

u3a Knole

learn laugh live



Chairman's message

I hope you've all enjoyed the wonderful summer we've had this year. I'm sure like me, many of you have had a particularly busy August with school summer holidays and grandparent duties. I am sure for many, you will be hoping the summer weather continues as you take advantage of the schools going back and will plan short breaks and holidays this month.

September, of course, means our annual Open Afternoon on Monday 22nd September at the Bat and Ball Community Centre. I know the groups have been busy planning a very enjoyable afternoon showcasing what u3a is all about. Please come along, it is such a good opportunity to socialise and see what has been going on in Knole and you may find a new interest. Please think about any friends, neighbours or family that you think might benefit from joining u3a and bring them along or tell them about it. You can always entice them with the tea, cake and a friendly chat.

We need your help!

At the last Committee meeting we discussed something that we would very much like to develop. We know that many of the groups have a strong social aspect such as the MOT groups, Lunch groups and Evening Dining groups and whichever groups you are in, friendships are formed. However, we are really keen to offer more social events for all our members. We would love to set up a small team to organise perhaps 3 or 4 events a year, these could be any number of things such as a fun quiz, an outing, summer picnic, I'm sure you could come up with lots of ideas. If you would like to be part of that team or if you have any ideas for social events, then please email me, I would love to hear from you;

chairman@knoleu3a.org.uk

Debbie Magness

Chairman



LS2's JULY OUTING

The London Studies 2 July visit on a very hot day was to the Sherlock Holmes Museum situated at 221B Baker Street, London, one of the world's most famous addresses.

According to the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, super sleuth Sherlock Holmes made this his residence from 1881 to 1904. His rooms have been faithfully maintained to give visitors from all round the globe an insight into the life and stories of the world's first consulting detective, and a memorable, authentic experience of Victorian London. It is quite a compact museum with most visits probably lasting less than half an hour. An impressive townhouse for a fictional detective.

The Group enjoyed a good lunch nearby in a well-known restaurant chain.
David Gould

LONDON Walks 2

2 ladies with impeccable taste (even though I say so myself) although not exactly the same style but the same fabric!

On one of the hottest days this year.

The walk took us around the Bethnal Green area dipping into a community garden and Victoria Park. With lunch at the young V&A where this pic was taken.

Thank you for a great walk Pene & Rosemary.
LD



Half Day Walking Group 4

We had a good walk around the Weald in August, there were indeed some lovely views. This caught my eye, the stark dead tree against the lush Sevenoaks ridge. I noticed the tree - very 'Ansel Adams', an American photographer who took photos in American national parks - particularly Yosemite - earlier ones in black and white. 'I go out into the world with my camera and come across something that excites me emotionally, spiritually or aesthetically. I see the image in my mind's eye. I make the photograph and print it as the equivalent of what I saw and felt.' Ansel Adams

Liz Sherratt and Pat Lowe



London Studies 1

Visit to the London Wetlands Centre
 On Wednesday, 30th July LS1 made a most enjoyable trip to the London Wetlands Centre in Barnes, SW13. Sixteen members of the group braved unknown territory and made it to Barnes Station from where we quickly took a bus to the heart of the village and then walked down to the Wetlands Centre. Time permitted that all important coffee/loo break before we met our tour guide at 12 noon. Before setting off on a most informative tour our

guide related the history of the 100 acre site: how it originally comprised four reservoirs which were developed into the present marvellous home for its bird, animal and insect (particularly dragonflies) inhabitants, some of whom are only seasonal visitors.

The day was mostly fine and it was a real pleasure to wander with our guide through an almost utopian paradise of reeds, purple loosestrife and other flora surrounding pools of slowly moving water (some very large) before ending up at a hide from which we observed the comings and goings of some of the avian population.

The visit concluded with members being free further to explore the site on their own or to find a suitable place for lunch.

Stephen Beard



LONDON STUDIES 1

Earlier in the year the LS1 group visited Bloomsbury noted for its garden squares (Russell, Bedford, Tavistock), literary associations (Virginia Woolfe, EM Forster, JM Keynes), hospitals (GOSH) and academic institutions (UCL, Inst of Education, SOAS).

Starting at Russell Square we used the information board to

learn of its famous residents: J Huxley, Richard D'Oyly Carte, Emmeline Pankhurst and poets Grey, Cowper and Emerson. Infamous residents were not forgotten, especially the one at No66! On the square is one of the few remaining Cabbies' Shelters, now used as a café. The square also houses the Weiner Holocaust Library and blue plaques to TS Eliot and Lilian Lynsey, the first woman to qualify as a dentist in the UK.

Unfortunately rain started but we managed to cover the history and unique features of the Russell Hotel, GOSH, and Coram Fields and plaque to Wing Comm Yeo Thomas (The White Rabbit) before we sought shelter in The Lamb pub famous for its "snob screens" which allowed the well-to-do drinker not to see the bar staff or others in the pub and vice-versa.

Sue Hurst



Current Affairs

Continues debating the latest news items. We would welcome 2 or 3 new members as we now have vacancies. Meetings 1st Monday 1.30 - 3.30 The Slater Room, Christchurch, Sevenoaks. Contact David Small at currentaffairs@knoleu3a.org.uk



Mahjong 2

Would you like to learn something new or rekindle your past love for Mahjong? We're a relatively new group learning the basics & intricacies of this fascinating pastime. We don't score or bet on the games but have a good time challenging ourselves to find the best (& hopefully winning!) hand.



We have a monthly meeting at The Bell,

Kemsing on the second Monday afternoon 2-4pm each month & occasionally interim meetings at our homes for anyone available on the date.

We'd love some new members to join us- do contact me if you're interested.

Nikki West: mahjong2@knoleu3a.org.uk



MOT2

We continue to meet once a month and are looking forward to holding our meetings in a new venue from September. The summer has been quiet although we did manage to have a lovely time travelling on the Spa Valley railway including a Cream Tea.



Lesley Mitchinson

Garden Group

Members of the Gardening Group visited Sarah Raven's Garden at Perch Hill. Not only did they see wonderful dahlias, bought plants and Sarah's autographed book, had lunch and met Sarah!

On the 19 September - we are going to Merrimants.

Contact Julie for further details. garden@knoleu3a.org.uk



MOT 3 Have an interesting schedule ahead but first to comment on our guided tour of Hall Place which was very interesting and definitely recommended.

There were quite a few of our members on the u3a holiday to Durham which was a very interesting and varied holiday.

In August we went to The Churchill Theatre to see Death at Pemberley, visited the Bat and Ball Forget Me Not cafe and made bookmarks. This cafe is organised by the Town Council once a month 10.30 -12.00. They also organise a Chatty Cafe which is a new venture every Wednesday afternoon 1.30-3.00 at The Vine cafe. Everyone invited to come along for a chat and I went to the opening event.

We went to The Stag on 27th August to see Life of Chuck.

For September onwards we have quite a lot already booked. We saw The Roses at The Stag on Wednesday 3rd and also we have tickets for Inter Alia on 18th September at The Space, Pamoja Hall.

Two visits to The Oast, one for a play the other for a Sea Shanty singalong. A planned visit to Ramsgate to have lunch at the splendid Wetherspoons and a guided tour of The Ramsgate Tunnels on 29th September.

In October we are going to The Bob Hope Theatre to see Bromley Players production of Rent. The Churchill Theatre to see Inspector Morse - House of Ghosts and Sandi Toksvig and National Theatre screening of Mrs Warren's Profession at The Stag.

In November we are booked for another National Theatre screening of The Fifth Step also at The Stag so a lot to look forward to interspersed with a visit to The View and a Pie and Pint evening at The Kentish Rifleman. Marian O'Boyle mot3@knoleu3a.org.uk



Knitting and Crafts for Charity

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Otford Parish Council Office. Our group is mainly knitters but I can't knit! However, I enjoy sewing and whether you knit, sew or crochet you are welcome to join our group where we create items for charity.

Recently I sewed a number of quilted hexagon coasters in sets of 4 which will be donated to the Making Miracles charity "Handmade with Love" shop in Maidstone. We support other charities like knitting Teddies for hospitals and when charities have a particular item they need.

Anne Whiting

Contact Maggie Leighton

knittingforcharity@knoleu3a.org.uk



Science Group

Our opening talk for the new season is on Thursday 2nd October and as usual at the Weald Memorial Hall starting at 2:30pm. It will be given by David Robins and is on. Chemistry and the earth's vanishing resources

It promises to be a fascinating look at the rare earth elements that so many countries are fighting over at the moment. I do hope you will come.

Over time our costs have gone up so our entry contribution towards costs will be £2.50 per person for each talk this season.

Howard Dilley

Banking for Knole U3A

Our Lloyd bank account, where we can make payments electronically, is working well so we no longer need our HSBC account and therefore we will be closing it in a few weeks' time. Please could you all check any account for Knole U3A that you have on your computer and make sure it is just for the Lloyds account. The account details for the Lloyds account are:

Account Name Knole U3A

Sort Code 30-99-50

Account Number 59860763

Thanks Howard Dilley (Treasurer)

General Meetings

Bat and Ball Community Centre, Crampton's Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN
on the 4th Monday of the month between 2.00 and 4.00pm. Except bank holiday Mondays.
We don't meet in August.

Next meeting

Monday 22th September 2pm Bat and Ball

OPEN AFTERNOON

Come and meet the Group Contacts and perhaps join a new group

27 October 2025

delivered by David Brittain

The title of the talk is "Tax, Care and the New Guy".

The key points we'll be covering include:

- **Wills & Trusts – Ensuring your assets go where you want them to.**
- **Lasting Powers of Attorney – Understanding how they work and why they matter.**
- **Care Fees – Planning ahead for potential future costs.**
- **Sideways Disinheritance – How remarriage can unexpectedly impact inheritance plans**

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