

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

August 2016



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

News About Groups

Luncheon Club 1 • Leader Elisabeth Roberts 020 8300 6758 (1st Wednesday)

Darts • No Leader or point of contact (2nd Monday)

Can any member of that group offer to be contact, please, so that new members, *etc*, can access information? Please contact Trevor, Group Co-ordinator on 020 8302 7635.

Amblers 1 • No Leader or point of contact (3rd Wednesday)

Since John has felt the need to step down, it would be sad to see this group fold up. Would any existing member or someone else be prepared to take on this group, please? Please contact Trevor, Group Co-ordinator on 020 8302 7635.

Sewing Group (NEW!) • Leader Pat Laughton (pat.laughton@btinternet.com)

Next meeting is 9.30–12.30 on Friday 19th August in Room 3 at the Hurst Community Centre. There may be a small charge. If interested, just turn up.

History of Russia (NEW!) • Leader Val Gosden 020 8300 6064

Advanced news: starting in September on 2nd Monday, 10.00–11.30 am

Course consists of ½ hour lectures (2 per session) with a tea-break. Charge 50p per session. Please contact Val directly or sign up at monthly meeting.

World's Greatest Churches (NEW!) • Leader Val Gosden 020 8300 6064

Advanced news: starting in September on 2nd Monday, 2.30–4.00 pm

Course consists of ½ hour lectures (2 per session) with a tea-break. Charge 50p per session. Please contact Val directly or sign up at monthly meeting.

Trevor Ford

Around The Country

Weston Turville's U3A "Extreme" group has a self-imposed mandate to provide its members with opportunities to experience a wide variety of exciting activities even their grandchildren might not have tried. BloKarting has been on the "To Do" list for a couple of years, and unfortunately last year's scheduled lesson had to be cancelled owing to lack of wind in Weston-Super-Mare. In April, however, we had very suitable weather and two groups of 12 have been out on the sands at Uphill. It was a very exhilarating experience with some participants managing to tip on their sides they were so excited! The next major activity for the group is at Zipworld Velocity at Penrhyn Quarry.

GROUP NEWS

Wine Appreciation • Leader Roger Brown



WAGS dinner invitation

On Thursday 17th November, Sophie's Choice has been pencilled in for the WAGS dinner. The event is for members and guests, so we are happy to extend a warm welcome to anyone coming as the guest of a full-time participant. (Sorry, this does not extend to a free dinner, but does include free wine, as it does for all of us upon payment of the usual £3 session fee).

Contact Roger Brown on 020 8850 5362

Trevor Ford

Concerts/Opera • Leader Norma Balfour



3.00 pm Sunday 23 October at Royal Festival Hall. Tickets cost £18.00 per person.

Grieg – Peer Gynt and Piano Concerto

Mussorgsky – Pictures at an Exhibition

3.00 pm Sunday 11 December at Royal Festival Hall. Tickets cost £24.00 per person.

Christmas Classics and the Bach Choir.

Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693

Ramblers 2 • Leader David Wedderkop



Unfortunately, time and circumstances have caught up with some of us which means our group is now looking for new members. We are a sociable, lively group who all contribute to the planning and leadership of the walks, which are usually four to five miles in distance. The walks are usually in our lovely local countryside and we keep a good, steady pace. If you have a favourite walk and don't want to go alone... why don't you share it with us? You'll enjoy a day in friendly company with a promise of a well-earned refreshment at the finish.

If you want to know more about us please contact me.

Roy Black 0208 302 9942 email roy_black@sky.com

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Our trip out in July was to the National Gallery, where a temporary exhibition of flowers painted by Dutch artists was on being held. The paintings dated from 1568–1795, and, over this period of time, developments in painting style were evident; the earlier paintings were somewhat 'flat' in appearance, but, over time, they became more rounded and lifelike. All were paintings of flowers in vases, the flowers being both indigenous to the area, and more exotic imports. The artists took weeks or months to complete their pictures, but great attention was given to detail, and all pictures included butterflies, bees, or some other insect, and two even included eggs in a nest. It was an interesting trip out on a day when torrential rain was forecast.

Val Gosden

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



On 13th July we were lucky with the weather for our walk round the Covent Garden area. Starting in Leicester Square with the fine fountain that surrounds Shakespeare's statue, we also found one that commemorates Charlie Chaplin. Long Acre provided the site of John Logie Baird's first television transmission, and Bow Street has the former police station where the Bow Street Runners began. We also saw Covent Garden Opera House.

Many small roads we were not familiar with contained plaques that identify the birthplace of John Mallord Turner, and the site of the blacking factory where Charles Dickens, aged twelve, worked when his father was in the debtors' prison. Among numerous surprises, we found where the first *Punch and Judy* show was performed, two houses in the same street where Samuel Pepys lived, and where twenty-four year old Rudyard Kipling had his 'not over-clean' lodgings in Villiers Street, which, he says, was 'primitive and passionate in its habits.'

Olive Mercer

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for July was *Valentine Grey* written by Sandi Toksvig. This is a moving and touching story set in the late 1900s and Valentine, the heroine, is an engaging character. Having grown up in India, she is then sent back to England to live with relatives when her only parent, her father, dies. She pushes against the constraints of Victorian society and feels trapped. Her cousin, Reggie, is also a rebel at heart and is her only consolation in her new life. The book is well researched and portrays the plight of women and also gay men in the rigid Victorian society. Most of us had only a limited knowledge and general impression of the Boer War and the unfolding dramas were quite compelling reading. We all felt we had learned a lot about this period in our nation's history. Everyone enjoyed this book, finding it both interesting and entertaining.

June Reid

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



We returned to Box Hill, Surrey, following our walk there almost exactly a year ago. A small band of 5 of us met in the car park; so small, in fact, that we were nearly all in the same car. For the first half, we retraced our previous path, walking along the road past Juniper Hall Field Study Centre and then along to the base of Juniper Top. Here we began our ascent, stopping every now and then to breathe and take in the views across the Mole Valley. Once through the woodland at the top, we were faced with the rather boring prospect of road walking into the village of Box Hill itself. However, "The Tree" public house was able to satisfy our dietary needs and quench our thirsts. After lunch, we trudged back along part of the road to pick up the North Downs Way footpath. This mostly contours around the hill parallel to the road with a few ups and downs to reach the viewpoint. Instead of then making our way out to the NT café and the grave of Labelliere (who was buried head-downwards), we headed downwards steeply. Below, in the valley, our route across the River Mole was via the stepping stones with the river rushing between them where one of our number chose to cross via the bridge. Of course, this left us all on the wrong side of the river, but the road bridge, Burford Bridge, restored us to the correct side where we wandered across to the café-stall run by Reika's and had hot drinks to finish the walk.

Trevor Ford



EDITORIAL

Outlandish Projects: Maplin

By the beginning of the 1970s, there were seriously ambitious plans to upgrade south-east England's airport capacity and take some of the pressure off Heathrow, which, even then, was straining. One proposal was to build Maplin Airport at Foulness on an artificial island eight miles long. The development was to include a deep-water container port and a whole new town to serve it. Trial land reclamations began but the project, like so many others, was scuppered by the oil crisis of 1973. It marks the last hurrah of what you might call the "planned" era, after which Britain began to give up on large-scale infrastructure. Today's fevered talk of airport expansions, Boris Island and an estuary airport underline its failure.

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
 Classical Music 2 nd Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Vacancies
 Concerts/Opera Various dates and times   £	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies ↓
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon)  	Leader pending  needed, please	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs 	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	David Wedderkop 020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 2) 1 st Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Mary Hawes 020 8300 0521	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30 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 a group.

 Not during school/bank holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

↓ Notice on the board at meetings

 Open to all

 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2016

August	Barbara Stevens	Charles and Emma Darwin/Downe
September	Alan Ashby	Life-Saving Work of the Lifeboat Service
October	Kevin Reynolds	Walking in Kent and Sussex
November	Steve Roberts	Tales of a Scotland Yard Detective
December	Roy Bilham	Christmas Music (on trumpet)

2017

January	Martin Heard	The Gardens of Impressionism – Monet and others
February	Ralph Todd	The Natural Wonders of Iceland
March	A.G.M Joseph Woodcock	Springtime in the Garden

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
Asst. Membership Secretary	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Speakers Secretary	Janet Lambern	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: 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE (020 8466 6139) www.u3a.org.uk
 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

wrinkled isn't what I wanted to be when I was young.