

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

After eight years on the executive committee, the time has come for me to stand down. It has been a privilege to serve the members of our wonderful organisation, and I am happy to know that I am leaving it in safe hands. I will continue with my groups and, if required, as editor of the newsletter. Throughout my period as chairman, which has been plagued by lockdown, I have received wonderful support from eight dedicated committee members, all of whom have worked extremely hard in their respective fields of responsibility. I would also like to thank the group organisers, members who serve on the committees of open groups and many others who sustain our extensive programme of activities. Apart from the contributions they make to Sevenoaks u3a, we have many members who also provide valuable support to the wider community. Our current members include the Mayor of Sevenoaks, the chairman of Sevenoaks District Council, a second District Councillor, two Town Councillors, the chairman of The Sevenoaks Society, the chairman of the Sevenoaks branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and many others who perform valued services in the voluntary sector. I wish our great organisation every success in the years ahead.

Nick White

CONNECT & LEARN WEBSITE

Our **Connect & Learn** website (www.sevenoaksu3aconnectandlearn.org) now has a wealth of information available to suit many of our groups. In addition to information which may be of interest to our members during these difficult times, much of the information could also provide a basis for discussion within groups when normality returns and we are able to meet face-to-face.

Many thanks to the small number of members who have already contributed items for inclusion. The following 120+ items gives an idea of what is available.

Arts & Crafts 11 items	Computing 14	Culture & Society 1	Games 4
Gardens 21	History 5	Languages 3	Literature 9
Music & Theatre 10	Photography 2	Science 14	Visits in UK 19
Visits Overseas 14	Wine Appreciation 1		

There are also over 60 additional items in categories which do not immediately fit into our standard group categories. Virtually all items on this website are completely free to view or participate in.

As you can see from the list above, some of the group categories are very under-represented.

Please contact me with the details of any web-based information which you think will interest our members and I will add them to the site.

David Taylor communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

BOOK CIRCLE—WEDNESDAY

We read mainly modern fiction, but not exclusively. We meet in members' homes from May to October. Books are chosen by members plus suggested titles from Sevenoaks Library.

New members very welcome.

Mary Arthur or Anne Evans

booksweds@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

STROLLERS 1

This group has decided to admit no more members. Large walking groups are too cumbersome.

There are several people who wish to join a strolling group so another Strollers 2 can be formed. If you wish to join please let me know and I will forward your name to this group.

Anne Gutteridge strollers@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

GARDEN GROUP 2

Throughout both lockdowns the group continued to hold monthly Zoom meetings to discuss future gardens to visit, and found sites we could visit on line and then discuss.

A few members did book and visit gardens that were part open. Most members are keen gardeners, including those who don't garden now, and all enjoy the outings.

We sometimes manage two gardens in one day if they are close to each other.

Cherry Moss garden2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

WIRE & BEADED JEWELLERY MAKING

This Group has continued in fine form throughout the lockdown, not only exchanging emails and texts but also directly using Zoom and recently even meeting in the garden (suitably distanced). We enjoy exchanging ideas, learn and help each other or even sometimes have the help of a professional jeweller. The first 'proper' meeting will be in June on the 2nd Wednesday.

Cherry Moss jewellery@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AVIATION

The group did not meet after the initial lockdown in March until October 2020 when we started meeting monthly on Zoom. We agree a topic in advance and look for material to support the subsequent discussion. Recent topics include: biofuels, drones, additive manufacture (3D printing), hydrogen as a fuel and the revival of supersonic airliners. Recently we have watched videos of aviation interest. Currently we are a small group and would welcome one or two new members. We meet in the morning of the 3rd Friday in the month.

Frank Matthews aviation@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

LONDON STUDIES 1

From early in the pandemic we have kept our group together with monthly Zoom gatherings. All but 1 of our group have been able to attend virtually.

Initially our monthly meetings were purely social but latterly we have taken it in turns to talk about a London-based topic. Some have been reviews of past visits and some about the visits we had planned to take last year and hope to make in due course. We have also had talks about the work of particular architects who have worked in London and elsewhere. And we have had talks about some of the people commemorated by Blue Plaques and statues.

Last autumn we did manage 2 garden gatherings and are now planning more, weather permitting, to discuss the visits we hope to make when we all feel it is safe to do so. Zoom has been a very useful tool and we may continue to use it occasionally.

Diana Goymer

londonstudies1@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

TAI CHI

During the lockdown relaxation period last summer, when it was permissible to meet outdoors, we continued having sessions on the patio at the back of my house. Everyone was masked and suitably distanced. We have now started again recently in the open air, but depending on the governmental policy may soon be able to meet again at St. Edith's Church Hall every Wednesday morning.

New members need to be familiar with the '24' form and, if not, it is suggested they start by joining the Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre to learn this form.

Magdalen Kit Fong-Fry

taichi@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NEEDLECRAFT

Due to the Covid lockdown the Needlecraft Group has not been able to meet since March 2020, but has communicated by email, where necessary. On Tuesday, May 18th 2021, the group restarted meetings in members' homes. We do not have any vacancies at the moment, but there is a Waiting List.

Georgina Reynolds needlecraft@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

WESTERHAM u3a—CRIMINOLOGY GROUP

Westerham u3a have written to us asking if 1 or 2 of our members would be interested in joining their Criminology group. This group has been running for a year and they usually meet in the afternoon of the last Thursday each month.

During last year they have investigated the background and details of :

- The Brink's-MAT Robbery and local connections;
- The Great Train Robbery;
- The Oxted Chalk Pit Murder;
- Donald Maclean, and his Tatsfield and Westerham connections;
- Local Crime and Villains.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mike Humphreys on mth.7oaks@gmail.com and he can provide you with full details about the group.

AMBLING

Wednesday, 21 July, 10.30 am.

Meet at Ightham Village Hall, Ightham, TN15 9HA. Turn right off the A25, signposted to Ightham, onto Sevenoaks Road, and the village hall is on the left. An easy 4 mile walk to Basted. Leaders Ros Hook and Susan Henson. Optional lunch after the walk at the George & Dragon.

Nick White ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesday, 14 July, 11.00 am.

Meet in the National Trust car park at Toy's Hill (NGR 470517) in time for a start at 11.00. Follow Chart Lane from Brasted and the car park is on the right after the top of the hill.

Nick White

nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

We had hoped that we might have been able to restart Wednesday bridge at Otford in July and perhaps play in August and September as well before starting a new season in October. With the full lifting of restrictions on 21st June now in question, plus the fact that the hall is not available in August, we have decided to delay any restart until September at the earliest. As usual we will keep our regular players up to date by email, or phone for the few that don't have email. If anyone else would like to be included on our contact list please let us know. **John & Sue Christy** bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIARY

June 23rd at 2 pm	AGM via Zoom. Margaret Watson will talk about the harp and how it works.	July 14th	Nordic Walking (see above)
July 21st	Ambling (see above)		

FINANCE POLICY

The EC has approved a Finance Policy designed to clarify how we manage our finances and to guide the trustees and groups in managing their funds and with the aim of being open and transparent in how we handle all our u3a funds. The policy was developed on a Third Age Trust template which was no doubt introduced with recent high profile charity failures in mind. The policy is available on our website at www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk on the "u3a Governance" page.

David Lowe treasurer@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SEVENOAKS SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY

After a year's enforced break this society will be back performing in the open air at the White Rock Inn at Underriver near Sevenoaks in July. Instead of just doing one play, they will be doing them all! The show is the hit comedy The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, a hilarious romp through all 37 plays in two hours, with a few sonnets thrown in. The dates are July 8-10 and 15-17 at 7.45pm, with Sunday matinees on July 11 and 18 at 3.30pm. Tickets (£13.50) can be booked in advance at www.sevenoaksshakespeare.org.uk. On the door £15, children and full-time students £5. The show is supported by Sevenoaks District Arts Council and Sevenoaks District Council.



Many thanks to our member, Sarah Gough, for this picture of a tree carving in Riverhead Park.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

We do not normally publish a newsletter in August, but have decided that we will continue through the Summer. Please send items to be included to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk by 10th July.

