

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

July 2017



**SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A meets at 2.00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month in the New Community Church Centre, 24 Station Road, Sidcup**

## NOTICES

### Donations Requested

Hello fellow U3A members. Some of you know me from our meetings and know that I am heavily involved in scouting in Sidcup. Recently, I have had various things donated and have realised that there are still a lot of quality items out there. In this modern age, throwing stuff out is often easier than giving it away, and, as a relaunched scout group, we are willing to collect any items that people would rather donate than eject. Recent examples include tools, gardening equipment, archery equipment, old scouting memorabilia, a strimmer and, of course, the inevitable tent – a very good one for once!

So, if anyone has anything they would like to donate, I am happy to oblige and ‘be prepared’ to collect it. My group is the 1<sup>st</sup> North Cray – along the dual carriageway by Five Arches. Please call in whenever the gate is open and I will make you a cuppa with the kettle I was given. Cheers!

**Bob Chapman**

 The address is Geoffrey Hall, Leafield Lane – just off North Cray Road.

**Editor**

## GROUP NEWS

**Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden**



It was a beautiful, sunny, summer's day when we visited Kenwood House in June. When last I saw the outside some seven or eight years ago, it was in serious need of TLC; now it has had it, the house looks lovely standing in its extensive grounds. Inside the house are pictures, pictures, and yet more pictures, many of them being portraits – all attractively presented. These and other items in the house were purchased by Edward Cecil Guinness, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Iveagh, and these, plus the house itself, were bequeathed to the nation – one of his conditions being that no charge for entry be made. He was a real philanthropist from whom we can all benefit.

**Val Gosden**

## The World's Greatest Churches • Leader Val Gosden



In June, our lecturer spoke about Winchester Cathedral in England. Of all the cathedrals in England, he chose this one as it has such a variety of styles – it is mainly Gothic, but it has a Romanesque transept. Inside there are extraordinary medieval wood carvings and some interesting elements of medieval fresco, both of which are quite rare in England. It has a piece of floor with the original tiles, which is still rarer. It also has one of the greatest holy books in the world – a copy of the Bible made in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Winchester Bible.

The second lecture took us to Siena in Italy; the cathedral there has a tall black and white bell tower – these colours being those of Siena itself. It is a kind of hybrid Gothic cathedral, with elements from the Renaissance and the Baroque periods, and inside are decorations from almost every century, including the 20<sup>th</sup>. Art abounds everywhere, and it includes sculptures by Michelangelo, Bernini, and Donatello and it has a great altarpiece, *The Maesta*, by Duccio.

**Val Gosden**

## Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



On 14<sup>th</sup> June we visited Sky Gardens which are situated on top of the “Walkie-Talkie” building in the City of London. As the weather was extremely good, the view in all directions was very clear; we could see the water tower at the top of Shooters Hill on one side and the Wembley Arch on the other.

**Rosalie Woods & Jean Duhig**

**i** The “Walkie-Talkie” building at 20 Fenchurch Street is a postmodern style commercial skyscraper so-named because of its distinctive shape. The 34-storey building is 525 feet tall, which makes it the 6<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the City of London and the 12<sup>th</sup> tallest in London. Costing over £200 million, construction was completed in the spring of 2014. A large viewing deck, bar and restaurants are included on the top three floors; the top-floor ‘sky garden’ was opened in January 2015. In the same year, it was awarded the Carbuncle Cup for the worst new building built in the UK in the previous 12 months.

**Editor**

## Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for May was *My Grandmother Sends Her Regards And Apologises* written by Fredrick Backman and chosen by Gaye. Having already read *A Man Called Ove* by the same author (and now made into a film) we had high expectations. We were not disappointed as everyone enjoyed reading this book. Maybe it was not quite as funny as “Ove” but it had the same mix of quirky characters with a touch of whimsy. The grandmother in question is a true eccentric. Nearing the end of her life, she entrusts Elsa, her 7 year-old granddaughter, with a series of letters of apology to all the people she feels she has wronged in her uproarious life. The book captures something of the intense love between grandparents and grandchildren and it has both humour and sadness. Much is made of the honesty of children and the obtuseness of adults as the author tells his tale. It is a very thought-provoking book.

**June Reid**

## GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 <b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (10.00 am)  	<b>Roy Black</b>  020 8302 9942	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Book Reading</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>June Reid</b> 020 8302 7887	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Classical Music</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	<b>Olive Mercer</b> 020 8300 3136	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (noon)  	<b>Leader pending</b>  needed, please	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Family History</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues  & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 	<b>Judith Swain &amp; Kate Berry</b> 020 8303 5759	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Handcrafted Cards (Group 2)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>1 Vacancy</b>
 <b>Pot Pourri</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (various times)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ramblers (Group 2)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (4–5 miles)	<b>Roy Black</b> 020 8302 9942	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Rummikub® (Group 1)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Margaret Platt</b> 020 8309 6395	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10.00 am)   £	<b>Gay Braybrook</b>  020 8309 6372	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Wine Appreciation</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (7.30 pm) £	<b>Roger Brown</b> 020 8850 5362	<b>Vacancies</b>

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](mailto: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

 Certain seasons only

 Notice on the board at meetings

 Open to all

 Temporary point of contact

## PROGRAMME

### 2017

July	Professor Akbar	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
November	Heather Woodward	Churchill & Chartwell
December	Joe Mendell	Bob Newhart Rides Again!

## 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Greater London South East Network: [www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork)

London Region U3A: [www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region)

World U3A: [www.worldu3a.org](http://www.worldu3a.org) Virtual U3A: [www.vu3a.org](http://www.vu3a.org)

## WEBSITE

[www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk](http://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*

*Biology - the study of shopping.*