

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

December 2018



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

In December 2018 only, the meeting will be held at
The United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2019

NOTICES

Grimm Tales

The Unicorn Theatre near London Bridge is currently staging a Christmas show called *Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales*. The show is intended for ages 8 to adult and they are offering U3A members a 15% discount for up to 4 tickets; this makes it an opportunity to take grandchildren to the theatre during the festive season.

The shows run from 13th November to 6th January.

The Unicorn Theatre is located at 147 Tooley Street, London. Box Office: 020 7645 0560

GROUP NEWS

Mono Photo Group • Leader Roy Morton



Contact rory.m2014@gmail.com for further information.

November's subjects were "Autumn" and "Sport," a section of which can be seen on the Gallery page of Sidcup U3A website.

Our Christmas Special will be a "Guess the Title." Three pictures each of:

A Song.

A Book.

A Film.

A Poem.

Prospective members should look in the Gallery to see a few examples of our work. We only show Black & White/Mono photographs taken with a camera, converted to mono before being displayed on a 32-inch television at meetings held about once a month.

Roy Morton

Local History 1 • Leader Lesley South



November's history tour, led by David Mead, was to the Postal Museum which opened July 2017, and to Mail Rail which opened September 2017. They are situated on Phoenix Place in the area of Mount Pleasant Post Offices, off Farringdon Road. Nine intrepid explorers met at London Bridge Station, platform 7 to board the Thameslink train to Farringdon Station. The final destination for this train was Cambridge so there was some discussion about a history visit to Cambridge. However, on this occasion we alighted at Farringdon and David led us through the streets of Islington until we reached the Postal Museum on Phoenix Place.

Colourful information boards told us of the start of the postal service over 500 years ago, when, at the request of Henry VIII, Sir Brian Tuke established a national postal network to serve the king's court. It was opened to the public in 1635 by Charles I and then became the General Post Office under Oliver Cromwell, but it was not until the 1800s that records were organised and kept safe. Several pillar boxes and telephone boxes were on display. Initially pillar boxes were green and first installed in the Channel Isles in 1852. They were changed to red in 1874 which became the preferred colour. There was also a blue pillar box for airmail letters and also one of the few examples of a pillar box made during the short reign of Edward VIII.

It was interesting to see the change in transport over the years from beautiful horse drawn red carriages to the vans and motor bikes of later years. There were many interactive displays including making your own stamp which you could email to yourself. Children sat and listened to the poem *This Is The Night Mail* by W. H. Auden whilst watching the film of the journey between London and Glasgow. "This is the night mail crossing the border, Bringing the cheque and the postal order." I am sure you can all hear the clackety-clack of the train...

After refreshments and a look around the museum shop, it was time for our exciting ride on the mail train which once delivered the sacks of mail through tunnels under London, east to Liverpool St and west to Paddington. We boarded the small, almost childlike train and set off along the tunnels. At the first stop, we were entertained by a brilliant moving display along the wall of the tunnels of postal services throughout the last six decades. There were also film archives of postal staff working to sort the post in this not very pleasant environment. The tour, which took about 30 minutes, was followed by an interesting talk and we were then able to "play with" some of the interactive equipment used to move trains around the platforms. This included sorting letters in a moving carriage – great for learning the Salsa! It was an interesting day out. Thank you David.

Sandra Applegate

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for November was *A God in Ruins* written by Kate Atkinson and chosen by myself. We had read and enjoyed *Life After Life* a couple of years ago. This was a companion piece as it involved the same family – the Todds. The story centres on Teddy, the youngest brother, who was a bomber pilot during World War 2, and the descriptions of the raids on Germany and plights of the crew were really gripping. After the war, Teddy tries to settle down to normality but is haunted by all the atrocities committed by both sides of the conflict. He marries his childhood sweetheart and the story follows the ups and downs of his wife and their children. When tragedy strikes, the family is torn apart and we see the children grow up with Teddy doing his best to maintain a loving relationship. This was a very readable book by a very talented author.

June Reid

Amblers • Leaders Sheila Donovan & John Baker



3rd Wednesday at 10.30 am. The joint leaders of this group are now:
Sheila Donovan 020 8301 1995, and
John Baker 020 8301 5376

Our ambles are designed for people who like to walk in company at a comfortable pace. The walks are about 3 miles long and range from local semi-rural areas to London streets, parks and river paths. On occasions, there will be an optional extension for those who want to walk a little further.

The walks will resume in March 2019 and further details will be available nearer the time.

Sheila Donovan

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Globe Theatre Tour

On 14th November, the group met at London Bridge Station for our visit to the Globe Theatre Tour which included the Exhibition. Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, an Elizabethan playhouse, is the third theatre to be built and is near to the original site of the first theatre built in 1599. The present theatre was founded by the actor and director Sam Wanamaker and was opened in 1997.

The tour was very informative; it showed us the stage which projects into a large circular yard. The seating is situated around the stage on three levels and the only covered parts of the amphitheatre are the stage and seating areas. The exhibition, where you could have an audio guide, covered the life of Shakespeare and the history of the construction of the present building. You can also see many of the incredible costumes worn on stage.

Suzanne & Peter Holmes

(i) The Globe Theatre was a theatre in London associated with William Shakespeare who performed there in many of his own plays. It was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company and was destroyed by fire on 29th June 1613 during a performance of *Henry VIII* when a theatrical cannon misfired. A second Globe Theatre had been built on the same site by June 1614, but was closed down by the Puritans in 1642 along with all the other London theatres. The Globe's actual dimensions are unknown, but its shape and size have been approximated from scholarly inquiry over the last two centuries. The evidence suggests that it was a three-storey, open-air amphitheatre approximately 100 feet in diameter which could hold up to 3,000 spectators. Although it is shown as round on Wenceslas Hollar's contemporary sketch of the building, the uncovering of a small part of the Globe's foundation in 1988–89 suggested that it was a polygon of 20 sides. A modern reconstruction of The Globe opened with a production of *Henry V* in 1997 approximately 750 feet from the site of the original theatre. From 1909–1994, the current Gielgud Theatre was called "Globe Theatre" until it was renamed in honour of Sir John Gielgud.

Editor

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

NINER

Fit the re-arranged letters of the given word or words into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down.

INCA APPLE

	S	P	S		
S					E
M					E
O					N
	K	R	T		

Across:

- 1 3.26 Light-years (6)
- 6 Ocean (3)
- 9 Eggs (3)
- 10 Vessel for brewing (6)
- 12 Kind of joint (5)
- 13 Man (4)
- 14 Melody (4)
- 15 Greek letter (5)
- 17 Locate (7)
- 20 Happen again (5)
- 22 Deposit money (4)
- 24 Japanese sashes (4)
- 26 Gains income (5)
- 28 Most level-headed (6)
- 29 Equipment (3)
- 30 Droop (3)
- 31 Showy in attire (6)

Down:

- 1 Container (3)
- 2 Opposed to (6)
- 3 Wife of a rajah (4)
- 4 Kind of weasel (5)
- 5 Enclosure (4)
- 6 Species of wheat (5)
- 7 Very long time (3)
- 8 Assault (6)
- 11 Lasts (7)
- 14 Transversely (6)
- 16 Sport (6)
- 18 Cake covering (5)
- 19 Lessen (5)
- 21 Secondhand (4)
- 23 Boxes or refuges (4)
- 25 Animal sound (3)
- 27 Animal pen (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				

Place the letters below in the 3x3 grid to form eight different 3-letter words – a word across each row, a word down each column, and a word along the two main diagonals.

A E N P R R T U Y

Solutions next month

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	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
 Craft & Chat 1 st & 3 rd Thursday (10.00 am) 	Pauline Springhall 020 8308 1975	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1 Vacancy
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 Mono Digital Photography Quarterly (approx.) 	Roy Morton rory.m2014@gmail.com	3 Vacancies
 Needlecrafts 1 st Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Vacancies
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Pat Laughton 020 8302 9984	3 Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Helen Salmon 07786 465862 or 020 8309 1689	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	Vacancies
 Science 3 rd Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	2 Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Theatre Trips: Musicals   £	Sue Brooks 020 8298 1117	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30–9.30 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 that group.

 Not during school/bank holidays
 Temporary point of contact

£ A charge applies
 Certain seasons only

 Open to all
 Times vary

