

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
NEWSLETTER**

April 2012



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

NOTICES

U3A tackles the Hertfordshire Way Walk

To celebrate the London Olympics, U3As of the Herts Network are walking the Hertfordshire Way – a 193-mile collection of footpaths which encircle the county. The Walk has been split into 17 sections, each to be walked on a specified day between now and 19th July under the co-ordination of a different U3A. The Walk began on the splendidly sunny morning of 8th March from the Roman Museum of Verulamium, just outside St Albans. Some 60 walkers set out on the first 11-mile leg, spurred on by encouraging words given by local dignitaries: the Mayor of St. Albans and a representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. Following the first leg co-ordinated by Ver-Colne Valley U3A, future legs will be co-ordinated by the U3As of St Albans, Dacorum, South West Herts, Chorleywood, Potters Bar, Borehamwood, Hertford & District, Broxbourne, Lea Valley, Ware, Buntingford, Stevenage, Cheshunt, Luton and Harpenden. More information is available on this website: www.hertsnetwork.org.uk.

Editor

IN MEMORIAM

Many of you will be aware that Norman Slaughter died recently. He was one of our founder members and served on the Committee for much of his time with us.

Two features about Norman come to mind when I remember him; one is that he said that he would like to become Chairman one day. Just before the end of the 20th century, he must have thought his wish was about to be granted. He was Vice-Chairman and the then Chairman was obliged to stand down on health grounds. However, Norman had been having treatment for a heart condition, and, on the day of our AGM, he had an appointment at the hospital. During this visit he was strongly advised by the consultant not to take it on because of his health.

On the other occasion, our speaker failed to materialise. What on earth do you do to fill the void at such short notice? Fortunately for us, Norman offered to give us a talk; I believe it was a talk about ballet, perhaps one in particular, I cannot remember. He spoke for about an hour and held the interest of those present. This is no mean feat when you have no time to prepare, have no notes, and must do it strictly from memory.

Thank you, Norman, for your time with Sidcup & District U3A.

Fred Green

GROUP NEWS

Local History 3 • Leaders Christine Withams & Barbara Savill



On 14th March, 16 members of the group made their way to the London Glassblowing Studio and Gallery. This very interesting studio is based in Bermondsey Street near London Bridge. The studio is a stunning place of sumptuous colours and beautiful objects designed by Peter Layton and his team of young designers. We watched the fascinating art of glassblowing and we were shown a blob of glass becoming transformed into an object of exquisite beauty. Peter has been commissioned by the Royal Society of Arts to design a piece of glass to coincide with the recent exhibition of David Hockney's work at the RA, and he showed us a beautiful vase which complements the vibrancy and colour of Hockney's paintings. The studio is well worth a visit – the members of staff were enthusiastic and welcoming.

Barbara Savill

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



The surprisingly mild weather we had for our March trip out was a bonus. We visited Burnt Oak, and, as the surname of Pauline – one of our group – is Watling, a visit to Watling Park just had to be made. The park is a fair size, has a stream running through it, some play areas, and quite a few trees, many of which were in full spring blossom and really lovely to look at. The town itself is multi-cultural, and several greengrocers' stalls had both English and foreign fruits and vegetables for sale, and these provided colourful and interesting displays. We were welcomed in both the cafés we visited, and we fully appreciated the lower prices available in this part of London.

Val Gosden

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



It was a beautiful, warm and sunny day for our March ramble. Thirteen of us started at the recreation field in Horton Kirby and made our way across several fields, over the Dartford Road, and beside some very large commercial greenhouses until we reached Farningham Wood. The directions advised that the path could be very muddy, but, in this time of drought, it was hard to imagine. We continued through the woods from which we had views of the M20 and Farningham Village. The path led us down past some rather large houses until we reached Farningham and found the path that led us back beside the River Darent to Horton Kirby. Being a slightly longer walk than usual, most people felt a sense of achievement, but we were all pleased to reach the 'Fighting Cocks' for lunch.

Mary Webb & Shirley Rozier

GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30am)	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes
	Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook (co-ordinator only) 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Classical Music (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (2.00–4.00pm)	Maureen Porter 020 8300 6128	2
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon)	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	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
	Luncheon Club (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (noon)	Pam Kirk 020 8856 8372	4
	Play Reading 1 st Tuesday (2.00–4.00pm)	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30am)	Annette Holland 01322 522252	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
	Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00am)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
	Walking in London (3-6 miles) 3 rd Tuesday	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Yes

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 me, 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

2012

April	Matthew Jackson	Korean Spirit & Culture
May	<i>TBA</i>	
June	Mrs. Sandra Winter	Hand-Bell Ringing
July	Chris Hare	40 Years Without a Proper Job
August	Tony Farnham	Sailing Barges in their Heyday
September	<i>TBA</i>	Guide Dogs for the Blind
October	John Halligan	The Lord Mayor of the City of London
November	Derek Fulford	Antique Clocks & Watches
December	Pat Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
Membership Secretary	Margaret Scambler	020 8315 0108
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
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, Kent DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

Please submit Newsletter contributions by 3rd of the month – but at any time for the Website.

WEBSITE

www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk

This Newsletter (including previous editions) may be read or downloaded from our website; our annual booklet, Scambuster and help with computer problems may also be downloaded. Also available is an index of Newsletter 'Notices' covering the period April 2007 to this issue.

Afterthought

If you don't know the answer, confuse the question.