

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

April 2018



**SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A meets at 2.00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the
New Community Church Centre, 24 Station Road, Sidcup**

NOTICES

Special General Meeting

In order to conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission, it has been necessary for the Third Age Trust to introduce a suitably worded object clause into the “Articles of Association.”

As a result of this, each individual U3A branch is now required to amend their respective constitutions to include an agreed “Object Clause.” To conform with this requirement, a Special General Meeting will take place at the New Community Church, Station Road, Sidcup at 2 pm on Thursday 17th May 2018 (in conjunction with the monthly general meeting) to approve the following Committee proposal:-

Proposed Changes to Constitution

Delete existing Clause 2 Objects:-

- (i) To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and older people who are not in full time gainful employment in Sidcup and its surrounding locality.
- (ii) The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational facilities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in their interests of their social welfare.

Insert Clause 2 Object:-

The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.

Note: As our Branch annual income does not exceed £5000, we are not registered (and do not need to register) with the Charity Commission, but, in order to retain existing insurance cover, it is important that the proposed changes are approved.

George Murrell, Secretary

Committee Change

Please note that the Membership Secretary has exchanged jobs with the Assistant Membership Secretary. Lynn Plumer is now the Membership Secretary with Pat Andrews as the Assistant Membership Secretary. Contact details are on the last page.

Editor

Art Appreciation: Anniversaries and Exhibitions 2018

Explore works of art and music, their creators and context, linked to important anniversaries and to current exhibitions in London galleries. Join this lively and friendly class to widen your knowledge with opportunity to discuss what you see and hear.

Location: Learning and Enterprise College Bexley, 5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath DA7 4EZ beginning at 1.30 pm on 24th April 2018. There are 7 classes and each class lasts 2 hours.

The course fee £58.80, but, if you receive certain benefits, you may be entitled to a free course.

To enrol please quote the course reference C2419053 either online at wea.org.uk or by phoning 0300 303 3464.

① Photos taken during Ramblers 2 group's visit to High Elms Country Park, Farnborough on 27th March are available to view on our website. No report of the visit is available.

Editor



I am sorry to report that Ruth Nugent died in Sidcup Nursing Home on 17th March. In 2014, she returned to Sidcup, where she had lived as a child, and joined U3A. She was a member of the French Discussion Group, the Silver Surfers, and Classical Music. She had wide interests and her input was always interesting, helpful and unassuming. I will not be the only one to miss her warm and friendly company.

Ruth has donated her body to science so there are no funeral arrangements yet. The funeral is to be for her family only, but a memorial service may be arranged. Please let me know if you would like to be informed in due course.

Olive Mercer



Mono Photography Group • Leader Roy Morton



February – March

We have been meeting at irregular times and intervals both to photograph and view the various subjects. One of February's themes was "Winter;" unfortunately it was not until after our viewing morning that the snow descended upon us, but we were still able to cover the subject with general winter pictures plus results of our Docklands photoshoot.

London at night was our next project. We started from Southwark Cathedral then went via the wobbly bridge to St Paul's and Bank before finally returning via London Bridge. I personally took over 140 pictures of which, in my opinion, about 10 were reasonable. I could never shoot like this with film!

April's themes are to be "Spring" and "Markets."

Roy Morton

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



The Winter Exhibition Programme at 2 Temple Place, London was launched in 2011. This March, our group returned to see the “Rhythm & Reaction: The Age Of Jazz In Britain” Exhibition. The building itself was completed in 1895, and was the estate office of William Waldorf Astor. Marking 100 years of jazz reaching Britain, this exhibition explored the impact that jazz had on Britons from 1918. It also examined how Britons encountered jazz, and in particular how art produced in response to jazz represented or influenced perceptions of the genre. Film clips, music, paintings and displays of items including musical instruments and programmes all contributed to making this an interesting and enjoyable visit.

Pauline Watling

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Dear Book Readers, there is no book review this month. Owing to the “Beast from the East,” we had to cancel our March meeting. Next month we will be talking about *Tommy Glover’s Sketch of Heaven* and also *The Scarlet Lion* – two very diverse stories.

June Reid

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



March 2018 Wimbledon

A select (but magnificent) seven set off from Wimbledon Station and climbed up to leave the main, modern town behind. The ancient village and common lie on the plateau above. After struggling up St. Mary’s Road (originally called Hothouse Lane, because it connected Lord Spencer’s house at the top with the house kitchen garden at the bottom) we came to Stag Lodge – with a magnificent model stag (not just its head) at the top. The church has some interesting memorials and a huge tomb to Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the builder of London’s remarkable sewer system. We were amused to see a nearby obelisk was leaning precipitately and only supported by a wooden beam; a feat of engineering perhaps made necessary by the subsidence from Bazalgette’s underground efforts. Wandering along into Wimbledon village itself, it was all I could do to get the group past numerous shops, including purveyors of blood oranges which Pam needed for a cake (which she picked up on the way back). On we went then to the first part of the common, which you might be lulled wrongly into thinking was the full extent, but, in practice is little more than a village green with its pond and which is only about $\frac{1}{20}$ of the whole area. Many parallels were drawn with Blackheath (one of our other walks), not least because of the bordering of the green with some noble houses and King’s College School. Proceeding down the West Side, we also passed the pub, but it was too early to stop so we continued down Camp Road onto the golf course to find the site of Caesar’s Camp which is marked now only by a plaque. Back onto the main path through the common, we headed northwards to the famous windmill (not open till April). I must admit to surprise at learning that Lord Baden-Powell had written part of his *Scouting For Boys* here. Retracing our steps southwards, we were delighted by the “Fox and Grapes” pub because it was featured in my CAMRA guide. After lunch, we crossed the first part of the common diagonally back to the village and then through a series of interesting passageways steeply down to the railway line which we followed back to the station. Overall, it is well worth a second visit to investigate the Windmill Museum, the Village Museum, more of the common and perhaps more of the shops.

Trevor Ford

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leaders Christine Withams & Joy O'Donnell



In February, we travelled to Wembley Park and then caught a bus to the Hindu Temple at Neasden. A member had advised us it was always open to visitors. It is an amazing place and well worth a visit. Next door is a vegetarian restaurant and vegetarian supermarket. Anyone making a visit is better off using the Bakerloo line to Harlesden then the 206 or 244 bus.

Our March outing started on a dull, wet morning. We were not going far; walking across London Bridge would be our only bit of exercise for the day. It was hoods and umbrellas up! We decided on Weatherspoon's for our coffee stop as it is a good place to visit when one has time to kill. Some members got chatting to a man at the coffee machine queue. He comes every Monday to listen to an organ recital at St Michael's Cornhill, which we had decided to try. To keep out of the rain, he advised us to exit at the back of the Cross Keys and walk through alley ways. He also said we might like to use the toilets first!! There were 15 minutes of Bach, which was fine, but the next half an hour of Vierne was not for us. We felt there was no escape with a door at the end of the pew, so we stayed put. We noticed there were mainly men – one per pew! They nodded off during the quiet bits and awoke with a start when the loud pedal was applied. It was still raining when we returned via the alley to the Cross Keys for lunch.

Christine Withams

 Photos taken during the February visit are available to view on our website. This Hindu Temple was built entirely using traditional methods and materials and has been described as Europe's first traditional Hindu stone temple, as distinct from converted secular buildings. It was inaugurated in 1995.

Editor

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



On Wednesday 14th March, seventeen of us met at the Foreign Office in Whitehall, London. The Foreign Office is next door to Downing Street. We were met by a line of police vans and rigorous security due to recent events in Salisbury. Our tour guide was Graham Hollands, a resident of Sidcup, and for almost two hours he not only showed us around, informed us of the history of the building but interspersed his talk with humorous tales which left us all smiling.

What an amazing building the Foreign Office is! The architecture, ceilings and interior were such a surprise and I don't think anyone realised how stunning they all are. Thankfully, the building is now listed so cannot be changed without English Heritage involvement. We visited the Locarno Suite which was designed for diplomatic dinners, conferences and receptions, the Ambassadors' waiting room, Durbar Court and the main staircase. Our only disappointment was that we couldn't say hello to Boris as he was in a meeting! Most of us finished the tour with a coffee in the Foreign Office canteen – no surprises, a Costa!

George Gilbert Scott was appointed as architect of the Foreign Office in 1858. He saw the Foreign Office as, 'a kind of national palace, or drawing room for the nation.' Lord Palmerston was not impressed by a number of Scott's initial designs, but in 1861 work began when twelve feet thick foundations were laid in boggy ground. By 1868, the building was opened for business.

Carolyn Barclay

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am) 	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies
 Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (10.00 am)  	Roy Black  020 8302 9942	Vacancies
 Book Reading 1 st Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	June Reid 020 8302 7887	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	2 Vacancies
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 Mono Digital Photography Quarterly (approx.) 	Roy Morton rory.m2014@gmail.com	3 Vacancies
 Needlecrafts 1 st Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Vacancies
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Pat Laughton 020 8302 9984	3 Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Leader required	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	Vacancies
 Science 3 rd Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	2 Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Theatre Trips: Musicals   £	Sue Brooks 020 8298 1117	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30–9.30 pm) £	Roger Brown 020 8850 5362	Vacancies

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.

Trevor Ford  020 8302 7635 email: trevor.ford@talktalk.net

Why not start a new group?

If your name is on the waiting list to join a full group, or no group that specialises in your interest exists yet, you can create a new one and advertise it in this Newsletter – see the last page. It is easy to run a group and any current leader can advise you how it's done. Members of groups are reminded that they should always let the group leader know if they cannot attend a meeting, particularly if they wish to withdraw from that group.

 Not during school/bank holidays
 Temporary point of contact

£ A charge applies
 Certain seasons only

 Open to all
 Times vary

PROGRAMME

2018		
April	Colin Lomas ✕	Leonardo da Vinci – was he really a genius?
May	Paul Whittaker	“Music to My Ears”
June	Andy Thomas ✕	Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-Ups
July	Christoph Bull	Pocahontas – without Disney
August	Colin Pinney	“The Raven” & “The Ancient Mariner”
September	Michael Grillo	Two Kinds of Teardrops (Del Shannon & Roy Orbison)
October	Ian Waller	Workhouse Life – Bread, Gruel & Suet Dumplings
November	Janie Ramsay	What’s it Worth?
December	The Serenade Singers	
	✕ <i>The original speaker has cancelled for health reasons</i>	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Colin Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Carolyn Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Sandra Applegate	07717 020611
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Asst. Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
Speakers Secretary	Janet Lamborn	020 8300 1786
Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
General Member	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Raffle Organiser Jackie Burke 020 8302 7395
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 since this facilitates scanning. Please submit Newsletter contributions by 3rd of the month – but at any time for the website. Photos taken during group outings and events may be shared on the website’s “Gallery” page.
Third Age Trust: 52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB ☎ 020 8466 6139 www.u3a.org.uk
Greater London South East Network: www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork
London Region U3A: www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region
World U3A: www.worldu3a.org **Virtual U3A:** www.vu3a.org

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

After all is said and done, a lot more has been said than done.