

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

January 2011



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

NOTICES

Holiday to Maritim Hotel, Königswinter, Germany Tuesday 6th September – Monday 12th September 2011

The Maritim Hotel, situated on the Rhine Promenade, has splendid views of the passing ships and the green hills with the Drachenfels {dragon's rock}. Each year there is a horticultural show called the Bundesgartenschau; in 2011 it will be in Koblenz {under 30 miles away}. The final itinerary has not yet been arranged, but there are many places of interest nearby.

The hotel has an indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, solarium, hairdressing salon, massages, and a cosmetic studio. Guest rooms have bath/WC, hairdryer, air conditioning, satellite TV, telephone with voicemail, mini-bar, and writing desk.

Cost: £519.00 per person. There is a single supplement of £42.00 per person. Cancellation insurance, if required, is £12.00.

I will collect the deposit of £40.00 per person at the January 2011 General Meeting. Cheques should be made payable to "Airedale Tours Ltd/Clients Trust Account".

Margaret Platt Travel Group Organiser ☎ 020 8309 6395

Sponsored Charity 2011

The sponsored charity for 2011 will be "CARERS SUPPORT BEXLEY".

This is a small local charity based in the Manor House, Grassington Road, Sidcup. It provides a free service to all unpaid carers where the carer and/or the person cared for reside in the London Borough of Bexley. It is a voluntary sector organisation and the services it provides include:-

- A respite service.
- Carer's information pack.
- Quarterly magazine "Carers Voice".
- "In Touch" – one-to-one emotional support for carers.
- Information and advice (including welfare benefits and assistance with applications).
- Befriending service to carers.

There were no other charities nominated.

George Murrell

June 2011 Meeting

As has become our custom, there will not be a speaker at this meeting. Therefore, the Committee would like to invite all group leaders and their members to 'showcase' their activities for the benefit of all with displays in the hall.

We are a large and diverse group of people with an infinite range of interests, so, in addition, we extend an invitation to individual members to display any craft, hobby or special interest they would like to share. It could be a great opportunity to extend our range of groups and discover potential leaders, so please give some thought to what you could do and talk to any member of the Committee.

Anne Evans

U3A National Geology Meeting at The National Stone Centre, Wirksworth, Derbyshire 6th-7th April 2011

In response to a growing interest in geology by U3A members, National Office is considering organising a meeting as above. Experts at the centre propose a programme of lectures with field visits. The estimated cost is £40.00 per person including lunch and refreshments on both days. Participants arrange their own accommodation and evening meals. Further information is available from the U3A National Office ☎ 020 8466 6139

South East U3A Forum Summer School – University of Chichester 28th June–1st July 2011

Subjects on offer include:-

- Castle, Cathedral, Canal and City. Guided 5 mile walks around Chichester and Arundel.
- Anglo Saxon, Mediaeval & Georgian Chichester.
- Chichester and Arundel – Landscape, history & conservation of three nature reserves walking approx 5/6 miles per day.
- Creative Writing.
- The Golden Age of Dutch Painting.
- Opera on stage.
- Painting with water colours for beginners.
- Poets with many voices, Robert Browning and others.
- Post War England and the decline of Imperialism.
- Psychology: Reality and Imagination.
- The War to End all Wars – A study of the First World War.
- Watermills and Windmills.

Probable cost: residential single en suite £285; residential standard single £257.

Further details are available from Derek Payne (Kent U3A network) ☎ 01732 354228 e-mail derekcpayne@sky.com.

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network Holiday to Vannes Jazz Festival 25th-30th July 2011

8 days/7 nights estimated cost £650.00. Included in the price is the return Eurostar/TGV fare from London to Vannes and 7 nights B&B in Best Western Hotel, Vannes Centre. Excursions to Quimber, Quiberon and Carnac, Guerande and a luncheon cruise. Further details are available from Bob Jones ☎ 0118 941388 e-mail jazz@mypostoffice.co.uk.

George Murrell

National Service with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

In the early 1950s, about 40% of the Army's Infantry Battalions were made up of National Servicemen. There was no National Service in Northern Ireland, and, therefore, the National Service element of the three Irish Regiments, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles and Royal Irish Fusiliers was recruited mainly from Londoners. The first step for all 18-year-old men was to register for National Service; this was compulsory. Prior to registering, I had never even heard of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

In March 1951 I was just eighteen and awaited my calling up papers with mixed feelings. I had always wanted a career in the services, but as an officer and preferably in the Royal Navy. I was fed up with my job as a local government clerk but was not prepared to take the risk of signing on for seven years. National Service seemed the ideal opportunity for a "trial run". How wrong I was would soon be proved.

The papers arrived instructing me to report to the recruiting office in Croydon to register. Smartly turned out to create a good impression, I duly attended and was at first interviewed by a middle-aged clerk, who immediately informed me that there was no chance at all of being accepted for the Navy as a National Serviceman.

Anxious to please, I said I was quite prepared to accept the Army and would like to join the RASC and become a driver. "Not much chance of that," said the clerk. "We've got plenty of recruits who are already drivers." Seeing my disappointed expression, he gave me kindly advice. "Write down your preference as 'RASC to follow my civilian occupation as a clerk.' That should get you into the Service Corps, and, once you're in, you could request a change of trade to driver. You might be lucky." I followed his advice.

I was then summoned into an inner office to be interviewed by 'the Colonel', who was a very distinguished looking military type of individual sitting behind a large desk.

"So you want to be a clerk, do you?" he asked. "A big strong looking lad like you," he went on in a manner that made me feel thoroughly ashamed of myself. "You want to be a clerk pen-pushing behind a desk, instead of being a real soldier sticking a bayonet into the enemy in Korea." I wasn't too keen about the last suggestion but did not want him to think that I was a wimp. "No sir, I don't want to be a clerk, I want to be a proper soldier," I replied. "Well, why did you put this down on your registration form?" he asked. I couldn't think of a suitable answer apart from the truth. "The man out there suggested it as I wanted to be a driver," said I. 'The man out there' was rapidly hauled into the Colonel's office and was dressed down in my presence. I will never forget the look of reproach directed at me as he left.

The Colonel then neatly played me along as I explained to him that I would like to serve King and Country in the best way possible (even if it did mean sticking a bayonet into somebody), and how much I would like to be granted a commission and make a career of the Army. It seemed important to me at the time that the Colonel formed a high opinion of me.

After listening and prompting me, the Colonel came up with what appeared to be the ideal solution. I was to alter my form to show my preference as the Brigade of Guards. This would show that I was, indeed, the stuff of which heroes are made. The grounding that I would then receive would make me much sought after as 'officer material' in any other regiment, and a commission would be a mere formality. (We agreed, reluctantly, that I probably did not have the financial means and social background to accept a commission in the Guards.)

I was beginning by this time to suspect that the Colonel was ex-Guards and perhaps a little biased, but, nevertheless, I agreed to his suggestion. As he was altering the form for my signature he asked me, "Which Guards do you want to go into?" I thought this was rather nice of him as he seemed to have made all of my decisions so far. I replied to the effect that I didn't mind. "Have you any Scots ancestry?" he asked. "No," I replied, "only Welsh and Irish." "Well, put down Irish or Welsh Guards," he said, pushing the form across to me. This I did and I suppose that is the reason that I ended up in **The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers**.

George Murrell

Discounted Computer Books

The U3A “Older and Wiser” books published by Wiley are available at £9.99 each (£3 discount) until 31st January. Phone Freephone 0800 243407 quoting VB116. Titles include Computing, Computing Windows 7, Digital Photography, Family History, The Internet, Social Networking, Laptops, and Microsoft Office.

George Murrell

U3A Summer Schools 2011

Harper Adams College near Telford, Shropshire 18th–21st July

Courses include Aspects of American Cinema; Development of Drama; Geology and Industrial Landscape; History – Aspects of 19th Century English Social History; Maths – Back To Your (Square) Roots & Easy As Pi; Music – Shostakovich; Philosophy; Poetry – Converts T S Elliot & John Donne; Storytelling – Learn To Tell Stories.
Full Board en suite accommodation £315.00.

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester 22nd–25th August

Courses include Dancing – a variety of dance activities; History – India’s Forgotten Genius, Rabindranath Tagore; Anarchism in Literature; Music Appreciation – Classical Music; Introduction to Philosophy; Science and Technology – Lasers Secret Messaging and the Science of Photography.
Full Board en suite accommodation £315.00.

Further information about both the above can be downloaded from the U3A website, or by contacting the National Office 020 8466 6139.

U3A Explores Science at the RI

A programme of talks given by expert speakers at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1 at 1.30pm–5.00pm, Tuesday 29th March.
Tickets including refreshments £18.00. Further details are available from the National Office as above.

George Murrell

Nomination Form

Nominations for Committee posts are now invited and a nomination form is attached to this Newsletter. The Vice Chairman, Annette Jansen, is standing down after many years service on the Committee.

New Treasurer Required

After 10 years loyal and efficient service, Dennis Brittain will be relinquishing the position of Treasurer at the AGM in March. Any member who is prepared to take on this task is invited to have a word with Dennis, or any other Committee member, as soon as possible. As you will appreciate, without a Treasurer the future of the Branch could be very much in jeopardy and it is therefore important that a potential successor is identified as quickly as possible.

Apart from Annette and Dennis, all other Committee members are prepared to stand for re-election.

George Murrell, Secretary

GROUP NEWS

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



Our October trip out had been on a glorious autumn day; by contrast our November trip was windy, cold, and very wet, so a change of plan was indicated, and the group decided to visit the Wallace Collection in London. We walked part of the way along Oxford Street which had its Christmas lights switched on; these included umbrellas with glistening ‘raindrops’, which looked cheerier than what we were actually experiencing. We hope for better weather next time.

A week after the snow and ice of early December, ten intrepid explorers set out in the fog on their way to Morden. By the time we reached London Bridge the fog had cleared and bright skies were overhead, although it was definitely *cold*. Upon reaching Morden station, we patronised one of the several cafés nearby, and, over coffee, we studied our maps and decided to visit nearby Morden Hall Park. This is a National Trust property and their leaflet calls it ‘an oasis in suburbia’. We walked through the grounds and the park and looked at the old Snuff Mill beside the River Wandle before enjoying hot celeriac, carrot and orange soup in the café. This was followed by a pleasant look round their shop and that of a nearby garden nursery which was sporting many Christmas decorations. Our journey out had been by train and tube, but we elected to use the tram and bus to get home; this took twice as long, but all agreed that it had been a good day out.

Val Gosden

ENTERTAINMENT

Solution to December’s anagram puzzles

Old west action = Clint Eastwood; UNs said he’s mad = Saddam Hussein; I marry loon men = Marilyn Monroe; Heh smells crook = Sherlock Holmes; Ascend in Paris = Princess Diana; Ten elite brains = Albert Einstein; I lace words = Oscar Wilde; Aha, ions made volts = Thomas Alva Edison; I’ll make a wise phrase = William Shakespeare; Genuine class = Alec Guinness; On any screen = Sean Connery; I’ll crunch this now = Winston Churchill; Girl idol, thirteen odd = Little Red Riding Hood; I’d murder any hills = Sir Edmund Hillary; No, appear not on Elba = Napoleon Bonaparte; Did color in a nave = Leonardo da Vinci; Creep brings tunes = Bruce Springsteen; I answer actions = Sir Isaac Newton; Me, radium ace = Madame Curie; Angel of the reclining = Florence Nightingale

Solution to December’s crossword and Sudoku puzzles

Across: 1 Jests 9 Magic 12 Oversensitive 13 Equal 14 Niche 15 Abbreviations 16 Sitar 19 Atone 22 Probe 23 Snoop 25 Oddness 27 Submits 28 Debater 30 Attracted 31 Simpleton 32 Pad 34 Friar 35 Limericks 36 Kayak 38 Add 40 Civilians 42 Menagerie 43 Tabular 44 Cabinet 46 Abstain 47 Datum 48 Lapse 49 Verse 53 Slugs 56 Prevarication 57 Igloo 58 Azure 59 Contemplating 60 Girth 61 Sepal

Down: 1 Jeeps 2 Squat 3 Solar 4 Members 5 Assembled 6 Anvil 7 Distances 8 Kimonos 9 Mensa 10 Gecko 11 Crepe 17 Indeterminate 18 Abnormalities 20 Temperamental 21 Nationalising 22 Psych 24 Puppy 26 Hazardous 28 Defiant 29 Riskier 32 Pea 33 Did 37 Fixed 39 Maybe 41 Saturated 42 Maharajas 45 Taverns 46 Aspirin 49 Vying 50 Ruler 51 Epoch 52 Wispy 53 Snags 54 Usurp 55 Swell

5	9	1	3	8	7	6	4	2
2	6	4	1	9	5	8	3	7
3	7	8	2	6	4	1	5	9
7	8	2	9	5	6	3	1	4
6	5	3	4	7	1	2	9	8
4	1	9	8	2	3	7	6	5
9	4	7	6	3	8	5	2	1
1	3	5	7	4	2	9	8	6
8	2	6	5	1	9	4	7	3

GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	Amblers (Group 1) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	John Harbert 020 8300 5361	Yes
	Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	Norma Balfour/José Steward 020 8303 6372/07957 181808	Yes
	Antiques Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (10 am)	Martin Baker 020 8300 1752	2
	Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook/José Steward 020 8309 6372/07957 181808	Yes
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	Fred Green	Yes
	German Thursdays (2 pm; not 3 rd Thurs)	Betty Deutsch 020 8302 6526	1 (No beginners)
	Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
	Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	José Steward 07957 181808	3
	Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30 am)	Annette Jansen 01322 522252	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
	Recorder Playing 3 rd Wednesday (2 pm)	Mary Hawes 020 8300 0521	6
	10-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10 am)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes. Notice on board at meetings

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 the Group Co-ordinator.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator ☎ 020 8300 4291

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

2011

January	Mr. J. Halligan	Paintings in the Guildhall Art Gallery
February	Mr. M. Parkin	The Story of Sevenoaks Market
March	Annual General Meeting	
	Miss E. Turner	In the Spirit of Shackleton
April	Mr. I. Bevan	Tudor London
May	Mrs. J. Bruce	Knickers and Things
June	N/A	Group Displays
July	Mr. C. Durack	Major Rowland George Hallam Shears, BEM, TD, G8KW, 1919-2009
August	Mr. R. Spiller	Entertainer & Comedian
September	Mr. A. Stockwell	Puppets, Piers & Pantomimes – 40 years in show business
October	Mr. J. Newson	Her Majesty's Crown Jewels
November	TBA	
December	Mrs. P. Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
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	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Vacant	

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Travel Group Leader	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
Raffle Organiser	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
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 DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

Please submit contributions by 3rd of the month.

WEBSITE

www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk

This Newsletter (including previous editions) may be read or downloaded from our website.

Afterthought

I read about the evils of drinking - so I gave up reading.

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

2011-2012



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

Name

Address

As candidate for:-

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

Proposer **Secunder**

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 | Chairman (Elected in 2010 for 2 years) |
| Annette Jansen | Vice-Chairman |
| George Murrell | Secretary |
| Dennis Brittain | Treasurer |
| John Harlow | Membership Secretary |
| Christine Spencer | Group Co-ordinator |
| Valerie Gosden | Speakers Secretary |
| Kathy Cordell | Welfare Officer |

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