

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

November 2014



**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

Nominated Charity 2015

Members are reminded that the charity to be supported throughout 2015 will be decided at the December monthly meeting. Any member wishing to propose a particular charity should submit his or her nomination with a short supporting written statement to me, the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, DA15 8SH (email george.murrell@btinternet.com), or to any Committee member, by 1st December 2014.

Members nominating a charity must be prepared to accept responsibility for the collection arrangements.

George Murrell

Group Leaders' Coffee Morning

A successful and well attended coffee morning was held on Thursday 5th November. Although this was "Guy Fawkes Day" there were no fireworks. The main purpose of the meeting was to identify means by which waiting lists for groups could be reduced. Various suggestions were received which will be offered for discussion at the forthcoming monthly meeting. Further information will be provided in a later Newsletter. The Committee wish to thank all those who attended for their interest, and also Kathy Cordell for hosting the meeting and arranging the refreshments.

George Murrell

Shared Learning Projects

An SLP involves a team of U3A members, usually from different U3As, exploring a specific topic proposed by a U3A or by an institution (such as a museum, art gallery, stately home or library) for which there is normally a set time span.

The purpose of the 'Research Noticeboard' on the Third Age Trust website is to assist U3A members who are considering initiating a research project and who want to find out if other U3A members might be interested in participating. It is also intended for the use of members who are currently undertaking research and who need some help. Reports of U3A research activity are also posted there. Visit the Third Age Trust website for more details.

Excerpt from Third Age Trust Website

Membership Renewal for 2015

Your membership can be renewed as from today. Renewal forms were handed out at the last meeting, but a spare one may be found attached to this Newsletter. Anyone who misses both, or misplaces the renewal form, may obtain a replacement by downloading this Newsletter from our website.

Editor

GROUP NEWS

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden



Our October walk took place on a very windy day when England was catching the tail end of a hurricane. Our walk was a 'Track the Plaque' one for which we travelled to Sloane Square and walked around Chelsea looking for blue plaques on buildings there. Notable people who had lived there included an Admiral of the Fleet (Lord Jellicoe); a pioneer in plastic surgery (Sir Archibald McIndoe); a poet and Greek Ambassador (George Seferis); a ballet dancer and teacher (Princess Seraphine Astafieva); the mother of Oscar Wilde (Lady Francesca Wilde); a film producer (Sir Carol Reed); two actresses (Dame Ellen Terry and Dame Sybil Thorndike); another poet (Sir Osbert Sitwell); pre-Raphaelite ceramic painters (William Frend de Morgan and his wife Evelyn de Morgan); an Army Matron-in-Chief (Dame Maud McCarthy); a sculptor (Frank Dobson); three artists (Augustus John, John Sartorius and Sir Alfred Munnings); and a children's writer (A. A. Milne). It is, perhaps, not surprising that so many talented people chose to live in Chelsea, for there are many lovely buildings here, quite a few of which are situated in squares with private access to small parks which bear the words "Please keep entrance clear for perambulators" on the gates. Our walk concluded with some of us visiting the Peter Jones store, some returning home, and others travelling on to see the thousands of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London – all individually hand made. A fantastic and very moving sight, each poppy represents a WWI soldier who had given his life in that terrible war.

The blue plaques have been made for 30 years by Frank and Susan Ashworth in their studio in Cornwall. The seven ingredients of the stoneware are a closely guarded secret. Once the magic mixture has been prepared, it is poured into a mould; it is then left to dry for three days before applying the inscription. This is done in a traditional way – through a fine nozzle just like icing a cake. Once inscribed, the plaque is left to dry very slowly over three weeks before its first firing. Then the two glazes are applied, white for the lettering and blue for the background. Another firing then takes place followed by six weeks of cooling, and then it is ready for its installation.

Val Gosden

① London's 'Blue Plaques' scheme, which was founded in 1866, is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the world. It has inspired many other schemes across London, the UK and even further afield. It has been run successively by the (Royal) Society of Arts, the London County Council, the Greater London Council, and, since 1986, English Heritage. It commemorates the link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. My picture of the Tower of London, taken in August, appears on the Gallery page of our website.

Editor

Parks & Gardens Appreciation • Leader Jill Bryant



On 25th September our group travelled to Chigwell for a different kind of outing. One of our members is a flower arranger who suggested we visit the London and Overseas Area Show. It was quite a long journey so coffee was our first priority. The theme was *Far Pavilions* so exotic arrangements came to mind immediately – and we were not disappointed. The imagination, colours and wonderful flowers were a feast for the eyes. Because the weather wasn't too hot, the flowers were in top condition although they were in a marquee. Pat, our member, won a 'First' in her category and took home a large winner's cup. It made a nice change and was a good decision as the weather was quite cold that day.

Jill Bryant

① *The Far Pavilions* is an epic novel of British-Indian history by M. M. Kaye, first published in 1978, which tells the story of an English officer during the British Raj. The novel is rooted deeply in 19th century romantic epics and has been hailed as a masterpiece of storytelling. It is based partly on biographical writings of the author's grandfather as well as her knowledge and childhood experiences in India where she was born. It has been dramatised on television and radio. The 'far pavilions' of the story are seen by its leading characters as a sort of paradise in the Himalaya Mountains.

Editor

Classical Music 1 • Leader Alan Griffiths



Tom Shiels provided an interesting and varied programme for our October meeting. Tom started with music by Sir Arthur Sullivan (with words by W. S. Gilbert) – *Overture Di Ballo* followed by *Nightmare Song* and *Faint Hearts* from *Iolanthe*, which were all ably conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent. Next, we heard Richard Tauber singing from *Roses from the South* composed by Johann Strauss II in 1880, followed by John Ogdon playing Liszt's *La Campanella* {the little bell} from Paganini's *Étude No 3*. The Last Night of the Proms in 2001 was the day after 9/11, and we heard Leonard Slatkin making an announcement before the BBC Symphony Orchestra played Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* which was a very moving performance. *Parlami d'Amore Mariu* {tell me about love, Mariu} sung by Giuseppe di Stefano was the next item, followed by the finale of *Suite Concertino* by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari with Kim Walker on the bassoon.

After our break, Tom opened with *Rhosymedre* by Vaughan Williams based on a hymn tune by John David Edwards, a 19th century Welsh Anglican priest, and played by the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields conducted by Neville Marriner. This was followed by *Estrellita* {my little star} composed by Manuel Ponce and played by Alfredo Campoli. The next items were the Adagio from Mozart's *Serenade in E Flat*, and *Ombra Mai Fu* {never was a shade} from Handel's opera *Serse* sung by Fritz Wunderlich. These were followed by Gerald Finzi's *Eclogue for piano and strings* played by Peter Katin with the New Philharmonia Orchestra, and the 1st movement of Dvořák's *American Quartet Opus 96* played by the Hollywood Quartet. Our final two items were Elisabeth Schumann, accompanied by violinist Isolde Menges, in a 1927 recording of *Morgen!* {tomorrow} by Richard Strauss, and *Clair de Lune* {moonlight} by Claude Debussy played by John Ogdon.

Alan Griffiths

Ramblers 2 • Contact David Wedderkop



It was a glorious autumn day for our October ramble exploring Bromley's open spaces. We started on Hayes Common, one of the largest areas of common land in Greater London which comprises 225 acres, and then walked through the woods of Ravensbourne Meadows. Upon reaching Keston Ponds, we walked round to reach the spring which is the source of the River Raven which joins the River Bourne in Hayes to flow on towards Bromley as the Ravensbourne. Our circular walk continued back through the woodland of Hayes Common. The 'Greyhound' at Keston was our chosen hostelry for welcome refreshment.

If you would be interested in walking about five miles on the 4th Tuesday of the month, then do come and join us. Look for David Wedderkop or one of the group at the monthly meeting; it is good to get out and discover something of our local countryside.

Mary Webb

Concerts/Ballet/Opera • Leader Norma Balfour



On a wet Sunday afternoon, 12 of us made our way to the Royal Festival Hall for a concert given by the Philharmonia Orchestra. We had excellent seats and had a good view of the orchestra. A young Jakub Hruša conducted. The programme started at 3 pm with the overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*; this is an opera in five acts composed by Mikhail Glinka between 1837 and 1842. The second piece we heard was the Violin Concerto in A minor, Opus 82, by Alexander Glazunov, which was written in 1904. The violin soloist was Julia Fischer and the harpist was Katherine Ventura.

After a 20-minute interval, we heard Tchaikovsky's Symphony № 2 in C minor, Opus 17; this is one of Tchaikovsky's joyful compositions composed in 1872. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Russian musical experience which was well worth the effort. It certainly brightened our Sunday afternoon.

Christine Smith

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



On Wednesday 8th October, 21 of us visited the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth. I think that many of us had visited the Museum in the past, but it has recently re-opened after having been closed for nearly two years for extensive refurbishment; consequently, there were many new exhibitions to see. The Museum tells the story of people's experiences of modern war and conflict, some of which were very moving. There is so much to see it is impossible to take it all in on one visit, but I think we were all impressed with the new First World War Galleries which told the story of the First World War through the lives of those who had experienced it both on the front line and at home. I think that we all enjoyed the visit and found it very instructive and, at times, very moving.

Pat Garwood

ENTERTAINMENT

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

I was driving this morning when I saw an RAC van parked on the side of the road. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself: that guy's heading for a breakdown.

Statistically, 6 of our 7 dwarves are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30 a.m this morning. Can you believe that: at 2.30 a.m? Luckily for him, I was still up playing my bagpipes.

I have a spelling chequer,
It came with my Pea See;
It helps me too correct Miss Steaks
Eye mite knot even sea.
Eye strike the quays and type a whirred
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am write oar rung;
It tells me strait a weigh.
Aye ran these versus threw it,
Yew mae bee pleased two no
Its word prefect in every whey;
My spell cheque tolled me sew!

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Amblers (Group 2) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies
 Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday 	Roy Black  020 8302 9942	Vacancies
 Book Reading 1 st Thursday (2.00–4.00 pm)	June Reid 020 8302 7887	2
 Classical Music (Group 1) 2 nd Friday	Alan Griffiths 020 8303 6636	3
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates and times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Vacancies 
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) 	Leader pending  needed, please	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tuesday & 4 th Thursday	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Lesley South 020 8300 8298	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	David Wedderkop  020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 Rummikub® 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	2
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)  £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Vacancies 
 Wine Appreciation Last Thursday (7.30 pm) £	Michael Jordan 020 8302 3330	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.

Keith Alker, Group Co-ordinator  020 8850 2853 Email: alker@btinternet.com.

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 last page. It is easy to run a group and any current leader can advise you how it's done.

 Not during school holidays
 Notice on the board at meetings

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only
 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2014

November	Mr Halfors	The Spa Valley Railway
December	Alan Simmons	Entertainer

2015

January	Jim Radford	Tugboat rescues in World War 2
February	Roger Stevens	Audio Visuals
March		Annual General Meeting
	Andy Thomas	The Crop Circle Mystery
April	Roy Bilham	Blowing my own trumpet
May	Ian Keable	The Corked Conjuror
June	Peter Hartley	The Royals

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting 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	Patricia Rivett	020 3302 2887
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
Group Co-ordinator	Keith Alker	020 8850 2853
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
General Member	Trevor Ford	020 8302 7635

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

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

Theatre is life. Film is art. Television is furniture.

SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A
RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2015

This is to remind you that your membership to the Sidcup & District U3A is renewable on 31 December 2014.

The renewal notice at the bottom of this reminder, duly completed, with a cheque for £15.00 per person, being the annual subscription for 2015 should be paid in one of the following two ways. (1) At the November or December General Meeting or (2) If you are unable to attend a General Meeting then it should be sent to our TREASURER MRS CHRISTINE SMITH, 56 CROFTON AVENUE BEXLEY KENT DA5 3AR.

IF RENEWALS ARE NOT RECEIVED BY THE ABOVE DATE THIS WILL BE TAKEN THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND NO FURTHER REMINDER WILL BE SENT.

At the January General Meeting you will be issued a new Membership Card for the year 2015. The card will not only act as a receipt for your renewal of membership but also acknowledge that you are a bona fide member and that it should be shown to Group Leaders when attending a Group.

Yours faithfully
Patricia Rivett
Membership Secretary

Membership No

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2015

Please tick box if you wish to continue receiving the magazine THIRD AGE MATTERS

To renew your membership, please complete this form and present it with your cheque for £15.00 (made payable to SIDCUP & DISTRICT U3A & POST DATED 1st JANUARY 2015)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Surname

First Names

Address

.....Post Code

Telephone Number

Signature Date

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING PLEASE ATTACH A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR RENEWAL FOR RETURN OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD & PROGRAMME FOR THE COMING YEAR.

DATA PROTECTION ACT. Members are reminded that details they give are kept on a computer data-base. These details are kept in the strictest confidence. Anyone objecting to their details being kept in this way should inform the Membership Secretary.