

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

June 2010



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

## NOTICES

### **Coach Outings, Trips etc**

At present the post of Social Secretary is vacant following my taking the Chair this year. Nevertheless, that does not prevent *any* member or members together organising an outing; you do not need to be on the Committee to provide this service. However, if you fancy joining us then please talk to me!

**Anne Evans**

① Don't forget – you can announce your outings in this Newsletter.

*Editor*

### **Newsletter Contributions**

I am rather short of contributions for this month's Newsletter. As always, contributions are invited from groups with vacancies which do not already submit reports as this is one way of attracting the members you seek.

*Editor*

## GROUP NEWS

### **Local History 3 • Leader Pam Kirk**



Our May visit was to Winston Churchill's "Britain at War Experience" in Tooley Street. This proved to be a most interesting and authentic exhibition, and, for those of us who were children during the war years, it brought back memories – not always pleasant – of what life was like with the constant bombing during the blitz and, later, with the V1s and V2s. It was quite nostalgic to see the shops with prices in pounds, shillings and pence, and to see how people coped with food and clothing rationing. It was a very worthwhile visit and a good source of education for primary school children to learn what life was like for their grandparents between 1939 and 1945.

**Pam Kirk**

## Classical Music • Leader Derick Johnson



Ron Carpenter began his programme with Verdi's "The Force of Destiny Overture" played by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, followed by Allegri's "Miserere" by the Thomas Tallis Scholars, which was beautiful. We then heard Schubert's String Quartet in C major by the Emerson String Quartet, with Mstislav Rostropovich on the cello. We then heard Concerto de Aranjuez by Rodrigo, which was played by The Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band; this is a staple for both Brass Bands and solo guitar. We then had "Le Onde" {the wave} written and performed by Ludovico Einaudi on the piano, followed by the conclusion of Bolero by Ravel played by the London Symphony Orchestra and conducted by André Previn; no doubt we all remember Torvill & Dean for their accomplishments on the ice rink during this piece. Before we had our break, we heard Pablo de Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" {gypsy airs} by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrew Litton, and accompanied by the outstanding violinist, Joshua Bell, playing with great verve. We began the last part of the programme with the ever popular "Warsaw Concerto", written by Richard Addinsell for the film "Dangerous Moonlight"; this was played by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia conducted by Kenneth Alwyn. We concluded with Chopin's Piano Concerto № 1 in E minor played by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This afternoon of music lived up to our aim for an interesting mix of music.

### Derick Johnson



### Ballet Buffet

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

The collaboration of Hugo Rincenspitte and Walter Walle-Karpeting in the short lived phenomenon of promenade ballet has faded into obscurity. The success of Sir Henry Wood's Promenade Concerts had aroused envy on the Continent, and the two struggling proprietors of a Prussian theatre thought that they could enlarge on the idea, and enrich themselves by combining the concepts of the tea dance and the symphony orchestra. While refined classical ballets were performed on a sunken circular stage, concert-goers were able to wander around its circumference and watch the gyrations of the dancers below. They were served refreshments by waitresses recruited from the steadier members of the corps de ballet who pirouetted through the throng with trays of cordials and pastries at prices so high that they almost reached the cost of the uninformative programmes for which all theatres are justly famed. The introduction of cream cakes led to the downfall of the theatre (and the dancers), coinciding as it did with the inclusion of custard pie throwing in the films of that era. The opportunity to emulate the Kinematic heroes of the age proved to be too strong for the student element of the audience, many of whom queued all night outside bakeries hoping for returns. And so another chapter in the history of music came to a close. Entrepreneurs in England who had observed the early success of Ballet Buffet, and had thought to emulate it by investing heavily in theatres and eel and pie shops, sold out, and precipitated the Great Alimentary Depression from which English food has never quite recovered. The later incursion of oriental foods led to the revival of the garlic tongue in North Britain, but that is another story.

## GROUP VACANCIES

	<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>VACANCIES</b>
	<b>Amblers (Group 1)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>John Harbert</b> 020 8300 5361	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30 am)	<b>Norma Balfour/José Steward</b> 020 8303 6372/07957 181808	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Antiques Appreciation</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10 am)	<b>Martin Baker</b> 020 8300 1752	<b>2</b>
	<b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (morning)	<b>Gay Braybrook/José Steward</b> 020 8309 6372/07957 181808	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Bridge</b> Mondays (2 pm)	<b>Fred Till</b> 01322 528605	<b>4</b>
	<b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (midday)	<b>Fred Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>First Aid Course</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	<b>Gladys Davidson</b> 020 8850 9252	<b>3</b>
	<b>Local History (Group 1)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>John Harlow</b> 020 8300 3865	<b>2</b>
	<b>Local History (Group 2)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>José Steward</b> 07957 181808	<b>3</b>
	<b>Music (Group 2)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	<b>Maureen Porter</b> 020 8300 6128	<b>1</b>
	<b>National Trust/English Heritage</b> Various dates & times	<b>John &amp; Olive Mercer</b> 020 8300 3136	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (10.30 am)	<b>Annette Jansen</b> 01322 522252	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	<b>Pat &amp; Alf Cracknell</b> 020 8302 0823	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Recorder Playing</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (2 pm)	<b>Mary Hawes</b> 020 8300 0521	<b>6</b>
	<b>10-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10 am)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Theatre (Group 2)</b> Various matinées	<b>Joan &amp; John Somerset</b> 020 8300 0890	<b>Yes.</b> 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

June	Mr. M. Harrison	Midsummer Madness
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

## 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

<b>Travel Group Leader</b>	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
<b>Raffle Organiser</b>	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
<b>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster</b>	David Smith	020 8304 2305

Please either e-mail contributions to me at [editor.u3a@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:editor.u3a@ukonline.co.uk) or post them to me at 56 Crofton Avenue, Bexley DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

*Please submit contributions by 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.*

## 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.

*Afterthought*

*Few women admit their age; fewer men act it.*