

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

December 2010



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



NOTICES



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2011



Holiday to Maritim Hotel, Königswinter, Germany
Tuesday 6th September – Monday 12th September 2011

The Maritim Hotel, situated on the Rhine Promenade, has splendid views of the passing ships and the green hills with the Drachenfels {dragon's rock}. Each year there is a horticultural show called the Bundesgartenschau; in 2011 it will be in Koblenz {under 30 miles away}. The final itinerary has not yet been arranged, but there are many places of interest nearby.

The hotel has an indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, solarium, hairdressing salon, massages, and a cosmetic studio. Guest rooms have bath/WC, hairdryer, air conditioning, satellite TV, telephone with voicemail, mini-bar, and writing desk.

Cost: £519.00 per person. There is a single supplement of £42.00 per person.
Cancellation insurance, if required, is £12.00.

I will collect the deposit of £40.00 per person at the January 2011 General Meeting. Cheques should be made payable to "Airedale Tours Ltd/Clients Trust Account".

Margaret Platt Travel Group Organiser ☎ 020 8309 6395



Letters from Normandy

John Mercer, the previous chairman, has written a book based upon letters that he sent to his mother and the official War Diaries of the time. These sources are linked by his memories. It is published by Amberley as a hard back for £20. Copies can be ordered from W H Smith or Waterstones, or online from Amazon. Local libraries would stock a copy if asked.

Change of Email Address

Owing to the closure of my internet provider, please note that emails containing articles for inclusion in the Newsletter should henceforward be addressed: editor@sidcup-u3a.org.uk

Editor

Postal Scam Rears Its Head Again

Can you circulate this warning around, especially as Xmas is fast approaching? The threat has been confirmed by the Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office is making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). Do NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

Gay Braybrook

The Cathedral

A study course is to take place at a member's home on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, commencing at 2.30 pm. During each session we will watch two DVDs, each lasting 30 minutes, with a break for tea and discussion. The emphasis is on the Gothic style used in many cathedrals, and several foreign cathedrals are included in the course. Our studies will include looking at the buildings themselves, the sculpture, roofs, and colourful stained glass windows. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th February. Please contact the Group Co-ordinator if you would like to be part of this new group.

Val Gosden



GROUP NEWS

Local History 2 • Leader José Steward



The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

On Wednesday 10th November, 16 members of Local History 2 set off to visit this ancient building. At this stage in the report, however, I must offer abject apologies for not having walked the route before – it would have been much easier to have gone via the Victoria Embankment Gardens!

But problems did not end there: when we got to the Chapel (5 minutes after the appointed time), we stood ringing the door bell unsuccessfully for best part of 20 minutes.

Having seen a poster advising general opening times as being from 11.30am, I suggested we go for coffee and try again later. Four or five of our number decided to call it a day, but the rest of us crossed the Strand (midst thousands of demonstrating students) for coffee at Starbucks – at £2.20 per cup?

11 of us returned to the Chapel at about 11.25, rang the bell, and were greeted by a gent saying, “Yes?” Having explained that we had been there by appointment over an hour earlier, he was most apologetic; he hadn't checked his diary and had gone straight to the bank – despite my having confirmed the day before that all was in order for our visit.

Finally we were in – and what a magnificent building it is! He, Phillip Chancellor, the Verger, then outlined its history for us. The initial Royal Manor dates from 1246 during the reign of Henry III. It passed in time through the family to a Duke of Lancaster, who became Henry IV in 1399. Since that time, as part of the Duchy of Lancaster, it has remained a private estate of the Sovereign. It had a chequered existence through the ages, being in turn a hospital for wounded seamen and soldiers, a prison, and a military barracks. The original buildings were demolished in the 1830's and a Chapel re-built, using the same exterior walls, but on a north/south alignment rather than the standard church configuration of east/west. This building was in turn destroyed by fire in 1864, but was re-built, more or less in its present basic form around 1870.

The Chapel, as we see it today, located behind the Strand on Savoy Hill, was in 1937, commanded by King George VI to become the home of The Royal Victorian Order. Over the years it has become embellished with a re-designed reredos and a wonderfully decorated ceiling, lastly modified in 1999. The east, south and west walls have been panelled in oak, and now bear the armorials of the various members of the order. Those of the Royal family are situated on the south wall, behind the stalls of the Sovereign and the Grand Master of the Order.

Apart from Service times, the Chapel is generally open to the public from Tuesday – Friday, from 11.30 – 3.30pm. Incidentally, for Sung Services Mattins or Eucharist on Sundays, the Choir is supplied by St. Olave's School, Orpington.

We had a very frustrating start but a delightful finish, culminating with 6 of us staying for the mid-week communion using the Book of Common Prayer, which is very seldom used in this day and age.

Chas Owen



Classical Music • Leader Derick Johnson



Olive Mercer produced our November programme. We started with a very dark Russian liturgy by Peter Tchaikovsky sung by the Kiev Chamber Choir led by Mykola Hobdych and with Pavlo Mezhulin on the bass. This was followed by Antonio Soler's harpsichord sonata in D played by Virginia Black; this had a restorative effect after the extreme seriousness of the liturgy. We then heard the longest piece by far – The String Quartet in C minor by Johannes Brahms by the Quartetto Italiano. The last item before the break was the first movement of Johann Sebastian Bach's Cello suite No 1, The Prelude, played by Paul Tortelier. After the break, we had Franz Schubert's "The Shepherd on the Rock" sung by the soprano, Felicity Lott, accompanied by Ian Brown on the piano and Michael Collins on the clarinet. What then followed was Georg Phillip Telemann's Tafelmusik Quartet in E minor in four movements, and this was played by Musica Antiqua Cologne on authentic instruments and was directed by Reinhard Goebel. (Tafelmusik was originally intended to be played as background music during dinner). We then heard the first and second movements of Rachmaninov's piano concerto No 3 in D by the RSO Berlin conducted by Ricardo Chailly with Martha Argerich on the piano. To finish we had the 4th movement of Benedetto Marcello's Sonata for 2 flutes and lute in D minor played by René Clemencic, Vilmos Stadler, and Andrea Kecskes. This concluded our afternoon's enjoyment of diverse classical music.

Derick Johnson

Local History 3 • Leader Pam Kirk



Visit to the Jewish Museum on Wednesday 10 November 2010

After meeting up at our usual place at Charing Cross Station, a short journey by tube took us to Camden Town; after a few minutes walk through the bustling town, we reached the Jewish Museum, which is in a quiet side road.

The concessionary entrance fee is £6.00, but, as we were a group of over 10, this was reduced to £4.50 per person. The atmosphere was welcoming throughout our visit, with a cloakroom near the entrance for those of us who wanted to leave our coats and bags. We were taken into a reception hall where we were joined by a young lady archivist who told us about the various rooms and galleries that we could view. Our tour was not guided, but there were numerous assistants stationed at various points in the Museum who were only too pleased to be of help and answer questions. All the items on show were well labelled; some were very ornate and used in religious services, and others were rather more humble – but equally impressive – because some were all that remained of those who had been caught up in the Holocaust. The Holocaust Gallery itself was handled with great sensitivity, giving us life stories in film by both survivors and family members who had lost loved ones. The café downstairs supplied kosher food in very pleasant surroundings, and, considering the attention we received during our visit, we can have nothing but praise for those who made it so interesting.

Doreen Freeman & Gloria Stevens



ENTERTAINMENT

**An Ode to Christmas
(with a slight nod to John Keats)**

Season of gifts and eating to excess,
 Close bosomed friend of the local publican,
 Conspiring to create a wasteful mess,
 Of wrapping paper, broken toys, and trodden marzipan;
 Assail with noise the neighbour's tortured ear,
 And fill the church not entered since last year.

Ian Brydon

Puzzles

Here are some anagram peculiarities.

The Morse Code = Here come dots
 Mother-in-law = Woman Hitler
 Snooze alarms = No more Zs, alas!
 Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one
 Astronomer = Moon starrer

Conversation = Voices rant on
 Contradiction = Accord not in it
 Punishment = Nine thumps
 The Titanic disaster = Death, it starts in ice
 Christmas = Trims cash

The Public Art Galleries = Large Picture Halls, I Bet

Now find real and fictional people whose names are anagrams of the following:

- Old west action
- UNs said he's mad
- I marry loon men
- Heh smells crook
- Ascend in Paris
- Ten elite brains
- I lace words
- Aha, ions made volts
- I'll make a wise phrase
- Genuine class
- On any screen
- I'll crunch this now
- Girl idol, thirteen odd
- I'd murder any hills
- No, appear not on Elba
- Did color in a nave
- Creep brings tunes
- I answer actions
- Me, radium ace
- Angel of the reclining

SUDOKU

Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell below so that each row, each column, and each 3 x 3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

		1		8				
					5		3	
	7				4			9
		2	9					
6				7				8
					3	7		
9			6					2
	3		7					
				1		4		

Solutions next month



SIDCUP & DISTRICT **UBA** CROSSWORD

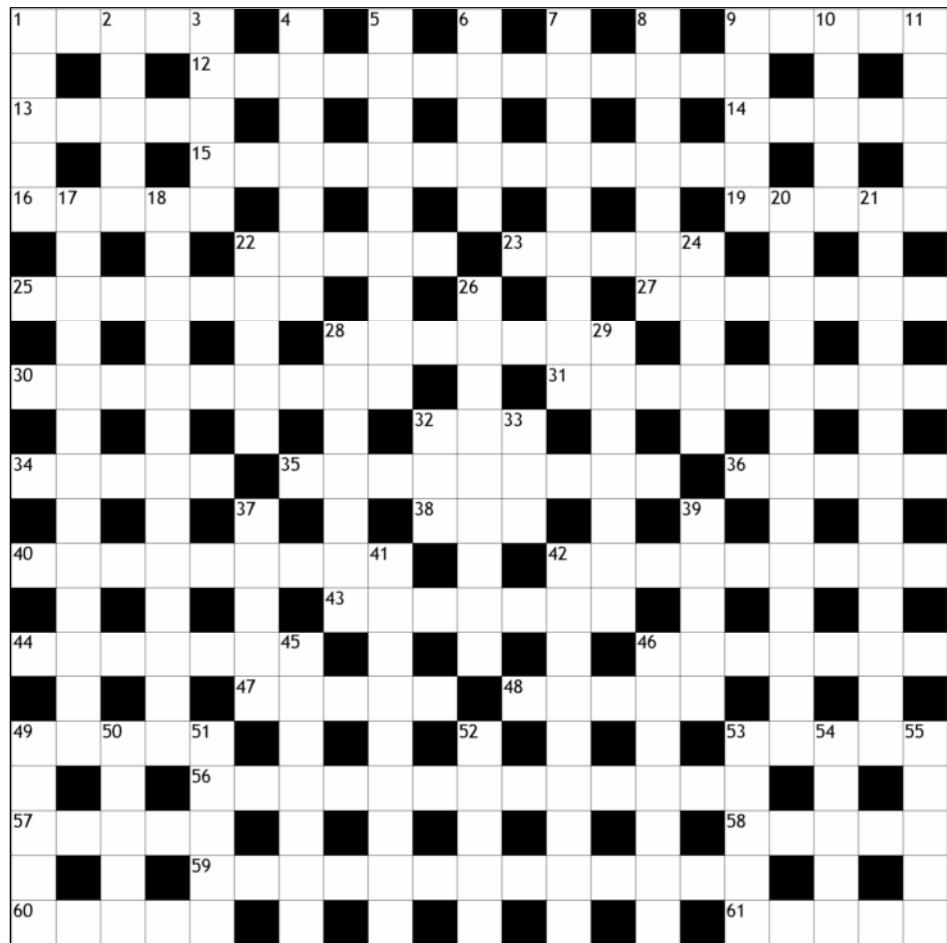
№ 2

Across

- 1 Fools about (5)
 9 Sorcery (5)
 12 Excessively touchy (13)
 13 Identical (5)
 14 Cubby-hole (5)
 15 Contractions (13)
 16 Indian lute (5)
 19 Expiate (5)
 22 Investigate (5)
 23 Pry (5)
 25 Peculiarity (7)
 27 Surrenders (7)
 28 Discusser (7)
 30 Drew (9)
 31 Halfwit (9)
 32 Jotter (3)
 34 Religious man (5)
 35 Comic verses (9)
 36 Canoe (5)
 38 Append (3)
 40 Non-military personnel (9)
 42 Zoo (9)
 43 Formed in thin plates (7)
 44 Piece of furniture (7)
 46 Refrain (7)
 47 Piece of information (5)
 48 Slip (5)
 49 Poetry (5)
 53 Shell-less molluscs (5)
 56 Chicanery (13)
 57 Ice house (5)
 58 Blue (5)
 59 Meditating (13)
 60 Circumference (5)
 61 Part of the calyx (5)

Down

- 1 Army vehicles (5)
















- 2 Crouch (5)
 3 Of the sun (5)
 4 Associates (7)
 5 Gathered (9)
 6 Bone of the ear (5)
 7 Gaps (9)
 8 Robes (7)
 9 High IQ society (5)
 10 Lizard (5)
 11 Thin pancake (5)
 17 Vague (13)
 18 Deviations (13)
 20 Moody (13)
 21 State taking over (13)
 22 Prepare mentally (5)
 24 Young animal (5)
 26 Dangerous (9)
 28 Stubborn (7)
 29 More perilous (7)
 32 Vegetable (3)
 33 Achieved (3)
 37 Repaired (5)
 39 Perhaps (5)
 41 Soaked (9)
 42 Indian princes (9)
 45 Inns (7)
 46 Pain reliever (7)
 49 Competing (5)
 50 Leader (5)
 51 Era (5)
 52 Gossamer (5)
 53 Problems (5)
 54 Seize wrongfully (5)
 55 Grow (5)

Solution next month



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/José Steward 020 8303 6372/07957 181808	Yes
	Antiques Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (10 am)	Martin Baker 020 8300 1752	2
	Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook/José Steward 020 8309 6372/07957 181808	Yes
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	Fred Green	Yes
	German Thursdays (2 pm; not 3 rd Thurs)	Betty Deutsch 020 8302 6526	1 (No beginners)
	Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
	Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	José Steward 07957 181808	3
	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
	Recorder Playing 3 rd Wednesday (2 pm)	Mary Hawes 020 8300 0521	6
	10-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 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

2010

December Miss Ann Carter A Celebration of Christmas

2011

January Mr. J. Halligan Paintings in the Guildhall Art Gallery

February Mr. M. Parkin The Story of Sevenoaks Market

March Annual General Meeting
Miss E. Turner In the Spirit of Shackleton

April Mr. I. Bevan Tudor London

May Mrs. J. Bruce Knickers and Things

June *TBA*

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 *TBA*

December Mrs. P. Mortlock A Country House Christmas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Annette Jansen	01322 522252
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Dennis Brittain	
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

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

