

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

January 2019



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

February General Meeting

As the New Community Church Centre will not be available to us for the February General Meeting, it will take place at 2.00 pm on Thursday 21st February 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.

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.

Safeguarding

Members are informed that Sidcup & District U3A has adopted a safeguarding policy. The document explaining this is too lengthy to present in this Newsletter and so has been made available to read or download from the "Downloads" panel on the first page of our website. The information contained in it will be useful whether or not you are a victim of abuse.

George Murrell

Workers' Educational Association

The WEA in Bexley will be running the following study courses this year:

Art Appreciation: Art and Music – Anniversaries and Exhibitions 2019 – Ref. C2419829
08.01.19–26.03.19 At: 1.30 pm–3.30 pm for 11 weeks: £94.60

Location: Learning & Enterprise College, 5 Brampton Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 4EZ

Exploring works of art and music and their creators, linked to anniversaries and exhibitions in London galleries.

Art Appreciation: Art and Music – Anniversaries and Exhibitions 2019 – Ref. C2419830
16.04.19–4.06.19 At: 1.30 pm–3.30 pm for 7 weeks: £60.20

Location: Learning & Enterprise College, 5 Brampton Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 4EZ

Exploring works of art and music and their creators, linked to anniversaries and exhibitions in London galleries.

To enrol visit enrolonline.wea.org.uk or call 0300 303 3464. For more info call 020 7426 1976.

Annual Booklet

Please note that further, or replacement, copies of the Annual Booklet which were handed out at this month's meeting can be downloaded from the "Annual Booklets" page of our website.

Webmaster

GROUP NEWS

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



Three Houses Heritage Walk on 18th December 2018

The actual route starts at Hall Place but we started in Bourne Road, Bexley Village passing the Bexley National School Building (1834) and the Victoria Homes Alms-houses (1897) on our right. Further along on our left was the site of the old Reffell's Brewery works which was in use until the 1950s. We walked along the High Street past the Freemantle Hall (1894) and the charming Styleman's Alms-houses built in 1755 as a bequest from John Styleman for "twelve poor families of the parish." He was one of Bexley's richest men and a Director of the British East India Company. We walked on towards the Church of St Johns with its distinctive spire. Turning right onto Parkhurst Road we saw the rare pillar box; a Penfold Hexagonal from around 1870. We followed the road and turned left into Upton Road South with some nice houses (c1869) and left again down Cross Lane. At the end we turned right into Parkhill Road walking towards Bexley Park Wood and the River Shuttle where the road becomes Bridgen Road. We continued on and turned right into Arcadian Avenue heading towards the end. We then took a small footpath and climbed 43 steps to take us over the A2 East Rochester Way. We left the noise from the road and walked past Bexleyheath Golf Course and turned left into Upton Road. We carried on to Robin Hood Lane on our right (previously known as Chitty's Hill and Hog's Hole!!) At the end, we turned left into Lion Road noting some of the fine old houses. We then turned left into Standard Road and at the crossroads took a detour right passing the Upton Day Hospital and number 8 – a thatched cottage, which is a rarity in Bexleyheath!! Turning back down Upton Road, past Sydney Road and into Red House Lane, Olive pointed out the row of terraced homes on our left, some dating back to around 1820 which are known as Hog's Hole cottages. Next to these was the Red House with its blue plaque. Veering right into Bean Road (named after Alfred Bean, a wealthy businessman and philanthropist who helped shape much of the land hereabouts) we carried on to the end and crossed Danson Road into Danson Park. We followed the path to Danson House which was purchased from John Styleman in the 1750's by John Boyd, another wealthy overseas trader, who commissioned the finest designers of the age (including Capability Brown) to rebuild the house and landscape the vast estate. As we walked along the path at the north end of the park, we spent some time watching a woodpecker pecking in the grass. We left the park and took a bus to Bexleyheath to view the Coronation Memorial Clock Tower officially unveiled in July 1912. We ended the walk here as most of us have visited Hall Place, the third house, a number of times. *So much history in such a small area.*

We took a bus back to Bexley Village to have a very enjoyable Christmas lunch in Hamer's.

Helen Salmon

① Pictures taken during this ramble can be viewed on the "Gallery" page of our website.

Editor

Miscellany • Leader Val Gosden



November saw the group travelling to a pop-up museum, the London Fire Brigade Museum near Lambeth Bridge. As a museum, it is in its infancy and to see the completed museum one will have to wait another couple of years. However, there were several exhibits for us to look at that detailed the development of this vital service; these included pictures of its early days, wartime service, and, more recently, the inclusion of women into the service. A local school had provided cardboard ‘houses’ with flames leaping from the tops of the buildings. Following this visit, we crossed the road to the Windmill public house (built in about 1880) for a light lunch. This pub has retained its traditional décor and contains a pool table and interesting items from other countries.

Thankfully, it had stopped raining by the time we reached Rochester in December when we went to enjoy the Dickens Christmas Festival. After crossing the road from the railway station, we were greeted by the sound of bells ringing, preceding the general festive sounds coming from the High Street and surrounding area. Emerging from the Tourist Information area, we could immediately see men with top hats and women in long crinoline dresses, plus a group of ‘Victorian’ firemen. Later on, we were able to watch a long parade of men, women and children, all in costume of the period. Singers entertained us, ‘snow’ descended, and we walked along to the Christmas Market with its many stalls and nearby funfair. When eventually we felt it was time to return home, music from the piped band was in our ears.

Val Gosden

(i) Rochester has been inhabited since at least Neolithic times. Over the years, it has been occupied by Celts, Romans, Jutes and/or Saxons, and known by several names; in 730 AD, Bede called it ‘Hrofes cæster.’ It evolved into its current name in about 1610. For many years, it was a favourite of Charles Dickens who owned Gads Hill Place in Higham. Many of his novels are based in the area and several extant buildings are identifiable in them. The Diocese of Rochester (the second oldest in England) is centred on Rochester Cathedral and was responsible for the founding of a school, now known as The King’s School, in 604 AD; this is recognised as being the world’s second oldest continuously running school.

Editor

Solutions to December puzzles

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

INCA APPLE

S	P	S		
S	N	I	P	E
M	A	P	L	E
O	C	E	A	N
K	R	T		

P	E	A
U	R	N
T	R	Y

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

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	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
 Craft & Chat 1 st & 3 rd Thursday (10.00 am) 	Pauline Springhall 020 8308 1975	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Kate Berry 020 8309 7429	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 (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Vacancies
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Pat Laughton 020 8302 9984	3 Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Helen Salmon 07786 465862 or 020 8309 1689	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	Vacancies
 Science 3 rd Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	2 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 (7.30–9.30 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
 Temporary point of contact

£ A charge applies
 Certain seasons only

 Open to all
 Times vary

PROGRAMME

2019

January	Joe Mendell	Mark Twain Rides Again
February 	Andy Thomas	A Conspiracy History of the World
March (AGM)	C.E.P	Tax, Care and Toy Boys
April	Toni Mount	Ration Book Britain
May	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Passchendaele To Peace.
June	Sidcup U3A members	Members' Showcase of Activities
July	Stuart Robinson	The River Thames; London's Liquid History
August	Andrew Ashton	Banksy
September	Alan Payne	The Story Behind Your Cuppa
October	Brian Freeland	George Bernard Shaw
November	Keith Simmons	Name Dropping

 *To be held at the United Services Club*

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	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Asst. Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
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

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

As long as your mistakes are new ones, you can argue that you are making progress.

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

2019–2020



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

Name

Address

As candidate for: –

Secretary, Treasurer or Committee Member (Please indicate area of responsibility in which interested).

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 showing current responsibilities is as follows: –

Colin Barclay	Chairman (Elected for 2 years in 2018)
Sandra Applegate	Vice-Chairman
Carolyn Barclay	Vice-Chairman
George Murrell	Secretary
John Lapham	Treasurer
Lyn Palmer	Membership Secretary
Pat Andrews	Asst Membership Secretary
Trevor Ford	Group Co-ordinator
Janet Lamborn	Speakers Secretary
Kathleen Cordell	Welfare Officer
Sue Brooks	General Committee member
Anne Evans	Co-opted member

All nominations are to be returned by 28th February 2019 to any Committee member or by post or email to the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8SH, email: george.murrell@btinternet.com