

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

September 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

A Celebration of 1,000 U3As

To mark reaching the milestone of 1,000 U3As, a special event is being held from 1.00 pm–5.00 pm on 22nd November at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Rd, London.

Eric Midwinter (founder of the U3A movement) and Baroness Frances d'Souza (Speaker of the House of Lords) will be addressing the hall.

Tickets cost just £5, and are available now via Eventbrite.

To book visit u3a1000.eventbrite.co.uk.

George Murrell

i Eventbrite appears to offer no easy way to contact them directly by telephone. I suggest that you address any questions regarding tickets to the Third Age Trust.

Editor

Hopping Down in Kent

An exhibition is taking place at the Kent History & Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone from 1st August–29th October. Entry is free of charge. Though the exhibition focuses on hop farming and picking, beer brewing isn't ignored. It includes:

- some original Kent brewers' notebooks dating from the 1820s;
- a copy of an 1835 map of Kent showing parishes that grew hops;
- original beer bottle labels.

You may like to know that the historic collections held at the Kent History & Library Centre contain local brewing archives, mostly contained within the large archive of Whitbread in Kent, including their Kent subsidiaries Cobb, Flint, Leney and George Beer & Rigden Ltd. These, in turn, contain material about the breweries and their businesses as well as that of their public houses. Details of these can be found on an online catalogue to be found here: <http://185.121.204.47/calmview/>. Most can be found by clicking 'Catalogue Search,' then putting the reference 'U5555' in the 'FindingNo' field. For further information about the brewing archives at KHLC, email archives@kent.gov.uk.

Hannah Thomas, Libraries Registration & Archives

U3A Explores Science at The Royal Institution

You are invited to attend an event for U3A members only at The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BS, 1.45 pm – 4.45 pm Monday 10th October 2016. The cost is £20 per ticket with a maximum of 15 tickets per order.

Programme

1.45 pm: Introduction by Pam Jones, Chair of The Third Age Trust, who will act as chair for the afternoon, followed by Jon Copley – Deeper than the Titanic, hotter than molten lead: exploring hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor. Our ‘blue planet’ is not just an ocean planet; it is a deep ocean planet, relative to our human scale. Sixty percent of our world lies beneath water more than one kilometre deep, beyond the reach of the sun’s rays. People developed the technology to withstand the crushing pressures of the abyss less than a century ago, and, since then, our journeys have revealed its landscapes and inhabitants to be just as rich and varied as those on land. Among its wonders are hydrothermal vents, where fluids hot enough to melt lead meet cold deep-ocean water to build mineral spires several storeys high in a matter of months, and where lush colonies of deep-sea animals thrive thanks to geologically-fuelled microbes among them.

2.20 pm Question and answer session (15 minutes)

2.35 pm Courtenay Norbury – Developmental Language Disorders: their prevalence and impact. Language is a uniquely human accomplishment that most children acquire effortlessly. Some children, however, struggle to learn their native language for no obvious reason. Such children raise interesting questions about how language is situated in the developing brain and how it relates to other developmental skills such as non-verbal reasoning, social interaction and academic learning. Data from the Surrey Communication and Language in Education Study (SCALES) provides crucial data on how many children in the UK start school with language disorder, how language disorder impacts behaviour and academic attainment, and how differences in social advantage and cognitive ability may or may not influence language learning over time.

3.10 pm Question and answer session (15 minutes)

3.25 pm Tea and coffee (30 minutes)

3.55 pm Jill Stuart – Who owns outer space? As governments and corporations continue to venture beyond our own planet, how do we decide who owns space? Jill Stuart draws on her extensive research into outer space politics, explaining our existing laws, where they’ve come from and how politics on Earth affects what happens in the cosmos.

4.30 pm Question and answer session (15 minutes)

4.45 pm Close of meeting

George Murrell

Meeting of Group Leaders

A coffee morning and meeting for all group leaders will take place at 11 am on Thursday 6th October at Ockley Court, Alder Road, Sidcup. Any group leader unable to attend is requested to arrange for a group member to attend and represent their group. The purpose of the meeting is to provide opportunity for an exchange of ideas and advice. In addition, it is hoped to set up a “cascade” system by which any urgent information (*eg.* a last minute cancellation of general meeting) can be forwarded to all members via “contacts” for each group. In addition to group leaders or representatives, any other interested members are invited to attend.

George Murrell

Change of Venue for November General Meeting

Please note that the Monthly General Meeting at 2.00 pm on Thursday 17th November will be held at the United Services Club, Main Road, Sidcup. Entry directly to the meeting is via a side gate and door located on the right hand side of the access road leading to the Council car park.

George Murrell

① Please pass this information on to any member you know who would normally attend a General Meeting, but who is not here today. Although Newsletters are available to download from our website specifically so that members can keep up with developments, very few are actually read this way.

Editor

Events

“Much Ado about Shakespeare” – A day of workshops, discussions, group readings, *etc.*, of different aspects of Shakespeare’s works working with the Ambassador Theatre Group’s West End Creative Learning Team which are to be held at the Piccadilly Theatre, London from 10.45 am until 4.15 pm on Thursday 3rd November. Tickets costing £35 pp. (including sandwich lunch plus tea and coffee throughout the day) are available from the National Office on 020 8466 6139. Cut-off date for booking is 7th October.

The Secret Language of Art. Symbols and allegory in National Gallery Paintings. A study day for U3A members hosted by the National Gallery (in the Sainsbury Wing), Trafalgar Square, from 11 am until 3.30 pm, on Thursday 24th November. Tickets costing £18 pp can be booked through the members section of the national website www.u3a.org.uk or from the National Office on 020 8466 6139.

U3A Christmas Concert with the Brandenburg Singers and Organ at the Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy. There will be three concerts this year at 2 pm and 5.30 pm on Wednesday 7th December, and 2 pm on Monday 12th December. Tickets cost £19 pp including minced pies and mulled wine and are obtainable on line from national website www.u3a.org.uk or from the National Office on 020 8466 6139.

George Murrell

News About Groups

Antiques Appreciation: Martin Baker is pleased to announce that 2 of his 3 groups (*ie.* 1 & 2) are starting again in September. Members from Group 3 have joined one of the other two groups, so currently both groups are full. If there is sufficient interest, Martin will reinstate Group 3.

Science/Medicine/Technology: Trevor Ford is planning to start a group in the autumn on a trial basis with a view to a fuller launch in the new year. It will be on Tuesday afternoons (on 1st or 3rd of month) at Trevor’s house and will involve a variety of resources, with time for discussion. If you are interested, please sign up on the notice board at the monthly meeting.

Trevor Ford

Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Joyce Savinson



A tour of the Huguenot Museum at Rochester

There were 15 people on this trip and everything was going well until the organiser (who shall be nameless) realised she had forgotten there were three parts to the travel plan: Sidcup to Dartford, Dartford to Bluewater and then Bluewater to Rochester. She had completely forgotten the middle bit. On arrival at the museum there was just time for coffee before the tour which took half an hour and which was given by a lovely young lady called Amy. We learned a lot about the persecution and history of the Huguenots and recommend this visit. This is a new museum funded by the Lottery and several other patrons. We retired as usual to the pub for lunch and to discuss our visit and put the world to rights.

Ruby Weedon & Sheila Fallon

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for August was *The Marriage Certificate* written by Stephen Molyneux. Although written in a rather rigid style, the plot of this story contains many twists and turns making it quite an exciting read. Peter buys an old marriage certificate in an antique shop and, being a family history expert, strives to find the drama behind this fragile piece of paper. The story begins in 1898, whilst Peter's search is in the present. There is also a professional company searching to unravel the estate of a deceased single man and the ensuing race to trace the true beneficiaries quickens the pulses. This is a family mystery of love, survival and buried secrets. We all liked this book and found it an unusual tale but quite believable.

June Reid

Pot Pourri • Leader Val Gosden



Our August trip was to the Victoria & Albert Museum where an exhibition entitled 'Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear' was being held. There were many items on view, including underwear from the 1700s up to the modern period. These were made of various materials, including old-fashioned whalebone and wicker, which fortunately has been succeeded by more modern materials. Fashions over the decades dictated that different parts of the body should be enhanced, resulting in such ideas as nipped-in waists, or accentuated busts, and underwear to promote these fashions was designed. One section included maternity dresses, another featured the beneath-the-dress 'apparatus' used for full-skirt dresses, and yet another showed some menswear, including Y-fronts and sportswear.

We had two bonuses on this trip, one being that a reduced entry fee was being charged. The second was that we could visit to a very colourful exhibition entitled 'Curtain Up', a free exhibition of items relating to the theatre-world. Posters, model stage sets, costumes and other theatre properties, such as War Horse, were on display, along with items featuring well-known theatre personnel such as Dame Judi Dench. All this and a lunch in the garden made for a most enjoyable day out.

Val Gosden

Freedom Pass Explorers • Leaders Christine Withams & Joy O'Donnell



On 8th August we continued our exploration of the Medway Towns; this time we visited St. Mary's Island in Chatham. This has a long history dating back to the Napoleonic War. French prisoners were buried in the marshland, but were later exhumed and now rest in St George's Centre. The journey took a long time but, when we arrived at Chatham Docks, it was time for coffee which we had outside the Ship & Trades. After a short break, we started on our way – crossing the bridge to the island then walking along the boardwalk and passing a marina and onto the footpath which leads round the island. It was easy walking and the weather was perfect. We then made our way up an embankment – called a bund – from which we could see for miles. Unfortunately, as with a lot of open spaces, there are plans to develop another section of the land. Hopefully, the main areas of interest will be left undisturbed. We returned to the Ship & Trades for lunch and then journeyed home. It was a fabulous day enjoyed by all.

Joy O'Donnell

Local History 2 • Leader Pauline Watkins & Joyce Savinson



On Wednesday 10th August, a group of 20 visited The London City Mission in Tower Bridge Road. The start of the day had a hiccup inasmuch as our train was cancelled. Rather than wait for the next train, we went to Hither Green and from there we caught a train to London Bridge. From there we had a 15 minute walk to our destination and we were delighted to find that we had arrived at the appointed time.

We were greeted by Lucy and Jackie who are fund raisers for LCM and who had coffee and biscuits ready for us. Lucy then gave us a talk and history of the LCM, and this was followed by a short video which we all found very interesting. She then handed us over to a young man who works on their behalf in the Bermondsey area. We had to walk a fair bit to the part he wanted us to see, but it was worth it. He and his partner look after the elderly there by visiting them regularly and helping in any way they can. A large part of the work in this area is with the youth, and they have opened a gym, mainly for boys, who work out and time is spent listening to them and giving advice. It also includes Bible study and discussions. The plan now is to extend the existing gym as it is such a worthwhile cause which keeps the teenagers off the streets and, hopefully, guides them to a better life. On the way back to the LCM, he showed us various points of interest. It is a much built up area and a number of old flats have been demolished and new modern ones have replaced them. We were then given more refreshments and a book on the LCM. There was no charge for this visit, but we were all happy to give a donation to a very good cause which is self-funding.

Further information

The London City Mission is a gospel organisation. It was founded in 1835 by David Nasmith, a Scotsman, with the aim of reaching out to those in the neediest districts with few friends, new immigrant communities and elderly people. They are also interested in those who are unwell. In 1849, a cholera outbreak occurred resulting in 10,000 deaths in one month in some of the poorest areas in London. The Mission played a prominent part in whatever way they could to alleviate hardship and their work continues to this day. While religion plays a large part in the Mission's activities, no attempt is made to encourage people they help to worship at a particular church; rather it is felt that they attend a church of their choice and one where they feel most comfortable.

Amelia O'Brien

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

September	Alan Ashby	Life-Saving Work of the Lifeboat Service
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

Behind every successful man stands an amazed woman.