

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty Third Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 28th June** 2017 at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks

Nominations from Members for Executive Committee vacancies for Treasurer, Communications Chair and External Affairs must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2017.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Group Development Coordinator and Social Committee Chair will have completed their 2 year term of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Further nominations for these posts may be submitted by Members to the Secretary by 31st May 2017.

Any motion that a Member may wish to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 31st May 2017 and be duly proposed and seconded.

AGM papers are included with this Newsletter.

Jackie Bradforth
Secretary
secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIARY FOR JUNE

June	14	Science Study Day
June	14	Bridge for Pleasure
June	21	Ambling
June	26	Half day walking
June	27	Runnymede visit
June	28	Annual General Meeting
June	28	Bridge for Pleasure

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

On June 28th we will be holding our Annual General Meeting and I would encourage members to join us at the Community Centre and support your Executive Committee in the running of your U3A.

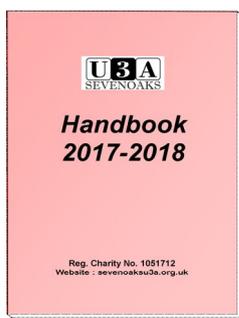
Immediately after the AGM we have a very interesting talk on Wildlife Photography and this will be followed by our usual tea & cakes.

Whilst we are on the subject of teas at our monthly meetings, we need more volunteers to help serve and to make cakes. This is a most enjoyable social occasion for our members and if you are able to help please contact Di Latter on 01732 455761.

Early in May we held a Thank you Lunch for all our Group Organisers and Committee Volunteers. These are the people who keep our U3A running so efficiently and their input is very much appreciated.

Jim Purves
chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

HANDBOOK FOR 2017-2018



Susan Henson is collecting details of all the committees and groups in Sevenoaks U3A for publication in the next Handbook. Please make sure your entry is correct and confirmed as soon as possible.

Susan Henson

IF YOUR DETAILS CHANGE!

If you move house or change your email address please notify the Membership Secretary at membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

It is important that you give full details of your address so that you can be properly identified on the database - we have more than one Smith!

Newsletter Team:

Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith

Copy for **July Newsletter** (which will be distributed 28 June) by **Tuesday 6 June** to:
news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

Sevenoaks U3A Thank You Lunch was held at Salomons on Wednesday, 3rd May, and all the group organisers and committee members who attended seemed to enjoy themselves. It was intended as a small token of gratitude on behalf of Sevenoaks U3A to those people who give up their time and energy to making our U3A such a success.

Classical Studies

We come from different backgrounds, but we all enjoy Diana Atkinson's excellent course. Under her expert direction we have explored Greek and Roman poets, dramatists and philosophers, and have come to understand what a wonderful contribution they have made to Western culture. Next year we shall be studying Greek Myths and the influence they have had on Literature and the Arts, still relevant today. If you think this might interest you, do phone Diana Atkinson.



The Abduction of Europa mosaic at Lullingstone Villa

The Table Tennis Group is going so strongly that we have asked Sevenoaks Leisure Centre to open the other Wednesday mornings in the month for us to start a second table tennis group. Contact Susan Henson if you would like to add your names to the list of prospective players.

French For Not Quite Beginners is the name the new French Group have given themselves. They meet on the 4th Tuesday afternoon of the month. If you are interested in joining them, contact Sharon Fishwick

The Board Games Group would still like to get going, so if you are interested, please contact Jim Hughes.

A second **Science Discussion Group** hopes to start in September on the first Thursday of each month (10-12). Contact Susan Henson if you would like to join them

Bird Watching is now starting up again under new group organisers, Susan and Oliver Parker. Meetings will take place monthly throughout the year. Dates and venues will be sent to group members by email, so if you are interested, please contact Susan Parker

The Handbook for 2017-2018: You should find all these new groups in the next handbook, along with other new groups such as **Aviation** (contact Frank Matthews,), but sadly without the entries for one or two other groups which, after many years, are closing. Make sure your group or committee is correctly entered in next year's handbook by contacting Susan Henson.

Finally, the **Group Development Team** could do with one or two more members. While Susan is happy to continue with most of the admin for another year, she would like to know she has more helpers with special events such as the annual Open Afternoon. Such volunteers would not find they had very much to do day-to-day, but Susan would be grateful for their support.

Wine Groups

From my point of view, having started 3 groups, the groups tend to stick together having learned to gradually build their vocabulary of taste which is sometimes impossible to impart in words, but agreed in discussions and developed in tastings .

The format that we have developed over 10 years of imbibing seems to engender an amicable sharing of knowledge beyond the simple sampling and invariably drinking wines from many countries. The discussions and presentations frequently involve historical facts, terroir, conditions and practices and partnering wines with various food. We seem to have taken it a little more seriously as time has elapsed. We try and have a small selection of cheese, biscuits, and pâté, whatever suits the selection of wine.

It takes some time to get a group established. I am reluctant to be the group organiser for another group but would be happy to set a group on the road. My commitment to two groups already is sufficient and I am embedded too deep in them to withdraw, as the camaraderie is great in both groups. We all share the cost fairly by setting a small sum to cover at least the wine.

So if you are interested, please register your interest and as soon as there is a sufficient number another group can be started so everyone starts from the same baseline.

Brian Alleeson

A theatre visit is planned, travelling by train, to the Savoy Theatre, Strand, on **Thursday Nov 2 matinee**, to see **Dreamgirls** at the u3a group rate of £39.50 per person (reduced from £72.50). **Dreamgirls** recently won the Best Actress Award in a Musical and also best Actor in a Supporting Role. If you would like to join the group please contact Vicki Joyce **no later than June 1**.



There are one or two places left for the coach trip to the historically famous site of Runnymede followed by a visit to the lovely Savill Gardens where the roses should be in bloom on **Tuesday June 27**. If interested please apply promptly on the flyer available on the website.



Report on the Theatre visit to see Half a Sixpence

This musical has transferred to London from the Chichester Festival Theatre. Having seen the production at Chichester I was interested to see how it played out in a London Theatre with a very different size of stage and also to a London audience. I was not disappointed. Charlie Stemp playing Arthur Kipps was excellent. He has become a star overnight having been plucked from Theatre School into this part. The rest of the cast lived up to expectations and the singing and dancing numbers were superb.

Joyce Allen

Report on the recent trip to Brick Lane Music Hall

For St George's Day a small group of us went to a matinée at Brick Lane Music Hall. The building is an old deconsecrated church, amazingly decorated inside, where we enjoyed a fun afternoon, with tea and delicious cakes. A trip to be repeated with a bigger U3A group some time in the future and our thanks to Cherry Lynam for organising the trip.



MEMBERS' CORNER

Please submit items of interest to members to the Newsletter Team. news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



Photo: Marion Holland

Congratulations to Mike Sillitoe, Sevenoaks U3A member who once again completed the London Marathon. He is shown here with T-shirt and medal.

Peter Marshall, a member of Kings Hill U3A is hoping to form a Big Band from members of Kings Hill and other local U3A groups. They intend to practice once a month in East Peckham (dates to be decided) and are specifically looking for a drummer, a keyboard player, trumpets and trombones. If you are interested please contact Peter Marshall.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

Half Day Walking Monday 26 June

Meet outside the Buck's Head at Godden Green in time for a 10am start. The walk will be about 5 miles with easy going. All Sevenoaks U3A members are welcome to join these walks without giving prior notice. Lunch after the walk for those who wish to stay will be at the Buck's Head.

Leader: Velma Keys

Ambling Wednesday 21 June

Meet at Leigh Village Green (Grid Reference 549464) for a 4 mile walk, starting at 10 am. Park on the far side of the green away from the B2027 road. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Grahame Lee

Science Group

There is no Open meeting in June in the Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Wednesday 14th June - Science Study Day

We are running the Science Study Day at the Orchards Conference facility, East Malling on 14th **June 2017**. The topic as previously advertised is – ***Climate Change: Facts, Causes and Consequences***. **So please do not miss this opportunity and book immediately.** A Flyer and booking form was posted in the March Newsletter but a copy can be obtained from our website Home page/News:

<http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Flyer-Science-Study-Day-2017--14Jun17.pdf>

Monday 9th October

Our new season of open meetings at the Otford Village Memorial Hall will start with a talk by Professor Sir Salvador Moncada FRS, FMedSci. on "***Nitric Oxide: An unexpected biological mediator***". More details will be published later.

Bridge for Pleasure Wednesdays 14 & 28 June

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12.15 p.m.

The winner on 22nd March was Isabel Pedersen, on 12th April was Eileen Stanton and on 26th April was Copper Earthrowl.

New members welcome. We are an "open" group, so new players are welcome to come along.

For more information, please ring John and Sue Christy

Computer Group Monday 16 October

The Computer Group does not meet in June so after Tony Fishpool on the 26th May there will be no meeting until October.

On Monday 16th October there is a presentation by Inspector Nick Finis of the Kent Police on **Cyber Crime** and how not to get mixed up in it. This should be a very interesting talk and I urge as many members as possible to come as it something that could affect all of us.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm.

All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome.

£2 entry includes refreshments.

Mike Davies

Apple Group Monday 25 September

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

Next Meeting 25th September (4th Mondays) after the summer break.

MONTHLY MEETINGS May and June

2.00 p.m. at the Bat and Ball Community Centre

Wednesday 24 May

Dr. Dave Sloggett will give a talk about Iraq and Syria. Dr. Sloggett is a leading international authority on counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and counter-piracy. He is recognised worldwide for his expertise and understanding of Middle East related terrorism. During service alongside troops in Iraq and Afghanistan his military colleagues gave him the nickname *The Muddy Boots Academic*.

Wednesday 28 June

Following the AGM, Tom Way will give an illustrated talk on Wildlife Photography. He was the recipient of the European Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 2015. His work in the UK and overseas, particularly in Africa, is widely published and exhibited in galleries and exhibitions. His subjects include Meerkats, Mountain Gorillas, Kingfishers, Red Deer, Little Owls and Red Foxes.