

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The Open Afternoon is now booked on October 27th in the new Bat & Ball (B&B) Centre. During the rebuild of the old Community Centre, our monthly meetings moved to St. Nicholas Church and then ceased altogether, due to Covid. A full programme of monthly meetings has already been booked, from November through to next summer, and we will benefit greatly from the completely new audio-visual facilities in the B&B Centre.

A Planning Workshop for the Executive Committee (EC) was held on July 30th. The recommendations of an analysis of a Survey of Sevenoaks u3a Members, undertaken in September 2019, were presented. Again because of Covid, the results of this survey

have not yet been fed back to the membership, something which will be rectified over the next few months. Bob Ruffles, a former Chairman, spoke about strategy, then plans were made to form a small Strategy Working Party. This will include some non-members of the EC with special experience and expertise. The first task will be to decide how to involve you the membership, in designing and thus owning the strategy. The intention will be to produce a 3-year planning cycle, leading up to the 30th Anniversary of the 1994 foundation of Sevenoaks u3a.

EC Support Committees and Teams were also discussed in the Workshop. There is as ever a need for more volunteers to fulfil a range of roles. One of the

outcomes from the survey was a list of names of those willing to participate, and these good people will be approached to explore how they may be willing to contribute to the running of Sevenoaks u3a. Is there anyone out there who has experience or an interest in publicity? Are you prepared to be on a rota to help with teas at the monthly meetings, gentlemen as well as ladies could be involved, and you would probably end up doing it only twice in a year? Could you be the Hall Manager, mainly for monthly meetings? Please email me and I would be happy to get in touch and discuss how your skills and experience might be used.

Dr. Ken Brown
chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SEPTEMBER DIARY (full details on page 3)

Sept 8th	Nordic Walking	Sept 15th	Ambling
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE !

Please note that membership renewals are due in September. The annual membership fee is £13.00 (individual) or £26.00 (joint).

- If you pay by **cheque**, please send your cheques, payable to 'U3A Sevenoaks', to: **Membership Secretary, 48 Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, TN15 6QR**, before the end of September, 2021 at the latest.
- If you pay by **Standing Order**, please check the date of payment with your bank. These should also be paid in September but some banks have been paying them much later, which can lead to confusion and could result in your membership lapsing.

Thank you.

Jill Davies, Membership Secretary.
membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AMBLING



The Ambling group pictured on a walk around the Kemsing area towards the end of July.

2021 OPEN AFTERNOON — OCTOBER 27TH

This will be the first Sevenoaks u3a event in the new **Bat & Ball Centre (B&BC)**. The previous Community Centre was completely gutted but the frame remains, so the basic shape of the Centre is unchanged. The internal arrangements however give greater flexibility, while audio-visual and catering facilities are completely renewed. All Group Organisers (GOs) will be invited and, sitting at tables as at past Open Days, will be able to talk to :

- potential new u3a members wishing to join a group for the first time;
- or existing members considering joining an additional group.

In one area of the Hall, Executive Committee (EC) members will be available to assist and guide visitors. Displayed in this area will be a list of groups known to have spaces, and another list of “suggested new groups” taken from the 2019 Members’ Survey. Visitors will be encouraged to complete a brief questionnaire about their interests and skills. This will assist EC members to :

- guide them toward appropriate groups;
- identify potential future Group Organisers and committee members;
- and ultimately facilitate the setting up of new groups.

The Membership Secretary will be available to record contact details of anyone wishing to join the u3a, and will subsequently send to them an application and information pack.

OPEN AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

2pm	Group Organisers admitted
2:30pm	Public and Members admitted
3pm	Tea & Cakes available
4:30pm	Close



THINGS TO DO IN SEVENOAKS DURING THE SUMMER

If you have to look after grandchildren or great-grandchildren during the summer holidays, or if you just want a pleasant day out in and around Sevenoaks, there is a list of places to visit on our second website at www.sevenoaksu3aconnectandlearn.org.

Sorry we didn't find out about this in time to include the details in last month's newsletter. But, if the weather improves, you may still have time to take advantage of it. The ideas originate from another website called The Incidental Parent at <https://theincidentalparent.com>.

PARLEZ VOUS FRANCAIS ?

A new French Conversation Group is being set up in September. It is hoped we can gather around 8 or so members for a monthly conversation of French current and cultural affairs. We already have a native French speaker to keep us on the straight and narrow, and a few participants. Although described as "advanced" we do not expect bilingualism, simply the ability to conduct the entire session in French.

We plan to meet on the third Thursday every month (starting on 16 September, from 10.30 until 12.00), although this can be changed if another time is more convenient for participants. We will meet at the Group Organiser's flat on the Wildernesse Estate.

For those interested please contact the Group Organiser, Lynton Jones, at frenchconversation@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesday 8th September 10.30am

Meet in the car park at Coblands Garden Centre in Dryhill Lane, Sundridge, TN14 6AA. Go past Sevenoaks Garden Centre on the left, and Coblands is immediately on the right. A 2½ mile walk, with exercises, to Sundridge Church and Dryhill Nature Park. Lunch for those who wish to stay will be at Coblands Café or the Bricklayers Arms.

nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

VISITS TO KNOLE HOUSE ATTICS

The tour of the attics has proved to be very popular, so we will be running two more visits on **October 5th** and **8th**. Times are not yet confirmed, but hopefully in the morning. There is a small **charge of £7.50**.

Knole does not recommend these tours to those with limited mobility, as they go up steep staircases and through low doorways.

If you are interested, please contact **Joyce Allen** at socialsec@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

WOT IS ART ?

It is with regret that we have to announce that, due to very low numbers, the Wot Is Art Group has now closed.

AMBLING

Wednesday 15th September 10.00am

Meet in the parking area on the right of the road, a short distance past the Bell pub at Golden Green, TN11 0BD. Golden Green is between Hadlow and the Medway. The walk, led by Velma Keys, will be about 4 miles. It will be followed by an optional lunch at the Bell.

ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

WALKING THE COASTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Pictured is Mick Turner from the u3a's Art Group at Brighton Pier, having completed a 3,500 mile walk around the coast of England and Wales last month. Mick completed the walk in sections over the past 6 years, fitting it in with other commitments.

During the walk Mick was buried up to his chest in mud and had to scale cliffs several times due to rising tides. But he reckons the most dangerous aspect was walking along busy roads without footpaths.

The England Coast Path is still under construction, and is unlikely to be completed for several years, so there are many sections of the coast with no recognised path at present.

Mick thinks that the most scenic sections are in Cornwall and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

He says, "If you can walk 10 miles a day and read a map then you can do it but travel light and do plenty of planning, especially accommodation. I completed the walk in memory of my father but I also hoped it would improve my mental health. As I am planning to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats next month it clearly hasn't worked!"



ART GROUP

The Art group started meeting again in late June, with a few new members. We are having a break in August, with meetings starting again on the first Thursday morning in September. If you would like to join us, contact either Jack Parker or David Milman at art@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.



by Jack Parker



by David Milman



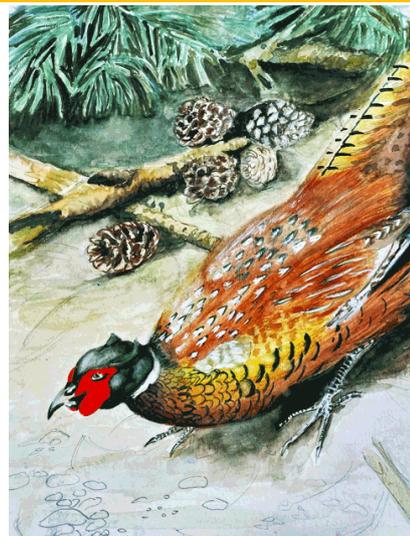
by Frances Fish



by Lynn Henning



by Sheila Stewart



by Maria Khanbai

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Please send items to be included to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk by 10th September.