

# SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

May 2019



**SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A meets at 2.00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month in the New Community Church Centre, 24 Station Road, Sidcup**

## NOTICES

### **London Region Summer School 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

This will take place at St. Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8EQ. This is 5 minutes from Blackfriars underground station.

There are many excellent choices still available but book now to avoid disappointment! There is a wide range of topics taken from the themes of Art, Current Affairs, History, Literature, Music, Science and Travel. This year we have also selected *Celebration of the Sea* as a general theme. Choose from 28 different talks, 4 workshops, and 6 guided walks around the City of London.

This is non-residential and attendance can be for one, two or three days at a cost of £38 per day. Refreshments and a cold buffet lunch are included.

Programme and applications are available via the Events page of the London Region website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events> and through individual U3As. You can book online or use a postal application form.

If you have any queries, please contact Chris Feldman either on email [ccris@waitrose.com](mailto:ccris@waitrose.com) or by phone 020 8449 4847.

**George Murrell**

### **Emery Walker**

Anyone fascinated by the Arts & Craft Movement may be interested in visiting Emery Walker's House at 7 Hammersmith Terrace in London. Emery Walker was a key member of the Arts & Craft Movement, close friend and advisor of William Morris, and an inspirational force behind the private press movement of the 1890s and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is an atmospheric time capsule packed with Arts & Crafts treasures including the world's largest collection of hand blocked Morris & Co. wallpapers in situ. The house is open from March to November and offers group tours on days other than Thursdays and Saturdays (when it is open to the public). Tours last just over an hour and are led by guides who accompany visitors through all of the main rooms and – weather permitting – the garden.

Phone 020 8741 4104 or email [admin@emerywalker.org.uk](mailto:admin@emerywalker.org.uk) for more information, or visit their website at <https://www.emerywalker.org.uk/>.

## **New Members**

We would like to welcome Tina and Tom Strutton as new members of Sidcup U3A. We hope that you will enjoy your time with us.

**Carolyn & Lynn (Membership Secretaries)**



### **Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Joyce Savinson**



#### **Tower Bridge Experience**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 15 of us visited what is described as The Tower Bridge Experience. We had a short walk from London Bridge Station with a stop for coffee on the way. At 11.30 pm we were met by our excellent guide who was able to answer our many questions and who gave us a very comprehensive tour.

A few historical facts: it took 8 years to build the bridge involving 432 workers each day. Construction began in 1886 and was officially opened in 1894. It opened to the public for the first time in 1910 and was called the Tower Bridge Experience. When it was built it was the most sophisticated bascule and suspension bridge and it was operated by hydraulics to open and close the bridge. Originally it was powered by steam but now it is driven by oil and electricity. All this can be seen in the engine room and it is quite fascinating. There are glass panels along both walkways over the Thames with a unique viewpoint 42 metres above the river, and, as you view the landscape, you can pick out the various landmarks. All in all, it was a very interesting guided tour.

*NB* Venue hire is available for parties and events!

**Maureen Woplin & Amelia O'Brien**

### **Local History Group 3 • Leader Christine Withams**




































On the 10<sup>th</sup> April, our group visited The Post Office Museum at Phoenix Place. We were the last of the three Local History groups to visit this so much has been written already. We travelled to Cannon Street Station and discovered that the road outside was being dug up so we had to find where we could catch the number 17 bus to Grays Inn Road.


On arrival, we joined the queue to travel on the small postal underground train. This was developed to transport mail across London quickly and efficiently. Work began on its construction as far back as 1915, but was halted by WW1. It opened in 1927 and continued to be in use for 76 years, closing in 2003. The line ran from Paddington District Office to Eastern District Office via Mount Pleasant Sorting Office and Liverpool Street. The ride took us along part of the track with information about its history. Although the train was quite small and cramped, we all enjoyed the experience. From there we walked a short way down the street to the main Museum. After a coffee/lunch break at the café there, we made our way round the Museum.



**Lynn Plumer & Barbara Buckland**


## GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 <b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (10.00 am)  	<b>Roy Black</b>  020 8302 9942	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Book Reading</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>June Reid</b> 020 8302 7887	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Craft &amp; Chat</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10.00 am) 	<b>Pauline Springhall</b> 020 8308 1975	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Family History</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues  & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs  	<b>Kate Berry</b> 020 8309 7429	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Handcrafted Cards (Group 2)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>1 Vacancy</b>
 <b>Mono Digital Photography</b> Quarterly (approx.) 	<b>Roy Morton</b> rory.m2014@gmail.com	<b>3 Vacancies</b>
 <b>Needlecrafts</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Parks &amp; Gardens Appreciation</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 	<b>Jill Bryant</b> <b>Rinka Halliday</b> 01322 524008      020 8300 2699	<b>2 Vacancies</b>
 <b>Pot Pourri</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 	<b>Pat Laughton</b> 020 8302 9984	<b>3 Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ramblers (Group 2)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (4–5 miles)	<b>Helen Salmon</b> 07786 465862 or 020 8309 1689	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ramblers (Group 3)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday (5–6 miles)	<b>Trevor Ford</b> 020 8302 7635	<b>5 Vacancies</b>
 <b>Rummikub® (Group 1)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Kathy Cordell</b>  020 8300 4573	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Science</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	<b>Trevor Ford</b> 020 8302 7635	<b>2 Vacancies</b>
 <b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10.00 am)    £	<b>Gay Braybrook</b>  020 8309 6372	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Theatre Trips: Musicals</b>   £	<b>Sue Brooks</b> 020 8298 1117	<b>Vacancies</b>
 <b>Wine Appreciation</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (7.30–9.30 pm) £	<b>Roger Brown</b> 020 8850 5362	<b>Vacancies</b>

The above groups, unless I am told otherwise by Group Leaders, are the ones with vacancies; *any* sort of change should be advised to me as soon as possible. Those wishing to join a group should contact the Group Leader concerned in the first instance, and, if accepted, inform me.

**Trevor Ford**  020 8302 7635 email: [trevor.ford@talktalk.net](mailto:trevor.ford@talktalk.net)

 Not during school/bank holidays  
 Temporary point of contact

£ A charge applies  
 Certain seasons only

 Open to all  
 Times vary

## PROGRAMME

**2019**

May	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Passchendaele To Peace.
June	Sidcup U3A members	Members' Showcase of Activities
July	Stuart Robinson	The River Thames; London's Liquid History
August	Andrew Ashton	Banksy
September	Alan Payne	The Story Behind Your Cuppa
October	Brian Freeland	George Bernard Shaw
November	Keith Simmons	Name Dropping
December	Ian Beavan	A Christmas Miscellany

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Colin Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>	
Vice-Chairman	Sandra Applegate	07717 020611
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Carolyn Barclay	07401 474844
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	Brian Topliffe	020 8303 0579

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

**Newsletter Editor & Webmaster** David Smith 020 8304 2305  
 Please either email contributions to me at: [editor@sidcup-u3a.org.uk](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
**Greater London South East Network:** [www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork)  
**London Region U3A:** [www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/london-region)  
**World U3A:** [www.worldu3a.org](http://www.worldu3a.org) **Virtual U3A:** [www.vu3a.org](http://www.vu3a.org)

## WEBSITE

**[www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk](http://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*

*Well done is better than well said. (Benjamin Franklin)*