

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Frustratingly, government regulations are still making it difficult for us to operate.

We have, unfortunately, had to postpone the Open Afternoon planned for 23rd September as well as forthcoming coffee mornings, social outings and indoor meetings.

One of our members has remarked that our lack of activities makes us resemble the University of the Stone Age. Much though I regret the lack of

activities, at least it would make me Chairman of the USA!

On the brighter side we are able to operate out-of-doors and on Zoom.

Outdoor seated meetings are permissible with up to 6 people, and up to 30 are allowed to participate in outdoor activities such as walking.

A number of our groups, including the crochet group, are meeting by Zoom. It is easy to have Zoom installed on a computer, though you may have to purchase a camera for about £25. Just google Zoom and it will explain how to do it. It also requires one member of the group to act as host to set up the meeting. If your group leader does not have that expertise, you may be able to assist.

Best wishes to all our members

Nick White

chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NOTICE OF AGM

The Twenty Sixth Annual General Meeting of Sevenoaks U3A will be held at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 28th October 2020**. Further details will be given in the October Newsletter. The Meeting may be held virtually, using Zoom.

Rob White, who was co-opted on to the Committee in January 2020, is standing for election to the Executive Committee with responsibility for External Affairs and Publicity. The Membership Secretary, Jill Davies, and Chair of the Social Committee, Pam Walshe, have completed their terms of engagement and are standing for re-election under the terms of the Constitution. Further nominations for these posts may be submitted by Members to the Secretary by 9th September 2020.

Any motion that a Member may wish to submit to the Annual General Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary by 9th September 2020, and be duly proposed and seconded.

Chris Dance

secretary@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!

Please note that membership renewals are due in September. The annual membership fee is £13.00 (individual) or £26.00 (joint). If you pay by **cheque**, please send your cheques, payable to 'Sevenoaks U3A', to: **Membership Secretary, 48 Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, TN15 6QR**, by the end of September, 2020. If you pay by **Standing Order**, please check the date of payment with your bank. These should also be paid in September but some banks have been paying them at different times of the year, which can lead to confusion.

Jill Davies membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS NEWS

The Social Events Committee have decided it would be safer and more sensible (given all the circumstances) to postpone all planned activities from October 2020 to February 2021. We hope to resume in March 2021 with a guided tour of one of the local historical villages, travelling to the venue in our own cars.

You will be pleased to hear I hope that we have tentatively booked the Festive Lunch - to be renamed **Spring Festive Lunch at the Wildernesse Golf club for Friday April 23**. Please put this date in your diary, bearing in mind of course that nothing is certain and we may have to rethink everything again next year



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

SCIENCE OPEN MEETING NEWS

With the continued restrictions on social distancing in place we have followed the Third Age Trust and Government Guidelines. This places restrictions on the number of people who can meet in an indoor venue and adds significant hygiene and safety precautions on use before and after such a meeting. The Science Committee have therefore decided to restart our Science Open Meetings as Zoom Webinars. The first of these will be on **Monday 12th October at 14:00**. The subject and speaker are still to be determined as we cannot at the moment engage the speakers we had intended for our normal face-to-face meetings.

Preparations are still in hand for setting up the webinar but we will publish registration and joining instructions via Beacon to give all of our members the opportunity to join in if they so wish. **Note:** it is not necessary for everyone to download the Zoom software as the joining instruction will give a link to the webinar. It is likely that we will be running our meetings as Webinars until Christmas. If in the New Year we need to continue with the Webinars we will try and engage as many of the speakers we have booked as advertised in the Handbook.

Please keep watch on our website where we will post information about further changes.

<https://www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk>

Bob Ruffles

science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CROCHET GROUP

The Crochet Group has two vacancies and meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month 2pm-4pm. We are a small group who meet in each other's houses, although at present we are having successful Zoom meetings and still managing to learn some crochet! The group is open to beginners and people who can "do a little bit" and want to improve.

Please contact **Pauline Gofton** at

crochet@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SEVENOAKS SCRIBES

The Sevenoaks Scribes are starting to meet again as they have only 5 members in their writing group. Members will meet outdoors if possible.

Pamela Murphy writing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SCIENCE DISCUSSION GROUP 1

Our discussion group has continued throughout the Lockdown period as a virtual group using Zoom. We changed our schedule to run the sessions on a fortnightly basis from April until the end of July and used these sessions to explore the science and issues behind the COVID headlines. We will be restarting our normal monthly programme in mid-September but continuing as a virtual Group until such time as it is safe to resume our normal face-to-face meetings.

Bob Ruffles

science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AMBLING

Wednesday 16 September

Meet at Lullingstone Visitor Centre, DA4 0JF, in time for a 10.30 start. The car park costs £1.50. Meals are available from the café for those who wish to remain after the walk. This is an open group and all members able to complete 4 miles at a steady pace are welcome. Outdoor activities by groups of up to 30 are now permissible.

Leader: **Janet Wilson**

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesday 2 September

This will be the inaugural walk with poles by a new group shared between Sevenoaks and Knole U3As. Meet opposite the Bricklayers Arms in Chevening Road, Chipstead, TN13 2RZ in time for a 10.30 start. All members are welcome to come and give it a try. We aim to cover no more than 3 miles at a gentle pace. Advice will be given about purchasing poles as well as the recommended technique. An assortment of ski sticks will be made available for use by anyone without their own poles. There will be an optional socially distanced pub lunch after the walk.

Leaders: Ian Galletti (Knole) and Nick White (Sevenoaks)

ART - PAINTING

The Village Hall at Seal where the group meets will be opening again this week. Members would sit at separate tables.

Pamela Murphy art@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS (CONT'D)

IMAGINATION ABOUNDS IN DIGITAL CAMERA GROUP 5



Ingenuity and invention have been our drivers during The Great Lockdown. We challenged each other to set a weekly subject and submit a picture each week and the results have been exciting and imaginative. (well usually!)

Here are just a few of the more than 60 submissions during the last 4 months. Try and match the picture with the subject:

"Shadows"

"A lockdown garden"

"A day out"

"My favourite art work at home"

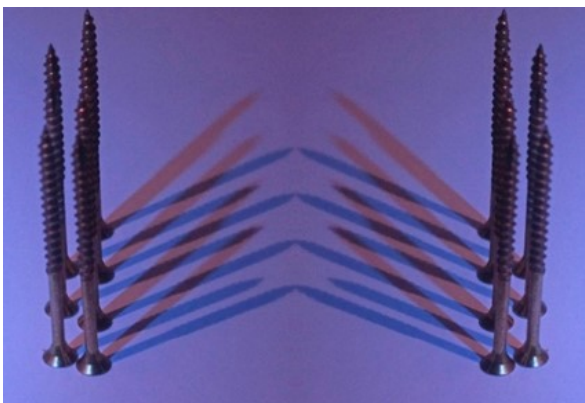
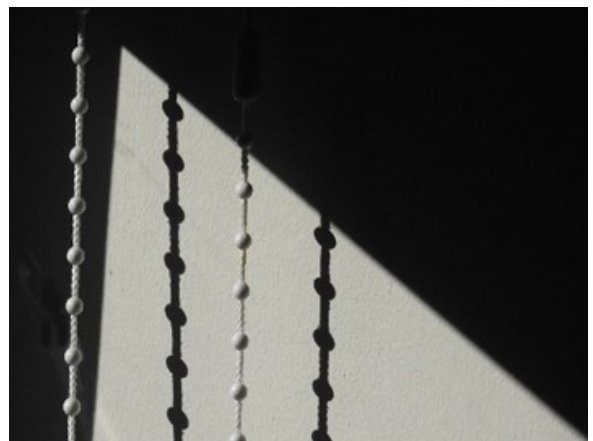
"Abstract"

Photography thrives in Sevenoaks U3A with enough enthusiasts to fill three separate groups. Members do not have to own expensive equipment, just bring along their enjoyment of photography.

Note also that it sometimes helps to be able to edit the picture. Many of us have attended Janet Austin's excellent Photoshop workshops. These are run in three yearly sessions and still have spaces in year one.

If you like these pictures you can see more of them at our exhibition at the next U3A Open Day .

David Green



MELANCHOLY AND THE PANDEMIC

Last year I wrote an article for the RSA on ***Making Space for Melancholy***. The proposition was that in a society addicted to the pursuit of happiness, there was insufficient recognition of melancholy as one of the core components of the human experience and that this was detrimental in terms of both culture and psychological wellbeing. This darker side of life has become all too vivid with Covid-19, and we need to think, not just about the potential for positive change, but also about the dead, dying and bereaved. We need proposals for mourning, commemorating, and assimilating our collective loss.

While there have been initiatives in respect of NHS staff, there is a gap in relation to victims in the general population. We have no officially sponsored 'pandemic artists' in the vein of 'war artists' and proposals for memorials and other forms of official public commemoration are missing. The case made against victims of pandemics receiving official commemoration on a par with war victims is that war involves action that has an issue at stake. An alternative perspective is that mass bereavement, however caused,

needs full ceremonial recognition and a permanent marker. Such collective rites would offer respect and better enable society to absorb and come to terms with the nature, scale and consequences of what has happened. And there are precedents, a prime example being the sculpture in Vienna commemorating the victims of the Great Plague of 1679.

So what would be fitting to disease and death on such a scale as Covid-19? Multiple expressions are possible across the arts, in ceremonies and through the erection of memorials. We need a public discussion of these options and their suitability to our collective feelings with a committed lead from government.

(full article /www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/rsa-comment/2020/07/melancholy-and-the-pandemic)

Clem Henricson FRSA

Member of the Sevenoaks U3A European Affairs Group

OPEN UNIVERSITY FREE ONLINE COURSES

The Open University are providing a range of free online courses, covering a wide variety of subjects, under the general headings of:

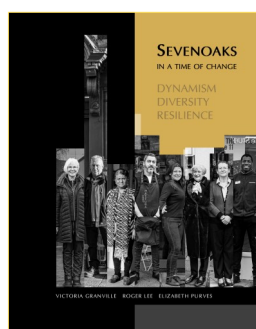
- Health, Sports & Psychology
- Education and Development
- History & the Arts

- Languages
 - Money & Business
 - Nature & Environment
 - Science, Maths & Technology
 - Society, Politics & Law
- Under each heading there are details

of the course title, the number of hours the course takes, and whether it is pitched at Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced level.

The courses can be found at <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

MEMBERS' CORNER



Sevenoaks and Knole U3A members Victoria Granville Elizabeth Purves and Roger Lee have produced a portrait of the town of Sevenoaks and the people who work here.

The exhibition of more than 250 photographs is at the Kaleidoscope Gallery from 1st September. The comprehensive book is available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and at the exhibition.

SEVENOAKS

IN A TIME OF CHANGE

Photographic Exhibition
at the Kaleidoscope Gallery Sevenoaks
September 1 - 25

DYNAMISM DIVERSITY RESILIENCE

This portrait of our community celebrates the town centre and all the people who make it work.



www.sevenoaksinatimeofchange.com

In association with and supported by:



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