



News from Knole

No 83 March 2023

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

Chairman's Notes

The committee is pleased to confirm that two members have come forward to share the work of Chairman. They are Debbie Magness and Jacque Martin, both of whom have been members for many years, while each has been the contact for more than one Study Group. Best of all they know each other well! They will be known as Co-Chairmen, a variation favoured by National Office.

Cheering as this is, we still have to find a Secretary and Treasurer to meet the requirements of the charity. Brian Rawlins, leader of the Group Support Team, has worked out a job description for both roles and will email a copy to anyone who is interested.

golf@knoleu3a.org.uk

Don't forget, the current committee members will help with the 'running in' period and it is quite acceptable to job share between friends, or with husband and wife.

The Knole Handbook 2023 is now posted on the website - as advertised by Jean Zariffis - and we will email a digital copy to members shortly. Hard copies should be ready for distribution quite soon. We intend to circulate them at the Coffee Mornings and Monthly Meetings. In the day of the computer, it hardly seems wise to pay postage for hard copies.

Magda Sweetland

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Monthly Meetings

27th March: Medicines sans Frontieres

The talk will describe the work of MSF in bringing medical aid to conflict and disaster zones around the world. The speaker is Dr Bernadette Rooney, who has worked for MSF in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Not to be missed!
Sevenoaks Bat and Ball Centre, 2pm
Coffee/tea and cake to follow

Monthly Coffee Mornings – Back to the Future

We are pleased to announce that our Monthly Coffee Meetings (2nd.Thursday of the month) are back at the **Miller and Carter, Amherst Hill, Riverhead, Sevenoaks. TN13 2EN.**

Please note: **Starts at 11am**
Remember to register your car inside



News from the Groups

Garden Group

We braved the elements at the end of January and on a cold but sunny day visited Knowle Hill Farm in Ulcombe to see the snowdrops. So lovely to see the first flowers of the year.

In February we had Simon Sutcliffe from How Green Nursery in Hever come to talk to us about how he and his team prepare for the Chelsea Flower Show.

He doesn't sell plants to the public but does supply to professional gardeners and designers. He talked us through the process from the designer's brief to the setting up of the show gardens in Chelsea. It was a fascinating insight into how stressful it is to get thousands of plants just at their peak of flowering on judging day at Chelsea. Every year his long-suffering wife pleads with him, 'not Chelsea again!' But it is clear that his passion for his job means he can never say no. Who knew that growing plants could be so stressful?!

London Studies 8



Here we are on an enjoyable guided tour of the National Theatre, all observing their Health and Safety regulations!

Nordic Walking

Just to remind everyone that Nordic walking poles are not walking aids for the decrepit but exercising equipment for a total body work out for those who want to remain fit and healthy, like the Finnish Cross Country Skiing team, who invented them to use to keep themselves fit during the snow-free summer months ... Knole and Sevenoaks U3As have combined to give you an opportunity to benefit from the use of Nordic Walking Poles. Please contact Ian Galletti, the Knole U3A group leader, to take part, or for more information:

nordicwalking@knoleu3a.org.uk

MOT3

We were not very busy in January, but we did go to see 'Crash Out of Christmas' in the Pamoja Hall which had been re-scheduled because of the snow in December. We also went to the cinema and enjoyed our soup lunch. In February we have been to The Beefeater and The Oast to see Oedipus. Plus, we visited Sevenoaks School to see a play 'Alone in Berlin' in the Sackville Theatre performed by the students which we really enjoyed. There are some events on in the Pamoja Hall which are free and a varied programme of Streamed Opera and Ballet, also classical music, jazz and talks open to the public. On 1st March we went to The Beefeater and The Oast and are planning to go to The Mall Gallery to see the Francis Salvesen exhibition 'The joys of being British' which is only on between 13th and 18th March. Visits are also planned for a Big Band concert at Sevenoaks School, and the final soup lunch of the season at Bite Size (formerly the Stag Theatre company). Also an evening with two courses and two plays at the village hall Platt. Future events are a visit to Kings Cross and Camden Place Chislehurst.

Film Group

The Film Group is still thriving. Our March film is Oranges and Sunshine followed in April by Gifted Hands.

Science for All Group



The group organised a technical visit to the Observatory at University College London in North London in early March. The Observatory visit followed on from a talk about Stars and the Milky Way from a UCL Research Fellow at its December 2022 meeting by Dr Kate Pattle. The visit by 11 of our members, included a detailed tour of the four telescopes at the Observatory, but unfortunately a cloudy sky prevented any star gazing.

The April talk on the Role of Models in Science, is by Dr Paul Parham, a teacher of Mathematics and Deputy Head of Department at Sevenoaks School. Paul has published widely on the topic of modelling infectious diseases, particularly mosquito-borne diseases and the potential impact of climate change on their transmission.

The "Science for All" meetings is an open group with all U3A members able to attend the talks. The next meeting is on Thursday 6 th April at 2.30pm. The meetings are held at Sevenoaks Weald Village Memorial Hall.

TAT Summer School

This year the Third Age Trust has decided not to run any summer schools of its own and Rob White, a Sevenoaks member, was asked to draw up a list of schools organised by the local regions, networks and individual u3as.

In case you do not receive Third Age Matters magazine, we would like to draw your attention to this list of 2023 Summer Schools published in the February edition of TAM.

Most schools allow attendance from any u3a member and contact details for each school are given in the article.

Our own South East Region School at Chichester is in its 17th year and will run from 4th to 7th September.

There are some 11 courses to choose from. Booking start on 17th March. the website is :- <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>.