

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

May 2017



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

New Groups

French Conversation

Every 3rd Thursday, from 10.30 am to noon.

The Group will be led by Stephen Hunter, a new member of U3A, and who is a fluent French speaker, having dealt with French clients throughout his business career. Now retired, his French is becoming a bit rusty, hence the idea for this group. The idea is that, by chatting in French in a non-pressure situation, members will build up confidence gradually with the emphasis on speaking and listening. Those with greater ability in French will benefit from keeping the rust at bay.

Silver Surfers

Every 3rd Tuesday, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm.

The Group will be led by Stephen Hunter, a new member of U3A, and who has specialised in programming software for the big London banks. This will be a series of discussions about common issues with day-to-day computing, or mobile telephony. Answering common questions should provide an opportunity to give members a greater basic understanding of how computer software works, and how to address specific issues in computing.

Trevor Ford

(i) Silver Surfers, part 2: Some 30 members of the Weston Turville U3A Extreme Activities Group recently went flowboarding at an indoor surfing facility near Bedford. Having donned wetsuits and been given a safety briefing, the participants had plenty of time to accustom themselves to a fight against a powerful – and thankfully warm! – surge of water and then exercise muscles they had not used for many years. (More details appear on the Third Age website).

Editor

New Members

Sidcup U3A would like to welcome the following new members: Linda Carrington, Allan Cowhig, Michael and Susan Conway, Marilyn and Stephen Hunter and Linda Cohen. We hope you are able to attend the monthly General Meetings and that you enjoy any groups that may be of interest you.

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Visit to Chiswick House

Val made the arrangements for our April visit but was unable to act as guide on the day and we were fortunate in having Rinka to lead a small group of us to Chiswick House. We spent a pleasant day there admiring the beauties of the camellias in the enormous greenhouse as well as the house itself. The third earl of Burlington had inherited it in 1727, and, having recently returned from his Grand Tour and being very wealthy, he was able to transform and improve his property in the Palladian style, largely influenced by Inigo Jones with the help of William Kent – who was mainly responsible – although Burlington himself had an important hand in it. He filled his new home with treasures he had collected on his travels and they are displayed to advantage in the maze of rooms open to the public. On his death, the property passed to the Cavendish family and remained with the Dukes of Devonshire until eventually it passed to Middlesex County Council. It is now well maintained by English Heritage. The house is rich in 17th century paintings and fine portraits by famous artists which feature alongside Grecian statues, ancient Roman portrayals of the Caesars and even a sphinx or two. French style chairs in gilt line the walls and I counted no less than three versions of the infamous Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire's picture in different rooms. On leaving the house, we were able to enjoy the spring sunshine whilst eating our lunch in attractive surroundings. It was an altogether delightful day.

Ruth Nugent

Local History Group 3 • Christine Withams



Stafford Terrace

Nine of us met at Charing Cross Station at 10.15 to commence our journey to 18 Stafford Terrace. We took the Circle Line to High Street Kensington and then with a five minute walk we arrived at our destination where a pre-booked tour had been arranged at a cost of £8.00. Before the tour of the house, a short film was shown giving a brief history of the family. Stafford Terrace is a unique example of a late Victorian middle class townhouse. Home to the Sambourne family, it survives with almost all of its furniture and fittings intact. In 1875, the house was purchased by Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne and his wife Marion. The house gives an insight into the personal lives of the Linley, Marion and their two children Maud and Roy. The house is stuffed full of Linley's cartoons and photos. After the deaths of Linley and Marion Sambourne, the house passed to their bachelor son Roy. Roy kept the house's interior largely unchanged. In 1980 it was opened to the public by the Victorian Society. In 1989, its ownership passed to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The tour lasted about 1½ hours. As it was such a beautiful day, 6 of us decided to visit Holland Park which was nearby.

Sue Upton

(i) Edward Linley Sambourne was an English cartoonist and illustrator who was most famous for being a draughtsman for the satirical magazine Punch for more than forty years. He also did work for The Naval and Military Gazette, The Pall Mall Gazette, The Sketch, The Sphere, The Illustrated London News, The Piccadilly Magazine and The Pictorial World.

Editor

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



The book for April was *The Unfortunates* written by Laurie Graham and chosen by myself. This was a book I had read several years ago and even now still makes me smile. It was not to everyone's taste because humour is a strange thing; what appeals to one person and invokes a silent giggle can be quite incomprehensible to another. In this story, the central character is Poppy Minkel. She was born with "kinky hair, sticky-out ears and a yellow neck." Her mother despaired of her ever finding a husband. However, she does have the advantage of being the heiress to the family fortune amassed in "Minkels Mustard" and a tendency to an enjoyment of the unusual. She has the naivety of a child and is an irresistible adventurer. The story opens at the time of the sinking of the *Titanic* and through World War I on to the Jazz Age, World War II reaching the present day. Although the story is told in a light-hearted way with many witty one-liners, the background of world events gives the novel a serious bite. As I mentioned, our group was very much divided on this book but I loved it even on a second reading!

June Reid

Concerts/Opera • Leader required



I would like to take this opportunity to place on record our sincere thanks to Norma Balfour for her sterling contribution to the variety of activities available to members. Over many years, Norma has arranged Sunday afternoon visits to the Royal Festival Hall concerts given by the Philharmonia Orchestra. Regrettably, Norma has decided that the time has come to pass on this group leadership to someone else. Unfortunately, I feel unable to take this on at present but I am appealing – nay, begging – for someone else to seize the opportunity to take on the leadership of this group. We currently have 224 members so I am hoping that someone (perhaps working with a friend) will think: "yes, I would enjoy that!" Could that be you? If so, please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Trevor Ford.

Janet Lambern, Concert group member

Ramblers 2 & Parks & Gardens Groups



Photographs taken during the following outings can be seen on the Gallery page of our website:

Primrose Hill and Regents Park (Ramblers Group 2, 25th April 2017)

Lesnes Abbey and Gardens (Parks & Gardens Group, 27th April 2017)

Eltham Palace to Chislehurst (Ramblers Group 2, 25th March 2017). A report of this walk appeared in the April issue.

Editor

GROUP VACANCIES

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

May	Nicky Brooks	Exercise in Retirement – Pilates
June	Russell Bowes	Dig for Victory
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 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: 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE ☎ 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

Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.