

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



COFFEE MORNINGS

Our first two coffee mornings at Miller and Carter in Riverhead on 2nd December and 6th January were very successful. We aim to repeat them on or about the first Monday of every month. All members are welcome to attend, especially those looking for new activities, and group organisers seeking new members. Details will be shown in newsletters and on the website.



Photo: Nick White

CLUSTERS

In the next few weeks I will be looking into ways of improving co-operation with Knole, Westerham and Edenbridge U3As. The idea will be for the four organisations to become a "cluster", allowing members to participate in each other's activities without having to pay more than one subscription. In the event of there being limited vacancies in a group, priority will be given to members of the host U3A.

NEWSLETTERS

The Newsletter team is very keen to include reports from Groups, so

please let us all know what you are up to by sending a brief report, preferably with a photograph, to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

There are still members who receive newsletters by post. Apart from receiving them more quickly and in colour, those who receive them by email benefit from additional notifications of events. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email rather than by post please advise Jill Davies on

membership@sevenoaksu3a.gov.uk.

LEAFLETS

Our Publicity Sub-committee has produced a promotional leaflet aimed at attracting new members. They will be available at Open Meetings and I can supply a copy by email on request. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining please arrange for them to have one.

Nick White

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

RIVIERA TRAVEL SCHEME

Along with many other U3As we have joined the Riviera Affinity Scheme. If the person booking a holiday with Riviera Travel mentions Sevenoaks U3A at the time of booking, Riviera will donate 10% of the total basic cost of all travellers as a charitable donation to Sevenoaks U3A. The operation of the scheme is as follows:

- ♦ Mention Sevenoaks U3A when making the booking.
- ♦ At the end of the holiday Riviera will send the member an email asking that an invoice is sent to them to claim the donation.
- ♦ Forward this email to treasurer@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
- ♦ The treasurer will send an invoice to Riviera.
- ♦ 50% of the amount received by the Treasurer will be passed to the member

DIARY 2020

FEBRUARY

10 February Coffee Morning

10 February Science Group

12 February Bridge for Pleasure

19 February Ambling

17 February Computer Group

21 February Festive Lunch

24 February Apple Group

26 February Bridge for Pleasure

26 February Monthly Meeting

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 26th February. 2pm at St Nicholas' Church

Melanie Gibson-Barton will be giving a presentation entitled *Wandering in Flanders Field*

The talk brings to life the well known and the less well known First World War sites in a way that will appeal to different elements of the audience, whether it be in relation to family history research, planning a visit or just wanting to know more.

**FLYERS
INCLUDED WITH THIS
NEWSLETTER**

**U3A SUMMER SCHOOL FLYER
WREN CHURCHES FLYER**

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

COFFEE MORNING

Monday 10 February

Monday 10 February 10.30 at Miller and Carter in Riverhead. All U3A members and prospective members are welcome to attend, especially those looking for new activities and group organisers seeking new members. There is no need to pay for car parking - just enter your registration number on the console inside the building.

COMPUTER GROUP

Monday 17 February

The February meeting will be a talk by **Jenny Carter from Kent Libraries** on the new methods for accessing library materials such as magazines, newspapers etc. and plans for helping people to get to grips with the digital age.

The **20th January** meeting will be a change from that mentioned in the December newsletter. It will be a talk by **Warren Taylor** from Knole U3A on ***The Internet of Things***. Warren is an excellent speaker and he will be talking about the pieces of equipment in our homes which connect to the internet and the good and bad points associated with this. I have heard this talk at Knole U3A and found it fascinating.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome.

£2 entry includes refreshments.

Mike Davies

APPLE GROUP.

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

Monday 24 February

- ◆ Getting better use of iBooks - Gwyn
- ◆ Making calls with WhatsApp - Paul
- ◆ Endless music using Spotify - Phil Saunders
- ◆ Making a newsletter with Pages - Dave
- ◆ Round Tables: Basic knowledge sharing & improving knowledge sharing

Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2 - 4 pm

Call or email Dave Simmons for more details

NEED HELP WITH YOUR IPAD?

We are running two seminars by one of the professional Apple companies to teach everyone how to get much more enjoyment out of using their iPad. There are more than 20 things you can do on an iPad and each two hour seminar will show you how to use most of them as well as

teaching you all the basic uses. Whether you are a complete beginner or you have been using your iPad for some time our seminars will help you to use more of the software on this wonderful Apple product.

These seminars are being held by the Sevenoaks Apple Group in one of the halls in Otford dependent on the number of people that want to attend. The cost will be just £2 to help us pay for the hall rental. If you would like to reserve your place, please send an email to Dave Simmons at dgsimmons7@gmail.com with your name(s), email address, telephone number and anything that you would like to have included in the seminar. Please respond by the 15th February 2020 so that we can make sure we have all the facilities for the events and we will send you all the details.

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Wednesdays 12 and 26 February

The Group plays at Otford Village 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. The winners in November were Wynne Owens and Denise Record, who also won in December.

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 partner.

For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy**

SCIENCE GROUP MEETING

Monday 10 February

***Design of RNLI Lifeboats:* Malcolm Vincent, Vice President of the RNLI**

Malcolm Vincent's presentation will briefly outline the founding of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in the Isle of Man in 1824 and describe the RNLI's mission of Saving of Lives at Sea. Today the service extends to include the saving of lives on our beaches, rivers and in flood water throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland by volunteers without any Government funding.

All capital and operating costs are raised by public donations. The presentation will describe today's RNLI in terms of its lifeboats and lifeboat stations, community focussed lifesaving and the importance of the International work of the RNLI. A description will be given of the design and development of the latest all-weather lifeboats and the boat production facilities which are now undertaken by the RNLI in-house.

Otford Village Memorial Hall. 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL (CONT'D)

Science Seminar 2020.

Please note we have reserved the date of 3rd June for our Science Seminar at the Orchards Conference Centre, East Malling. The topic will be **Plastics Pollution** and more details will be published in later Newsletters.

Bob Ruffles

AMBLING

Wednesday 19 February

Meet opposite the Buck's Head in Godden Green in time for a 10am start. The walk is about 4 miles following an easy route. All U3A members are welcome to join the walk at the start. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch at the Buck's Head.

Leader: **David Jackson**

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MOSTLY WREN AND ROMANS

On Friday March 27 2020 a Blue Badge Guide has been booked for a tour of **Four - mostly Wren - City Churches**. This visit promises to be both enjoyable and enlightening.. You will be travelling by train and will assemble for coffee at 10.30 am in St Mary Alderney Church, which is very near Mansion House Tube Station. After lunch at leisure there is the opportunity to tour the Mithraeum (free entry) which is nearby.

Further details and application form are to be found on the flyer enclosed or attached.

Please apply promptly as numbers are limited.



Photo: Freda Parker



CHRISTMAS AT KEW

At the end of November a group of us went by coach to experience the annual "Christmas at Kew". We were lucky with the weather, having a rare fine and almost totally dry evening! The new route through the gardens was breath-taking: highlights included the waterfall of lights cascading from a towering treetop walkway; a 'choir' of holly trees and the finale in front of the Palm House where festive projections played across a giant screen of water in the centre of the lake. This last attraction held us, and all the many other visitors, spellbound. My personal favourite was the illumination of trees along the route with subtle changes of colour which showed off their striking winter forms to perfection. Many thanks to Joyce Allen for organising such an enjoyable trip.

Freda Parker

THIS MONTH'S LIST OF GROUPS WHICH WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GARDEN GROUP 1	Paul & Janice Clarke	garden1@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
FAMILY HISTORY	Jean Stirk	familyhistory@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	Rob White	euroaffairs@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
LONDON STUDIES 2	Mike Davies	mdknolepark62@gmail.com

These may not be the only groups with vacancies.

Please contact the organisers of any groups that interest you using the details in the Handbook and the website.

GALLERY GROUP 1



Photo: Sandy Patrick

Gallery Group 1 members engaging with an Antony Gormley sculpture at the Royal Academy exhibition.

LONDON STUDIES 2

The photograph below shows our London Studies Group during a recent visit to Deptford, in front of a statue of Peter the Great, a gift from the Russian people. We also visited St Paul's Church, a magnificent baroque building, and had a long and interesting talk with the Vicar, visited a street of 18th Century Sea Captains' houses and the Master Mariner's house, which is all that is left of the huge dockyard started by Henry VIII. Peter the Great was in Deptford to learn shipbuilding at the dockyard.

This Group has been running for more than 10 years and we have some 20 members. We divide into groups of 2-3 people and each group takes a turn to organise a visit to a place of interest in London, usually travelling by train. Visits are on the 1st Thursday of the month (except for December when we have a get-together, and January). We can accommodate a few new members if anyone is interested.

Mike Davies



Photo: Mike Davies

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Never has there been a more important time to understand our European neighbours! A new relationship looms certainly but the old history remains - we are inextricably linked to Europe by culture, race, common ancestry, trade, sometimes by marriage and often by a common belief in our democratic principles.

In 2019, with the help from a little local foodstuffs, we discussed Denmark and Poland. This year we are planning a varied timetable: we will talk about European education systems, the challenges facing the EU's new governance team and future UK-Europe relations. We also hope to invite an outside expert on European issues to share his experience with us. One month we plan to view a relevant European film and we are also hoping to hold our end of academic year celebration at a restaurant with a strong European atmosphere.

We still have some vacancies if you would like to come along, even just to sample one of our meetings and without any commitment. Please contact me if you are interested in Europe!

Rob White

euroaffairs@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

TABLE TENNIS - proposed new group

Table tennis is a great activity providing lots of exercise and stimulation for the brain. It's great for socialising too!

Owing to the immense popularity of our two existing table tennis groups we are looking at the possibility of starting a third group. This would be at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4 o'clock. All equipment will be available, or if you have your own bat, of course you can bring it along. It doesn't matter whether or not you have played before - all are welcome to join in! If you would like to join this new group, please contact: tabletennis@knoleu3a.org.uk

Margaret Thorpe

