

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

December 2013



**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 2014



NOTICES

Committee Members

Anne Evans, having completed a four-year term of office, is no longer eligible for re-election as Chairman. Also, owing to a change of residence, Margaret Scambler will be resigning as Membership Secretary, and also stepping down from her post as Group Co-ordinator will be Christine Spencer. These are three very important posts so any member who would consider undertaking one of them, but who would like further information, is invited to contact either the present holder or any other member of the Committee. All holders of positions on the Committee are, of course, subject to election at the AGM in March and nomination forms will be circulated with the January Newsletter.

George Murrell

① The post of Social Secretary is still vacant for anyone who may be interested.

Editor

Membership Renewal

Renewal forms are available for collection at monthly meetings. Members who are unable to attend the monthly meetings are requested, if possible, to ask a friend attending the meetings to collect the renewal form from the Membership Secretary on their behalf. The cost of sending out the forms by post is prohibitive.

Thank you for your cooperation.

George Murrell

① A facsimile of the renewal form was attached to the back of the November Newsletter which can be downloaded from our website.

Editor

Japanese Garden

Following the very interesting talk given by Jack Wheeler at the October meeting, members have asked if it is possible to visit Jack's garden. Visits by small groups can be arranged – there is no fee, but a donation to the Eleanor Hospice is suggested.

Contact details are: Jack Wheeler, 22 Oak Hill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1NP, ☎ 01732 453842.

George Murrell

112

This is a bit of useful advice which has been verified by the Dorset Police.

112 is an emergency number that can be used on your mobile phone. It connects you straight to the police because 999 does not work if you have no signal. 112 uses a system called triangulation so the police can exactly pinpoint your location.

The following incident actually happened to Lauren, who was 19 years old at the time. It was about 1.00pm in the afternoon on the Saturday before New Year when Lauren was driving to visit a friend. An UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put its lights on. Lauren's parents have 4 children of various ages and have always told them never to pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but rather to wait until they reach a service station, etc. Lauren remembered her parents' advice and telephoned 112 from her mobile phone. This connected her to the police dispatcher whom she told that there was an unmarked car with a flashing blue light behind her, and that she would not pull over right away but wait until she was in a service station or busy area. The dispatcher said that there was no police car where she was and told her to keep driving, remain calm, and that he had back-up already on the way.

Ten minutes later, four police cars surrounded her and the unmarked car behind her. One policeman went to her side and the others surrounded the car behind. They pulled a man from the car and tackled him to the ground; he was a convicted rapist who was wanted for other crimes.

The lesson is that you do not have to pull over for an *unmarked* car; police have to respect your right to keep going to a 'safe' place. You should make some sign that you acknowledge them, ie, turn on your hazard lights, and, if you are in a position to do so, call 112 like Lauren did.

The mobile phone companies don't always give you this little bit of wonderful information. Please pass on to all your friends, especially any females.

Annette Holland

① Stories of this type have been circulating since 2002, but police confirm that incidents of people impersonating police officers in this way *do* occur. The emergency number 112 works on a locked phone, and both in Europe and other parts of the world; in many cases it operates alongside (or, as with the UK, redirects to) the country's own emergency system. It is one of the more useful things to have been born of the European Union.

Editor

**U3A Summer School at Harper Adams University
Newport near Telford 14-17 July 2014**

Subjects include:

- Ancient Civilisations of the Americas – Seminars with discussions.
- Canal History – Mainly illustrated talks with discussion and visits to Longdon Aqueduct and other local sites.
- Cinema History – Celebrating 100 years of Hollywood. Presentation of film extracts, interviews and commentary with questions and discussion.
- Creative Writing – Novel and life story writing. Working in groups and alone with tutor input, discussion, handouts and opportunity for individual tutorials.
- Current Affairs – Political and Social Studies. Discussion in small groups reporting back to main group for debate.
- Drama through the ages – Starting with the Greeks and ending in the 20th Century. Introductory talks, small group work and opportunity to watch/listen to recordings.
- France – Looking at aspects of French life. Good level of French required, ideally “A” level standard.
- Latin – A relaxing but fairly intensive introduction to the language enabling you to pursue further study on your own.
- Philosophy – An introduction to Philosophical Metaphysics. Short lectures followed by questions and discussion.
- Recorder Ensemble – Helping players to gain confidence in themselves and their playing ability.

**U3A Summer School at the Royal Agricultural University
Cirencester 18–21 August 2014**

Subjects include:-

- Arts and Architecture of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain – Visit to an arts and crafts property in the vicinity. Group discussion and sharing of knowledge.
- Digital Photography “Artistic re-interpretation” – Students must bring their own laptop with Photoshop or Elements installed. A mouse or tablet is essential.
- Drama “Power and Cruelty” – Study and act out scenes from Shakespeare’s tragedies and John Webster revenge plays. Mime and improvisation will be encouraged.
- Gardening – Exploring planting for all year round interest and colour. A visit to Botanic and Nursery gardens at Atworth, seminars and discussions.
- Literature “Women’s Voices of World War 1” – Discussion of texts from women writers recording their experiences during WW1 and the changes to women’s lives and expectations that resulted. Discussion in small and large groups.
- Music “Making Friends with the Great Composers” – An examination of a selection of the great composers: their lives, times and music. Lectures with recordings, questions, comments and discussion.
- Poetry “The Transforming Language of Poetry” – Discussion in small and large groups.
- Science “Light and Sound in Nature” – Exploring natural phenomena such as rainbows, mirages, singing sands and similar. Illustrated lectures, discussions, simple “hands on” experiments.
- Singing for Pleasure – Singing a wide variety of music from classical pieces and popular tunes to spirituals and folk songs with an emphasis of enjoyment. There will be sessions in unison and in harmony.

Fees, etc, applicable to both venues

Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation £285 per person (Deposit £75 per person).

Full details and a booking form can be obtained from the Third Age Trust ☎ 020 8466 6139.

**U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institution of Great Britain,
21 Albemarle Street, W1 Monday 24th March 2014**

A programme of lectures commencing at 1.30pm and finishing at 5pm. Subjects include:

“Bubbles: the bath and beyond” The contribution of bubbles to medicine, weather, taste and much more.

“The conversation racetrack” How conversation analysts work scientifically with recordings of talk.

“Biological clocks, lights and what happens in a cave?” How cells and tissues can detect light.

Admission is by ticket only at £20 including refreshments. These are obtainable from Third Age Trust on ☎ 020 8466 6139. Please note that tickets are limited and early application is advised.

George Murrell

Tea Rota (2014)

We still need 8 more volunteers for the teas – the Rota will be up on the notice board again. We would welcome any newish members to participate; it is only once a year and it's a good way to meet other members.

Please help otherwise we will not be able to have teas for those months without cover.

We still need someone (or two people) to take care of the teas overall – i.e. to adjust the rota when needed, check on the tea and coffee supplies and to hand over to our Treasurer the money left over for our Charity. I have been looking after the teas for 5 years now but I retired in May this year. Denise Palmer took over but she is now moving out of the area and can no longer deal with it. If no one comes forward then, unfortunately, the teas will have to be disbanded.

Gay Braybrook

New Members

The Committee welcomes the following new members:-

Kate Alderson, Teresa Cook, Alfred Ellery, Jan Leslie, Joanna Glinska-Reid, Sue Moore, Jan Sigsworth & David Wedderkop.

Margaret Scambler, Membership Secretary

Newsletter

Members who wish to pick up a copy of the current Newsletter from Sidcup Library should look in the newspaper rack to the right of the entrance; when unused copies remain after a meeting, this is where they are placed. Those with internet access may download it in PDF format from the “Newsletters” page of our website at any time. Issues dating back to April 2007 are also still available from the same page.

Editor

① At the time of writing, the U3A had almost 320,000 members belonging to 908 groups.

Editor



Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden

From Cannon Street Station we walked past St Paul's Churchyard, which I believe is dedicated to Paul the Apostle. The original church on this site was founded in AD 604, and the present Cathedral was consecrated on 2nd December 1697. On a house down Ludgate Hill, a blue plaque commemorates a nearby site from which was published The Daily Courant in 1702 – London's first daily newspaper. We crossed to Fleet Street, formerly home to Sweeney Todd – the serial-killing hairdresser – and the national newspapers before they moved to Docklands; to quote Private Eye, "The Street of Shame." We viewed the interior of St. Bride's Church, which is just off Fleet Street; this is the church of the media and we could easily have spent more time here. It is well worth a visit. From there we went to Carey Street; "on Carey Street" is a euphemism for being bankrupt or in debt and originates from when the UK's bankruptcy court was located there.

We then crossed Lincoln's Inn Fields, the largest square in London and the oldest in Camden. There has been a public open space here since at least the 12th century. It was laid out by Inigo Jones in the 17th century and enclosed in 1735 under an Act of Parliament. At one time it was popular for duellists, but it is more noted for the minor speaker's corner at which aspiring advocates used to practise for their future careers. During the years of Inigo Jones this square was the most fashionable in London. One plausible reason for its popularity was that Nell Gwynne resided here, and it was her son's (the Duke of St. Albans) birthplace. A plaque in the bandstand indicates that this was a site of public executions. The Sir John Sloane Museum is at № 13 on the north side of the square. The Museum's collections contain many important works of art and antiquities, including William Hogarth's "A Rake's Progress".

We reached Great Queen Street after passing Freemason's Hall. This building is the Grade II listed Headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England and meeting place for the Masonic Lodges in the London area. It is London's only art deco building that has been preserved as it was built and still used for its original purpose. Bow Street was our next stop. Henry Fielding formed the Bow Street Runners who were initially nicknamed Robin Redbreasts on account of their scarlet waistcoats; the original 8 Bow Street Runners were London's first constables. After passing the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Transport Museum, we had lunch in a small fronted café in Henrietta Street.

After our refreshments, we walked to the pedestrianised Cecil Court, a street of antiquarian map and print sellers, which provided inspiration for Diagon Alley in a Harry Potter film. We reached Trafalgar Square, now a World Square, then walked past Admiralty Arch and saw the Royal Marines Memorial and the Duke of York steps. The pink granite Duke of York Column commemorates the second son of King George III. The Duke was C-in-C of the British Army during the French Revolutionary Wars, and the nursery rhyme "The Grand Old Duke of York" relates to his exploits. St James's Park is the oldest Royal Park in London, and was the site of the London Milk Fair until 1904. Pigs once grazed and cows were milked here. 470 years ago, the St James's area was known mainly for farms, woods and a hospital for women lepers. We walked ahead to the Queen Victoria Memorial and Buckingham Palace and heard a tour guide suggest that the pelicans not only eat fish, but are also partial to pigeons. We returned through the park, crossed to Horse Guards, Whitehall and Charing Cross for our train home.

Walking in London has certainly taught all of us to look both up and down to see architecture and read plaques of various colours that all add to both enjoyment and sharing of knowledge.

Cynthia & Roy Morton

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Thirteen of us were in the party on 13th November for a visit to the British Museum. After gathering at Charing Cross Station, we decided that we would travel there on the No 24 bus from Trafalgar Square. Lo and behold, this turned out to be the Routemaster bus route that had been advocated by Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. Most of us got on at the front of the bus, only to find that other people were entering by a middle door and some were leaving by it. It's all rather confusing until you get used to it.

Being, as they say, rather 'vertically challenged', I had difficulty in mounting a step to sit on a rather high seat. A nice young man came along and said that he was the conductor employed to look after passengers and supervise the rear open exit. Some of our members informed him about the role of a conductor, as they remembered it, and this all helped to keep our spirits up while being part of the biggest traffic jam ever.

The current exhibition at the Museum is the El Dorado Gold and senior citizens are charged £10 (£5 after 12pm on Mondays). There is so much else at the Museum for free, and, having 'Googled' their website, I was able to tell our party of its recommendations – eg. Sutton Hoo, Imperial China, the Incas, Australia and the Japanese Rooms. What a selection! I had picked up a room guide for everyone which they studied and went their various ways.

Prior to entering the Museum, I had requested members to inform me whether they went to see the Gold Exhibition. Consequently, John Mercer phoned later to say that he and Olive had decided on Sutton Hoo as they had visited the original archaeological site in Suffolk. Wing also contacted me to report that, since he was very interested in the art and culture of other countries, he had managed to seek out those of Mexico and Iraq. A small group of us went to the Weston Room where we arrived just before a talk on Roman finds got underway. What we were shown was absolutely mind blowing – in particular, the Ashwell Hoard which was discovered by a metal detectorist in Hertfordshire in 2002. There were 5-6 gold metal votive plaques that looked absolutely pristine; on these were depicted a figure which had led to the discovery of a new goddess named Senuna. My mind became focussed on the work of the conservators who had so lovingly brought them into the 21st century so that we could look at them as they had first appeared. We also heard about the Mildenhall Treasure containing – this time in silver – the 'Great Dish' and a fluted dish. They were really magnificent. Later, we saw a mosaic found at Hinton St. Mary purporting to represent Christ – apparently a first depiction. During the talk, the speaker referred to the Greek and Roman names of various gods and goddesses – which can be very confusing. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the talk which opened our eyes (and our minds) to what was in the showcases.

On our way out we passed the Portland Vase and the Rosetta Stone. The British Museum is certainly full of treasures and I think that these two items alone will call for a future visit.

Frances Percival

(i) Today principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". The naturalist, Sir Hans Sloane, amassed an enviable collection of curiosities during his lifetime, and, not wishing to have his collection dispersed after his death, he bequeathed it to George II, for the nation, for £20,000. Comprised of about 71,000 objects of all kinds, the museum opened on 15 January 1759 in Montagu House – on the site of the current museum building. Expansion during the following 2½ centuries, mainly because of British colonial activity, has resulted in the creation of several branch institutions – the first being the Natural History Museum in 1887. Its collection, some 8 million works, is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence.

Editor

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden



Our October walk covered several streets between Ladbroke Grove and Edgware Road tube stations. We saw several terraces of older-style buildings, some of them five, or even six, storeys high, as well as buildings of a more modern era. We saw the Fake Houses of Leinster Gardens: the front is nothing more than a façade, for behind is the vent from the underground railway line. Following a short walk in Hyde Park, we visited nearby St. John's Church where, once a year, they celebrate Horseman's Sunday. On this special occasion, as the church service draws to a close, the vicar appears on horseback in an emerald green cape and Napoleonic hat, followed by an orderly procession of about 100 horses. The vicar gives "thanks for all the animals that give us pleasure in our homes and in the world". We continued our walk towards Edgware Road underground station where, in the subway, is a gallery of paintings superbly created by Foot and Mouth Artists. My guide book informs me that this display is changed monthly; a visit on another occasion could be rewarded with something completely different.

Val Gosden

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



On Tuesday 26th November, five members of this group made the 20-minute journey along the A2 to Shorne Country Park. We arrived early on this beautiful, sunny autumn morning and were met by Den Rozier, a former member of our group who is now a volunteer at the park. He welcomed us and showed us photographs of the site where archaeologists and volunteers have unearthed the foundations of a medieval dwelling. We then walked through the sensory garden where Den has worked so hard to develop and maintain this attractive part of the park.

An archaeologist, Andrew, then took us on a guided walk through the park stopping at places of interest on the way. Although covered over for the winter months, we were shown the site of the "dig" and its layout was explained to us. Nearby, we could stand on level ground where once had been a large hill that had provided panoramic views of the Thames and surrounding Kent countryside. Another "dig" – this time for clay – had levelled the ground here!

Our walk continued through woodland with trees varying from very old "boundary markers" to young, slender birches. We traversed heathland and passed a fairy ring made up of sixteen wooden sculptured seats – was that an elephant's trunk or two large fish? Closer examination revealed the answer: two fish. Den was right! We descended (thankfully!) Cardiac steps and continued on through an area of relatively new woodland. A previous owner had cleared this area, manured and worked it well, but it had proved unproductive and so was left for nature to take over. An elegant, rhododendron-lined pathway, for which people were happy to pay to walk along, was once to be found at the next part of our route. When the owner fell upon hard times, the rhododendrons were left untended, ran wild, and, in more recent times, were dealt with mercilessly and almost entirely eradicated. Nature was once more allowed to take over and young woodland is now growing in their place. Some of us may not have known much about archaeology, but we do have experience of nature taking over our own back gardens!

We marvelled at our surroundings throughout our walk; the sun highlighted the beauty of the trees still displaying their autumn foliage, and the slender silver birches contrasting with the tapestry-like bark of solid old tree trunks. At the end of our walk, we were shown fragments of glass, tiles, pottery and chimneys amongst other items found by the archaeologists. Our disappointment at the poor turnout for this ramble was more than compensated for by the kindness and expertise of Andrew and Den Rozier who so kindly put it all together for us. Thank you both most sincerely from David, Peter, Roy, Wing and Ilena.

Ilena Harrington

Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Barbara Olney



For our November trip we had a guided tour and lunch at the Middle Temple which is situated between Fleet Street and the Embankment. Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court, the other three being Inner Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn. They hold the exclusive rights to call candidates of England and Wales to the Bar to practice as barristers. Our tour started in the Great Hall, which has a magnificent wooden double barrelled ceiling. The Benchers table at the head of the Hall is 26 feet long and was made from a single oak tree felled in Windsor Great Park and floated down the Thames; this was gifted by Queen Elizabeth I. There was a table in the corner which they call a cupboard the top of which was a hatch cover from the Golden Hind on which Drake circumnavigated the world. It is at this table that barristers are called to the Bar. There are numerous stained glass windows depicting many of our famous figures and many Coats of Arms. Our tour of the other rooms culminated up in the Minstrels Gallery where we had a closer view of the impressive ceiling. We went back to have lunch in the Great Hall where we had a delicious four course meal. Everyone agreed that it had been a very informative and enjoyable day.

Pat Cracknell

ENTERTAINMENT

TRIPLE-CROSS

The fifteen words in this puzzle read across, down-right and down-left; all letters of each word intersect two other words in the hexagonal grid.

Across (⇨)

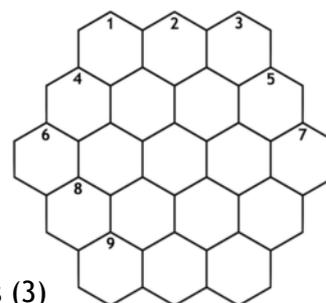
- 1 Army regiment (abb) (3)
- 4 Skin disease (4)
- 6 Bestow (5)
- 8 S. African exclamation of pain (4)
- 9 Latvian money (3)

Down-right (↘)

- 1 Meagre (5)
- 2 Female name (4)
- 3 Group of related items (3)
- 4 Song (4)
- 6 Non-fluid colloidal polymer (3)

Down-left (↙)

- 1 Droop (3)
- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ of a square mile (4)
- 3 Gastropod mollusc (5)
- 5 Sicilian city (4)
- 7 Tasteless articles (3)



Help Desk Enquiries

A caller asked for a knitwear company in a place called Woven...

DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: "Woven? Are you sure?"

CALLER: "Yes. That's what it says on the label: 'Woven in Scotland'."



CALLER: "I'd like the RSPCA please."

DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: "Where are you calling from?"

CALLER: "The living room."



CALLER: "The Water Board please."

DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: "Which department?"

CALLER: "Tap water."

SUDOKU

Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell below so that no row, column, or 3 x 3 block contains any number more than once.

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

Using the same principle, place the supplied letters in each empty cell below. A word will form in either a row or a column.

					C		I	
R					K	P		
		I	H					R
F			I		P		R	H
					T		C	O
	T							
					H			
	K	P	T		I	H		
O			C					T

Across:

- 1 Bodily imperfections (5)
- 5 Chunk (4)
- 9 Smallest amount (4)
- 10 Sharp point (5)
- 11 Fool (5)
- 12 Lighted (4)
- 13 Trees (4)
- 14 Daft (5)
- 16 Vegetable (7)
- 20 French sloop (5)
- 23 Irish county (4)
- 26 Chance (4)
- 27 Mended (5)
- 28 Lace ornament (5)
- 29 Unit of heredity (4)
- 30 Toboggan (4)
- 31 Sweet effervescent drinks (5)

Down:

- 1 Quote (4)
- 2 Wailing cries (5)
- 3 Halt (4)
- 4 Ankle bones (5)
- 5 Bridge part (4)
- 6 Flower & colour (5)
- 7 Related to (4)
- 8 Type of nut (5)
- 10 Offshoot (7)
- 15 Works the land (5)
- 17 Snow slope (5)
- 18 Friend (5)
- 19 Animal (5)
- 21 Medieval stringed musical instrument (4)
- 22 Slip (4)
- 24 Cut (4)
- 25 Poems (4)

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				31				

DRINKS: Hidden in each sentence below is at least one thing you can drink

Fred imagines the worst now his keyboard has been lost outside. When his twin Edward saw a terrible gale he vowed never to sail again. You must top or tail a German sprout. To be erratic is a kind of madness. Bob came over yesterday with Babs in the back of his car. With trombones and trumpets came a deafening noise. Along with Eric I deride this clinic of feet. "Your protocol annoys me so date all your letters," I told him. The Orbit terrified Joe at the London Olympics. What a champ Agnes was to be sure. Now Martin in hospital has a problem on a desperate level.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT **U3A** CROSSWORD

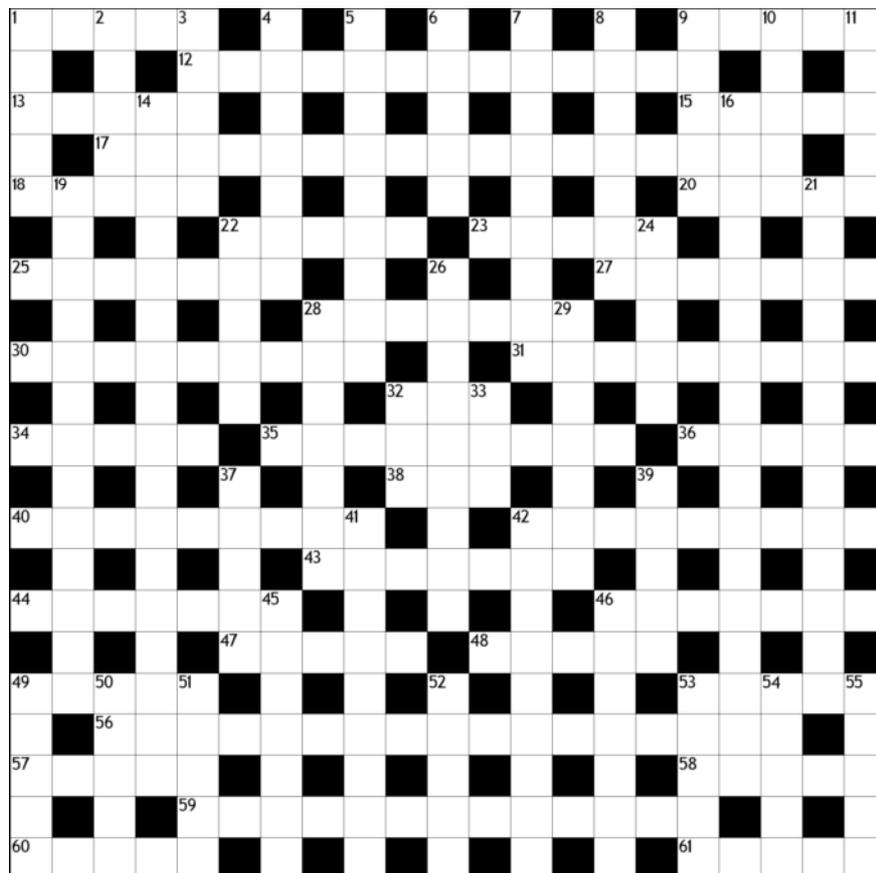
№ 5

Across

- 1 Soviet labour camp (5)
 9 Small stain (5)
 12 Area with new buildings (13)
 13 Fruit (5)
 15 Sea (5)
 17 False account (17)
 18 Spiky fishes (5)
 20 Pretty girl (5)
 22 00000 (5)
 23 Wading bird (5)
 25 Enforced (7)
 27 Nervous (7)
 28 Leashes (7)
 30 Gun masters (9)
 31 Sign up for (9)
 32 Facial spasm (3)
 34 Corn husks (5)
 35 Laborious (9)
 36 Pier (5)
 38 Snake (3)
 40 Violates a rule (9)
 42 ; (9)
 43 Type of conifer (7)
 44 Husbands-to-be (7)
 46 Type of conifer (7)
 47 Make a god of (5)
 48 Passport stamps (5)
 49 Newspapers, TV etc (5)
 53 Food intakes (5)
 56 Introduction of trade or manufacture (17)
 57 Burn (5)
 58 Blacksmith's tool (5)
 59 Relating to an owner (13)
 60 Small rented farm (5)
 61 Genre (5)

Down

- 1 Pledges (5)
 2 Ruminant (5)



- 3 Vegetation (5)
 4 Stuck (7)
 5 Subtle qualities (9)
 6 Silk around a cocoon (5)
 7 Unmarried people (9)
 8 Lapse (7)
 9 Impassive (5)
 10 Happening (5)
 11 Bizarre (5)
 14 Holding meetings using telecommunications (17)
 16 Reversal of governmental overthrow (7-10)
 19 All-encompassing (13)
 21 One with a tendency for extravagant display (13)
 22 Animal (5)
 24 Distort (5)
 26 Cutting tools (5-4)
 28 Animal's foot (7)
 29 Surgically stitched (7)
 32 Drink... (3)
 33 ...and what it's in (3)
 37 Applied a coloured fluid (5)
 39 Dimensions (5)
 41 Mariners (9)
 42 Legal advisor (9)
 45 Academic year (7)
 46 Scientific trips (7)
 49 Melody, harmony (5)
 50 Wild canine (5)
 51 Proficient (5)
 52 Biscuit (5)
 53 ①②③④⑤ (5)
 54 Emissary (5)
 55 Suss out (5)

Solutions next month

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 1) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	John Harbert 020 8300 5361	Vacancies
 Art (Group 2) Alternate 1 st Tuesday 	Sue Moore 020 8301 1952	1
 Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday	Margaret Scambler 020 8315 0108	Yes
 Classical Music (Group 1) 2 nd Friday	Derick Johnson 020 8850 1245	Vacancies
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates & times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes 
 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
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 1) 1 st Thursday (2.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Yes
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am) 	Various	Yes
 Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	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.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator ☎ 020 8300 4291; email rjcmspncr@gmail.com.

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  Notice on the board at meetings  Starts January 2014

PROGRAMME

2013

December	Jack Ripley	Max Miller & Friends
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2014

January	Claire Rogers	Greenwich and Bexley Hospice
February	John Halligan	The Life and Times of Samuel Pepys
March	Peter Maggs	Henry's Trials
April	Don Dray	Down Memory Lane
May	Robert Vidler	The War Years (1914–1918)
June	Brian Williamson	Chislehurst Caves
July	Julia Burnett	Entertainer
August	Open Day	
September	Romy McCabe	I Married the Vicar
October	Sue Spiel	Pam Ayres
November	Mr Halfors	The Spa Valley Railway
December	Alan Simmons	Entertainer

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
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Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Smith	020 8304 2305
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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

Insanity is hereditary - you get it from your children