

SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

April 2010

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

NOTICES

Soldiers on Parade

If you happen to be anywhere near Whitehall on Sunday 13th June 2010 there is a colourful sight not to be missed. At 10.30am, after forming up in Scotland Yard (opposite Horse Guards Parade) and led by the pipes, drums, and bugles of the London Irish Rifles, the band of the Royal Yeomanry and the standards of their regimental associations, about 400 former soldiers (most wearing their distinctive caubeens) who served in one of the British Army's thirty or so Irish regiments, will march smartly to The Cenotaph where wreaths will be laid and a short service held to commemorate their fallen comrades.

The service that Irishmen gave to the British Army is often forgotten. In World War One about half a million (one eighth of the country's population) served voluntarily. In World War Two the majority of the field marshals hailed from Ireland.

This ceremony takes place annually on the day following the Queen's Birthday Parade and is organised by the Combined Irish Regiments Association (website www.ciroca.org.uk). With the exception of the war years, this has taken place regularly since the first parade in 1923.

The origins of the parade are interesting. Following the partition of Ireland in 1922, the six Southern Irish Regiments (Royal Irish Regiment (18th Foot), Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Royal Munster Fusiliers, Connaught Rangers, Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and the South Irish Horse), all of whom had served with distinction during the First World War, were disbanded. On 12th June 1922, in a highly emotive and solemn ceremony at Windsor Castle, their "colours" were received by King George V who made the following promise: "I pledge my word that within these ancient and historic walls your colours will be treasured, honoured and protected as hallowed memorials of the glorious deeds of brave and loyal Regiments." The colours remain displayed in Windsor Castle to this very day.

Branches of the Regimental Associations of the disbanded regiments soon sprang up throughout the UK and combined to form up in huge numbers to parade at The Cenotaph in June 1923 to commemorate the fallen of the disbanded Regiments.

Over time, the ceremony has extended to include the regimental associations of all the Irish Regiments, many of which have now in their turn been either disbanded or merged, but whose traditions continue to live on through the regimental associations. Although no members of the original disbanded Southern Irish Regiments remain alive, their associations continue to flourish through the interest of descendants and will be well represented on the parade.

George Murrell

(Chairman, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Association – London Branch)

The Resource Centre

To all group leaders/co-ordinators who are:-

- New and need help?
- Struggling to find new material to keep your members interested?
- Trying to encourage your members to take a more active part in group sessions?

The Resource Centre can help you!

The Resource Centre in the National Office in Bromley has a collection of non-book material available for all U3A groups to borrow free of charge, except for the cost of return postage. There are slides, videos, audio cassettes, CDs, and DVDs available in many subject areas. Lists on all subjects are free and available on request.

To borrow items from the collection please contact the Resource Centre staff by letter, email, or telephone on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 4.00pm. Give the title of items you would like on loan and the date of the meeting at which you expect to use them. The earlier you send your request, the more likely you are to receive the items you want. Bookings can be made for up to nine months ahead.

Loans are for a period of three weeks and may be renewed on request if there is no other group waiting to use them. Items will be sent by post with a note telling you the date to return them. The re-usable packing is strong but light. When you return the item to us please obtain a certificate of posting at the Post Office. This is free but can be used to reclaim the value of the item should the package go astray. There is no need to use registered post.

Over ninety percent of all U3As in Britain use the Resource Centre regularly for material to support and enhance their classes. If we do not have what you need we can always try to obtain it (if it exists in non-book form) as new stock is being added all the time at the request of U3A members.

Elizabeth Gibson, Resource Centre Manager.

☎ 020 8315 0199. Email resource.centre@u3a.org.uk



Other notices received from Third Age Trust include:-

U3A Travel Writing Competition.

Theme “My Journey of a Lifetime.” Closing date 20th August 2010.

- Entries no longer than 800 words.
- Entries can be typed or clearly hand written on one side of A4 pages.
- Title of your entry to be shown on top of every page, but not your name.
- All entries to be accompanied by separate sheet listing the title of your entry, name, address, telephone number, email address (if applicable), and your U3A.

Entries can be submitted by post to U3A Travel Writing Competition, Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE or by e mail to national.office@u3a.org.uk showing subject as “2010 Travel Writing Competition.” Prizes for winners are Bradt travel guides of their choice.

George Murrell

Making Technology Easier for those in The Third Age

An invitation to U3A members:-

Thursday 17th June 1.45pm – 4.15pm at University of London, School of Oriental & African Studies, Thornhough Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0GX.

Digital photography: Tips, suggestions and advice.

Social Networking: Using the internet to keep in touch with family and friends. Making new friends who share your interests, etc.

Admission by ticket – £6 including refreshments. Please send cheque payable to Third Age Trust and s.a.e. to U3A National Office, 19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE.

George Murrell

Welfare Officer

Did you know that, whenever our Welfare Officer, Kathy Cordell, becomes aware of a member being treated in hospital, unwell at home or perhaps suffering a bereavement, a suitable card is sent on behalf of all members. If, at any time, you are aware of a fellow member who is currently in this type of situation please don't hesitate to telephone Kathy ☎ 020 8300 4573 in order that a card may be sent.

George Murrell

A Trip Out by Train & Tube

This trip out will take place on Wednesday, 28th April, and will be run on the same lines (no pun intended) as the Monday Freedom Pass Explorers group, which is now full. The details are as follows:

- Meet at Sidcup station in order to catch the 10.02 train to London. Wait at the far end of the platform – we will be boarding the last carriage of the train.
- On reaching our destination we will look for somewhere to have a coffee, then pore over the map provided and decide in which direction we shall wander in order to look around the local area.
- Pre-packed sandwiches and drinks for our lunch (which we shall probably eat outdoors) can now be bought, but bring your own if you wish.
- It is suggested that you bring 20p & 10p coins with you as many toilet facilities cost 30p.
- If you wish to come on this trip, but your local station is not Sidcup, please phone me and we can arrange when and where to meet.
- You will need either to bring your Freedom Pass with you, or purchase a ticket for travel to zone 5.

Please note that you are responsible for your own safety.

Val Gosden ☎ 020 8300 0664

A decorative banner with the words "GROUP NEWS" in the center. The banner has a ribbon-like shape with pointed ends and a thin border.

Local History 3 • Leader Pam Kirk

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For our March visit we chose a backstage tour of the National Theatre. The National was finally built in the 1970s having been first mooted in 1938, but, unfortunately, the Second World War intervened. The site comprises three theatres: the Olivier, which is an open stage type with seating for 1,110; the Lyttelton, which is a Proscenium stage with seating for 890; and finally the Cottesloe, which is a studio theatre on three levels with flexible staging and seating for up to 300. The tour takes in visits to all three theatres as well as the workshops where sets and props are produced.

The first Director of the National was Laurence Olivier, followed by Peter Hall, both of whom were subsequently knighted. Sir Peter Hall is still active in the work of the National and is currently working on a production of “Twelfth Night” to mark his 80th birthday in November. Our tour lasted nearly two hours and was enjoyed by all those who went.

Den Brittain

Classical Music • Leader Derick Johnson

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David Wallis led our March meeting and began his selection with Overture Roman Carnival by Hector Berlioz conducted by Barry Wordsworth to put us all in a good mood. This was followed by Edward Elgar’s Introduction and Allegro for Strings played by the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox. A change then took place with Antonio Vivaldi’s Concerto in C major for Two Traversi (flutes), strings, and continuo performed by Musica Rhenum with Jed Wentz and Marion Moonen on traversi. Next we heard Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis by Ralph Vaughan Williams performed by the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox. After this piece of English music, we had Brahms’s Hungarian Dances Nos 13–15 played by the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Ivan Fischer with Oszkár Ókrós on the cimbalom (a form of dulcimer). This was an exciting piece with which to finish before the break. We began the last part of the afternoon with Emmanuel Chabrier’s Rhapsody España played by the Weiner Philharmoniker conducted by Herbert von Karajan, followed by Édouard Lalo’s Symphonie Espagnole by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Vernon Handley, both of which gave a hint of Spain to finish our session and which brightened an otherwise dull, overcast day.

Derick Johnson

Ramblers 2 • Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell

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It was a bright, sunny morning when twelve members started out from Farnborough for our March ramble. This was a 4½ mile walk over fields, paths, and woodland which tested many of the group since it was their first good walk this year. Crossing Shire Lane we had a good view of Holwood House, once the home of William Pitt, Prime Minister from 1785 to 1803. We walked through the Holwood estate and at the top of the hill reached the remains of the Wilberforce oak beside which a new oak tree is now growing. The seat here commemorates William Wilberforce, who, at this very spot, resolved to abolish the slave trade. We continued walking over Keston Common to the ponds and then made our way along a bridleway back to Farnborough. We were all pleased with our efforts and we had a welcome lunch at the “Change of Horses”.

Mary Webb

GROUP VACANCIES

group name	leader	vacancies
Amblers (Group 1) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	John Harbert 020 8300 5361	Yes
Amblers (Group 3) 3 rd Wednesday (10.30 am)	Norma Balfour/José Steward 020 8303 7693/07957 181808	Yes
Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook/José Steward 020 8309 6372/07957 181808	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
Boules (Danson Park – seasonal) 2 nd & 4 th Thursday (10 am)	Bart Jansen 01322 522252	5
Bridge Mondays (2 pm)	Fred Till 01322 528605	4
Darts (at The Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	Fred Green	Yes
Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	José Steward 07957 181808	3
National Trust/English Heritage Various dates & times	John & Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Yes
Ramblers (Group 1) (6-7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30 am)	Annette Jansen 01322 522252	Yes
Ramblers (Group 2) (4-5 miles) 4 th Tuesday	Pat & Alf Cracknell 020 8302 0823	Yes
Recorder Playing 3 rd Wednesday (2 pm)	Mary Hawes 020 8300 0521	6
10-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10 am)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	Yes
Theatre (Group 2) Various matinées	Joan & John Somerset 020 8300 0890	Yes. Notice on board at meetings

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 the Group Co-ordinator.

Christine Spencer, Group Co-ordinator ☎ 020 8300 4291

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

PROGRAMME

2010

April	Mrs. B. Sadler	The Great Flood of 1953
May	Mr. S. Robinson	The City
June	Mr. M. Harrison	Midsummer Madness
July	Miss J. Aviolet	I am a tulip, what are you?
August		Open Forum
September	Mr. H. Townsend	Harry, the Wheelbarrow Man
October	Dr. Ann Kneif	The Bevin Boys
November	Mr. V. Creek	R.A.F. Museum, Hendon
December	Miss Ann Carter	A Celebration of Christmas

committee members

Chairman	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261
Vice-Chairman	Annette Jansen	01322 522252
Minutes Secretary	George Murrell	020 8850 2046
Treasurer	Dennis Brittain	
Membership Secretary	John Harlow	020 8300 3865
Speakers Secretary	Valerie Gosden	020 8300 0664
Group Co-ordinator	Christine Spencer	020 8300 4291
Welfare Officer	Kathy Cordell	020 8300 4573
Social Secretary	Anne Evans	020 8302 2261

useful contact numbers

Travel Group Leader	Margaret Platt	020 8309 6395
Raffle Organiser	Pat Garwood	020 8306 0013
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Smith	020 8304 2305

Please either e-mail contributions to me at **editor.u3a@ukonline.co.uk** or post them to me at 56 Crofton Avenue, Bexley DA5 3AR – typed if possible.

Please submit contributions by 3rd of the month.

Website

www.sidcup-u3a.org.uk

This Newsletter (including previous editions) may be read or downloaded from our website.

Afterthought

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.