

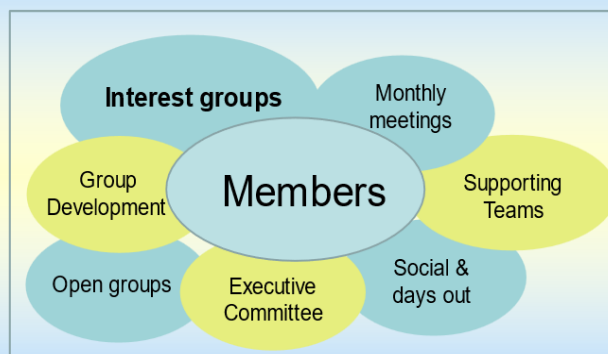
## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

As we move into the New Year, it is time for some new ideas, some new blood and a bit of a shakeup. One of the things we want to do is to bring Sevenoaks u3a closer to its members. Our first initiative is to tell you more about the various teams working on your behalf.

For the next few months, we will be showcasing two teams each month that make up the Sevenoaks u3a, to show how they all fit together to make a smooth running whole. Firstly, something about the organisation.

The diagram to the right is shown in New Members Meetings run by the Membership and Recruitment team. Our 800+ members are central, and themselves make up the management structure, the Executive Committee, Supporting Teams and Group Development. These together run the monthly meetings in the Bat and Ball Centre, and Open Computer and Science Groups meetings. Our Interest Groups

Sevenoaks u3a welcomes our new members



are the core of our activities and the Social Team organise our wonderful days out, so it is only right that we focus firstly on the Group Development and Social Teams.

## GROUP DEVELOPMENT

We currently have 80+ groups, including the open groups available to all. The role of the **Group Development Team** is to be the focal point for information and queries about interest groups. The overall scope of the team -

- Helps members to set up new groups
- Supports existing groups
- Publicises vacancies in existing groups
- Ensures that as many people as possible are in interest groups that are 'right up their street'
- Brings Group Organisers together to share their wisdom.

The **Group Development Coordinator** role has been vacant for a few years and as with many things there has been a bit of a hiatus with Covid. We are lucky to have found a new Group Development Coordinator, Sue Christy, who is a long-standing Su3a member with experience of a number of other Su3a management roles.

**She is looking to build a new team to help her.** In addition to the roles set out above she intends to bring in ideas and innovation from outside, help the exchange of information between different groups, be involved in updating the handbook, and organise the open afternoon.

It would be great to have some team members who have been in our u3a for only a few months or years, along with longer-term members. Members with differing interests, and those who may not have volunteered before, would also be very welcome. At this stage the roles and remit are only loosely defined so there is an opportunity to structure the team to make best use of everyone's talents. If you would enjoy being involved in any of the activities outlined above, or for more information or an informal chat, please get in touch with **Sue Christy** at [groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

## SOCIAL TEAM

Where do **you** fancy visiting ?

One of the pleasures of u3a is visiting interesting places, some of which you might never have thought of but would thoroughly enjoy. Our **Social Team** has worked very hard on your account for many years. Last year for example visits were made to Knole House Attics, London City Churches, Winchelsea Gardens, and to a theatre in Sonning to see Irving Berlin's dazzling musical "TOP HAT".

We would very much value some new faces and new ideas. Trips are usually organised by two team members so you will have support. Training is given and team members each run one or two events a year. Friendly Team meetings are in central Sevenoaks and are social events in themselves ! You would be very welcome to come along to a team meeting to see what happens for yourself. If you are sociable and organised, please get in touch. For more information or an informal chat, please contact

**Pam Walshe** on 01732 454769 or [social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

If any of your contact details have changed

- Address,
- Email,
- Telephone Number or Mobile Phone Number.

it would be appreciated if you would advise the Membership Secretary, **Jennifer Ruffles**, either by email to [membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk) or by telephone on 01732 461348.

## FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

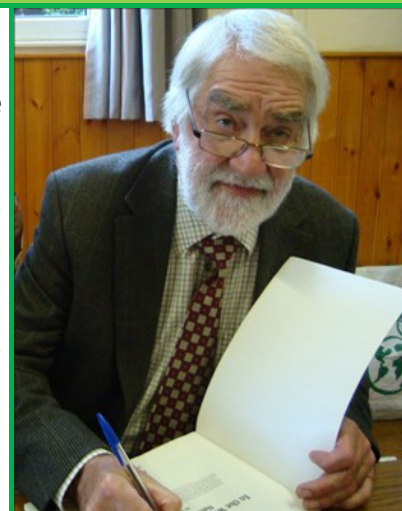
**Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023 at 2pm at the Bat & Ball Centre**

Our speaker this month is Bob Ogley who is well known to our members from his previous talks to us about the RAF Biggin Hill, The spirit of Invicta- Kent in the 20th Century and the V1 and V2 Bombers. Bob was a local newspaper reporter, sub editor, then editor until he left to write books in 1988. However, he continued as a freelance writer for the Sevenoaks Chronicle until earlier this year. His talk to us is entitled **"My Life as a Journalist"** and covers 65 years in journalism in Sevenoaks, London and Southern Rhodesia highlighting the many adventures and the extraordinary people he had the pleasure to meet along the way.

Tea and biscuits will be 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 by email a couple of days before the event.

**Barbara Coleyshaw** [speakers@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)



## CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

A new group has recently started for people interested in and concerned about man-made climate change. Together we can learn more about the process of global warming and its effect on both wildlife and human communities. We can also explore initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases, how we can minimise the projected effects of climate change on the environment, the role of government and how we can live more sustainable lives.

If you are interested in joining please contact **John Harris**, the Secretary, on [harris\\_jw@btinternet.com](mailto:harris_jw@btinternet.com).

## BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Next sessions : **25th January, 8th February and 22nd February**. 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.

We had a good turnout for our first session of 2023 on 11th January with 22 players – the best turnout for nearly a year. Congratulations to our winner Judith Davies.

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 contact **John and Sue Christy** on 01732 463911 or by email at [bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

## SCIENCE OPEN MEETING

**Our next Science talk will be on February 13th at 2:00 PM.**

**Venue: Otford Village Memorial Hall entry £2.00**

**Our Talk will be 'The History of Computing' by Sheridan Williams**

The National Museum of Computing, located in Bletchley Park, is an independent charity housing the world's largest collection of functional historic computers and WW2 machines, including Enigma, Lorenz, the working Turing-Welchman Bombe, the rebuilt Colossus, the world's first electronic computer, and the WITCH, the world's oldest working digital computer.

Our speaker Sheridan Williams is a retired rocket scientist, who used early valve-based digital computers and analogue computers and later ran his own computer company and now is a volunteer at the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley. Sheridan will present the history and development of the computers we use today.

Our **March Talk** will be the **'Hydrogen Economy'** by Steve Brown. This was postponed from December 2022 due to bad weather.

**Bob Ruffles** for the Science Committee.

## COMPUTER GROUP OPEN MEETING

**27th February, 2023**

The next meeting of 2023 will be around the topic of **using a smart phone to pay for parking and a brief mention about bus travel** which our speaker from Gocoach didn't cover. Please note that we are now meeting on the **4th Monday** of the month because the hall is used by others on the 3rd.

**Proceedings start at 2pm as usual BUT PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE. HAS CHANGED.**

For a trial period we will be using the **Methodist Church Hall** which is still in Otford, 200 yards west of the old hall and adjacent to the library and Otford Builders Merchants. The car parking at the Methodist Hall is not generous and it would be preferable for members to continue to park in the main village carpark where possible.

The committee feels that the new hall has better facilities but we have booked for 3 months only and the decision can be revoked if members wish.

**Mike Davies**

[computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## MUSIC APPRECIATION A

Music Appreciation A Group has vacancies. If you love classical music, and maybe listen to Classic FM, this might be the group for you! We meet in members' homes, 2 – 4 pm, on the 4th Monday in the month, from October through to June. We have around 10 members and take it in turns to put together a programme of music, which we do once a year. Meetings are very relaxed and I would be happy to give guidance on any topic you prepare, and how you might do it (CDs or streamed music). More often than not, meetings are in two of the members' homes, so don't worry if you do not feel comfortable hosting a meeting. Examples of past topics are "French Music", Johan Strauss, "Birdsong in Music", Schubert, and "Female Composers".

If you are interested in joining us, contact

**Ken Brown** 01732 462379

[musica@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:musica@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## LONDON VILLAGES

This group has been running since January 2021. We choose a village or area of London and each group member selects a subject connected with it. This may be anything : a person, a building or an event. In two years we have researched Clerkenwell, Southwark and Greenwich. Our subjects have included churches, brothels, Charles Dickens, the Globe Theatre, Mad Hatters and biscuits.

Each group member researches their chosen subject and gives a talk to the rest of us. Because of Covid restrictions, snow falls and train strikes our presentations have all been on Zoom so far, but we are hoping that we will be able to meet face to face in the future and have trips to London, to see some of the places described in our presentations.

In March we start a new part of London, the Borough of Richmond. Our topics will include Hampton Court, how WW1 munitions were manufactured with support from refugees, the Poppy Factory and Richmond Park.

We are a small, friendly group, with a fairly light-hearted approach to the history of London and we would welcome some new members. If you would like to join us for a meeting to find out more, please contact me at [londonvillages@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:londonvillages@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

**Beryl Mansell**

## u3a DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 8th	Bridge for Pleasure	February 23rd	Monthly Meeting
February 13th	Science Open Meeting	February 27th	Computer Open Meeting
February 22nd	Bridge for Pleasure		

## NATIONAL U3A ONLINE EVENTS

Date & Time	Subject	Link
Thursday, February 2nd, 2:00p.m – 3:30p.m	The Geology of Oil and Gas In Britain and around the World: part 3	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-geology-of-oil-and-gas-in-britain-and-around-the-world-part-3-tickets-474607262097">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-geology-of-oil-and-gas-in-britain-and-around-the-world-part-3-tickets-474607262097</a>
Friday, February 3rd, 2:00p.m – 3:00p.m	Fashion and Sustainability	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fashion-and-sustainability-tickets-469951285947">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fashion-and-sustainability-tickets-469951285947</a>
Monday, February 6th, 2:00p.m – 3:00p.m	Brain and Behaviour	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brain-and-behaviour-tickets-492271365907">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brain-and-behaviour-tickets-492271365907</a>
Tuesday, February 7th, to Tuesday, March 14th, 10:00 a.m—11:15a.m	Meditation and Mindfulness Series (a 6 week course)	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meditation-and-mindfulness-series-tickets-484385609397">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meditation-and-mindfulness-series-tickets-484385609397</a>
Tuesday, February 7th, 10:00a.m – 11:00a.m	Highlights of the Royal Collection – Coins and Medals	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highlights-of-the-royal-collection-coins-and-medals-tickets-473217545417">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highlights-of-the-royal-collection-coins-and-medals-tickets-473217545417</a>
Wednesday Feb 8th, – Wednesday, June 14th, 10:00a.m— 11:00a.m	Laughter Yoga 2023	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/laughter-yoga-2023-tickets-487677375157">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/laughter-yoga-2023-tickets-487677375157</a>
Wednesday, February 8th, 10:00a.m – 11:00a.m	Before the Lindisfarne Gospels	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/before-the-lindisfarne-gospels-tickets-470964406217">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/before-the-lindisfarne-gospels-tickets-470964406217</a>
Wednesday, February 8th, 2:00p.m – 4:00p.m	Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/breaking-down-family-history-brick-walls-tickets-466330897267">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/breaking-down-family-history-brick-walls-tickets-466330897267</a>
Friday, February 10th 12:00p.m – 1:00p.m	The Swan - its Life, its Nature and its Future.	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-swan-its-life-its-nature-and-its-future-repeat-event-tickets-484259813137">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-swan-its-life-its-nature-and-its-future-repeat-event-tickets-484259813137</a>
Thursday, February 16th, 2:30p.m – 4:00p.m	Historic Environment Scotland: Caring for our Heritage	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/historic-environment-scotland-caring-for-our-heritage-tickets-520526076507">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/historic-environment-scotland-caring-for-our-heritage-tickets-520526076507</a>
Friday, February 17th, 2:00p.m – 3:00p.m	Yiddish Theatre Abroad - in Eastern Europe, London and New York	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yiddish-theatre-abroad-in-eastern-europe-london-and-new-york-tickets-474682918387">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yiddish-theatre-abroad-in-eastern-europe-london-and-new-york-tickets-474682918387</a>
Wednesday, February 22nd, 2:00p.m – 3:30p.m	Facing the World - The Neurological Condition Prosopagnosia	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/facing-the-world-the-neurological-condition-prosopagnosia-tickets-515019937497">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/facing-the-world-the-neurological-condition-prosopagnosia-tickets-515019937497</a>
Tuesday, February 28th, 2:00p.m – 3:30p.m	Future Lives - Open Space Event	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-lives-open-space-event-tickets-514779739057">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-lives-open-space-event-tickets-514779739057</a>

To find out more information about any of the events listed above, follow the appropriate link.  
You can also register for the event using the same link.