

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I will begin by reminding you all that the AGM will be held at **2pm on Wednesday 24th June** at the **Bat & Ball Centre**, and would ask for your support at that meeting. Details will be sent out shortly. It will be followed by a light-hearted talk about antiques, and then our usual social time with tea and cakes afterwards.

I am sure that you all join me in congratulating Victoria Granville for her election as Sevenoaks Town Mayor. We wish a very happy year to both Victoria and to Richard Baxter, her Consort - both long-standing members of our u3a. It will doubtless be a very busy time for them ! Enjoy your group activities during the summer and any holidays planned too !

Warmest wishes,
Doreen

Doreen Pascall, Chairman chairman@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING

The u3a Monthly Meeting on
Wednesday, 24th June, 2026
is at 2pm at
The Bat & Ball Centre, Sevenoaks

Our Speaker this month is **Janie Ramsay**, who will be giving us a presentation entitled "**Another Job Lot**" about her experiences in the antique trade. Janie opened her first antique shop in Tunbridge Wells High Street in the early 1970s and moved to the Pantiles in 1980. She also sold at numerous antique fairs in the South East. She later joined Sotheby's, becoming a director in 1998. With her vast experience, she has a wealth of stories and anecdotes from behind the scenes in the antique trade. She will also be



giving us tips on how to buy, how to haggle, what the pitfalls are, and some of the extraordinary things that can happen in this unique profession.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bat & Ball Centre with tea and cake being served afterwards, and I do hope you will join us.

Barbara Coleyshaw meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

If you wish to submit any items for inclusion in the Summer edition of the newsletter, (covering July and August), please send them to news@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk by June 20th.

WE'RE GOING TO THE FAIR – COULD YOU JOIN US ?

Just a reminder that we've signed up to the Sevenoaks Town Council Health and Wellness Initiative with a Fair to be held in the **Vine Gardens** on **Saturday May 30th** from **9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We'll be showcasing our full range of groups and activities. Could you help out on our stand for an hour or two? It promises to be a fun and (hopefully) sunny day.



If so, please contact our Communications Trustee, **Paul Frost**, at communications@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

AROUND THE GROUPS

GALLERY GROUP



Several Sennockians attended the Memorial Concert dedicated to **Chris Dance** (1943-2026), held on 17th May in St. Andrews Church, Islington. The concert was organised by William Tuck, a member of Chalemie, a group of musicians, actors, and dancers who enjoy performing early music, early dance, and commedia dell'arte. Chris had been a long-time active member of Chalemie, playing harpsichord and other keyboard instruments, hence their performance of the memorial concert, in which we were treated to a programme of songs and music by John Dowland (1563-1626). Chris was also an active member of u3a, and supported the Great Comp Music Festival, the Sevenoaks Music Club, and the Arts Society Sevenoaks.

It was heartening to meet so many other people who knew and had enjoyed his company. There was cake and fizz in his honour.



CYCLING GROUP



After leading the u3a Cycling Group for the past ten years, **Patrick Pascall** has reluctantly decided to hang up his cycle clips, dispense with his lycra and retire.

Patrick was one of four founder members who set off on the group's inaugural ride in February 2011, famously remembered for being stranded with a puncture (Patrick's!) on top of the North Downs with the weather worsening and the skies darkening. Happily all survived to ride another day!

As a result of Patrick's wise and efficient leadership, group membership has risen to over 20 members with a mix of both electric and mechanical bikes.

Thanks to Patrick the group is established to provide both physical and social benefits to members and continues to grow from strength to strength.

He will be missed, but will hopefully join the group for the odd pub lunch.

Two groups got together on the last ride organised by Patrick to pay homage to the spot where he had his first u3a puncture.

Following Patrick's retirement anyone interested in joining the u3a Cycling Group should contact **Guy Hollamby** on cycling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

BEER GROUP

The BEER Group is really building a great, friendly atmosphere at our monthly pub meetings.

We met at The Sennockian on Wednesday 13th May for a lunchtime drink and food. The scaffolding outside did not make it look very inviting but inside we found a circular table which all eight of us could sit round. This gave us the chance to talk as a group and come up with a number of suggestions for future BEER get togethers.

This may include visits to:-

- The villages of Eynsford and Shoreham – both of which have a number of good country pubs
- An evening at the award winning Cotton Mill – a micro pub in Swanley – just Google it to see how interesting it looks
- A walk along the Thames from Putney Bridge to Chiswick which has a number of good water side pubs to try out – it is hoped we will get to Putney by the Uber Thames Ferry from Embankment and return on the tube
- A trip to Lakedown Brewery in Burwash near Mayfield – owned by Roger Daltrey of The Who – with beer, wine, food and maybe live music!!
- Visits to the old Young's Brewery and Fuller's Brewery.



Oh yes, we enjoyed the selection of beer and the low prices at Wetherspoon's but the best part was our friendships building up over a good pint of ale.

If you are interested in joining us then please do get in touch.

Chris Stewart beer@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SCIENCE GROUP

Our May talk was given by Lawrence Pater and Andrew Bridger-Smart of the Kent Fire Investigation Service. They presented a talk, including video clips of fires they had investigated in the Kent area, on the causes of fires in domestic environments and some measures that can reduce the risks. In addition, the Sevenoaks Fire Team, who were on call, attended with their fire engine. The Sevenoaks team wanted to publicise the service they offer to homeowners and offered to undertake home inspections to check fire detectors, provide advice on fire risks in the home, and, where necessary, supply additional detectors free of charge. Several of our members signed up for this service.



The 11th May presentation concluded our 2025–26 season of science talks, and we reconvene on 12th October with a further range of engaging speakers. These will be advertised in future newsletters and on our website. If you wish to help our science team, or join our science discussion group, please get in touch.

Bob Ruffles for the Science Committee

science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Next sessions:- 27th May, 10th June and 24th June

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 arrive by 9.40).

Our last two sessions have had 14 and then 21 players, so numbers are quite variable at present.

Our most recent winner was Bridget Storrer. Apologies to the previous winner — I have mislaid the scorecard!

New members are always welcome. We are an “open” group so new players can simply come along on the day. We play ACOL in a Chicago format, so you do not need to come with a partner or to attend every time. We change partners every four hands so you experience playing with four — or occasionally five — different people during the morning.

We like people to be of at least an intermediate standard and to know the standard ACOL bids and responses. We can supply a basic ACOL bidding crib sheet to anyone who thinks they might be a bit rusty.

For more information, please email **John and Sue Christy** at bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

PHONES, TABLETS & COMPUTERS

The PTC Group will not be holding any more monthly meetings until October, but there will be one final visit to Sevenoaks School on 18th June for members to benefit from one to one tuition by the pupils. These visits will resume in September when the school returns from its summer break. Any member wishing to join this visit should send an email to computing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk, and I will send a copy of the joining information.

Mike Davies

PICKLEBALL

This new group is continuing to meet on a **Monday morning** at the **Weald Church Hall**, and would welcome some more players. The **cost is £7 per session**.

To learn more about why everybody is talking about pickleball, please visit our group page at https://sevenoaks.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/pickleball/

If you're interested in playing, contact **Tim Carter**, the **Group Organiser**, at pickleball@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.



Pickleball gives you 5 powerful habits

- 1. One to keep you active.**
Every match improves movement, balance, and energy — fitness becomes fun instead of work.
- 2. One to sharpen your mind.**
Strategy, quick reactions, and smart shot choices train your brain every game.
- 3. One to build friendships.**
Pickleball connects people of all ages through teamwork, laughter, and competition.
- 4. One to reduce stress.**
A few rallies can clear your mind and bring calm after a busy day.
- 5. One to keep life exciting.**
Learning new skills and improving your game keeps you motivated and confident.

Pickleball Passion

DIARY

Sat, 30th May, 09.30 – 16.00	Health and Wellness Fair	Wed, 10th June, 09.45	Bridge For Pleasure
Wed, 24th June, 09.45	Bridge For Pleasure	Wed, 24th June, 14.00	2026 AGM and Monthly Meeting