



News from Knole

No 82 January 2023

Knole U3A can be found at—<http://www.knoleU3A.org.uk>

Chairman's Notes

At the Committee meeting earlier this month, the Trustees formed a small sub-committee in order to work out a schedule for finding new Officers (Treasurer and Chairman) ahead of the AGM and so avoid the threat of closure of Knole U3A. The team consist of Bryan Rawlins, Harry Reeves and Magda Sweetland.

The schedule is set out in the next column. We are also drawing up a list of duties for each post so that members have a clear idea of what is involved. It goes without saying that past holders of office are ready to help newcomers during the learning process. There are many layers of assistance in the U3A - National Office, the Kent Network -with 30 contributors - plus the Knole committee and the members of the Group Support teams: all are keen to see this U3A prosper.

We are putting time aside to talk to possible nominees, so if you are interested in putting your nomination forwards, please get in touch with the Chairman or Treasurer (Richard Clout, 01732 742716 treasurer@knoleu3a.org.uk)

Could the Group Contacts please raise this within their individual study groups. Everyone enjoys their activities and so we must strive to maintain the range of topics that we currently offer.

Magda Sweetland

Magda Sweetland
Chairman Knole U3A
01732-461901
Chairman@knoleU3A.org.uk

Timetable for Finding New Trustees

January 2023

1. Advise members that the **Chairman** and **Treasurer** will be stepping down at the AGM in June.
2. Ask for nomination from members who can fulfil these roles
3. Advise in the January newsletter and again at the Monthly meeting.

February

1. Remind members that we are looking for nominations for the positions of **Chairman** and **Treasurer**
2. Ask members to nominate others capable of doing these jobs that can be approached by the committee.

March

Advise members at March monthly meeting that nominations are still needed and to speak to members in their group if they are able help out.

Stress that the organisation cannot operate without these positions being filled.

April

Chase members for nominations otherwise an EGM will be called in May to ask for guidance as to how to operate from June.

May

Hold an EGM in place of the normal monthly meeting.

June

Close Knole u3a at the AGM unless members are prepared to fill these positions on the day.

Signed: Bryan Rawlins, Harry Reeves, Magda Sweetland

Monthly Meetings

23rd January: No Meeting – New Year Celebration

27th February: **Medicinal Plants in Wartime and how wild flowers are still a source of life saving medicines**

This is a talk by one of our own members **Dr Alan Heyes**. His talk tells the fascinating story how we maintained a supply of medicines in wartime thanks to our wildflowers and the community effort to collect them. Alan's talk also explains how plants are still important for creating today's medicines with a few examples.

27th March: **Medicines sans Frontieres**

The work of MSF bringing medical aid to conflict and disaster zones around the world.

Coffee Mornings – Important Notice

Unfortunately, we are again looking for somewhere to have our monthly coffee mornings and will update everyone asap.

News from the Groups

London Studies 4



We had a most enjoyable private tour with an excellent guide of The Charterhouse. A hidden gem between Barbican and Farringdon.

It has been a monastery, private house, school and almshouses. We would recommend this unique ancient building, covering seven centuries and full of interest, to other groups.

www.thecharterhouse.org

Birdwatching



The hardy birdwatchers have braved the elements to continue their successful searches, most recently to Oare Marshes in November and Conyer Creek in December. We were accompanied by wardens from Bird Wise, making our visit so much more interesting. We have been rewarded by clear observations of a remarkable number of species, 32 at Oare Marshes including a wonderful display by a water rail, preening and probing for food before our hide.

We meet on 2nd Friday of each month, and are happy to hear from members who may be interested to join us.

birdwatching@knoleu3a.org.uk or telephone 01732 460307

London walks 1

London walks 1 is re-established and continues with some of our original cast and several new members. We meet on 3rd Wednesday of each month and follow a route planned by a member of the group, usually meeting at one of the London rail termini. Our recent walks have included parts of the Thames path (north bank) to Canary Wharf and to Battersea Power Station (south bank), around Barnes, and exploring Brixton. We learn about what we are seeing as we go along.

Our January meeting will be planning for the coming year, and our explorations will resume in February. If you would like to join our group, please contact londonwalks1@knoleu3a.org.uk or telephone 01732 460307

Table tennis Groups 1,2 and 3

The table tennis groups continue to be popular. We meet at Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday mornings weeks 1-4 and Friday afternoons weeks 1 & 3 only. We are groups of players of mixed ability, and the emphasis is to have fun, whilst benefitting from the physical and mental exercise. Particularly on a Friday the hall seems to resound with laughter!

If you would like to join one or more of the groups, please contact tabletennis@knoleu3a.org.uk or telephone 01732 460307 in the first instance.

Science for All

The talk on Thursday 2nd February is by **Nick Donaldson** who is the Professor of Neuroprosthesis Engineering at University College London. The title of his talk is "Treating Spinal Cord injury by Biomedical Engineering methods".

Details of all our talks are sent to all members of Knole around two weeks before each meeting. Future meetings will include a talk about Science in Architecture – "A wing and a prayer", the role of Models in Science, and the hunt for the source of cholera infection in Victorian London.

We welcome any suggestions for future talk topics, especially members prepared to come along and give one!

The Science for All talks are open to every member of Knole. Our talks are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at Sevenoaks Weald Memorial Hall, Long Barn Road, Sevenoaks Weald, TN14 6PT. Entry £2 to help pay for the hire of the hall.

Alan Heyes
science@knoleu3a.org.uk

MOT3

In December we visited The View at West Kent College for lunch and the restaurant was very festively decorated. There was a soup lunch on 8th December and we should have had Crash into Christmas at Sevenoaks School on 12th but the snow came and the school closed and the concert was cancelled and the only other thing we did was a visit to the Beefeater and Oast on 16th. There is not a huge amount planned for January but we did go to The Stag cinema on 4th to see 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody - the Whitney Huston story and Friday we are going to the re-arranged Crash out of Christmas at Sevenoaks School. There will also be our usual visit to the Beefeater and Oast and the soup lunch at Hollybush is on 26th January and is open to all. A guided tour of Covent Garden and a visit to the actors church has been suggested for later in the year.

London Studies 8

We met early January at Knole Park as there was yet another rail strike, but we had a good discussion regarding proposed trips for 2023.

First on the list is a visit to the British Library in February and we are well advanced with plans for the following few months. Just hope travel arrangements improve!

Historic Buildings

Unfortunately our plans for the last two visits in 2022 were not able to go ahead due to (1) a train strike and (2) snow and ice. However we had a planning meeting in January and have visits planned for 2023. These vary from visiting a Livery Hall in London to going to Brunel's tunnel and museum with some great country houses to visit in the summer.



Walking with Dogs

We have had a very good year walking with our dogs. Often in mud and a bit of rain. We have one dog that cannot pass puddles without taking a dip. Decembers walk was one of my favourite starting from the Crown pub car park Shoreham, to do a circular walk, returning a couple of hours later for a excellent lunch. The dogs are always very good curling up under the table with the hopes someone may drop something tasty.

We took this opportunity to plan our future walks. The second Friday of every month throughout 2023. If you would like to join us with your dog or if you just like the company of dogs and a good walk please email me. Janet Turtell
'walkwdogs@knoleu3a.org.uk

Groups with Vacancies

Gallery Studies 1

We now have a few spaces available for any members interested in Art History and visiting London art galleries. We alternate our visits with meetings in member's houses to discuss what we have seen and what we are planning to see. Members take it in turns to review an exhibition and then present this information to the group before we visit.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Please contact me if you are interested.
Jean Heyes (Group Contact)
Email: gallery1@knoleu3a.org.uk

Kent History

This group studies Kent's socio-economic and industrial heritage through researching a wide range of topics. The format of the meetings is that one or two members research a chosen subject and then give a talk to the group, followed by discussion. It is hoped to organise a few field visits in the summer months.

Recent talks have included Kent during the Napoleonic War, and Penshurst Airfield, and the Churches of Romney Marsh. Future talks include Kentish Locomotives with a story, Kent's Ancient Monuments, and the life and work of a local photographer.

We meet the first Wednesday afternoon between 2-4pm at Holmesdale Bowls Club.

We have room for a few more members and if you are interested in joining us and undertaking history research, please contact Alan Heyes
Email:kenthistory@knoleu3a.org.uk

London Studies 5

We meet on 3rd.Thursday of the month and visit interesting places in London, normally followed by Lunch at a suitable hostelry.

Previous visits include – Middle Temple, Eel Pie Island Museum and tour, William Morris Gallery, Drapers Hall, Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Email if you would like to join us.

Londonstudies5@knoleu3a.org.uk

Group Closing

Digital Manipulation

After 16 years of dedication and hard work, on passing her specialist knowledge of Digital Manipulation, Janet Austin has decided not to continue.

We are sure that many members have benefitted from her tuition, and we sincerely thank Janet for all she has achieved.