

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

February 2017



**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**

## NOTICES

### Reminder

Members are asked to note that the March monthly meeting (including the AGM) on 16<sup>th</sup> March will take place at the United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup. The New Community Church is not available to us on that date. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Please bring with you the Agenda and last year's Minutes (which are attached to the back of this Newsletter).

### *Editor*

### Summer Schools

**Summer School 1:** 17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> July; Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire.

Subjects include Cryptic crosswords for beginners; France; Globalisation; History of the Workhouse; Literature, Elizabeth Gaskell; Maths; Recorder Ensemble Playing; Sexuality in the Ancient World.

**Summer School 2:** 14<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> August; Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Subjects include Creative Writing, erotic genre; Garden History; Latin in Context; Literature, Dickens and Great Expectations; Music before the Microchip; Exploring English poetry, Shakespeare; Singing for Pleasure.

**Summer School 3:** 11<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> September; Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Subjects include Art History, La Belle Epoque; Creative Writing for Radio; Drama, from the "Living Room" to the "Room;" Exploring English; Law and Order in Anglo-Saxon England; Roots of Popular Music; Opera of the "Early Romantic Period"; Spanish; Russian Revolution a Hundred Years on.

Full Board residential en-suite costs £299.00. Full details are available on the U3A website.

**RHS Gardens:** Discounts are available for U3A groups at the seven RHS gardens and shows throughout the country.

**Third Age Trust AGM** will be held at the Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**U3A Explore Science at the RI:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1.45–4.45 pm. Various speakers. Tickets cost £21.50 pp including refreshments.

**George Murrell**

## GROUP NEWS

### Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



#### Report January 2017

A little booklet that we picked up at the lunch venue described our walk as “A Historical Riverside London Pub Walk.” We covered more ground than the booklet did, but it was invaluable in setting the scene about the area that was, for centuries, home to pirates, smugglers, shipbuilders, pilgrims and the infamous Execution Dock. As with the south-side Thames Path, we started by train to London Bridge and finished with a bus journey from Greenwich. Crossing the bridge to the Monument, we had our first group photo opportunity of the New Year. Some of us had previously climbed up the 331 steps of the Monument and got a certificate. Some long-term Londoners remembered doing so in their youth. We were about to set off, when I got a message from Mick saying he was on his way, so we dawdled till he caught us up. (Mind you, he had been there on the previous Friday, so you could say he was early). The Thames Path takes some diversions away from the water’s edge, but mostly navigation involved keeping the river on our right! The first stretch was jam-packed with tourists as we wended our way around The Tower, but then we came on to the main path. Like the southerly path, it’s a curious mixture of ancient buildings, usually refurbished and gentrified, and some brand spanking new developments. However, there are some original buildings, including the 4 wonderful pubs: “The Town of Ramsgate,” “The Prospect of Whitby” and “The Grapes.” We had lunch in “The Prospect” in the upper “Pepys Room” overlooking the Thames. It was originally called “The Devil’s Tavern.” Apart from the infamous sailors, pirates, thieves, smugglers and all types of “low life,” various other famous visitors dined here: Charles Dickens, Princess Margaret, Prince Rainier and Kirk Douglas. Men have been drowned or press-ganged from here. After lunch, we passed the glittering high-rises of Canary Wharf and went through areas that were formerly hives of industry, with little sign left of that heritage, except for a few information boards, *eg.* Mill Wall. Arriving in Greenwich, our route to the south was via Island Gardens, then that excellent piece of engineering, the Foot Tunnel. Weather was splendid, only turning to rain on the bus journey home, and the urban landscape was a contrast to our usual Kent walks.

#### Trevor Ford

### Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Our visit in January was to The 1920s Jazz Age Exhibition at the Fashion and Textile Museum near London Bridge Station. There was a glittering display of haute couture and ready-to-wear fashion from 1919 to 1929, reflecting dizzying social change on an unprecedented scale. Over 150 garments of sportswear, day dresses, fringed flapper dresses, beaded evening wear, velvet capes and silk pyjamas revealed the glamour, excess, frivolity and modernity of the decade. Colourful illustrations from the London News Archive and photos by Abbe, Beaton, Man Ray and Baron de Meyer highlighted the role of photographs and magazines which promoted the 1920s look. We adored the glamorous display but are grateful for our comfortable, washable and practical clothing we can enjoy today.

#### Kate Berry

## Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



‘Not just a pretty face’ could readily be said of Lady Emma Hamilton. As a young girl determined to better herself, she came to work in London. Here she was noticed by young aristocrats, becoming the mistress of one of them. Eventually she travelled to Naples to work in Sir William Hamilton’s household in Naples – Sir William being Britain’s envoy in Naples. Emma learnt both Italian and French, and eventually she married Lord Hamilton. She then became friends with the Queen of Naples, and when Napoleon was rampaging about Europe, Emma was able to help the Neapolitans and the British fleet, using her connections with Britain. After the battles, Lord Horatio Nelson came to Naples, saw Emma, and the rest is history! The exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich has many portraits of her, including several by George Romney.

### Val Gosden

*NB* This exhibition runs until 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**(i)** George Romney (1734–1802) was the most fashionable English portrait artist of his day. He was born the 3<sup>rd</sup> son (of 11 children) to a cabinet maker in Lancashire. He appears to have been an indifferent student and was withdrawn at the age of 11 and apprenticed to his father’s business instead. He had a natural ability for drawing and making things from wood – including violins. From the age of 15 he was taught art informally by a local watchmaker, but his studies began in earnest in 1755 when he went to Kendal for a 4-year apprenticeship with local artist, Christopher Steele. All costs were to be borne by George’s father. In 1756, Romney married Mary Abbot (a move he initially regretted), but the couple were immediately separated when he was called away to York on business by his employer. After a year, Steele agreed to cancel the apprenticeship at George’s request, leaving the young artist free to pursue his own career as a painter.

### Editor

## Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for our January meeting was *Dark Matter* written by Michelle Paver. We discussed this book (rather intermittently) over our Christmas lunch event which we celebrated in January at La Cantina restaurant, Sidcup. It was a very cold day, and, being wrapped up in our winter woollies, we could appreciate the background to our book which was set in the Arctic Circle. This was a slow burning ghost story with a building tension. A party of young scientists are on a mission to record data in this remote area where even the sea freezes over and the nights are endless during the long winters. When, one by one they are forced to leave the post, Jack, a rather down-at-heel loner, is left to carry on alone. We share his increasing paranoia as his very sanity is tested. It was an interesting read!

### June Reid

## GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 <b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (10.00 am)  	<b>Roy Black</b>  020 8302 9942	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Book Reading</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>June Reid</b> 020 8302 7887	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Chess</b> <i>Timings to be advised</i>	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Classical Music</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	<b>Olive Mercer</b> 020 8300 3136	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Concerts/Opera</b> Various dates and times  £	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Vacancies</b> 
 <b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (noon)  	<b>Leader pending</b>  needed, please	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Family History</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues  & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 	<b>Judith Swain &amp; Kate Berry</b> 020 8303 5759	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ramblers (Group 2)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (4–5 miles)	<b>Leslie South</b> 020 8300 8298	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Rummikub® (Group 1)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Margaret Platt</b> 020 8309 6395	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Scrabble®</b> <i>Timings to be advised</i>	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10.00 am)   £	<b>Gay Braybrook</b>  020 8309 6372	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Wine Appreciation</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (7.30 pm) £	<b>Roger Brown</b> 020 8850 5362	<b>Vacancies</b>

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](mailto: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 a group.

 Not during school/bank holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

 Notice on the board at meetings

 Open to all

 Temporary point of contact

## PROGRAMME

### 2017

February	Ralph Todd	The Natural Wonders of Iceland
March	A.G.M Joseph Woodcock	Springtime in the Garden
April	Peter Jones	National Trust Properties of the South East
May	Nicky Brooks	Exercise in Retirement – Pilates
June	Russell Bowes	Dig for Victory
July	Project Representative	Ageing Immunity Research Project
August	Groups & Members	Showcase: Sharing of Sidcup U3A Activities
September	Ian Bevan	The History of the Crystal Palace
October	Nigel Dawson	Comedy Heroes
November	Heather Woodward	Churchill & Chartwell
December	Joe Mendell	Bob Newhart Rides Again!

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
Asst. Membership Secretary	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Speakers Secretary	Janet Lambern	020 8300 1786
Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
General Member	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117

## 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)

**Greater London South East Network:** [www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork)

**London Region U3A:** [www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region)

**World U3A:** [www.worldu3a.org](http://www.worldu3a.org)

**Virtual U3A:** [www.vu3a.org](http://www.vu3a.org)

## 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*

*A man is as old as he feels - but never as important.*

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2017



The Committee invites all paid up members to the Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the United Services Club, Main Road, Sidcup.

**Agenda**

Apologies for absence  
Matters arising  
Minutes of 2016 AGM  
Approval of accounts  
Annual reports  
Election of officers  
Appointment of inspector of accounts  
Any other business

Minutes of the 2016 AGM and annual reports are attached.

**George Murrell, Secretary**

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
MINUTES OF 2016 AGM**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2016



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The United Services Club, Main Road,  
Sidcup at 2.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Apologies for absence were received from Mary Huggins, Chas Owen, Lyn Plumer, Elizabeth Anderson, Jill Bryant and Anne Wright.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved as being correct.

**Matters arising:** There were none.

**Approval of accounts:** Val Gosden drew attention to a discrepancy between the amounts shown for charity under the headings of income and expenditure. The Treasurer then explained how this had come about. It was then proposed by Rinka Halliday, seconded by Lesley South, that the accounts be accepted. CARRIED

**Annual Reports:** These had previously been circulated. There were no questions arising.

**Election of Officers:** The following nominations had been received:-

Vice Chairman	Lesley South
Secretary	George Murrell
Treasurer	John Lapham
Membership Secretary	Pat Andrews
Assistant Membership Secretary	Lyn Plumer
Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford
Speakers Secretary	Janet Lambern
Welfare Officer	Kathleen Cordell

It was proposed by Christine Spencer, seconded by Val Gosden, that the above be elected “en bloc.” CARRIED

**Appointment of Inspector of Accounts:** It was proposed by Lesley South, seconded by Sylvia Ford, that Christine Smith be appointed. CARRIED

**Any other business:** The chairman, Anne Evans, drew attention to the meeting to be held at 11 am on 7<sup>th</sup> April at Ockley Court for members interested in volunteering to assist at the “Sidcup’s Great War Pageant” on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 2.18 pm.

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE ANNUAL REPORTS

2015/2016



## Chairman's Report 2016

Sidcup & District U3A has had another busy and enjoyable year. Our speakers continued to attract a steady attendance at monthly meetings and we welcomed visitors and new members throughout the year.

In July we took part along with many other local organisations in Sidcup's Great War Pageant. A full day of events all along the high street, during which we had the opportunity to talk to visitors about U3A in general and ours in particular.

We had a meeting in October for group representatives which was well attended and useful in providing support and the chance to discuss related issues.

The U3A trust celebrated the creation of the 1000<sup>th</sup> group with a meeting in town in November. Eric Midwinter, one of the three founder members spoke of his delight at the current 500,000 members and his hopes for a million by 2020.

We are now members of 'Greater London South East Network' newly set-up to enable better communication with like-minded U3As in the area with a view to sharing activities. The first workshop took place in November. (See website for more information).

In February, your committee enjoyed lunch together at Sophie's Choice; good food in good company.

Thanks to all those members who actively support our U3A in many ways – you really are appreciated. My special thanks to my Committee for their ongoing support and commitment during this busy year. As you are well aware, this is my last year as Chairman. I have served 7 years and can honestly say I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience!! Everyone has been encouraging and supportive throughout this time and our Committee meetings have been a pleasure hosted as they were by Kathy Cordell at Ockley Court.

I am looking forward to continue my support for U3A and I wish the Committee and all members the very best for friendship and fun in 2017.

**Anne Evans, Chairman**

### **Group Co-ordinator's Report 2016**

At the start of 2017, we have 35 groups meeting regularly and about 4 sporadically. This compares with 33 for last year. Some groups have finished their allotted time, but other short-term courses have opened to take their place. So good news there. Membership of groups is strong; a semi-official census showed that groups meeting in homes run about 6 members and groups meeting elsewhere or out-and-about may sometimes be in excess of 20. Unfortunately, this is a two-edged sword, since it still means that there are few vacancies for new members. Regarding leadership, some well-established groups have been able to pass over the role to others or are sharing the role. Clearly there does have to be some thought given to progression. As always, I would issue an ongoing plea to anyone who feels able to start up new groups, either covering existing areas or branching out into new areas. Help and advice is available from the Group Coordinator, other members of the Committee and, of course, existing Group Leaders. There are also possible vacancies and opportunities for new interests in our partner U3A groups in the South-East Network, which offer some reciprocal arrangements. See me or the Network website.

**Trevor Ford, Group Co-ordinator**

### **Membership Secretary's Report 2016**

Membership of Sidcup U3A stood at 250 at the end of December, including 4 honorary members, with between 70 and 100 members attending the monthly meetings depending on the weather and if there was no big game on the television! To date (Jan 2017), we have had almost 200 renewals for the coming year.

**Patricia Andrews, Membership Secretary**

### **Treasurer's Report 2016**

I am pleased to report that, thanks to your increasing generosity, we raised the princely sum of £888.84 for our chosen charity, the RNLI. As you all know, our charity monies come from our tea money, raffle money and donations from collection boxes supplied by Alan Godfrey on behalf of the RNLI. Thanks to our steady membership numbers, there will be no increase in membership fees this year.

My thanks go to Christine Smith for auditing this year's account books.

**John Lapham, Treasurer**

**(i)** See last page for statement of accounts for 2016.

***Editor***

# SIDCUP AND DISTRICT U 3 A

01/01/16-31/12/16

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		£3,545.00	HALL HIRE	£1,325.00	
CHARITY		£848.84	CHARITY	£888.84	
DONATION		£0.00	REFRESHMENTS	£-	
REFUND		£73.00	AFFILIATION FEES	£963.54	
			SPEAKERS	£679.25	
			PRINTING	£483.50	
			POSTAGE	£19.56	
			WEB SITE	£68.06	
			PRESENTATION		
			STATIONERY	£8.57	
			EQUIPMENT	£89.23	
			CHRISTMAS	£49.20	
			BANK CHARGE	£4.00	
		£4,466.84		<u>£4,578.75</u>	
			EXCESS INCOME	- £111.91	
				<u>£4,466.84</u>	
01/01/16	Cash in Bank	£4,075.19	31/12/16	Cash in Bank	£3,950.81
01/01/16	Petty Cash	£4.83	31/12/16	Petty Cash	<u>£17.30</u>
		£4,080.02			
31/12/16	Excess Income	- £111.91			
		£3,968.11	Totals		<u>£3,968.11</u>

The above is a true account of the Sidcup & District U3A's position as at 31/12/2016

J Lapham  
Treasurer



C A Smith  
Auditor

