



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Writing my column a year ago, we were just coming out of Covid and I was looking forward to the first live Monthly Meeting in the Bat & Ball Centre, in late November 2021. It was the first Hybrid Meeting, able to be viewed on Zoom at home, and these still continue. The subject of the next Monthly Meeting on November 23rd is "The Race to the South Pole" which was advertised in last month's Newsletter. To justify continuing to stage these excellent presentations, we need to increase attendance. With this in mind, in addition to the Newsletter item all members on email will receive a reminder a week before, and again 2 days before (together with the zoom link). Do please attend, live in the Bat and Ball Centre followed by a cup of tea and a chat, or on Zoom.

In Monthly Meetings I intend in future to make a point of welcoming newcomers from the front. After the talk I will also invite them to get their cup of tea, then come to meet me and any other EC Members who are around, near a table set out for the purpose. A survey a few years ago and occasional letters, convince me that comments that Sevenoaks u3a is "unfriendly" originate from attendance at monthly meetings. Twice yearly our Membership Secretary Jenny Ruffles and her team run excellent "New Members Meeting" specifically designed to be friendly and informative. However a sizeable number of new members do not manage to attend, and we all need to make them feel welcome at what may well be their first contact with Sevenoaks u3a.

This month yours truly has been responsible for producing the Newsletter, which must have reached you if you are reading this! David Taylor Communications Trustee on the EC, with a very small team puts the Newsletter together every month, but is currently enjoying a well-earned rest in Cyprus. Having to learn the complexities of production has been quite an eye-opener. Victoria Baxter came to my aid, set out the Newsletter in publishing software, and produced the two different versions required for emailing and for posting to members. This experience underlines the need for more volunteers to be involved so we can have routine procedures for coping with such situations – but more about that in the New Year!

I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

Dr. Ken Brown chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DECEMBER DIARY

12th December	Science Open Group
14th December	Bridge For Pleasure
19th December	Computer Open Group
23rd December	Monthly Open Meeting

FESTIVE LUNCH



Friday 17th February: See attached flyer

RIVIERA TRAVEL SCHEME

Did you know that your u3a can benefit if you book a holiday with Riviera Travel?

It works like this: When you book your holiday with Riviera, tell them that you are a member of Sevenoaks u3a & they will make a donation of 10% of the basic value of your holiday. That's all you have to do!

The donation is paid by Riviera direct to the Third Age Trust. After your holiday TAT passes the money on to Sevenoaks u3a. The donation is then used to support the charitable objectives of Sevenoaks u3a.

David Lowe

SCIENCE OPEN MEETING

Our next Science talk will be on December 12th 2:00 PM.

Venue: Otford Village Memorial Hall entry £2.00

Our Talk will be 'The Hydrogen Economy' by Steve Brown

Hydrogen is one of a handful of new, low carbon solutions that will be critical for the UK's transition to net zero. As part of a renewable energy system, low carbon hydrogen could be a versatile replacement for high-carbon fuels that are used today.

Hydrogen, as part of the UK energy mix, will help to bring down emissions in vital industrial sectors providing energy for power, heat and transport. Our speaker will discuss how industry is responding to this challenge.

Our 16th January 2023 meeting will be 'Climate Change, what we can do'

The talk will be followed by festive refreshments.

Bob Ruffles for the Science Committee

science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

COMPUTER GROUP

Open meeting 19th December 2022

It has been necessary to swap the topics for November and December; hopefully members are aware of this after a global email was sent out.

December's meeting will be led by Mike Davies and will include a demonstration of satellite navigation using Google Maps. The talk will be fairly short and should allow for lots of questions and discussion.

The topic for January 2023 is still under review until we have a firm commitment from the speaker but we will be able to make an announcement at the December meeting.

Proceedings start at 2pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall and there will be coffee, tea and a biscuit all for the sum of £2.



BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Next sessions 23rd November and 14th December

The Group plays at Otford Village Memorial Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month from October to the end of July, from 9.45 a.m. until 12 noon. Please note, only one session in December – a free one with mince pies!

The winner on 26th October was Dave Lowe and on 9th November Denise Record. Congratulations to you both. Denise deserves a special mention for scoring 2110 points in one 4 hand set, 3 games bid and made plus 1 heart doubled making 10 tricks – 460 points!

On the 9th we had 5 full tables which was great and another new member making 4 this season.

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

For more information, please ring John and Sue Christy 01732 – 463 911 or email

bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk .



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FROM U3A NATIONAL OFFICE

Are you aware that the Third Age Trust issues an electronic newsletter? This is in addition to the paper magazine, Third Age Matters. The u3a e-National Newsletter is filled with information, stories and advice from across the u3a movement.

To sign up simply go to

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

Fill in your details and wait for the newsletter to drop into your inbox!

Sue Christy

THE DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 15TH