

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

October 2013



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

NOTICES

Computer Classes

Why not come along to our friendly classes to learn Microsoft Office. Students of all levels are welcome and we are covering Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 18.30–20.30 at:

Crown Woods College, The Arden Centre, 145 Bexley Road, Eltham SE9 2PT

Classes cost £8.00 per session payable in advance (preferably in cash on the first session) for five classes. You can enrol via the web site www.crownwoods.org.uk then follow the link for adult and family learning. Please contact Julie Taylor if you have any enquiries on the main school number: 020 8850 7678 or via email: jctaylor@crownwoods.org.uk

Crown Woods College

CRISIS

Your support for *CRISIS* is much appreciated. A cheque for £343.42 from our U3A was sent in July; a letter of thanks is on the notice board.

A recent communication from *CRISIS* includes Patrick's story. Like many homeless people, this was something that happened only to other people, and to end up sleeping on a park bench in the cold, without even a sleeping bag, was horrific. Patrick had worked solidly for over 20 years until he hurt his back and had to give up his job as a security guard. Not being a priority as he was single, not on drugs, and not an alcoholic, he could get no help from official sources. Fortunately, someone mentioned *CRISIS* to him. At last he had found someone who would listen to him, assess his situation, and give him support and help in finding a home.

There are so many people in Patrick's situation that every donation made to *CRISIS* is greatly valued and, sadly, such is the demand for these services that *CRISIS* is opening more centres in other parts of our country.

Val Gosden

PS. Since writing this article, a further £139.79 has been raised from both the sale of greetings cards and charity box donations. Thank you for your support.

Honorary members

It is customary for the Committee to grant honorary membership to members who have reached their 90th birthday and who have been in continuous membership for at least five years prior. Since records of members' ages are not recorded, it would be appreciated if members attaining the age of 90 advise a member of the Committee.

George Murrell

Nominated Charity 2014

Members are reminded that the charity to be supported throughout 2014 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:-

George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, DA15 8SH, or to any Committee member, by 1st November 2013.

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

George Murrell

Volunteers Needed to Organise the Teas

Denise Palmer, who has been overseeing the teas for the past few months, will no longer be able to continue as from January next year. We have the roster for the teas in place but we need one or two people who will see that the milk and biscuits arrive and generally sort out any changes in the roster that may arise. Please contact me for further details.

Thanks, Denise, for the work you have done and best of luck in your new home.

Gay Braybrook

GROUP NEWS

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell



Nine of our group gathered in the car park at Shoreham for a circular 4-mile walk via Otford. The day started very foggy but it cleared and became a very warm day. We soon came across a concrete pillar with a metal plate on it telling us that it was the planet Pluto. This is part of a scale model of the solar system – largest in the world – created for the millennium. The next pillar we saw was Uranus, when we came off the footpath and onto the main road into Otford. We walked through the village and across the playing fields where we came across the pillars representing the sun and inner planets. Rejoining a footpath, we then walked through the golf course and cricket field until we came out onto the road into Shoreham village. We completed the day with lunch at the Kings Arms.

Roy Black

i My pictures of parts of Otford's model solar system are on our website's "Gallery" page.

Editor

Local History 3 • Leaders Christine Withams & Janet Young



Our group's visit to the William Morris Gallery on Wednesday 11th September 2013 had been postponed from July because a large number of school parties had already been booked in and we were advised to reschedule our visit. The Gallery, which has had major redevelopment and had reopened in August 2012, had just been awarded the national prize for "Museum of the Year". With apologies from eight members of our group, but no contact from the rest of them, just five of us travelled to the Gallery on 11th September. From Blackhorse Road Station we took the bus along a busy, built up part of Walthamstow and were surprised and delighted to approach the large, detached house standing in the beautiful spacious grounds of Lloyd Park.

The gallery was opened by Prime Minister Clement Attlee in 1950 and is the only public museum devoted to English Arts and Crafts designer and early socialist, William Morris. Water House is a Grade II listed Georgian dwelling of about 1750 and it was the home of William Morris from 1848 to 1856 when his family down-sized(!) from their former home in Walthamstow. We all enjoyed the collection that illustrated Morris's life, work and influence. There were "hands on" exhibits at which we tried "our hand": viz, putting together a stained glass window jigsaw puzzle, seeing how weaving was done and looking at pattern repeats with the help of mirrors – which were some of the things that interested us. The café in the Conservatory provided adequate refreshment although a further eating place is available in Lloyd Park. Part of the garden at the back of the house has plants growing in it similar to those that inspired some of Morris's work. The park is well used by local residents and is well worth a visit in its own right.

Ilena Harrington

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watling



Our September visit was to the British Museum, and, although many of us had been there before, as the museum is so vast there is always plenty to see. On this occasion we consulted the map and decided to visit rooms 38 & 39 where a stunning selection of clocks and watches were on display. We then visited the coin gallery where a museum assistant allowed us to touch certain coins and a plastic note similar to the ones that are going to be introduced into the UK. He informed us that New Zealand, Australia and a few other countries already use this type of note. He advised us that if they do introduce a new £5 plastic note that we can wash it without causing any problems, but you must remember not to tumble dry it!

On the ground floor of the museum we were then able to see a Japanese silk panel depicting a Geisha House; this panel was on display to advertise the Japanese Exhibition which starts in October.














We all enjoyed our visit and would definitely return as there is so much to see.

Joyce Savinson

(i) The Bank of England is currently gauging public opinion before making a final decision on whether to issue plastic banknotes. Current UK banknotes are made from cotton fibre and linen rag, and the average fiver lasts for about a year. Unfit notes are shredded and can end up in industrial compost. Smaller, wipe-clean, polymer £5 notes could be introduced from 2016, matching currencies from over 20 other countries – and the £10 note would follow. The new polymer notes are more difficult to counterfeit, remain cleaner, can be recycled, and, because they last at least twice as long as the current ones, they will eventually be cheaper to produce.

Editor

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	VACANCIES
 Antiques Appreciation (Group 5) 3 rd Friday (10.00 am)	Martin Baker 020 8300 1752	1
 Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday	Margaret Scambler 020 8315 0108 Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
 Cinema Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Various	Yes
 Classical Music (Group 1) 2 nd Friday	Derick Johnson 020 8850 1245	Vacancies
 Concerts/Ballet/Opera Various dates & times	Norma Balfour 020 8303 7693	Yes ↳
 Darts (at the Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (noon) 🖐️	See Group Co-ordinator 020 8300 4291	Yes
 Family History Various days	Judith Swain 020 8303 5759	Yes
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 1) 1 st Thursday (2.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	1
 Knit & Knat Day to be decided	Various	2/4
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4-5 miles)	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am) 🖐️	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
 Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes ↳

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.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator ☎️ 020 8300 4291; email rjcmspncr@gmail.com.

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

🖐️ Not during school holidays

↳ Notice on the board at meetings

PROGRAMME

2013

October	Jack Wheeler	Japanese Gardens
November	Bernard Locket	Author
December	Jack Ripley	Max Miller & Friends

2014

January	Claire Rogers	Greenwich and Bexley Hospice
February	John Halligan	The Life and Times of Samuel Pepys
March	Peter Maggs	Henry's Trials
April	Don Dray	Down Memory Lane
May	Robert Vidler	The War Years (1914–1918)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	Margaret Scambler	020 8315 0108
Speakers Secretary	Sue Brooks	020 8298 1117
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Vacant	

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

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.

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

Information travels more surely to those with a lesser need to know.