

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

February 2013



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

NOTICES

Around the Country

Newark and District U3A's Archaeology Group enjoyed the splendour of Stokesay Castle during a 4-day visit to Cheshire and Shropshire. Other excursions included Wroxeter Roman City, Chester, Shrewsbury, Ludlow and the Ironbridge Gorge Museums.

The Knit & Natter group at Pershore and District U3A has been busy making bonnets for over 1000 premature babies born at Nottingham Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The bonnets, which are about the size of a tennis ball, are knitted to a design by a member of Queen's Neo Natal with holes in the rib to hold the breathing tube in place, and a gap in the seam where the scan is fitted. In July, five of its members travelled to City Hospital, Nottingham, for a guided tour of the unit and to see their bonnets in action.

Members of one of the six Tunbridge Wells U3A walking groups enjoyed an all-inclusive guided walking holiday in the Carpathian Mountains. Based near the spa town of Piwniczna Zdrój, two hours drive from Kraków, the group saw the historic Lemk churches and spas, ending the holiday with a 5.6 mile raft trip down the Dunajec River. Most of the group stayed in Kraków an extra three days, taking in the delights of this historic city.

Following their study of the pottery industry in Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton U3A's Local History group paid a visit to the Wedgwood Factory and Museum at Barlaston, Staffordshire. They learned how the famous pottery is made and admired the London 2012 Olympic specials.

A number of Rickmansworth U3A Food group members celebrated their 70th birthdays with a garden party. Both food groups attended on what was a dry and sunny day, enjoying Pimms on arrival followed by mini sandwiches, cakes, scones, savoury tartlets and black cherry jellies. The afternoon was rounded off with strawberries and cream served with champagne.

Bede of Jarrow U3A visited the South Shields Town Hall on 10th July, where they enjoyed the hospitality of the Lady Mayor, Councillor Eileen Leask and her Lady Mayoress, Councillor Olive Punchion. The group was given an insight into the workings of the Town Council and was treated to an excellent afternoon tea.

Crewe & Nantwich U3A are thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a grant of £5,890 by the Big lottery fund. The money will be spent on new audiovisual equipment, including laptops, projectors and software.

Sidcup & District U3A needs a Social Secretary.

Founders' Day Lecture

This will take place at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 on 9th April 2013. Inaugural Founders' Lecture will be given by Eric Midwinter on Schooldays Stories, Educational Failure and the U3A Ideal. Apply for tickets to National Office, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE. Admission is £5 – cheques to be made payable to The Third Age Trust.

Excerpt from U3A London Region website

U3A Explores Science at the RI

1.30pm–5pm, Monday 25th March at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle St, London W1. Tickets at £18 each including refreshments are available from Third Age Trust.

Lectures include:

- David Smith: Life Saving Chemistry – Medicine beyond the Molecule.
- Daniel Bor: The Brain and Consciousness.
- Helen Scales: Are there really plenty more fishes in the sea?

U3A Spring Concert

Vivaldi Gloria – Grove Singers Conducted by Brian Newman

2pm–4pm Wednesday 17th April at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London WC2. Tickets (limited to two per member) £18 per person including programme available from Third Age Trust.

Elgar Unveiled

Exploring Sir Edward Elgar's life and the women who influenced him

11am–3.45pm Tuesday 21st May at the Elgar Birthplace Museum, Crown East Lane, Lower Broadheath, Worcester WR2 6RH. Tickets (Limited to two per member) cost £15 per person including lunch and refreshments available from Third Age Trust.

Bespoke Theatre Study Day for U3A Members

Created by the Ambassador Theatre Group

10.30am– 2.30pm Wednesday 20th March at the Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, London W1. The subject is “Harold Pinter's dramatic work” and consists of two workshops:

- Pinter's People: A Performer's Perspective
- Pinter's Places: A Director's Perspective.

Tickets £20 per person including lunch and refreshments are available from Third Age Trust. An optional extra (£20 per person) is a visit to the Harold Pinter Theatre at 3pm to see “Old Times” starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Rufus Sewell and Lia Williams.

Applications for tickets for all the above should be addressed to Third Age Trust, 19 East St, Bromley BR1 1QE and should contain a stamped addressed envelope for reply. Cheques to be made payable to The Third Age Trust.

U3A Photography Competition 2013

“What Makes Britain Great?”

Entries to be sent by post to National Office by 10th May 2013. Further details are on the notice board.

George Murrell

Age Concern

Did you know that Age Concern will send a handyman/handywoman to do minor household repairs? The charge is £10 an hour. However, he/she will provide and fit – completely free of charge – replacement light bulbs, smoke alarms or carbon monoxide detectors. The man who fitted our replacement smoke alarm said that anyone who has gas central heating, a gas boiler or a gas fire, should have a carbon monoxide detector. Age Concern is in Manor House in Grassington Road; they are open from 10am and their number is 020 8300 0883.

Olive Mercer

Harenc School

Hope Community School will be opening in the former Harenc School in Rectory Lane, Foots Cray. It is a free school – that is to say, it is not under local authority control, but is a faith school, obtaining support from New Generation Church and local businesses. It will not be a private fee charging school, as was Harenc, but will be more like its earlier school, Foots Cray Church of England School. It will open with places for 25 reception pupils. The government has approved its opening and a head teacher has been already been appointed. A consultation process is taking place and further information can be found on this web site:

<http://www.hopecommunityschool.org/>

John Mercer

i Harenc School takes its name from the family of George Harenc, a cricketer born in Footscray in 1811, who played for the great Kent team of the 1840s and also the MCC. He was a late-order batsman, but was best known as a bowler of right-arm slow underarm lobs who twice took ten wickets in a match. The original Harenc School building (a preparatory school for boys funded by a trust in the family's name) was built 1815 as the village church school and then rebuilt in 1882.

Editor



Ramblers 1 • Leader Annette Holland



Gloria and Derek foretold the weather well and on a cold, icy day took us on a local walk – which made the meeting point very accessible. 14 of us assembled at the entrance to Bexley Park Woods at Blendon to walk to Avery Hill Park using mainly footpaths through woods, open spaces and parks. It is amazing that, although this is well over 5 miles, it can be done using very few roads.

It was turning cooler when we arrived at our lunch stop in the Park and we anticipated a warm welcome at the café; it was, however, unexpectedly closed. A further mile would lead us on to New Eltham where there was known to be an excellent café. The group split up at this point with some managing the extra mile and had an excellent meal before taking the train back to Bexley and their cars. Personally, I found the ice made walking difficult, so the rest of us headed for the nearest chip shop and then took a bus back to our bases. It was a lovely walk for such a bleak day.

Annette Holland

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



On Wednesday 8th January, 8 of us set off from Sidcup/Eltham via the connection at New Cross for the Overground to Hoxton. Upon arrival, we went out of the station to the Geffrye Museum of the Home which is situated right beside it. Sir Robert Geffrye was an Ironmonger who founded almshouses to provide care for workers in his trade who became poor. Later occupants were schoolteachers and nannies who had retired from their work. Sometimes they housed a family with children. All were cared for spiritually through the resident Chaplain and physically through the resident Matron. However, residents were expected to care for each other, manage their everyday lives, and obey the rules of the Ironmongers Trust.

On the date of our visit, one of the 14 original almshouses was open at various times during the morning, and we were lucky enough to have the volunteer guides to ourselves for the first tour at 11am. This wonderfully renovated 18th century almshouse has been restored to its original decoration and consists of 4 rooms entered via a communal front door. Each room was allocated to a resident as their home and a small sum of money and coal were provided. Water had to be drawn from the well outside, but this was eventually piped into the basement where there was situated a copper for heating water for washing, etc. We toured with our knowledgeable guides, 2 rooms set out as they would have been for (a) a retired ironmonger, and (b) a retired genteel nanny. It was fascinating to see the basic needs, simple and sufficient for a healthy, happy retirement, with lovely views out of the windows to the large open lawns and trees. The nanny's room was full of memorabilia from her travels with the family with which she had been employed. It was interesting to see the changes in lighting from tallow candles to gas flame in this room, and to note the candle box on the wall – high enough to be out of reach of nibbling mice! It was here that we learned from our guide the origin of the saying “sleep tight” – the ropes which supported the mattress of the bed on the base could be tightened each day to give a more comfortable sleep!

We all agreed that these almshouses provided a very cosy haven out of busy London thanks to the generosity of Sir Robert Geffrye. Over the years, with the development of the area and its traffic, the Ironmongers almshouses moved to Mottingham and then to Hampshire. The LCC bought the premises and the land mainly to preserve the green area for the people of London as a public park. The buildings have been converted into a museum to reflect the changes in the parlours of the middle classes from the 1600–2000 through a series of rooms along the long corridor of the original almshouses. These range from the oak panelled austerity of the Elizabethans to the ornate tastes of the Victorians and on to the open plan style of today. The back garden opens only in the spring, but it looked delightful from the sunny flagstoned café where we sampled the delicious menu. The garden contains over 170 different herbs which were very popular for keeping the bugs at bay in the almshouses! Those of us who had visited this museum before were very happy to have had the chance to see the restored number 14. For the few on their first visit it was a very special treat indeed.

Janet Young

i In Britain, almshouses have been created throughout the period since the 10th century to provide a residence for poor, old and distressed folk. The earliest recorded almshouse was founded in York by King Athelstan; the oldest still in existence is the Hospital of St. Cross in Winchester, founded between 1132–1136 by Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester. Many of the medieval almshouses in England were established with the aim of benefiting the soul of the founder or their family, and they frequently incorporated a chapel. As a result, most were regarded as chantries and were dissolved by an Act of 1547 during the Reformation. Religion is less important now than it was in medieval times and the Christian aspect of almshouses no longer applies to all voluntary sector housing. Almshouses tend to be characterised by their charitable status and their aim of supporting the continued independence of their residents.

Editor

Amblers 2 • Leader Norma Balfour



We will start walking again on 20th March. We will be catching the 9.31 train from Sidcup to London for a visit to Alexandra Park in North London.

Norma Balfour

Concerts/Ballet/Opera • Leader Norma Balfour



Music

Thank you for so many coming to the concert at the Festival Hall in January. It was a very hearted version of Johann Strauss. The singer was first class and the dancing and costumes were lovely. It was a shame about the travelling.

The next concert I will try to book will be at 3pm on 7th April at the Festival Hall. This will feature the music of Grieg, Dvořák and Sibelius. I will reserve 10 seats at around £15 each and I will need the cash at the time you sign up for it.

Ballet

For ballet lovers there is the Carlos Acosta Classical Selection at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30th July at the Coliseum. Tickets will cost approximately £20.

Norma Balfour, 020 8303 7693

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden






‘Art Outdoors’ was the theme of our January walk. London has many statues and wall reliefs, most of which we generally walk past with hardly a second glance; on this trip, however, we took a closer look at some of them. As we walked along Victoria Embankment, we spotted several statues of military personnel, before crossing to the river side of the road where we viewed the splendid Battle of Britain monument. We then continued on to Parliament Square where we saw – amongst others – the statues of Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela. Across the road, in the wall of the Middlesex Town Hall, is a relief – part of which depicts the Nine Day Queen, Lady Jane Grey, receiving the crown. Walking on to Tate Britain, we saw Britannia on top of the building, and a little further on ‘Jeté’, which is based on the British ballet dancer, David Wall. Other works of art included a lion chasing its prey, Quadriga (which is on top of the Wellington Arch), a memorial to the Rifle Brigade, and the Royal Artillery War Memorial. Finally, we saw the statues of Florence Nightingale (which has reliefs that depict scenes of her work during the Crimean War), and Nelson on top of his column in Trafalgar Square.

Val Gosden

(i) A quadriga is a chariot drawn by four horses abreast, but the word quadriga may refer to the chariot or four horses alone, or the combination. They were emblems of triumph; Victory and Fame are often depicted as the triumphant woman driving it. In classical mythology, the quadriga is the chariot of the gods; Apollo has been depicted driving his quadriga across the heavens delivering daylight and dispersing darkness. Quadrigas were used for Roman chariot racing, and they were raced in the Ancient Olympic Games and other contests.

Editor

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	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
 Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	2
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	3
 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 ↳

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

↳ Notice on the board at meetings

PROGRAMME

2013

February	Mrs. Austin	Honey
March	Annual General Meeting	
	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 & 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
Lost time is never found again.*

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

21st March 2013



The Committee invites all paid up members to the seventeenth Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 21st March at the New Community Church, Station Road, Sidcup.

Agenda

Apologies for absence
Matters arising
Minutes of 2012 AGM
Approval of accounts
Annual reports
Election of officers
Appointment of inspector of accounts
Any other business

Minutes of the 2012 AGM and annual reports are attached.

George Murrell, Secretary

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
MINUTES OF 2012 AGM**

15th March 2012



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the New Community Church Hall on
15th March 2012**

The Chairman, Anne Evans, welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her thanks to Committee members and group leaders for their support throughout the year.

Apologies for absence were received from Charles Owen, George Murrell, Norma Balfour.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM: Proposed by John Mercer and seconded by Annette Holland that they be approved. Carried.

Matters arising: Elisabeth Harmer asked that her name be spelt correctly. Her Christian name has an “s” and not “z”.

Approval of accounts: Proposed by Shirley Haynes and seconded by Alan Platt that they be accepted. Carried.

Annual Reports: Proposed by Joan Somerset and seconded by Ann Harlow that they be accepted. Carried.

Election of officers: The following nominations had been received:-

Chairman	Anne Evans
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South
Secretary	George Murrell
Treasurer	Christine Smith
Membership Secretary	Margaret Scambler
Speakers' Secretary	Susan Brooks
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer
Welfare Officer	Kathleen Cordell

There being no other nominations, it was proposed by Val Gosden, seconded by Carol Green that they be elected “en-bloc”. Carried.

Appointment of inspector of accounts. Proposed by Pat Coyston, seconded by Fred Green that Dennis Brittain be appointed. Carried.

Any other business: Barbara Carpenter gave a vote of thanks to John Harlow for all of the years (17 years) he had put in as Membership Secretary. Barbara Shilling queried about the entrance being locked. The Chairman said that it would be locked at 2.15 for security reasons. If any members arrive after that time, then they need to press the button on the left hand side of the door; this goes directly to the office. If locked when going out then just turn the knob on the lock.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE ANNUAL REPORTS

2012



Chairman's Report for year 2012

Sidcup and District U3A has had another year with a good regular attendance at our monthly meetings. We continue to attract visitors and new members, helping to keep our membership lively and interesting.

We have enjoyed some engaging speakers on a wide range of subjects both informative and entertaining – sometimes both together!

I have been encouraged this year by an increase in members volunteering to help at meetings. This has enabled some rotas to be made which contribute to making our meetings more focused and enjoyable for all.

Thank you to everyone who in their various ways contributes to the continuing success of our Sidcup U3A.

I am indebted to an excellent Committee for all their hard work and continuing commitment during the year; they are a great team to work with.

We look forward to 2013 with the hope of welcoming more people to join us to take part in our activities and enjoy our friendship.

Anne Evans

Treasurer's Report for year 2012

As planned, we made a loss of £1096.99 against this year's income by reducing the membership fees to £10. This brings our bank balance to under the £5000 as stipulated by The Trust to avoid the necessity for us to register legally as a charity. As our membership numbers increase, we have been able to cope with some of the extra cost of hall hire, speakers fees, printing and postage stamps.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our charity "Guide Dogs for the Blind". I was able to send a cheque for £431.90 to them, which was gratefully received. This is made up of raffle and tea money plus donations from the Jazz Group, and the prize money from the winning group of our March musical quiz.

I would like to thank Dennis Brittain for auditing the accounts.

Christine Smith, Treasurer

Membership Secretary's Report for year 2012

The year started with 24 deciding not to renew their membership. During the year, we had 48 new members and sadly six members have died. We ended 2012 with a total of 264 members.

Margaret Scambler, Membership Secretary.

Group Co-ordinator's Report for year 2012

At present we have 38 groups up and running and 1 group pending a new leader.

Groups that have closed this year are:

The Cathedral which was led by Val Gosden

Classical Music (2) which was led by Maureen Porter

Criminology which was led by the late Norman Slaughter

National Trust/English Heritage which was led by various members

Park Strollers which was led by Dorothy Mason

Play Reading which was led by various members

Thank you to all of these members who have given their time to these groups.

New Groups started in 2012 are:

Book Reading which is led by various members

Walking in London which is led by Val Gosden

At present we have 268 members but we continue to find it difficult to encourage members to start new groups and take over existing groups. Perhaps in 2013 we will see this to be a thing of the past.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator

SIDCUP AND DISTRICT U 3 A

Accounts from 1st January-31th December 2012

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS	265	£2,610.00
CHARITY		£431.90
LUNCH		

EXPENDITURE

HALL HIRE	£1,380.00
CHARITY	£431.90
LUNCH	
AFFILIATION FEES	£1,087.50
SPEAKERS	£584.00
PRINTING	£379.27
POSTAGE	£87.24
WEB SITE	£43.06
PRESENTATION	
STATIONERY	£35.28
COMPETITIONS	£40.00
MEMBERSHIP REFUND	£15.00
CHRISTMAS	£55.64
BANK CHARGE	<u>£4,138.89</u>
LOSS OF	-£1,096.99
	<u>£3,041.90</u>

2012	
01/01/12 Cash in Bank	£5,523.29
01/01/12 Petty Cash	£15.59
	<u>£5,538.88</u>
31/12/12 Loss of	<u>-£1,096.99</u>
	<u>£4,441.89</u>

2012	
31/12/12 Cash in Bank	£4,431.07
31/12/12 Petty Cash	<u>£10.82</u>
	<u>£4,441.89</u>

The above is a true account of the SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A's position as at the 31st December 2012

11 JANUARY 2013



C. A. Smith
Treasurer



D. Brittain
Examiner of Accounts