turn of the Group Organisers to get together over an informal lunch. It is an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to them for all the work they do and for them to share with each other their experiences and approaches to running the different groups and activities.

On a more practical note, our Exec Committee has decided to test a new database offered by the Third Age Trust and already used by many other U3As. It was designed specifically for U3As, to manage membership, finances and group organisation. Potentially the benefit will be having all the organisational 'stuff' in one secure database, easily accessed by those who need to. We have set up a small Working Party to use the membership function first and are waiting to hear if, as hoped, it saves time and effort. There will be a cost of £1 per member when it is up and running, which should be later in the year. This £1 will be covered by your current subscription.

It only remains for me to wish you a very happy and busy month.

Sue Christy

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MAY DIARY 2019

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| May 4-6 | Art Exhibition in Seal |
| May 8 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| May 13 | Science Group |
| May 15 | Ambling |
| May 20 | Half Day Walking |
| May 20 | Computer Group |
| May 20 | Apple Group |
| May 22 | Monthly Meeting |
| May 22 | Bridge for Pleasure |

Charleston Farmhouse

Gallery Group 1 has arranged a visit to Charleston Farmhouse, the home of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, on Wednesday 1st May to view the exhibition *In Colour – Sickert to Riley*, and has a few places available for other U3A members. The cost is £11, including an introductory talk, and entry to the exhibition and garden. For more information, contact **Chris Dance** groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



Robert Dukes, Oranges and Quinces – Courtesy of Browse & Darby



We welcome photographs of group events and activities.
Please send to: news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Diamonds Galore and So Much More by Joyce Allen

Report on the guided tour of Hatton Garden in March

The walk was led by Blue Badge Guides Kim Dewdney and Rex Osborn (married to each other) and the party split into two groups. Throughout the tour we learned '**So Much More**' about the history of this area from strawberries, herbs and guns to Dickens and diamonds. Just outside the City of London Walls the Bishop of Ely (a close friend of Richard, Duke of Gloucester) built his palace, with a sumptuous garden, the speciality being strawberries. Shakespeare mentions these strawberries in Richard III. After the Reformation Elizabeth I handed over the palace to one of her favourite courtiers, Sir Christopher Hatton for his home. Why one of the Queen's favourites? He was a good dancer! The garden remained magnificent. On the other side of the estate John Gerrard, a well-known botanist, grew herbs beneath the garden wall. This is reflected in the street names of Herbal Hill and Saffron Hill. Hiram Maxim, inventor and gun maker, lived in the area. We cannot forget Charles Dickens who lived in Furnival's Inn (now demolished) and replaced with a large gothic building for the Prudential Insurance Company in 1890. Built with two staircases and entrances, as the company was to employ ladies and did not wish for any fraternisation! As Dickens became more affluent he moved to nearby Doughty Street. Diamonds: yes, of course - on display in the windows of the numerous shops, many of which have their workshops unseen in the rear, and since the war years the International Diamond Market operates from a building in Hatton Garden.



Another walk is being planned for the Autumn

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS (cont')

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Eastbourne and the Towner Gallery

There are a few places left for the coach visit on **June 4** to Eastbourne's Towner Gallery, famous for its collection of paintings by Eric Ravilious and others. There will be the opportunity to tour the Art Store (for an additional charge) or to take a stroll downhill to the sea front. In the afternoon the coach will take you to Michelham Priory, a splendid Tudor moated house with lovely gardens to enjoy. Please apply promptly on the application form found on the website where further details are given.

Henry Moore's Studio

There is a coach trip to see Henry Moore's Studios and Gardens (now an art gallery and sculpture park displaying his work) at Much Hadham on **Tuesday June 24**. Since space for parking is limited the organiser has had to book a smaller coach than usual - so if you are interested please apply **as soon as possible** on the application form on the flyer (attached).

Kew Gardens Christmas Lights

We are hoping to book a coach trip to Kew Gardens to see the Christmas lights either on **November 22nd 2019** or **January 3rd 2020**. It would help Joyce Allen who is thinking of organising this trip if you could let her know if such a visit would interest you.

South Wales Heritage

Advance notice: the tour entitled *Historic Houses and Heritage of South Wales and the Wye Valley* has now been booked with Tailored Travel for **May 11-15 2020**. Please make a note of the date in your diary.

Future Visits

The Social Events Committee would welcome any suggestions for future visits (either by train or coach) that would appeal to you. On behalf of the committee Joyce Allen is happy to receive any suggestions. Maybe you have been on an interesting trip with another organisation? Perhaps there is a place/house/gallery you have always wanted to see or would like to revisit? Please let Joyce have ideas that the committee could consider.

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

How your subscription was spent in 2018-19

| INCOME | EXPENDITURE | SURPLUS |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Gift Aid £2.30 | Other £1.00 | Surplus £0.60 |
| Members Subs £13.00 | Equipment Website £2.20 | |
| | Meetings Hire Hall Speakers £2.10 | |
| | Printing & distribution Handbook Newsletters Flyers £4.20 | |
| | Third Age Matters Magazine £1.70 | |
| | Third Age capitation Fee £3.50 | |

FLYERS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Trip to Henry Moore's Studio

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary on page 1 for complete list of events

Science Group Monday 13 May

Professor Nick Donaldson: *Treating Spinal Cord Injury by Biomedical Engineering methods*

In the 20th century, clinicians learnt to keep those who had suffered spinal cord injury alive, but their paralysed condition was chronic because the cord was not capable of repairing itself. Using electrical stimulation, engineers aimed to develop systems to restore limb and central organ function, so-called Functional Electrical Stimulation. Professor Donaldson will describe the advances made in this area of biomedical engineering.

This is the last Science Talk before the summer break. Our Autumn Programme of talks begins on 14th October 2019. More details to follow in future newsletters

Entrance Fee: £1.00 at the door. Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome

Forward Events: Places for our Science Seminar on the 5th June are filling up fast.

If you wish to attend, please apply early. More details and the Flyer can be found on our website under the Future Events tab: <https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Flyer-Science-Seminar-2019.pdf>

Bob Ruffles

Half Day Walking Monday 20 May

Meet on the green at Weald Village in time for a 10am start. TN14 6PN NGR 528509. The walk is about 5 miles with easy going. All U3A members are welcome to join the walk. Lunch after the walk will be at the White Hart, Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks.

Leader: **Velma Keys**

Bridge for Pleasure Weds 8 and 22 May



The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from October to July, from 9.45 a.m. until 12 noon. The winners in March were Iris Willis and Denise

Record. New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group so new players can just come along on the day. We play ACOL in a 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner.

For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy**

Computer Group Monday 20 May

Talk by a representative of Nat West Bank on **Digital Security** to include online banking as well as social media. This will be a joint meeting with the Sevenoaks U3A Apple Group.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome.

£2 entry

Mike Davies

Apple Group Monday 20 May

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

As the 4th Monday in May is Spring Bank Holiday, we are changing to the third Monday (20th) and sharing with the Computer Group. There will be a talk by Clare Oldfield from NatWest on **Digital Security**. She will cover how to stay safe when using digital devices for shopping and banking, plus tips for creating safe passwords. Clare will also give an insight into the importance of having your privacy settings correct.

Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2 -4 pm. Please arrive early to find your parking place.

Next meeting: our last meeting before the summer break is on 24th June when Paul, Elaine, Gwyn and Dave will give you some ideas of things to try over the summer.

Dave Simmons

Ambling Wednesday 15 May

Meet in the lower car park of the Vineyard pub at Lamberhurst for a 10 am start. Leave the A21, drive through Lamberhurst High Street, veer right and up the hill. At top of the hill veer right and the pub is on the right. Afterwards there is an optional lunch at the Vineyard.

Leader: **Janet Wilson**

MEMBERS' CORNER

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

Sevenoaks Music Club is dedicating its final concert of the year on 27 April to former U3A member, Bryan Marson-Smith. The concert will be held at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, 7:30pm. The Endellion String Quartet will be playing Mozart, Dvorak and Beethoven.

Tickets & information:

www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk
or 01732 451581