

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

February 2019



**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**

**In February 2019 only, the meeting will be held at
The United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup**

NOTICES

Action on Hearing Loss

My thanks go to everyone who made donations into the collection boxes, and to all who supported this charity by purchasing handmade greetings cards and handmade items. In the last three months of 2018, we raised a total of £110. Those of us who have a hearing loss will fully appreciate all the work that this charity does, both by helping us deal with the problems of hearing loss now, and by funding research for future benefit.

Val Gosden

Does your passport need renewing soon?

I've just renewed my passport at the Post Office and it was so quick and easy I thought others might like to use the new service, provided since December 2018. Just take your old passport in, and they do it all for you online, take a photo of you, and send off your old passport by secure post. The whole thing takes less than ten minutes, and costs £90.90; this includes the photo and posting the old passport. Your new passport should arrive in about three weeks. If you renew online it costs £75 (if the old photo will still do), but you have to post back your old passport.

Olive Mercer

New Members

We would like to welcome three new members: Johanne Bland, Eileen Crowther and Kathleen Ford, and hope that you enjoy your time with us.

Lynn & Pat (Membership Secretaries)

Attachments

The agenda for next month's AGM, the minutes of last year's AGM, the annual reports and statement of accounts for last year are attached to the back of this Newsletter.

Editor

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



***Spies* by Michael Frayn reviewed by Trevor Ford**

It's a fascinating study of how an adult can try to make sense of a child's world, his *own* past. The story begins with an elderly man going back to the haunts of his youth and recalling his younger self in a third-party objective way. It's filled with nostalgia as he walks back along once-familiar streets, recalling the former inhabitants of his own cul-de-sac and their own strange idiosyncrasies as seen through the eyes of a child. Although I wasn't around in those war years, it still lights a warm glow of recognition for me about the whole environment: the clothing, the toys, the houses, everything.

Then the drama begins as he allows himself to shift into the whole adventure that he had got drawn into by his friend, Keith. Keith announces that his mother is a German spy. So, in turn, they begin to spy on her. The contrasting characters of Keith and Stephen clearly feed into the narrative with charismatic leader, Keith able to spin all manner of yarns (his father "works for the secret service") to gullible follower, Stephen. The two boys systematically set about hiding observing and recording. The thrill of adventure (and secret at that!) is the stuff of all good children's books with their own little world set against the huge significance of THE WAR!

Trevor Ford

(i) Trevor's account reveals the denouement of this story which I have edited out in case you wish to read it. The complete summary is available on Wikipedia.

Editor

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



January 2019

A pavement patrol was the order for January to keep out of the mud. So, we did a reprise of a former walk around Blackheath using a guidebook which showed features of interest. We set off from Greenwich through the park hauling ourselves up one of the steep paths on the west side. Emerging by McCartney House, we walked along the wall past the Ranger's House and across the heath to the "Hare & Billet" pond. (*Still trying to work out the meaning of billet in this context*). However, unlike our previous visit, we didn't wait around outside for it to open at 12, but did the bulk of the walk before lunch. The walk then follows an hourglass figure taking in some very des. res. houses through the Cator Estate and the grounds of Morden College, formerly an alms house attributed to Wren and subsequently developed as a very posh retirement home. The first half, though, covered streets developed on land originally belonging to Pagoda House, which was the summer house for "Queen" Caroline when she lived in Montagu House, the other side of the heath and which was knocked down in 1815. Her bath house has been excavated inside the park and some of us visited that on the way back down. Meanwhile, the guide bristled with information about fascinating residents (polar explorer: Ross, composer Gounod's blue plaque) and concluding with The Paragon, the spectacular Georgian colonnaded terrace overlooking the heath.

Trevor Ford

(i) Dictionaries list nine meanings for the word billet; the most likely seems to be a small chunk of wood or a short section of a log, especially one cut for fuel.

Editor

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



On Tuesday 22nd January, we made our 3rd attempt to walk through four London parks. SE trains had thwarted our two previous attempts in 2018. Would the weather prevent our 3rd attempt? With early morning ice and rain and sleet later in the day in the forecast, the prospect was looking doubtful. In the event the sun shone, the temperature was not too low, and the rain held off until after we had reached home.

St. James's Park had a plentiful assortment of wildfowl, herons, squirrels and tourists, but the pelicans were in hiding. In Green Park, workmen were busy removing paint defacing the Canadian and RAF monuments. The 'green man' helped us into Hyde Park but our intended coffee stop at the café by the Serpentine was restricted to men in hard hats. We made a short detour to see the extension to the Serpentine Sackler Gallery by the architect Zaha Hadid and then went into Kensington Gardens via the Serpentine Gallery. The brilliant blue Round Pond, being enjoyed by many white swans and gulls, was beautiful to behold. We admired the ornate gates at the entrance to Kensington Palace and reminisced on the many floral tributes placed there on Princess Diana's death.

"The Goat" in Kensington High Street had no hot water to provide us with coffee, but the "Prince of Wales" in Kensington Church Street rose to the challenge and provided us with an adequate pub lunch, too. We travelled back to Charing Cross on the top deck of the № 9 bus surveying our ramble in reverse. It was a beautiful day and a pleasant walk. It really was 3rd time lucky.

Ilena Harrington

 Pictures taken during this ramble can be viewed on the Gallery page of our website. The Serpentine is a 40-acre recreational lake in Hyde Park created in 1730 at the behest of Queen Caroline. Strictly speaking, the name refers only to the eastern half of the lake; the Serpentine Bridge marks its western boundary and the long and narrow western half of the lake is known as the Long Water. Originally fed by the River Westbourne and Tyburn Brook in the 1730s, the lake's water was later pumped from the Thames in the 1830s. The water is now pumped from three boreholes within Hyde Park, the most recent being installed in May 2012 as part of the 2011–2012 restoration of the lake. The Serpentine provided a focal point for The Great Exhibition of 1851, and, more recently, was a venue for swimming events in the London 2012 Olympics. Since 1864, the Serpentine Swimming Club has organised a 100-yard race every Christmas morning. In 1913, the Peter Pan Cup was inaugurated for this race by J. M. Barrie, the creator of the character Peter Pan.

Editor

Miscellany • Leader Val Gosden



Our first trip out in 2019 was to the George Inn, Southwark. This pub, now owned by the National Trust, is one of London's oldest pubs. It is famous for being the only extant galleried coaching inn in London. Outside is a cobbled courtyard with tables, but we were more than happy to have our meal inside near a welcoming fire. Inside it is a maze of several interconnected bar areas. Downstairs is the Parliament Bar, which was once a waiting room for passengers; upstairs, where we dined, used to be bedrooms. Past visitors to The George Inn included William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. Photos of our visit can be seen on our website.

Val Gosden

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	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
 Craft & Chat 1 st & 3 rd Thursday (10.00 am) 	Pauline Springhall 020 8308 1975	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Kate Berry 020 8309 7429	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
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Pat Laughton 020 8302 9984	3 Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Helen Salmon 07786 465862 or 020 8309 1689	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	Vacancies
 Science 3 rd Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	2 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

2019

February 	Andy Thomas	A Conspiracy History of the World
March (AGM)	C.E.P	Tax, Care and Toy Boys
April	Toni Mount	Ration Book Britain
May	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Passchendaele To Peace.
June	Sidcup U3A members	Members' Showcase of Activities
July	Stuart Robinson	The River Thames; London's Liquid History
August	Andrew Ashton	Banksy
September	Alan Payne	The Story Behind Your Cuppa
October	Brian Freeland	George Bernard Shaw
November	Keith Simmons	Name Dropping
December	Ian Beavan	A Christmas Miscellany

 *To be held at the United Services Club*

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	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Asst. Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
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

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

*Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.
 (Thomas Edison)*

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

21st March 2019



The Committee invites all paid up members to the Annual General Meeting which will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 21st March 2019 at the New Community Church Centre, 26 Station Road, Sidcup.

Agenda

Apologies for absence
Minutes of 2018 AGM
Matters arising
Approval of accounts
Annual reports
Election of officers
Appointment of inspector of accounts
Any other business

Minutes of the 2018 AGM and annual reports are attached.

George Murrell, Secretary

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
MINUTES OF 2018 AGM**

15th March 2018



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the United Services Club, Main Road,
Sidcup at 2.00 pm Thursday 15th March 2018**

Attendance: There was an attendance of 108 members. Apologies for absence were received from Val Gosden.

Minutes of 2017 AGM were approved as being correct. There were no matters arising.

Approval of Accounts: These having been circulated and audited it was proposed by Rinka Halliday and seconded by Annette Holland 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: -

Chairman	Colin Barclay (2-year term of office)
Secretary	George Murrell
Treasurer	John Lapham
Committee Members (showing area of responsibility)	
Membership Secretary	Lyn Plumer
Assistant Membership Secretary	Pat Andrews
Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford
Speakers Secretary	Janet Lambern
Welfare Officer	Kathleen Cordell

Sandra Applegate and Carolyn Barclay are currently “Appointed Vice-Chairmen.”

There being no other nominations, it was agreed that all would be re-elected “en bloc.”

Appointment of Inspector of accounts: Currently vacant, no nomination forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 2.10 pm.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE ANNUAL REPORTS

2018



Chairman's Report

A happy belated New Year to all our members.

We have had a successful year and my thanks go to members of the Committee who have worked hard to ensure the smooth running of our U3A. I would also like to thank the volunteers who help with setting up the hall, meeting and greeting, registration, welcoming the speakers and making the tea. We do, however, need more volunteers.

It has been encouraging to welcome a number of new members this year and our membership is steadily growing. The coffee mornings for new members have been a success and we aim to continue these in the coming year.

Thank you to all the leaders for continuing to organise and lead their groups. If anyone is interested in starting up a new group offering different activities such as creative writing, then I am sure members would appreciate it. Please contact Trevor Ford if you are interested. David Smith produces an informative monthly newsletter, my thanks to him and all those who contribute.

I am sure all our members are looking forward to another interesting year.

Best Wishes,

Colin Barclay
Chairman

Group Co-ordinator's Report

At the start of 2019, we have 37 groups meeting regularly and about 4 sporadically, representing 31 "interests." This is a slight reduction on last year. Some short-term courses are starting, *eg.* Architecture. There are often few vacancies for new members. Attempts have been made in the past to start new groups, with individuals expressing an interest, *eg.* Poetry and Creative Writing. They have sometimes come to nought through lack of support. Whether this is through wariness of leading a group or uncertainty about our own expertise, I'm not sure. However, both locally and nationally, help is available. I would also urge potential members to give it a go. We spoke at Group Leaders' meeting about sharing leadership and the importance of continuity if present leaders wish to "retire." 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.

The Committee have also run a couple of very successful "Coffee Mornings for new members" about every 6 months to which Group Leaders are invited. There will also be a Showcase in the summer for groups to display their wares and activities.

Network Report

Sidcup is a member of a small Network of U3A groups (6) in South East London, which puts on a number of events and is more responsive to local needs and interests than the National or Regional organisations. After going for 3 years, we held our first AGM last autumn reporting back on our activities: -

- 3 workshops on recruitment/retention, outdoor activities/visits, gardening
- 3 Study Days: Historic Greenwich, Suffragettes, (and upcoming) drains
- 3 Shared Learning Projects: photography, theatre costumes, botanical institute.

Look out for information in Network News.

Trevor Ford

Annual Report from Membership Secretary

Sidcup and District U3A ended 2018 with a total of 237 members. It has been wonderful to have welcomed twenty-two new members over the course of the year and meet a number of visitors. Attendance at our general meetings has tended to vary between 84 in February and 111 in November. However, at our August meeting there were only 62 members present, possibly due to holidays or the heat wave that we were experiencing.

The GDPR was introduced in May of this year and members were asked to confirm which details they were happy for Sidcup and District to hold on them. A new membership form for 2019 has been developed to incorporate these new requirements.

We look forward to welcoming more new members in 2019 as well as the renewal of our current ones.

Lynn Plumer
Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report

I'm afraid 2018 has been a year of increases:

Firstly, our hall hire has increased by £25.00 per month.

Secondly, our Speaker Secretary and her assistant have confirmed that by keeping our speakers interesting and varied, there has been a general increase in their fees.

Thirdly, our contributions to the U3A for insurances and the monthly magazines have also been increased.

This year has also seen a fall in member subscriptions, which has had a knock-on effect to the amount of tea money raised during the year, this is unfortunately our only source of income. Having put all this to the Committee it has been decided to increase the yearly subscription from £15.00 to £18.00 with effect from 1st January 2020.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention that any member considering booking a holiday with the Company Riviera Travel, by informing them that you are a member of our Sidcup & District U3A at the time of booking, this will enable us to receive a donation from them.

John Lapham
Treasurer

SIDCUP AND DISTRICT U 3 A

01/01/18-31/12/18

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS	£3,450.00
CHARITY	£201.49
DONATION	£101.80
REFUND	£59.85
FUNDS	£202.50

EXPENDITURE

HALL HIRE	£1,450.00
CHARITY	£201.49
REFRESHMENTS	£19.60
AFFILIATION FEES	£1,268.90
SPEAKERS	£1,057.50
PRINTING	£347.90
POSTAGE	£27.60
WEB SITE	£-
PRESENTATION	£-
STATIONERY	£11.35
EQUIPMENT	£57.60
CHRISTMAS	£88.50
BANK CHARGE	£0.00

£4,015.64

£4,530.44

EXCESS INCOME

-£514.80

£4,015.64

01/01/18	Cash in Bank	£3,887.58
01/01/18	Petty Cash	£36.14
		£3,923.72
31/12/18	Excess Income	-£514.80
		£3,408.92

31/12/18	Cash in Bank	£3,365.83
31/12/18	Petty Cash	£43.09
		<u>£3,408.92</u>
	Totals	<u>£3,408.92</u>

The above is a true account of the Sidcup & District U3A's position as at 31/12/18

Treasurer

John Lapham

Hon Scrutineer

R Newson
Richard Newson ACIB