

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

September 2018



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

Learning Not Lonely

A booklet summarising a study on the subject of loneliness which may be of interest to members can be downloaded from the main U3A website under the “News/Archives” section.

George Murrell

(i) Photos taken during trips made by Freedom Pass Explorers group to Morden Hall Park on 13th August, and Parks & Gardens Appreciation group’s visit to Holland Park on 23rd August are available to view on the Gallery page of our website.

Editor

GROUP NEWS

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



On a very hot day in July, we travelled to Richmond. We walked across Richmond Green and down to the river passing Richmond Palace, staying, as much as we could, in any shade. By the time we reached Terrace Gardens some of the group had left us to return while five of us carried on walking along the Thames Path. When we arrived at the foot ferry, we hailed the ferryman who promptly arrived and took us to the north side of the Thames. The cost was £1 each! Passing Marble Hill House and Park on our way, we found a nice lunch stop and then went on to St Margaret’s Station.

In August, eleven of us travelled out from London Bridge Station on the Northern Line to Morden. We made for Morden Hall Park where we had coffee in the old stable area, one of many old buildings remaining of the Hatfield Family Estate. Once a snuff milling business which used the River Wandle to power the mill that crushed tobacco leaves, it made for a dusty environment and workers had to use sponge respirators to help them breathe. Demand for snuff was high during the 1800s. After a walk around the grounds, we made our way to Phipps Bridge where we caught the tram to Wimbledon for lunch and then the main line train to Waterloo. It’s been a lovely summer for our trips out!

Christine Withams

Local History 3 • Leader Christine Withams



Everyone appeared to be on holiday in August so there were only four of us on our visit to Trinity Buoy Wharf.

We travelled to Canning Town on the DLR. A bridge has been built from the station across the river Lea onto an area undergoing development – London City Island. Passing through this area, we came to Trinity Buoy Wharf. The history of this area is now displayed on boards throughout the site. There is London's first lighthouse, Michael Faraday's workshop, buoys and markers and more. Many of the old buildings remain along with ships containers that are used as housing and workshops and offices by artists, musicians, fashion designers and photographers. After lunch – there are two good places to eat – we walked back via a Nature reserve to East India Dock.

Christine Withams

Local History 2 • Leaders Pauline Watling & Joyce Savinson



On 8th August, a party of 19 visited the Museum of GOWR (Grand Order of the Water Rats) in Gray's Inn Road. We took the train from Sidcup to Charing Cross and then a bus to King's Cross. From there it was a short walk to the GOWR. The weather was kind to us, no blistering heat and no rain. Directly beside the entrance where we had to be at 2.00 pm is a café so we went there and found a manager very unprepared for such an influx; the service was therefore slow and there was a slight panic when Ken Joy, the curator appeared to tell us it was time to go next door for our tour. The long-awaited sandwiches had to be gobbled pronto!

The main entrance to the building is long and narrow and has recently been refurbished using lovely marble. On the walls in frames are all the names of Water Rats from 1890 when the charitable order was formed. We were mesmerised by the array of names, many of which were known to us. From there, either by lift or stairs, we proceeded to the Conference Room where we sat and listened to a very interesting talk on the history of the Order which was sprinkled with some very amusing anecdotes. We then visited the Library section where we saw mementoes of a bygone era, *ie*, theatrical books, signed copies of autobiographies and various memorabilia such as Harry Lauder's walking stick, Tommy Cooper's fez, Charlie Chaplin's cane and Danny La Rue's costume and many more. They were all very interesting and reminiscent of days unlikely to be seen again given the death of Old Time Music Hall. Our last stopping point was in a lounge where we enjoyed refreshments and a video of stars either relating anecdotes from their lives or performing as we remember them. Then we had a raffle and there was a display of various items to remind us of our visit. This concluded what was an extremely enjoyable 3 hour visit which brought back memories of a different era. Mr Ken Joy, who was our contact and host, had been in Music Hall was entertaining and made us very welcome. Everyone really enjoyed this tour which was well worth the cost of £15.50; it is one we would recommend. (A party of 15 is required with a deposit of £25).

Amelia O'Brien & Maureen Woplin

(i) Membership of the Water Rats is restricted to 180 long-serving male members of the entertainment industry plus 20 Companion Rats, all of whom must be respected and trusted by their peers. The charity raises money by organising shows, lunches, dinners, *etc*. Its objectives are “to assist members of the theatrical profession, or their dependents, who, due to illness or old age are in need.” When possible, additional funds raised go to a diverse range of charities and good causes including hospitals, health charities and benevolent funds.

Editor

Pot Pourri • Leaders Pat Laughton & Rinka Halliday



With weather set fair, the group caught a train to London Bridge to spend the day “messing about on the river.” The Thames Clippers are run by TFL and they run a half-hourly service throughout the day on 3 routes along the Thames. Freedom Pass holders get a 50% discount on tickets purchased and anybody wishing to benefit from this offer must be prepared to spend time tapping the screen at the various piers en route as the tap and go machines do not offer the discount.

We began our adventure by catching the Clipper from London Bridge Pier to Battersea to have a look at the transformation of the old power station and the village that has been built there. There is not a great deal to see at present, but we found a very good coffee shop, and what was there was very interesting. Our next destination was Canary Wharf, where, after lunch, we walked through the rooftop garden which is situated on the top of the new Crossrail building. There are some marvellous tree ferns to see, although the plants had suffered in the intense heat this summer, but it was a pleasant oasis with plenty of seating. To have ended the day in style we could have traced our way back to Canary Wharf Pier to catch the Clipper back to Greenwich, but, with the rush hour approaching, we caught the DLR to Lewisham and the train home.

The Clippers are really comfortable, with coffee, toilets and outside seating. At a Freedom Pass rate of £3.25 to travel in the inner zone between Battersea and Canary Wharf, this represents good value for money and adds a new dimension to the sights of London.

Pat Laughton

Ramblers 2 • Leader Helen Salmon



The 28th August was a lovely day for a ramble – not too hot and no rain. Ten of us met in Sidcup High Street keen to do the Bromley Common circular walk which we had postponed twice because it had been too hot. We took a bus to Orpington and then boarded a 208 to the start of the walk. All of a sudden we heard the driver announce that the journey was being diverted!!! After Rinka spoke to the driver, we decided to continue on the bus and start the walk in Hastings Road. We walked up Oakley Road past Oakley Farm and crossed the road at the entrance to Bromley Cricket Club. We entered Barnet Wood and crossed the River Ravensbourne. The river rises three miles away at Caesar’s Well on Keston Common. Continuing on through fields to George Lane, Hayes, we joined footpath 131 and went on to Brook Wood. From here we could see the Central Library, Bromley in the distance. We continued on along the edge of Scrogginhall Wood into a meadow. This 21-acre community woodland with wildflower meadows was established in 1995 by the London Borough of Bromley. A total of 6400 trees were planted with help from local residents. After exiting, we had a discussion on whether we should continue and pick up the planned walk, but the wonderful food aromas coming from The Crown pub (a Toby Carvery) were too tempting. A few of us decided to have a roast dinner (which was delicious) and two decided to have a sandwich. Fine you may say, but the sandwiches were served with a Yorkshire pudding and gravy!! We plan to do the full walk next year.

Helen Salmon

 Photos taken during this trip are available to view on the Gallery page of our website.

Editor

Ramblers 1 • Leader Lesley South



August Ramble to Chislehurst, Hawkwood Estate & Petts Wood guided by Cynthia Morton
This ramble was approximately 4 miles on undulating terrain; there were no big hills or stiles although caution had to be exercised because of a mixture of tree roots, brambles and stingers.

Our walk started with a stroll around part of the wood and pond near the War Memorial before crossing to Chislehurst Common which boasts the site of a cock fighting pit between School Road and Church Row near St Nicholas Church. A church has been on this site for over a millennium. The current one was built in the 15th century and enlarged in the 19th. The clock in the tower is by Dent – a design used later for Big Ben. The Walsingham tomb in the Scadbury Chapel commemorates various Walsinghams, one of whom was spymaster to Queen Elizabeth I. The churchyard contains many interesting graves including Sir Malcolm Campbell, world land and water speed record holder, and William Willett, originator of British Summer Time.

Passing Coopers School, we came to the footpath for Hawkwood Estate and Petts Wood. We looped around Pond Wood, which is nearly surrounded by trees and undergrowth, before turning back onto the main path. Proceeding down towards the railway, we turned left and went parallel to Kyd Brook until we came to the T-junction. To the left is Tong Farm, but we turned right towards Petts Wood. We walked with the railway on our right to the underpass where we turned left onto the “Green Walk”. Our group proceeded back to the bridle path to Hawkwood Lane and finally the Chislehurst War Memorial.

Memorials in Petts Wood

Eldman Memorial. This is dedicated to Colonel Francis Eldman who lived at Hawkwood; he purchased the western part of the woodland to prevent property development. After his death, the estate was purchased by the Halls who donated it to the National Trust.

Willett Memorial Sundial (erected in 1827). The dial is set to GMT+1. Willett campaigned for British Summer Time supposedly after noticing how many houses had blinds down when riding early one summer’s morning in Petts Wood.

Cynthia Morton

Book Reading • Leader June Reid



Our book for July was *Another Woman’s Husband* written by Gillian Paul and chosen by Susan. This was a gripping, moving novel about two women – namely Wallis Simpson and Diana, Princess of Wales. They were both thrust into the limelight and followed by scandal and loss. This book is a blend of fact and fiction, and the story takes us on a journey from 1911 to 2009. The present narrative of a young trendy couple in love throws light onto past history as secrets are revealed. The locations are set in America, London, Paris and Brighton. It is a tale of friendship and betrayal and we all loved it.

June Reid

Needlecrafts • Leader Val Gosden



We have been meeting for several months now and are making good progress with our projects. These include knitting, crochet, cross stitch and embroidery-on-paper, and would welcome any other members who would like to join us. Just bring your own projects along, whether it’s one of those mentioned, or any other that involves a needle of some sort. If you fancy doing embroidery-on-paper, I have the materials and can help you to produce your own ‘something fantastic’!

Val Gosden

GROUP VACANCIES

GROUP NAME	LEADER/CONTACT	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
 Craft & Chat 2 nd & 4 th Thursday (10.30 am) 	Pauline Springhall 020 8308 1975	Vacancies
 Family History 2 nd Tues  & 4 th Thurs  	Judith Swain & Kate Berry 020 8303 5759	Vacancies
 Handcrafted Cards (Group 2) 1 st Wednesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	2 Vacancies
 Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday morning	Christine Withams 020 8850 4144	Vacancies
 Mono Digital Photography Quarterly (approx.) 	Roy Morton rory.m2014@gmail.com	3 Vacancies
 Needlecrafts 1 st Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Vacancies
 Pot Pourri 2 nd Tuesday 	Pat Laughton 020 8302 9984	3 Vacancies
 Ramblers (Group 2) 4 th Tuesday (4–5 miles)	Helen Salmon 07786 465862 or 020 8309 1689	Vacancies
 Rummikub® (Group 1) 4 th Monday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Kathy Cordell  020 8300 4573	Vacancies
 Science 3 rd Tuesday (2.00–4.00 pm)	Trevor Ford 020 8302 7635	2 Vacancies
 Ten-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10.00 am)   £	Gay Braybrook  020 8309 6372	Vacancies
 Theatre Trips: Musicals   £	Sue Brooks 020 8298 1117	Vacancies
 Wine Appreciation 3 rd Wednesday (7.30–9.30 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 that group.

 Not during school/bank holidays
 Temporary point of contact

£ A charge applies
 Certain seasons only

 Open to all
 Times vary

PROGRAMME

2018

September	Michael Grillo	Two Kinds of Teardrops (Del Shannon & Roy Orbison)
October	Ian Waller	Workhouse Life – Bread, Gruel & Suet Dumplings
November	Janie Ramsay	What's it Worth?
December	The Serenade Singers	

2019

January	Joe Mendell	Mark Twain Live
February	Andy Thomas	A Conspiracy History of the World
March	<i>To be confirmed</i>	AGM
April	Toni Mount	Ration Book Britain – How we lived in the 40s and 50s
May	Melanie Barton-Gibson	From Passchendaele To Peace. The final twelve months of the Great War

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Colin Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Carolyn Barclay	07401 474844
Vice-Chairman	Sandra Applegate	07717 020611
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	John Lapham	020 8854 6340
Membership Secretary	Lynn Plumer	07714 234398
Asst. Membership Secretary	Patricia Andrews	020 8300 2064
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

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: 52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB ☎ 020 8466 6139 www.u3a.org.uk
Greater London South East Network: www.u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork
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

I have simple tastes - I only like the best.