

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

July 2011



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

NOTICES

The Marriage of Figaro

This opera is sung in Italian with English subtitles. It is an exclusive showing for U3A members from 12.45–4.45pm (including intervals) on Tuesday 15th November at The Odeon Cinema, Covent Garden, Shaftesbury Avenue. Tickets cost £12.50 per person and are issued on a first-come-first-served basis with a maximum of 2 tickets per applicant.

Applications for tickets must be made in writing to Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, your contact details, and a cheque payable to Third Age Trust.

Horniman Museum – Shared Learning Project

This museum would like to document a full and definitive chronology of its natural history curators' backgrounds, their roles and work undertaken by them by researching archives, web resources, etc. The project begins on Thursday 22nd September 11am–1pm at the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill and consists of fortnightly meetings (plus 29th September and 1st December) culminating on 8th December.

Anyone interested in this should contact Hazel Thompson, the project leader, by e-mail to hazel.thompson57@ntlworld.com for more information and an application form. The closing date for applications is 30th July.

Framing the Future – Museum of London

This is an invitation to assist in an ongoing Evaluation Programme that involves interviewing Study Centre visitors, observing how reference materials are accessed and viewed, entering collected data and analysing it using a tailored computer system. Training will be given by museum staff in all aspects of the project. This project will run from 16th August until 27th September at the Sainsbury Study Centre, Museum of London, Docklands, and then continue from 18th October until 22nd November at the Roman Gallery of the Museum. Please note that it will be necessary to commit to one day per week throughout the project.

For further information and an application form please contact Linda Crook by e-mail to linda.crook.uk@mail.com. The closing date for applications is 30th July.

George Murrell

**London Archaeological and Archive Research Centre, Museum of London
Shared Learning Project**

LAARC is based at Mortimer House, Hackney, N1 7ED. The project involves the repacking of artefacts, reorganising boxes and cataloguing the material with the aim of improving its storage conditions, documentation and accessibility. Participants will receive training from museum staff and a series of workshops arranged to give further insight into the objects in the archive, eg, pottery and leatherwork. For further information and an application form please contact Valerie Saunders by e-mail to valerie.saunders523@btinternet.com. The closing date for applications is 30th July.

George Murrell

Membership Secretary

At the last AGM it was announced that our Membership Secretary John Harlow, who has held this post for the past 16 or so years, would not be standing for re-election at the 2012 AGM, and that, in the meantime, if another member became interested in taking on this position, he would be happy for them to work alongside him for the remainder of this year. So far, nobody has shown an interest, and I would ask members to consider this seriously to ensure that we are not without a Membership Secretary next year.

Anne Evans, Chairman

June Meeting

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our open meeting in June such an enjoyable occasion. With 20 tables showing group activities and members' hobbies there was something for all to engage with and a lively afternoon was had by all.

Anne Evans, Chairman

GROUP NEWS

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



Apart from a brief shower of rain whilst we were drinking our coffees, we had superb weather for our May trip to Rickmansworth, a town with narrow roads and small shops. A short walk took us to the Grand Union Canal which has a towpath walk. Moored on the canal were many narrowboats, and we were interested to see that a large Tesco store had a convenient mooring point for boat travellers. Further on, we walked beside lakes with various water fowl ranging from tiny ducklings to lovely white swans and, as we returned, we saw on the canal six lovely yellow balls of fluff – goslings. Our party eventually split into two, with one group returning home whilst the other group continued walking near the canal and some more lakes. A helpful volunteer lock-keeper informed us about narrowboat trips we could take from there – perhaps next year!

Val Gosden

Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



Michael Jordan started his programme with Rossini's Overture "Semiramide" played by the Zagreb Festival Orchestra and conducted by Michael Halasz. This piece was produced for an opera in which several murders occur, but the music itself is, however, light-hearted; although welcome, this was very strange. This was followed by Dvořák's Slavonic Dance № 2 played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Charles Curran, after which we heard Clementi's Piano Concerto in C major played by The Philharmonic Orchestra accompanied by Pietro Spada on the piano and conducted by Francesco d'Avalos. This splendid piece was followed by Handel's "Giulio Cesare in Egitto" {Julius Caesar in Egypt} by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment conducted by Sir Roger Norrington accompanied by the counter-tenor, David Daniels. To hear singing at such a high pitch is unusual and this example was appreciated by us all. After the break, we heard Barber's Adagio for Strings by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Walter Suskind, after which there was a further change of mood with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto № 3 played by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Philip Ledger. This was followed by Albinoni's Concerto № 1 for violin in B flat. We finished the afternoon of music with Tchaikovsky's Overture "The Storm" performed by the London Symphony Orchestra; this is a colourful depiction of a storm and demonstrates the incredible ability of its young composer (at the time) who was not, in fact, at all confident of his talent as a composer during the early days of his career.

Derick Johnson

Local History Group • Leader Pam Kirk



On 8th June 11 members of Pam Kirk's Local History Group visited the Docklands Museum of London. Opened in 2003, this museum is housed within a group of former "low" sugar warehouses; built in 1802 on the side of West India Docks, on the Isle of Dogs, this is just a short walk from the present Canary Wharf development. The museum has a large collection of historical artefacts, models and pictures, with arrows directing visitors past the exhibits in chronological order starting with the first port of London in Roman Times and ending at the closure of the central London Docks in 1970. It also contains details about the transformation of the area that surrounds it. There was a very interesting model of the first London Bridge, which was built of stone in 1209; it has model houses, shops and the Chapel of St. Thomas upon it. This bridge lasted for 600 years. There was also a dark and gloomy, life-sized street that I walked through rather quickly. Who knows what might have been lurking around each corner or alleyway? Slavery, the amazing variety of Londoners from so many different ethnic backgrounds, and an interesting poem by Benjamin Zephaniah are among the many other topics that are exhibited at this museum. A ball of wool might have been of use during our visit – although we are not celebrities, the cry "Get me out of here" might have been heard from some of the more claustrophobic members of the group as we neared the end of our visit.

Ilena Harrington

 This museum now has its own new website: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands. Admission to the museum is free, and until 30th October it has a temporary exhibition relating to pirates – in particular the Captain Kidd story – although there is a charge to visit this part. In common with other museums, temporary exhibitions such as this vary all the time.

Editor

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



I was Val's understudy guide for our pre-arranged visit to Caterham. We all made our way to London Bridge for the Caterham train aboard which we experienced a very talkative onward journey to Caterham. After viewing the area from the station, we made our way to a lunch stop at Caffè Bambino – a very nice and accommodating Italian café.

It was Caterham Festival Week but most of the events took place in the evening. However, we thought we would scale the heights with a walk up Tupwood Lane (which seemed like a 1 in 4 climb) and turned left into Eight Acre Wood. This, after a very wet weekend, made the route and gradient a bit slippery, which, with its dense overhanging trees, made us believe that this was not for us. We therefore did an about turn, went back down the steep hill, and found the train waiting for us to arrive. Some of us went back to London Bridge whilst others went to New Cross Gate for the 321 bus ride home.

Jackie Burke

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 020 8303 7693	Yes
	Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook (co-ordinator only) 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Classical Music (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (2.30 pm)	Maureen Porter 020 8300 1628	1
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
	Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	Pauline Watling 020 8300 3910 Barbara Olney 020 8302 4289	3
	Philosophy (Group 1) 3 rd Monday (2 pm)	Bernard Catallo 020 8300 8651	2
	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
	Ten-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 Cathedral 2 nd Wednesday (2.30 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1

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

2011

July	Mr. C. Durack	Major Rowland George Hallam Shears, BEM, TD, G8KW, 1919-2009
August	Mr. R. Spiller	Entertainer & Comedian
September	Mr. A. Stockwell	Puppets, Piers & Pantomimes – 40 years in show business
October	Mr. J. Newson	Her Majesty's Crown Jewels
November	<i>TBA</i>	
December	Mrs. P. Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

2012

January	John Beckham	A Woodland Mix
February	Alan Payne	What's on the Cards
March	Tony Farnham	Sailing Barges in their Heyday
April	Matthew Jackson	Korean Spirit & Culture
May	Michael Gandy	Seeing it Through Their Eyes
June	Mrs. Sandra Winter	Hand-Bell Ringing
July	Mr. Chris Hare	40 Years Without a Proper Job
August	<i>TBA</i>	
September	Myriam Steadman	Guide Dogs for the Blind
October	John Halligan	The Lord Mayor of the City of London
November	Derek Fulford	Antique Clocks & Watches
December	<i>TBA</i>	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Vacant	
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
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 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.

Please submit Newsletter contributions by 3rd of the month – but at any time for the Website.

WEBSITE

www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk

This Newsletter (including previous editions) may be read or downloaded from our website. Also available is an index of Newsletter 'Notices' covering the period April 2007 to this issue.

Afterthought

If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment.