

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

October 2016



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

Membership Renewal

All members are reminded that their membership will be coming up for renewal at the end of the year. Please collect a membership renewal form from either Lynn or myself at the October, November or December General Meeting. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please arrange for a form to be collected on your behalf. Thanks.

Pat Andrews, Membership Secretary

Reminder

Members are asked to note that the November monthly meeting on 17th November will take place at the United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup, and the charity to be supported throughout 2017 will be decided at this meeting. Any member wishing to propose a particular charity should submit his or her nomination with a short supporting written statement to me or any Committee member by 1st November 2016. Members nominating a charity must be prepared to accept responsibility for the collection arrangements.

George Murrell, Secretary, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, DA15 8SH
Email: george.murrell@btinternet.com

GROUP NEWS

Ramblers 3 • Leader Trevor Ford



Just a brief report for August, since it was entirely a repeat of the same walk a year before. That is to say, the route was the same, but, as Chaucer would have said, "It's the people wot make it." So our progress through Scadbury Park past the moated, ruined manor house was a reminder to some, but a new experience for others. We then walked through Petts Wood – one of those huge areas of London woodland saved from the developers in the late 19th century – and past the Willett Memorial to the instigator of British Summer Time. We curved round alongside the railway at the "point of no return" then went up the hill into Chislehurst and the Crown pub for lunch. A shorter trip through the other part of Scadbury Park returned us to the car park. Overall, it was a shorter walk than some of my others, and with a smaller group, but nonetheless enjoyable for all that.

Trevor Ford

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Our September trip out was on one of the hottest days of the year, and to stroll along the cooler parts of the London Wetland Centre was most refreshing. Two of our group joined a guided tour but the rest of us just strolled and looked at ducks, ducks, more ducks and a heron which, obligingly, waited until photographs of it had been taken. Our visits to the hides were rewarded with views of the lakes and birds, and, dare I say it, yet more ducks. Information boards described the different types of duck, and there was information in the hides about the types of birds that could be seen. It was a most pleasant, if hot, trip out.

Val Gosden

 My pictures of the London Wetland Centre appear on the Gallery page of our website together with pictures from Ramblers 2 and Parks & Gardens Appreciation showing details from the London Loop, St James Park, Thames Walk and Hastings to Bexhill walks.

Editor

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Our visit on 14th September was to the RNLI's Tower Lifeboat Station. Following the *Marchioness* disaster in 1989 in which 51 people lost their lives, the Government called upon the RNLI to extend their life saving skills to the River Thames. Originally based near the Tower of London, Tower Lifeboat Station was relocated in 2006 to the Victoria Embankment on what was previously the Waterloo Police Pier, and which has now been renamed 'Lifeboat Pier.'

We visited the training room where we learnt the history of the RNLI and later viewed some videos of their work. We also saw the kit room and well-equipped medical room. We were shown the lifeboat *Hurley Burley* stationed there and were lucky enough to see the lifeboat from Chiswick which refuels at Tower Lifeboat Station.

The most important thing to do if we ever see anyone in trouble in the Thames is to dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea and on the River Thames.

Jean Duhig & Rosalie Woods

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for September was *After You* by Jojo Moyes. This was a sequel to the book we read and enjoyed last year, *Me Before You*, a romantic novel. It was written in her usual humorous style, but it was, nevertheless, a heart-tugging story of love and loss. Indeed, this book has been so successful that it has since been produced into a film. The sequel, however, was rather a disappointment; although still very readable, it did not live up to the predecessor. The story followed on from the death of Will who was Lou's great love. She is devastated with grief and we follow her as she tries to pick up the pieces and rebuild her life. She has a shock when a stranger comes to visit her and claims she is Will's daughter from a previous teenage relationship. The ensuing family drama holds some gripping moments and traumas but also some very funny turns. Yes, it is a readable book but just a little disappointing after the promise of her previous best seller.

June Reid

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
 Classical Music 2 nd Friday (2.30–4.30 pm)	Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Vacancies
 Concerts/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 Tues  & 4 th Thurs 	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	David Wedderkop 020 8850 5042	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Margaret Platt 020 8309 6395	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 2) 1 st Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Mary Hawes 020 8300 0521	Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30 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 a group.

 Not during school/bank holidays

£ A charge applies

 Certain seasons only

↓ Notice on the board at meetings

 Open to all

 Temporary point of contact

PROGRAMME

2016

October	Kevin Reynolds	The Best (walks) of Southern England
November	Steve Roberts	Tales of a Scotland Yard Detective
December	Roy Bilham	Christmas Music (on trumpet)

2017

January	Martin Heard	The Gardens of Impressionism – Monet and others
February	Ralph Todd	The Natural Wonders of Iceland
March	A.G.M Joseph Woodcock	Springtime in the Garden
April	Peter Jones	National Trust Properties of the South East

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Lesley South	020 8300 8298
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
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	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: 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE (020 8466 6139) www.u3a.org.uk

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

Age is a high price to pay for maturity.