

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

At our AGM on 23rd June, we will be voting for new members of the committee. For those members who are unable to join the meeting on Zoom there will be an opportunity to vote by post. Once the formal business is over, we will be able to listen to Margaret Watson playing the harp and talking about her life as a musician.

The pandemic has caused well publicised problems in hospitals, care homes, workplaces and schools. Just as important has been the effect on retired people secluded at home. Some of our members who have lived through these difficult times may find it difficult to readjust to normal life. Over the coming months we will be working hard

to restart our groups and to bring new members into them where there are spaces. The size of groups is often limited by the size of members' houses, but there are many groups that can accommodate one or two extra members.

NickWhite

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIARY

May 26th Monthly Meeting. **Restoration of Knole** by Nathalie Cohen – lead archaeologist. 2.00pm on Zoom.

June 9th **Nordic Walking**

June 16th **Ambling**

June 23rd **Annual General Meeting** at 2 p.m. followed by a presentation by harpist, Margaret Watson

MONTHLY MEETING & AGM — June 23rd at 2 p.m

At our monthly meeting highly experienced harpist, Margaret Watson, will take a light-hearted look at the harp and how it works. With light anecdotes and lots of harp playing, Margaret will show how surprisingly versatile, fun and modern this ancient instrument can be ! Margaret performs regularly at concerts, weddings, parties, local groups charity and corporate events. She has also performed for royalty, the BBC, Netflix and at many venues including Clarence House, City Guildhall, the Savoy and Ritz Hotels, the Garrick Club, Glyndebourne Opera House and Covent Garden.

The meeting will be held virtually using Zoom.



Margaret's presentation will be preceded by the **Annual General Meeting**. Included with this Newsletter are the Trustees' Annual Report, the Statement of Accounts, and the Agenda, together with a statement by Ken Brown in support of his nomination for the post of Chairman. Beryl Mansell is standing for election as Vice-Chairman. The Treasurer (David Lowe), Secretary (Chris Dance), Group Organiser (Elaine Knight Elston), Communications Officer (David Taylor), and Meetings Manager (Barbara Coleyshaw) are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Joyce Allen is standing for election as representative of the Social Sub-committee.

Also included with this newsletter is a **Postal Voting** Form. Use this form only if you expect to be unable to attend the Virtual Annual General Meeting. If you do attend the meeting you will be able to vote on the motions during the meeting, as usual.

Chris Dance (Secretary) secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AROUND THE GROUPS

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesday 9 June at 11.00 am

Meet outside the Cock on Ide Hill green, TN14 6JN. An easy walk with some exercises through the woods and fields of Ide Hill followed by an optional lunch at the Cock.

nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SNOOKER

The group has been dormant during the latest lockdown, but will be restarting late May at the Olympia Centre in Swanley. In the meantime, there has been more snooker on TV than you can shake a stick (or cue) at, so the group members will not have forgotten the principles of playing the game. We always live in hope of one day making a majestic 40 or even 50 break, but console ourselves with the enjoyment of a couple of hours snooker twice a month, and sometimes a celebratory beer afterwards. It will take a few weeks to establish how many people will be playing regularly. Numbers are limited by table availability, but if anyone is interested in joining, please make contact.

David Gardner snooker@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CROSSWORD GROUP

Although we have not met over the last year, provided the restrictions are lifted on 21st June, we are planning to start again on Tuesday 6th July at 10.30 am in the Sennockian pub, Sevenoaks High Street. I hope our brains will not be too rusty, but am sure meeting together will "oil the wheels"! If anybody else would like to try solving The Times cryptic crossword, we have vacancies for 1 or possibly 2 more members. Please contact **Sheila Bonnett** crossword@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY

During the Covid lockdown, monthly meetings using Zoom enabled members of this group to help each other with developing our family trees. A few major, county, and specialist libraries provided research help by e-mail. Three members of our group have moved to distant areas, but two new people joined us. Where possible members helped each other via e-mail, telephone, and Zoom.

Jean Stirk familyhistory@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AMBLING

Wednesday 16 June at 11.30 am

Meet in the road opposite the church and the Chaser at Shipbourne. TN11 9PE, Grid Reference 596524. An easy 4 mile walk followed by an optional lunch at the Chaser.

Leader: Velma Keys

ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

The group has continued to meet on Zoom throughout the lockdowns. In the last few months we have had presentations on such diverse subjects as the History of Winemaking in SE England, Orchards in Kent, Industry in the Ashdown Forest, Gunsmiths and Electric Traction on the rails. We have a good programme which will take us through to December and will cover more electric subjects such as Pins and Needles, Joseph Lucas and the History of Astronomy. We may have a spare place in the group. We normally meet in the afternoon of the 3rd Friday.

David Gardner heritage@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CHESS GROUP

Chess hasn't been able to meet for over a year because of the problems with social distancing, and also touching both black and white pieces. We nevertheless recruited another member during lockdown! I intend to call a meeting in July. We are now 9 strong, so an extra member would be good.

Magda Sweetland chess@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIGITAL IMAGE MANIPULATION 1&2

These groups have not been meeting since March last year and cannot function on Zoom. I am aiming to sort out dates soon for the missed sessions and hope to restart again in October.

Janet Austin digimage1@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

HISTORY OF ART & WOT IS ART

Both of these groups have been using Zoom meetings to keep going but are now waiting for government changes to decide when they can resume normal meetings.

Lyn Mead arthistory@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

FOLK DANCING

Due to the proximity of dancers during our meetings, it has been impossible to hold meetings during the last year but we are hoping, with the announcements now coming out of Downing Street that we will convene on 9th July. I will be in contact with the members before too long to confirm arrangements. Anyone who is interested in joining us should contact:

Peter & Lyn Nixon

folkdance@sevenoaks3a.org.uk

MIGRATION OF PEOPLE

The Migration of People group has not met since February 2020 due to Covid lockdown restrictions. Not all our members were able to access Zoom so no meetings have been held for well over a year. However I have arranged for the current members to meet in my garden in June to discuss the way forward when we hopefully can commence with meetings indoors in September.

We would welcome additional members to the group. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month 10am.

Lynda Alleeson migration@sevenoaks3a.org.uk

LONDON VILLAGES

The group began in January. We chose a list of villages to research and started with Clerkenwell. We soon found out that it has an abundance of interesting history. We had illuminating talks about St John's Monastery and the ecclesiastical past of the Borough, its six prisons, Sadler's Wells and some of the interesting characters who performed there, local industries, which ranged from thousands of single person producers to large breweries and distillers, and the many radical groups which met or began around Clerkenwell Green.

Our next village is Southwark. We will be investigating Borough Market, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, the Hatters (mad or not?), the Globe Theatre, Tea and Biscuits, Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals, working girls and Southwark prisons.

Because both villages were outside the old City of London walls they were not governed by its laws. Consequently, neither had very law-abiding populations, which might explain why both had several prisons.

Beryl Mansell

londonvillages@sevenoaks3a.org.uk

HISTORY OF TRANSPORT

We have started up again and are having Zoom meetings. At the moment we have meetings every month, but dates and times are changing to suit members, and we will be finalising this later. I hope to start meetings in person in October. We have 9 members and on average about 6 attend so we could take 2 or 3 new members. We give talks and discussions on all forms of transport and any subject linked with transport.

Michael Harwood

transporthistory@sevenoaks.org.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS

Your committee will be advertising some Autumn events in the months ahead. We have been lucky to obtain some tickets for TOP HAT at the Mill Theatre in Sonning with Christmas lunch for our December outing. Flyers will be available in the coming months.

Pam Walshe social@sevenoaks3a.org.uk

SCIENCE OPEN WEBINAR MEETINGS

Our Science Zoom Webinar in May was the last for this season and we will restart our programme of talks in the autumn.

The first in our new season will be on **Monday 11th October** with a talk by Prof David Southwood on 'Missions to Mars' including an update on the current US and Chinese missions. Professor Southwood is a returning speaker who spoke to us in February about the "Cassini-Huygens: space mission to Saturn".

Currently we have chosen our talks and speakers such that they can be delivered either at a face-to-face meeting at the Otford Village Memorial Hall, or as webinars using Zoom, or as a hybrid meeting if we have to apply social distancing measures and limit numbers in the Hall. At the moment we are unable to make any firm decisions on the way forward but we will keep the situation under review throughout the summer.

Bob Ruffles science@sevenoaks3a.org.uk

ART GROUP

The Group's weekly meetings will recommence from Thursday, May 20th at 10 a.m in Seal Village Hall . Because of the size of the hall we will still be able to social distance. Members must however bring their own refreshments to the meeting.

Jack Parker art@sevenoaks3a.org.uk