



Sevenoaks U3A News

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**DECEMBER
2017**

Monthly Meetings

All Monthly Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. at the Bat and Ball Community Centre

Wednesday 22 November

Mary Smith will give a talk about Maidstone Grammar School in the Second World War. She was head teacher of the school until 2014 and has published a book entitled *A Schoolgirl's War*. She has spoken to 53 women who were at the school during the war and has an exquisite collection of artwork from the person who was head of art at that time.

Wednesday 24 January

The North Korean Nuclear Crisis. A talk by John Gittings. The speaker was East Asia editor and foreign leader-writer at *The Guardian* for many years, visiting China frequently and North Korea several times from the 1970s onwards. He has also written on cold war politics and nuclear disarmament, and since retiring in 2003 has specialised in peace studies. His latest book is *The Glorious Art of Peace* (OUP, 2012). In his talk he will unravel the complex story of negotiation between the US and North Korea which has led to the present crisis, and also try to throw some light upon the Kim family regime.

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 28 February

Ernest Shackleton's voyages in the Antarctic. A talk by Michael Smith. The speaker gave us a splendid talk about Tom Crean, the Irishman who survived Scott's fateful South Pole expedition, in February 2017 and is returning by popular demand.

Apologies to those members who were expecting to hear Andy Robertshaw talking about the film *War Horse* at the October meeting. Unfortunately there was a muddle in his diary. Instead Rod Shelton gave a talk about the Darent Valley.

Teas at the Monthly Meetings

Di Latter does a great job with teas after our Monthly Meetings, but she needs help. If you are able to help with setting out before the meeting, pouring tea or clearing up after please speak to Di when you arrive for the meeting.



Chairman's Chat

This is our last Newsletter before Christmas so on behalf of all the members of the Executive Committee may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Our annual Festive Lunch is scheduled for February 9th next year and this is a great opportunity for us all to get together and cast off the winter blues. Please join us.

A full house had great fun at the 'Autumnal Antics' put on by the Drama Group and ably supported by the Singing For Fun Group. We were treated to some hilarious sketches by Noel Coward and the dulcet voices of the choir rang out to Gilbert and Sullivan. A wonderful U3A event!

For those who still receive this Newsletter in printed format by post, a plea to change over to the eNewsletter. This can be downloaded every month into your inbox in full vibrant colour for you to view on your computer or print a copy if you wish. The bottom line is that the eNewsletter is cost free whereas every printed copy costs the U3A money for printing & postage. Please change if you are able to.

Seasons Greetings

Jim Purves

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Diary

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- 28 Bridge for Pleasure
- 28 **Monthly Meeting**

Newsletter Team: Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith

Please note there will be no January Newsletter.

The final copy date for the February Newsletter is Tuesday 16th January.

news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis Group 2 had its first session on Wednesday morning, 1st November, at the Leisure Centre. Despite a wide variety in levels of ability everyone enjoyed themselves. We have a list of 27 members and potential members, but not everyone can come every time, so more prospective players are welcome to join, especially as the more participants that come the even cheaper it is! Just turn up at the Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 6th December, between 10 and midday to have great fun - and give your health and mental well being a great boost, according to the medics.

New French Group: learning a new language is also supposed to be good for you - and a new group has set itself up called "Français rouillé" (Rusty French) with such enthusiasm that they intend to meet every week! I can't imagine that everyone will be able to make every session, but if you would like to join them for some or all the sessions, please contact Peter Quick,

London Studies

London Studies 2 group is hoping to recruit some new members to join us on our monthly visits to a place of interest in London. We divide into subgroups of 2-4 people and each takes a turn at leading a visit. At present we meet on a Monday.

Contact Mike Davies

Botanical Art

Janet Wilson will be resuming the Botanical Art mornings in the New Year: first and third Thursday mornings from 10 - 12.
15 Hillingdon Avenue TN13 3RB.
Janet Wilson

Second Science Discussion Group: still a bit low on numbers, but this small group intends to meet on the first Thursday in December (7th) 10.30 a.m. at the home of Peter Brignall, 10 Yeoman's Meadow, Kippington Road, Sevenoaks. A member of U3A's Science Discussion Group 1 is going to re-present one of her original talks to give members an idea of what Group 1 does, but of course the new group is able to decide on its own set up and programme. Do let me know if you would like to join them.

Susan Henson

Bridge for Pleasure - another way to keep those little grey cells active...

A photo (below) of our friendly Chicago bridge group which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings from October to July. The advantage of playing Chicago bridge is that no-one needs a partner. It is very sociable as we play with different partners during the morning and is a good way of meeting new people. A stop for coffee and biscuits is another opportunity for a chat and catch up. There is an element of competition, with a winner for each session, whose name appears in the newsletter (fortunately we don't publicise the lowest score each time, which in the latest session was 3,500 - a very low score - but what can you do when the cards are against you!).

Currently we have around 35 in the group, enough for 5-6 tables for most sessions. We pay on the day which suits those of us who go on holiday or who have grandparent duties from time to time.

We welcome new members of intermediate standard, with a working knowledge of ACOL to join our happy throng. For more information ring Sue and John Christy



photo: Richard Baxter

News from the Groups (cont.d)

Industrial Heritage Group Visit to Bewl Water SE Water Treatment Plant

The Industrial Heritage group visited the SE Water Treatment Plant at Bewl Water to see how our water is cleansed and processed before passing into the main water distribution system for consumers. A number of us met up for lunch in the Boat House Bistro for lunch and enjoyed the outstanding view of the reservoir on a warm sunny autumnal day.

Bewl water is currently owned by Southern Water and has a capacity of 31,300 million litres of water and is the largest body of inland water in South East England. SE Water extracts water from Bewl Water and a number of local bore holes for treatment and supply to customers.

The process of cleaning our water is a complex process where a series of chemical interventions are undertaken to remove debris, dissolved hydrogen sulphide gas and suspended silt. The first step is aeration of the water to introduce oxygen and the addition of the chemical Ferric Oxide to promote coagulation and flocculation of the unwanted material suspended in the water, a small dose of Chlorine is also added at this point. The flocculant floats to the surface of the treatment tanks and forms a sludge which is scraped off, and being rich in nutrients, is sent to farmers as fertilizer. This step is followed by Ozonisation and filtering to remove any particles that remain in the water. A further step is to pass the water through activated carbon filters to remove products from the ozonisation process. The final step is to chlorinate the water to kill off any bacterial matter. It is at this point that the water is clean, clear and ready for distribution to two closed storage reservoirs and onward distribution to consumers in the Weald of Kent.

The output from the plant is impressive. It can treat and supply on average 565 million litres of water per day through 14,000 Km of mains pipe line (we were told the equivalent of pipes running around the M25 74 times!) What's more the plant operates 24hrs per day, 365 days per year virtually unmanned. Whilst technical staff are able to monitor the plant, it is controlled from a central HQ at Snodland.

Bob Ruffles

photo: Bob Ruffles



Social Events News

social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

On Wednesday **March 14** a visit by coach to Chichester Cathedral is being organised. There will be a guided tour of this magnificent cathedral, followed by the opportunity to visit the Pallant Art Gallery or explore other interests. Please reply promptly on the flyer enclosed where further details will be found.

Autumnal Antics

Having discovered a very little known book of plays by Noël Coward, the Drama Group chose to include two of them in the evening's Autumnal Antics. 'Weatherwise' told of Lady Warple getting taken over by a Ouija spirit and becoming a very noisy and bad-tempered dog; 'Growing Pains' starred our very own revered Chairman, Jim Purves, as the little boy being told the facts of life. This was kept a secret from everyone until he actually appeared on the stage!



photo: Peter Nixon

The 'Singing for Fun' group provided a very good selection, including several G and S titles and displaying their new art of singing in 2 or 3 parts. They ended with two songs from Noël Coward, the last being "Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs Worthington."

Most appropriate.

Pamela Murphy



photo: Jim Purves

Meetings and events open to all

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

Science Group Open Meeting Monday 11 Dec

"Facing the World: what it's like to be face blind" by Jo Livingston

A cognitive disorder Prosopagnosia is the inability to recognise faces, a surprisingly common condition which is very little known. This talk explains what it's like to live with it day to day and the confusion, and sometimes amusement that it can cause. It also aims to raise awareness of the condition.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. Entry free plus seasonal refreshments.

Bridge for Pleasure Wednesdays 13 December

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12 noon.

Dates for your diary are **22 November and 13 December**. We will start again on **10th January 2018**.

Winners in October were John Christy and Freda Mottram.

New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group, so new players can just come along on the day. We play the 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner.

For more information, please ring John and Sue Christy 0

Apple Group Monday 22 January 2018

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

- ★ What's new forum - discussion
- ★ Updating your security - Sevenoaks Police Department
- ★ Maps - Paul
- ★ Contacts - Gwyn
- ★ Getting better use of Pages - Dave

Round Tables: Security, Maps, Contacts & Pages
Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2 -4 pm

Next Meetings 26th February (4th Mondays @ 2pm).
Dave Simmons

Please Note There is no meeting in December as the 4th Monday is Christmas Day

Computer Group Monday 18 December

Photography using Mobile Phones

This will be a presentation by two members of the committee and the audience will be shown how to take photos using mobile phones and how to share them with friends. There will be time for questions and to discuss any problems which members have experienced. Apple and Android phones will be covered and because it is the Christmas meeting wine and mince pies will be provided. The committee is hopeful that as many members as possible will be able to come along and celebrate the festive season with us.

Even better is the fact that entry is free for this meeting.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members welcome.

Mike Davies.

Ambling Wednesday 17 January

Meet in the car park at the Woodman public house at Goathurst Common (post code TN14 6BU) for a 10am start. From Sevenoaks, take the B2042 to Edenbridge and the pub is on the left just before reaching Goathurst Common. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: Grahame Lee

There will be no walk in December.

Half Day Walking Monday 22 January 2018

Meet in Dryhill Nature Park, Dryhill Lane, Sundridge, TN14 6EP in time for a 10 a.m. start. The grid reference is 498552. It is an easy walk of 4½ miles going to Sundridge Church, Manor Farm, Shrubs Corner and Green Lane Farm. Lunch afterwards for those who wish to stay will be at the White Horse in Sundridge.

Leader: Nick White

Half Day Walking Monday 26 February 2018

Meet in the loop of road by the Crown Point pub and restaurant off the A25 at Seal Chart, TN15 0HB. The grid reference is 576556. The walk goes through Seal Chart woods then to Godden Green and Stone Street. It is 5 miles with some moderately hilly sections. Lunch afterwards will be at the Crown Point.

Leader: Nick White

Members' Corner

Please submit items of interest to members to The Newsletter Team. news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk