

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

January 2015



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

U3A Events 2015

On line booking. Members will now be able to book online and still pay by cheque, if preferred, for all U3A events organised by the National Office. Members are recommended to keep an eye on the Events Section in the “Members Area” of the Third Age Trust website.

Annual Science Seminar at Harper Adams University, Telford, 10th–13th August. Cost approx. £250 fully residential. Further information will be available at www.u3ascienceseminar.org.uk

U3A Explores Science at the RI: A programme of lectures 1.30 pm–5 pm on 23rd March at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1. Tickets cost £20 (including refreshments) and are available from the National Office. Subjects include “Social Behaviour in the Dinosaurs”, “Epigenetics”, “Smashing Physics”.

Inspiration Day for U3A members: 11 am–3.30 pm Wednesday 22nd April at the Royal Opera House Production Workshop, Purfleet, Essex. This includes a tour of the building, a talk by the Head of Scenic Art and a hands-on “Design a Stage Set” workshop. Tickets costing £18 including refreshments (plus £5 pp. supplement for optional sandwich lunch) may be obtained from the National Office.

U3A Spring Concert: Vivaldi with the Brandenburg Singers and Organ at the Temple Church, London EC4, 3–5 pm Tuesday 28th April. Tickets cost £18 from the National Office.

U3A West End Sing Out: 11 am–4.30 pm Tuesday 3rd March at the Playhouse Theatre in Northumberland Avenue. Work with a West End professional music director to learn and perform songs from West End musicals and to produce a free CD. Cost £35 per person which includes workshop and tuition, sandwich lunch and CD. Maximum of 150 places; bookings through the National Office.

Shared Learning Project with the Royal Philatelic Society Limited. Research into the archives of Messrs. Grover and Co. on Wednesdays between February and May at the Society’s HQ, Devonshire Place, London W1 6JY. Further information is available from Robert Mott email: mott@btinternet.com

George Murrell

(i) As always, contact details for the National Office/Third Age Trust appear on the last page.

Editor

The Workers' Educational Association

The WEA has a number of courses this year, one of which might be of interest.

Local History: London Walks (C2417410)

The theme of these walks will be discovering how London has changed, as well as revisiting some of London's familiar land-marks. The aim is that learners can look at parts of London afresh and appreciate this extraordinary and ever changing metropolis. This is an opportunity to learn more about our fascinating capital city as part of a group with similar interests and to make friends.

Location: The Learning Centre, 5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath. DA7 4EZ

Starts: Tuesday 3rd March 2015

Time: 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (1st week in venue 1.30 pm–4.00 pm, the remainder in London)

Duration: 10 weeks

Full fee: £82.95 or FREE based on selected means tested benefits (proof must be supplied).

Available for online enrolment at www.wea.org.uk/courses

For further details email: weabexley@hotmail.co.uk or phone 020 8300 1845

or visit: www.wea.org.uk

Missing People

Val Gosden and I would like to thank you all for choosing the charity "Missing People" as the Sidcup U3A charity for 2015. As from January, we will be selling handmade cards (by Val) and books, DVDs and CDs donated by you. Any unsold "bring and buy" items will be donated to a local charity shop.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to a good fundraising year.

Gerry Kenny

GROUP NEWS

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Our December trip out was to the Geffrye Museum, the Museum of the Home, which is housed in old alms-houses. The eleven rooms are furnished in the style that the urban middle classes would have used, from the 1600s right through to modern days. One of the pleasures of this museum is the ability to feel samples of some of the materials that would have been used, and to be able to sit in chairs whose design was of a previous age. By visiting in December we were able to see how the rooms would have been decorated for Christmas, starting with simple greenery, holly, ivy and bay leaves, for the earliest periods. Later on, rosemary featured in the decorations, with mistletoe appearing during the Victorian period. The Victorians had decorations on walls and furniture, often hand-made items, and, of course, a decorated Christmas tree with candles. The 1900s saw the arrival of artificial decorations, including electric lighting for the Christmas tree to replace lighted candles. Our visit concluded with Christmas dinner in the busy café.

Val Gosden

Classical Music • Leader Alan Griffiths



Barbara Carpenter provided us with seasonal fare for our December meeting. The first piece we heard was *Unto Us a Child is Born* from Handel's *Messiah* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. This was followed by *Carol Symphony* by Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1901–1947) who was a British composer. Various well-known carols were included on this topical recording. We next heard *The Procession of the Nobles* from the opera *Mlada* composed by Rimsky-Korsakov and played by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by Erich Kunzel.

The second half of the programme got off to a lively start with Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Reed-Flutes* played by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House conducted by Mark Ermler. This was followed by the Polka and Fugue from *Schwanda the Bagpiper* composed by Jaromír Weinberger and played by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. We then heard the *Toy Symphony* by Leopold Mozart played by The Academy of St Martin-in-the Fields and conducted by Sir Neville Marriner. The next piece was the *Christmas Concerto* by Arcangelo Corelli played by the Collegium Musicum 90 conducted by Simon Standage. We were then able to relax and listen to *Les Preludes, Symphonic Poem № 3* by Liszt with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Barbara's final piece was *The Hallelujah Chorus* – a fitting climax to a seasonal programme.

Alan Griffiths

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leaders Christine Withams & Joy O'Donnell



In November we took the Circle Line to High Street Kensington. We started with coffee at a large Whole Food Store, which had tempting displays of festive foods. Walking up the High Street, we came to the large church of St Mary Abbots for a brief visit. We continued through a village-like enclave to Holland Park with its 18th century ice house, Rose, Dutch, Iris and Japanese Gardens and an Orangery. Although wintry, we enjoyed walking round the Japanese Gardens which had many peacocks strutting about. We lunched there before catching the bus back to Charing Cross.

For our December visit, we took the Northern Line to Archway. After coffee, we walked up Highgate Hill to Waterlow Park, on the way passing the Whittington stone statue of a cat where Dick heard the sound of Bow Bells. The park has two lakes and borders Highgate Cemetery. After walking in the park we came to Highgate Village where we made for the Gatehouse – now a Weatherspoon Pub. It was here that Dickens and Byron drank – so we did, too!!

Christine Withams

(i) Richard Whittington (c. 1354–1423), was a wealthy merchant and, later, Lord Mayor of London. Folklore stories loosely based upon his life abound of how he escaped a poverty-stricken childhood and made his fortune thanks to the ratting abilities of his cat. The earliest example of the folklore in written form is a registry notice dated 1604-5 for a theatrical play. However, Whittington did not come from a poor family of common stock, and there is no compelling evidence to show he owned a cat. Antiquarians have noticed similarities to foreign tales of medieval origin that relate how a character made his fortune through his cat ridding some place of its rodent infestation. In 1392, Dick Whittington reputedly heard Bow Bells call him back to London to become Lord Mayor. However, the first known reference to Bow Bells is in 1469 when the Common Council ordered that a curfew should be rung at 9.00 pm every day. A church has existed on the site of St Mary-le-Bow since Saxon times.

Editor

Ramblers 2 • Leader David Wedderkop



Scadbury Park followed by Christmas Dinner at the Sydney Arms.

At 10.15 am on Tuesday 16th December 2014, 10 of us met in the Sydney Arms pub car park: Pat C, Ilena, Gay, Roy, John H, Mary, John M, Olive M, Pat W & David.

This was an ideal sunny December day and we walked clockwise around Scadbury Park before returning to the pub. We navigated some mud on the first bit, but it was warm enough to enjoy and take things easy. Best of all – we got back to the Sydney Arms only three minutes late. The meal and service were good, and so was seeing some of our old members.

David Wedderkop

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



Our very first outing was at the beginning of December on a day that beamed out brightly at the start. We had drizzle by the afternoon; annoyingly, the evening after we'd returned had a gloriously clear sunset. From the car park in Shoreham we walked through the village over the river bridge and up past the golf course and station. We then climbed steeply up the White Hill escarpment. It was tough going, but nobody bit the mud. We had brief breathing stop with great views looking backwards into and across the Darent Valley. Back on the road again at the top of the hill in Fackenden Lane, for some inexplicable reason I misread the map and got us lost by turning off it too soon! However, one of our party encouraged us to continue, so, after a short detour (but with great views again), we were back where we'd started 30 minutes before! As my wife would say, you can't go for a walk with Trevor without finding some mud (and worse). Further down the road we joined the correct path – part of the North Downs Way – and followed that down into Otford. The Woodman proved to be a very welcoming pub for lunch; it had a warm fire with a strange smoke effect which we couldn't fathom. After lunch, we walked beyond the duck pond to have a brief look at the semi-ruined Archbishop's Palace (see photo on the website). Back on track, we walked along the High Street to join the Darent Valley path, initially by the side of the river. Further on, we walked through the golf course and then over the river through a farm yard and so out to the road which returned us to the car park. It was just the right timing for a short winter's day.

Trevor Ford

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for December was *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris. Harris is an excellent storyteller and gave us a truly gripping tale of spies and intrigue. Although the story is fiction, it is based upon true facts. Set in the “Belle Époque” {beautiful era} in France and known as “The Dreyfus Affair”, it was proved as a grave miscarriage of justice in the 1890s. What was surprising to us was the amount of anti-Semitism which existed in France at that time. The characters were extremely well drawn and the pace was taut and electrifying. Although quite a hefty tome and quite daunting to read at this busy time of the year, we were pleased to have read this book. Thank you, Carole.

June Reid

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden



Our December walk on a beautifully bright day was a very local one. Starting from Sidcup Station, we walked through The Glade and several parks (Marlborough, Willersley, Holly Oak and Parish Wood) before finally reaching Avery Hill Park where we enjoyed coffee and lunch in the café there. We then re-joined the path continuing round the park before exiting on to Avery Hill Road and separating to go our various ways home.

Val Gosden

ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

H	C	I	R	K	T	E	A	O
R	O	K	E	H	A	T	I	C
T	A	E	O	I	C	K	H	R
O	K	C	T	A	E	H	R	I
A	R	T	I	C	H	O	K	E
I	E	H	K	R	O	A	C	T
E	H	R	A	T	I	C	O	K
C	I	O	H	E	K	R	T	A
K	T	A	C	O	R	I	E	H

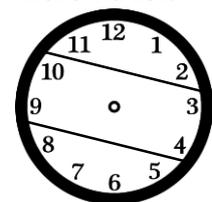
W	E	S	T	O	P	P	E	L
A	C	H	E	D	R	A	G	D
R	U	I	N	D	I	R	G	E
D	R	E	S	S	N	E	S	T
R	E	D	J	O	T	O	B	E
O	G	R	E	P	A	N	I	C
B	R	A	W	L	B	A	R	T
E	O	L	E	O	L	I	D	O
S	W	E	L	T	E	R	S	R

W	E	L	F	A	R	E	C	T	I	B	R	E	E	Z	E	D
A	A	B	M	A	H	A	R	A	N	E	E	A	O	E		
C	O	X	C	O	M	B	A	A	S	A	D	R	E	N	A	L
K	N	R	R	E	S	O	N	A	T	O	R	T	A	U		
I	N	E	R	T	I	A	T	S	A	I	N	H	A	L	E	D
E	S	E	C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	S	E	L	E		
R	E	S	I	D	U	E	S	I	C	H	O	N	E	Y	E	D
L	N	N	G	E	N	T	E	E	L	B	Q	X				
W	A	Y	F	A	R	E	R	A	D	E	N	T	R	U	S	T
B	U	E	A	M	B	L	I	N	G	R	I	E				
C	O	X	S	W	A	I	N	B	T	U	S	U	R	P	I	N
R	I	L	I	R	I	D	I	U	M	S	M	S				
C	A	N	O	E	I	S	T	N	N	E	P	I	D	E	M	I
T	N	T	E	N	G	A	G	E	S	V	N	V				
J	E	R	S	E	Y	S	A	U	X	P	E	S	T	L	E	S
A	A	D	A	E	R	O	D	R	O	M	E	E	E	M		
B	I	V	O	U	A	C	R	I	D	A	C	Q	U	I	R	E
B	A	C	H	E	A	R	T	B	U	R	N	U	S	L		
E	N	G	R	A	V	E	T	I	S	U	N	E	Q	U	A	L
R	E	T	T	H	O	R	N	I	E	S	T	L	R	E		
S	A	D	D	E	N	S	R	G	S	S	U	S	P	E	N	D

In the old west, Comanches terrorised settlers from Europe. I wonder whether it helps to wash over yesterday's mistakes. Scared careful fellow hit by super thought to keep some smelling salts. We'll say it's very dear and may retail for double a bob and a half. I'm surely able to send over them aids to next-of-kin. Here we dwelt in great numbers, but this wind on my face leaves my welfare hampered. It makes Oscar difficult to share a dinghy or kayak with. To wander by such art we'll need to label faster than ever before. Go for a mountain trip on trail in col near ranger's cabin. I sifted through the debris to locate where I'd left my comb at home. Should

he box for dollars or send art for drachma? (34)

I never was, I am always to be, No one has seen me, you'll never catch me, Yet I'm the hopes and the dreams of you all, Who live, laugh and cry on this worldly ball. What am I? *Tomorrow*.



My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend just yet.

I was explaining to my wife last night that when you die you get reincarnated but must come back as a different creature. She said, "I would like to come back as a cow." I said, "You're obviously not listening."

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I've been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in the behind in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 2) 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
 Classical Music 2 nd Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	Alan Griffiths 020 8303 6636	Vacancies
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates and times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies 
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) 	Leader pending  needed, please	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tuesday & 4 th Thursday	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	Vacancies
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 Meditation 1 st & 3 rd Monday (10.00–11.30 am)	Keith Alker 020 8850 3853	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	David Wedderkop 020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 3) 1 st Friday (≈ 6 miles)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	Vacancies
 Rummikub® 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)  £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation Last Thursday (7.30 pm) £	Michael Jordan 020 8302 3330	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, Interim Group Co-ordinator  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.

 Not during school holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

 Notice on the board at meetings

 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2015

January	Jim Radford	Tugboat rescues in World War 2
February	Roger Stevens	Audio Visuals
March		Annual General Meeting
	Andy Thomas	The Crop Circle Mystery
April	Roy Bilham	Blowing my own trumpet
May	Ian Keable	The Corked Conjuror
June	Peter Hartley	The Royals
July	Roy Ingleton	The Heartbeat Years
August	Cairis Hickey	The Wiggly Wild Show
September	Colin Lomas	Leonardo Da Vinci – Was he really a genius?
October	Will Cooban	The Good, The Bad and The Bexley
November	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Bruges
December	<i>To be advised</i>	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
Membership Secretary	Patricia Rivett	020 3302 2887
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
Interim Group Co-ordinator	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
General Member	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635

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 – 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE (020 8466 6139) www.u3a.org.uk

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

To be heard, there are times you must be silent.