

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

December 2012



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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2013



NOTICES

Summer School 1

Harper Adams College, Near Telford. Monday 15th – Thursday 18th July 2013

Subjects include:

- Art of the 20th Century from Fauvism to Post-Modernism.
- Cinema History – Film Directors in Focus.
- Current Affairs – Political and Social Studies.
- Design Principles in Art – Exploring the element of colour.
- France – Regards sur la France actuelle.
- Geology – The Legacy of the Ice Age on the Cheshire/Shropshire Plain.
- History – The Golden Age of Rome: From Augustus to Hadrian.
- Poetry – “I saw eternity the other night”. Recorder ensemble playing.

Cost for a full board en-suite room: £315.

Summer School 2

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Monday 15th – Thursday 22nd August 2013

Subjects include:

- Architecture – Palladian Architecture in 17th and 18th century Britain.
- Digital photography – Artistic re-creation.
- Drama – Argumentative and Passionate.
- History – Fiction & Reality: “A passage to more than India”.
- Literature – Jane Austen and the English landscape.
- Music – Shakespeare & music: an exploration and evaluation.
- Short and Sweet – The art of the short story.
- Singing for pleasure. Theatre history – from the Greeks to the 20th century.

Cost for a full board en-suite room: £315.

Further details and application forms for both venues may be obtained from Third Age Trust, or downloaded from the Members section of the U3A website - www.u3a.org.uk.



U3A Explores Science

Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1. 1.30pm – 5pm Monday 25th March

There will be three lectures followed by Q&A session:

- Life-saving chemistry – Medicine beyond the molecule.
- The brain and consciousness.
- Are there really plenty more fishes in the sea?

Admission is by ticket only which costs £18 and includes refreshments; these are obtainable from the Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE.

Resource Centre

With effect from 7th January, the Resource Centre will additionally open on Mondays.

George Murrell

U3A Christmas Concert

Our visit to the Christmas Concert featuring the Delphinian Singers and Organ at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on 3rd December was a trip into the unknown for us. Neither of us had heard of the Delphinian Singers, nor knew of the existence of the Queen's Chapel. It was, therefore, a delightful surprise to find this chapel tucked away behind the Savoy hotel. It is a beautiful small church which is steeped in history and has been very recently refurbished, partly with a donation of over £1,000,000 from the Queen.

The Delphinian Singers were comprised of 12 vocalists, all of whom were remarkably young. The concert was in two parts, and before the interval they performed a wide range of music mainly from the Renaissance to the present day. In the interval, there was a short informative address about the history of this unique chapel after we had enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine. In the second half we heard more modern choral works interspersed with some good old fashioned Christmas Carols at which time the U3A members were in good voice! We came away having enjoyed the whole experience – especially the choral music – in such a beautiful setting.

Janet & Gordon Young

① It is generally believed that Prince Albert introduced Christmas trees; however, George III's wife, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, had made the Christmas tree a feature of life at court from 1761. In 1832, a young Queen Victoria wrote of her delight at having a Christmas tree hung with lights, ornaments, and with presents placed around it. The tree that Albert and Queen Victoria set up for their children in 1848 was depicted in the Illustrated London News and the custom, seen then as a Germanic importation, was adopted by the prosperous classes and thereafter became more widespread.

It is not illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day. Mince pies and Christmas puddings were reputedly banned in Oliver Cromwell's England as part of efforts to tackle gluttony. In 1644 he enforced an Act of Parliament banning Christmas celebrations. Christmas was deemed by the Puritans to be a wasteful festival which threatened core Christian beliefs. However, the ban caused discontent, was generally ignored, and then lifted after the restoration of Charles II.

Editor

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music • Leader Derick Johnson



Michael Jordan selected the programme of classical music for November, and began it with something that we all enjoyed – J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in C minor played by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Benjamin Britten. This he followed with Muzio Clementi's Symphony in B flat major performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Francesco d'Avalos. This was followed by the 2nd & 3rd movements of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 in D minor played by the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln conducted by Rudolf Bärshai. Michael finished the first half of his programme with Beethoven's Sonata No 14 in C sharp minor – generally known as "The Moonlight Sonata" – with John Ogdon on the piano. These last pieces were appreciated by all present. After the break we heard W. A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21 in C major played by Murray Perahia, which all agreed was beautiful. Michael then unleashed his surprise of the afternoon when he included Morgan Lewis and Nancy Hamilton's "How High the Moon" with Stéphane Grappelli on the violin. This really proved that music is often very enjoyable without having to place it into specific categories.

Derick Johnson

Wine Appreciation • Leader Michael Jordan



On Thursday 29th November, the WAGS held their Annual Dinner at Sophie's Choice Restaurant. Twenty eight members and partners gathered to start the festive season in fine spirit (and wine). There was even a message from the group's leader who thought there should be a government initiative to start a new course for the elderly – a Bacchuslaureate. After pre-dinner drinks, the group settled to some serious eating (naturally, with sufficient wine for even the most intemperate of guests – you know who you are!) The ambience was pleasant, the food and drink delightful and the company lively. What more could we want? We start our new term on 3rd January 2013 when studies will begin in earnest to see who can obtain A* in the new Bacchuslaureate.

Michael Jordan

Ramblers 1 • Leader Annette Holland



Following the recent endless rain, we decided to stay near home. 15 of us met at Eltham Park South in what can be described as a mist. Heading north over the footbridge, above the noisy A2, we were soon in Eltham Park North. These parks are a legacy from the 1930s, when, with so much new build in the area, it was decreed that there must be a Green Belt to preserve open spaces. From here you begin to get views over London – and we soon spotted the Shard. The woods were wet with a thick layer of leaves to trick walkers not paying attention to their step. We climbed 423 feet to Severndroog Castle – a 63 foot folly built in 1784 to commemorate Sir William James, who, in 1755, attacked and destroyed the island fortress of that name off the west coast of India. When he died in 1783, his widow had the castle built as a memorial. The views from the steps to the south are of London. We descended the hill towards Woolwich and eventually came to our lunch stop at Oxleas Café – "Eltham's best keep secret" as it is known. Here all 15 of us were speedily served with very reasonably priced meals or snacks of our choice. Very satisfied, we retraced our outward path back to our cars and home.

Annette Holland

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden



On Tuesday 20th November, six of us ladies set out, come rain or shine, not to London but to Westerham by bus. We caught the 269 from Sidcup to Bromley then the 246 to Westerham. We enjoyed the ride – a route most of us had not travelled before. Our first port of call was St. Mary's church, a very large and well-kept building with so much history. Its 14th Century font has been used to baptise several well-known Westerham parishioners: John Fryth, the Bible translator, who was burned at the stake on charges of heresy; General James Wolfe – victor of Quebec; Benjamin Hoadley, the controversial Bishop of Bangor; and Jeremy Bernard Soames – grandson of Sir Winston Churchill. The hanging sanctuary lamp – designed by a local artist craftsman – is made of gilded bronze and glass, and was commissioned and given to the church in 1950 by Clementine Churchill. The stained glass windows are stunning and have so much history attached to them. On Tuesdays the church holds a coffee morning so we were able to partake and talk to a member about our U3A and Westerham U3A. At noon the shop closed so we then spent a leisurely time browsing round charity shops and other shops which were packed with Christmas goodies – all tastefully decorated.

When it was time for lunch we called into “Tea Pot” café for a bowl of delicious homemade soup and hot roll with butter before returning to Sidcup after spending, what we all agreed had been, a very different but enjoyable day out.

Mary Huggins



ENTERTAINMENT

SUDOKU

Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell below so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

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

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

Across:

- 1 Manufactured (4)
- 4 Wounds (5)
- 9 Pressed grapes refuse (4)
- 11 Biblical character (4)
- 12 Belonging to males (4)
- 13 Happen (5)
- 14 And so on (3)
- 15 For a short time (6)
- 17 Hitch (7)
- 20 Long river (6)
- 22 Type of atom (3)
- 24 Suspicious (5)
- 26 Seize (4)
- 27 Sheltered (4)
- 28 Draw fluid (4)
- 29 Quantities of paper (5)
- 30 Duo (4)

Down:

- 1 Acts (5)
- 2 Move rhythmically (5)
- 3 Substitute (6)
- 5 Detective (3)
- 6 Computer term (*abb*) (4)
- 7 Thwart (5)
- 8 Certain (4)
- 9 Encountered (3)
- 10 Cattle herders (7)
- 16 Terminate a call (4,2)
- 17 Grin (5)
- 18 About (5)
- 19 Unlock (5)
- 20 Distant (4)
- 21 Towards the ocean (4)
- 23 Tree (3)
- 25 Cloth border (3)

BARRED CROSSWORD

1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9			10	11			
12				13				
14			15		16			
	17					18		19
20		21				22	23	
24			25		26			
27				28				
29					30			

ANIMALS: Hidden in each sentence below is at least one creature from the animal kingdom

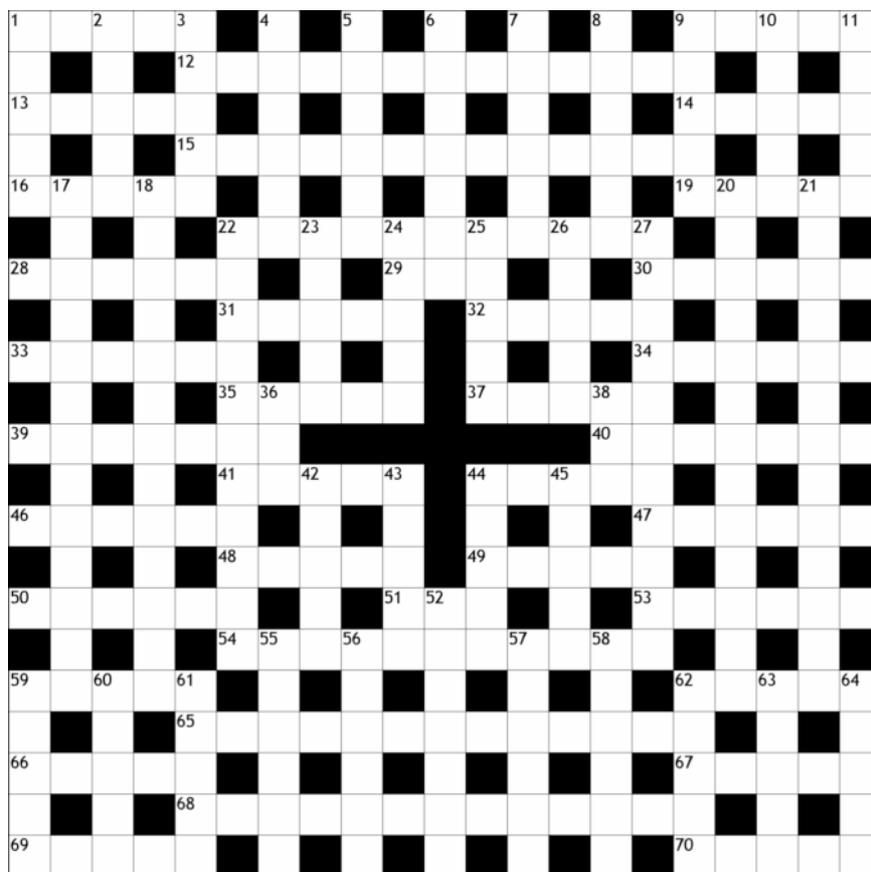
This must be art class. The man ate extremely slowly today. James will be especially tired after that game of cricket. A pear tree grew in their backyard. We can go at 7pm to the party. We came late because we got lost for a spell. Tell me if I should join the football team. It is nice to do good deeds for my friends. Why don't you use a ladder? Will a map help me find 5th Avenue? Take a soap and a towel when you go for a bath. I think Sarah will be a very good student. Most rich people have nice houses which are expensive. The Eskimo slept in a damp igloo. Air is made of oxygen and carbon dioxide. Jim was poor at football and would never pass to a team mate. Being not terribly good, Muriel kept coming either sixth or seventh in races.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT **UBA** CROSSWORD

№ 4

Across:

- 1 Smarten (5)
- 9 Talked (5)
- 12 Book of knowledge (13)
- 13 North American Indian wife (5)
- 14 Insinuate (5)
- 15 Type of cat (13)
- 16 Ribbons (5)
- 19 Atomizer (5)
- 22 Leader of singing group (11)
- 28 Bird (6)
- 29 Bird (3)
- 30 Mistakes (6)
- 31 Abundance of water plants (5)
- 32 Shelters (5)
- 33 Most coy (6)
- 34 Pawn (6)
- 35 Conscious (5)
- 37 Japanese dish (5)
- 39 Uncooperative (7)
- 40 Apprehends (7)
- 41 Dens (5)
- 44 Punctuation (5)
- 46 Gullet (6)
- 47 Short coats (6)
- 48 Layabout (5)
- 49 Proportion (5)
- 50 Gratify (6)
- 51 Comprehension (3)
- 53 Tell (6)
- 54 Timers (11)
- 59 Greasy (5)
- 62 Protégés (5)
- 65 Studier of the sea (13)
- 66 Devastate (5)
- 67 Cutting tools (5)
- 68 Amusement (13)
- 69 Fibre (5)
- 70 Hoarse (5)



Down:

- 1 Assume as a fact (5)
- 2 Supply (5)
- 3 Amphibians (5)
- 4 Burn (6)
- 5 Cephalopod molluscs (6)
- 6 Eat (7)
- 7 Waits (6)
- 8 Stick (6)
- 9 Prisons (5)
- 10 Car part (5)
- 11 Subtly (5)
- 17 Fear of spiders (13)
- 18 Painting style (13)
- 20 Accoutrements (13)
- 21 Validated (13)
- 22 Facts (11)
- 23 Greek letter (5)
- 24 Poem (5)
- 25 Bets (5)
- 26 Gripping tool (5)
- 27 Breathing aids (11)
- 36 Tiny (3)
- 38 Meat (3)
- 42 Gun salute (5)
- 43 Drinking aid (5)
- 44 200 milligrams (5)
- 45 Sporting contest (5)
- 52 Executioner (7)
- 55 Number (6)
- 56 Destitution (6)
- 57 Fissure (6)
- 58 Reverberated (6)
- 59 Behaves slavishly (5)
- 60 Journeys (5)
- 61 Country bumpkin (5)
- 62 Anger (5)
- 63 Tears down (5)
- 64 Weakling (5)

Solutions will appear in the January issue.

GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	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
	Book Reading 1 st Thursday	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	2
	Classical Music (Group 1) 2 nd Friday	Derick Johnson 020 8850 1245	
	Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) *	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	Family History Various days	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Yes
	Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	2
	Luncheon Club (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (noon)	Pam Kirk 020 8856 8372	4
	Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
	Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 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 me.

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 is not difficult to run a group and leaders of a full one can advise you how it's done.

* Not during school holidays

PROGRAMME

2012

December	Pat Mortlock	A Country House Christmas
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2013

January	Bob Ogle	Biggin Hill
February	Mrs. Austin	Honey
March	John Beckham	Birds of Rye Harbour
April	Ann Knief	Lola Montez – a 19 th Century Adventuress
May	Mr. Guerdon	Chickens
June	Paul Gourden	Age UK
July	Ian Porter	Suffragettes
August	Peter Gilman	Coastline National Trust
September	Chris McCoory	Rogues, Rascals and Rebels
October	Jack Wheeler	Japanese Gardens
November	Bernard Locket	Author
December	Jack Ripley	Max Miller & Friends

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

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.*

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

He who never fell never climbed.

