

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

I hope you are all enjoying your "long vac". Across the country, many u3as follows a "university" year from September/October to May/June and many of you have a while to go before your various Groups meet up again.

I am delighted to report that Groups Co-ordinator, Sue Christy, is re-joining the Executive Committee as a co-opted member. For this Newsletter, she has put together an item on her group support team and a list of Groups with vacancies (see below). So if you want to explore another area of study or activity – now is a very good time to pick your subject, contact the Group Organiser, and sign up!

I am also happy to report that a few members have spontaneously volunteered to help with running our u3a while others have responded positively to a personal approach. The main areas where we still need help are in Communications (newsletter, handbook, etc.) & IT (web site, Beacon, etc.). There is a note with more detail of where help is needed later in this newsletter.

If you feel you can help with any aspect of running your u3a, please get in touch for an exploratory chat.

Dr. Ken Brown, [chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk), tel:

## A REMINDER from the MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

### 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, Jennifer Ruffles, 59 Chesterfield Drive, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2EQ** by the end of September 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. Note that we cannot cancel or make changes to your standing order payment.

If you wish to pay by **bank transfer** please let me know and I will provide you with our bank details. Thank you.

### CONTACT DETAILS

If any of your contact details have changed, please let me know so that we can update your records – we cannot keep you updated with events and activities if we do not have the correct email/telephone/address to reach you.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We hope to issue membership cards in October which you may be required to show when attending some u3a events. We will update you all nearer the time.

Enjoy the new u3a season and I look forward to catching up with you.

Jennifer Ruffles, [membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## A MESSAGE from the GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR & the SUPPORT TEAM

**Good news!** We now have a new **Group Support Team** in place. Our role is to:

- Support group organisers and members
- Help members join the groups they want to join
- Help members set up new groups where there is enough interest.

We have divided our responsibilities by topic areas as follows:

**Claire Roberts:** Arts & Crafts, Games & Physical Activities, Languages

**Pat Lowe:** Culture & Society, Literature & Writing, Music & Theatre

**Sue Glover:** History, Gardens, Wine & Food

**Sue Christy:** Photography, Science, Technology & Computing



Claire Roberts



Pat Lowe



Sue Glover



Sue Christy

We can all be contacted at [groupsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk). Please put the topic area or group that you are emailing about in the *Subject* line. We look forward to hearing from you.

An up-to-date list of **groups with vacancies** is included with this newsletter. Please take a look – there might be something there just for you. **Ideas for new groups** can also be sent to the support team, [groupsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk).

**Sue Christy, Groups Co-ordinator,** [groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## DEVELOPMENT of the WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

### IT Skills needed – ideally yours (or maybe your children's/grandchildren's!)

We would welcome support from members with Facebook or 'WordPress' experience/skills. Two IT projects are starting imminently:

- To develop our **social media** strategy with regular output - perhaps twice monthly - using **Facebook** & maybe expanding later to other platforms. Our old Facebook page has the old u3a branding and is in need of modernisation. We would like to use this to raise awareness of Sevenoaks u3a and the range of activities we offer.
- To migrate our **website**, [www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk), to a new site based on 'WordPress' & using features developed for all u3as. The change will update its 'look and feel', add new features & enhance its manageability. National Office provides some assistance but we need additional experience of WordPress.

If you have experience of using Facebook or of WordPress, we would love to hear from you. Alternatively, either of these could be an attractive option for students of graphics, web design, computing, etc. who are keen to develop a CV in order to pursue their studies. Some limited payment may be available to non-members. For more information or if you know of such a person please contact:

For **Social Media/Facebook:** Sue Christy, [groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupdev@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

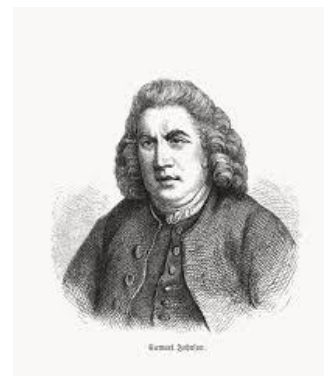
For **Website/WordPress:** Web Team (Bob, David or Beryl) [webteam@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:webteam@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## FIRST MONTHLY MEETING for 2023/24 SEASON

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2:00pm at the Bat and Ball Centre.**

Our speaker next month is **Tim Moorey**, a crossword setter for both the Times and the Sunday Times . He is a wordsmith and an excellent speaker and some of our Members will remember him from his visit to us in November 2020, when he gave us a fascinating talk about the secrets of a crossword setter.

This time he will be telling us about “**The Remarkable Dr Johnson – A National Hero**”. He will shed a light on his life and achievements and tell us how, despite huge personal difficulties, this English Hero gave the Nation its first “proper” dictionary.



We look forward to welcoming you to the Bat & Ball Centre for the first of our new season of talks, with tea and biscuits being served afterwards.

I do hope you will join us.

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

## BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

**Next sessions 11th October & 25th October**

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 are now half way through our summer break and will resume activities in October.

We have only had 4 tables recently probably due to summer activities drawing people away! Our more recent winners have been:

Dave Lowe on 28th June.

Angie Hall on 12th July.

Denise Record on 26th July.

Congratulations to all three. 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 regular partner or come every time. We change partners every 4 hands so you experience playing with 4 or 5 different people during the morning.

Looking forward to hopefully seeing a nice lot of you in October.

For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy**,

or email

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

## CALENDAR for OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October		November	
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2:00 PM	Science Open Meeting Oxford Village Memorial Hall	8 <sup>th</sup> November 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Oxford Village Memorial Hall
11 <sup>th</sup> October 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Oxford Village Memorial Hall	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2:00 PM	Science Open Meeting Oxford Village Memorial Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2:00 PM	Computer Open Meeting Oxford Methodist Hall	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Oxford Village Memorial Hall
25 <sup>th</sup> October 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Oxford Village Memorial Hall	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2:00 PM	Monthly General Meeting "Exploring the City of Bath" Bat & Ball Centre
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2:00 PM	Monthly General Meeting "The Remarkable Dr Johnson" Bat & Ball Centre	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2:00 PM	Computer Open Meeting Oxford Methodist Hall

### SOCIAL EVENTS

With this newsletter you will find a further flyer for the visit to the  
**Brick Lane Music Hall Theatre on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.**  
**Places are filling fast - there are only 8 left - so book your place soon!**

### FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Timing of the next newsletter is uncertain due to the continued absence of our editor/publisher. However, if you have any information to be circulated to members, please send it to:  
[communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)