

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Last month David Taylor (former Communications Trustee) became seriously ill on the very day when he was due to compile the Newsletter. We subsequently managed to produce the June Newsletter, with difficulty and somewhat later than usual. The Executive Committee has decided, in the circumstances, not to produce a full Newsletter in July and August when activities are reduced and there is less to report. As a result this will be the last newsletter until the September edition, to be published in late August.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 29th Annual General Meeting took place on June 28th.

86 members were present in the Bat and Ball Centre and there were 15 postal or email votes. The quorum (5% of a total 826 members) was easily reached with 101 eligible votes counted. The 2022 AGM Minutes, 2023 Trustees' Report and 2023 Accounts (approved by independent examiner) were all accepted and approved. There were no matters arising or questions.

Election of EC Officers:

Chairman: Kenneth Brown Vice Chair: Beryl Mansell

Secretary: Helen Wood Treasurer: David Lowe

Election of other EC Members: Social Events: Pam Walshe

The Chairman thanked Sue Christy for her contribution over the past year. She was elected EC Secretary at the June 2022 AGM, then moved to the Group Development Post. She is not standing for re-election but has recruited a supporting team with 6 members (previously zero) which she will continue to lead.

Past Chairman Nick White proposed a vote of thanks to the 2022/23 EC – including David Taylor (Communications) who is ill & retiring from the EC, and Joyce Allen (Social Events) who stepped down earlier in the year for personal reasons. He then emphasised that:

WE NOW HAVE JUST 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TRUSTEES, THE MINIMUM ALLOWED, MEANING THAT IF WE LOSE JUST ONE OF THEM, WE WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FUNCTION WITHIN OUR CONSTITUTION. WE BADLY NEED AT LEAST ONE AND PREFERABLY 2 OR 3 NEW EC MEMBERS.

Past Chairman Bob Ruffles supported this and added that:

WE ALSO NEED AT LEAST 20 MORE VOLUNTEERS IN VARIOUS ROLES OUTSIDE THE EC TO RUN YOUR ORGANISATION.

The Chairman echoed this, pointing out that at the last count Bob was undertaking 7 jobs!

AN URGENT APPEAL WAS MADE FOR MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER. WE CAN CO- OPT ONTO THE EC AT ANY TIME. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO JUST WAIT FOR THE NEXT AGM!

***** TO OFFER HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN SOON! – chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk *****

After the AGM, an excellent talk by **Guy Bartlett** followed on 'The History of the Red Arrows' which was very much enjoyed by all.

Sevenoaks u3a Science Seminar – “Future Energy”

On 7 June at East Malling Research Station the u3a Science Group held its first seminar since 2019 on ‘Future Energy – Alternatives to Fossil Fuels’. Four talks were given on future opportunities for energy production: solar (by Prof James Durrant, Imperial College), hydrogen (by Steve Brown, Shell plc), small nuclear fission reactors (by Mike Crawforth, Rolls Royce plc), and nuclear fusion (by Alistair McShee, UK Atomic Energy Authority).



The presentations were very well received by an audience of almost 100 attendees, coming from all across Kent, and provided some (guarded) optimism that there are affordable fossil fuel alternatives. Although it was clear that achieving the “net zero” target timeframe is challenging, it may be achievable with more resources than currently committed.

Dr Tony Sinden.

CALENDAR FOR JULY

July 12th 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Otford Memorial Village Hall	July 26th 9:45 AM	Bridge For Pleasure Otford Memorial Village Hall
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BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

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 were down to 14 players on 14th June probably a combination of holidays and people going out for the day in the lovely sunny spell we were having then. We have a couple more sessions in July before the summer break until October. Recent winners were Dave Lowe (again!) on 24th May and Sue Kennett on 14th June.

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. We change partners every 4 hands so you experience playing with 4 or 5 different people during the morning.

For more information, please contact **John and Sue Christy**, telephone **01732 463911** or email bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

UPCOMING VISITS

With this newsletter you will find flyers advertising a visit to ‘**Twelfth Night**’ at **Hever Castle Open Air Theatre on 28th August**, to **Bletchley Park in September** and a further visit to the **Brick Lane Theatre in November**.

To book a place, follow the instructions on the forms.

The next full newsletter will be the **September** edition & the **deadline** for inclusion of items is **August 20th**.

Please send any information to:

communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk