

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The u3a contributes to the quality of my life to an extraordinary extent. Many of you will have had a similar experience as you join groups and later get involved in running them. Right through the summer Brian Alleeson's Wine Appreciation Group has continued to meet – too good to miss!

My other groups rested and are starting up again during October, during which I have attended:

- on 7th the Opera Group which I lead, viewing Puccini's beautiful opera "Manon Lescaut".
- on 10th the Open Science Group, Chair Bob Ruffles, for an illustrated talk on "Operation Hurricane 70th Anniversary of our Atom Bomb" and learned about the roles of Churchill, the UK, and Fort Halstead.
- on 12th the Peace & Conflict

Group, Group Organiser also Bob Ruffles, for a talk on The Royal Canadian Navy in WW2. This was particularly interesting to me, in that my Canadian father was killed soon after D-Day and my Welsh Grandfather was a Chief Skipper in the Royal Naval Patrol Service.

- On 24th the Music Appreciation Group which I also lead, opens with a presentation on "Scales".
- On 26th the first Monthly Meeting in the Bat & Ball Centre brews up the u3a year with a talk on "The British Love Affair with Tea". Do try to attend. Talks are always informative and entertaining and you can meet other members over tea and biscuits.

We move on from Queen Elizabeth's death and her amazing funeral. Only the Brits could have put on such an

amazing show. But life goes on. We live in tumultuous times with Russia/Ukraine, inflation, an NHS stretched to the limit, and Covid still with us (see my note below). But don't let it weigh you down.

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE and take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities made available to us all by the Third Age Trust, and our own local Sevenoaks u3a. Consider joining another Group, or perhaps starting and leading a Group which caters for a special interest you have. And please respond positively to any request to help with running the organisation, or even better get in touch with me with a general offer to help, and I will be very happy to talk it through and find a way you can contribute.

*Dr. Ken Brown
Chairman*

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

The Race to The South Pole

The u3a Monthly Meeting on
Wednesday 23rd November 2022
is at **2pm** at

The Bat and Ball Centre, Sevenoaks
(and will also be available via Zoom)

Our speaker this month is Michael Smith, an authority on Polar exploration who has appeared in TV and Radio documentaries and written several books on the subject.

He will be giving a presentation entitled "The Race to the South Pole", a saga that began 200 years ago with an enigmatic Irish navigator and an obscure Russian seaman who first set eyes on Antarctica. It recalls the intrepid British Mariners who braved the perilous pack ice in sailing ships to map the frozen continent and reaches a tragic climax in the contest between Amundsen and Scott.

Tea and biscuits will be served afterwards. For those unable to join us at the Hall and who prefer to watch from the comfort of your own home the talk will also be relayed via Zoom.

The Zoom link will be sent out to all Members on email a couple of days before the event.

Barbara Coleyshaw meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



SEVENOAKS U3A SECRETARY POST

We are looking for a new Secretary for Sevenoaks u3a, so that our existing Secretary can move to the role of Group Co-ordinator. The work is not onerous and would suit a well-organised person. The key tasks are to assemble the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting once every two months, collect and circulate papers and reports, take and type up the minutes of the meeting, record the agreed tasks and, if necessary, keep tabs on the progress of tasks.

The Secretary is also part of the team organising the Annual General Meeting, preparing the associated paperwork, setting the agenda and arranging the voting procedures. The Secretary has a general oversight of constitutional and procedural issues and is the formal point of contact with the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission.

It is interesting to be part of the team taking our u3a forward and seeing that one is contributing to this. You would not be expected to be up-to-speed right away, as the current Secretary will still be on the Committee to offer support and training. Interested in finding out more or in helping your u3a?

Contact **Sue Christy**, the current secretary at secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE PERFORMANCES

U3A members interested in ballet and opera will be pleased to know that Sevenoaks School is screening performances from The Royal Opera House and The Royal Ballet on some **Sunday afternoons** at **2pm** between now and June 2023.

Forthcoming are :

- La Boheme on **23rd October**,
- A Diamond Celebration on **20th November** and
- The Nutcracker on **11th December**.

In 2023, there are three more ballets and four operas, including The Barber of Seville, Cinderella and The Marriage of Figaro.

Full: £18.50, Concessions £17, Subscribers £15. All members of U3A will get tickets at Subscribers rate at the Box Office. Pamoja Hall (The Space), Sevenoaks School.

Plenty of parking available. Tea and coffee served in the interval.

More information is available at <https://www.thespacesevenoaks.co.uk/roh/>

COMPUTER OPEN GROUP

The Computer Open Group will meet on the **21st November** at **2pm** in the **Otford Village Memorial Hall**.

Satellite Navigation
by Mike Davies.

As usual a charge of £2 will be requested to cover the hire of the hall and refreshments.

For any further information, please contact **Mike Davies** at computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

ROCK TILL WE DROP !

Last month we advertised for members with musical instruments to form a new group for ageing rockers who like bands such as The Animals, The Beatles, Dire Straits, Arctic Monkeys, The Knack, etc. The premise is that they have fun playing their instruments together with the possibility of forming a band.

The great news is that we have 4 members so far, but are in need of a singer and a drummer. If you think that you could fill either of these gaps, or would like to join with another instrument, please email **Keith Gofton** at rock@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk with your contact details.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

9th November	Bridge For Pleasure	14th November	Science Open Group
21st November	Computer Open Group	23rd November	Bridge For Pleasure
23rd November	Monthly Open Meeting		

HAVE YOU ENJOYED PREVIOUS SOCIAL EVENTS ?

Such outings are only possible because of the members of the Social Events Committee who take it in turns to organise them. The small committee is in desperate need of one or two extra members. Please consider joining us. We are a very friendly bunch and organising the trips is fun; there is always someone to give you the benefit of their experience and, if you wish, to help you with the organisation and to offer another pair of hands on the day.

If We Can't Raise Support, It Is Very Likely That These Events Will Cease. INTERESTED?

Contact **Pam Walshe**, Tel: 01732 454769; email: social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk. or

Joyce Allen, Tel: 01959 522915; email: socialsec@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SCIENCE OPEN GROUP

Our next Science talk will be on **November 14th at 2:00 PM.**

Venue: **Oxford Village Memorial Hall** - entry £2.00

The Extinct Birds of New Zealand'

by Chris Stewart.

Five species of Kiwi, Takahe, Kakapo, Weka, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Black Robin are all in danger due to alien mammals. 49 Species are extinct, but can the others be saved. The fight is on !

Chris is a u3a member and has previously given us very interesting talks.

Our talk on December 12th will address the **'Hydrogen Economy'** given by Steve Brown.

Bob Ruffles

scienceopen@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

26th October, 9th November, 23rd November

The Group plays at **Oxford 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.**

We had 14 players at our first session of the new season on 12th October including 2 new members to our group which was great. One of them, Mike Davies, was the winner. Well done Mike and also on the 6NT bid and made!

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 by email to bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

TECHNOLOGY AND OUR u3a

Our u3a has a large membership and I manage a small team of members who maintain the technical equipment and support our activities at open meetings with audio visual equipment.

Over the years we have progressively updated our equipment to reflect the change in technology and different ways of working. At our inception we used 35 mm and overhead projectors but have now transitioned to fully electronic systems. More recently, and driven by the pandemic, we have introduced video conferencing. The word Zoom was unheard of about 3 years ago, but it is now in our lexicon and zooming is now part of our everyday language. This is an illustration of the way the progressive digital transition is affecting our everyday lives. Keeping up to date is a challenge for all of us. Nevertheless, we must continue to embrace the change otherwise we become isolated. This is where u3a can help in its programme of self-learning where we can pass on knowledge to others.

Like all teams we also need to update our membership so if you have any technical skills, especially in practical electronic devices, please let us know. We would welcome your support.

Bob Ruffles

techsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

For the December Newsletter only

Please send items to chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

by November 15th

as the Communications Officer will be away.

NATIONAL U3A ONLINE LEARNING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

If you are interested any of the events listed below, please click on the link to find out more and to register for the event, which are mainly free.

November 7th weekly until December 7th	Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cryptic-crosswords-for-beginners-6-session-course-tickets-407413092527
November 3rd 14.00—15.30	The Geology of Oil and Gas In Britain and around the World	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-geology-of-oil-and-gas-in-britain-and-around-the-world-tickets-433429408027
November 8th 14.00—15.00	The British Royal Collection - And Japanese Art	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-british-royal-collection-and-japanese-art-tickets-388071641727
November 9th 10.00	Laughter Yoga Workshop	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/laughter-yoga-workshop-tickets-166489270891
November 14th 10.00—11.30	Exploring World Faiths— All Souls Day	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-world-faiths-all-souls-day-day-of-the-dead-tickets-430923813727
November 15th 10.00—11.00	Tipping Points and Climate Change	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tipping-points-and-climate-change-tickets-431779673627
November 17th 10.30—11.30	Live Cookery Demonstration - Winter Warmers	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-cookery-demonstration-winter-warmers-tickets-440802029737
November 17th 14.00—16.00	Creative Thinking	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-thinking-tickets-420161152317
November 18th 10.00	Seated Yoga For All	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seated-yoga-for-all-tickets-400697917257
December 1st 10.30—11.30	Live Cookery Demonstration—Christmas Recipes	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-cookery-demonstration-christmas-recipes-tickets-440944405587