

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

April 2011



SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A meets at 2.00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Community Church in Station Road, Sidcup

NOTICES

Reminders

To all members who were not at the March meeting

To all Group Leaders – if you have not given me an up-to-date list (within the last 3 months) of members in your group, please could you let me have one at the May meeting?

To all Members – please, please could I ask you to remember to let your Group Leader know if you will not be able to attend a meeting?

Food for Thought

As you will have seen from last month's Newsletter, Olive and John Mercer and José Steward have retired as leaders of their groups, and these groups are being taken over by Pauline Watling, Barbara Olney (Local History 2) and Frances Percival (National Trust and English Heritage). We desperately need more members to step in and take over groups when leaders retire so that groups do not have to close.

At present we are looking for members to lead the Armchair Travel and Play Reading groups; both were previously led by Frank Whipp who, sadly, died recently. The more groups we can offer means that more new members can be attracted and current members retained.

Thank you,

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator

Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee Indian told his grandson about a 'battle' that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil; it is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good; it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about this for a minute and asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee replied simply, "The one you feed."

Editor

The Passage

“The Passage” is a registered charity which helps homeless people in the area around Victoria Station and South Westminster. This area contains the UK’s highest concentration of people who are sleeping rough. The Passage offers a wide range of services, all year round, to meet the special needs of homeless and vulnerable people by addressing the issues that cause their homelessness.

I collect used postage stamps on behalf of this charity; if members have any, I am happy to receive them at our General Meetings.

Ann Harlow

① The Passage has a website: www.passage.org.uk.

Editor

Gallery

The Gallery page of our website is currently awaiting contributions from groups or people who wish to share photographs they have taken during their various outings or special visits. My contact details are given near the end of this Newsletter.

Webmaster

Kent County Show

Would anyone like to join me in going to the Kent County Show on Saturday 16th July 2011? We would travel by minibus, and the cost including admission is £33 if you own to being 60 or over, and £39 if you’re a young’un. Full payment must be made by Thursday 19th May and cheques are to be made payable to Mrs. V. Gosden.

Val Gosden 020 8300 0664

Marie Curie Cancer Care

By the time you read this, I will already have completed a 1½ Km (60 lengths) sponsored charity “Swimathon” at Sidcup Leisure Centre on Sunday 10th April. The Swimathon is a nationwide event to raise funds for the charity Marie Curie Cancer Care which provides free care at home to people suffering from terminal cancer and other illnesses. As you may recall, I took part in this event last year and raised a total of £840. Approximately £250 of this was donated by members of Sidcup U3A thanks to the sterling efforts of Annette on my behalf.

Unfortunately, because people were so generous last year, I was too embarrassed to approach the same sponsors again this year; this means the charity will receive only my own personal donation. Since this rather defeats the main object of the swim, I have decided to overcome my embarrassment and invite members attending the April General Meeting to donate to this worthy charity – if they so wish – by sponsoring my efforts again this year.

Many thanks.

George Murrell

GROUP NEWS

Ramblers 1 • Leader Annette Jansen



As the spring seems to have arrived, we decided to return to the Kent countryside for our March ramble. On the pre-ramble walk from Dryhill Country Park, Riverhead, we became, at first, quite lost, and then fairly lost. This meant that the proposed 6-mile ramble became well over 8 miles. Fortunately, I have two very understanding, and generally happy, members who share these treks with me. The problems arose because there has been a great deal of managed tree-felling by “euro-forest” in that area, and I now realise how much one relies upon the look of the land and vegetation for way-marking. On the day of the ramble we had only 5 members as most of the others had said that they were on holiday! We had a really lovely 6-mile circuit – too early yet for spring flowers – but the sun shone and there was very little mud. Of course, we enjoyed our pub lunch.

We would welcome more members to enjoy these delights with us.

Annette Jansen

Philosophy • Leader Bernard Catallo



Bernard Catallo and Val Gosden had the idea of starting a philosophy study and discussion group. Val invited interest at the monthly meeting, and this resulted in members meeting at her home at 2.00pm on the 3rd Monday of the month. The group is led by Bernard Catallo and it usually involves us watching a DVD about a famous philosopher, or school of philosophy, followed by a discussion about it. The subjects covered so far include ‘The Ancient Greek Philosophers’, ‘The Medieval Philosophers’ and the beginning of the modern period with Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz.

Subsequently, a second meeting was instigated on the 1st Monday of the month on the same basis – but using a different series of DVDs.

Roy Black

National Trust & English Heritage • Leader Frances Percival



Group visit to Somerset House and the Courtauld Gallery

This, the first outing of the group this season, took place on Tuesday 29th March. A handful of members enjoyed seeing the Nelson Stair, the Stamp Stair, the Fountain Court – although no fountains were in evidence – the River Terrace, and a statue of George III at Somerset House. In the Terrace Rooms there was an exhibition entitled “Enriching the Language of Furniture” which was very interesting – to some of us! This included a half hour video which provided insights into the making of some of the items on display.

We then visited the Courtauld Gallery, “an internationally renowned, small museum of art”. There we saw an exhibition of Victorian drawings and watercolours entitled “Life, Legend and Landscape”, plus its usual “unrivalled collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings”. There was a tantalising smell of coffee at Tom’s Kitchen, with tempting cakes to accompany the coffee, in the Courtauld Gallery Café. Fine selections of books, cards and gifts were available in the Courtauld Gallery Shop.

Ilena Harrington

Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



Our March music meeting was presented by Alan Griffiths and, although a recently purchased CD turned out to be faulty, the rest of his programme went very well. Alan chose to start with Rossini's Overture "The Italian Girl in Algiers" played by the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Herbert von Karajan, he followed this with Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Snow Maiden Suite" by the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Efrem Kurtz. We then played Leopold Mozart's Trumpet Concerto in D with John Wilbraham on the trumpet accompanied by the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Orchestra conducted by Neville Marriner. We then returned to Rimsky-Korsakov with his "March from Tsar Saltan Suite" by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by André Previn. After our usual break for refreshments and a pleasant interlude for chatting, our second session started with Robert Schumann's "Fantasiestücke", {fantasy pieces} opus 111, played by Andreas Haefliger on the piano. This was followed by two works by Frederick Delius – "Sleigh Ride" and "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring" by the Northern Sinfonia of England conducted by Richard Hickox. The last two items started with Prinz Ernst's arrangement of J. S. Bach's Concerto № 1 performed on the Gabriel Kney organ at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, by Michael Murray. Lastly, we had Dvořák's Carnival Overture played by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by István Kertész. This completed an afternoon of music which the whole group enjoyed.

Derick Johnson

i Gabriel Kney was born in Speyer-am-Rhein, Germany, in 1929. At the age of 15, he was apprenticed to Paul Sattel of Speyer to become an organ builder, and he concurrently studied organ and composition at the Bishop's Institute for Church Music in Speyer. He moved to Canada in 1951 to work as a voicer with the Keates Organ Co, and in 1955 he formed the Kney and Bright Organ Co to build tracker organs. He is now a renowned builder of pipe organs based in London, Ontario.

Editor

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



The starting point for our March ramble was near the Queen Anne mansions of Lullingstone Castle. We parked our cars alongside the Tudor gatehouse, having first gained the permission of its owner, Mr Hart Dyke. Upon reaching the preserved ruins of the Roman Villa, we had an enjoyable walk through part of the 460 acres of the magnificent countryside of Lullingstone Park – which had originally been a medieval deer park and the estate of Lullingstone Castle. We followed a way-marked route through beautiful scenery with oak trees of international importance – some over 800 years old – and the last part of our walk took us alongside the River Darent. We enjoyed lunch in the village of Eynsford.

Pat & Alf Cracknell

i Lullingstone Castle is actually an historic manor house set in an estate in the village of Lullingstone and the civil parish of Eynsford. The estate is mentioned in the Domesday Book and building commenced on the present structure in 1497. Henry VIII and Queen Anne were regular visitors to the Manor House. The Tudor gatehouse – one of the oldest in England – is believed to be one of the first to be constructed entirely from bricks. The manor has been inhabited by members of the Hart Dyke family for twenty generations.

Editor

Local History 3 • Leader Pam Kirk



In March the group went to Bloomsbury to look at the wall plaques put up to indicate where famous people had once lived. There are several kinds of plaque: those put up by the Bedford Foundation (which are brown), those provided by the former LCC and GLC, and those put up by English Heritage (now the erecting authority), which are blue. There was also a plaque put up by Camden Council to show where T. S. Eliot, the poet, once worked for Faber and Faber. We walked around Russell Square, Bedford Square, and adjoining roads close to the London University buildings and saw twenty four plaques in all. We recognised many of the names, such as Christina Rossetti and Anthony Hope, but we learned new ones such as Lord Eldon, the early 19th century Lord Chancellor who held that office longer than anyone else, and also William Hodgkins, who invented the stethoscope and who was a pioneer in the diagnosis of cancer. It was an interesting morning which deepened our historical knowledge. Our final plaque commemorated Hans Sloane, one of the founders of the British Museum which is not far away.

John & Olive Mercer

ENTERTAINMENT

Self Portrait

I've a frog in my throat,
And I smell like a goat,
But women still find me attractive.
Perhaps it's my charm
And tattoos on my arm,
That drives them to be interactive.

My language ain't posh,
And I don't often wash,
Even fleas find I'm not very tasty.
I've a cauliflower ear,
And I reek of stale beer –
My complexion's both ruddy and pasty.

I ain't what you'd call debonair,
I forget when I last washed my hair,
My teeth are all jagged,
My trousers are ragged,
But Oxfam may have a spare pair.

But, I think that you'll find,
When it comes to my mind,
It's focussed on much higher things.
It's not just my looks,
I've read two good books!
"Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings".

Ian Brydon



GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	Amblers (Group 1) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	John Harbert 020 8300 5361	Yes
	Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes
	Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Classical Music (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (2.30 pm)	Maureen Porter 020 8300 1628	1
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	German Thursdays (2 pm; not 3 rd Thurs)	Betty Deutsch 020 8302 6526	On hold until further notice
	Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
	Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	Pauline Watling 020 8300 3910 Barbara Olney 020 8302 4289	3
	Philosophy (Group 1) 3 rd Monday (2 pm)	Bernard Catallo 020 8300 8651	2
	Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30 am)	Annette Jansen 01322 522252	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
	Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10 am)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
	The Cathedral 2 nd Wednesday (2.30 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1

The above groups, unless I am told otherwise by Group Leaders, are the ones with vacancies. Please contact the Group Leader concerned in the first instance, and, if accepted, inform the Group Co-ordinator.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator ☎ 020 8300 4291

Why not start a new group?

If you are on the waiting list to join a full group why not create a new one and then advertise it in this Newsletter and on our website? It's not difficult to run a group and leaders of a full one can advise you how it's done.

PROGRAMME

2011

April	Mr. I. Bevan	Tudor London
May	Mrs. J. Bruce	Knickers and Things
June	<i>N/A</i>	Group Displays
July	Mr. C. Durack	Major Rowland George Hallam Shears, BEM, TD, G8KW, 1919-2009
August	Mr. R. Spiller	Entertainer & Comedian
September	Mr. A. Stockwell	Puppets, Piers & Pantomimes – 40 years in show business
October	Mr. J. Newson	Her Majesty's Crown Jewels
November	<i>TBA</i>	
December	Mrs. P. Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Vacant	
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
Membership Secretary	John Harlow	020 8300 3865
Speakers Secretary	Valerie Gosden	020 8300 0664
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Vacant	

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Travel Group Leader	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
Raffle Organiser	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Smith	020 8304 2305

Please either email contributions to me at editor@sidcup-u3a.org.uk or post them to me at 56 Crofton Avenue, Bexley DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

Please submit contributions by 3rd of the month.

WEBSITE

www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk

This Newsletter (including previous editions) may be read or downloaded from our website.

Afterthought

If you're not confused, you're not paying attention.