

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty Third Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 28th June 2017** at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks.

Nominations from Members for Executive Committee vacancies for Treasurer and External Affairs must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2017.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Group Development Coordinator and Social Committee Chair will have completed their 2 year term of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Further nominations for these posts may be submitted by Members to the Secretary by 31st May 2017.

Any motion that a Member may wish to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2017 and be duly proposed and seconded.

AGM papers will be included with the June Newsletter

CAN YOU HELP THE WEBSITE TEAM?

The website team always welcomes members with some experience of or at least interest in website work and who could spare some time to help in running our site at www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

We use Net Objects Fusion 2015 software. We meet once a month and members take turns to keep the site up to date. At the moment we are reviewing the site and looking for ways of making it perhaps more user-friendly.

If you think you could help, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please email webteam@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or phone Jeff Lee on 01959 525225 with your contact details, and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.

Jeff Lee Website Team

FLYERS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Jane Austen's House visit
Jazz Afternoon
Visit to Lewes
Art Exhibition Entry form

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

It is pleasing to note the considerable enthusiasm from Members to start new groups.

At the present time things are looking very positive for starting up Bird Watching, Basic French, English Country Dancing and Aviation Groups, plus a second Science Discussion Group.

Additionally there is an article in this Newsletter for those who may be interested in Board Games.

We recently hosted a very successful coffee morning for new Members, who I am sure will make a positive contribution to our U3A. Lots of interesting topics were discussed including the possibility of setting up a Basic Guitar Group. If you are interested, please let me know.

So next year we should see a good variety of activities to keep us mentally and physically 'on our toes'

Jim Purves 01732 463041

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIARY

April

- April 10 Science Group
- April 12 Bridge for Pleasure
- April 19 Ambling
- April 23 Brick Lane Music Hall
- April 24 Half day walking
- April 24 Apple Group
- April 25-28 Sevenoaks U3A Arts Exhibition
- April 26 Bridge for Pleasure
- April 26 **Monthly Meeting**
- April 28 Computer Group

May

- May 15 Science Group
- May 16 Jazz Group Workshop
- May 18 Lewes Trip
- May 22 Apple Group
- May 24 **Monthly Meeting**

Newsletter Team:

Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith

Copy for **May Newsletter** (which will be distributed by 21 April) by **Tuesday 4 April** to:

news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Susan Henson 01732 670694
groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Board Games Group

Many of you will have played board games at various times in your life. Sevenoaks U3A currently does not have a board games group. If you would be interested in such a group would you please email me indicating your potential interest.

I hope that interested members can meet about a fortnight after the publication of the April Newsletter to discuss what we wish to do as part of that group.

We certainly won't be stuck for possibilities!
email: jim.hughes.aith@gmail.com

Arts Exhibition at Knole Academy

Reminder to all Sevenoaks U3A Artists
Your entry forms must be in by April 5 to
Ann Evans.
annken.ev@btopenworld.com

WANTED !

Would you like to join us in the next DRAMA GROUP production? Unfortunately we have temporarily lost (mislaidd?) a few members and need to replace them rather urgently for our next show in October.

A little experience would be useful but not necessary. Just enthusiasm and a sense of fun. Parts of all sizes are available: even non-speaking! For further information contact Pamela Murphy
pamela1732@gmail.com

Trip to Holland

Kings Hill U3A who are organising a holiday to Holland in May this year have extended an invitation to other local U3As to join them.

If you are interested, please see the flyer on our web site, or call Graham Hall on 01892 724157

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



We are proposing a 5 day visit to **Dublin**, flying from Gatwick, with full programme, guide and coach for **next May 2018** (date to be finalised with reference to those going). In order to secure rooms in the 4*hotel we need to know how many people might be interested. Cost approx. £600 (for 2 sharing, per person)

Please contact Joyce Allen at johnallen.otford@tiscali.co.uk as soon as possible if this short break appeals. Joyce is liaising with the Travel agent and has further details.



We are considering organising a coach trip to **Whipsnade Zoo** on **Tues Sept 12 2017**. Within the zoo there is a bus which tours the site, stopping at the different enclosures where talks are given. Since this is a new venture for us we would like to know how many people would like to come. Please contact Joyce Allen at johnallen.otford@tiscali.co.uk if interested **no later than the end of April**.



There are still spaces left on the coach trip to the attractive and historic Sussex town of **Lewes** with guided tour included, on **Thurs May 18**. Please apply on the form available on the website www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



On **Tues June 13** there is a coach visit to **Jane Austen's house** in Chawton, followed by a visit to the naturalist Gilbert White's house at **Selbourne**, where a light lunch will be served. More information on the flyer enclosed. Please apply promptly as this double visit is bound to be popular.

VISIT TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

The visit to Canterbury Cathedral may be remembered as the day storm Doris threatened, fortunately affecting us only on the train journey home.

We assembled outside the impressive Christ Church Gate, with its massive bronze Christ installed in 1990 to replace the one damaged during the Civil War.



Once inside the precincts we were split into two groups. Our group started beneath the Bell Harry Tower with its magnificent fan vault interior below it, best seen by lying down, as one of our members did. The splendid perpendicular nave soaring to an impressive height from its old Norman piers was undergoing restoration and the noise of workmen made it difficult to take in the different stages of the Cathedral's construction our guide attempted to give us.



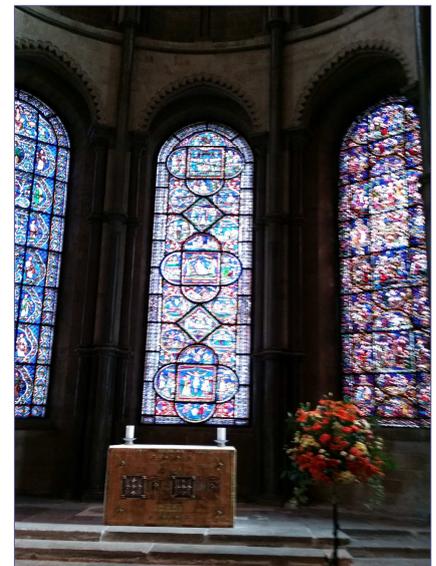
We then went to the Great Cloister (noting the colourful ceiling bosses, representative of important donors, into the Chapter House with its elaborately patterned ceiling made of Irish bog oak and then to the Martyrdom, which reputedly marks the spot where Becket was hacked to death by some over-zealous knights. We quietly sat and imagined the scene, aided by Blomfield's modern sculpture of jagged, vicious-looking swords.



The Norman crypt, a few steps down from the Martyrdom, is huge (no photos allowed). The Norman pier capitals, carved in situ, were perhaps seen at their most inventive (animals

playing musical instruments) in the St Gabriel Chapel. Here were also the rediscovered Norman murals which had been walled up for centuries. In the crypt was another arresting sculpture made of medieval nails by Gormley, suspended over the place where Becket's tomb had been transferred to accommodate the hordes of pilgrims. Subsequently the shrine was moved to the Trinity chapel where it was displayed in rich splendour until 1538 when Henry VIII had it dismantled. All that remains now, we saw, is a plain, single candle.

A brief tour of the Cathedral is necessarily selective, but there was time to admire some of the impressive tombs and to compare the beautiful medieval stained glass with the Victorian ones. We ended contemplating Ervin Bossan's Peace, a modern stained glass window in the SE transept.



This is the fourth very interesting visit to a cathedral organised by Rosina Cole (the others being St Albans, Guildford and Ely) and we can look forward to a fifth – to Winchester - in December, when there will be, for some, the added bonus of a Christmas market in the Cathedral precincts.

Vicki Joyce

Photos by Judy and Charles Hebert

