

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

January 2017



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

Christmas Carols at the December 2016 Meeting

Although already a distant memory, our 2016 season ended unexpectedly but appropriately with lively, joyful and unaccompanied carol singing by all those present. As you may recall from your programme, we were scheduled to have an afternoon of Christmas music and carols accompanied by Roy Bingham, Trumpeter, who had entertained us previously in 2015. In response to our various, failed attempts to track him down during the afternoon, Roy contacted me later that afternoon. He sends you all his profuse apologies describing himself as “mortified, devastated and acutely embarrassed.” How did the “no-show” happen? Roy had our booking confirmation for December 15th in his appointments file, but had transcribed it into his appointments diary as the 16th! We had spoken on the phone a couple of weeks earlier when the venue was changed and car parking arrangements were discussed. Roy has offered to give us FOC a presentation later at a mutually convenient date. I explained that is unlikely to be before 2018 as the whole programme for 2017 is already fixed. I commiserated with him and in the spirit of “goodwill to all men” wished him a very Happy Christmas on behalf of Sidcup & District U3A.

Janet Lambern, Speakers Secretary

Annual Booklet

Membership cards and our Annual Booklets for 2017 will be handed out at the January meeting. Additional or replacement copies of the booklet may be downloaded from our website. Those of you who have not yet renewed your membership for this year will find a spare membership renewal form on the back of the November Newsletter; this may also be downloaded from our website.

Webmaster

Greater London South East Network

Sidcup & District U3A is a member of the Greater London South East Network of U3As. Their website is www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork and it will keep you informed of local events which may be of interest to you. There is a link to it from our own website.

Webmaster

Committee Nominations

Any member who might be interested in becoming a member of the Committee, but is perhaps a little bit shy or apprehensive, is invited to have a quiet word with any of the present Committee members, and/or attend a Committee meeting as an observer. Anne has given us several years of excellent service well above and beyond “the call of duty.” She will be a very hard act to follow. We really do need to have someone to step into the breach. Don’t be timid. Have a quiet word with Anne; I am sure that she will give you every advice and help. A nomination form is attached to this Newsletter.

George Murrell

GROUP NEWS

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for November was *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessey* written by Rachel Joyce. Two years ago we read *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* which we had very much enjoyed. The author describes “Queenie” as a companion book, not a sequel. In fact, we meet several of the same characters along the way, but, while Harold is making his journey, we see another side of the story – according to Queenie Hennessey. Although set in a Hospice, there is no “doom and gloom” but much light and laughter. Indeed, some of the inmates are quite outrageous. Queenie writes to this man whom she has not seen for 20 years – a tale of love in middle-age unrequited. We also learn more about Harold’s troublesome son, David, who is suffering from drink and depression. This is a book with such a powerful theme that it will stay in your mind. However, although it tugs at the heartstrings, there is a feeling of gentle laughter and admiration as we reach the inevitable finale.

June Reid

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



In November we travelled north on the Piccadilly line to Manor House. We exited on to Finsbury Park, where, after crossing a busy junction several times, we found a very busy and good café for our coffee stop. We then walked to Woodberry Wetland, recently opened by Sir David Attenborough, where we walked around the East Reservoir. There has been lovely housing development in the area and we found an excellent café with very attentive staff for our lunch break.

We stayed close to home for our December outing. After meeting at Eltham Station, we walked to Westmount Road where we had coffee in the Pottery Shop, which opened about a year ago, and where one can paint all sorts of pottery shapes. It is well used by mums and children and it seems you can sit and do your knitting, too! Next, we walked to Eltham Park North with its views across London and through the woods to Eltham Park South. We then walked to Prezzo for our Christmas lunch.

Christine Withams

(i) My photos of Woodberry Wetland may be viewed on the Gallery page of our website.

Editor

Local History 1 • Contact Lesley South



In December a group of us visited the fabulous Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London. The Goldsmiths' Company received its first Charter in 1327. The Wardens of the craft marked their gold and silver with a leopard's head symbol. Their particular responsibility was to check the metal values of the coins from the Treasury at the Court of Pyx which is still done. The first hall dates from 1366; the next hall was built in 1636 but was damaged by the Great Fire of London in 1666 and was rebuilt by Edward Jarman in 1669. The present hall was built by Philip Hardwick in 1835. The panelling in the Court Room is from the 1669 hall. The Great Hall was re-gilded in gold leaf in the summer of 2016. What a wonderful place it is. No expense was spared in the Renaissance style. Chandeliers sparkled above our heads and a selection of gold plate was on display in the Great Hall. In the exhibition room were to be found examples of various styles of silver and gold reflecting changing tastes in design over the years. I liked the Arts and Craft designs.

Alan Godfrey

i The Trial of the Pyx – which is a formal court of law – is conducted in February each year at the Goldsmiths' Hall. It is presided over by the Queen's Remembrancer of the Royal Courts of Justice, the oldest judicial office in the UK which dates to the 12th century. Throughout the year, coins are randomly selected from every batch of each denomination struck – including Maundy money – put aside and sealed in bags, and then locked away in the Pyx boxes (wooden chests) for quality testing at the trial before a 16-strong jury. This ensures world trust in our currency. Last year's trial started on February 2nd and was full of pomp and circumstance. Around 96,000 coins were scrutinised over a four month period ranging from a £1,000 pound commemorative coin (which is legal tender and worth about £45,000!) made from a kilogram of solid gold, down to the lowly 20p piece.

Editor

December's puzzle solutions

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

K	N	F	O	R	E	T	A	L
O	L	E	F	A	T	N	R	K
T	R	A	N	L	K	F	O	E
N	O	L	K	E	F	R	T	A
A	K	T	R	O	L	E	F	N
F	E	R	T	N	A	L	K	O
R	T	N	L	K	O	A	E	F
L	A	K	E	F	R	O	N	T
E	F	O	A	T	N	K	L	R



























C	A	V	E	S	T	A	R	T
A	R	E	A	E	S	T	E	R
B	O	R	N	E	U	L	N	A
A	M	B	O	Y	N	A	D	Y
L	A	C	B	O	A	S	U	P
F	G	A	L	U	M	I	N	A
L	O	R	E	G	I	D	D	Y
O	B	E	S	E	F	L	E	E
P	I	S	T	E	P	Y	R	E

Quality Street, Buttons,
Turkish Delight, Wine
Gums, Topic, Humbug, All
Gold, Twix, Mars Bars,
Drifter, After Eight, Whole
Nut, Little Gems, Lollipop,
Bon bons,
Celebrations,
Milky Way,
Kit Kat,
Snickers,
Polo


A	D	O
L	I	D
L	E	D

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

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
 Chess <i>Timings to be advised</i>	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies
 Classical Music 2 nd Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Vacancies
 Concerts/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 Tues  & 4 th Thurs 	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Leslie South 020 8300 8298	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	Vacancies
 Scrabble® <i>Timings to be advised</i>	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30 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 a group.


 Not during school/bank holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

 Notice on the board at meetings

 Open to all

 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2017		
January	Martin Heard	The Gardens of Impressionism – Monet and others
February	Ralph Todd	The Natural Wonders of Iceland
March	A.G.M	
April	Joseph Woodcock Peter Jones	Springtime in the Garden National Trust Properties of the South East
May	Nicky Brooks	Exercise in Retirement – Pilates
June	Russell Bowes	Dig for Victory
July	Project Representative	Ageing Immunity Research Project
August	Groups & Members	Showcase: Sharing of Sidcup U3A Activities
September	Ian Bevan	The History of the Crystal Palace
October	Nigel Dawson	Comedy Heroes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
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: 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE ☎ 020 8466 6139 www.u3a.org.uk
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

The drawback with morning is that it comes at such an inconvenient time of day.

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

2017-2018



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

Name

Address

As candidate for:-

Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Secretary/Speakers Secretary /Group Co-ordinator/Welfare Officer/General Committee Member

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

The present Committee is as follows:-

Anne Evans	Chairman (who will be standing down at the AGM having completed the full term permitted)
Lesley South	Vice-Chairman
George Murrell	Secretary
John Lapham	Treasurer
Patricia Andrews	Membership Secretary
Lyn Plumer	Assistant Membership Secretary
Trevor Ford	Group Co-ordinator
Janet Lambern	Speakers Secretary
Kathy Cordell	Welfare Officer
Sue Brooks	General Committee Member

All nominations are to be returned by 1st March 2017 to any Committee member or by post to the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8SH.