

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

March 2013



**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

Apologies for absence
Matters arising
Minutes of 2012 AGM
Approval of accounts
Annual reports
Election of officers
Appointment of inspector of accounts
Any other business

CRISIS

A letter from *CRISIS* states that there is a 43% increase in the number of people sleeping rough on the streets of London, and that the current economic climate is pushing more people over the edge. *CRISIS*' initial response to homeless people is to provide them with a cup of tea, plenty of sympathy, counselling where needed, and an assessment of how best to help. Health checks, including mental health, are given. There is advice relating to work skills, practical help with tools and equipment, and help with finding a new home. The streets can be a hostile place, and being homeless can make you feel you're not wanted anywhere. Scott remembers how it felt: "I was sleeping rough, I weren't eating, I weren't drinking, I was dying, physically and mentally dying. But the people at Crisis were so kind."

Your support for the work of *CRISIS* is much appreciated and valued.

Val Gosden

Newsletter

Members who wish to pick up a copy of the current Newsletter from Sidcup Library should look in the newspaper rack to the right of the entrance; when unused copies remain after a meeting, this is where they are placed. Those with internet access may download it in PDF format from the "Home" or "Meetings" page of our website at any time. Issues dating back to April 2007 are also still available.

Editor

GROUP NEWS

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



On 13th February – a bitterly cold, but sunny, day – twelve of us set off to visit the London Glassblowing Studio in Bermondsey Street, which is a short walk from London Bridge. Arriving slightly ahead of schedule gave us the opportunity of viewing the many exquisitely coloured glass objects displayed around the studio.

We then took our seats for the demonstration, having been served welcome cups of tea and coffee. During a brief description of the history of glass blowing we learnt that glass has been around for about 4,000 years, beads being the first glass items to be made. As the methods of creating different colours and how they were used were explained, it was fascinating to watch a tiny blob of glass slowly becoming transformed into an object of beauty. Blowing the glass creates a bubble which determines the shape of the finished article and colours change as the glass gets cold; the colours are not determined until two days later. Sometimes, a small hole is made in the top of a piece of glassware which could be used to hold a single flower, thus making it a practical as well as an ornamental item. Items are sometimes made to commission, sold to galleries, shops, trade shows etc, and at an annual Art Gallery Show in Chicago.

It was a most interesting visit.

Elisabeth Roberts

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



Fifteen stalwarts set out on a cold, February day from Green Park Underground Station for a walk round Mayfair, through Hyde Park and into Knightsbridge and Belgravia. We made an unscheduled stop in Berkeley Street at the Fleming Gallery which specialises in exhibits of Scottish Art. Along with a permanent collection of paintings by the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists, there was an exhibition of works by James Morrison, an old, but well known, artist. This started the morning off well and in good spirits we proceeded to Berkeley Square and although we heard no nightingales (for whom it was too early and too cold!) we did admire the architecture. We continued round the back streets of Mayfair, taking in the sights of Shepherds Market, Crewe House – once the home of Edward Shepherd who laid out the market and now the Saudi Arabian Embassy – Red Lion Yard, the quiet haven of Mount Street Gardens, with the church of the Immaculate Conception, through to elegant Mount Street, and along by Grosvenor Square and the American Embassy. After turning left into Upper Brook Street, we politely declined Wing's offer to take us to lunch at Le Gavroche and pushed on across Park Lane into Hyde Park. Once there, we continued down to the Serpentine, across Rotten Row and into Knightsbridge. Resisting the temptations of Harvey Nicks and Harrods, we continued down Sloane Street and ended up at the Nag's Head where we enjoyed lunch with accompanying Jazz tapes.

We made our way back home after a happy morning despite the weather, some of us via Wilton Row and the Grenadier Pub, a favourite haunt of the Duke of Wellington.

Gordon Young

Local History 3 • Leaders Christine Withams & Janet Young



On 13th February 2013, 14 of our group met at London Bridge and, after a short walk, we arrived at The Fashion & Textile Museum in Bermondsey Street. The present exhibition explores the designs produced by the two fashion Knights, Norman Hartnell & Hardy Amies, together with the royal milliner, Frederick Fox, and celebrated royal shoe maker, Rayne.

Jean Duhig & Rosalie Woods

Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



David Wallis presented his contribution to us for February's classical music afternoon. David is, without doubt, the keenest of all our members and his knowledge is second to none. We began with the Overture "The Force of Destiny" played by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim; this orchestra is almost unique in having a mixture of Jewish and Palestinian musicians and it was a lively opener for the next piece by Ernst von Dohnányi – Variations on a Nursery Theme played by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, most of which we had already heard although never so well presented. The third item was Giuseppe Torelli's Sonata in D for Trumpet, Strings and Continuo played by I Musici with Håkan Hardenberger on the trumpet – a fine performer. Just before our break for tea, we heard Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No 5 played by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Jeffrey Tate with Mitsuko Uchida on the piano. The second part of our afternoon of classical music started with Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dances played by the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Ivan Fischer. Lastly, we had Zoltán Kodály's Hary Janos Suite played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Klaus Tennstedt. We all agreed the afternoon of music was a success.

Derick Johnson

(i) Continuo parts, almost universal during the Baroque era (1600–1750), provide music's harmonic structure. Instrumentalists playing the continuo parts are called the continuo group, the makeup of which is often left to the discretion of the performers, and this practice varied greatly within the Baroque period. At least one instrument capable of playing chords must be included, such as a harpsichord, organ, lute, or harp. In addition, any number of instruments which play in the bass register may be included, such as cello, double bass, or bassoon. The chording instrument player performs a continuo part by playing, in addition to the indicated bass notes, upper notes to complete chords, either determined ahead of time or improvised during performance. Performers use their musical judgment and other instruments or voices as a guide, but numerals written below notes may also be used to indicate the kind of harmony to be played.

Editor

Ten-Pin Bowling • Leader Gay Braybrook



Photos taken at a recent meeting of the Ten-Pin Bowling group are now available for viewing on the Gallery page of our website.

David Smith

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30am)	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes
 Book Reading 1 st Thursday	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	2
 Classical Music (Group 1) 2 nd Friday	Derick Johnson 020 8850 1245	Vacancies
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates & times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes ↳
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) 🖐️	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
 Family History Various days	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Yes
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 1) 1 st Thursday (2.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1
 Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	2
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	3
 Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am) 🖐️	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
 Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	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.

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 is not difficult to run a group and leaders of a full one can advise you how it's done.

🖐️ Not during school holidays

↳ Notice on the board at meetings

PROGRAMME

2013

March	Annual General Meeting	
	John Beckham	Birds of Rye Harbour
April	Ann Knief	Lola Montez – a 19 th Century Adventuress
May	Mr. Guerdon	Chickens
June	Paul Gourden	Age UK
July	Ian Porter	Suffragettes
August	Peter Gilman	Coastline National Trust
September	Chris McCoory	Rogues, Rascals & Rebels
October	Jack Wheeler	Japanese Gardens
November	Bernard Locket	Author
December	Jack Ripley	Max Miller & Friends

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
Membership Secretary	Margaret Scambler	020 8315 0108
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Vacant	

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

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.

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

If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.