

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**2.00 p.m. Wednesday 27 February 2019 at the Bat and Ball Community Centre**

**Ian Keable will talk about 18th Century hoaxes.**

The 1700s was a period where the people of England seemed to be especially gullible. They believed a woman could give birth to rabbits and that a man could climb inside a wine bottle and sing and dance inside it. In this entertaining talk Ian relates and illustrates sundry hoaxes and deliberate deceptions.

### Monthly Meetings – Change of Venue

Our March meeting (27th March) will be the last to be held in the Community Centre, which is closing for refurbishment later in the year.

**With effect from April (24th April meeting) the monthly meetings will be held in St Nicholas' Church, in the Upper High Street.**

## POSTAGE STAMPS



As the Newsletter is now distributed by direct mail we are carrying a surplus of 2nd class stamps which are available to members at the discounted price of 50p (current price is 58p). Available in sheets of 24 stamps.

Contact the Treasurer at [treasurer@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## DIARY 2019

### February

February 13	Bridge for Pleasure
February 11	Science Group
<b>February 15</b>	<b>Festive Lunch</b>
February 20	Ambling
February 18	Computer Group
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
February 27	Bridge for Pleasure
February 25	Apple Group
February 25	Half Day Walking

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I hope you are all raring to go in this New Year 2019. I was amused to think that with a bit of luck and good health my grandson is likely to be alive in the year 2100! How funny is that! Will he be a member of U3A and what sort of organisation will it be?

Nearer to home, it may be early in the year, but we are already planning ahead to the AGM and change of leadership in June. We currently have two vacancies on the Executive Committee, for Secretary and Group Development Co-ordinator. In addition, we have vacancies for members of the Group Development Team, working with the Group Development Co-ordinator to organise the Open Day in September, the handbook and the Group Organiser's lunch, held every other year.

The Social Committee are also looking for someone to help organise the short trips away and to lead them in future. We had a very successful trip to the North East and would like to organise other UK based trips. There will be plenty of support in this role and anyone interested should contact Pam Walshe or Joyce Allen for more information.

We are a self help organisation and many hands make light work, so if you could spare some time and have the inclination, do please contact the relevant committee member (details in the handbook) or myself, for a friendly chat about what's involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

It only remains to wish you all a very happy, healthy and studious 2019.

**Sue Christy 01732 463911**

[chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## U3A ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL

The Technical Support Team has two free standing screens that were purchased to support the presentation of members' work and these are looking for new homes. If you have regular meetings in your home and would like to be a custodian for one of these then please let me know.

**Bob Ruffles 01732 461348**

[techsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:techsupport@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

## Winter Welcome

Photo: Pamela Murphy



*Mr and Mrs Dorrington have great trouble with their servants*

An audience of almost 100 joined 11 Drama Group members and 21 'Singing For Fun' singers for an evening of plays and songs in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on November 23rd. The performances opened with a successful first play by Judy Worham – this required lots of help from the audience who provided the sound track (wind, rain, sheep etc). This was followed by a lively selection of 'Songs from the Shows' arranged by the Musical Director, Janet Sharp.

The fish and chip supper was a little late arriving but was considered well worth waiting for as the fish was excellent.

Act 2 had 2 short plays – firstly 'Words, Words, Words' – the tale of the three chimpanzees whose task was to write Hamlet on retro-typewriters. The second was a hilarious sketch on the strange use of cricketing words and phrases, and then finally there was 'Playgoers' written in 1910 by Arthur Pinero and featuring the staff difficulties of the Dorrington family, described as a Domestic Episode!

The evening's plays were directed by **Pamela Murphy**.

## All Day Walking Group 1B

Photo: Jim Purves



*Christmas walk through Chevening Estate*

## Theatre Studies Group

For our Christmas treat, Theatre Studies Group: from Page to Stage branched out into something different from our usual visits to plays in London. Jonathan Miller's production of La Boheme at ENO proved to be a choice we all enjoyed. Set between the wars, and with the delightful twist of a power cut causing Mimi to go in search of a match to light her candle and thus meet Rodolfo, this production earned excellent reviews. It was wonderfully sung by Welsh soprano Natalya Romaniw and Chilean tenor Jonathan Tetelman. The four young men, suffering in their Paris garret on Christmas Eve and then celebrating at Alcindoro's expense in the street café below, sang together to perfection. But poor consumptive Mimi cannot be saved despite her friends pawning a coat and some earrings to pay for a doctor. We were left feeling the sadness of her friends.

But an excellent lunch lifted our spirits. We had attended the morning dress rehearsal of La Boheme, which enabled us to go on to Rossopomodoro in Monmouth Street, an Italian restaurant to be commended, not far from ENO. The day turned out to be a fine treat for us all.

**Judy Hebert**



*Dennis tucking into black spaghetti!*

Photo: Judy Hebert



### Peace and Conflict Group

A New Year and perhaps time to think of joining a new study group?

The Peace and Conflict Group embraces a much wider area of interest than just military battles. As we have evolved, we have covered a wide range of topics and in particular the background to conflict and the consequences which change the global balance. It embraces factors such as Politics, Sociology, Economics and Technology, and this leads to a wider view of the effects of conflict and how it shapes the world in which we live.

Our studies this year will include the US Contribution to WW1, History of NATO and the Cold War, Fall of Singapore and Medical Aspects of war. Plus, other topics chosen by members of the group. If you feel you would like to participate then please contact me.

**Bob Ruffles**

[peace@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:peace@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### Jazz Group 2



Photo: Jim Purves

*Christmas Jolly!*

## SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

[social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

### Hatton Garden

On **Thursday Mar 28** there will be a tour of the fascinating Hatton Garden area known as 'the home of diamonds' by a very knowledgeable Blue Badge Guide who has impressed us on previous visits. The tour will include a Charles Dickens residence as well as a church which goes back to the reign of Edward 1. Travel will be by train. For full details see the attached/enclosed flyer and fill in the application form at the bottom as soon as possible if interested.



### Visit to Cambridge

A visit by coach to Cambridge to include Kettle's Yard Gallery and the Botanical Gardens is being planned for **Tuesday May 7**. There should be time to visit other places of interest in Cambridge if this appeals to you. This trip is bound to be popular - so please make a note of the date in your diary. Flyer available in the next Newsletter.

**FLYERS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER:**  
**Guided Walk round Hatton Garden**

### Knole U3A Holiday 23-28 May. The Heritage of Cheshire, Liverpool & the Welsh Borders

We are very pleased that a group of Sevenoaks U3A members are joining us for the Knole U3A holiday. The coach is almost full, with just a few places left.

We will be visiting Warwick Castle, Chester, Chirk Castle, Liverpool, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Erddig and the Wedgwood Factory.

If you would like to join us, please contact Margaret Thorpe at the email address below. Unfortunately there are no single rooms left but you are very welcome to bring a partner or friend even if they are not in the U3A.

[Holiday@knoleu3a.org.uk](mailto:Holiday@knoleu3a.org.uk)

## MEMBERS' CORNER

Please submit items of interest to members to The Newsletter Team. [news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk)

Mention Sevenoaks U3A when booking a holiday with Riviera Travel and help Sevenoaks U3A receive a donation from Riviera of 10% of the basic holiday cost.

So that we can equally share in this benefit, 50% of the donation received will be returned by Sevenoaks U3A to the Member booking the holiday.

Contact the Treasurer at [treasurer@sevenoaks.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@sevenoaks.org.uk) for further details.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS OPEN TO ALL

See diary on page 1 for complete list of events

### Science Group

Monday 11 February

#### The Molecules of Alzheimer's Disease by Dr Hugh Reynolds

'Senile Dementia' (loss of mind in old age) has been seen as a risk of old age for centuries, but our modern understanding of it began early in the 20th century. In 1901 a 51-year-old woman with striking symptoms of dementia was admitted to the hospital where Dr Alois Alzheimer worked, and he followed her case closely. On her death Alzheimer was able to obtain samples of her brain and observed under the microscope two characteristic abnormalities, 'plaques' and 'tangles'. These are still the main signature hallmarks of what we now know as 'Alzheimer's Disease.'

Dr Hugh Reynolds is an expert in the field and will be discussing Alzheimer's and the underlying molecular basis of the disease, and how early intervention may prevent or slow down its progression.

Venue: Otford Village Memorial Hall 2pm

Entrance Fee: £1: 00 at the door

All Sevenoaks U3A members welcome

Forward Events: More details of future talks can be found on our website under the Open-Groups tab: <https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk/Study-Groups/Open-Groups/open-groups.html>

Bob Ruffles

### Half Day Walking

Monday 25 February

Meet outside the Kentish Rifleman at Dunk's Green in time for a 10am start. TN11 9RU, NGR 612526. The walk is 5 miles with easy going. It goes along the Greensand Way then through Oxen Hoath Park and to the north of Hadlow. Lunch afterwards will be at the Kentish Rifleman. All U3A members are welcome to join the walk at the start.

Leader: Nick White

### Ambling

Wednesday 20 February

Meet outside the Greyhound pub at Charcott, (Post Code TN11 8LG; Grid Ref 522472) in time for a 10am start. Take the A2027 from Hildenborough to Leigh, half a mile after passing through Leigh take a right turn onto Compasses Road and at the T junction left into Camp Hill. Take the next right which will bring you to the Greyhound. Please park considerably on the road outside the Greyhound. The walk is followed by an optional lunch.

Leaders: Anna and Chris Rowley

### Apple Group

Monday 25 February

#### iPad, iMac, iPhone & Apple Watch

- Whats new forum - discussion
- My best new App - Elaine
- Troubleshooting and how to get help - Gwyn
- Photographing people - Dave

Otford Memorial Village Hall from 2 -4 pm

**Next Meeting: 25th March.** No meeting in April as it is Easter.

Dave Simmons



### Bridge for Pleasure

Weds 13 & 27 February

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

The winners in November were Pam Kemp and Jim Hickey. In December, the winner was Jean Middleton.

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

### Computer Group

Monday 18 February

This month's talk will be given by members of the committee and will be on Free Software and uses of the Web.

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

We are still in need of more volunteers to make the tea at the meeting as well as people to serve on the committee.

Mike Davies