

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to wish all our Members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Just a reminder that if your group hires a hall for your activity it is important that you know the postcode which will be required should you need to contact the emergency services.

The South East Forum is holding its annual Summer School at the University of Chichester from June 19th to 22nd. Details of the courses on offer together with an application form can be viewed on the Sevenoaks U3A website.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Festive Lunch at Wilderness Golf Club in February when we can start to brush off our winter cobwebs and anticipate the longer days of Spring.

Jim Purves chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
01732 463041

SEVENOAKS U3A TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

Help Needed

Over the years Sevenoaks U3A has progressively adopted new technology for the preparation and presentation of material generated by its members. This has inevitably led to the purchase of number of IT and ancillary assets to support our U3A and is managed by a small team of technically minded members to assist in the set up and running of the equipment at meetings. Other background support functions are also undertaken on behalf of our U3A members.

The main functions performed by the team are:

- ◆ Support to Regular Meetings and Events
- ◆ Asset Inventory & Custody
- ◆ Asset Safety, Inspection and Maintenance
- ◆ Support to Members on IT Software Packages

If you have such skills and can help please let us know

Bob Ruffles

01732-461348. e-mail: bobruffles@aol.com

DIARY

February

Wed	8	Bridge for Pleasure
Fri	10	Festive Lunch
Mon	13	Science Group
Wed	15	Ambling
Mon	20	Computer Group
Wed	22	Bridge for Pleasure
Wed	22	Monthly Meeting
Thurs	23	Canterbury trip
Mon	27	Half day walking
Mon	27	Apple Group

March

Mon	13	Science Group
Thurs	22	Monthly Meeting
Mon	27	Apple Group
Tues	28	Crossness Pumping Station visit
Wed	29	Half a Sixpence Theatre visit

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 22 February 2017 at the Bat and Ball Community Centre

Tom Crean, Antarctic Explorer.

Michael Smith will talk about Tom Crean, the unsung hero of Antarctic exploration. Tom Crean was a member of expeditions lead by Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton. The speaker specialises in the history of Antarctic and Arctic exploration.

MEMBERS' CORNER

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

Newsletter Team:

Victoria Baxter, Elizabeth Purves, Celia Smith

Copy for March Newsletter

(which will be distributed by 17 February)

by Tuesday 7 February to

news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Industrial History group's day trip to Essex

As a follow-up to a presentation on the manufacture of footwear earlier this year, members of the Industrial History group visited the Bata Heritage Centre in East Tilbury on the morning of Tuesday 8th November. In 1932 a shoe-making business started in Czechoslovakia by the Bata family was expanding overseas and, having purchased some farmland near East Tilbury, built a factory and a village for their workers in the modernist style. Czech architects and materials were used; the buildings were of welded steel with reinforced concrete walls and with the houses set among gardens in a chequerboard pattern. The village had everything for its workers including a theatre and sports facilities, a hotel and restaurant, and a range of shops. The factory produced footwear for over 70 years, but production gradually moved overseas from the 1960s. Downsizing began in the 1980s and production ceased in 2005. The village is still there and is expanding with the demand for new housing in the area.

The Heritage Centre is run by volunteers, all of whom either worked for Bata or were brought up in the village. Following an introductory talk and a look at the exhibits in the centre, four of the volunteers took us around the village. After the Bata visit, we had a fortifying lunch at The World's End pub in Tilbury, then an afternoon visit to the Essex Fire Service museum in Grays where the enthusiastic founder and curator showed us round.

Further information about the Bata Heritage Centre can be found on <http://www.batamemories.org.uk/MAIN/ENG/00-EN-Pages/00-EN-HOME.html>

David Williams



Photo: Lynda Allinson

Two Groups which have closed.

The Learning Arabic and the Looking at Churches and Chapels Groups have closed. The U3A would like to thank Galal Fahmy and Ian and Angela Lister for all their work in running these groups for many years.

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group enjoying lunch together before going to the National Theatre to see Amadeus.



Photo: The Waiter

Sunday Club

The Group arrange their own programme and meet monthly and is for members who would otherwise spend Sunday on their own. Please note that after 6 enjoyable years as Group organiser I have decided to step down, the Group will carry on and the new Organiser will be a lovely lady called Carlyn Galvin. Her contact details are Tel: 01732 780484 and email: carlyn.galvin1@btinternet.com There is room for new Members, at the moment we are all Ladies but Gentlemen you would also be welcome!

Barbara Coleyshaw

Digital Camera Group – places available

Digital Camera Group 2 is an active Group of keen photographers. Our programme for 2017 will consist of a mixture of indoor meetings to learn from each other, and using instructional DVDs, together with some trips out to take photographs. We then review and critique each other's pictures at future meetings, and have an annual competition. We would welcome two or three additional members. Meetings are on the first Tuesday afternoon, in Otford Methodist Church Hall. To find out more, please phone Group Organiser John Anthony on 01959 522021.

Brush Up Your French

From time to time members have expressed the wish to be more fluent in French when they go abroad or converse with French friends. If you would be interested in a short course on French - bit of conversation, useful phrases, etc - let me know and I will obtain some material from U3A Resources and try to get a small group going next Spring. Susan Henson, Group Development Coordinator

If you would like to go to the Festive Lunch on Feb 10 at Wildernesse Golf Club, there are still some places left, providing you apply to Pam Walshe using the flyer available on the Sevenoaks U3A website (Home→News, Flyers for Forthcoming Events→Flyers) by Wednesday Feb 1st. There is a 3 course lunch on offer plus coffee, at the bargain price of £23 per person. This will be a memorable highlight of the year.



There are one or two spaces left for the trip to **Canterbury** by train on **Thursday Feb 23**, leaving together from Sevenoaks station. There will be a guided tour of the Cathedral, a World Heritage Site, followed by free time to visit/do whatever interests you. Please apply to Rosina Cole, using the flyer available on the Sevenoaks website (Home→News, Flyers for Forthcoming Events→Flyers) if interested.

There will be a guided tour to the **Crossness Pumping Station** (a former sewage pumping station that features 'spectacular ornamental cast ironwork') plus a special steaming event on **Tuesday Mar 28**. Further details are on the flyer available on the Sevenoaks U3A website. (Home→News, Flyers for Forthcoming Events→Flyers) Please apply on this flyer as soon as possible as places are limited.



A theatre visit to the critically acclaimed hit musical **Half A Sixpence**, based on HG Wells' semi - autobiographical Novel **Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul** is being organised for £45 per person (reduced from £72.50) at the Noel Coward Theatre on **Wednesday March 29th matinee**. This musical has come from Chichester where it had a record-breaking run. We already have more than the minimum number required to benefit from the U3A group reduction, but if anyone else would like to join the group please contact Vicki Joyce at v_joyce@hotmail.co.uk no later than **Wednesday Jan 25**.

A visit has been arranged by minibus on **Sunday April 23** to the **Brick Lane Music Hall**, London Docklands from 2 - 4.45pm to see a musical based on St George's Day, with a traditional tea (tea, sandwiches, cakes on cake stand, etc) during the interval. The cost will be £45 per person. If you would like to go on this exciting new venture please apply on the flyer (Home→News, Flyers for Forthcoming Events→Flyers)



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS (continued)

An Afternoon of Latin American Jazz. 16 May



We continue our regular top-notch jazz study events with an afternoon of music on Tuesday 16th May featuring members of the premier Latin Group **PICANTE**. Those who are lucky enough to attend will hear about all the influences that gave us this type of music plus demonstrations of the exotic instruments used. Throughout **PICANTE** will spread out a sumptuous feast of the lively Latin sounds reminiscent of sun-drenched holidays in places like Cuba.

The line-up includes: Neil Angille (piano), Derek Nash (saxophone), Marc Cecil (drums) and Andy Staples (bass). All have established a high reputation in the jazz world. Neil who has been Vanessa May's Musical Director since 1998 played for other greats such as Shirley Bassey and Lisa Stansfield while Derek, also well known

locally, plays for Jules Holland and Ronnie Scott's *Blues Explosion*.

Marc, who has performed with King Salsa, will take us through the mysteries of Latin beat with the help of some of the instruments that drive Latin-American rhythms, and he will be supported by Andy on bass.

Jazz spiced with Latin rhythms has a sparkle that will enliven us all especially when it comes from a group with such an outstanding pedigree. These are all quality musicians and it is our good fortune to be able to secure them for the event. Do get this date in your diary now and look out for the flyer and application form in next month's Newsletter.

Harvey Mahn

MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary page 1 for complete list of events

Science Group

Monday 13 February

'Topics in the History of Radio'. Talk by Bob Martin-Royle

From TV and sound broadcasting to the use of the seemingly indispensable mobile phone, radio communication is today often taken for granted but plays a vital role in modern life. Yet it is only some 150 years since James Clerk Maxwell published his seminal mathematical paper predicting electromagnetic wave propagation, a theory later verified experimentally by Hertz and others and commercialised by Marconi by the end of the 19th century. This talk will consider the origins of radio, its development in the pre-electronic era before highlighting just some of the landmark steps in the evolution and use of this technology to the present day.

Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm. All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome. Entry £2.00

Science Study Day update

Our Science Study day for this year will take place on the **14th June 2017** and the topic will be **"Climate Change – Facts, Causes and Consequences"**

The study day will explore the topic by using experts in the field to address the following themes:

Scientific Meteorological evidence - the measurement of climate change over the past, and to understand physical, chemical and biological processes within the climate system and the computer models to represent them. To attribute recent changes in climate between natural cycles and the impact of human activity.

Global evidence from observation and studies of changes in Ocean and Land systems and reference to geological information and similar sources (Ice cores, archaeological evidence, biodiversity and human activity - deforestation etc) which suggests a major impact of Homo sapiens.

The Consequences in terms of the socio-economic impact to the human population and how adaptive measures might help to mitigate the effects

More details and booking forms will be issued shortly.

Bob Ruffles 01732 461348

Half Day Walking

Monday 27 February

Meet by the entrance to Bough Beech Visitor Centre in time for a 10 a.m. start. Grid reference 496494, post code TN14 6LD. The walk is 4½ miles and goes to Cooper's Corner, Henden Manor, Boarhill and Scallops Farm. The going is easy. Lunch for those who wish to stay will be The Cock in Ide Hill.

Leader: Nick White 01959 564145.

Computer Group

Monday 20 February

Photo Management

Presentation by David Prestage showing how to store and retrieve digital photos

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

£2 entry includes refreshments.

Mike Davies 01732 762266

Apple Group

Monday 27 February

iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

- ◆ Musixmatch
- ◆ Using Tips for more information
- ◆ Getting better use of text messages
- ◆ Improving your photos
- ◆ Round Tables: Musixmatch, Text Messages, Improving your photos & New to Apple.

Otford Village Memorial Village Hall from 2 -4 pm

Next Meetings 27th March, 24th April & 22nd May (4th Mondays).

Dave Simmons 01732 457646 email.

david.g.simmons22@gmail.com.

Bridge for Pleasure

Wednesdays 25 January, 8 & 22 February

The Group plays at Otford Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from 9.50 a.m. until 12.15 p.m. The winner on 9th November was Kay James, on 23 November John Winram and on 14 December Stephen Hale.

The first meeting in the New Year will be Wednesday 25 January. February meetings will be the 8th and 22nd February.

We are an "open" group, so any new players are welcome to just come along. For more information, ring **Stephen Hale on 01732 454478 (25 January and 8 February)** or **John and Sue Christy 01732 463911 (22 February)**

Ambling

Wednesday 15 February

Meet at Godden Green for a 4 mile walk around Knole Park starting at 10 am. Park on the road opposite the Buck's Head. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch.

Leader: David Jackson, 01732 455707