

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

October 2011



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

**NOTICES**

**Nominated Charity 2012**

Members are reminded that the charity to be supported throughout 2012 will be decided at the November monthly meeting. Any member wishing to propose a particular charity should submit his or her nomination with a short supporting written statement to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 – George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, DA15 8SH. Alternatively, it may be sent to any Committee member.

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

**George Murrell, Secretary**

**Shared Learning Projects**

The Restoration of Green London is a project at the British Library starting in January 2012 looking into the restoration and creation of green spaces and the effects on both wildlife and people. This will appeal to those with an interest in both natural history and the environment. Computer literacy and access to email is essential. To obtain further details send an email to [Kay.denny@btopenworld.com](mailto:Kay.denny@btopenworld.com).

Nurses stories: the women who chose to become nurses is a project at Kings College, The Strand, London, with the team meeting on alternate Fridays (11am–1pm) between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> March. The aim is to provide a brief social history of the early days of the nursing profession. Good computer skills will be essential. Further information is available from Jean Morgan [johnjeanmorgan@greenbe.net](mailto:johnjeanmorgan@greenbe.net).

British Postal Museum and Archive. Fortnightly meetings on Tuesdays (1.30pm–3.30pm) between 10<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> March at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, Clerkenwell, with a preliminary meeting in December. The project involves research and work across two areas:

- (1) Sports and participation in the Post Office/Royal Mail.
- (2) Bringsty Common Oral History Material – summarising existing oral recordings relating to the dwindling postal services in the rural and scattered community at Bringsty Common, Hertfordshire. Contact Alan Clayden [alanclayden@ymail.com](mailto:alanclayden@ymail.com) for further information.

The closing date for applications for all three projects is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

**George Murrell, Secretary**

## **Scambuster**

The Office of Fair Trading has produced a guide to beating scammers. An original copy of the booklet is available from The Office of Fair Trading on 0800 389 3158. You may download the text from it in PDF format from our website. (I have added to this text information about the postal scam that always crops up around this time of year which the OFT unaccountably omitted).

*Editor*

## **December Meeting**

Would everyone please note that our hall will not be available to us on the third Thursday of December (the 15<sup>th</sup>). Our general meeting will instead be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Refreshments will be available in the tea-bar area following this month's speaker. There will be tea, coffee, seasonal mince pies and luxury biscuits. There will, of course, be no charge.

**Anne Evans, Chairman**

ⓘ Please note that, in view of December's early meeting, contributions for the December Newsletter are required by 27<sup>th</sup> November at the latest in order to meet printing deadlines.

*Editor*

## **Committee Vacancies**

Members are invited to apply for the post of Social Secretary, which, despite announcements in recent Newsletters, has attracted no interest. Furthermore, from next March, the jobs of Chairman and Speakers Secretary will also become vacant when the current holders stand down. Anyone who feels tempted to take one on may speak to the current holder (at an early date, please) to discover exactly what it entails. Contact details are shown on the last page.

**Anne Evans, Chairman**

## **September Silence**

“Where do flies go in the wintertime?” A similar enigma is, “Where do Sidcup U3A members go in September?”

Although a particularly good and entertaining speaker was booked for the September meeting, attendance was down by about a third.

It also transpired that several groups had cancelled their monthly meetings during September. Presumably, once the school vacations are over, there is a mass exodus of Sidcup members to holiday destinations. As a result, the number of Group reports received for inclusion in the Newsletter was considerably reduced.

David does a marvellous job producing the Newsletter, but he does need contributions from the members. For group leaders it is an excellent opportunity to promote your group, and I am sure that short articles about your group and its purpose would be of interest to all members – particularly those groups with vacancies to fill. Individual members are also invited to submit an article on any subject or personal experience that they think might be of interest to others. (This is a chance to develop your skills in Creative Writing).

The Newsletter is for us; it is about us and by us. Please become involved.

**George Murrell, Secretary**

## GROUP NEWS

### Ramblers 1 • Leader Annette Jansen-Holland



In mid-September 7 of our group had a short Ramblers Holiday in Norfolk. We were joined in our very comfortable hotel by 12 other keen walkers. Ramblers provided both the Leader and a small coach to take us to the starting point of our walks and collect us at the end. One of our rambles was on a track called Weaver's Way, and we covered a small section of the 56 miles which runs from Cromer to Great Yarmouth. It was originally used to transport cloth to ships for exportation. Our return route was over the flood plain of the Broads – which was, at that time, dry! We also visited Norwich – a city badly affected by traffic problems – and walked a windy 11 miles along the coast. A very pleasant variety of walks made for an enjoyable time for us all.

Our September Ramble was in north Kent. We assembled in Horton Kirby recreation field for a 5½ mile ramble which had been well arranged by Gloria; she had ensured that all the hills were downhill, the weather was fine, and the pub lunch was so good that we decided to book in for our Christmas lunch. But, best of all, our numbers are up to 13 as we now have some new members; the group is nearly full!

### Annette Jansen-Holland

### Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



This month Sonny Hopkins presented his music selection which was different from our usual programme because it was all written by just one composer – Antonin Dvořák. All of us know Dvořák since his music is always enjoyable. Sonny started with “Humoreske” № 7, played by Maxim Vengerov on the violin, followed by Serenade in E, Opus 22, by Capella Istropolitana conducted by Jaroslav Kreck. The longest piece was the Slavonic Dances: (a) Opus 46 № 1 in C Major; (b) Opus 72 № 2 in E Minor performed by the Berlin Philharmonic and conducted by Herbert von Karajan. We then heard Symphony № 9 in E Minor, Opus 95, “From the New World” played by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Paul Freeman. We then had a break followed by Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, with Mstislav Rostropovich on the cello accompanied by the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Herbert von Karajan. We then had Rusalka's “Song to the Moon” sung by Anna Netrebko, and concluded with “Songs My Mother Taught Me” № 4 from Gypsy Melodies sung by Paul Robeson.

### Derick Johnson

① Mstislav Leopoldovich Rostropovich, KBE, (27<sup>th</sup> March 1927 – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007), known to close friends as Slava, was a Russian cellist and conductor. He was married to the soprano, Galina Vishnevskaya. He is widely considered to have been the greatest cellist of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – if not one of the greatest of all time. In addition to his outstanding interpretations and technique, he was renowned for commissioning new works that expanded the cello's repertoire more than any other cellist, and he performed the premieres of over 100 pieces. Rostropovich was internationally recognised as a steadfast advocate of human rights, and was granted the 1974 Award of the International League of Human Rights. He was buried four days after his friend, Boris Yeltsin, in the same cemetery.

### Editor

## Card Making Groups 1 & 2; Quilling • Leader Val Gosden



Christmas is doing its usual trick of coming round too quickly, but we in the card-making groups have made a start on our Christmas cards already. The technique we are currently using is ‘embroidery on paper’, but we shall also make cards with a Christmas tree theme, and Christmas scenes will be depicted using the decoupage technique. The quillers amongst us are making and decorating a small gift box, and the addition of a small amount of quilling turns a plain item into something special.

**Val Gosden**



### A Career

For forty long and laboured years  
He lived a dream:  
Denying that his anxious care,  
His urge to please, to meet his master’s needs,  
To gain approval, and to merit praise  
Had any meaning or reality.

He longed to be released;  
To be himself, to spend his days  
With music, art, and literature:  
To be a poet, to create,  
Make something new and wonderful,  
A joy to all the world.

Set free at last,  
No longer bound to peddle waste,  
He turned his face towards the sun,  
Worked twice as hard and twice as long,  
Explored his own dark continent.

Dying, he lay surrounded by his books.  
Their coloured spines crawled up every wall save one.  
Here, through a window he saw marigolds  
And spoke his final words –  
“I should have been a gardener”.

**Ian Brydon**

## GROUP VACANCIES

	GROUP NAME	LEADER	VACANCIES
	<b>Amblers (Group 1)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30am)	<b>John Harbert</b> 020 8300 5361	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Amblers (Group 3)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (10.30am)	<b>Norma Balfour</b> 020 8303 7693	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Antiques Appreciation</b> Wednesday or Friday	<b>Martin Baker</b> 020 8300 1752	<b>6</b>
	<b>Bird Watching</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday (morning)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> (co-ordinator only) 020 8309 6372	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Classical Music (Group 2)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (2.30pm)	<b>Maureen Porter</b> 020 8300 6128	<b>1</b>
	<b>Darts (at the Alma pub)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (midday)	<b>See Group Co-ordinator</b> 020 8300 4291	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Local History (Group 1)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>John Harlow</b> 020 8300 3865	<b>2</b>
	<b>Local History (Group 2)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	<b>Pauline Watling</b> 020 8300 3910 <b>Barbara Olney</b> 020 8302 4289	<b>3</b>
	<b>Philosophy (Group 1)</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday (2.00pm)	<b>Bernard Catallo</b> 020 8300 8651	<b>1</b>
	<b>Ramblers (Group 1) (6–7 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (10.30am)	<b>Annette Jansen</b> 01322 522252	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Ramblers (Group 2) (4–5 miles)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	<b>Pat &amp; Alf Cracknell</b> 020 8302 0823	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath)</b> Mondays (10.00am)	<b>Gay Braybrook</b> 020 8309 6372	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Theatre (Group 2)</b> Various matinées	<b>Joan &amp; John Somerset</b> 020 8300 0890	<b>Yes.</b> Notice on board at meetings
	<b>The Cathedral</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (3.00pm)	<b>Val Gosden</b> 020 8300 0664	<b>1</b>

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 the Group Co-ordinator.

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

## PROGRAMME

### 2011

October	Mr. J. Newson	Her Majesty's Crown Jewels
November	Mr. G. Murrell	A policeman's lot was perhaps a happy one! (Memories of a City Policeman in the 1950s)
December	Mrs. P. Mortlock	A Country House Christmas

### 2012

January	John Beckham	A Woodland Mix
February	Alan Payne	What's on the Cards
March	Tony Farnham	Sailing Barges in their Heyday
April	Matthew Jackson	Korean Spirit & Culture
May	Michael Gandy	Seeing it Through Their Eyes
June	Mrs. Sandra Winter	Hand-Bell Ringing
July	Mr. Chris Hare	40 Years Without a Proper Job
August	<i>TBA</i>	
September	Myriam Steadman	Guide Dogs for the Blind
October	John Halligan	The Lord Mayor of the City of London
November	Derek Fulford	Antique Clocks & Watches
December	<i>TBA</i>	

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Vacant	
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Christine Smith	020 8304 2305
Membership Secretary	John Harlow	020 8300 3865
Speakers Secretary	Valerie Gosden	020 8300 0664
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Vacant	

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>Travel Group Leader</b>	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
<b>Raffle Organiser</b>	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
<b>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster</b>	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.

***Please submit Newsletter contributions by 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month – but at any time for the Website.***

## 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. Also available is an index of Newsletter 'Notices' covering the period April 2007 to this issue.

*Afterthought*

*Without my ignorance your knowledge would be meaningless.*