

SCIENCE STUDY DAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

On 14 June, Sevenoaks U3A Science Group held its annual Study Day at the Orchard Conference Centre, East Malling, on the theme of Climate Change: Facts, Causes and Consequences. The enthusiastic attendees, just short of 100 in number, came not only from Sevenoaks, but across Kent from Dartford to Rye. The programme opened with Sir Brian Hoskins (Gratham Institute, Imperial College) setting the scene with a comprehensive understanding of the latest scientific assessment of the changes in the earth's climate. This was followed by John Halladay (Greenpeace) illustrating the impact of changes of climate on people and the environment; a presentation enhanced by his collection of graphic slides and personal experiences. Dr Swenja Surminski (Gratham Institute, London School of Economics) covered the social and economic impact on the UK, drawing on her own research into the economic consequences of flooding. Finally, a presentation by Sir Brian summarised previous attempts to reach international agreement on reducing the level of "green house gases" generated by human activity and its impact on climate change, together with his assessment of the importance of the December 2015 Paris Agreement. The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session involving the audience and the three presenters including a small number of dissenting voices from climate change sceptics.



Speakers seated (L-R) Dr Swenja Surminski, John Halladay and Professor Sir Brian Hoskins

