

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

February 2011



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

**NOTICES**

**New Groups**

French Group

Please see Betty Deutsch regarding the next date for meeting at her house. This group meets approximately twice a month.

Spanish Group

If you are interested in joining a Spanish group, please add your name to the sheet on the Group Co-ordinator's notice board.

Park Strollers Group

Please meet Dorothy Mason at the back of the hall at the end of today's meeting. This is with the view to meeting at her house to try and get this group off the ground.

The Cathedral Group

This is a study course which will take place at a member's home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm. Please see Val Gosden for more information about this new group.

A Chance to Speak

Please see the notice board at the back of the hall for more information about this new group.

**Group Closures**

Antiques Appreciation (5)

This group was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10.30 and led by Martin Baker.

Recorder Playing

This group was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and led by Mary Hawes.

German Group

This group is now 'ON HOLD' until further notice.

**Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator**

**Science and Conservation at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

U3A Study Afternoon at Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

1.30pm – 4.30pm Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Admission is by ticket only (£12.50 including refreshments) obtainable by written application to Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE enclosing stamped addressed envelope and a cheque payable to Third Age Trust.

**George Murrell**

## **Urgent Plea – Treasurer Needed**

No response has been received from the appeal in last month's newsletter. Any member prepared to consider the possibility of undertaking this essential role is urged to telephone the Chair, Anne Evans, telephone number 020 8302 2261 for an informal chat. It is essential to the future of the branch that a potential successor to Dennis is identified without delay.

**George Murrell, Secretary**

## **Concerts**

Royal Festival Hall, London, 3.00pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011

The Philharmonia Orchestra is giving performances of the following:

- Gioacchino Rossini – Overture William Tell.
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Piano Concerto No 23.
- Johannes Brahms – Symphony No 2.

Conducted by Juraj Valcuha with Ingrid Fliter on the piano.

I have reserved 10 tickets at £10 for seats in the rear stalls for which I shall require payment at the February meeting. Tickets will be given out at the March meeting.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 3.00pm Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Charles Rosen is giving performances on the piano of the following by Fryderyk Chopin:

- 2 Nocturnes, Op. 62
- Barcarolle in F sharp, Op. 60
- 3 Mazurkas, Op. 59
- Polonaise-Fantaisie in A flat, Op. 61
- Ballade No.4 in F minor, Op. 52
- Piano Sonata No.3 in B minor, Op. 58

Tickets should cost in the region of £12.

**Norma Balfour** ☎ **020 8303 7693**

## **U3A UK Online Courses**

The Third Age Trust offers online courses which are specially designed for older people and which are available through a partnership between the Third Age Trust and the U3A Online Inc. based in Australia. These are courses for which no entry qualifications are required. They offer no credit on completion and are designed purely for personal interest and enjoyment. They have been written by volunteers who are experienced tutors or course leaders in their fields. These courses are aimed at U3A members, ex-U3A members who are no longer able to attend a U3A, and those unable to access conventional courses for one reason or another (e.g. restricted mobility, disability, etc).

*Excerpt from the Third Age Trust's website*

① Visit the Third Age Trust's website at <http://onlinecourses.u3a.org.uk/> for further information.

**Editor**

## Newsletter - Contributions Sought

It has been noted that the number of articles submitted by group leaders for inclusion in the Newsletter has declined over recent months. Please let us know what your group has been doing lately as I'm sure that other members will be most interested.

**George Murrell**

## Annual Lunch

Owing to the low uptake for last year's lunch, the Committee has decided to postpone this year's event. If anyone would like to organise an alternative, please let me know.

**Anne Evans**

## GROUP NEWS

### Local History 3 • Leader Pam Kirk



#### Visit to Vintners Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011

It was a very cold morning when we arrived, but we were warmly received by Major Steve Marcham. His knowledge of the building and the history of the Vintners Company is vast, and, as he guided us through the corridors, rooms, and staircases, he explained the many stories that went with the various exhibits, furniture items, carvings and portraits. We were introduced to 'the past' with each of the rooms that we entered, and our guide was always ready to answer any questions we had, and also drew our attention to beautiful carvings, marvellous ornate ceilings, stained-glass windows, chandeliers and furniture. There were Charters lining the walls, a deed for the Hall dated 1352, a tapestry from 1466 depicting St. Martin and St. Dunstan, and a Hearse Cloth donated in 1539. There were so many things of interest – too many to list here – but each had a history to tell.

Steve finished our tour by telling us all about 'Swan Upping'. The Vintners Company have the right to own swans on the River Thames and have probably held this right even before the first record of it in 1522. Their swans are counted every year and in July the cygnets are marked with two nicks in the beak to distinguish the Vintners' swans from those of the other owners. In 1997 the practice of 'nicking' ceased and the Company swans are now ringed with two Company crests. A Banquet called a Swan Feast is held every year in November, and swans figure in the Company's Coat of Arms. The tour was expected to take about one and a half hours, but our lasted longer! Our thanks go to Major Steve Marcham for such an interesting tour.

### Doreen Freeman & Gloria Stevens

The motto on the coat of arms reads "Vinum Animum Exhilarat" – wine gladdens the heart. The shield bears 3 tuns which were used for transporting wine. Bunches of grapes adorn the swans' necks, and a medieval ship known as a caravel symbolises the Vintners' connection with the French wine producing area of Gascony.



**Editor**

## **Classical Music • Leader Derick Johnson**



January's session was orchestrated by David Wallis who started with Carl Maria von Weber's Overture Jubel played by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Rafael Kubelik. We then heard Jeremiah Clarke's Suite for Trumpet and Organ, played by Håkan Hardenberger and Simon Preston respectively, followed by Peter Hope's Mexican Hat Dance with the Royal Ballet Sinfonia; both of these items included some rather familiar pieces of other music which complemented the composers' works. The next work was Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody played by the Vienna State Opera Orchestra, and we were informed that, although Liszt was a loyal Hungarian, he was never able to speak the language. We then had a change with Dmitri Shostakovich's Waltz Jazz Suite № 2 with the Lotus Flute Quintet – an unusual sound – and then Chopin's Nocturne № 9 in B played by Arthur Rubinstein on the piano. The first part of our session concluded with Mozart's piano concerto № 13 in C major played by Mitsuko Uchido on the piano accompanied by The English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Jeffrey Tate. Following our customary refreshment break, we heard Alan Rawsthorne's Hornpipe Humoresque with Jeffrey Howard's solo organ providing a reminder of the Promenade Concerts. The end of our music afternoon was underlined by Haydn's Symphony № 48 in C major, "Maria Therese", played by Capella Istropolitana conducted by Barry Wordsworth. The content of the music this month was refreshingly different – which is what we always strive to achieve.

**Derick Johnson**

## GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	<b>A Chance to Speak</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	7
	<b>Amblers (Group 1)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>John Harbert</b> 020 8300 5361	Yes
	<b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 6372 <b>José Steward</b> 07957 181808	Yes
	<b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (morning)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372 <b>José Steward</b> 07957 181808	Yes
	<b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (midday)	<b>Fred Green</b>	Yes
	<b>German</b> Thursdays (2 pm; not 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs)	<b>Betty Deutsch</b> 020 8302 6526	On hold until further notice
	<b>Local History (Group 1)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>John Harlow</b> 020 8300 3865	2
	<b>Local History (Group 2)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>Pauline Watling</b> 020 8300 3910 <b>Barbara Olney</b> 020 8302 4289 <b>Jill Bryant</b> 01322 524008	3
	<b>Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (10.30 am)	<b>Annette Jansen</b> 01322 522252	Yes
	<b>Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	<b>Pat &amp; Alf Cracknell</b> 020 8302 0823	Yes
	<b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10 am)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372	Yes
	<b>The Cathedral</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (2.30 pm)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	2
	<b>Theatre (Group 2)</b> Various matinées	<b>Joan &amp; John Somerset</b> 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

### 2011

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	N/A	Group Displays
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

<b>Travel Group Leader</b>	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
<b>Raffle Organiser</b>	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
<b>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster</b>	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 DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

*Please submit contributions by 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.*

### 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.

*Afterthought*

*It's nice to be important – but it's more important to be nice.*

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2011



The Committee invites all paid up members to the fifteenth Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the New Community Church, Station Road, Sidcup.

**Agenda**

Apologies for absence  
Matters arising  
Minutes of 2010 AGM  
Approval of accounts  
Annual reports  
Election of officers  
Appointment of inspector of accounts  
Any other business

Minutes of the 2010 AGM and annual reports are attached.

**George Murrell, Secretary**

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
MINUTES OF 2010 AGM**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2010



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the New Community Church Hall on  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The Chairman, Dr John Mercer, welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his thanks to Committee members for their work throughout the year.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Pamela Callaghan, Barbara Carpenter, Ron Carpenter, Kathleen Cordell, Christine Spencer, David Wallis and Mary Webb.
2. **Minutes of the 2009 AGM:** Proposed by Michael Jordan, seconded by Charles Owen that they be approved. Carried.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Approval of accounts:** Proposed by Annette Jansen, seconded by Eric Percival that they be accepted. Carried.
5. **Annual Reports:** Proposed by Olive Mercer, seconded by Michael Jordan that they be accepted. Carried.
6. **Election of officers:** The following nominations had been received:-

<b>Chairman</b>	Anne Evans
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Annette Jansen
<b>Secretary</b>	George Murrell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dennis Brittain
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	John Harlow
<b>Speakers' Secretary</b>	Val Gosden
<b>Group Co-ordinator</b>	Christine Spencer
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Kathleen Cordell

There being no other nominations it was proposed by Charles Owen, seconded by Gay Braybrook that they be re-elected "en-bloc". Carried.

Annette Jansen then paid tribute to John Mercer, the retiring chairman for all his hard work during his four years in office which was met with a round of applause.

7. **Appointment of inspector of accounts:** Proposed by Eric Percival, seconded by Gay Braybrook that Alan Platt should be re-appointed. Carried.
8. **Any other business:** John Mercer thanked the members for their support during his term in office.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 2.20pm.

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
ANNUAL REPORTS**

2010



**Chairman's Report for year 2010**

My first year in office has gone amazingly quickly. I have been fortunate to have had the support and guidance of an experienced Committee to whom I owe my heartfelt thanks.

My thanks go also to Kathy Cordell for arranging a convenient venue, with coffee, for the Committee deliberations.

The monthly meetings have been well attended and we have regularly welcomed visitors and new members.

Special thanks go to Val Gosden who continues to arrange good speakers on a variety of topics. We are very much indebted to the few members who set up and clear away chairs and tables each month; more help would be welcome.

The annual lunch was enjoyed by a small group of members.

Annette Jansen, my Vice-Chairman, is standing down this year. She has been in office for five years and is deserving of a rest! Thank you Annette.

My final thanks go to all those members who, in various ways, contribute to the continuing success of Sidcup U3A.

I hope that in the coming year we can look forward to encouraging more members to enjoy our activities and fellowship.

**Anne Evans, Chair**

**Treasurer's Report for year 2010**

It has been another good year for Sidcup U3A. You helped in raising £750.78 for our charity which was Bridging the Gap, South East.

In the past five years you have raised £4339.32 for the charities we have supported.

My thanks to Alan Platt for examining the accounts

**Den Brittain, Treasurer**

## **Group Co-ordinator's Report for year 2010**

At present we have 41 groups. Several groups have had to close this year and we would like to thank the leaders of these groups for all their time and effort over the years.

New groups set up in 2010:

First Aid	lead by Gladys Davidson
Park Strollers	lead by various members
Philosophy	lead by Bernard Catallo
Music 2	lead by Maureen Porter
French	lead by Betty Deutsch
The Cathedral	lead by Val Gosden

We would like to thank the leaders and wish them success with their groups.

Although we have a membership of over 240, we still do not seem to be able to encourage more members to start new groups or even take over either groups that have closed or are threatening to close. Let us hope that 2011 will prove this to be a thing of the past.

**Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator**

### **Comment from Vice-Chair**

It has been a pleasure to be on the U3A Management Committee for 5 years, but I feel that it is time to move over and make room for younger members to come forward.

Perhaps it is not always realised that there is great team work involved in running a U3A and this has always been achieved by good leadership. John Mercer was Chairman in my first years and then Anne Evans was elected a year ago and deserves full support, assistance and thanks from us all.

**Annette Jansen-Holland**