

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
NEWSLETTER**

July 2010



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

NOTICES

Shared Learning Project at the British Postal Museum and Archive, Clerkenwell

The aim of the project is both to document and understand how its photographic collection was used in the context of Post Office Communications 1930s – 1960s. It requires an interest in history, photography and exhibitions and basic computer skills are required. Fortnightly meetings will be held on Tuesdays 1pm – 3pm from 28th Sept until 7th December. For further information and application form contact Linda Crook, email linda.crook.uk@mail.com. The closing date for applications is Friday 24th July.

**Fourth Shared Learning Project at the London Archaeological & Archive Research
Centre, Museum of London**

Based at Mortimer Wheeler House, Hackney, this project is to make the archive more accessible to the public and researchers and involves re-packing of artefacts, reorganising boxes and cataloguing the material. Training will be given, but an interest in the archaeology of London and its presentation would be an asset. Project commences on Wednesday 22nd September 1pm – 4pm and continues weekly until 8th December. If interested, please contact Liliias Gillies, project co-ordinator, email liliias.gillies@btinternet.com. The closing date for applications is Friday 24th July.

George Murrell

Road Island

In the February Newsletter it was mentioned that a road island was to be installed in Maidstone Road near Ruxley Garden Centre. This has now been done.

Editor

Newsletter

Members who wish to pick up a copy of the current Newsletter from Sidcup Library should look in the newspaper rack to the right of the entrance. Those with internet access may download it in PDF format from the “Home” or “Meetings” page of our website at any time. Back issues are also still available.

Editor

Background Noise on Television

The Royal National Institution for Deaf People (RNID) is conducting a survey relating to background noise on television, and any help that Sidcup U3A members can give would be much appreciated. One requirement is to watch TV programmes from Monday 16th August to Thursday (am) 19th August and then to complete the form below and hand it in at our U3A meeting on Thursday 19th August.

Val Gosden



Your name (optional)

About your hearing Which of the following describes your hearing ability?

Very good Good Moderately good Poor Very poor Profoundly deaf Don't know

How often do you have problems hearing what people are saying on TV?

Always Often Occasionally Never Don't know

How often do you use subtitles, when available?

Always Often Occasionally Never Don't know

How old is your main TV set?

Up to 1 year 1-5 years old 6-10 years old More than 10 years old Don't know

Do you use hearing aids or another listening device when watching TV?

Yes, hearing aids Yes, another listening device (e.g. a personal listener, headphones, loop system)
No

TV monitoring Monday 16th August – Thursday 19th August

Please fill out questions 1–6 for each programme that you watch – you can copy this form as many times as you like.

1. Programme title

2. Programme time

3. Channel: BBC1 BBC2 ITV1 Channel 4 Channel 5

Other (please write)

4. Date: Mon 16th August Tue 17th August Wed 18th August Thu 19th August

5. How difficult did you find it to hear what people were saying in this programme?

Very difficult Difficult Sometimes difficult, sometimes easy

6. Please describe the difficulties you had in hearing what people were saying in as much detail as possible.

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7. Do you have any other comments?

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Visit to the Royal Courts of Justice

On 9th June a group led by Joan Somerset travelled by train to London to visit the Royal Courts of Justice. Outside Charing Cross we boarded Routemaster bus number 11 which took us along The Strand to the building's entrance.

The Royal Courts of Justice is an impressive structure. It was built on a 7½ acre site occupied by the Kit Kat Club and 450 houses containing 4,175 people; in two houses alone in Robin Hood Court, 52 people had had their abode. Designed by George Edmund Street, it was opened by Queen Victoria in 1882 and became the permanent home of the Supreme Court. The building was required to replace a number of separate courts that had come into existence over time to meet different needs; these were reconstituted by the Judicature Acts of 1873–75 which also addressed the many anomalies and archaisms that had arisen in British law during the preceding centuries. The interior of the building is no less impressive than the exterior with a high, church-like hall 238 feet long. Our guide led us to one of the older, original oak-panelled courtrooms where he informed us that each court has an interior unique unto itself because each was designed by a different architect. We were later taken to an area called the “Bear Garden” (a noisy place where Masters deal with applications to settle certain matters before trial), and later to a display of manikins bedecked with historical wigs and gowns.

Anybody is allowed to enter the building and observe what goes on in the 88 court rooms – but be prepared to experience security procedures similar to those found at airports.

David Smith

Holiday to Bancourt Hotel, Torquay

Monday 27th September – Friday 1st October 2010

The Bancourt Hotel has a lift, a large private garden, heated indoor swimming pool, and first class entertainment on most evenings. All rooms are en-suite and have tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer, trouser press, and Freeview TV. Please let me know your preference between shower and bath with overhead shower. There are a few bedrooms on the ground floor. There are twin rooms available and one single room.

Suggested excursions: Teignmouth & Dawlish, Maritime City of Plymouth, House of Marbles at Bovey Tracey, and Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Cost: £367.00 per person for bed, breakfast, and evening meal.

I will collect the balance at the August General Meeting.

Airedale Tours has won the “Best Group Tour Operator (Large)” and “Best Overall Group Supplier” Group Travel Awards for 2010. I am sure that the Holiday Group will join me in congratulating Airedale Tours for this achievement.

Margaret Platt Travel Group Organiser ☎ 020 8309 6395

① Further details of the hotel can be found on its website at www.bancourthotel.co.uk.

Editor



GROUP NEWS

Ramblers Group 1 • Leader Annette Jansen



On what must have been one of the hottest days of summer, seven of us set off from Camer Country Park, Meopham. We walked through lush countryside for about an hour until we reached the Bowling Alley near Luddesdown. A mass of colour greeted us and dense fields of red and pink poppies took our breath away. It was a walk of flowers; the hedgerows were full of many varieties of wild flowers in every colour imaginable. We had a lunch stop at “The Ship” in Cobham where we had a two course lunch and a drink for the princely sum of £5! We set off again through Cobham Church and then over beautifully manicured orchards of apple and pear trees. After crossing the railway, we literally plunged into a huge field of shoulder high rapeseed; the path had disappeared and we had to fight our way through. After another mile or so, we were back to the start. We had walked about 6½ miles and seen Kent at its best. Next month we shall be walking from Eastbourne along part of the South Downs Way including Birling Gap and Beachy Head. New members are always welcome to join us.

Gloria Exeter

Ramblers Group 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



For the June ramble we did a coastal walk from Hastings to Bexhill. This was a lovely walk alongside the beach for 5 miles and we had sun all day with a cool breeze. On arriving at Bexhill we had lunch at Di Paolo’s which is a well known Italian family in that part of the world. Needless to say, we had to have the fresh fish which is caught locally. As the weather was so good, some of us stayed on until later soaking up the sun.

We travelled by train from Orpington making use of the half price fare for groups of 4 people.

Gay, Shirley and Doreen

Bird Watching • Leaders Gay Braybrook & José Steward



For our June outing we went to the Bough Beech Reservoir – it was a glorious hot sunny day! Swallows and blue tits had nests in the barn and both were very busy feeding their young and, whilst we were having our lunch, they were skimming over our heads. We also saw some sparrows nesting, jackdaws fighting crows, a cuckoo singing, crested grebes and mallards with babies, wagtails – both the grey and pied – and a cormorant in a tree with his wings open (which was quite an awesome sight). Around the reservoir there were also nesting swans, many herons, tufted ducks, greylag geese, moorhens, coots, house martins, a buzzard circling overhead, swifts, one ringed plover – a very pretty wader – and a common tern diving for fish; this gains considerable height and then dives very fast and skims the water. All in all it was a most enjoyable day.

For anyone interested in updating or buying new binoculars or a telescope, Woods and Partner, West Hill, Dartford have a 20% discount on all equipment until the end of summer. The current owner will be retiring and wishes to deplete his stock.

Gay & José

Local History Group 3 • Leader Pam Kirk



Visit to Metropolitan Police Museum, West Brompton, on 9th June 2010.

Thirteen members, together with one visitor from Australia, enjoyed visiting this collection of Metropolitan memorabilia covering 180 years of the London police service. The area of the museum is small, and, therefore, the collection on display at any one time is restricted; it simply represents the vast number of items held in store. Our visit was greatly enhanced by the curator who guided us around the museum. On show was a selection of uniforms and equipment, including examples of the outfits worn by women police officers that celebrated ninety years of this branch of the service. Also available is a family history facility for past serving members of the Metropolitan Police.

Eric & Frances Percival



Derusti Oylkhan

(Another extract from Ian Brydon's History of Western Music)

Like many Eastern European composers of his generation, Oylkhan was an avid collector of folk music, if only because the authorities were favourably disposed towards "the music of the proletariat". An incredibly self-centred man, he was soon discarded by his fellow composers who abandoned him on the Bakdor Steppes in the middle of a collecting tour, when he insisted that he had himself discovered, and was indeed on the point of publishing, every new piece of folk music that they had found, even in the most remote parts of Siberia. Having fallen out with them (all were later purged when Oylkhan became Regional Controller of Ideologically Correct Music for the Province of Ullotosh), he fell in with a party of touring nomads whose melodies he used in his drama "Karma – the Tale of a Lama". The aria "Hold My Horse, I'm a Stranger in Paradise" made Oylkhan a household word. That word was later expunged from the approved dictionaries of the State. It seemed impossible that so egotistical a man would ever marry, but he did so when the Party decreed that the married state was desirable for all who aspired to public office. It was, perhaps, illustrative of his inward looking nature that he composed a piano duet for himself and his wife to perform when the Country's leading politicians visited the Province, not realising that his wife could not read music or play any instrument. He fell from grace when the Party's Invigilator of Artists, Writers and Lesser Intellectuals detected a sequence of three notes in his ballet "An Armenian in Paris" which appeared to be copied from Gershwin's popular but politically incorrectly coloured "Rhapsody in Blue". Born in Shaim in Eastern Siberia, Oylkhan died in Zerwool. His headstone bears the inscription "Veneeveedeeveechee", the meaning of which has puzzled the few scholars who could be bothered with him, though one has claimed, unconvincingly, that it was the name of his first troika.

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
	Bridge Mondays (2 pm)	Fred Till 01322 528605	4
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	Fred Green	Yes
	First Aid Course 2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	Gladys Davidson 020 8850 9252	3
	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
	National Trust/English Heritage Various dates & times	John & Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Yes
	Play Reading 1 st Tuesday (2–4 pm)	Frank Whipp 020 8300 1064	1
	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

2010

July	Miss J. Aviolet	I am a tulip, what are you?
August	Zazia Pratt	Third Age Trust and Open Forum
September	Mr. H. Townsend	Harry, the Wheelbarrow Man
October	Dr. Ann Kneif	The Bevin Boys
November	Mr. V. Creek	R.A.F. Museum, Hendon
December	Miss Ann Carter	A Celebration of Christmas

2011

January	Mr. J. Halligan	Paintings in the Guildhall Art Gallery
February	Mr. M. Parkin	The Story of Sevenoaks Market

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 e-mail contributions to me at editor.u3a@ukonline.co.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

Pride is what we have. Vanity is what others have.