

OPEN AFTERNOON

WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2.30

at the Bat and Ball Community Centre

Your chance to find out what your U3A can offer

U3A members are invited to attend **from 2.30 pm**. Tea and biscuits will be available and it is a good chance to meet friends after the summer break, and sign up for new Groups.

Group Organisers are invited to arrive soon after 2 pm, so that they can set up their stands before other members arrive. **ALL** Group Organisers are asked to attend this meeting so that even if their Group is full we can get an idea about whether it would be feasible to set up an additional Group.

Susan Henson, Group Development Coordinator

groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



SUBS REMINDER

Please don't forget that your annual subscription comes up for renewal on 20th September. Please ensure that your standing order is in place and is for the correct amount (£13 for single membership, £26 for joint membership). If you are unable to pay by standing order please ensure you send a cheque to the Membership Secretary by the due date.

Jill Davies membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

By renewing your membership you are accepting that your contact information may be retained on the Sevenoaks U3A database

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

As we commence another academic year it is pleasing to note the considerable number of varied and interesting activities available to our members.

Details of our Groups are listed in the new 2018-2019 Handbook but you can also take the opportunity to chat to Group Organisers about their group activities by coming along to our Open Afternoon at the Bat & Ball Community Centre on 26th September, commencing at 2.30pm.

Di Latter continues to do a great job organising teas at our Monthly Meetings but she needs volunteers to help her on the day. Please see Di at one of our meetings if you are able to help.

To reduce the workload we will only be providing tea and biscuits at future meetings.

Jim Purves

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

THE 2018-2019 HANDBOOK
WILL BE POSTED TO MEMBERS

DIARY 2018

September

September	10	RAF Museum visit
September	19	Ambling
September	24	Half day walking
September	26	Open Afternoon

October

October	2	Barbican Centre visit
October	8	Science Group
October	10	Bridge for Pleasure
October	15	Computer Group
October	22	Apple Group
October	22	West Kent Science Study Day
October	24	Bridge for Pleasure
October	24	Monthly Meeting

Jazz Group 2

Harvey Mahn, who set up Jazz Group 2, has retired as Group Organiser. At their meeting in July members expressed their appreciation to Harvey and Jennifer with a presentation of a book and flowers. Harvey's good humour and enthusiasm will be a hard act to follow.



Photo: Anthony Weston Smith

Sevenoaks U3A Science Seminar 2018

Technology meets Medicine

On 13 June, Sevenoaks U3A Science Group held its annual Science Seminar at the Orchard Conference Centre, East Malling, on the theme of *Technology meets Medicine: Bio-Engineering & Robotics*.



Photo: Barbara Coleyshaw

Dr Ernest Kamavuako explains bionic hand movements

Music Appreciation Group B

Join us on Monday afternoons to listen to the classics.

Sevenoaks is full of live music, with the Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Society, and the Music Club offering a wide range of orchestral, choral and chamber music respectively.

To help members get more from their concert-going or home listening, there are two Music Appreciation groups in our U3A taking classical music as their theme. (There are also an Opera group and two Jazz and Blues group – how's that for choice?) Group B meets in members' homes on the fourth Monday afternoon (2-4 pm), to listen to recorded programmes prepared by members or run on a "pick and mix" basis. We contribute what we can, whether we know a lot or a little. We don't claim to be experts but we always enjoy listening and exploring music and sharing our tastes. There are two vacancies in Group B at the moment, and whether you listen to the odd bit of Classic FM or attend live symphony concerts, you'd be most welcome to join us.

You can find more information on our website at <https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Study-Groups/Group-Categories/Arts-Appreciation/arts-appreciation.html> - then click on "Music Appreciation Group A and B".

For an informal chat, contact Jeff Lee (Group Organiser for Group B) at musicb@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

The Migration of People Group

The Group, which meets on the third Tuesday of the month 2 – 4pm, has 2-3 spaces.

Migration, the study of people on the move, is a very wide-ranging topic. Group members can choose from a broad field to suit their own interests. Indirectly, it touches on geography, history, the arts through the development of architecture, painting and musical styles, on literature and language as different cultures meet and merge, and on the spread of religion. Members choose a subject to study to present to the group and for discussion.

Lynda Alleeson

Over 100 attendees, many from U3As across Kent as well as Sevenoaks U3A, enjoyed three informative and entertaining presentations given by senior academics from Kings College London Medical School.

The programme opened with Professor Kawal Rhode outlining the impact of technology on medical procedures and then presenting examples of *Image Guided Robotic Aids to Surgery*.

This was followed by Dr Ernest Kamavuako explaining the range of *prostheses* available to those losing limbs and then presenting examples of recent advances in *Myoelectric Prosthesis Control*, where electrical signals generated in muscles can be used to control artificial limbs and hands.

In the third presentation, Dr Hongbin Lui explained research into the field of *Soft Robots for Medical Interventions*, where highly flexible probes and sensors can be used in ways that offer less intrusive surgical procedures.

All three presentations included excellent pictures and videos illustrating the application of technologies, meaning that all attendees, independent of background knowledge, could understand and appreciate the impact of recent research. The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session involving the audience and the three presenters offering an opportunity for clarification of the advantages and limitations of current technology.

Report by Dr Tony Sinden

**Tuesday 2 October -
BARBICAN CENTRE VISIT**

There are a few places still available on the visit by train to the Barbican Centre for a guided architectural tour lasting 90 minutes. The tour will include the High Walks of the Estate as well as the Arts Centre and some hidden spaces. You will then be free for lunch and a visit in your own time to the nearby Museum of London which is full of interest and where you will find a free *Votes for Women* Exhibition plus a newly commissioned film on the topic.

Please ring Freda Parker for more details and to book (the booking form may also be downloaded from our website).

**STOP
PRESS**

a date for
your diary.

We have managed to obtain a limited number of tickets for the Christmas Dinner and show at the **BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL on Saturday, 15th December.**

Flyer to follow next month.

**Tuesday 13 November -
LONDON MUSEUM OF WATER & STEAM,
PLUS MUSICAL MUSEUM**

We have organised a coach trip to two fascinating museums on the Thames near Kew Bridge. Discover the secrets of London's watery past and wonder at the magnificent machines that powered the Capital throughout the Industrial Revolution. AND visit the world's foremost collection of self-playing musical instruments, ranging from the tiniest musical boxes to the "Mighty Wurlitzer".

Application form with the October Newsletter.

Snooker Group

Report by Liz Lucy



Photo: Brian Brett

Is this a first? An inter U3A challenge! Three years ago the Watford U3A Snooker Group featured in a front page photo and feature in U3A Sources. Arising from that article and after a slow start, the Sevenoaks U3A Snooker Group was formed and is now thriving with about 15 playing members.

Sadly some of our players were unavoidably absent for our match which no doubt accounts for our defeat!

Nevertheless, and most importantly, a really good time was had by all. Watford brought 5 players and so we were able to play 3 tables of singles and one of doubles. Maybe they will let us get our revenge on a future occasion!

Trip to the Thames Barrier

Report by Celia Smith



Photo: Bob Ruffles

Some 30 members enjoyed a trip down river to the Thames Barrier in July. It was a fascinating day, despite the warm weather. We met at Westminster Pier and soon boarded the *M. V. Sarpedon*, most of us choosing to sit on the open upper deck where there was a refreshing breeze and good views of all the buildings and bridges being pointed out by a member of the crew. On arrival at the Barrier, with its iconic stainless steel roofs gleaming in the sunshine, we were met by our guide, Pam, who gave us an introduction to the site. Then a video presentation gave us more detail about the Barrier and how it works. Since its opening in 1982 the Barrier has been closed 182 times, protecting London from flooding. Fifty of these closures took place during the winter of 2013-14 when it rained and rained and rained. The decision to close the 10 steel gates is made when a combination of continuously monitored data indicates that flood risk is high. In addition to the main Barrier near Woolwich a number of other barriers have to be closed at the same time, the nearest to us being the Dartford Creek Barrier on the River Darent. Downstairs in the Visitor Centre we explored more information, and watched an excellent video of life and work on the Barrier. Before boarding our return boat, we had a walk along the river which gave excellent views.

Many thanks to Ken Robinson for organising a very good day.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Please submit items of interest to members to The Newsletter Team. news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Sevenoaks U3A member Jill Webster has chaired Sevenoaks Literary Festival for 17 years. This year's festival runs from 21 September - 5 October, and includes Sebastian Faulks, Gina Miller, Moscow correspondent Luke Harding, conductor Jane Glover, naturalist Patrick Barkham, a literary lunch and literary tea, a musical poetry afternoon, and Sevenoaks Young Readers Festival on 29 September. Full details on www.sevlitfest.com.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary for complete list of events

Bridge for Pleasure Wednesdays 10 & 24 October

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12 noon. There will be no Bridge for Pleasure in September and we start again on Wednesday 10 October.

The winner on 9 May was John Christy and on 23 May John Franklin. In July the winners were Mary Butson and George Thompson.

New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group, so new players can just come along on the day. We play the 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner. For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy**

Half Day Walking Monday 24 September

Meet outside the Swan pub in West Peckham in time for a 10 am start. ME18 5JW, grid reference 644525. It is a five mile walk with some hills to Stan Lane, Yates Court, Hurst Wood and Gover Hill. Lunch afterwards for those who wish to stay will be at the Swan.

Leader: **Velma Keys**

Science Group Monday 8 October

Our first Science talk in the forthcoming 2018-19 season will be *Adders & Reptiles* by Rick Hodges

The adder has become an icon of British wildlife but in Kent is listed in the Red Data Book of conservation concern. Original details of the adder's fascinating ecology and behaviour will be revealed as well as what could be done to safeguard the future of this remarkable species

Otford Village Memorial Hall. 2pm. Entry £1:00. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome

Please note the Science Committee has reviewed its financial status and as we now regularly get a good number of attendees we propose to reduce the entrance fee to £1.00 for the foreseeable future.

We have an interesting and varied programme of talks for the coming season. Details will be posted in each newsletter and is available on our website under the open groups tab: <https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Study-Groups/Open-Groups/open-groups.html>

Science Committee – Vacancies

We have vacancies for two members to join our committee where we plan the ongoing programme of talks. Ideally, we would like to invite two ladies to join us as we like to maintain a balance of views for our ongoing science programme. Experience in science is not essential, it is more important to be enthusiastic and have good organisational skills.

Bob Ruffles sciencediscuss@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Ambling Wednesday 19 September

Meet in Smith's Lane, Crockham Hill (grid reference 442506) for a 4 mile walk, starting at 10 am. On entering Crockham Hill from the Westerham direction on the B2026, turn left into Main Road and after 300 yards turn tight right into Smith's Lane. Park along Smith's Lane.

The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: **Velma Keys**

Computer Group Monday 15 October

Talk by Robbie Herd from the Sevenoaks Computer shop on Video Streaming

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome. Entry £2

For the Christmas meeting the Computer Group would like to have a light hearted demonstration of the uses to which a device such as Alexa can be put. However none of the Committee own such a device. If anyone is willing to bring one to the Xmas meeting and demonstrate its potential, please contact **Mike Davies**

Apple Group Monday 22 October

Next Meeting 22nd October after the summer break
Dave Simmons 01732 457646

West Kent Science Study Day Monday 22 October

A Science Study Day entitled TIME, SPACE & CONSERVATION has been organised by West Kent U3A on Monday 22nd October 2018 from 10.00 – 3.30. This is open to members of any U3A in West Kent, and will be held in Paddock Wood. The day will feature three distinguished speakers:

"It's About Time"

Dr Chris Goodall will discuss how man's attempts to regularise the calendar have led to some interesting anomalies.

"Cassini-Huygens: Odyssey to Saturn and Titan"

Professor David Southwood will relate the history of the joint Europe/US Cassini-Huygens mission to explore Saturn and its major moon, Titan.

"The Conservation of the Mary Rose"

Professor Alan Chadwick will give a brief history of the Mary Rose, the flagship of Henry VIII's navy, followed by a detailed discussion of the conservation problems involved.

For further details and booking form follow this link:

https://kent3anetwork.weebly.com/uploads/4/7/4/0/47406687/science_study_da_-_application.docx