

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

December 2014



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

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2015*



## NOTICES

### Events

**Royal Air Force Museum**, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL (Nearest Underground is Colindale). “Early Flight and the First World War in the Air” is a series of tours and lectures for U3A Groups (minimum 15, maximum 25 members). Cost is £10 per member and includes refreshments. Tours start at 1.30 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> June. For further details telephone the Access and Learning Team on 020 8358 4896.

**Languages Group Study Day**. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 10 am until 4 pm at Memorial Centre, 8 East Common, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD. The course is for teachers and leaders of U3A language groups – any language and at any level. A charge of £4 is payable to the Third Age Trust and includes a buffet/sandwich lunch. Book through the National Office, Bromley.

**U3A Summer Schools 2015**. Harper Adams University, Shropshire from 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> July, and Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester from 17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> August. Cost of full-board en-suite accommodation is £285 pp. Full information is available on the Members’ Area of the Third Age Trust website.

**George Murrell**

### Committee 2015 YOUR Committee needs YOU

Running our U3A is not an onerous task but it has to be done by someone. Currently serving Committee members need a break and new faces with fresh ideas would be really welcome. There is no qualifying length of membership to be eligible to join us. We meet on the first Thursday in the month at 10 am for about an hour. If you are interested and would like to know more, please talk informally, with no obligation, to any Committee member.

**Anne Evans**

## Groups and Group Leaders

Points raised at our November meeting regarding group participation and communication.

### Looking for a group?

Ring the leader or contact for vacancies; they may be running a waiting list.

### Starting a group?

Any paid-up member may start a group, organise an outing or lead a project. *You do not need to ask permission from anyone!* We are a collaborative organisation, not a corporation.

### Contacts

You can find like-minded people by advertising in the Newsletter, on the notice board or via the microphone at our meetings.

When you are in a group, please remember to inform the leader in advance if you are unable to attend, either as a one-off or for a longer period. This could allow an opening for a waiting list member to attend in your place.

To start a new group use resources available to you on the websites and talk to other group leaders who will be happy to advise you.

### Anne Evans

**(i)** The Third Age Trust website also carries information and advice for both group leaders and Committee members.

### Editor



### Classical Music • Leader Alan Griffiths



Alan Griffiths' choice for November began with Sibelius' *Karelia* suite, and Haydn's 11<sup>th</sup> Piano Concerto; we then heard an unfamiliar piece, Giovanni Bottesini's Fantasia on Vincenzo Bellini's *The Sleepwalker* – unusually, for piano and double bass.

Shostakovich's suite from the operetta *Moscow-Cheryomushki*, from 1956, tells the story of the victory of good over evil in a Moscow housing estate. A piece for bassoon followed this: Weber's *Andante e Rondo Ungarese* {pavane for a dead princess}, and a nicely balanced programme finished with Francis Poulenc's sonata *L'Album des Six* for flute and piano.

### Olive Mercer

**(i)** Pavane is a slow processional dance common in Renaissance Europe. The earliest-known example was published in Venice by Ottaviano Petrucci, in Joan Ambrosio Dalza's *Intabolatura de lauto libro quarto* in 1508; it is a sedate and dignified couple dance and the music which accompanied it appears originally to have been moderately fast. Like many other dances, it became slower over time. The step used in the pavane survives to the present day in the 'hesitation step' sometimes used at weddings.

### Editor

## Theatre Group 2 • Leader Joan Somerset



It is with regret that I have given up running Theatre Group 2 owing to lack of support.

**Joan Somerset**

① The above was announced at the November meeting. Anyone who feels that he or she can organise a Theatre Group may, of course, advise the Group Co-ordinator accordingly.

**Editor**

## Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



We are a new group that watches videos\* about Explorers which are presented by Sir David Attenborough. The first video we watched was about Roald Amundsen and his trek to the South Pole in 1911. Not only did Amundsen want to reach the South Pole, but he also wanted to be the *first* to reach it and to beat the British explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott. So well presented was the video that we felt as though we, too, were participating – but glad that we did not have to deal with temperatures down to -60°F. Amundsen's decision to use dogs rather than the ponies, motor sleds and dogs, as chosen by the British expedition, played a crucial role in the Norwegian team's success. Because of the extreme weather conditions, at times they needed to dig deep trenches into the snow, thus making an underground 'village', and when they were nearer to the South Pole they needed to build igloos for themselves. They suffered from frostbite, nearly lost a sledge, had to kill some of their dogs for meat, both for themselves and the remaining dogs, and lost time during the dark months of the year. It was a smaller party of five men who set out on the final leg of their journey, pushing themselves to the limit in order to try and be the men who would reach the South Pole first. Relief was felt on reaching the South Pole and the realisation that they were indeed the first men there. Amundsen named the area there King Haakon VII Land, and insisted that all five of this final group took part in placing the Norwegian flag firmly in the ground.

The second video that we watched followed the tracks of Robert Montagu Doughty, who was interested in archaeology and geology and who for two years travelled in Arabia in the 1880s. There were many different tribes in Arabia and some of the time he fell in with travellers who accepted him despite his being of a different religion, but, at other times, the reverse held true. When travelling with the first tribal group he met he became ill, losing his sight, and he was then abandoned and left in the care of shepherds. They, in turn, left him when they needed to continue their journey, but then gradually his sight returned to him, and he managed to join up with a group of tinkers, a tribe who were considered the poorest of the poor. He remained with them as they wended their way towards Mecca in order to try and sell their pots there, but here he was subsequently attacked by fanatics and sent out into the desert on his own with just the few belongings that he could manage to carry. The terrain was exceedingly poor, just sand and stones, and with the sun beating down on him and very little water left for him to drink, it was with relief that he reached a river. He was looked upon with suspicion by the natives there and would have been hounded out yet again but for the kindness and authority of the Sharif.

T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) later travelled this part of the world in the 1920s, and discovered that Doughty had become part of the lore of the tribes there.

**Val Gosden**

*\* DVDs and videos on a wide range of subjects can be borrowed from the U3A Resource Centre. These are for group, not individual, use.*

### **Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden**



In October we visited Wellington Arch which is an English Heritage site. First of all, we climbed to the top of the building and accessed the balcony, from where we could see the Household Cavalry proceeding down Constitution Hill – halting all the motor traffic – before passing Wellington Arch and so on into Hyde Park. We then visited the galleries containing the “We Will Remember Them – London’s Great War Memorials” exhibition where there were many photographs and mementoes. These latter included a ‘Dead Man’s Penny’, inscribed with ‘He Died for Freedom and Honour’; both British and German postcards; statuettes of ‘Tommyes’ – including one reading a letter from home. Pictures of memorials to Field Marshal Earl Haig and Nurse Edith Cavell featured as well as many other war memorials in various towns in the U.K. In the grounds nearby, we looked at the Royal Artillery Memorial 1925, with its figures of soldiers, including a fallen soldier with his greatcoat and helmet lying on top of him. It was very moving. We also found two other memorials in the grounds nearby which acknowledged the many from Australia and New Zealand who fought and died in both WWI and WWII.

To see the special exhibition entitled “From the Forest to the Sea” was the purpose of our trip to Dulwich Picture Gallery in November. This featured paintings by Emily Carr (1871-1945), a pioneer modernist artist who lived in British Columbia and who was inspired by the forests there. The exhibited paintings featured the trees and forests with which she was familiar and painted in strong bold colours. The whole exhibition showed traces of a dramatic journey from darkness to light, from brooding forest scenes to euphoric sky paintings and light-filled beachscapes. Emily Carr was interested in the lives of the aboriginal coastal communities of British Columbia, and several of her paintings featured totem poles and other forms of native art. The exhibition also included some related indigenous artefacts which demonstrate the skills of the natives there, and who used the natural materials around them.

### **Val Gosden**

### **Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams**



Our November visit was to Rotherhithe. It started with a visit to St. Mary’s Church where we met Father Mark Nicholls who gave us a half hour talk about the church. The first church on the site was Saxon, but possibly Roman. He gave a very interesting talk about its links with the *Mayflower* and much detail about the interior which included a demonstration of how the chandelier was pulled down to light the candles – luckily unlit as one crashed to the floor! We then went to the Brunel Museum which is small but interesting, like this part of Rotherhithe village, and well worth a visit.

### **Christine Withams**

### **Book Reading • Leader June Reid**



November’s book choice was *A Thousand Splendid Suns* written by Khaled Hosseini. This was, indeed, a really splendid story which was enjoyed by every one of us. Set in Afghanistan and spanning the years from the 1970s until 2003, the characters are rich and compelling. Their stories are touching and heart-wrenching. Hosseini writes beautifully and with great insight. The story highlights the plight of the Afghan women and the way they are belittled in their society. It made us very aware of the inaccurate view we have of the Afghan people and their heritage. They bear their burdens so bravely and strive to mend their shattered lives. This was an enjoyable read and is greatly recommended.

### **June Reid**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**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.

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

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

H			R			E		O
		K		H			I	
T				I				R
	K	C			E	H		I
I		H	K			A	C	
E				T				K
	I			E		R		
K		A			R			H

**Across:**

- 2 A legal preclusion (8)
- 9 Pain (4)
- 11 Haul (4)
- 13 Destroy (4)
- 14 Lament (5)
- 15 Article of clothing (5)
- 17 Home of 21 down (4)
- 18 Colour (3)
- 19 Write down (3)
- 20 Order of chivalry (abb) (3)
- 22 Monster (4)
- 25 Lose control (5)
- 27 Fight (5)
- 29 Baronet (abb) (4)
- 30 Margarine (4)
- 31 Swimming-pool (4)
- 32 Is uncomfortably hot (8)

**Down:**

- 1 Clothes container (8)
- 3 Flung (5)
- 4 Numbers (4)
- 5 Peculiar (3)
- 6 Write a certain way (5)
- 7 Trim (4)
- 8 Roe (4)
- 10 Put right (4)
- 12 Sensing device (8)
- 16 Thing that pacifies (3)
- 19 Precious stone (5)
- 20 Broadcasting (2,3)
- 21 Flying creature (4)
- 23 Swell (4)
- 24 Abnormal sound from lungs (4)
- 26 Competent (4)
- 28 Auctioneer's item (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				31			
32								

**PLACES:** Hidden in each sentence below is at least one UK place name

In the old west, Comanches terrorised settlers from Europe. I wonder whether it helps to wash over yesterday's mistakes. Scared careful fellow hit by super thought to keep some smelling salts. We'll say it's very dear and may retail for double a bob and a half. I'm surely able to send over them aids to next-of-kin. Here we dwell in great numbers, but this wind on my face leaves my welfare hampered. It makes Oscar difficult to share a dinghy or kayak with. To wander by such art we'll need to label faster than ever before. Go for a mountain trip on trail in col near ranger's cabin. I sifted through the debris to locate where I'd left my comb at home. Should he box for dollars or send art for drachma?

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A CROSSWORD

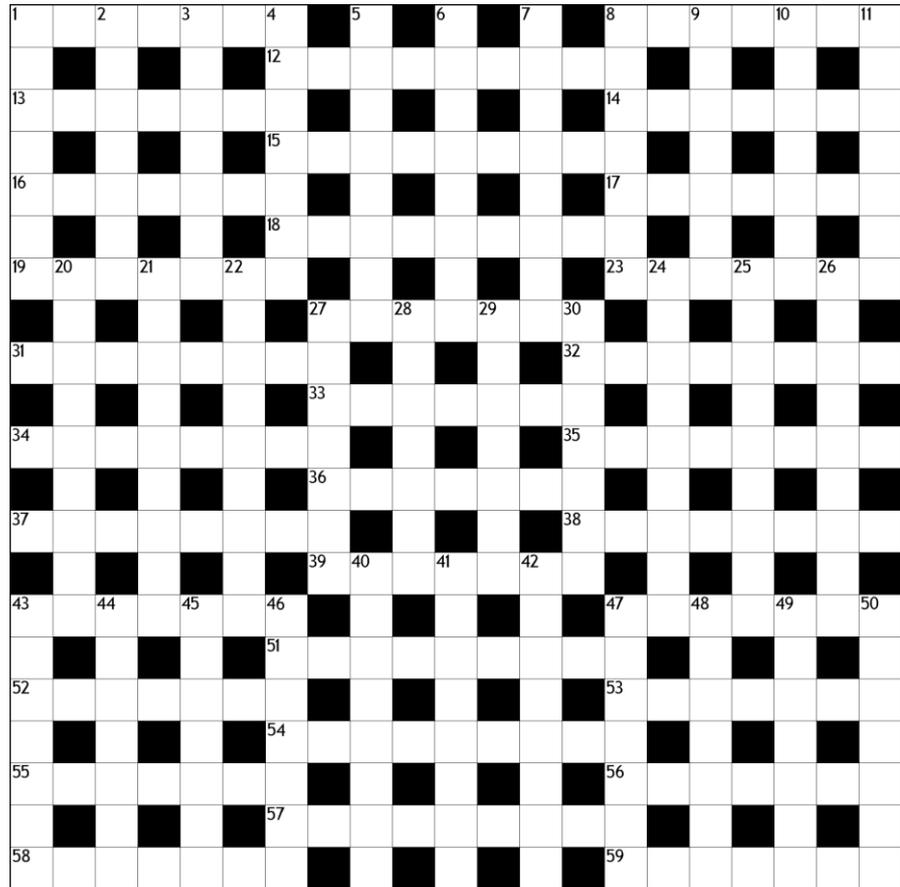
No 6

## Across

- 1 Good health (7)
- 8 Wafted (7)
- 12 Wife of an Indian prince (9)
- 13 Dandy (7)
- 14 At the kidneys (7)
- 15 Type of guitar (9)
- 16 Immobility (7)
- 17 Breathed in (7)
- 18 Squirrels (9)
- 19 What's left (7)
- 23 Sweetened (7)
- 27 Well-bred (7)
- 31 Traveller (8)
- 32 Assigns someone responsibility (8)
- 33 Activity of a Sidcup U3A group (7)
- 34 Steersman (8)
- 35 Seizing power (8)
- 36 Metal akin to platinum (7)
- 37 He paddles a small boat (8)
- 38 Plague (8)
- 39 Employs (7)
- 43 Garments (7)
- 47 Pounding tools (7)
- 51 Small airport (9)
- 52 Tent-less camp (7)
- 53 Get (7)
- 54 Pyrosis (9)
- 55 Etch (7)
- 56 Not the same (7)
- 57 Most prickly (9)
- 58 Makes unhappy (7)
- 59 Hang (7)

## Down

- 1 Crazier (7)
- 2 Negligence (7)



- 3 Ended prematurely (7)
- 4 Hug (7)
- 5 Tell off (8)
- 6 Send (8)
- 7 Case in point (8)
- 8 Short-tempered (7)
- 9 Made of baked clay (7)
- 10 Regionally (7)
- 11 Deceived (7)
- 20 Complicated (9)
- 21 Liquids created by steeping (9)
- 22 Falsehood (9)
- 24 Pushy (9)
- 25 Kit (9)
- 26 Far-reaching (9)
- 27 Hard rock (7)
- 28 Arresting (7)
- 29 Revising text (7)
- 30 Seed pods (7)
- 40 Commentator (8)
- 41 Examining accounts (8)
- 42 Emigrations (8)
- 43 Prattles (7)
- 44 Laid waste (7)
- 45 Teach (7)
- 46 Small packets (7)
- 47 Pittance (7)
- 48 Follow-ups (7)
- 49 Free time (7)
- 50 Reeked (7)

## RIDDLE

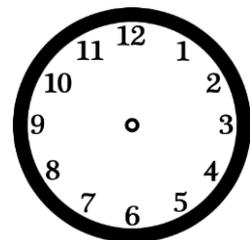
I never was, I am always to be,  
No one has seen me, you'll never catch me,  
Yet I'm the hopes and the dreams of you all  
Who live, laugh and cry on this worldly ball.

*What am I?*

**Solutions next month**

## CLOCK

Divide this clock face into three parts with two straight lines. The sum of the numbers in each part must be the same.



## GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 <b>Amblers (Group 2)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	Vacancies
 <b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 	<b>Roy Black</b>  020 8302 9942	Vacancies
 <b>Book Reading</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>June Reid</b> 020 8302 7887	2
 <b>Classical Music (Group 1)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	<b>Alan Griffiths</b> 020 8303 6636	3
 <b>Concerts/Ballet/Opera</b> Various dates and times	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	Vacancies 
 <b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (noon) 	<b>Leader pending</b>  needed, please	Vacancies
 <b>Family History</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	<b>Judith Swain</b> 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 <b>Local History (Group 1)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday morning	<b>Lesley South</b> 020 8300 8298	Vacancies
 <b>Local History (Group 3)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday morning	<b>Christine Withams</b> 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 <b>Meditation</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday (10.00–11.30)	<b>Keith Alker</b> 020 8850 3853	Vacancies
 <b>Ramblers (Group 2)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (4–5 miles)	<b>David Wedderkop</b>  020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 <b>Rummikub®</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Margaret Platt</b> 020 8309 6395	2
 <b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10.00 am)  £	<b>Gay Braybrook</b>  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 <b>Wine Appreciation</b> Last Thursday (7.30 pm) £	<b>Michael Jordan</b> 020 8302 3330	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.

**Keith Alker, Group Co-ordinator**  020 8850 2853 Email: alker@btinternet.com.

### 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 last page. It is easy to run a group and any current leader can advise you how it's done.

 Not during school holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

 Notice on the board at meetings

 Temporary point of contact

## PROGRAMME

### 2014

December            Alan Simmons            Entertainer

### 2015

January	Jim Radford	Tugboat rescues in World War 2
February	Roger Stevens	Audio Visuals
March		<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
	Andy Thomas	The Crop Circle Mystery
April	Roy Bilham	Blowing my own trumpet
May	Ian Keable	The Corked Conjuror
June	Peter Hartley	The Royals
July	Roy Ingleton	The Heartbeat Years
August	Cairis Hickey	The Wiggly Wild Show
September	Colin Lomas	Leonardo Da Vinci – Was he really a genius?
October	Will Cooban	The Good, The Bad and The Bexley
November	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Bruges
December	<i>To be advised</i>	

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting 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	Patricia Rivett	020 3302 2887
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
Group Co-ordinator	Keith Alker	020 8850 2853
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
General Member	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635

## 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

## WEBSITE

[www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk](http://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*

*Two wrongs do not make a right; it usually takes three or more.*