

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

September 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

Membership Renewal 2014

All members are reminded that their memberships will be coming up for renewal at the end of the year. Please collect a membership renewal form from me 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.

Margaret Scambler, Membership Secretary

New TV Programme

Wall To Wall, a TV production company, are seeking volunteers to take part in a new TV programme called "The Gift". Anyone who is interested is invited to contact Rachel Ozers on 020 7241 9301 for further details.

Is there someone who has changed the course of your life forever? Someone you never got the chance to thank properly? Or someone you've wronged in the past who you feel a burning need to apologise to? Do you long to talk to them but can't find the courage to do it alone? What if you've lost touch with them altogether? Living with an unpaid debt of gratitude or an overdue apology can be an enormous burden. For many thousands of people across Britain, it's often impossible to move on until you have had the chance to express your feelings in person. "The Gift" is the programme that can help.

George Murrell

Information for Groups

For those who are interested, The Third Age Trust's website currently contains Newsletters on the following subjects: Architecture, Art, Family History, Folk Dancing, Gardening, Jazz Appreciation, Languages, Living History, Philosophy, Practical Music, Recorder Playing, Science, Storytelling, Textile Crafts, Walking, and Writing.

The Trust's website address is <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>.

Editor

Glyndebourne – Offer for U3A members

Thursday 24th October: exclusive “Introduction to Glyndebourne” talk at 3pm before the Glyndebourne Tour performance of the opera “Hansel and Gretel” from 4pm until 6pm. The grounds, shop, Long Bar and Mildmay Tea Rooms will be open from 2pm. There is a free audience coach service to and from Lewes Station at 3pm and 6.30pm. Tickets may be booked online at <http://www.glyndebourne.com/> using promotion code 10051 and prices range from £18 – £61. Bookings must be made by 27th September. Phone 01273 815000 with any queries about bookings between 10am and 6pm Monday to Fridays.

The “Nutcracker” ballet from the Mariinsky Theatre will be performed on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 20th November from 1.50 until 4.15pm at the Odeon Covent Garden Cinema in Shaftesbury Avenue. Exclusive performances for U3A members. Doors open from 1.20pm, and, following a short introduction at 1.50pm, the ballet commences at 2pm. There is a 20 minute interval. Tickets at £14 per person are available by written application to Third Age Trust on a first come, first served basis.

U3A Christmas Concert with the Grove Singers and Organ takes place on Wednesday 4th December at the Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London. Two performances – 3.30pm and 6.30pm. The concert lasts 2 hours. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served and the concert will include traditional carols. Tickets at £18 per person are available from Third Age Trust.

Sidcup Operatic Society presents “The Pirates of Penzance”. Performances at the Bob Hope Theatre, Wythfield Road, Eltham from Thursday 17th until Saturday 19th October at 7.45pm and 2.30pm matinée on the Saturday. Ticket prices start at £10.50 and discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Booking office telephone 020 8301 2681. Further details below.

Other forthcoming events, all at the Carlton Centre, Sidcup, are:-

21st September – Auction evening.

2nd November – Quiz night.

15th December – Christmas concert.

George Murrell

Sidcup Operatic Society The Pirates of Penzance (17th–19th October 2013)

Sidcup Operatic Society presents the great classic Gilbert and Sullivan operetta “The Pirates of Penzance” which includes such classic songs as “With Cat-Like Tread”, “Poor Wandering One”, “A Policeman’s Lot Is Not a Happy One”, and “For I Am a Pirate King”. The story concerns Frederic, who, having completed his 21st year, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tender-hearted pirates. He meets Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley, and the two young people fall instantly in love. Frederic finds out, however, that he was born on 29th February, and so, technically, he only has a birthday each leap year. His apprenticeship indentures state that he remains apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday, and so he must serve for another 63 years. Bound by his own sense of duty, Frederic’s only solace is that Mabel agrees to wait for him faithfully.

The Pirates of Penzance will be performed at the Bob Hope Theatre, Wythfield Road, Eltham, SE9 5TG on Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th April at 7:45pm (Saturday matinée at 2.30pm). Ticket prices start from £10.50. We also have a special rate for groups, for any bookings that include more than 10 people, we will give another ticket for free! The Sidcup Operatic Society box office can be contacted on 020 8301 2681. Tickets can also be booked online at www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk (a fee of 5% is added to all online bookings). For group bookings, please contact 020 8300 1392.

Please also note our other upcoming social events:

- We will be hosting an auction evening on 21st September at the Carlton Centre, Carlton Road, Sidcup at 7:30pm. Entry is £1 for society members and £2 for non-society members and there will be a variety of auction lots to bid on both goods and services.
- Our next Quiz Nights will be on 2nd November and 8th February at the Carlton Centre, Carlton Road, Sidcup at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £11 and include Fish and Chips.
- Our Christmas concert will be held on Sunday 15th December at Carlton Centre, Carlton Road, Sidcup at 3pm. Tickets cost £11 and include Christmas refreshments and our usual bumper Christmas raffle.

Sidcup Operatic Society

Around the Country

Lymington U3A celebrated the 30th anniversary of the U3A Movement's founding at its December meeting held at the local community centre. Entertainment was provided by the Southern Union Chorus Barbershop, who sang songs ranging from "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" to "Zing! Went the Strings of my Heart". Members also enjoyed tea, wine and celebration cake.

Members of Ripon and District U3A have been making waves in their advertising by setting up stalls at local markets, fayres and shows to spread the word. Business Secretary Sheila Burney even publicised the group from inside the pen at a cattle market.

A dozen ladies from the Great Glen U3A used their brushes and palette knives to produce a landscape masterpiece under the supervision of group leader Jayne Good.

Members of Preston and District U3A celebrated Lancashire day with a medley of Lancashire songs, poems, monologues and a short history of the area. The food was also themed upon Lancashire with a hotpot lunch, mushy peas, Chorley cakes, Eccles cakes, Lancashire cheese and Uncle Hoe's Mintballs.

Todmorden U3A has now been in existence for five years and is edging close to 300 members – making it the largest voluntary organisation in town. There are active special interest groups: Practical Art, Crafts, Creative Writing, a Concert Party and, recently, Photography as well as 4 language groups, Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation, two Poetry Groups, Philosophy, World Affairs and a large Science Group. There are also groups that are principally for enjoyment: Walking, Table Tennis and Badminton, Quiz Group, two Scrabble groups, Coffee Club and Lunch Club. Finally there is the Let's Go Group that arranges an outing each month which is open to all members.

Over 100 members celebrated the 21st anniversary of Newbury U3A at a lunch held at the local rugby club in September. Broadcaster and journalist Nicholas Owen, the guest speaker for the afternoon, gave a fascinating talk including many amusing anecdotes from his six years as the Royal correspondent for ITV News. Their other guests included the Mayor of Newbury, the Leader of West Berkshire Council and a local newspaper editor.

Stourbridge U3A showcased its members artwork at an exhibition held at The Ruskin Centre, Stourbridge in June. Christine Davies and Naomi Simone, leaders of the two art groups at Stourbridge, arranged for every member of each group to submit pieces, resulting in some amazing talent on display. It is hoped that the groups will put on a further exhibition to celebrate the U3A's 30th birthday at an event in September.

Editor

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music 1 • Leader Derick Johnson



The Classical music Group has been operating for many years and it is heartening to see it continues to survive. We seem to have obtained a group which has a mixture of tastes in classical music and which always manages to surprise.

JOHN'S CHOICE FOR JULY 2013

1. Julian Fucik – Florentine March London Festival Orchestra Alfred Shulz – conductor
 2. G. Puccini O Mio Babbino Caro Katherine Jenkins Philharmonia Orchestra Roberto Benzi – conductor
 3. S. Carcillo Core 'ngrato José Carreras English Chamber Orchestra Roberto Benzi conductor
 4. L. van Beethoven 8th Symphony in F Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Sir Charles Mackerras cond.
 5. Russian Folk Tune Kalinka Vivat Vocal Assembly Recorded in Novgorod in 2002
 6. W. Byrd Praise the Lord O my soul Dollar Consort conductor Mark Deller Canarta 1575
- Break for tea
7. F. Listz On a theme from Paganini Nikito Magaloff
 8. A. Borodin String Quartet № 2 1st movement Allegretto moderato The Chilingirian Quartet
 9. C. Debussy The Girl with the Flaxen Hair Emma Johnson
 10. M. Ravel Pavane for a dead infant Emma Johnson
 11. W. A. Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Capella Istropolitana C. W. Sobotka

DERICK'S CHOICE FOR AUGUST 2013

1. Handel Lascia ch'io pianga (Rinaldo) Camerata Budapest cond. Laszlo Kovacs Ingrid Kertesi
2. Pokarekara Ana (come back to me) Hayley Westenra
3. Bachianas Brasileiras № 5 Aria Cantilena H. Villa-Lobos – Renée Fleming
4. Antonio Vivaldi Violin Concerto in G № 3 Scottish Ensemble Alison Balsom – trumpet
5. Narciso Yepes – guitar Fernando Sor Introduction & variations on a theme by Mozart
6. Andres Segovia Villa Lobos Prelude № 1
7. J. S. Bach James Galway – flute
8. Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez English Chamber Orchestra Carlos Bonell – guitar
9. Joseph Stalder Württembergisches Kammerorchester Peter Lukas Graf – flute

Derick Johnson

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Our August visit was to Hogarth's House, Chiswick. We first took a short walk in the gardens of Chiswick House where much gardening was in progress. After an early lunch in the café, we walked to Hogarth's House. It is hard to believe this was his country home as it is right on the busy A4. This recently refurbished house is hung with Hogarth's famous prints, and two floors of the House are open to visitors. The displays present Hogarth with his close family and servants, and there are also personal items which belonged to the Hogarth family. After a short walk down Church Street, we found Hogarth's tomb in St. Nicholas's churchyard; we were now at the river Thames so we enjoyed a sunny walk to Barnes Bridge station.

Christine Withams

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leader Val Gosden



On a lovely summer's day in July we travelled to the village of Chorleywood where, as usual, we found somewhere to have coffee and buy sandwiches for lunch. We ate these sitting down on the ground under the trees on the common (which we had reached by a rather steep climb up from the town and station), and, despite being 'elderly,' we all managed to get up again afterwards! The common is fairly extensive and we walked through both open grassland and wooded areas to reach a church on the north side of the common, hearing many birds and seeing quite a few butterflies en route. We then made a slow downhill return to the station, and so to home.

Our trip out in August was on another lovely summer's day. We travelled to Wanstead, which is more rural than we expected, and the town consists of smaller shops rather than the chain stores present in so many towns. We purchased sandwiches for our lunch which we ate in Wanstead Park which is part of Epping Forest. We then walked round the quite extensive lake with the sun dappling through the trees, and spotted two herons from the heronry plus several ducks on the water as we continued round the lake; it was all most pleasant.

I have enjoyed leading this group for the last 6 years – I have seen so many places I otherwise would not have seen, and all in the company of some of our U3A members who have, I feel, become good friends. I wish the very best to my successors and feel sure they, too, will enjoy more trips out to various parts of London. I look forward to reading newsletter items to see where they have been to.

Val Gosden

Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Barbara Olney



On 14th August our group visited The Library and Museum of Freemasonry situated in Great Queen Street. We travelled to Charing Cross by train and then boarded the 91 bus on the Strand for the short journey to Kingsway. We had time for a quick coffee before making a 5 minute walk to the Museum in time for the midday tour which was conducted by a Sidcup resident. Tours are available Monday to Friday at 11.00, 12.00 14.00, 15.00 and 16.00 hours though it is advisable to check in advance in case there are ceremonial functions which take priority.

The building is an excellent example of the Art Deco style. Construction began in 1927 and was completed in 1933. An appeal for funds was launched in 1917 and by 1927 over a million pounds had been raised. The tour, lasting about 50 minutes, took us through the Professional Corridor along which the Grand Officers walk from the Robing Room down to the Grand Temple. We also saw the shrine area, an impressive memorial to the 1914–18 war. On all sides and overhead were outstanding examples of craftsmanship, portraits of leading members of the order from previous years and everything was maintained to a very high standard. It is hard to believe that the building emerged from bombing during the war with only two broken windows.

At the conclusion of the tour we were free to wander around the Museum and view many varied items of pottery, porcelain, glassware, silver, furniture, clocks, jewel and other regalia. Altogether, it was a very interesting and worthwhile outing.

Amelia O'Brien

Walking in London • Leader Val Gosden



Ten of us took part in the August walk of around 2½ miles in the City starting at The London Stone, near Cannon Street. Although there is conflicting information on this, according to several sources the Stone was used to measure distances in Roman Britain from London, which was the symbolic authority and heart of the City of London where deals were struck, official statements made, and oaths sworn.

At about 10.30am we reached St. Stephen Walbrook which, unfortunately, was still closed leaving us unable to view its classic interior which is hidden by a plain frontage. The River Walbrook runs in this vicinity, and, in the 2nd century AD, a Temple of Mithras stood on its banks. Adjacent to St. Stephen's is The Mansion House, official home to the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Building work on the Guildhall, both inside and out, meant that we were unable to view it properly. It was built between 1411 and 1440 during the era when The Lord Mayor and the City rivalled the Monarch for influence and prestige. As well as medieval, the site has Roman and Saxon connections. On entering the Great Hall, visitors are looked down on by carvings of two giants, Gog and Magog. Legend has it that Brutus of Troy defeated these two before chaining them to the gates of a palace which once stood on this site. Leading from the Hall, an ornate clock features a working blacksmith as part of its movement.

The Bank of England was founded 1694 as a private bank. The Royal Exchange was founded in 1566; granted Royal status by Elizabeth I, traders, stockbrokers and London merchants met at the exchange. However, during the 17th century stockbrokers were banned because of their bad manners and they then had to operate from nearby establishments. The building is now used as a shopping mall and an informal meeting place.

Leadenhall Market dates back to the 14th century; originally a meat, poultry and game market built in 1881, today it is a grade 2 listed building that has connections to Dick Whittington. Lloyds of London, the world's most famous insurance market, was designed by Sir Richard Rogers and opened in 1986 by the Queen. Close by, a wall sculpture depicts water, earth, wind and fire.

The Gherkin was designed by Lord Forster and was opened in 2004. It stands on the site of the Baltic Exchange which was destroyed by an IRA bomb in 1992. One hundred and eighty meters high, only one piece of curved glass has been used and this is the lens shaped cap at the top. Remains of a Roman girl were discovered in 1995 during the building of the Gherkin; she has been reburied using Roman traditions near the Gherkin. Ryan Gander's contemporary sculpture in the form of a sphere, made of an assortment of objects, is a short distance from the Gherkin's entrance.

The Monument, built in 1671 to commemorate the Great Fire of London in 1666, was our last stop. At 202 feet, it is the highest free standing column in the world, and took six years to build. One of our group decided to climb the 311 steps to view the skyline of London from the top.

Cynthia & Roy Morton

(i) The above is an edited version of Roy's contribution to this Newsletter. The full version is accessible from the "Group News" page of our website in PDF format; this contains more facts and information along with photographs of many of the landmarks visited.

Editor

Parks & Gardens Appreciation • Leaders Jill Bryant & Barbara Olney



Thirteen of our group met in Sidcup despite the very heavy rain and travelled to Beckenham by bus to start our visit to Kelsey Park. By the time we had had a comfort break in a very nice café beside the gates of the park, the rain had stopped. Apart from some of us (mainly Joyce!) getting “dripped” on from the huge trees, we remained dry for the rest of the day. Kelsey Park was officially opened in 1912 and is the jewel in the crown of Bromley’s parks. The main focal point is the lake which is a haven for wild life, and we saw plenty of Canada geese and ducks of various species. There is a heronry on the larger island in the lake but we did not see any grey herons – probably because we were talking too much (well, me anyway). We then followed several pathways, and one of them led us over a rustic wooden bridge down to a magical waterfall, where the banks are covered in a lush vegetation of ferns. The spectacular herbaceous border was full to capacity and full of summer colour. Thanks to some of our very knowledgeable members, I, for one, learned some new plant names and also the conditions in which to plant them. The formal planting was lovely and most of us would have been more than happy to give a home to the Variegated Canna. There were huge trees everywhere and they included one massive plane tree. I have since learned that there are 99 kinds of trees in the park, all of which had decided to drip on Joyce – or so she said.

Anyway after such an interesting day, I feel sure we will do a return visit in the not too distant future.

Theresa Cornwell

① Kelsey Park was originally the landscaped park of the Kelsey Manor Estate of which the last mansion was a rambling, Gothic Revival house built in 1869 with matching chapel. In the late 19th century, the manor became a convent and then a school for girls. The land adjoining Wickham Road was sold in the 1890s and laid out with large Arts & Crafts movement houses. In 1908, after the death of its owner, the Estate was sold; Beckenham Urban District Council later purchased the ornamental gardens which became a public park in 1912.

Editor

Help Desk Enquiries

CALLER: “Does your European breakdown motoring policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?”

OPERATOR: “Doesn’t the name of the product give you a clue?”



CALLER (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France): “If I register my car in France, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?”



TECH SUPPORT: “Click on the ‘my computer’ icon on the left side of the screen.”

CUSTOMER: “Your left or my left?”

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 Various Tuesdays	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
	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

September	Chris McCoory	Rogues, Rascals & Rebels
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

In any household, junk accumulates to fill the storage space available.