



Newsletter

November 2013

Chairman's note

This is the final Newsletter for 2013 as there will not be one in December. The January 2014 *Newsletter* will mark the beginning of our 20th Anniversary year. Various celebratory events are planned for next year: these will be advertised in future editions of our *Newsletter* and on our website.

One item I wish to highlight is the preparation of a 20th Anniversary booklet for distribution in the spring of next year. We plan to update our 10th Anniversary booklet, and we would like to include any suitable material related to Groups old and new in the form of articles, photographs, or just anecdotal information of your experiences in our U3A over the years. Any thoughts or ideas? Please pass them to the Anniversary Committee.

I am pleased to report that most of the Anniversary Calendars have been sold. If you want one of the few remaining, please contact Arthur Russ.

The Kent Network met on 1 November and now comprises twenty-six U3As representing 9,700 members in Kent. More U3As are expected to form in Kent, especially in the Medway and London Gateway areas. Our South-East Trustee reported that, nationally, there are now nine hundred and seven U3As representing 319,000 members.

This Newsletter includes a brief report of key items from our Executive Meeting on 7 November.

Finally, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year as our programme of Anniversary Events commences.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348 ✉ chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Please send copy for the January Newsletter by **Friday, 15 January 2014**

to both ✉ pethelind@yahoo.co.uk
and ✉ MASweetland@talktalk.net

Meetings open to all

22 Jan

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 27 January

Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

Chusan: The Opium Wars and the Forgotten Story of Britain's First Chinese Island

Liam Darcy-Brown

"We must religiously observe our engagements with China, but I fear that Hong Kong is a sorry possession and Chusan is a magnificent island admirably placed for our purposes."

So wrote the Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, as British diplomats prepared to return the island of Chusan to Chinese rule during the winter of 1845. For years, this now little-known island off the coast of Zhejiang province had been home to thousands of men, women and children of all classes and backgrounds, of all races and religions, from across the British Empire and beyond. Before the Union Jack ever flew over Hong Kong, it had been raised on Chusan. From a wealth of primary archives, Liam D'Arcy-Brown pieces together the forgotten story of how the British wrested Chusan from the Qing dynasty, only to hand it back for the sake of Queen Victoria's honour and Britain's national prestige.

At a time when the Chinese Communist Party is inspiring a new brand of patriotism by revisiting the shame inflicted during the Opium Wars, here is an account that puts Britain's incursions into nineteenth-century China in a fascinating and revealing new light.

Science Group

Monday 9 December

3-D printing and all its ramifications.

Robin Hiley

The speaker will outline the principles of 3-D printing, and then explain the process of designing and printing an object, using his own 3-D printer to give a practical demonstration. He will moderate the hype - stating what home 3-D printers currently available can, and can't, do.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
£2 entry includes tea.

Science Group**Monday 13 January****The story of navigation,
2000BC to 2000AD.**

Jeremy Batch

Birds do it, bees do it, even educated salmon do it – and all with a precision that we have only just begun to match. The contributions to navigation made by Galileo and John Harrison are well-known, but what about Igor Sikorsky, Arthur C. Clarke and Albert Einstein? How did the nuclear submarine *USS Skate* find Ice Station Alpha in 1959, when the “station” had no idea where it was? Which prehistoric navigational device played a vital part in the moon landings?

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
£2 entry includes tea.

Computer Group**Monday 16 December****Windows 8 and Touch Screen Technology**

Presentation by

Robbie Herd from Sevenoaks Computers

Windows 8 and now Windows 8.1 update
are available.

Touch Screen Technology is now
standard on our telephones and tablets.

Robbie Herd will discuss the benefits of this
technology and demonstrate some of the recent
gadgets

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
£2 entry includes tea.

Computer Group**Monday 20 January****Getting the Best Out Of Your U3A Website**

David Taylor and other members of the U3A
Website Team will give the background
to the development of our current U3A Website

The team will welcome questions, comments
and suggestions for improvement.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
£2 entry includes tea.

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

**News from the Executive, 7 November**

Recruitment is still very much at the top of our priorities. Some members have volunteered to help on Committees but we still need more. In particular, we need support for the Publications and the Social Committee teams, but there are still other vacancies. Without support the work of these committees may have to be reduced.

The Constitution Working Party has now presented a new draft Constitution to the EC. Advice from the Third Age Trust suggested we needed to make some slight changes to our organisational structure to comply with Charity Commission rules on accountability.

Once we have a final draft this will be published and distributed to the whole membership for approval and adoption at the next AGM.

*Bob Ruffles***Celebration Party**

The Drama Group has been invited to provide a short Entertainment for the Sevenoaks U3A on the occasion of the grand celebration of its 20th anniversary. Plans and scripts are well underway and the Drama Group is enthusiastically ready to start.

We would be delighted to welcome any of you who would like to be part of this very special event. This will take place in September next year, and rehearsals will start in early June.

Please contact me on ☎ 01732 365484 or

pamela1732@gmail.com

*Pamela Murphy***News from the Groups**

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

✉ berylmansell@btinternet.com

Both **recorder groups** would welcome players to join them to play for fun and enjoyment.

Members all enjoy playing a variety of music written for ensemble groups. The music varies from traditional to light and popular, in fact whatever we fancy.

One group meets at 2-4 pm on the first and third Thursdays. Contact Roy Elliott ☎ 01959 524404.

The second group meets at 10-1 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Contact Pat Wells ☎ 01883 716628

Call Roy or Pat for more information.

Join Us For a Lively Evening of Cards

If you would like to join us for an evening of **Canasta** card-playing, please give us a call or send an email.

Canasta is a matching card game in which the object is to create melds of seven cards of the same rank, and then go out by playing or discarding all the cards in your hand. It is a very social game and, if you haven't played before, it is very easy to learn. For our first evenings we will set up games for people that haven't played

before. We plan to run the group on the third Thursday of the month starting in the New Year on 23 January 2014. We will host the first evening at our home in Witches Lane, Sevenoaks, starting at 7.30pm until about 10pm.

The game is played in groups of four players so the maximum we can hold would be twelve members. We will host evenings at our house unless other members of the group volunteer to hold evenings in their home. Cost is just £1 for refreshments. Call Dave Simmons or Shirley Anderson on ☎ 01732 457646 or email david.simmons22@btinternet.com to join the group.

A Taste of the Classics

Monday, 13 and Wednesday, 29 January 2014. Are there enough members to start a new study group for those who enjoy listening to some classical music, would like to know a bit more about it, but aren't sure where to go next? Jeff Lee would like to know and help.

The Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra is performing a "Taster Concert" at the Stag Theatre on Wednesday, 29 January 2014 at 8.30 p.m. The music is a selection of short pieces and extracts from longer works, all introduced by conductor Darrell Davison. Details of this and the whole SSO season are on their website at http://www.sevenoakssymphonyorchestra.org.uk/page-2013_season.html Tickets are usually £10 (to include a glass of wine) but read on!

There's a bonus offer: on Monday, 13 January from 2-4 p.m. there is the chance for ten ticket-buyers to hear some of the pieces on CD at Jeff's home in Otford and learn a bit about them before attending the concert. Charles Hebert (Chairman of the SSO) and another member of the orchestra have very kindly offered to be there. This session is free to concert ticket-buyers apart from 30p for refreshments. If ten members sign up for it, they can get their concert tickets for £8 each, and that price offer will then apply to all Sevenoaks U3A members.

If you are interested, contact Jeff at musicb@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or ☎ 01959 525225, before 31 December. If more than ten apply for the pre-concert event, priority may be given to members who are not in the two existing Music Appreciation Groups. If you like the idea but can't make the date(s), get in touch anyway – there might be another similar event in the future.

Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

Pamwalshe@supanet.com

There are still spare places available on the trip organised to Caen, starting 1 May 2014. The closing date is 8 December. Please see the details from the original flyer (reproduced here) which was enclosed with the October Newsletter.



VISIT TO NORMANDY AND THE INVASION BEACHES MAY 2014



May 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy and the itinerary for this 5-day (4 nights) trip is as follows:

- Day 1:** Travel from Sevenoaks to Normandy by coach.
- Day 2:** Visit Bayeux (including the Bayeux Tapestry, Bayeux Cathedral, Bayeux War Cemetery and Memorial); guided tour of Caen; visit Musée de la Paix (Caen Memorial Museum); visit the Pegasus Bridge and the Pegasus Memorial Museum.
- Day 3:** Guided coach tour to the city of Rouen and the beautiful port town of Honfleur.
- Day 4:** Visit the American Omaha Beach, the American Military Cemetery and visitor centre at Colleville-sur-Mer; the German cemetery at La Cambe; the German batteries at Longues sur Mer; the British Gold beach at Arromanches, the Mulberry Harbour and Arromanches Museum.
- Day 5:** Return journey by coach to Kent including return Eurotunnel crossing from Calais to Folkestone.
- DATE:** Thursday, 1st to Monday, 5th May 2014.
- TRAVEL:** Travel by coach from Sevenoaks to France via Eurotunnel.
- HOTEL:** The 3* Mercure Pont l'Evêque hotel at Deauville - half board.
- COST:** £459.00 per person sharing a double/twin room. 10 single rooms available - no single supplement. The cost includes travel to France and return, half-board at hotel, local English-speaking guides and admission charges to war museums and the Bayeux Tapestry.
- EXTRAS:** Travel insurance, tips and gratuities for local staff and guides, lunches and wine.
- BOOKING:** For a booking form and a brochure please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (min. 9" x 4") to:
John Dean, Moretons End, High Street, Westerham, TN16 1RQ.
- CLOSING DATE** for receipt of completed booking forms – Saturday, 14th December 2013.
- ORGANISER/ENQUIRIES:** John Dean ☎ 01959 563373

This event is open to all members of Sevenoaks U3A and their partner or friend and will be limited to 45 persons. A random draw will take place if necessary; otherwise, spare places will be offered to Knole.

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Date for your diary: There will be a coach trip to Legal London on Tuesday 25 March 2014. This has been a very popular trip which we have run several times in the past. Flyer in January.

Organiser for trips abroad

John Dean has organised trips abroad on behalf of Sevenoaks U3A for many years now, and introduced members to countries and regions they might not have visited otherwise. John would now like to relinquish this post, and so we are looking for someone to dovetail in to the existing Social Events team, and take this forward. We liaise through an established, ABTA bonded Travel company and so the work mostly involves tailoring a standard tour to meet the requirements of our own members. A keen traveller, a good organiser and someone with a sense of humour is the ideal member! Please contact Pam Walshe if you are interested.

Events Open to All

First Friday Lunch

The Crown, Shoreham, 12.45 for 1pm. To book, contact Christine or Alastair Macpherson ☎ 01959 523566 by Wednesday 4 December.

Friday 6 December

First Friday Lunch

The Castle Hotel Eynsford, 12.45 for 1pm. To book contact Sally Coston ☎ 01322 866102 by Saturday 28 December.

Friday 3 January

Bridge for Pleasure

Wed 11 December
Weds 8 & 22 January

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm. The winner on both 23 October and 13 November was Stephen Hale. We are an 'Open' group, so any new players can just come along. If you need to make contact, call Colin and Mary Butson on ☎ 01732 458356.

The Strollers

The next walk will be in March. Details of this will be in the February Newsletter. In the meantime, Happy Christmas, and Best Wishes for 2014. Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

Ambling

Wednesday 15 January

(There will be no walk in December.)

Meet in the National Trust car park at Toy's Hill (GR 470517) for a 10am start. From Sevenoaks, turn left off the A25 at Brasted, up Chart Lane passing the Fox and Hounds on the left. The car park is a short distance further on the right and is signposted Toy's Hill. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Half Day Walking

Monday 27 January

Meet outside the Buck's Head at Godden Green in time for a 10am start. A five-mile circular walk to Stone Street, Igtham Mote and Bitchet Green followed by an optional lunch at the Buck's Head. Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

Kent Study Days

Kent Study Days are run by a small team of members from different U3As. In 2014, all three will cover different aspects of World War I, to commemorate the conflict. Final details have yet to be confirmed, but this is a general outline:

1. *How WW1 Influenced the Arts*

Saturday, 10 May 2014, Tenterden

Dr Ben Hickman Lecturer in Modern Poetry

Dr Graham Whitham Kent University

Steve Migden Musician and Lecturer

2. *Side issues of WWI*

July 2014, Medway

Professor Tim Luckhurst: Journalism and war

Professor Nick Grief: International law and weapons of mass destruction, including the Geneva Protocol 1925

Lecturer from School of Music and Fine Art:

The links between war and creativity, especially design & art

3. *Defence of the Realm: Kent in WWI*

Monday, 8 September 2014, Salomons

William Tyler The naval presence

The new airfields in Kent

The Home Front

Flyers will be distributed 2-3 months ahead.

Diary

December 2013

| | | |
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| Fri | 6 | First Friday Lunch |
| Mon | 9 | Science Group Meeting |
| Wed | 11 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| Mon | 16 | Computer Group Meeting |

January 2014

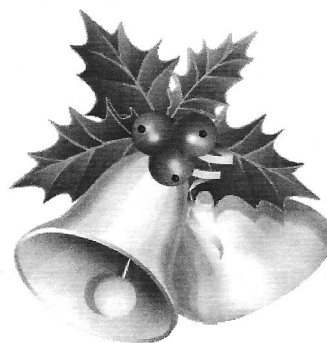
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| Fri | 3 | First Friday Lunch |
| Wed | 8 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| Mon | 13 | Science Group Meeting |
| Mon | 13 | A Taste of the Classics |
| Wed | 15 | Ambling |
| Mon | 20 | Computer Group Meeting |
| Wed | 22 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| Wed | 22 | Monthly Meeting |
| Mon | 27 | Half Day Walking |
| Wed | 29 | A Taste of the Classics |

Third-party Flyers

Members wishing to have flyers for other organisations circulated with the *Newsletter* should call Judith Spurway, ☎ 01732 456305, to make arrangements.

Such flyers are accepted if there is room within the postal weight limit, and on receipt of a contribution to postage costs. They should be on material lighter than 100gsm and no larger than A5.

The Executive Committee has revised the required contribution to postage costs to be: A5 - £30.00, A6 - £15.00.



With seasonal greetings to all our readers from the Editorial team :

Magda Sweetland,
Linda Young,
Robin Tonge
and John Spurway

Would you like to join the team? Do you have experience of editing or small-scale publishing, especially if it involves IT?

If you are interested, please talk to us.