

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

February 2015



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 (but see 'Reminder' Notice)

NOTICES

Legal Advice

Free 24 hour legal advice is available for U3A members. Simply telephone 'FirstAssist' on 01455251500 and quote the following details – NAME THE THIRD AGE TRUST – Number 70494.

FirstAssist can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A related ones!



Shared Learning Project

There will be a Shared Learning Project with the Charterhouse Trust, London EC1 entitled "The Charterhouse Brothers – A Social History." The project will run on Thursdays from 26th March until 11th June (or possibly later) with meetings taking place at Charterhouse Square, EC1 and research at London Metropolitan Archives, Northampton Row, Clerkenwell.

The Charterhouse was established in 1611 as an alms-house for elderly men and a school. The school moved to Godalming in 1872 but 45 pensioners (known as brothers) are still housed in the original alms-houses at Suttons Hospital, Charterhouse Square, close to Smithfield. The project is to compile from various archives a biographical index with cross references of all the brothers who have been residents. Further information is available from Andy Crane ☎ 07552 771200, email andylynn.crane@gmail.com.

George Murrell

Note to Group Leaders

This is just a gentle reminder that you need to keep the Group Co-ordinator informed of any vacancies that you have in your group so that we can keep the list in the Newsletter up-to-date. The easiest way to do this is to approach me at my table at the monthly meeting. However, if you are absent or find this difficult, please drop me a note via e-mail: trevor.ford@talktalk.net or by phone on 020 8302 7635. It is really important to be able to direct members, particularly new ones, to groups that they can join. It *might* also prevent you being bothered if you *don't* have any vacancies.

Trevor Ford, Group Co-ordinator

Missing People

Sir Trevor McDonald, OBE, is a Patron of the charity we are supporting this year. In a letter he says, "An estimated 250,000 people go missing every year and more than half of these are children. For each and every family, that child is their world. Without them they are left torn and empty. As a patron of this wonderful charity, I have met and spoken with families living with this unspeakable loss and they all say the same thing – the pain of not knowing where their loved one is, and the fear of never knowing, is something they live with every day. But they also say that knowing there are people out there who are still searching and still care means so much for them. That is why your support is so important to us. With your help we can reach out to more families experiencing this most difficult of situations. Missing People is the only UK charity specialising in, and dedicated to, bringing missing people back to their families. Their work is vital and every single donation really does make a difference."

My grandson, now 21, is one of those missing people, which is why your support for this charity means so much to me, and for which I thank you.

Val Gosden

Reminder

Members are reminded that the March monthly meeting (including the AGM) on 19th March will take place at St Lawrence's Church Hall, Hamilton Road, Sidcup. The New Community Church is not available to us on that date. Apologies for any inconvenience.

George Murrell, Secretary

① Please bring with you the Agenda and last year's Minutes (at the back of this Newsletter).

Editor

London Taxicard Scheme

Taxicard is a method of transport that offers subsidised travel in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles to London residents who have difficulty, as a result of serious mobility or eyesight problems, in using buses, trains and the underground. A booklet is available from AgeUK in Grassington Road, Sidcup. Further information from: www.taxicard@londoncouncils.gov.uk or ring 0845 415 4156.

Olive Mercer

GROUP NEWS

Quilling • Leader Val Gosden



A Quilling Session

Quilling is the art of paper filigree work, and if you are interested in learning or furthering your skill in this technique, please contact me. I shall be holding a session at my home address on Saturday, 21st March, starting at 2 o'clock. Tools, papers, etc. will be provided, and the cost for the session, including a cuppa, will be £1.

Val Gosden 020 8300 0664

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



January Ramble

It was a dark and stormy day (I've always wanted to write that), when I set out to pre-empt the ramble from Aperfield. Actually, it wasn't raining, but it was very windy and also dark with lots of cloud, on the shortest day of the year in December. (And yes, I did actually pre-empt it, so there was less than 50% chance we'd get lost this time). In fact, the weather on the actual ramble in January was glorious, despite the horrors of the day before when it rained solidly all morning. And no, we didn't get lost. About a mile before the end, someone asked Caroline if she had her step-counter and she said that we had done 10,000 steps by that stage. So we didn't burn off the Christmas festivities – not even a single biscuit. Brian, it was, I think who owned up to having eaten a wagon-wheel on our way round, so I said next time he'd have to carry a real wagon wheel with him. I was very conscious that we were doing a long walk in the morning – 5 miles. Coupled with acres of mud (which was like trawling through treacle) and a superfluity of stiles, we were very glad to get back to the Aperfield Inn for lunch. There was an excellent fish pie, which several of us sampled, and other equally-to-be recommended dishes. The bonus was that Gordon had a voucher that gave us 25% off the cost of the food. Since we'd arrived a bit late and the service was initially slow, time was marching on by the time we'd finished. Regarding the afternoon section of the ramble, a vote was taken (passed unanimously) not to continue. There was some mumbling about not wanting to put back on our muddy boots, but we all agreed that we'd all done enough anyway. So we went home for a bath!

Trevor Ford

 Located south east of Biggin Hill, the town of Aperfield has its name first recorded in 1242 as *Apeldrefeld*; this means “field where apple trees grow.”

Editor

Classical Music • Leader Alan Griffiths



Our first meeting for 2015 was led by Michael Jordan whose first choice was the Overture and Allegro from *Music for the Royal Fireworks* by Handel played by the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Rafael Kubelík. This was followed by Symphony No. 25 by Mozart, played by Mozart Akademie, Amsterdam, and conducted by Jaap ter Linden. This was composed when Mozart was in his late teens! The next item was Beethoven's lovely Sonata No. 14 (*Moonlight*) played by John Ogdon as only he could. The final piece in the first half was Tomaso Albinoni's Adagio in G minor for Organ and Strings. This piece was arranged by Remo Giazotto and played by the Lucerne Festival Strings. The organist was Eduard Kaufmann.

The second half of Michael's programme started with the Allegro from the Concerto in D minor BWV 1052 by J. S. Bach. This piece had been written for the harpsichord, but this was transcribed for guitar and performed by Gerald Garcia accompanied by the Camerata Cassovia. Next were the soothing Nocturne in B and the Waltz No. 3 in A minor by Chopin. The next item was *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi, played by the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra conducted by Jörg Faerber. Finally, we listened to, and joined in with, the *Radetzky March* by Johann Strauss Senior performed by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by John Georgiadis. It was a good programme with which to start the New Year.

Alan Griffiths

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



In January, twelve of us visited Temple Hall. Located in the heart of London's legal quarter, Middle Temple Hall is one of the four ancient Inns of Court. It was built between 1562–1573 and remains virtually unchanged having survived the Great Fire of London and both World Wars. We met our very informative guide at the entrance who took us into the magnificent hall with its double hammerbeam roof. Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Frances Drake are known to have dined here, and generations of Royalty have all dined on the 29 foot oak High Table. We all dined on one of the lower tables – and a very sumptuous meal it was. What a lovely visit!

Christine Withams

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



The book for December, chosen by Janet, was *The Seamstress* by Maria Duenas which was very much enjoyed by each one of us. The author is Spanish and a university lecturer, and the story is a translation. She brought to light a whole period of Spanish history of which we were quite unaware. During the Spanish Civil War of the 1930's, the ordinary people suffered harsh deprivations and many fled to Morocco to start new lives. This was the story of a girl with a talent for dressmaking who established a fashion business and who also accidentally became a spy. She later founded a fashion house in Madrid and also became attached to the Allied cause against Germany during the Second World War. Although fiction, much of this novel is based on fact – which is an intriguing thought. We discussed the book over a very pleasant lunch at Sophies Choice – this being our post-Christmas get-together. It was a great afternoon.

June Reid

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



On Wednesday 14th January, 15 of us visited the Victoria & Albert Museum. We had been to the Museum in the past to visit various Exhibitions, but this was a general visit which gave us an opportunity to explore some of the many other exhibits. There is so much to see that it is difficult to decide where to go first. Amongst other things we visited were the jewellery, fashion, glass and musical instrument exhibits. Some of us were very impressed with the Great Bed of Ware which was made in Ware, Hertfordshire between 1590 and 1600. I think we all agreed that it was a very interesting visit.

Pat Garwood

Ramblers 2 • Leader David Wedderkop



Tuesday 27th January 2015 – Cannon Street Station to West India Quays.

7 walkers set off from Cannon Street Station at 11 am. The day was sunny and the wind was behind us. The river walk was along the north side of the Thames which kept us in the sun. We found that progress through town was slow as there were too many distractions. Having passed the Tower of London and St Katharine's Dock, we didn't lose people quite so often. It was a warm day for this time of year so this was no problem. 2 walkers stopped in the Prospect of Whitby and then travelled home via Wapping Station. The rest of us walked on to West India Dock and had lunch at the Wetherspoons pub by the museum. [Museum of London Docklands]

David Wedderkop

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 2) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	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
 Classical Music 2 nd Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	Alan Griffiths 020 8303 6636	Vacancies
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates and times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies 
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) 	Leader pending  needed, please	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tuesday & 4 th Thursday	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	Vacancies
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 Meditation 1 st & 3 rd Monday (10.00–11.30 am)	Keith Alker 020 8850 2853	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	David Wedderkop 020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 3) 1 st Friday (≈ 6 miles)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	Vacancies
 Rummikub® 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)  £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation Last Thursday (7.30 pm) £	Michael Jordan 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.

Trevor Ford, Interim Group Co-ordinator  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.

 Not during school holidays
 Notice on the board at meetings

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only
 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2015

February	Roger Stevens	Audio Visuals
March		Annual General Meeting
	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
Interim Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635
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 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. 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

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

*Everything is funny so long as it is happening to somebody else.
(Will Rogers, 1924)*

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
NOMINATION FORM**

2015–2016



We the undersigned being persons whose names appear on the membership list of the above U3A hereby nominate:–

Name

Address

As candidate for:–

Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Secretary/Speakers Secretary/
Group Co-ordinator/Welfare Officer.

Proposer Seconded

Declaration and Consent.

I declare that I am a member of Sidcup & District U3A and that, if elected, I consent to serve.

Signed Date

The present Committee is as follows:–

Anne Evans	Acting Chairman (4 years as Chairman completed)
Lesley South	Vice-Chairman
George Murrell	Secretary
Christine Smith **	Treasurer
Patricia Rivett	Membership Secretary
Kate Berry	Assistant Membership Secretary
Keith Alker **	Group Co-ordinator
Susan Brooks **	Speakers Secretary
Kathy Cordell	Welfare Officer

** Standing down

All nominations are to be returned by 1st March to any Committee member or by post to the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8SH

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

19th March 2015



The Committee invites all paid up members to the Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 19th March 2015 at St Lawrence's Church Hall, Hamilton Road, Sidcup.

Agenda

Apologies for absence
Matters arising
Minutes of 2014 AGM
Approval of accounts
Annual reports
Election of officers
Appointment of inspector of accounts
Any other business

Minutes of the 2014 AGM and annual reports are attached.

George Murrell, Secretary

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
MINUTES OF 2014 AGM**

20th March 2014



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the New Community Church Hall on
20th March 2014**

Apologies for absence were received from George Murrell and Sue Brooks.

Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved as being correct. Proposed by Alan Godfrey and Seconded by Annette Holland.

Matters arising: None.

Approval of accounts: Proposed by Joan Somerset, Seconded by Frances Godfrey that they be accepted. CARRIED

Annual Reports: Proposed by David Smith, Seconded by Mary Huggins that they be accepted. CARRIED

Election of Officers: The following nominations have been received:-

Vice Chairman	Lesley South
Secretary	George Murrell
Treasurer	Christine Smith
Membership Secretary	Carol Owens
Assistant Membership Secretary	Pat Rivett
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks
Welfare Officer	Kathleen Cordell
General Committee Member	Trevor Ford

As no further nominations have been received for the following posts:-

Chairman
Group Co-ordinator

It was agreed that for ONE year only Anne Evans continue as Acting/Chairman and Christine Spencer Acting/Group Co-ordinator.

There being no other nominations, it was proposed by Val Gosden, Seconded by Charles Owen that the nominees be elected "en bloc". CARRIED

Appointment of Inspector of Accounts: Proposed by Charles Owen, Seconded by John Mercer that Dennis Brittain be appointed. CARRIED

Any other business: It was proposed that, instead of just one member, perhaps 2 members would like to share responsibilities of a particular post including covering for each other at meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.10 pm.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE ANNUAL REPORTS

2014



Chairman's Report 2014

2014 was a busy year for Sidcup & District U3A. I continued as Chairman in an acting capacity as, sadly, no-one was prepared to step into my shoes! Membership remained steady, with sufficient new members to replace those leaving us for a variety of reasons.

Monthly meetings continued to be popular and well attended, with visitors most months. Our speakers' subjects have, as always, been diverse, serious and light-hearted, entertaining and always informative. My special thanks go to Sue Brooks for doing a splendid job arranging them for the past three years.

This year we had two group leaders meetings, in March and November. Both were well attended and very useful in terms of communication and opportunities to air and discuss related issues; also a chance to thank leaders on your behalf for their commitment to us all.

In August we held an open meeting. It was both enjoyable and very successful thanks to the fantastic effort on the day by all involved. Other local groups were invited and our own groups enthusiastically displayed and portrayed the diversity of activities available through the U3A. Thanks to publicity by George Murrell, we had 48 visitors and signed 17 new members. We all had a great time.

Thank you to all those who continue to work for the membership in many and varying roles, in many cases behind the scenes – you are much appreciated. My special thanks to the Committee for their continuing support and enthusiasm this year; it's been a pleasure to work with you. We are a co-operative and self-directed organisation, without more volunteers coming forward we will struggle to maintain all our activities in 2015.

I do hope some of you will feel able to help keep our U3A alive in the coming year.

Anne Evans, Chairman

Membership Secretary's Report 2014

Total membership at the end of 2013 was 277 – 55 people decided not to renew, but, during the year, three reinstated their membership.

At the General Meetings in 2014, between 80 – 100 members have attended and during our very successful Open Day in August we had 17 people join with a further 11 people joining during September as a result of the Open Day. End of year total was 274 members. Sadly one member passed away during the year.

Patricia Rivett & Kate Berry, Membership Secretaries

Treasurer's Report 2014

Due to an increase in our membership numbers, the loss this year is smaller than expected. Expenses have been kept to a minimum, so our membership fee does not need to increase just yet, provided we can keep the membership levels steady.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised £711.56 for the four charities – Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation, Médecins Sans Frontières and NSPCC. A cheque for £100.00 made out to Médecins Sans Frontières was also received.

My thanks go to Dennis Brittain for auditing this year's accounts books.

Christine Smith, Treasurer

① See last page for statement of accounts for 2014.

Editor

Group Co-ordinator's Report 2014

I took over the role from Keith Alker in November, though I had been supporting and “shadowing” him for a few months before that. So my first report will be blessedly brief, I'm sure you're pleased to hear. Existing groups seem healthy, though it was sad to see one of the Theatre-Visit groups had folded. (There is no longer a list of group members kept centrally, but only by Group Leaders). Not many new groups have been started during the year, though a number of like-minded people have signed up to form new groups, *eg* poetry, crosswords. These do not seem to have progressed further, so it would be good for someone to suggest a venue, a leader and a meeting time. A recent Committee suggestion is that we designate a table for such new groups in the refreshment area, (as we have for new members to team up with existing “buddies”) to start initial discussions. Remember, as we keep plugging, the U3A belongs to its members and, as such, is a self-help group. The perennial problem of full existing groups continues to rear its ugly head, particularly disenfranchising new members. This is rather sad in view of our continued recruitment (see membership report), especially following Open Day and at the start of a New Year. We did have an enjoyable meeting during last year for Group Leaders for general discussions, but we were not able to resolve this specific issue. One suggestion that would help is, if members of existing groups are prepared to act as Leaders for a break-away group; they could even maintain their membership of the original group if they wished. Any suggestions to resolve this are urgently needed. I have further advice and help on running groups. Just a reminder to Group Leaders to keep me informed of vacancies. I do pass these on for publication in the Newsletter, but I also need to know.

Good Luck and an enjoyable year for all Group Leaders and members.

Trevor Ford, Group Co-ordinator

SIDCUP AND DISTRICT U 3 A

Accounts from 1st January-31st December 2014

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	269	£3,760.00	HALL HIRE	£1,500.00	
CHARITY		£711.56	CHARITY	£711.56	
LUNCH			REFRESHMENTS	£9.10	
			AFFILIATION FEES	£1,160.64	
			SPEAKERS	£769.00	
			PRINTING	£397.50	
			POSTAGE	£32.33	
			WEB SITE	£43.06	
			PRESENTATION		
			STATIONERY	£16.98	
			EQUIPMENT	£7.00	
			CHRISTMAS	£86.29	
			BANK CHARGE		
				£4,733.46	
			EXCESS INCOME	-£261.90	
		£4,471.56		£4,471.56	
1/1/14	Cash in Bank	£4,324.87	31/12/2014	Cash in Bank	£4,071.17
1/1/14	Petty Cash	£14.78	31/12/2014	Petty Cash	£6.58
		£4,339.65			£4,077.75
31/12/2014	Excess Income	-£261.90			
		£4,077.75			£4,077.75

The above is a true account of the SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A's position as at the 31st December 2014

19 JANUARY 2015



C A Smith
Treasurer



D. Brittain
Examiner of Accounts