

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

May 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

Summer Schools

This year we have two residential schools, held in July and September, providing an exciting programme covering 19 courses.

School 1: Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB
Monday 23rd July to Thursday 26th July.

Crosswords, France, Garden History, Literature/Philosophy, Mathematics, Opera, Play the Ukulele, Recorder Ensemble Playing, Spanish History.

School 2: Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS
Tuesday 11th September to Friday 14th September.

Art History, Music, Creative Writing, Drama, English Poetry, History, Language, Linguistics, Musicals, Singing.

More information and details of how to book are available by phone or on the Third Age Trust website.

Third Age Trust

On the Shoulders of Suffragettes

10.45 am–4.00 pm Friday 8th June 2018

This is a conference to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage which will also look at the effect on women's roles in society. We have a great panel of speakers which include Bridget Prentice who will chair the day; Dr Anne Dinsdale on the John Stuart Mill Petition; Dr Claire Eustance on Suffragettes in Trousers; Meghan Dobney on The Pankhursts; Lynne Dixon on Women and Housing; Diane Deudney on Women and Art and Theresa Pearce, MP, on being a woman MP. Our venue will be the King William Court Lecture Theatre at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Tickets will cost £26 which includes refreshments and a buffet lunch. We know this event will be well supported so if you wish to attend you should book as soon as possible. Full programme details and booking forms are available on our website at:
<https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork/events>

U3A Greater London South East Network

Constitution

In last month's Newsletter it was announced that today's meeting would include a Special General Meeting to discuss necessary changes to our constitution. If the changes are approved then the revised constitution will replace the current one which may be read on our website.

Webmaster



With sadness we report the death of Pam Kirk who died in hospital on the 19th March. An active member of U3A for many years, she enjoyed walking and holidays with Ramblers 2. She was also at one time leader of Local History 3. Luncheon club was also a favourite. Many times she would take her turn at the register table. Her funeral took place on 4th May.

Olive Mercer

There will be a Memorial Service in memory of Ruth Nugent at 3 pm on Monday 21st May at St John the Evangelist Church, Sidcup DA14 6BX.

Olive Mercer

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Stan Pape, a member of Sidcup U3A. Stan died on Thursday 19th April aged 100 years. Members of U3A were able to join him and his family when he celebrated his 100th birthday last September. He had been a member of Sidcup U3A since he moved here to be near his family a few years ago and was a member of the Classical Music and Jazz Groups. Stan was always ready to join in actively in group activities and he had a sense of humour which, no doubt, arose from his north-east origins. His funeral was at Holy Trinity Church, Lamorbey, on Friday 11th May. Our sympathy goes to all his family and friends.

Michael Jordan



Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



Parklands Walk North

A select band of four of us took the Piccadilly Line to Wood Green Station and then walked to Alexandra Palace. Ally Pally, as it is often known, is a grade II listed entertainment and sports venue located between Wood Green and Muswell Hill. Originally built by John Johnson and Alfred Meeson, it opened in 1873 but was seriously damaged by fire. It was rebuilt by Johnson and intended as 'The Peoples' Palace'. Its purpose was to serve as a public centre of recreation, education and entertainment; north London's counterpart to the Crystal Palace in south London. It re-opened on 1st May 1875. In 1935 part of it was leased to BBC television. In 1936 it became the home of the world's first regular public TV service. It is now a mixed leisure complex with a skating rink, cinema, 10-pin bowling alley and exhibition centre. From there we walked through Alexandra Park to the beginning of Parkland Walk North and on to Highgate Woods. The weather was dry and we enjoyed the walk (about 4-5 miles) and we finished with a tasty lunch at the Woodman Pub in Highgate.

Liz Harket

Pot Pourri • Leader Pat Laughton



In her absence on holiday, Pat Laughton had booked us a visit to the City Police Museum which is situated in Aldermanbury and directly behind the Guildhall complex. Not having visited this area since I worked at 66 Cheapside in the dim and distant past, I was much saddened by the demolition of the beautiful and quirky little shops and premises which had made up that part of the City and which have been replaced by ugly glass and Lego-type monstrosities (in my opinion). So imagine my joy to see that the Guildhall is the same, only better, thanks to a good old scrub up!

The City Police Museum is small but informative and we spent an interesting time there before visiting the local coffee house. Pat had also suggested that we might enjoy the art exhibition in the Guildhall Galleries and the Roman Amphitheatre which is in the same building. She was right! The exhibition was entitled “Victorian Landscapes” and both the paintings and the setting are a delight. We spent much time poring over the most intricate detail of each artist’s genius. The amphitheatre is very well shown and atmospheric. To be told that the entrance you use is the one which was used by all the poor souls going to meet their fate for the entertainment of others is quite sobering.

There were ten of us for the trip and six of us decided to return to Cannon Street Wetherspoons for our lunch and a happy chat about all we had seen. All in all, it had been a very enjoyable day.

Rinka Halliday

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



March walk

There were only 5 of us who set off from Farnborough village, heading for the High Elms estate. Using the path past the church, we noted the grave of the last gypsy queen of Kent – Rose Lee (Urania Bosworth). The estate was originally owned by the Lubbock family and the last mansion burnt down in 1913. An interesting feature are the remains of something similar to a squash court, built for the game of fives. The property now has a nature trail and belongs to the borough of Bromley. Many paths round the estate are reasonably well maintained, several labelled “Beech walk”. It was a bit of a pull up the hill returning to the village where we enjoyed refreshment and lunch.

Daphne Everett

(i) The history of the High Elms estate can be traced back to the Norman Conquest when it was given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. The Lubbock family acquired it in the early 19th century, and in 1840 the astronomer and banker, Sir John Lubbock, 3rd Baronet, inherited it on the death of his father. He built a grand new mansion in the Italian style. He became a friend of Charles Darwin, who moved into the nearby Down House in 1842, and Lubbock’s son – also called John Lubbock – was a close friend of Darwin and was a frequent visitor to Down House from his childhood. In 1938, the estate was sold to the Kent County Council and the house became a training centre for nurses. In 1965, the area became part of the London Borough of Bromley, and the estate was transferred to the new borough and the land then became public open space.

Editor

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



Do you enjoy walking, being in the fresh air and being in the company of like-minded people? If you do, then come and join us on a monthly leisurely countryside or pavement walk of approximately 4½ miles followed by lunch (usually in a pub). Perhaps you can introduce us to some new walks. If you look in the gallery on the U3A Sidcup website you will see pictures from some of the walks we have recently been on. If interested, please contact Helen Salmon on 07786465862.

Helen Salmon

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Our 11th April 2018 visit was to Charterhouse. We were previously told that the morning tour was fully booked. However, when we arrived we were informed that another tour would be starting at 12.00. We were extremely pleased to have this opportunity and we had an excellent guide who covered the history from the time of the Black Death and the founding of a Carthusian monastery until the present day when they now have their first female “brother.”

Rosalie Woods & Jean Duhig

(i) The Carthusian Order is a Catholic religious order of enclosed monastics founded by Bruno of Cologne in 1084. The name Carthusian is derived from the Chartreuse Mountains – part of the French Alps – in which Saint Bruno built his first hermitage. Charterhouse is the English name for a Carthusian monastery and it is derived from the same source. The same mountain range lends its name to the alcoholic cordial Chartreuse produced by the monks which itself gives rise to the name of the colour. St Hugh’s Charterhouse, Parkminster, is the only extant post-Reformation Carthusian monastery in the United Kingdom; it is located in the parish of Cowfold, West Sussex.

Editor

Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Joyce Savinson



Thirteen of us made our way to the Victoria and Albert Museum in April. When we arrived, Rinka managed to find a guide who was willing to take the group around the museum. Only Rinka and myself wanted to go to the Ocean Liners Exhibition, which was a feast for our eyes. We spent three hours, starting with the wonderful inviting posters of the many liner companies of the 20s and 30s. There were large wooden panels with richly decorated doors and painted tiles of the Art Deco period. The Normandie was the most luxurious ship and there was a short film of the interior. Most chairs tables and lighting were from first class. There were carpet pieces, large chairs and a large painting of the interior of Queen Mary. After the disastrous fire on the Normandie, only non-combustible materials could be used. There was so much to see and admire and the final section gave you a real feel of life on board: lounge chairs, swimwear, a fake pool, films showing deck games, and posh luggage belonging to the Duke of Windsor. A vast screen depicting the ocean with a liner moving across it looked realistic. From the Titanic there was a wonderful diamond tiara saved by the maid of the gentry. There was also a piece of a door from the Titanic which had been found floating in the sea. At this time, it was only the rich who enjoyed this way of life. It was well worth the entry fee and the best exhibition I have seen for a long time.

Jill Bryant

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Having missed our meeting in March, we had two books to discuss in April and both met with approval by all in our group. The first book, *Tommy Glover's Sketch of Heaven*, written by Jane Bailey was chosen by Kate. This was a story of displaced partners and first love. It is a very bittersweet and heart-warming tale. The story begins with a young girl evacuated from war-torn London to a sleepy country village. She is looked after by an unhappy couple who cannot understand her cheerful Cockney outlook. She is befriended by an older boy from a nearby orphanage and makes friends with all the outsiders in the village. There are many interesting characters adding to the mix. When a long buried secret is uncovered, their lives are changed forever. We all thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to you.

The second book, *The Scarlet Lion*, by Elizabeth Chadwick was chosen by Carole. This was an historical novel and the second in the series written by this author about the knight, William Marshal. We had enjoyed the first book, *The Greatest Knight*, which we had read in 2016, which deals with his early life and prowess during the reign of King Richard I. This was equally engrossing, continuing his life story and his marriage to Isabella who bore him 10 children. It was set in England, Ireland and Wales and also covered wars of possession in France. This story was brought to life by the intimate details of their daily lives and their problems and worries whilst fighting for their very existence. When the evil King John succeeds Richard, William Marshal is forced to fight to keep both his lands and his life. His innate honesty and courage serve him well and he is indeed "The Greatest Knight." An effigy of William Marshal is to be found in The Temple Church which was reported in a recent newsletter when one of the History Groups visited the site. This was a very informative and enjoyable read.

June Reid

① Ramblers Group 3 reported upon their visit to Temple Church in the February Newsletter. The 'wars of possession' referred to above might actually be the 'wars of succession' – of which there have been all too many. They are prompted by a succession crisis in which two or more individuals claim the right of successor to a deceased or deposed monarch when there is no clear heir.

Editor

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

May	Paul Whittaker	“Music to My Ears”
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

First Law of Advice: The correct advice is to give the advice that is desired.