

Chairman's Note

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2015 and may I wish all of you a Happy New Year. As ever the dawn of a New Year brings with it an expectation of better things than last year and for the forthcoming year the Executive have been busy making plans for some interesting and enjoyable events.

The first is the **Group Organisers' Conference planned for Tuesday 12 May at the Salomons Centre**. This is our biennial event which offers the opportunity for all Group Organisers to get together and exchange ideas and provide feedback to the Executive and various committees. It is a valuable event for everyone as it provides information for us to plan for the future. It also gives us the opportunity to meet all GOs in a relaxed atmosphere and have a good lunch. More detailed information will be sent out to Group Organisers in due course.

The second event planned for **Wednesday 10 June is our Science Study Day**. Following the success of last year's event we will again be returning to East Malling Research and our topic for study will be the Future UK Energy Needs. For this we are planning to look at the strategic mix of energy generation solutions that are required to meet future demand.

Included in this Newsletter is a brief report of key items discussed at our Executive Meeting on the 8 January and following from the decision made in the November Executive meeting, this month we include a brief report on the role of our Secretary, Judy Hebert. Each month we will be issuing a similar report on the role of each of the Trustees. It was felt that it is important for the membership to understand the work each Trustee undertakes on your behalf and hopefully, by informing members about the different roles, more members will be encouraged to come forward and undertake the fulfilling and enjoyable roles that benefit all.

Please also note, in the event of inclement weather and possible disruption to our meetings, check our website '**Stop Press**' for any last minute notices - **check before you travel**.

Bob Ruffles chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

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Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 25 February
Community Centre, Bat & Ball, 2pm

Infectious Diseases: Professor Trevor Jones

Professor Jones is Director General of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry representing over a hundred research-based prescription medicine companies to the government, the media and international agencies. He is a member of the UK government's ministerial group on pharmaceuticals and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations. He is a visiting professor at King's College, University of London, and has honorary doctorates from five UK and European universities. From 1987-94 he was a main board director of the Wellcome Foundation.

Science Group Monday 9 February **Optical effects and the properties of metals:** **Lynne Bartlett**

Jewellers in the UK, attracted by its colour potential, enthusiastically took up the use of titanium in jewellery in the late 1960s. However many practitioners experienced problems with colour variability. This talk will present the investigation of the problem and the analytical tools that were used to unravel it: scanning electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, white light interferometry and transmission electron microscopy. Finished products of Lynne's work will be on display.

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



February Newsletter

Please send material by Friday 13th February
to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

Science Meeting 12 January

The Science Committee apologise for not being able to deliver the advertised talk *Modern Management of the Osteoarthritic Knee* on 12 January but this was due to circumstances beyond our control. A number of you were disappointed and judging from the large turnout this is a topic of considerable interest. We plan to run this talk at some point in the future.

I hope the alternative talk we presented at short notice was equally interesting.

Bob Ruffles

Computer Group Monday 16 February
PowerPoint : How to enhance the Presentations for your Groups by Bob Ruffles

From basic slide shows to complex presentation. Bob will address the basics, how to set up a presentation, highlight some of the pitfalls and explore the more advanced features for linking pictures, videos and audio.



Oxford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

Entry £2 includes tea and biscuits

News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

Mud Blood and Poppycock

At the November monthly meeting, the military historian, Gordon Corrigan, gave a talk about the First World War. In a dynamic and fluent presentation he argued against the popular beliefs that Britain should have stayed out of the war, that it wiped out a generation of young men, that men were executed without good cause, and that the officers in charge were butchers and bunglers who never went near the battle front. He argued that Britain had to join the war not only to honour its treaty with Belgium, but to defend its imperial interests. He demonstrated that France, Russia and Germany suffered many more casualties than Britain, and that less than ten per cent of those who served in our army died in the war. He had examined the court martial papers relating to nearly all of the more than 300 executions of British army soldiers and concluded that they deserved their punishment. He did not comment on the professional expertise of the generals, but he did show that almost a hundred of them were killed during the course of the war. It was a very well presented and thought provoking talk that invited us to view the terrible conflict in a new light.

Anyone who would like to examine Mr Corrigan's views in more detail may wish to read his book with the same title as the talk.

Nick White

News from the Executive Meeting 8 January

Recruitment is still very much at the top of our priorities. However, I can report some changes that have occurred in the Social Committee. Lynda Alleeson and John Dean have now stepped down but new recruits David Gardner and Vicki Joyce have recently joined. The Executive passed on thanks to Lynda and John for all the hard work they have undertaken in organising some memorable trips both overseas and in the UK. In addition, John Cox has agreed to join the Executive as a Trustee for Publications and is also working hard with Chris Streets' team on the development of our Electronic Communications system for distribution of the Newsletter.

Currently there are plans to redevelop the Community Centre and although we are assured that the existing facility will be maintained whilst building work is underway, we do anticipate some disruption, especially with car parking capacity. It is early days but our Meeting's leader Nick White will liaise with the Town Council to ensure our needs are addressed during the design and planning phase. We are among the regular users and we will be interested in the facilities on offer for Meetings, Conferences, Drama and Exhibitions.

The recent trial revision of the process for serving tea and cakes at the General Meetings has been a success and will be maintained for future meetings. It does allow for faster serving of tea and much better social interaction to take place.

On the technical front one of our oldest Laptop computers has been retired. It has given good service for over 10 years, which is twice the normal life expectancy, and will be replaced shortly. Demand for media kits is increasing as members make more use of these kits for presentations.

The Technical Group has been in discussion with the Oxford Village Memorial Hall Committee to install a Hearing Loop. However this is now on hold as the Hall Committee are pursuing plans to refurbish the hall and the hearing loop may form part of the refurbishment.

A meeting on Communications is scheduled to review how we communicate with our members. The meeting will be addressing all forms of communication including Publications, Website and Electronic distribution. Findings and developments will be reported in future Newsletters. Initial tests of the electronic distribution of the Newsletter have been successful and better than expected. The first tests were primarily to establish communication links but future tests will address formats and presentation to ensure an optimum solution to meet our needs before we go to a live system for all who would prefer this.

Revised Publications were suggested for Time to Learn (2011), Retirement in Old Age (2009) and What's On in Sevenoaks. Time to Learn is being

updated by Sue Henson's team as it is a valuable guide for Group Organisers. However the Executive considered the other publications would not be cost effective. Some of the age related and educational information is already linked on our website and other relevant up-to-date information can now be obtained from Internet searches.

The next EC meeting will be held on 5 March.

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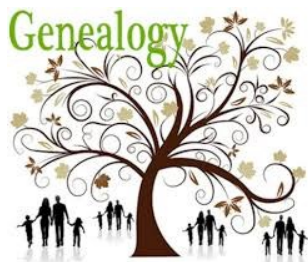
News from the Groups

Sue Henson

Knole U3A is offering Sevenoaks U3A shared membership of two new groups :

Spanish for Beginners: Marion Hollands, an experienced teacher, has offered to run this group for beginners, times and dates to be agreed. If you would like to attend an initial meeting, please contact Marion Hollands.

Genealogy 2 - this is a group for people who would like to learn how to research their family tree, but do not know how to set about it.



If you are interested in joining the group, contact John Phillips

Events open to all

Bridge for Pleasure Wed 11 & 25 February

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am to 12.15pm. The winner on 26 November was Geoff Howson, on 10 December was Mike



Davies and on 14 January was David Record. We are an 'open' group, so any new players can just come along.

If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson.

Half Day Walking Monday 23 February

Meet on the green opposite the White Hart car park on the A25 in Brasted in time for a 10am start. A five-mile circular walk to French Street and Emmetts. Optional lunch afterwards at the White Hart. Leader: Nick White

Ambling Wednesday 18 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: David Jackson.

The Strollers Tuesday 17 March

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 17 March. For details see the February Newsletter. Best Wishes for 2015.

Anne Gutteridge

Social Events News

- The *Festive Winter Lunch* is fully booked. You are warned that the carvery plates are hot!
- Unfortunately not enough people wanted to see *Shakespeare in Love*. We have now been offered massive reductions on the 5* rated *Gypsy* (with Imelda Staunton) at the Savoy Theatre, Strand i.e. within easy walking distance of Charing Cross station. For 10 or more people tickets are £39.50; for 40 or more people tickets are £35. Tickets are for a Wed matinee between April and November. E-mail me if interested and I will choose a date, let you know and then book if we get the numbers.
- We are also considering a possible coach trip to the Marlowe Theatre Canterbury to see a suitable play. It may be too late for Knee High's production of *Rebecca*, based on Daphne Du Maurier's book, on Thursday 2 April matinee - but there will be others. Please contact me if a trip to Canterbury would appeal.
- A flyer is enclosed for the trip to Barnes Wetland Centre on Tuesday 24 March.
- A flyer is enclosed for the next Kent Study Day on Saturday 11 April, at the Sinden Theatre, Tenterden. The topic is *Interrelationships between the arts*.

N.B. If your circumstances or those of someone you know in U3A have changed, please let the Membership Secretary know.

The role of the Secretary

The Executive Committee (EC) is sometimes advised that we don't tell members enough about what we do and what our responsibilities are so it was decided we should do better. We will take it in turns to write an article each month to let you know who on the EC does what. Bob, our Chairman, regularly writes for the Newsletter bringing you up-to-date with EC discussions and decisions. My job as Secretary is in part to support him.

So I compile the Agenda for each EC meeting (6 per year), distribute all the paperwork and reports for these meetings to other members of the EC and afterwards write up the Minutes. I try to check that decisions made at meetings are implemented and that there is continuity from one meeting to another, that nothing slips through cracks. I hold the records of past meetings both of the EC and of our supporting committees. Most of these are on my computer which, in case that makes you feel nervous, is backed up every night. I keep a paper copy of the Minutes of each EC meeting, signed by the Chairman as a true record.

I also have to complete forms on-line for the Charity Commission each year to assure them that Sevenoaks U3A is run responsibly, using our subscriptions advantageously for us all.

I enjoy the job because, as Magda promised me when she invited me to do it, it's not difficult and I've met many interesting and delightful people whom I wouldn't otherwise have come across.

It has also confirmed for me what an excellent organisation Sevenoaks U3A is, providing such a variety of opportunities for us all.

Judy Hebert

Diary

February

Fri	6	Festive Winter Lunch
Mon	9	Science Group Meeting
Wed	11	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	16	Computer Group Meeting
Wed	18	Ambling
Mon	23	Half Day Walking
Wed	25	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	25	Monthly Meeting

March

Tues	24	Barnes Wetland Centre*
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April

Wed	1	Science Group Waste Facility visit*
Sat	11	Kent Study Day: Interrelationships*

May

Wed	20	Maldon and Layer Marney Tower
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***Flyer enclosed**

News from the Third Age Trust

The following events in 2015 have been advertised by the Third Age Trust.

Date	Event	Notes
Feb - April	Shared Learning Project – the Royal Philatelic Society Ltd. – The Grover Archive	Research into the Grover Company archive
3 March 2015	U3A West End Sing Out – A full day Working with Louisa Ridgeway	At The Playhouse Theatre Northumberland Avenue. Cost £35.00 per person
23 March 2015	U3A Explores Science at the RI	Afternoon lectures. Cost £20.00 per person
25 March 2015	Early Flight and the First World War - RAF Museum Hendon	Group Tours and talks throughout the year. Cost £10.00 per person plus £3.00 car park
22 April 2015	Inspiration day for U3A Members Royal Opera House behind the scenes	ROH Workshop – Thurrock Cost £18.00 (or £36.00 per person including Lunch)
28 April 2015	U3A Spring Concert with the Brandenburg Singers and Organ - Vivaldi	Temple Church 3-5 pm Cost £18.00 per person (Max 2 per applicant)

These Events are popular and early on-line booking is recommended. More details and flyers for these events can be found on our website www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or the National Office website www.u3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editorial team : Victoria Baxter, John Cox, Magda Sweetland, Linda Young