

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

June 2018



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

Constitution Change

The Constitution of Sidcup & District U3A (as amended after a vote at the May General Meeting to comply with the requirements of the Charities Commission) may be viewed on our website.

Webmaster

GROUP NEWS

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Our May visit was to SELCHP – not exactly the best place to visit on a rather warm day as this plant is responsible for dealing with the non-recyclable waste from five of London's inner boroughs. However, there was very little smell on site as the obnoxious smells are drawn off and fed into the furnace and used in the combustion process.

We started with some safety instructions and a description of the processes we were going to see. We had already been given yellow high vis jackets, and, before going round the site, we donned helmets and safety goggles. Vehicles arrive from the local boroughs and tip refuse into the pit. This is then burnt at high temperatures. Gases released are treated so that nothing escapes into the atmosphere and this is strictly monitored. Waste products from the process – heat energy – is used by the borough of Southwark to heat blocks of flats; ferrous and non-ferrous metals are removed from the incinerator and sold and the ash has a number of uses including road construction.

We all felt this had been an informative and interesting visit.

Mary Webb

(i) The South East London Combined Heat & Power is an 'energy from waste' incineration plant in Landmann Way, South Bermondsey, which can generate up to 35 megawatts of power using a steam turbine. It incinerates up to 420,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per year. The SELCHP plant was opened in November 1994 by the Prince of Wales. More than 40 such plants now operate in the British Isles.


Editor

Parks & Gardens Appreciation • Leader Jill Bryant



On Thursday 26th April, the Parks and Gardens group set out on their first trip of the year. Fourteen of us met at London Bridge Station before catching a train to Streatham. After an uphill stroll, we arrived at The Rookery, a lovely formal garden in the centre of Streatham Common. We had our first hot drink before exploring and the café we used didn't know what had hit it when we arrived; I don't think it had ever seen such a large group! We particularly enjoyed the White Garden, but there is also a rock garden and lots of woodland to see. The weather couldn't dampen our spirits and we huddled under a tree during a downpour; thank goodness there was no lightning! Some of us had lunch in Wetherspoons before a mad dash back to the train at London Bridge. I must get in training to make sure I don't miss it next time!

Sue Brooks

 Pictures taken during this visit can be viewed on the Gallery page of our website. There are also pictures from their visit to Dulwich Park on 24th May; no report has been received.

Editor

Pot Pourri • Leaders Pat Laughton & Rinka Halliday



This month's visit was arranged primarily to visit the current photography exhibition at The National Portrait Gallery, but, after our morning coffee stop, there being so few of us, we decided to start at the Tudor Gallery on the top floor and work our way downwards.

Sitting in a corner of the gallery was a sign which said: "Free talk at 12.30 pm" and, as it was so close to that deadline, we took our "stools" and listened to a very informative talk on the life and times of Anne Boleyn which was illustrated by copies of love letters written between Henry VIII and Anne, and which highlighted the changes this liaison made to our way of life approximately five centuries ago.

The Museum has been very nicely laid out and it flows from Tudor times through Georgian and Victorian times to more modern famous faces from our recent past. It is well worth a visit.

Pat Laughton

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for May was *The Olive Farm* written by Carol Drinkwater and chosen by Gaye. The author is well known to us through the TV series based on the books by the vet, James Herriot; Carol played his wife. It was interesting to know that she was brought up in Bromley, and, during her acting career, she enjoyed visiting many countries, admitting to a little wanderlust. Whilst on holiday in the South of France with her partner, a French film producer, they stumbled upon a tumbledown building on a remote area behind Nice. On a whim, they decided to buy the plot and what follows is this lyrical tale of the many trials and tribulations they encountered and their love and commitment to this glorious part of the world. The story is peppered with several odd characters they met along the way and the stray dogs adopted and cared for. They discovered many neglected olive trees and learned how to produce and market their own olive oil. Should you want to learn more about *The Olive Farm*, Carol has written another two books on their further adventures. This was an easy and entertaining read – pure escapism.


June Reid

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



On a gloriously sunny day on the 22nd May, we walked Section 8 of the Jubilee Greenway from Tower Bridge to Westminster Bridge. The walk sticks close to the South Bank and includes many of its best-known buildings: the Tower of London, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Millennium Footbridge, County Hall and Tate Modern. Ilena made us aware of the Blavatnik Building at Tate Modern so we decided to go up to the top floor which has an open viewing terrace. It boasts spectacular 360 degree views of the London skyline. Being a clear day, we could see across the River Thames to St Paul's Cathedral and as far away as Canary Wharf and Wembley Stadium. Back on ground level, we continued on to Westminster Bridge which we crossed and then walked through Whitehall Gardens taking in the various statues. We ended the enjoyable walk with lunch at The Lord Moon of the Mall in Whitehall.

Helen Salmon

 Pictures taken during this visit can be viewed on the Gallery page of our website. There are also pictures from the Freedom Pass Explorers group's visit to Valentine's Park, Ilford, on 14th May; no report has been received.

The Jubilee Greenway is a walking and cycling route in London marked with distinctive paving slabs. Officially launched in 2009, its 37 miles of continuous paths link 2012 Olympic venues with parks, waterways and other attractions. It was part of the Inspire programme, run by the London Organising Committee of the 2012 Olympic Games. The Jubilee Walkway Trust worked with relevant authorities leading up to 2012 to improve accessibility, enhance continuity, provide resting places and improve the safety and quality of the Jubilee Greenway. The whole route can be viewed on this website: www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/RoutesLinksWalks/jubilee-greenway-walking-route#



Editor

ENTERTAINMENT

Old People Deportation Order

To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting senior citizens (instead of illegals)... in order to lower Social Security and NHS costs ('flu jabs, Zimmer frames, wheelchairs, free prescriptions, bus passes, etc).































The Government has established that older people are easier to catch and, with luck, will not remember how to get back home.

I started to cry when I thought of you all – maybe I'd never see you again..


Then it dawned on me... I'll see you all on the Bus!

Olive Mercer

GROUP VACANCIES



GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am) 	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	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
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	2 Vacancies
 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	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

2018

June	Andy Thomas ※	Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-Ups
July	Christoph Bull	Pocahontas – without Disney
August	Colin Pinney	“The Raven” & “The Ancient Mariner”
September	Michael Grillo	Two Kinds of Teardrops (Del Shannon & Roy Orbison)
October	Ian Waller	Workhouse Life – Bread, Gruel & Suet Dumplings
November	Janie Ramsay	What’s it Worth?
December	The Serenade Singers	

※ *The original speaker has cancelled for health reasons*

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

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 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

*The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.
(Chinese proverb)*