

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

February 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

NOTICES

March General Meeting

As the New Community Church Centre will not be available to us for the AGM, the March General Meeting will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 15th March at the United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup (opposite St Lawrence's Church). Access to the hall is via a gate on the entrance road to the Council car park – not via the main front entrance to the club.

George Murrell

i Please bring with you the attached Agenda and Minutes of last year's AGM.

Editor

Committee Policy Statement on Nominating the Annual Charity – February 2018

The Committee wishes to recommend the following proposal to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on 15th March 2018.

Nominations for the annual charity may be presented by any bona fide member. The successful charity will be elected by the majority vote of the members at the December General Meeting.

There is neither a requirement nor an expectation that the nominee of the chosen charity will be responsible for the organising and collection of monies. The current practice of the income from the sale of raffle tickets, the sale of donated items and the proceeds from the sale of refreshments being for the chosen charity will continue.

Should the nominee wish to raise additional money through strategically placed collection boxes and/or other methods at monthly meetings then this would be acceptable.

Janet Lambern

Do We Have A Singer Amongst Us?

Our Speaker in May, Paul Whitaker, is a profoundly deaf, professional musician. He was recommended by a member as being a truly inspirational speaker. He will be accompanied by his own singer but the Speakers Team hope that we have a member who would be able and willing to 'meet and greet' Paul. Please let me know (see Committee list) if you can do this. Many thanks.

Janet Lambern, Speakers Secretary

Recycling

Does anyone own and still use a video player? I hate to throw things in landfill if a use can be found for them. I would love to hear from anyone who could make use of the following videos:

David Attenborough – Life of Birds (box set of 3); David Attenborough – Life of Mammals (box set of 2); Michael Palin – Sahara (box set of 2); Flight of the Condor; Meerkats United and the Impossible Bird; The Grand Canyon National Park; Wildlife of the Canadian Rockies.

Please ring me (see Committee list) so that I can arrange handover. A small donation to this year's charity would be gratefully received via Val's collecting box but really I would be happy to gift them to you FOC.

Janet Lambern

Upcoming Events from Network and Region Network

- Gardening Event at Coolings Garden Centre, Rushmoor Hill, Knockholt 10.00 am–1.00 pm on Thursday 26th April. There will be a tour of the site, a practical workshop and a talk about trends in gardening for older people. Cost will be £14. This is likely to be a popular event and places are limited, so early booking is essential. See Trevor Ford.
- 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage Study Day; date and details to be announced shortly.

London Region

- Summer School, 31st July – 2nd August, St. Bride's Foundation, Fleet Street. Programme is to be published in February. As always, there is a wide range of subjects including talks, workshops and guided walks.

Trevor Ford



It is with sadness we report the passing of Gladys Whale who died in early December. Gladys joined our U3A some 20 years ago and was active in the 10-pin bowling, croquet and scrabble groups as well in joining in with the U3A holidays that Margaret Platt organised for us. She will be missed.

Gay Braybrook



Amblers 1 • Leader Norma Balfour



Our first amble of the year on 21st March will be starting at Sainsbury's Homebase, Sevenoaks Way, Orpington. We will be catching the 51 bus from Sidcup High Street at 10.00 am. Please phone me if you are unable to come.

Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693



January 2018 walk

Following our tradition over the last couple of years of pavement walks during the winter months, the group met at Blackfriars Tube station in January. For the nature of the “guided” walk, we were rather a large group, 18, so it was rather experimental. Our walk was through the four Inns of Court, with their links to lawyers, architecture, the Knights Templar, great pubs and Dickensian sites.

We entered the Inner Temple through the Tudor Street Gate; the whole area is enclosed to keep out the thieves and desperadoes. The architecture and its rebuilding after the Blitz is superb. As Mike pointed out, the builders are going to get it right if you think your clients are going to sue the socks off you. The halls in the Inns serve as exam rooms and dining halls. It's obligatory to have a certain number of dinners before being called to the bar. Some of our group planned to book a lunch in future. Surrounding the courtyards are the chambers and accommodation.

The Temple Church is a thing of fascination and beauty in its own right, but we did not have time to visit it on this occasion. Built by the Knights Templar to resemble the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, it houses effigies to William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke, as well as (currently) three exhibitions: its history, Magna Carta and American Constitution and the role of lawyers in The Great War. Middle Temple is similarly constituted and from there we made our way northwards to Fleet Street. We emerged opposite the Royal Courts of Justice building. Just outside the courts is the dragon, symbol of the city, which marks the former site of Temple Bar, gateway to the city. Crossing over to Chancery Lane, we went past the Law Society and other legal links. The Inns of Chancery were originally a lower rank of entry to the legal profession. Along here is also the oldest firm of tailors in London, Ede & Ravenscroft, which also makes horsehair wigs, and a Victorian public toilet that was locked on the day of our visit. The Seven Stars pub featured on the walk that Allan and I did the week before; although fascinating, it was too small for our larger party.

We then went on into Lincoln's Inn through a strange public pathway inside a building. Old Hall, currently undergoing major restoration, was the site of a major lawsuit regarding an estate, which formed the basis of Dickens' fictional “Jarndyce v Jarndyce” in *Bleak House*. Beside this, we visited the chapel, upstairs above the undercroft. We walked through the Gatehouse, which has doors dating from 1564. We then walked on along Southampton Row and past Staple Inn into High Holborn to enter the glorious “Cittie of Yorke” pub for lunch, which may have been founded as early as 1430. We then went along another curious, covered passageway into Gray's Inn and on past Gray's Inn Gardens – known as The Walks – which are surrounded by superb Georgian houses.

We went back to Holborn, then over into Lincoln's Inn Fields, London's largest square. We had hoped to visit one or both of the museums here, but they were both shut: Sir John Soane's House and The Hunterian Museum in the Royal College of Surgeons, both of which are worth separate visits. A short skip brought us through the campus of LSE and out again to Fleet Street opposite St. Clement Dane's Church. Here there was a parting of the ways for the participants; Mike was interested to see the statues of RAF men in the island there and was wondering about their connection to the church.

There was plenty to see and I'm grateful to *London's Hidden Walks Vol. 1* where you can find a lot more information.

Trevor Ford

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



Our first visit of 2018 was to the London Mithraeum – The Roman Temple of Mithras – in the heart of London. The temple, which was built for the God Mithras, was discovered by chance in 1954 during a bombsite excavation. It was a huge and significant discovery that captured the imagination of people in post-war Britain. Further excavations between 2010–2014 unearthed over 14,000 artefacts – more than on any other single site in the city of London – and some of them can be viewed during your visit. As the building straddles one of London's lost rivers, the Walbrook, the site provided excellent conditions for the preservation of these artefacts.

Since its discovery, the Temple has been dismantled and reconstructed twice – in 1962 and 2010. The move in 2010 involved Bloomberg (the site owners) working with the City of London and a team of conservation specialists to dismantle and reconstruct the Temple close to its original position and level, recreating the form of the original ruin within a publicly accessible space that everyone can visit free of charge.

Always watchful for finding new attractions to visit, the group are grateful to Joan I'Anson for spotting details of this newly opened free attraction in her newspaper. Well done Joan!

Pauline Watling

i During Roman times, the Walbrook was used for transport from its mouth (just to the west of the present-day Cannon Street railway bridge) for about 200 meters. It also brought fresh water to the walled city from its source in Moorfields and carried waste away to the Thames. It may have been so named because it ran through or under the London Wall. When St. Margaret Lothbury was rebuilt in 1440, the Lord Mayor paid for the lower Walbrook to be covered over; by 1561 the whole river inside the city walls had been culverted.

Apart from the Walbrook, other partly or wholly culverted London rivers north of the Thames include the Fleet, Tyburn, Hackney Brook, Moselle, Muswell Stream, Westbourne, Counter's Creek, Stamford Brook, Brent, and Rom. South of the Thames are the Earl's Sluice, Peck, Neckinger, Effra, Falconbrook, Graveney, Quaggy, Beverley Brook and Sudbrook.

Editor

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for January was *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* written by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows which was chosen by June and Yvonne. We discussed this over a very protracted post-Christmas lunch. Everyone enjoyed both the book and the lunch! The story was written with great warmth and humour in the form of a series of letters. Set in Guernsey during the Second World War, we are taken back to a time of Stint and Thrift and extreme deprivation. There are many eccentric and lovable characters doing their utmost to outwit their Nazi captors and also reminders of blitzed London and children sent from their homes to places of safety. This snatch of history was quite enlightening as the tribulations of the people of Guernsey during wartime have not been widely documented and most of us were unaware of the facts. It is a book about love and friendship and the ability of these qualities to survive adversity. It is highly recommended.

June Reid

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 3) 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
 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
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Leader required	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	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

PROGRAMME

2018		
February	Tony Harris	Henry VIII
March	AGM Mike Clinch	<i>NB</i> at The United Servicemen's Club Underground
April	Janie Ramsay	What's It Worth?
May	Paul Whittaker	"Music to My Ears"
June	Tony Farnham	Romance of the River Thames
July	Christoph Bull	Pocahontas – Without Disney
August	Colin Pinney	"The Raven" & "The Ancient Mariner"
September	Michael Grillo	Two Kinds of Teardrops (Del Shannon & Roy Orbison)
October	Ian Waller	Workhouse Life – Bread, Gruel & Suet Dumplings

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Colin Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Carolyn Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Sandra Applegate	07717 020611
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 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: 52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB ☎ 020 8466 6139 www.u3a.org.uk
Greater London South East Network: www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork
London Region U3A: www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region
World U3A: www.worldu3a.org **Virtual U3A:** www.vu3a.org

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

Study art and logic - learn to draw your own conclusions.

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

15th March 2018



The Committee invites all paid up members to the Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 15th March 2018 at the United Services Club, Main Road, Sidcup.

Agenda

Apologies for absence
Minutes of 2017 AGM
Matters arising
Approval of accounts
Annual reports
Election of officers
Appointment of inspector of accounts
Any other business

Minutes of the 2017 AGM and annual reports are attached.

George Murrell, Secretary

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
MINUTES OF 2017 AGM**

16th March 2017



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the United Services Club, Main Road,
Sidcup at 2.00 pm Thursday 16th March 2017**

Presentation of cheque: Prior to the meeting commencing, a cheque for £888.84 was presented to Alan Ashby representing the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this being the sum raised as our sponsored charity for 2016. Alan expressed his thanks on behalf of the Institution and gave a brief description of its aims and achievements.

Attendance: There was an attendance of 105 members. Apologies for absence were received from Charles Owen, Janet Lambern, Mary Huggins and Kathy Cordell.

Minutes of 2016 AGM were approved as being correct. There were no matters arising.

Approval of Accounts: These having been circulated and audited, it was proposed by Lesley South and seconded by Joan Somerset that they be approved. CARRIED

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

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

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

There being no other nominations for the above positions, it was agreed that all would be re-elected "en bloc."

No nominations have been forthcoming for the post of Chairman or the post of Vice Chairman. Both positions, therefore, are currently vacant.

Presentation: On behalf of all members, Lesley South presented Anne Evans, the outgoing Chairman, with a gift of National Trust Vouchers in appreciation of all her hard work during her 7 years of service as Chairman.

Appointment of Inspector of accounts: Proposed by Rinka Halliday and seconded by Annette Holland that Christine Smith be re-appointed. AGREED

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

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE ANNUAL REPORTS

2017



Chairman's Report 2017

Not available at time of going to print.

Group Co-ordinator's Report 2017

At the start of 2018, we have 41 groups meeting regularly and about 4 sporadically, representing 39 "interests." This compares with 35 for last year. Some groups have finished their allotted time, but other short-term courses have continued. 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. This does mean that there are few vacancies for new members. I put in a plea last year regarding leadership and that some well-established groups try to pass over the role to others or share the role, since we are a co-operative organisation. This does seem to be bearing fruit. 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. We should also be prepared to be flexible about the timing of our groups; it may well suit some individuals and groups to meet in the evenings or at weekends. Help and advice is available from the Group Co-ordinator, 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 London Network, which offer some reciprocal arrangements. See me or the Network website for details.

Trevor Ford, Group Co-ordinator

(i) The website address for the Greater London South East Network is:
<https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork/home> to which there is a link from our website.

Webmaster

Membership Secretary's Report 2017

2017 was a good year for the membership of Sidcup U3A with 50 new members joining, giving a total membership of 261, an increase of 16 on the previous year. We have between 70 and 100 attending the monthly meetings. My thanks to all those members who returned their forms early.

Also, my thanks go to Lynn Plumer for all her help.

Patricia Andrews, Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2017

I am pleased to report that, thanks to your generosity, we raised the sum of £491.26 for our chosen charity, Evergreen Care Bexley.

Our charity monies come from our tea money, donations and raffle money. My thanks go to the 'Tea Ladies' and Jackie Burke for running the raffle.

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

Statement of account not available at time of going to print.