



Chairman's note

As Easter approaches we start our programme of 20th Anniversary events. Included with this Newsletter is our booklet to mark the first twenty years of our existence. This gives a brief history of Sevenoaks U3A: for our long-standing members I hope this jogs happy memories of past events, and for our more recent members it will provide an insight into our organisation, and illustrate the diverse range of activities we now offer. The Anniversary Committee received many contributions from you. We have not been able to include everything because of the constraints of postage and publication size, but I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this project.

Our first major event will be the Arts Exhibition organised by Pamela Murphy, details of which are given in page 3. Preparations for other events, and for our party, continue. More details later.

Bob Ruffles

☎ 01732 461348 ✉ chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Meetings open to all

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 30 April
Community Centre, Bat & Ball Start at 2pm

The Disinherited

Lord Sackville

A Story of Family, Love and Betrayal.
It's the story of the five illegitimate children of a former Lord Sackville and his mistress, a Spanish dancer called Pepita; and of how they lived their lives in the shadow of Knole, one of the largest houses in England.

**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 April Newsletter
by **Friday, 18 April 2013**
to both Linda Young and Magda Sweetland

Science Group

Monday 14 April

Early flying at Farnborough

with special reference to
Samuel Franklin Cody

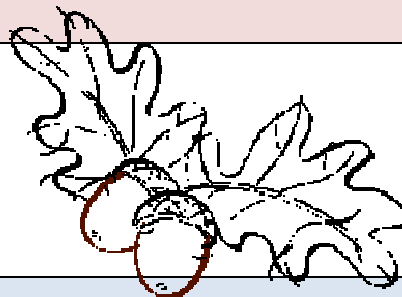
David Wilson

The talk will describe the involvement of the British Army in early aviation in the UK, leading to the opening of the Balloon School and the Balloon Factory at Farnborough.

The events leading up to the first flight in the UK in October, 1908 by Samuel Franklin Cody will be covered, as will his subsequent work at Farnborough, and the building of a replica of his first aeroplane to celebrate the centenary of flight in the UK.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

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



Computer Group

Monday 28 April

Sorting Your Email

Handling the Volume of Your emails.

Vince Tilley

Is your system overwhelmed?
Have they taken over your inbox?

Vince Tilley will discuss the best way to keep a track of your emails and how to manage your email system to cope with the volume of emails we all experience today.

Otford Village Memorial Hall, 2pm.

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

News and Views

Articles to *Magda Sweetland*

The Arts and Drama Group

Cricketts Farm, the home of two Sevenoaks members who allowed us use of several outbuildings over a period of almost ten years, became home to a number of Study Groups, Sculpture, Pottery, Carving and Painting, as well as a Drama group. Working together on the same site meant they developed supporting skills and so became a very successful union.



Drama was the bread-winner from their sell-out summer entertainments, which might be a play, a musical entertainment, or a cabaret, plus a winter Pantomime, and this enabled money to be held for the following year's productions, whilst funding the changing of a barn into the Bull-Ring Theatre. It also paid for purchasing a replacement Portacabin for the Painting Group, repairs to cabin roofs, renewing electrical wiring, and odds and ends on site as they were needed for everyone's benefit.

When Cricketts was sold, and we had to leave, we were really lucky to be able to use one of the Art Rooms at Knole Academy East – it was large enough for both the Painting and the Sculpture to inhabit. The Pottery Group had moved a few years before to White Hill Farm in Shoreham, but now seems to have given up, as has the Wood Carving. The Writing Group, conceived originally for budding authors to aim towards publishing a novel (a by-product was the writing of several scripts for the stage) continues in members' homes, while the Drama Section uses the Art Room for short meetings and some set-painting. Rehearsals are held in members' houses and gardens.

We became a formal sub-committee of Sevenoaks U3A before we left Cricketts, and found this very useful as there was a lot of work required in the transition. I was appointed Chairman (Painting and Drama); David Hill as Treasurer (Drama); Patrick Moore and Ann Evans (Sculpture); Robbie Hill as minutes-taker (Drama) and Jack Parker (Painting).

The committee has arranged several social occasions for the members of the various groups – usually a day out in the Summer, perhaps to a Stately Home, maybe combined with a nearby gallery, enabling members of the groups to get to know each other. A pre-Christmas lunch in a reasonably priced local pub is always well-attended as are the casual get-togethers with an al fresco lunch. Small groups of painters quite often travel up to London to visit an interesting exhibition, mainly at the Mall Gallery.

Every three years, the Arts group holds an Exhibition of new work, happily housed at Knole Academy West for the last four events, and open to the public as well as U3A members. This is a marvellous event, showcasing the work of members in several media. It always impresses visitors and reveals the quiet talents of our members. Please note the dates for the forthcoming Exhibition (opposite).

Finding a suitable Workshop is our main problem. The hiring of halls is very expensive and the Arts groups were fortunate to have the financial backing of the Drama section whilst the number of participants was built up until they were self-supporting. Now we have the really tough job of finding new premises again as Knole Academy is being redeveloped – which is not too difficult for Painting, but seemingly impossible for Sculpture. This is because it has to have storage space for substances used (eg plaster and cement) and a locked cupboard for chemical additives, some of which are harmful. These would have to be permanently housed even when the group might only use the room once a week.



So we are vigorously looking for an old barn, Portacabin, shed, or anything that could be used to house our Sculpture Group. We are probably having to evacuate the school sometime in May. We were lucky in being offered the use of Cricketts. Can we be lucky again? Can any member suggest or offer a suitable venue? We would love to hear from you!

- Pamela Murphy

☎ 01732 365484



ARTS EXHIBITION

Tuesday, 29 April to Friday, 2 May

**Knole Academy West
(previously Bradbourne School)**

**10am-4.30pm Tuesday-Thursday,
10am-2pm Friday**

Paintings, Sculpture, Ceramics, Crafts, Photography

**** N.B. Please send your entry forms in by 10 APRIL ****

If you haven't an entry form please contact Pamela Murphy:

 01732 365484



Executive Committee, 6 March

Filling Committee posts is still our priority. We have still to find individuals to fill the Group Development role and a Talks Organiser. Without someone to organise the monthly talks we cannot run the Monthly Meetings. If you are prepared to help, please get in touch with me or a member of the EC.

The revision of the Constitution is now complete, and reflects the latest guidance from the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission. The changes proposed to the present Constitution will be circulated to all members with the AGM Agenda: at the AGM we shall seek approval to the changes, and their incorporation in the Constitution.

The Twentieth Anniversary Committee is now working on plans for the Party in September. Volunteers will be needed to help nearer the time and requests for help will be advertised in due course.

- Bob Ruffles

Science Visit to the National Physical Laboratory 20 May – 1.00pm -8.00pm


A reminder that if you wish to join the visit to NPL you must first register on-line to

<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 1.00pm. 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 2.00pm.

- Bob Ruffles

 01732 461348



Social Events News

Pam Walshe ☎ 01732 454769

The following flyers are enclosed:

- Trip to Cressing Temple Barns and Ingatestone Hall
- Jazz and Blues Study Day
- Science Study Day, East Malling Research Centre
- Kent Study Day on Aspects of WWI

Trip to Paris

The Social Events Committee has proposed a four-day (three nights)

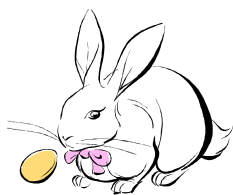
Holiday in Paris from 27 to 30 October 2014

Details have been posted on the web-site. However, we do not want to go ahead before establishing how much interest there is for such a trip.

The trip would consist of travel to Paris by Eurostar followed by a guided coach tour of the city, plus visits to the top of the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, the Cité de Sciences et de l'Industrie at Villette, the Chateau de Versailles and a cruise on the River Seine.

The cost would be £498.00 per person sharing a twin room. No single rooms are available. Depending on the number of bookings, the price could be re-calculated to a lower figure. The hotel for this trip would be the 3* Ibis hotel at Roissy en France which, unfortunately, is not on the Metro. The price includes half-board accommodation and admission charges to the various itinerary places to be visited.

If you are interested in going on this holiday will you please telephone the organiser, John Dean, ☎ 01959 563373, **not later than Wednesday, 2 April.**



Events Open to All

First Friday Lunch **Friday 4 April**
Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green Road, Shipbourne.
12.45 for 1pm. To book, contact Christine and Alastair Macpherson, ☎ 01959 523566
by Wednesday, 2 April.

Bridge for Pleasure **Weds 9 & 23 April**
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 26 February was Bill Taylor and on 12 March was Colin Butson.
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 15 April

Meet at 11.00am in Shipbourne at the end of Upper Green road, opposite The Chaser. We will do a circular walk via Ightham Mote. There are some slopes. An optional lunch at the Chaser follows.

Leader: Anne Gutteridge ☎ 01732 454923

Ambling

Wednesday 16 April

Meet in the Kent CC Manor Park car park, West Malling (ME19 6PE) for a four-mile walk starting at 10.00am. (GR677572). From Sevenoaks take A25 to Wrotham Heath and then A20 east for three miles. At roundabout turn right signed 'West Malling' (Town Hill). Through the town and continue beyond the High St into St Leonards St. Manor Park on left, with a £1.50 charge for parking, or free for Kent parks ticket-holders. Optional lunch nearby. New walkers are always welcome.

Leaders: Robbie and David Hill ☎ 01732 453185

Half-Day Walking

Monday 28 April

Meet in the car park at The White Rock Inn in Underriver (NGR 556522) in time for a 10am start. A five-mile walk to Budd's Green, Rooks Hill and Fawke Common followed by an optional lunch at The White Rock.

Leader: Nick White ☎ 01959 564145

Diary

April

Fri	4	First Friday Lunch
Wed	9	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	9	'Turner & The Sea' trip **
Mon	14	Science Group Meeting
Tues	15	The Strollers
Wed	16	Ambling
Wed	23	Bridge for Pleasure
Mon	28	Computer Group Meeting
Mon	28	Half-Day Walking
Tues	29–Fri 2	May Arts Exhibition
Wed	30	Monthly Meeting

May

Sat	10	Kent Study Day, Tenterden *** 'How WWI influenced the Arts'
Tue	20	Science visit NPL Open Day
Thu	29	Jazz and Blues Study Morning *

June

Tues	3	Cressing Temple Barns and Ingatestone Hall trip *
Wed	11	Science Study Day 'Future Agriculture & Food Security' *

* flyer enclosed

** flyer in February

*** flyer in January

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

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