

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

April Fools Day passed without any attempt to better the BBC's famous 1957 spoof. Austrian-born Panorama cameraman Charles de Jaeger liked to play practical jokes and recalled a saying of one of his teachers "Boys, you're so stupid, you'd believe me if I told you that spaghetti grows on trees." In 1957 Panorama aired on April Fool's Day. While working on another assignment in Switzerland, he shot the wonderful "spaghetti harvest" scenes at a hotel on the shore of Lake Lugano with local Swiss girls dressed in National Costume. On the night anchor man Richard Dimbleby, carried it off with aplomb ! The BBC received criticism but the script writer said that it was a good idea for people to be aware they couldn't believe everything they saw on the television. Current audiences in Russia please note.

The AGM is fast approaching, and the EC still needs nominations for Secretary, and Group Development Coordinator roles. Please contact Chris Dance

(EC Secretary), Beryl Mansell (VC and Temporary GD Coordinator), or me if you wish to express an interest.

A New Members' Meeting was held on March 25th, attended by 14 people. This was successfully run by the Group Development Team. On the same day I attended the very enjoyable **Festival (Christmas!) Lunch,** organised by the Social Committee. This had been rearranged, not this time because of Covid, but because in February storm Franklin caused the closure of the venue - Wilderness Golf Club.

The "academic year" is coming to an end and I am planning October 2022 to June 2023 programmes for my Opera and Music Appreciation A groups. The latter meets pm on the 3rd Monday in the month and a new member found this clashed with the Open Computer Group. Being ever flexible I thought I should explore a change. On reflection perhaps Study Groups should try to avoid meeting at the same times as Open Groups? Page 24 in

the current (2021-22) Su3a handbook very usefully shows when Study Groups meet, am/pm by days in the month. Checking "Monday Afternoon" confirmed the clash, and also that the Science Open Group met pm on the 2nd Monday. So, the 1st or 4th Monday afternoons would avoid computer and science open groups, and I have emailed Music Group A members asking for preferences.

One can never be sure how the pandemic will develop, but Covid seems to be calming down and fewer of my friends and relatives are contracting it. The government figures for Sevenoaks support this impression. In the week 5-11 April, although test numbers fell by 35%, there was a 38.5% reduction in positives. The number of respiratory viral infections generally tends to fall in the warmer months, so get outside into the fresh air, and enjoy the Merry Month of May !

Dr. Ken Brown

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING—MAY 25th at 2 p.m

Our speaker this month is Malcolm Nelson. Malcolm worked for HM Customs and Excise for 40 years, mainly based at Heathrow, but he also spent time in St. Petersburg, Malta and many of the main EU airports where he investigated and apprehended drug smugglers. Since his retirement in 2005 he has developed his speaking activity and now delivers in excess of 80 talks a year to clubs and societies in the South East and speaks on 4 or 5 cruises each year.

His presentation is entitled **"40 years of catching smugglers"** and he

will be giving us an insight into how Customs Officers select passengers who they think might be carrying drugs. Just what is it they are looking for ? What are the tell tale signs ? How do they give themselves away ? His talk will provide the answers to these questions and more.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bat & Ball Centre for this talk, with tea and biscuits being served afterwards. For those of you who are unable to join us at the Hall and prefer to watch from the comfort of your own home, the talk will also be relayed via Zoom.

I do hope you will join us. The Zoom link will be sent out to all members via email a couple of days before the event.

Barbara Coleyshaw meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



GROUP DEVELOPMENT TRUSTEE

The life blood of any u3a is the groups and we now need someone to support our existing groups and help develop new ones. The GD trustee will be part of a small team which is being built up to manage the core of our u3a activities.

The Group Development trustee is a very valued member of the Executive Committee and, as part of a team, you will have the opportunity to use your skills to support Sevenoaks u3a in an interesting role that will bring you into contact with new people and give you the chance to learn more about the organisation, while helping it become more successful. Once you have settled into the position you might wish to develop it further.

As Group Development trustee you would attend 6 Executive Committee meetings a year, and work with other people in the team to deal with occasional members' queries about groups, provide information and support to Group Organisers and help develop new groups.

How much time will this take ? This will vary (and will depend on how active you want to be in developing the role) but an average of 2 hours a week would be a reasonable estimate.

From Beryl Mansell

vicechair@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

I was chair of the Group Development Committee for 4 years and I found it a very satisfying position. I made new friends in Sevenoaks and other u3as and was quite sad to stand down after I completed my term of office. Please call me or email for more information if you are interested in using your skills and experience to become our new Group Development trustee.

NORDIC WALKING—MAY 11TH

Meet opposite the Buck's Head at Godden Green, TN15 0JJ in time for a 10.30 start. The walk is a little over 3 miles through Knole Park with a few gentle hills. Lunch after the walk will be at the Buck's Head.

nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

2022 AGM REMINDER

The 28th **Annual General Meeting** of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at **2.00 pm** on **Wednesday 22nd, June 2022**. (Further details, including the agenda and papers, will be provided with the June newsletter.)

Nominations

Nominations are invited for the post of Secretary, for which further information is available on request to the Secretary, from whom nomination forms may be obtained. **Nominations** must be lodged with the Secretary by **5th May, 2022**.

Motions

Any motion that a member may wish to submit to the Annual General Meeting must also be lodged with the Secretary by **5th May, 2022**, and be duly proposed and seconded.

Chris Dance (Secretary)

secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

The Group plays at **Otford Village Memorial Hall** on the **2nd** and **4th Wednesday** mornings of each month from October to the end of July, from **9.45 a.m. until 12 noon**.

The winner on 23rd March was Jackie Bradforth and on 13th April was Dave Lowe.

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** on **01732 463911** or email bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AMBLING—MAY 18TH

Meet at Lullingstone Country Park Visitor Centre, Castle Road, Eynesford, DA4 0JF (not Lullingstone Castle or Lullingstone Roman Villa) in time for a 10.30 start. The walk is 4 miles with a few hilly parts. Lunch after the walk will be at the Malt Shovel or in the Visitor Centre café.

ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MAY DIARY

May 11th	Nordic Walking	May 13th	Bridge for Pleasure
May 16th	Science Open Group Meeting	May 16th	Computer Open Group Meeting
May 18th	Ambling	May 27th	Bridge for Pleasure
May 27th	Monthly Meeting : Malcolm Nelson— "40 Years of Catching Smugglers"		

GREEN GROUP

What does being Green mean? Would you join a Green group?

The dictionary says “Green issues **relate to or are concerned with the protection of the environment**”, and may include :

Pollution	Global warming	Over population	Waste disposal
Ocean acidification	Loss of Bio diversity.	Deforest ation	Ozone layer depletion

If you are interested in environmental issues, and would like to meet other Sevenoaks u3a members to discuss setting up a new group, please contact **Beryl Mansell**, vicechair@sevenoaksuea.org.uk, If there is sufficient interest I will arrange a meeting so members can discuss options for a group. Depending on the level of interest it might be possible to set up more than one group.

Have You Had Problems Searching Online?

Then the computer group may be able to help you. We will be holding a **LIVE MEETING** on the **16th May 2022 at 14.00** in the **Otford Village Memorial Hall**. This will be led by Charles Hebert who will show, with the help of examples, how to find answers to problems using Google and a carefully worded search phrase.

To do this Charles would like members to submit examples of problems that they have encountered and had difficulty solving. The more problems submitted, the better Charles will be able to demonstrate the power of Google.

Hopefully as many members as possible will join us to celebrate the return to live meetings and entrance will be, as before, £2 to cover the hire of the hall and the refreshments.

LONDON VILLAGES

The London Villages group started in December 2020 and since then we have explored Clerkenwell and Southwark, via Zoom, and are just beginning to discover Greenwich. We have heard all kinds of interesting stories about past residents, the famous buildings and the histories of these old villages and we are planning to visit some of the places we have heard about. We are going to have our first ever face-to-face meeting this month and would like one or two new members to join us.

If you are interested in finding out more about London Villages, please contact **Beryl Mansell** on londonvillages@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or 01959 525010 or 07855 504042.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Duxford Visit

Unfortunately the visit to Duxford has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Globe Theatre Visit

We are assessing the likely support for a visit to the **Globe Theatre** for a matinee performance of 'Much Ado About Nothing' on one of the following dates : **2nd, 7th, 8th or 21st September 2022**. Please express your interest by email to social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



Visit to Frogmore House & Gardens.

The Social Committee has arranged for a visit by coach to **Frogmore House and Gardens**—private gardens of Her Majesty the Queen—on **August 2nd**. During August this is the only time the house and gardens are open to the public.

A flyer with further information will be published in the June newsletter.



ANYONE FOR LUNCH ?

Do our members have an appetite for joining a lunch club? If so, I would like to set one up. The idea would be to meet in a different pub or restaurant once a month and enjoy good food and conversation. We would need a group organiser to keep the contact list up to date – not an onerous task - and to ensure all the members receive information on the month's outing.

Interested? Please join me on Wednesday, May 11th at the Bullfinch in Riverhead just after 12 midday. Please let me know if you will attend – by email to lunchclub@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or by phone to 01732 464620. If you are interested but unable to make the date, send me your contact details and I will add you to the list.

On the May 11th we will (hopefully) identify a group organiser, decide which day of the month to meet and choose the first venue.

Amanda Burton

SCIENCE GROUP MEETING

May 9th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m at Otford Village Memorial Hall. Entry £2.

“Sustainable Energy and Food Security” by Dr Howard Lee

Dr Howard Lee trained initially as an ecologist and then moved into agriculture as a Government potato breeder (e.g. commercialising the variety ‘Navan’), combined with lecturing at Queen’s University Belfast. In 1990, he took a Senior Lectureship at Wye College (University of London) and subsequently at Imperial College where he initiated, directed, and taught on Britain’s first MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. Howard helped initiate a Low Carbon Community in Hadlow village and is a member of the Sustainable Food Planning Research Group of the Association of European Schools of Planning. He has ongoing research interests in urban horticulture, renewable energy and food security.

This talk will be the last in the current season, but we will start again on the 10th of October.

SCIENCE DISCUSSION GROUP 2

We have two vacancies in the Group.

We cover a wide range of science subjects, according to members’ interests and in the last year have looked at such topics as the Physics, Chemistry and Biology of Water, Phytonutrients, Genetics, Electric Vehicles, Magnetism, Fungi, AI, Sustainability and Genetic Susceptibility to Infection, and Cancer.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm. At the moment we are using Zoom but we hope to meet in person as soon as everyone is comfortable with it.

Please apply to **Peter Brignell** on sciencediscuss2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NATIONAL U3A ONLINE EVENTS FOR MAY

May 5th at 10 a.m (through to June 16th)	Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners (1 per week for 6 weeks)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cryptic-crosswords-for-beginners-mayjune-tickets-294439014017
May 5th at 10 a.m (until May 26th)	Pre-war Blues (1 per week for 4 weeks)	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pre-war-blues-tickets-315460459727
May 13th at 2 p.m	The Story of the Willow Pattern Plate	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-stories-of-the-willow-pattern-plate-tickets-294488421797
May 16th at 10.30 a.m	Picnic In The Park—Live Cookery Demonstration	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/40th-anniversary-edition-picnic-in-the-park-live-cookery-demonstration-tickets-296917607557
May 20th at 10 a.m	All About Pictish Stones	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pictish-stones-tickets-291153095747
May 27th at 2 p.m	Geometric Abstraction	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/geometric-abstraction-repeat-event-tickets-301329423417

All these **free** events are held using Zoom. If you wish to attend any of these presentations, please follow the appropriate link and register in advance for the event.

NATIONAL U3A VIDEO RESOURCES

Below are some examples of the videos freely available to view via the national u3a website.

Stunning Underwater Wonders of the Red Sea - Colourful Coral Reef Inhabitants	https://youtu.be/gwZB5j016Es
100 Best of Bach	https://youtu.be/uiTrB-zA7bc
Lambeth Palace—Its History and Treasures	https://youtu.be/R6nis59kAnk
A History of Eastern Europe: Ukraine-Russia Crisis	https://youtu.be/l1WL2VJOn2A
London Walking Tour: Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, to Trafalgar Square	https://youtu.be/_jg98sdg_Q
The Art of Ageing Well—the Harvard Medical School	https://youtu.be/MPXgNCefknl
Restoration Home: Scottish Castle (Before and After)	https://youtu.be/gHkNbAyFM3Y
The Best of Mozart	https://youtu.be/Rb0UmrCXxVA
Is Astronomy Ready for the James Webb Space Telescope ?	https://youtu.be/TBvalUdmiEY

Plus many, many more.

WINCHELSEA'S SECRET GARDENS

SATURDAY, 18 JUNE 2022

Winchelsea is one of the best preserved medieval Bastide towns in Britain, founded in the late 13th century by Edward I as a port, to replace 'Old Winchelsea' which had been washed away by the sea. The Town, no longer a port, is a peaceful retreat perched on top of Iham Hill which has spectacular views of the sea and across the Brede Valley. Each year, on 1 or 2 days, some residents open their 'hidden gardens' to the public. On June 18th there will be 10 different ones to see and you might also visit the beautiful Parish Church of St. Thomas and maybe the museum and Wesley's charming Chapel. There is a reasonable amount of walking but plenty of places to sit in the gardens and around the Town.



9.15am (prompt): Coach departs from Suffolk Way; there is all day parking at the multi-story Town Carpark nearby (£5.50) Garden tickets and map distributed on coach.

10.30/11am approx: Arrive at Winchelsea.

11am : Gardens open.

4pm : Coach departs for Sevenoaks.

Between 11am and 4pm you are free to visit the gardens and enjoy the Town at your leisure. St Thomas' Church is serving morning coffee; the New Hall (see your map) is open for tea, coffee and a range of excellent cakes in the afternoon; the New Inn is open from 12 noon for lunches in the pub or its garden (tel. 01797 226252)

There are public toilets on Monk's Walk, toilets also in the New Hall and the New Inn.

COST: £22.50 per person to include coach travel, driver's tip and entrance to all 10 gardens

Organisers: Freda Parker (tel) 07828 944932

Copper Earthrowl (tel) 01732 459386;

mobile (on day of outing only) 07790 846260

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Please complete the portion below and together with your cheque made payable to Sevenoaks U3A Social Account, post to **Copper Earthrowl, 33 St George's Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3ND** with an s.a.e. (or your email details) for your receipt.

I/we enclose a cheque for: £..... **Name(s)**.....

Address.....

Tel no. **Email (optional)**.....

Tel number and contact name in case of emergency.....

The information submitted above may be retained by the Social Committee for administration purposes for this and future visits. Data will be retained on a password protected computer and will only be used for communication between you and the Social Committee