

### Chairman's note

First let me wish everyone a Happy New Year. 2012 promises to be a memorable year for both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, events that we will not see again in this country. Let's hope they will do something to lift the spirits and help us to put aside the gloomy headlines that have been a feature of the past months.

Our U3A is also planning events of our own. We started the year with the Annual Festive Lunch at the Westerham Golf Club. This was as successful as ever. It was organised by the Social Committee and my thanks to them for this. The Social Committee have other events in the pipeline, and we are also planning to mark the Diamond Jubilee in some way - to be advertised in due course.

We now have a number of new groups that have formed up since our Open Afternoon and these are beginning to get established. So overall we are a very active U3A with a wide range of group interests and activities for members to enjoy.

The Executive Committee is starting to plan for the future. I mentioned this in my first newsletter and the process will be underway shortly. As we make progress on future plans we will be relaying information to members as necessary. This is not an exclusive Committee activity so if any of you have any comment about what you think of our U3A, or ideas for making it better for the future then please let us know. I would also like to reiterate the U3A is a success because of its members. In this respect we are always seeking new talent to join committees. If you feel you can help please speak to one of us.

Bob Ruffles



**SEE U3A 2011 - 2012 HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

### Meetings open to all

**Monthly Meeting Wednesday 29 February**  
 Community Centre, Bat and Ball, start at 2pm.

**The changing politics of global warming, climate change, and energy**  
 by Professor Philip Stott

Professor Stott will examine critically how the political agenda with respect to climate, energy, and agriculture has altered dramatically over the last three years, offering predictions about what might happen in the future.

The talk will focus on the politics of the grand narrative of 'global warming', although it will also address certain issues relating to the science of climate change. An attempt will be made to assess the impact of climate change policies on the economic and political viability of the UK.

**Science Group Monday 13 February**

**East Malling Research Centre**  
 by Dr Chris Atkinson

Scientific research applied to horticulture for improved yields and low environmental impact.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.  
 All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.  
 £2 entry includes tea.

**Computer group Monday 20 February**

Martin Stoneham will answer computing questions and address problems which have been submitted by members.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.  
 All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.  
 £1 entry includes tea.

**Car parking is always difficult, both at Otford and at the Community Centre, so please share cars if at all possible.**

Please send copy for the February Newsletter by **Friday, 17 February 2012** to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

## News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

### E-tiquette

Some 85% of our members have an e-mail address, and enjoy the many advantages it brings of easy communication with friends, family and, not least, within the U3A. As an organisation, we could not run without it, and can't imagine how we ever did!

However, that facility does come at a price. We are all bothered by e-mails we don't want, and at times are worried about whether the security of our computer has been breached. But it is also very easy to find that your private e-mail address is being passed from person to person without your agreement. Not least, a general group e-mail can generate dozens of responses, with everyone replying to everyone else's message. In this way, one simple question can create dozens of answers.

Here are some easy-to-follow tips for avoiding, or causing e-mail annoyance:

#### **Security:**

- 1 Never divulge your e-mail address to someone you don't know.
- 2 If you are asked for your e-mail address, confirm that this will not be passed on to others.
- 3 If 'spam' is a problem (unwanted commercial messages) you can raise the security level on your server to filter it out.\* (It goes in to a 'spam' box, but you need to check this from time to time, to make sure genuine messages have not gone in by mistake.)
- 4 You can 'block' a sender if you do not want to receive messages from this source again.\* This option is available under the message window.
- 5 If you receive suspect messages, delete them first as a message and also from the Delete File. **Do not** forward any suspicious message as this may be exactly what the sender wants you to do so that other computers can be infected.
- 6 Never open attachments, nor access any websites that are contained in these messages (eg 'To read this message click here ...')
- 7 If you think your computer security has been breached, that is an occasion when it is worthwhile to notify and warn others on your address list, in case this cascades down.
- 8 Periodically clean up your browsing history by using Internet Explorer/Tools/Internet Options. On the 'General' tab under 'Browsing history' hit the 'Delete...' button. This will open up a further dialogue box and tick boxes for 'Preserve Favourites', 'Temporary files', 'Cookies' and 'History'. This will protect files that you want but remove files that automatically get saved to your

computer each time you visit a website. It will also keep your computer running efficiently.



#### **Courtesy:**

- 9 Within a U3A Study Group, the Organiser may have a Group email, but try not to reply to everyone on that list unless it is essential.
- 10 Don't write a message to everyone in your address book.
- 11 If you do send a message to a large number of people **cache** (or conceal) the addresses so that third parties cannot read them. Most e-mail systems allow for the setting up discreet address lists and these can normally be established from your address or contacts list. If you are unfamiliar with this then help can be given\*
- 12 Before you send photographs or images, make sure the recipient has Broadband. Otherwise, downloading a very large file can jam their computer for quite a while.
- 13 Don't pass your address list to Facebook or other social networks, without first asking those who might be contacted. After all, the U3A goes to great lengths to protect the privacy of its membership database: the members should also try to safeguard the privacy of others, including committee members.
- 14 If you receive a response to an e-mail you have sent that results in some offence to the reader, do not continue – talk.

Misunderstandings do occur and continuing with dialogue may well inflame the situation further. E-mail in haste, repent at leisure!

NOTE: Items with a star \* may need specialist help if you are not very familiar with the security devices on your computer. The Sevenoaks U3A Technical Support Group has a number of individuals who may be able to help with some of these issues.

*Bob Ruffles  
Magda Sweetland*

## News from the Groups

---

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

### Group Organisers' Coffee Morning Thursday 2 February 10.30am at The Bullfinch, Riverhead

All Group Organisers are invited to attend but, if you are not able to make it, another member of your group will be welcome.

The objective of the first Coffee Morning was for Group Organisers to meet and discuss their shared experiences with each other and members of the Executive Committee. This time, we will be talking about the outcomes from the Open Afternoon, what we have done since then and asking how we can take forward some of the other ideas that came out of that event.

If you are a group member, don't forget to ask your Group Organiser what happens at the Coffee Mornings. We set them up to help with consultation and communication across our U3A so if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like put forward please ask your GO to mention them at the regular group meetings.

### Poetry - First Lines

### Short Course

This new group is for members who want to get more out of reading English language poetry. It will look at some 20th century poems, to be chosen by the members themselves, and examine how each writer gains those effects. We can consider the basic tools of poetry, rhyme and rhythm, but without being too technical. This will run as a short course for four sessions, in the hope that members can then move on and form a long term group together.

Magda Sweetland  
☎01732 461901

### Jazz and Blues Group



In keeping with U3A traditions the Jazz and Blues Group enjoyed a special Christmas session in December 2011. As well as the usual mulled wine and assorted goodies, they were treated to a session of live jazz by members of the group. Jazz standards like *Georgia on my mind* and *Lullaby of Birdland* were interspersed with some Blues and Christmas numbers. *Silent Night* and *Oh*

*come all ye faithful* sound quite different when swung to a jazz beat!

The session ended with a lively rendition of *A Train* in which Peter Moss's harp (harmonica to most of us) added realistic loco sound effects.

Harvey Mahn

## Flyers for Study Days

- Enclosed is a flyer for the next Kent U3A Study Day, to be held on the subject of *Opera and the Commedia dell'Arte*. The lecturer, Gowan Hewlett, has proved a favourite at the Chichester Summer Schools over the years, and his group is always fully subscribed. For those who don't know the Salomon Centre in Southborough, this is an added incentive. It is one of the most important houses in Kent, built for the Salomon family (David Salomon was the first Jewish MP to sit in the Commons: Disraeli was the first to be elected but was precluded from taking his seat.) It has wonderful grounds, a small museum, the lecture is held in the historic Science Theatre - and it offers a great lunch as well. Apply soon. Spaces limited.

Flyers of events organised by National Office now on the [www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk) website include:

- **Theatre Workshop Monday 12 & 27 May**  
A series of Seminars on writing for the Theatre, and production hints. £20 including lunch and refreshments. Run by Ambassador Theatre Group.
- **Queen's Nursing Institute - a Shared Learning Project.**

## Social Events News

---

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

The committee has an interesting selection of visits organised for 2012. These flyers are enclosed and/or are on the website:

- **Jewish London:** Thursday 15 March is a visit to unusual aspects of London, which few of us know. This includes a visit to the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue in the City of London, the Jewish East End and the Jewish Museum in Camden.
- **Sicily:** Monday 22-Sunday 28 October. This 7-day tour will be based at two different hotels, for 3 days each, and will fly in and out of different airports in Sicily, to cut down on the travelling time. The brochure which will be sent to all applicants gives full details of the visits round this fascinating island, where every Mediterranean culture has left its mark. Apply at once - this visit is already booking from those who enquired early.
- **Bletchley Park:** Thursday 22 March. Knole U3A is running a coach trip to visit the home of the famous Enigma machines. Spare places offered to Sevenoaks members after 15 February.

## Events Open to All

### **One-Day Conference** *open to all U3As in the South East Region*

*Wednesday 21 March 2012  
Meridian Hall, East Court, College Lane,  
East Grinstead RH19 3LT*

This annual conference is of interest to anyone involved with the workings of their U3A and is useful to all Committee members and Group Leaders alike. The morning is a series of talks on aspects of the U3A - this year grouped under the title **Active Ageing** - and includes a talk by Professor Paul Matthews on the Healthy Brain, and three talks on the Lifelong Learning programmes in Europe, including Digital Photography in Poland and Learning Circles in Sweden. In the afternoon, there are discussion groups on different topics.

The day starts at 10am and will finish about 4pm. There is no charge, and a buffet lunch as well as refreshments are provided. Members should apply individually and as soon as possible.

### **South East U3A Forum Summer School**

*University of Chichester  
Tuesday 3 July to Friday 6 July 2012*

The programme for the 2012 Summer School is now complete and includes these courses:-

- A Cathedral, a Creek, a Castle & a Canal
- Some of the Great Houses & Gardens in West Sussex
- On the Write Lines (Creative Writing)
- Power, Propaganda & Protest in Western Art
- Blacks, Whites & Blues - USA jazz, blues & folk
- Opera and the Commedia dell Arte
- An Introduction to Drawing
- Rudyard Kipling
- The Reign of Elizabeth II - part 1 1952-82
- Roman Chichester
- Military History - The Second World War
- Watermills & Windmills

Costs are between £140 (day attendance) and £310 (fully residential). Contact Helen Turner for details and booking form ☎ 01622 817264

Flyers for both these events are on the website.  
[www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### **Friday Lunch**

**Friday 3 February**  
Crown Point, Sevenoaks Road, A25, East of Seal, 12 for 12.30.

Please contact Fay Plant ☎ 01959 522127 or Pat Dallas ☎ 01732 456714 to book.

### **Strollers**

The next stroll will be in March, details in the February Newsletter. Anne Gutteridge

### **Ambling Group Wednesday 15 February**

Meet at Godden Green for a 4 mile walk around Knole Park starting at 10 am. Park on the road opposite the Buck's Head. Please wear appropriate footwear. Leader: Grahame Lee ☎ 01474 852007

### **Half Day Walking Monday 27 February**

Meet in the car park at The Woodman, Goathurst Common for a 10am start. The pub is on the left on the B2042, Bessels Green to Edenbridge road, shortly before Ide Hill. The walk will be about five miles, followed by an optional lunch at The Woodman. Leader: Sue Henson ☎ 01732 455849

### **Bridge for Pleasure Wed 8 and 22 February**

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 23 November and 11 January was Kay James and on 14 December was Jim Stackhouse. The group is an "Open" group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, please call Colin and Mary Butson on ☎ 01732 458356

## Diary

### February

Thur 2	Group Organisers' Coffee Morning, The Bullfinch, Riverhead
Fri 3	First Friday lunch
Wed 8	Bridge for Pleasure
Thu 9/Fri 10	Journey to the Throne Stag Theatre
Mon 13	Science Group Meeting
Tues 14	Coffee Morning, The Bullfinch
Wed 15	Ambling
Mon 20	Computer Group Meeting
Wed 22	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon 27	Half Day Walking
Wed 29	Monthly Meeting

### March

Thur 15	Jewish London visit*
Thur 22	Bletchley Park, Knole

### April

Mon 30	Opera: Kent U3A Study Day*
Mon 30-4	May York trip

### October

Mon 22-Sun 28	7-day tour of Sicily*
---------------	-----------------------

\* Flyer included in this Newsletter

**Editorial team:** Magda Sweetland, Linda Young, Robin Tonge and John Spurway