

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

January 2018



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

Sidcup U3A Charity 2018

My thanks go to everyone for agreeing to support Action on Hearing Loss this year. Action on Hearing Loss is there to help anyone who has problems with their hearing, whether the loss is slight or profound. Even with a slight loss of hearing, one can miss out on so much, and this can lead to a feeling of loneliness.

Action on Hearing Loss has many items which can help with everyday problems: the doorbell, the telephone, hearing the television without deafening everyone else, and more. Tinnitus, too, can be very distressing and Action on Hearing Loss can help sufferers to cope. Action on Hearing Loss funds research projects around the world; it seems amazing to me that such a small part of the body can produce so many problems, and this research can surely benefit not only ourselves but future generations too.

I'll be bringing a collecting box along to meetings and any coins, large or small, that you can pop in will be most gratefully received.

Val Gosden

March General Meeting

As the New Community Church Centre will not be available to us for the AGM, the March General Meeting will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 15th March at the United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup (opposite St Lawrence's Church). Access to the hall is via a gate on the entrance road to the Council car park – not via the main front entrance to the club.

George Murrell

Committee Nominations

A nomination form is attached to this Newsletter for any member who might be interested in becoming a member of the Committee. Voting will take place at the March meeting.

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.

News for Groups

You will have seen elsewhere that certain groups are crying out for leaders. This is not a strong-armed bullying tactic from me, but just a reminder that we are a democratic self-organising movement. If groups are finding it difficult to have one “leader,” then it may be possible to share that role as several groups do already. Other U3A branches refer to their “leaders” as “conveners”, but ideas for activities, *etc*, come from the membership of those groups. Please consider offering your help to any groups to which you belong. For any “leader” or supporter there is a great deal of help available, not least from myself and other members of the Committee.

This is also a reminder that, for insurance purposes, all attendees at activities under the auspices of the U3A should be paid-up members of Sidcup U3A. Group Leaders will be asked to check membership cards at the first meeting of the year.

Trevor Ford, Group Co-ordinator

Proposed Event on Suffragettes in 2018

It has been suggested to Sue Mead by Joanne Sanderson, one of our members, that South East London U3A could run an event during 2018 on the Suffragettes. We think this would be a good idea, but feel it would be advantageous if we were to collaborate with the Network in the organisation of this event. This is a broad outline of our thoughts:

The Subject – Suffragettes. 2018 sees the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which gave women over the age of 30 the right to vote and extended the franchise for men. There will no doubt be some press coverage of the anniversary, so this would seem to be an appropriate subject for an event. Joanne has already put out some exploratory feelers and we think it would be possible to create an interesting and entertaining day.

Date & Venue, *etc*. This would be left to the organising team but the target date would be May or June 2018 and the venue would be somewhere in South East London.

The Reason for a Partnership. We feel that there would be benefits to collaborating with the Network and these include:

- Sharing the organisational load;
- Utilising the spread of the network to increase publicity and ticket sales;
- Utilising the U3A SEL charity number to access discounts for accommodation, Eventbrite and other services;
- Improving the possibility of accessing either grants or start up loans from either the Region or the London Trustee;
- Wider range of contact for possible speakers.

Finance. There should be an agreed financial framework. It is anticipated that the event would cover its costs. However, if there was a small shortfall or profit, that would be shared equally between the two partners.

Organisational Team. U3A SEL would chair and provide the admin backup for the organising team. The composition of the team would probably be two or three people from each partner.

Agreement. Both management committees would need to agree this initial framework at their Management meetings and to seek members to represent them. U3A SEL would then set up the first team meeting.

Prepared by Roger Mead 9/11/2017

GROUP NEWS

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Bag search, headphones on, hi-vis jackets donned, and safety helmets issued – this was the start of our visit to the Painted Hall Ceiling at Greenwich in December. We were first given a talk about the history of the building, and about the floor-to-ceiling painting at the far end of the hall. This featured royalty, and also the artist who painted it. Then, all fourteen of us were escorted up 67 steps to view the painted ceiling. This is covered in many allegorical figures, such as City of London, Peace, Victory, as well as the royal figures of Mary II and William III. Our guide told us about the renovation work that is going on, which includes removing many layers of varnish from the paintings, and cleaning the gilding on the carved decorations of the cornice. We were given time to look around before descending, and were then informed that it is hoped that all the work would be completed by 2019, and that this would also include work ‘below-stairs’ which would include a café and shop. And entry will be FREE!

Val Gosden

 Photographs taken during this visit can be viewed on the Gallery page of our website.

Webmaster

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



December 2017 walk

After the December monthly meeting at USC, I gave a lift to someone. When we exchanged names, she recognised mine from Newsletters and said, “Oh, you go to pubs, don’t you?” I put my hands up to that and accepted it’s an important part of our rambles. It put me in mind of our December meal at Hall Place which was very enjoyable. Before we got there, though, there was the little matter of a walk. This started very coldly at Slade Green Station. I had ducked into a greasy spoon café to get a warming coffee cup and to use the facilities. When I emerged at meeting time, the remainder of the party had all been huddled in the station foyer. A short walk along Moat Road brought us to a lane past Howden Farm. There was a display board there giving information – amongst other things – about an 18th century barn on site. However, there was no mention of the ruined stone, moated building behind, which looked much older. Continuing down the lane brought us out to the Cray River Way section of the London Loop which we have walked before. From there we followed the Darent River along the Dartford Creek over the Crayford Marshes with the very wide open skies. Sandra was able to tell us about the large barge that would be coming up the creek soon. This week the tide was in, so it had reasonably high water, whereas the week before vast mud flats had surrounded a meandering dribble at low tide. Keeping the water to our left, we turned into the Crayford Creek and followed the River Cray to the recycling centre with its colony of gulls and queues of waiting trucks dipping down below the bridge. Crossing over Thames Road and walking past the wetland, we followed the left bank to Maiden Lane Bridge then the right bank into Crayford. From there we had a short walk to Danson Park and over the playing fields to the pub.

Trevor Ford

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for December was *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things* by Jon McGregor which was chosen by Jan. This was quite an unusual novel. The prose has a very poetic yet graphic feel – a fact which some of us loved but others did not! The opening scene set “on the last day of summer” shows us life in a street based in a northern town. There is a careful mix of both racial and social people. We see them individually going about their everyday business doing everyday things – children playing cricket, couples arguing, someone painting window-frames. All these people are interweaving but never connecting. The reader is focussed like a camera. There is a sense of impending doom; an unnamed narrator tells the story, but now and again is punctuated by the voice of a young girl telling her own tale when she discovers she is pregnant after a one-night stand in Scotland. When a terrible event takes place suddenly, we are both shocked and moved. The street will never be the same again. It was a memorable read.

June Reid

DECEMBER PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

F	O	I	E	T	A	C	S	U
A	U	T	I	S	C	F	E	O
C	E	S	F	U	O	I	T	A
E	A	F	U	O	T	S	I	C
T	C	U	S	E	I	O	A	F
I	S	O	A	C	F	E	U	T
O	T	E	C	A	S	U	F	I
U	F	A	O	I	E	T	C	S
S	I	C	T	F	U	A	O	E

Q	U	I	C	K	S	T	E	P
U	N	D	O	P	O	W	E	R
E	W	E	R	S	H	A	L	O
R	E	A	M	H	O	I	S	T
U	D	U	S	U	P	N	P	E
L	A	N	C	E	O	P	U	S
O	N	T	O	A	L	E	R	T
U	N	I	O	N	K	N	E	E
S	A	L	T	W	A	T	E	R

P	E	W
O	A	R
D	R	Y

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
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	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 afternoon	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Roy Black 020 8302 9942	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 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
 Theatre Trips: Musicals   	Sue Brooks 020 8298 1117	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 that group.

 Not during school/bank holidays  A charge applies  Temporary point of contact
 Open to all  Certain seasons only  Times vary  Not intended for beginners

PROGRAMME

2018		
January	Russell Bowes	“Dig For Victory”
February	Tony Harris	Henry VIII
March	AGM	<i>NB</i> at The United Servicemen’s Club
	Mike Clinch	Underground
April	Janie Ramsay	What’s It Worth?
May	Paul Whittaker	“Music to My Ears”
June	Tony Farnham	Romance of the River Thames
July	Christoph Bull	Pocahontas – Without Disney
August	Colin Pinney	“The Raven” & “The Ancient Mariner”
September	Michael Grillo	Two Kinds of Teardrops (Del Shannon & Roy Orbison)

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	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: 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

Smile - things may get worse more slowly.

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

2018–2019



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

Name

Address

As candidate for:–

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/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 showing current responsibilities is as follows:–

Colin Barclay	Chairman
Sandra Applegate	Vice-Chairman
Carolyn Barclay	Vice-Chairman
George Murrell	Secretary
John Lapham	Treasurer
Patricia Andrews	Membership Secretary
Lyn Plumer	Assistant Membership Secretary
Trevor Ford	Group Co-ordinator
Janet Lamborn	Speakers Secretary
Kathy Cordell	Welfare Officer
Sue Brooks	General Committee Member
Anne Evans	Co-opted Member

All nominations are to be returned by 1st March 2018 to any Committee member or by post to the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8SH
email: george.murrell@btinternet