

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

January 2009



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

**NOTICES**

*Happy New Year*  
2009

**Nominated Charity 2009/2010**

Members are reminded that the charity to be supported during 2009/2010 will be decided at the AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Any member wishing to propose a particular charity should submit his or her nomination, with a short supporting written statement, to the secretary, George Murrell, by 24<sup>th</sup> February. Alternatively, it may be handed to any other committee member.

**George Murrell**

① At the AGM we are also due to elect members to serve on the Sidcup & District U3A Committee. A nomination form is attached to this Newsletter should you wish to put forward your name, or that of another member, for consideration. Please note that the interesting job of Group Co-ordinator will become vacant this year and anyone who wants to know what it entails should speak to the current holder, José Steward, for more information. Also attached is a form with which you may propose our supported charity. Both forms are available for download from our website.

***Editor***

**The Raffle**

A further £160 has been raised since June, making a total of £240, which will be donated to our current charity, the RNLI. So many good gifts are donated that our expenses are minimal, thus helping in our fund-raising efforts. Thanks go to all who support the raffle.

I have run the raffle for several years now, and feel it is time for someone else to take over. I am delighted that Judith Bishop has volunteered to run the raffle in future, and I wish her every success.

**Val Gosden**



## Annual Lunch



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Meet at 12.30 for 1.00pm start in the Sidcup Sports Club, Sydney Road, Sidcup. The cost is £16.00 per head.

### MENU

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Starter     | { | 1 Chunky Vegetable Soup<br><i>or</i><br>2 Rustic Pâté wrapped in smoked bacon with chutney  |
| Main course | { | 3 Roast Fillet of Salmon topped with Asparagus and Hollandaise sauce<br><i>or</i><br>4 Roast Chicken served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes |
| Dessert     | { | 5 Tart aux Pommes with apple brandy cream<br><i>or</i><br>6 A selection of cheeses with homemade chutney and oat biscuits                         |

As an alternative to the above there is also:

- 7 Vegetarian option
- 8 Gluten-free option
- 9 Other, please state

Please remember to bring your money and your cheque books next month!

**Anne Evans**



Please make your choices from the menu (1, 3, 5 etc) and return this slip to me with a cheque made out to "Sidcup & District U3A" for £16.00 per head. Payment may be posted to reach me by 19<sup>th</sup> February at the latest, please, or handed to me at the February meeting. My address is 22 Harborough Avenue, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8HP.

- |                     |   |         |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| Starter             | { | 1 ..... |
|                     | { | 2 ..... |
| Main course         | { | 3 ..... |
|                     | { | 4 ..... |
| Dessert             | { | 5 ..... |
|                     | { | 6 ..... |
| Vegetarian option   | 7 | .....   |
| Gluten-free option  | 8 | .....   |
| Other, please state | 9 | .....   |

Name/s..... Phone no.....

## To All Group Leaders

Would you please let me have a list of the members in your group so that I can bring the records up-to-date. If you could let me have the list at the January U3A Meeting, or by e-mail, that would be good. Thank you.

**José Steward** ☎ 020 8302 1627 e-mail: Josedodds@aol.com

### Last month's crossword solution

**Across:** 3 ASS 8 MOHAIR 9 UNNERVED 10 AQUA 11 ABERRATION 12 LIBRETTI  
13 HOAXES 16 COMMUNITY CHURCH 19 BURNER 21 NOBODIES 23 ABRASIVELY  
25 NOUS 26 MARMOSET 27 UNLOAD 28 SIX **Down:** 1 MOSQUITO 2 CAVALRYMAN  
3 ARRANT 4 SUPERINTENDENTS 5 ANARCHIC 6 WRIT 7 BEGONE 14 ABUNDANTLY  
15 SHH 16 COB 17 NARCISSI 18 CAESURAS 20 UPBEAT 22 BAYEUX 24 ACME

## GROUP NEWS

### National Trust/English Heritage : Leaders John and Olive Mercer



There will be meeting at 65 Longlands Road at 10am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January to decide the places to visit in 2009.

**John and Olive Mercer**

### Ramblers 1 : Leader Annette Jansen



#### Christmas Ramble 2008

We met on Keston Common following what had been a few very wet days. We were lucky in that we saw an occasional patch of blue sky but no rain, and discussion on whether this made sailor's trousers or Dutchman's pants was not resolved. The walk was amazingly rural given that we were so close to Bromley and the five miles were soon achieved. We then returned to our cars for a change of footwear to be ready for our Christmas meal at the Greyhound. This was excellent in every way: a table for eleven people was set in seasonal manner, and, after ordering our well earned drinks, like children we fell upon the crackers and were defeated by the 'unpredictable' mottos. The three course meals were a treat and were followed by a coffee and a mince pie for all. Everything was served with a smile. My thanks go to Pat Peeney for arranging this, and to my Group for being such a companionable bunch on every occasion.

**Annette Jansen**

### Ramblers 2 : Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



It was a cold, foggy morning for our December ramble but, nevertheless, sixteen members set off for our walk from Badgers Mount. After crossing the bridge over the M25, we walked through Andrews Wood, descended into a valley, crossed a field and climbed the other side of the valley into Meenfield Wood. It was only a three mile walk but the climb towards the end made us feel that we had earned our Christmas lunch. We were then joined by other group members and friends and 24 of us enjoyed a meal at the Badgers Mount Toby Carvery.

**Mary Webb**

## Freedom Pass Explorers : Leader Val Gosden



In October we visited Elm Park which is not far from Hornchurch. Our first impressions were of suburbia with individual shops radiating out from the four arms of a roundabout. However, when we wended our way to nearby Harrow Lodge Park a wonderful surprise awaited us. The river running through this large park widens out into a big lake upon which we spotted, perhaps, as many as a hundred swans and cygnets, with about twice as many geese nearby. There was also a lovely fountain in the centre of the lake. The park had been interestingly laid out with a variety of trees, many of which were wearing their autumn colours of yellows, oranges and reds. It was all in all a pleasant day's autumnal stroll.

Explorers, however, must be prepared for more or less anything. Our November trip started late as trains were delayed for nearly half an hour: nonetheless there were fifteen intrepid explorers prepared to brave the rain which fell steadily throughout our visit. We travelled to Richmond, Surrey, and, after enjoying our usual visit to a coffee shop, we opened up our umbrellas, walked past Richmond Green and then on towards the full, fast-flowing river. We walked towards Richmond Bridge, but, when nearly there, decided that a return to the town was indicated. A few of us wandered along looking into the shops, but most felt that the station held a greater allure. I doubt there was anyone who went home completely dry!

December, it was felt, was the only month in which to visit Turkey Street (near Enfield). We arrived in time for an early lunch at a local café; we were impressed with both its cleanliness and the prices, but there was no turkey on the menu! Afterwards we had a pleasant walk alongside Turkey Brook using footpaths for some of the way, before returning to the station via Turkey Street. We felt that to walk round a local park at Forty Hill would have been interesting in summer, as also would have been a visit to Myddleton House Gardens, but we decided to return home before it got dark. Turkey Street, it has since been discovered, has nothing to do with either the country or with birds; it is most probably a derivation of one of the words 'Tuckey' or 'Tuttle' – these presumably being farmers or landowners in the past.

## Val Gosden

## Classical Music : Leader Derick Johnson



We started with an overture by Hector Berlioz called "Les Francs-Juges" {the free judges}; this is a little known title but the music is quite well known to most of us. This was followed by Franz Joseph Haydn's The Creation, Part 1: "The Representation of Chaos" and "The First Four Days". With Christmas shopping in the high street this would seem to be very apt. The next piece was the Piano Concerto in A Minor by Robert Schumann, an excellent item to introduce the interval during which Olive treated us to home made mince pies – which were very welcome. To start the second half we had Jacob Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4 in A (The Italian), which was very popular, followed by Edward Elgar's "Serenade for Strings" and we rounded off the afternoon with Hungarian Dances Nos 5, 6 and 7.

## Frank Whipp

**i** "Les Francs-Juges" is the title of an unfinished opera by Berlioz who abandoned it and destroyed most of the music. The work is set in mediaeval Germany and "free judges" refers to the secret "Vehmic" trials held in Westphalia during the Middle Ages when the holy vehme, founded by Charlemagne in AD 772, took jurisdiction over all crimes during this lawless phase.

## Editor

## GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
<b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	<b>Norma Balfour/José Steward</b> 020 8303 7693/020 8302 1627	<b>1</b>
<b>Antiques Appreciation</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (10 am-noon)	<b>Martin Baker</b> 020 8300 1752	<b>1</b>
<b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (morning)	<b>Gay Braybrook/José Steward</b> 020 8309 6372/020 8302 1627	<b>Yes.</b> Notice on board at meetings
<b>Darts (at The Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (midday)	<b>Fred Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Freedom Pass Explorers</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Hand Crafted Cards (Group 2)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>Yes</b>
<b>National Trust/English Heritage</b> Various dates & times	<b>John &amp; Olive Mercer</b> 020 8300 3136	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ramblers (Group 1) (6-7 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (10.30 am)	<b>Annette Jansen</b> 01322 522252	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ramblers (Group 2) (4-5 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	<b>Pat &amp; Alf Cracknell</b> 020 8302 0823	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Saturday Ramble (4-5 miles)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday (morning)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372	<b>3</b>
<b>10-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10 am) <i>except school holidays</i>	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Theatre (Group 2)</b> Various matinées	<b>Joan &amp; John Somerset</b> 020 8300 0890	<b>Yes.</b> Notice on board at meetings

The above lists, 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 the Group Co-ordinator.

**José Steward, Group Co-ordinator** ☎ **020 8302 1627**

### 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's not difficult to run a group and leaders of a full one can advise you how it's done.

## PROGRAMME

### 2009

January	Mr. T. Swan	Canterbury Oast Trust
February	Mr. & Mrs. Wagner	Phantasmagoria
March	AGM & Mr. S. Robinson	The City
April	<i>To be announced</i>	
May	Mr. T. Moorey	The Most Popular Indoor Activity
June	Mr. N. Arnold	Big Cats in Kent
July	Dr. Gill Stoker	Essentially Ethel
August	Mrs. J. Hay	Freelancing for the BBC
September	Photo competition & quiz	
October	Mr. M. Parkin	Women in Print
November	Mr. R. Smith	Village Signs in Kent
December	Mrs. P. Mortlock	Ightham Mote

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	John Mercer	020 8300 3136
Vice-Chairman	Annette Jansen	01322 522252
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Dennis Brittain	
Membership Secretary	John Harlow	020 8300 3865
Speakers Secretary	Valerie Gosden	020 8300 0664
Group Co-ordinator	José Steward	020 8302 1627
Raffle Organiser	Valerie Gosden	020 8300 0664
Welfare Officer	Gay Braybrook	020 8309 6372
Social Secretary	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

**Travel Group Leader**                      Margaret Platt                      020 8309 6395

**Newsletter Editor & Webmaster**       David Smith                      020 8304 2305

Please either e-mail contributions to me at [editor.u3a@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:editor.u3a@ukonline.co.uk) or post them to me at 56 Crofton Avenue, Bexley DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

***Please submit contributions by 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.***

### WEBSITE

[www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk](http://www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk)

*Afterthought*

*A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.*

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

2009–2010



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

Name .....

Address .....

As a candidate for election as: Vice-Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Speakers Secretary/  
Membership Secretary/Group Co-ordinator/ Social Secretary/Welfare officer.

**Proposer** ..... **Seconder** .....

**Declaration and Consent.**

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

Signed ..... Date .....

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The present Committee is as follows:-

- Gay Braybrook – Welfare Officer
- Dennis Brittain – Treasurer
- Anne Evans – Social Secretary
- Valerie Gosden – Speakers Secretary
- John Harlow – Membership Secretary
- Annette Jansen – Vice-Chairman
- John Mercer – Chairman
- George Murrell – Secretary
- José Steward – Group Co-ordinator

Please note that the Chairman, John Mercer, was re-elected in 2008 for a two year term of office and that José Steward will not be standing for re-election. All nominations must be returned to me, the Secretary, by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 either at the monthly meeting or by post.

George Murrell  
76, Chester Road,  
Sidcup, Kent  
DA15 8SH

