

Newsletter

March 2013

Chairman's note

This month has been rather unpredictable, one day warm and spring like, the next back to winter. Hopefully we are now heading towards Spring. Easter will be early this year so this is normally a trigger for many gardeners to get things underway. Fortunately the weather did not disrupt any of our talks this month. Those of you who attended the last Science Meeting will have learnt about the exploration of Shale Gas presented by one of our members, Derek Thomas. This topic has been in the news recently and Derek revealed that here in Kent we are sitting on a potential reserve of gas, but it is at a considerable depth and extraction in economic quantities is not as straight forward as the media and interested parties would have us believe. Many thanks to Derek for his efforts.

Included in this edition are the rules for the 20th Anniversary Photo Competition. The competition is open to all members so please get clicking and send your best entries to Janet Austin.

Next month we begin the process of preparing the annual handbook for our members. This is a very time consuming activity for the Editorial Team and timely input from the Group Organisers helps to minimise the effort of those involved. So could I ask that Group Organisers think about the structure and description of their groups and where changes are planned then please return the information promptly when requested.

Finally, may I wish you all a pleasant break over the Easter period.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting **Wednesday 24 April**
 Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

The City of London

Diane Small

Diane Small, a Registered Blue Badge London Guide and, for twenty years, a Lecturer on London at the Sidcup Adult Education Centre, will talk to us about the City of London

Science Group

Monday 8 April

Social Communication With Autism

The art and challenge of being a special individual

Janet Cooke

Ten years ago Janet Cooke's job description changed: she began a journey aimed at trying to understand the fascinating and, at times frustrating, but always interesting, world of young people with of Asperger's syndrome/autism. She will endeavour to share her understanding of the cause and effect of this condition.

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

Computer Group

Monday 15 April

Backup and Recovery

Jason West

When did you last backup your data ?
 What is the best way to backup your files?
 Is it worth paying for backup facilities?
 Do you need to use Cloud?
 Can you recover lost data yourself?

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.
 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.**

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



Please send copy for the April Newsletter
 by **Friday, 12 April 2013**
 to both Linda Young
 and Magda Sweetland

News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland

The Computer Groups

The well-established Computer group meets monthly, at Otford Village Hall, normally at 2pm on the third Monday of each month (from October to May). The entrance is £2, and includes tea. There is usually a talk on a topic of interest, followed by a question-and-answer session. Talks are illustrated and projected onto the large screen. Members may also raise problems they themselves have with their computers.

In addition we have a new(ish) group which specialises in working with AppleMac computers, and their recent innovations. Below, the Group Organiser, Dave Simmons, describes how the group functions.

Computers for the future

Rapidly increasing broadband speeds will affect how we use computer technology in our daily lives. Existing technology will become cheaper making it accessible to most people.

Households will have single, reliable servers with large RAID storage, where all documents, banking, music and films will be stored and managed by Smart menu systems. Heating systems and all domestic appliances will be centrally controlled for ease of use and monitored for maximum efficiency. Smart meters will monitor usage. Other equipment will report failures. Wherever you are in the world, you will be able to access your home server.

Landline phones will become a thing of the past, replaced by Smart mobile phones with voice recognition software to enable hands-free use. It will be possible to control hearing aids, and spectacles will be able to display data as well as 3D film and TV.

Exciting developments in medicine and biomedical technology include cochlear and retinal implants, prosthetics with touch grip and balance. Phones can monitor blood pressure and other essential regular checks, which may be stored by the NHS and accessed by health professionals using cloud technology as it becomes more reliable.

Most excitingly, progress in decoding the natural brain codes will allow the brain to interface with even more complex systems.

Don Scales



What is the Next Apple Innovation?

Just in case you haven't recently visited the Apple Store in Bluewater or their brand new store in Bromley, Apple seem to be making fast and furious changes to their products lines to stay ahead of the competition. The latest iPad has been upgraded with the best screen quality available which they call Retina. In addition they have also launched the new small iPad called the Mini.

If you haven't tried one of these remarkable new totally portable entertainment systems maybe it's time for a trip to the Apple Store. Most U3A members of the Apple group have bought iPads even though their main computers are PCs. This gives you a portable device for access to the internet, spread sheets, word processing as well as being able to show your photos and it even has a built in reasonable camera. There is also Google Maps for finding your way, listening to iTunes for all your music, access to BBC iPlayer, Sky Go and Love Film or NetFlix films. No wonder Apple have sold 85 million iPads!

Apple's other launches include the 13-inch and 15-inch Macbook Pro laptop computers with top quality retina screens and the new 21.5 and 27 inch iMacs that are just 5mm thick.

There are two very exciting rumours about revolutionary new Apple products including a new iPhone in the shape of a watch. Apple CEO Tim Cook in a recent interview said that he was 'intensely interested' in TV so it seems likely that Apple will be changing the concept of TV sometime soon.

The U3A Apple Group meet usually on the first Monday in the month at the Methodist church hall in Otford. In May we are hoping to have a presentation from Apple at Bluewater about the iPad. Most meetings have a few topics and then the meeting is an open discussion with any subject that a member wishes to discuss. The agenda for last month's meeting was:

1. Welcome and introduction to anyone joining for the first time.
2. Music on the iPad and Mac.
3. Garage Band.
4. Adding signatures to emails and documents.
5. Copying video with Quicktime
6. Sending attachments in emails from an iPad
7. How to buy cheaper software.
8. Tea
9. Members questions
10. iPad group discussion.

For more information call Dave Simmons,
Apple Group Organiser ☎ 01732 457646

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

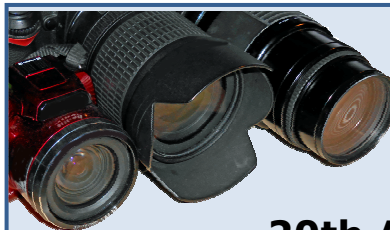
Group Organisers Meeting and Lunch

We have booked Salomons Centre in Southborough for our biennial meeting with Group Organisers. This will take place in the morning, when there is time to exchange views, raise queries and have input into the way Sevenoaks U3A is developing generally, and will be followed by a buffet lunch. The date is Monday 17 June. The Groups Co-ordinator, Beryl Mansell, will send details to all the Group Organisers.

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

- The trip to **Bletchley Park** on 21 March attracted 53 members.
- The four-day trip based at Bowden Hall Hotel, Upton St Leonards is also full. Members are reminded that there will be a drinks party for those attending on Thursday 16 May from 6pm to about 7.30pm. As numbers are so large, we would appreciate if members could bring a **small** contribution in the way of nibbles, canapes, a little cheese etc. We can manage the wine! Please confirm to Magda ☎ 01732 461901 or ✉ MASweetland@talktalk.net
- A flyer is enclosed for a trip to Walmer and Deal Castles, scheduled for Wednesday 15 May.
- STOP PRESS: The trip to Provence has some spare places and so we are issuing a reminder. You may email John Dean to ask for booking & insurance forms and the covering letter.
- A Thames river trip is in planning, as well as a visit to the Turner Gallery, and the Salutation Gardens at Sandwich.
- Enclosed are flyers for two Study Days. The first, organised by the Sevenoaks U3A Jazz and Blues group for our own members is on **Exploring 100 years of Piano Jazz** and will feature Geoff Eales. The date is Thursday 23 May. These events have become very popular, so members should apply at once: the last one sold out!
- A Kent Study Day flyer is also enclosed. It will be held at Chatham (the Medway University campus) on Monday 8 July and is on **Aspects of Law**. All the lecturers are members of the University staff. With 8,500 U3A members in Kent chasing 100 spaces, speed is of the essence with this one.
- The next Kent Study Day is scheduled for Saturday 14 September, in Tenterden, on the **History of Gardening**.



Sevenoaks 20th Anniversary Photographic Competition Open to all

Members are invited to submit two photographs taken locally or on U3A activities: landscape orientation only
Colour, black and white, enhanced images are all acceptable

Rules of Entry

- Each digital entry must have a title in place of its number. Right click on the thumb nail of the image and click 'Rename'; then type in your title in capital letters please.
- Please submit your digital images on a CD/DVD.
If you are using film, 7" by 5" prints are acceptable.
- Please write clearly on the CD/DVD, with a CD marker pen, *your name, phone number and the titles of your two images*. If you are entering a print, please write the same information on the back.
- The CD/DVD/print will not be returned to you.
- Closing date 30 June 2013.
- Entries can be accepted at the April, May or June Monthly Meetings or can be put through Janet Austin's front door, 2 Filmer Lane, Sevenoaks TN14 5AG. (Entries sent by post may not arrive.)
- Winning entries from previous U3A Photographic Competitions will not be accepted.

Judging will take place on 3 September at Sevenoaks Community Centre from 10am until 12.30pm. All are welcome. There will be twelve winners whose photographs will be used to create the 20th Anniversary U3A calendar for 2014. The winning photographs and other entries will be displayed at the Open Afternoon on 26 September 2013, the October Monthly Meeting and the Celebration Party in 2014.

Please contact Janet if you have any queries:

☎ 01732 460578

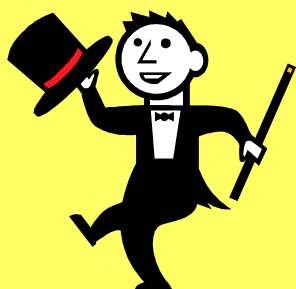
SUMMER SHOW

A CONCERT PARTY

Have you a party-piece, or any ideas for items suitable for a Concert Party?

This is your opportunity to perform or help with our Summer Show

**22 and 23 August
at Hodges Place, Offham**



We would love to welcome some of you to join in the fun. With the very large number of members in the Sevenoaks U3A there must be quite a few who would like to be part of the occasion.

If you are interested, please contact Pamela Murphy ☎ 01732 365484

Events Open to All

First Friday lunch Friday 5 April

The Bell Kemsing, 12.45 for 1pm.
To book, contact Norna Munson ☎ 01959 523076.

Ambling Wednesday 17 April

Meet by Holy Trinity Church at Crockham Hill (Post Code TN8 6RP) for a 10am start. On entering Crockham Hill from the Westerham direction on the B2026, turn left into Main Road and after 200 yards turn left down a lane leading to the school, village hall and church. The walk will be about four miles through bluebell woods and will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Velma Keys ☎ 01732 459001

The Strollers Tuesday 16 April

Meet in the car park at The Man of Kent pub at East Peckham for a walk starting at 11am. Leave Tonbridge on the A26 to Hadlow. Turn right into Three Elm Lane. Continue on this road through Golden Green to the Man of Kent pub on the left before you reach East Peckham. The level walk of three miles is along the river bank.

There will be an optional lunch at the Man of Kent. Leader Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

Half Day Walking

Monday 22 April

Meet outside the Greyhound at Charcott, GR 522472 in time for a 10am start. A five-mile walk around Chiddingstone Causeway followed by an optional lunch at the Little Brown Jug. From Weald turn south onto Scabharbour Road. After three miles, shortly before Chiddingstone Causeway, there is a sign on the right to the Greyhound. Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

Bridge for Pleasure Wednesdays 10 & 24 April

The Group plays bridge at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on 27 February was Pam Kemp and on 13 March was Barbara Roberts. 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 ☎ 01732 458356.



Diary

April

Fri	5	First Friday Lunch
Mon	8	Science Group Meeting
Wed	10	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	15	Computer Group Meeting
Tues	16	The Strollers
Wed	17	Ambling
Mon	22	Half Day Walking
Mon	22	Kent U3A Study Day
& June 3		Florentine Renaissance Painting
Wed	24	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	24	Monthly Meeting

May

Wed	15	Visit to Walmer and Deal Castles*
Wed	22-25	Trip to Bowden Hall Hotel
Thu	23	Piano Jazz Study Morning*

July

Mon	8	Aspects of Law: Kent Study Day*
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Aug

Thu 22 & Fri 23 Summer Show: 'A Concert Party'

* flyer this month

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