

## Chairman's note

As we enter another New Year, may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and fulfilling 2013. The Festive Lunch on 4 January was again a successful event enjoyed by all there. My thanks to the Social Events Committee for arranging this.

At our recent New Members' coffee morning we welcomed over twenty new members: I hope they quickly find groups and activities to suit their needs. Our success as a U3A means that there is a continued demand for membership: we are classed as a large U3A and this provides a dynamic organisation but it does need co-ordinated teamwork to keep everything running efficiently

Our neighbour, Knole U3A, has grown rapidly over three years until its Trustees and members voted at their 2012 AGM to limit their intake. Sevenoaks U3A has continued to replace retiring members, and the total now stands at 903. However, there will be a continuing demand for U3A places in the Sevenoaks area which Knole is addressing to help develop capacity in West Kent - see overleaf. We will work closely with Knole as plans develop.

We need to review our own plans for the future and I will be writing to you to outline our position and tell you what we are planning. I shall ask the Group Organisers to assist in this process, and to act as a conduit for collecting members' views from within their groups. Group Organiser Coffee Mornings this year will be used to further the discussion, so I encourage all Group Organisers to attend and participate: dates will be announced shortly. Members can, of course, feed any views directly to any of us on the Executive Committee as well.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348

# Newsletter

## January 2013

## Meetings open to all

**Monthly Meeting Wednesday 27 February**  
 Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

### Kent tradecrafts and industries

Richard Filmer

Over the last few decades, many traditional trades and industries have declined rapidly. We will hear about the last generation of crafts people and their essential place in the South East of England.

Richard Filmer has compiled nine books and written and lectured extensively on these and other issues.

**Science Group Monday 11 February**

### Ball Lightning: an unsolved problem in atmospheric physics

Mark Stenhoff

Does ball lightning exist? If so, why, after more than 170 years of scientific debate, is there no conclusive model or theory that adequately explains its properties?

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

£2 entry includes tea.

### Computer Group

#### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME

**Friday 15 February, 10.00am**

### Computer Security

Tony Fishpool

- Is your antivirus software up to date? And which software is the most effective?
- How secure is your internet banking?
- It is estimated that one in ten computer users falls victim to internet scams. Have you?
- What to look out for. What to do if you get caught.

This promises to be a lively discussion

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 10.00am.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.

Entry, £2 on the door, includes tea.

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

**New [www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk) is here!**

To help you find your way round the new website arrangements, the Website Team has produced a leaflet of explanatory notes, a copy of which is enclosed with this Newsletter.

The notes also explain for Group Organisers how they can use the website in support of their Group.

## News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

### Membership List Manager

Do you have skills with Excel? If so, your assistance is urgently needed to help our Membership and Recruitment team. Derrick Shaw has undertaken this task for the past four years and has extended his term of duty to keep things running, but he is now due for a well-earned break. Our membership list is key to management of our U3A. If you feel you can help please contact Linda Gilbert for more information or Bob Ruffles ☎ 01732 461348

### New U3A in West Kent

To create more capacity in the West Kent area, Knole U3A is exploring the level of support for a U3A in Edenbridge (the town has a Community Centre, opened in the New Year, which also houses the Library and other amenities, and is an ideal centre for a U3A) and also in Westerham.

If members have friends in either town who might be interested and would like to know more, they can contact John Stambollouian ☎ 01732 462680. A publicity leaflet is available on the Sevenoaks website for those who wish to express an interest.

### In the picture ...

In the October Newsletter we issued an invitation to the Photography and Camera Groups to tell us something about themselves and their activities. Here are the first two (illustrated, of course) contributions we have received:

#### Photography

If you look in the current Handbook you will see that there are nine photography groups. The group that I run is simply called **Photography** and I started it in the dark (pre-digital) ages of 2002.



Not long after I joined the U3A it was proposed to hold an Art Exhibition. I asked if this would include photography and found myself on the organising committee. At that Exhibition there were just two of us exhibiting photographs. Soon after that it was suggested that I might like to start a Photography Group. I agreed to do so but didn't expect anyone to be interested. I was wrong! Three signed up, and I am pleased to say that they are all still active members of the Group. The next year eight more were added to the list.

We concentrate on trying to take better pictures, leaving the technical stuff to others! Our aim is to learn to use our eyes to spot a subject before we even involve our cameras, though one of the rules is to have your camera to hand – it's not much use in your pocket or rucksack, or worse still left at home!



We meet in different locations with our cameras, and discuss the results later; we visit Exhibitions; and we have a challenge each year. In 2008 we produced a Calendar, a copy of which was given to each U3A member. Each month's photograph was taken by a different member of the group.

We were also involved with an Arts project at Ightham Mote, helping six- and seven-year old children learn how to 'Think, Point & Shoot' – their results were wonderful. Another year we photographed the same view four times to illustrate the Four Seasons.

This year we have quite a challenge – we have been asked to collect images for use on the new Website, to illustrate each Group activity. For various reasons the photographs should not show people who can be identified, while images from the Internet cannot be used for possible copyright reasons. We have divided up the group so that each of us has seven or so subjects to cover and it is proving interesting and difficult – one member told me of her idea for 'Current Affairs' but I think she is on the wrong track!! So look out for the new Website and see how we are managing to record our U3A.

*Mary Allwood*



## Digital Camera 2

I took over as organiser of the group in September 2012. We have a well-knit group with some good photographers, but felt that we had room for a couple more members. I duly booked a table at the Open Day last September, assisted by John Anthony, one of our group members.

We set out our stall with what we do - a mixture of group discussions, talks on photography techniques and visits to places of interest to take photographs and then compare the results later. Some of our members brought along A4 prints of their work, which provoked quite a lot of interest, with some people just stopping to chat and others interested in joining the group.

Some other members of our group visited our table and I suggested that we might produce a Calendar for 2013 to showcase our work. John mentioned a magazine advertisement he'd seen for printing calendars and offered to organise it. Group members were asked to submit their favourite pictures for inclusion and thirteen people responded: we had a picture for each month of the year plus one for the front cover.

We had already decided not to have a "theme" as such, and as a result we have a diverse range of pictures, including Spring and Summer landscapes, Autumn and Winter scenes, a meerkat and a vintage Alpha Romeo! Pictured below is the front cover, with Jeff Lee's seasonal picture of Otford Pond.

A last minute 60% reduction in price by the Publisher was the icing on the cake and, thanks to John, who collated and submitted the images, we have a Calendar of our work which we can enjoy for the rest of the year.

*Barbara Coleyshaw*

## Have I seen you somewhere before? ...

Dr. Joyce Humphries and Dr. Heather Flowe of the University of Leicester Psychology Department are doing some on-line research into the ability to recognise faces. They are looking for volunteers to assist in the study, which takes only 15-20 minutes to complete.

If you would like more information, and perhaps to participate in the study, you should go to their website: [www.le.ac.uk/pc/cap/jeh42/investigate-recognition-ability.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/pc/cap/jeh42/investigate-recognition-ability.html) (If you are reading this on our own website just click on the link.)

Go to the second screen to get a fuller explanation, and to sign in for the study if you wish.

## News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

### Croquet

A new member is keen to start a Croquet Group, if we can find somewhere to play.

Do you have  
would make  
members or do  
one in the area that

a lawn you  
available to  
you know of  
can be hired?

If you can help, please contact Marion Kim:  
☎ 01959 526784

### Indoor Bowls

Eleanor Cox and Michael Harries regret that this group has been closed because of a lack of support. We thank both of them for their work in running the group for some time now.



SEVENOAKS U3A DIGITAL CAMERA GROUP 2 CALENDAR 2013  
(Otford Snow - Jeff Lee)

## Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

Flyers are enclosed for these events:

- Thursday 21 March **Bletchley Park** trip
- Mondays 22 April & 3 June (two dates.) Kent Study Day on **Florentine Renaissance Painting**. Please apply as normal. (Forms will be dealt with from the middle of February.)

The Social Events team is reviewing its operating practice and has agreement from the Trustees that the Organisers of a trip may join the event free of charge. This recognises the level of preparatory work and responsibility on the day and meets new guidelines from National Office.

Members are advised of the South East Forum Summer School at Chichester (application form is on the website); and of the annual Conference at East Grinstead on Wednesday 20 March which any member may attend.

### Ireland Holiday

Tonbridge U3A is running a holiday to Ireland and is offering places to other U3As.

The dates are 11-17 June, and the cost is £659 for half board.

Full details are on a flyer on the Sevenoaks website. The person to contact is:

Margaret Pavlidis ☎ 01732 359241



### Festive lunch 4 January Lost property

Westerham Golf Club: a pashmina was taken instead of a camel scarf, which is at the Club.

Glasses: small, black-rimmed, oval shaped with black arms and string attached. Strong lenses.

Contact Lynda Alleeson ☎ 01959 525312

## Events Open to All

### First Friday lunch

### Friday 1 February

The Bricklayers Arms, 39 Chevening Road, Chipstead, 12.15 for 12.30.

To book, contact Pat Smith ☎ 01959 523596 by Wednesday 30 January

### Ambling

### Wednesday 20 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 sturdy footwear. Leaders: Gudrun and David Jackson ☎ 01732 455707

## The Strollers

There will be no walk in January or February. Details of the March stroll on Tuesday, 19th will be in the February newsletter. Happy New Year to all. Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

### Half Day Walking

### Monday 25 February

Meet outside the Lion Hotel at Farningham GR 545672 in time for a 10am start. A five-mile walk to Horton Kirby and Farningham Wood followed by an optional lunch at The Lion. This is an open group so all members are welcome to just come along and join us at the start of the walk.

Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

### Bridge for Pleasure

### Wednesdays

### 13 & 27 February

The Group plays bridge at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 28 November was Diana Esler, on 12 December was Jean Stackhouse and on 9 January was Denise Record. The group is an 'Open group', so any new players can just come along. Colin and Mary Butson ☎ 01732 458356

## Diary

### February

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| Fri 1  | First Friday Lunch     |
| Mon 11 | Science Group Meeting  |
| Wed 13 | Bridge for Pleasure    |
| Fri 15 | Computer Group Meeting |
| Wed 20 | Ambling                |
| Mon 25 | Half Day Walking       |
| Wed 27 | Bridge for Pleasure    |
| Wed 27 | Monthly Meeting        |

### March

Thursday 21 Bletchley Park\*

### April

Monday 22 & June 3 Kent U3A Study Day\*  
Florentine Renaissance Painting

### May

Wed 22 – Sat 25 Trip to Bowden Hall Hotel  
Thurs 23 Jazz and Blues Study Day

- flyer enclosed

**SEE U3A 2012 – 2013 HANDBOOK FOR  
FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE  
REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

Please send copy for the February Newsletter  
by **Friday, 15 February 2013**  
to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

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