

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

March 2012



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

NOTICES

Agenda for Today's AGM

1 Apologies for absence; 2 Matters arising; 3 Minutes of 2011 AGM; 4 Approval of accounts; 5 Annual reports; 6 Election of officers; 7 Appointment of inspector of accounts; 8 Any other business.

Group Leaders

Would all Group Leaders let me have an up-to-date list of members in their groups as soon as possible please – unless, of course, they have already supplied this within the last four months.

Thank you.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator

GROUP NEWS

Ramblers 1 • Leader Annette Holland



The weather lived up to the forecast for February 28th and it remained warm and dry all day. The group has expanded in numbers, and seventeen of us assembled by the River Darent in Eynsford. Heading along the track towards Lullingstone, we were soon gently climbing until we had superb views of the Darent Valley; later this would give way to Shoreham Valley – so close to home and yet so unspoilt.

We take lunch on this particular walk at the Golf Club Café, and it is always one to anticipate eagerly; the bacon sammies lived up to their well-earned reputation, and for a modest price, too. We met 2 more of our group here – currently they are having health problems – so we became a jolly group of 19. It seemed a pity to break up the party, but we still had in excess of 5 miles to go. We turned our tracks downwards and returned along the river bank. This was dryer than I've ever seen it – it can be muddy in summer. It was a really enjoyable day which was spent in good company.

Annette Holland

Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



In February, the Classical Music Group enjoyed David Wallis's programme. We began with the rousing Franz von Suppé's "Light Cavalry" Overture played by the Vienna State Opera Orchestra conducted by Josef Leo Gruber, followed by Anton Dvořák's Scherzo Capriccioso played by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by István Kertész. Antonio Vivaldi wrote 600 concertos during his lifetime, and we then heard his Concerto № 6 in G beautifully presented by the Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra conducted by Henry Christophers, with Jennifer Stinton playing the flute. The first half of the afternoon was then completed by two much longer pieces: Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings" by the London Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christopher Warren-Green, and then a complete change of tempo with 4 Dance Episodes from Aaron Copland's "Rodeo", played by the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Stephen Gunzenhauser. After the break, we had a composer who was blind but who was responsible for the popular "Trumpet Voluntary"; his name was John Stanley, and it was played by the London Brass. We concluded with Georges Bizet's Symphony in C major played by Orchestra de la Suisse Romande conducted by Ernest Ansermet. It had been another enjoyable afternoon of music.

Derick Johnson

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



Should you ever want to buy a wig, then Barking, in East London, is the place to go. Looking for somewhere to enjoy a coffee, we were directed to a shopping mall opposite the station, and it was in this mall that we saw two shops with a wide variety of wigs for sale – ash blonde to dark brunette, green, orange, and many other colours – all were available. Indeed, the shops in Barking cater for the needs of a multi-cultural community, whether in fashions or foods. We often find that staff in local cafés are most helpful, and this was the case of the one we patronised in Barking, and we were impressed enough with both their helpfulness and their menu prices to return there for a light lunch after our stroll round the local area. We visited Barking Park, passing on the way a structure entitled "The Catch" which showed fish in nets. Barking Park itself is large; it was opened over 110 years ago, and now contains several sports pitches, established shrubs and trees, and, at the lower end of the park, a large lake with many waterfowl and herons. The park also has a miniature railway, which, unsurprisingly, was not operational whilst we were there in January.

The day following our visit to Gants Hill in February was the 14th, so we had no hesitation in deciding to visit Valentines Park. This is a large park with several stretches of water – much of it still iced over – making life difficult for the ducks, swans and geese there. The numerous trees in the park, together with the snow which still covered much of the grass, presented a picturesque scene. The park contains a mansion (unfortunately closed on Mondays) and some more formal gardens, including a rose garden, and it was felt that a visit in the summertime could be most enjoyable.

Val Gosden

(i) Valentines Park lies between Ilford and Gants Hill in the London Borough of Redbridge in which it is the largest green space. It was acquired piecemeal by the Municipal Borough of Ilford with various purchases and gifts of land, including the former estates of Cranbrook and Valentines.

Editor

GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30am)	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 (2.00–4.00pm)	Maureen Porter 020 8300 6128	1
	Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon)	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
	Luncheon Club (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (noon)	Joan Smith 020 8300 3566	2
	Philosophy (Group 1) 1 st & 3 rd Monday (2.00pm)	Bernard Catallo 020 8300 8651	1
	Play Reading 1 st Tuesday (2.00–4.00pm)	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30am)	Annette Holland 01322 522252	Yes
	Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
	Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00am)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
	Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
	Walking in London (3-6 miles) 3 rd Tuesday	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Yes

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, 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

2012

March	Annual General Meeting	Light-hearted musical quiz
April	Matthew Jackson	Korean Spirit & Culture
May	<i>TBA</i>	
June	Mrs. Sandra Winter	Hand-Bell Ringing
July	Chris Hare	40 Years Without a Proper Job
August	Tony Farnham	Sailing Barges in their Heyday
September	<i>TBA</i>	Guide Dogs for the Blind
October	John Halligan	The Lord Mayor of the City of London
November	Derek Fulford	Antique Clocks & Watches
December	Pat Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

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; 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

growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.