



Newsletter

February 2014

Chairman's note

This month we seem to be in the constant grip of storms to the extent that we appear to be breaking all weather records. I hope none of you has been badly affected by the conditions we are currently experiencing.

Following the successful launch of our calendar, the Anniversary Committee is busy with plans for this year's events. We are currently preparing a commemorative booklet: I am pleased to have had so many enthusiastic contributions for the editorial team to work on. We intend to issue this booklet at the end of March to mark the start of our celebration season. My thanks to all who have contributed: I am sure it will be a worthy recognition of our first twenty years.

The Science Committee has also planned a series of events for this year, which include visits to the National Physical Laboratory, and CERN (Geneva); and a Study Day at the East Malling Research Centre. More details are included in this *Newsletter*.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348 ✉ chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 26 March
Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

The Politeness of Kings

Imogen Corrigan

The speaker will talk about punctuality being the politeness of princes.

This lecture examines the reality of manners and etiquette in the later Medieval period.

A far cry from the popular image of appalling table manners, Medieval dining was a minefield of do's and don'ts...

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

Please send copy for the March Newsletter
by **Friday, 14 March 2014**
to both Linda Young, and
Magda Sweetland

Science Group

Monday 10 March

How safe is nuclear power?

Radiation risks, reactor designs, nuclear accidents and public reactions

Alistair Johnson

How the risks from nuclear radiation were first studied and how they are now assessed.

The different designs for nuclear reactors, their safety features and lessons learnt from accidents.

The final topics will be waste disposal and public reactions.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

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

Computer Group

Monday 17 March

Getting The Best Out Of Excel

Rows, Columns, Formulae,
Functions and Charts!

Budgeting, Databases and Data Sorting!

Chris Streets will demonstrate some of the ways in which a computer spreadsheet can help you to organize your finances, your information and your life in general.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome.
Entry, £2 on the door, includes tea.

Lost Property

Items of lost property are occasionally handed in or reported: a pair of spectacles was found after the Monthly Meeting on 22 January.

To reunite lost property with its owners we have set up a 'Lost Property' tab on the website under 'Stop Press', where such items can be advertised.

Bob Ruffles



News and Views

Articles to Magda Sweetland, please.

Publications

Are you thinking of joining one of the Sevenoaks U3A Committees? In each of the next few issues we aim to describe the work of a Committee, starting this month with our own, the Publications and Distribution Committee.

This is a very hands-on group, chaired by Magda Sweetland. It functions at three levels - annual, monthly and occasional.

The annual Handbook is the magnum opus of Magda, Robin Tonge and John Gandon. Magda produces the admin pages; Robin prepares the material provided by Group Organisers and for publication; and John turns it all into the booklet we know so well, ready for printing.

Ten times a year we produce the *Newsletter*. Linda Young collects together all the regular material; Magda adds articles and other information to produce a first rough draft; John Spurway adjusts the material as necessary to conform to the house style and to fit the available space comfortably. Email means the draft now flashes round the team for proof-reading - especially by Robin, who can spot a missing space at twenty paces - and subsequent correction. Robin also prepares the flyers for U3A events in co-operation with the organisers. The *Newsletter* is not just a noticeboard for people to stick things on: the editorial team seeks to offer a clear, consistent, informative and readable document, and we hope you find it so.

Two days before a Monthly Meeting the envelope stuffing team, led by Mary and Colin Butson, assembles to bring together all the material available for distribution. That is how your envelope is ready for you on Wednesday at the Meeting or, if you are not there, drops through your letter-box a couple of days later.

The 'occasional' part of the job is to give individual editing and proof-reading help to people wanting to publish a booklet about their activities.

There is an urgent need for new blood on the editorial team. Most of us, to use an over-worked but suitable cliché, are past our sell-by date, and very ready to pass on the baton - hopefully at the next AGM. It is clear that there will be a move towards distribution by email, though only where members want this. While we trust that editorial standards will be maintained, it is likely that there will be effects on the production process. We would like to think that Sevenoaks U3A has members with experience of publishing in a modern context, or for whom electronic office facilities have been the normal experience, who are ready to take over from us. If it is you, and you would like to know more, please give one of us a ring - **NOW!**

Forthcoming Science Events

The Science Committee has planned a series of events this year as follows:

On **20 May, The National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** has its biennial Open House. Did you know that 20 May is World Metrology Day? It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, which continues to provide the basis for a single, coherent system of measurements, traceable to the International System of Units (SI). NPL is also the home of the new generation of Ion Clock capable of maintaining accuracy of one second in the life of the Universe! There is much more to see at the NPL. If you would like to visit you must first register on-line at <http://www.npl.co.uk/open-house/>. Once you have registered, NPL will send out further details of the Open Day.

We have arranged for lunch in the NPL restaurant from 1.0pm. The suggested method of travel is by train from Sevenoaks to Waterloo and then on to Teddington. NPL is a short walk or bus ride from Teddington station. Please let me know if you wish to meet up for lunch as we need to give numbers to gain access before the official opening time of 2.0pm. *Bob Ruffles* ☎ 07132 461348 Further details of this trip will be issued in the next *Newsletter*.

11 June - Science Study Day at the East Malling Research Centre (EMRC)

This Study Day has been organised to look at the challenge of future food production. The pressure of increasing global population means that food production over the next 50 years needs to double that produced in the previous 150 years. The EMRC, with other institutes, is working towards this goal. Our keynote speaker will be The Earl Selborne, GBE, FRS who champions agricultural matters in the House of Lords. Supporting him will be experts from EMRC. Please mark this date in your diaries. Further details will be in the March *Newsletter*.

16 July - CERN and the Large Hadron Collider

Collider, the largest scientific experiment ever constructed. It is buried deep under the Swiss/French border, and is where we can learn about fundamental research on the biggest mysteries of our Universe, and see inside the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

The morning tour starts at 9.00am. There is a restaurant on site. There are also two free, permanent exhibitions which can be visited in the afternoon: the Universe of Particles, and Microcosm.

We have booked 48 places and will organise a package through a local travel agent for those who only wish to stay two nights.

More details will be published shortly.

News from the Groups

Beryl Mansell ☎ 01959 525010

Combined Jazz & Blues Groups

A date for your diary. The annual Jazz & Blues Study Morning will be at Otford Village Hall on Thursday 29 May starting at ten o'clock.

This year we look behind the front-line players to explore the secrets of the rhythm section. Drummer Buster Birch and bass player Alison Reyner will be our guides.

A flyer with booking form and further details will be sent with the March Newsletter.



Any old clocks?

To demonstrate some aspects of the working of clocks I wonder whether anyone has a very old clock that they might be throwing away or would sell cheaply? The older the better, as I wish to describe the old mechanisms of verge, foliot and fusee. Never mind the words, I would be able to tell.



The casing can be in a complete 'past it', 'throwaway' condition. I just want it for the clockwork bits inside. Hopefully, I will be able to use the mechanisms in a future presentation. *Tony Buick* ☎ 01689 854419

SEE U3A 2013 - 2014 HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS OF PEOPLE REFERRED TO IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Social Events News

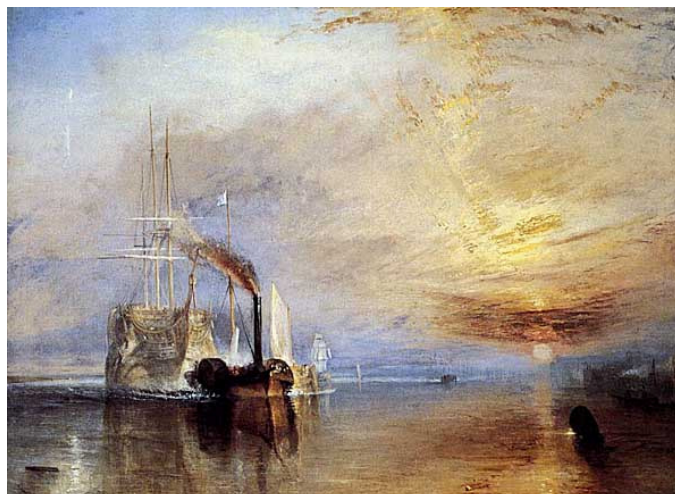
Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

The present team that organises visits for Sevenoaks U3A has been together for about six years now, and it is time for new energy and fresh ideas.

We are glad to report that we have recruited several new members: Sue Christy will take over as Treasurer at the start of the new financial year, then Rosina Cole and Joyce Allen will run day trips.

We extend a very warm welcome to them. They will have every support from the retiring members.

A flyer is enclosed for a trip to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich on Wednesday, 9 April. The trip is designed to cover the exhibition



Turner and the Sea but the ticket also covers entry to the Cutty Sark, restored after its devastating fire; other parts of the National Maritime Museum; and also The Royal Observatory. A very interesting day in store!

The **Legal London** trip is fully booked and there is a fair-sized waiting list. We will consider running this ever-popular trip again.

The trip to Caen has over thirty members who have booked, of whom a handful are members of Knole U3A.

Events Open to All

First Friday lunch

Friday 7 March

The Rose and Crown, Dunton Green, 12.45 for 1pm. To book, contact Fay Plant ☎ 01959 522127 or Pat Dallas ☎ 01732 456714



Bridge for Pleasure

Weds 12 & 26 March

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50am until 12.15pm.

The winner on 22 January was Geoff Howson, and on 12 February was Sue Christy.

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

Tuesday 18 March

Meet at 11.00am in the car park at The Royal Oak, High Street, Sevenoaks (opposite the school). We will walk in Knole Park for approximately one-and-a-half hours on pathways that will hopefully not be muddy.

Optional lunch afterwards in the pub.

Leader: Anne Gutteridge

☎ 01732 454923



Ambling

Wed 19 March

Meet in the National Trust car park at Toy's Hill (GR 470517) for a 10am start. This walk is a different route from the one undertaken in January. 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. New walkers are always welcome.

Leader: Velma Keys

☎ 01732 459001



Half-Day Walking

Monday 24 March

Meet in the car park at Otford Memorial Hall in time for a 10am start. There is alternative car parking in Sevenoaks Road. A four-and-a-half-mile walk to Otford Mount and Eastdown followed by an optional lunch at The Bull.

Leader: Nick White

☎ 01959 564145



South East Area Forum

(Kent, Surrey and Sussex Networks)

Future Development of the U3A Movement

A one-day Conference open to all U3As in the South-East Region, and to their members as well as their committees.

Wednesday, 2 April 2014

The Meridian Hall, East Court, College Lane,
East Grinstead RH19 3LT

There is no charge for the day. Refreshments (coffee and a light lunch) are included.

To help with catering, please book by 26 March, or earlier if possible.

Booking forms available from the Sevenoaks U3A website. Completed forms should be sent to:-

Alison Gaitonde, 7 Ashurst Rd, Tadworth, KT20 5ET

☎ 01737 812646

Living History

The Malling Living History Group has produced a booklet of memories of growing up in the 20th century.

It includes recollections of life at home, at school, at work and at war: from life in a mining village during the miners' strike of 1926 to stories of sleeping out in the Mall to see the Queen's coronation.

Copies can be bought from:

Mrs V. Willsher,

10 Dryland Road, Borough Green, TN15 8SG

The cost is £5, plus £1.10 postage. Cheques should be made payable to Malling District U3A.

Diary

March

| | | |
|------|----|-------------------------|
| Fri | 7 | First Friday Lunch |
| Mon | 10 | Science Group Meeting |
| Wed | 12 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| Mon | 17 | Computer Group Meeting |
| Tue | 18 | The Strollers |
| Wed | 19 | Ambling |
| Mon | 24 | Half Day Walking |
| Tues | 25 | Visit to Legal London** |
| Wed | 26 | Bridge for Pleasure |
| Wed | 26 | Monthly Meeting |

April

| | | |
|------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Wed | 9 | 'Turner & The Sea' trip* |
| Tues | 29 - | |
| Fri | 2 May | Sevenoaks U3A Arts Exhibition |

May

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|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 10 | Kent Study Day, Tenterden** 'How WWI influenced the Arts' |
| Thu | 29 | Jazz & Blues Study Morning |

* flyer enclosed

**flyer last month



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

Would you like to join the team?
Do you have any experience of
editing or small-scale publishing?
In any case, if you are interested,
please talk to us.