

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

December 2009

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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**



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2010

National Summer School - Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

School 1: 16th – 19th August 2010

School 2: 23rd – 26th August 2010

The cost of full board en suite residential accommodation is £305.00. Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Third Age Trust ☎ 020 8466 6139 or by visiting their website at www.u3a.org.uk.



La Traviata

The cast includes Angela Gheorghiu as Violetta. This will be sung in Italian and have English subtitles. This is an exclusive screening for U3A members of the film of the opera at The Odeon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, 11.00am – 1.30pm Tuesday 26th January. Tickets (max 2 per person) are available on a first come first served basis for £12.00 each from the Third Age Trust ☎ 020 8466 6139.



Family History Study Meeting

This will take place at the Royal Geographical Society, London, SW7, from 1.45pm – 5.00pm 24th February. Organised by the U3A in association with “Ancestors Magazine”, the afternoon will focus on the value of maps as tools for those seeking information about the places lived in, or known to, their ancestors. Tickets cost £18.00 per person and are available from the Third Age Trust.

George Murrell

Survey of U3A Members

The above survey was carried out in the spring of this year; the results are available as a PDF download from the “Other Information” page of our website.

Editor



U3A – South East Forum Summer School

This will take place from Tuesday 6th – Friday 9th July at the University of Chichester. The subjects on offer include:-

- Castle, Cathedral and City. Guided 5 mile walks to explore Chichester and Arundel.
- Art History – 20th Century
- Introduction to geology (Jurassic Coast and the Isle of Wight).
- Painting with water colours for beginners.
- Needlecraft lace – a new craft to learn and enjoy.
- Writing your own life story.
- Two great West Sussex houses – 3 to 4 mile downland walks.

...and many more.

Single en suite accommodation costs £275.00. Further details are available from Derek Payne (Kent U3A network) ☎ 01732 354228.

George Murrell



Annual Lunch 2010



The annual lunch will be held on St George's Day – Friday 23rd April 2010 – at the Sidcup Sports Club. The approximate cost will be £18.00 per head. Further details will follow.

Anne Evans

Trains

A new train timetable for the Sidcup line comes into effect on 13th December. It is more than an adjustment of just a minute or so, but has slow trains to Cannon Street, and semi-fast ones to London Bridge, Waterloo East, and Charing Cross.

Freedom Pass Explorers. It will depend upon where we are going as to which will be the best train to catch, and I will do my best to let you know at the main U3A meetings each month. Failing that, please phone me the weekend before travel.

Val Gosden ☎ 020 8300 0664

! The new train timetables for the Sidcup, Bexleyheath, and Woolwich lines are available for download in PDF format from the "Other Information" page of our website.

Editor

Scam Warning

The Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association is warning residents of a scam taking place locally. It starts with a telephone call in which the caller claims to be from Neighbourhood Watch and offers a free security check.

The Neighbourhood Watch Association chairman, Ray Hudson, explained: "There are many schemes that Neighbourhood Watch is directly involved in such as property marking, but this is not one of them. We do not cold call people offering to carry out checks on their homes."

If any uninvited sales people call at your home offering this or any similar service, turn them away and inform the Council's Trading Standards Team on its hotline: 07716 116 452.

Bexley Magazine



Group Holiday to Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Gloucester

Monday 1st March – Friday 5th March 2010

I will be collecting the balance for the Gloucester holiday today. All cheques should be made payable to AIREDALE TOURS LTD/CLIENTS TRUST ACCOUNT. The balance for those members who have paid a deposit is £296.00 per person. For members who have not paid the deposit the cost is £321.00 (plus £8.00 per person if you require cancellation insurance).

Margaret Platt ☎ 0208 309 6395



Ramblers 2 : Leaders Pat & Alf Cracknell

Owing to very muddy conditions, we were unable to do our selected ramble for November so we decided to have a leisurely stroll around Danson Park. We covered about 3½ miles and many of us saw parts of the park we hadn't visited before. We enjoyed lunch at The Stables.

Pat & Alf Cracknell

Bird Watching : Leaders Gay Braybrook & José Steward

For the November meeting we went to Bough Beech Reserve. There was not a great number of birds, even on the feeders, but we did see blue tits, great tits, chaffinches, greenfinches, woodpeckers, lapwings, greylag geese, a male pheasant (so very highly coloured), and the usual mixture of coots, moorhens, and mallards. Two of us also saw a female deer with her young galloping through the woods – and we didn't even need binoculars for that.

Gay Braybrook & José Steward

Classical Music : Leader Derick Johnson

Olive Mercer presented us with November's selection beginning with J. S. Bach's Concerto in A minor for violin and orchestra played by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Alexander Schneider with Isaac Stern playing the violin. This is a well-loved favourite. This was followed by F. Giuliani's Nocturne in C minor for soprano and strings played by the Ensemble Antonio Vivaldi accompanied by the soprano, Hoo Hyeon Jeon. The voice of this small Korean girl was a revelation. Mozart's Lodron Night Music No 1 played by the Capella Istropolitana conducted by Wolfgang Sobotka completed our programme before the break; this had been another seldom heard work which was quite new to most of us. After the break for tea/coffee and nibbles, we heard Johann Hummel's Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano in A with Lise Daoust on the flute, Carmen Picard on the piano, and Elizabeth Dolin on the cello. This was followed by Peter Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir D'un Lieu Cher" {memory of a dear place} performed by the Russian National Orchestra conducted by Mikhail Pletnev with Gil Shaham on the violin; this had originally been written as "Trois Morceaux Pour Violon et Piano" {three pieces for violin and piano} and later arranged for an orchestra by Alexander Glazunov. We finished with David N. Johnson's Trumpet Tune in A with Christopher Herrick on the organ; this concluded the afternoon of mostly little heard music which we all enjoyed.

Derick Johnson



Local History 3 : Leader Pam Kirk

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On 11th November 18 of the group visited Keats House in Hampstead. Keats House was built in 1815 as a pair of semi-detached houses known as Wentworth Place. Keats lodged in the smaller dwelling with his friend, Charles Brown, from 1818 to 1820 and wrote some of his best loved poems there. The Brawn(e) family lived in the larger side of the house and in the autumn of 1818 Keats fell in love with Miss Fanny Brawn. In the collection at the house we saw the engagement ring he gave to Fanny and also some dresses and hats worn by the actress who played the part of Fanny in the film "Bright Star".

Rosalie Woods

Parks & Gardens Appreciation : Leaders Jill Bryant & Barbara Olney



Our last outing in October was to Greenwich Park. After entering by the side gate, we saw the newly planted beds of winter pansies and polyanthus. The trees were still looking colourful, and here there were some very large cedar trees, which species is one of my favourites. The advantage of visiting a large park is that trees can grow to their full height and not reduced to suit the proportions of a private garden. We walked down to the bridge overlooking the pond where there were plenty of ducks. On the edge of the pond was a wonderful pampas grass which looked very majestic with its fine, white plumes. Following the path around, we saw a lovely Arbutus unedo with its clusters of white pendant flowers and strawberry red drupes which give it the common name of Strawberry Tree. I think every garden should have one. As we crossed over the road to reach the café, it was nice to see that the Bandstand is still there, because so many have now disappeared. After our coffee break, we paused to admire the view looking down towards the old naval hospital, the Queens House, the Maritime Museum, the Thames, and Canary Wharf further afield. There were many foreign students around the Observatory as we made our way down the steep path and through the avenue of trees to the lower park. The herbaceous borders still had some colour although they were past their best. It was a pleasant walk and we all enjoyed this Royal Park so near to our homes. Let's hope that the 2012 Olympics doesn't destroy this beautiful facility.

Jill Bryant

Art Group



This is a reminder to everyone who has put his name down to join the Art Group, including anybody else who is interested in joining. Please see me at the meeting so that we can select a day and venue acceptable to all. Thank you.

Christine Spencer

Group Closures

The following groups have now closed:

Computer Group	led by Michael Jordan
Amblers 2	led by Olive Atkins
Saturday Ramblers	led by Gay Braybrook

Thanks go to the three leaders for all they have done. Anybody who is willing to keep any of these groups going should see me at the meeting. Thank you.

Christine Spencer





The Twelve Days of Christmas



On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me –
"I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree."

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas, came the people from next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as on the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas, came relations young and old,
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside – we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died,
The children fought and bickered – we had turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,
When he sat down at table and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunch time Dad was blotto,
He knew the bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking homemade brew,
As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, we had smiles upon our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too; we dined on fish and chips.

Anon

Dilettante

From Arts to Darts, and then Antiques,
She cannot find the Group she seeks.
The Wildlife Group she thought too tame,
Embroidery was much the same.
Chess and Bridge were far too hard;
Jazz was somewhat avant garde.
She caused the Poker Group to end –
No hypocrite, she won't pretend:
A love of money must transcend
Reluctance to defraud a friend.

She could not bend her knee to Bowl:
Philosophy did not console.
She joined and left the Keep Fit set –
It's hardly ladylike to sweat.
Learning French did not appeal –
A language that's *très difficile!*
Start any group, she'll volunteer,
Attend just once, then disappear.
A malcontent without a peer:
Our flighty Third Age mutineer.

Ian Brydon



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
Antiques Appreciation (Group 5) 3 rd Wednesday (10 am)	Martin Baker 020 8300 1752	1
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
Discussion (Group 1) 3 rd Monday (2-4 pm)	Carol Green 020 8300 4603	1
Local History (Group 1) 2 nd Wednesday	John Harlow 020 8300 3865	2
Local History (Group 2) 2 nd Wednesday	José Steward 020 8302 1627	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

2009

December Mrs. P. Mortlock Ightham Mote

2010

January	Katherine Eames	Climate Change
February	Dr. P. Brandham	Kew in Close-Up
March	A.G.M.	A Presentation by Students from Blackfen School
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	TBA	
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	John Mercer	020 8300 3136
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



Afterthought

What if there were no hypothetical situations?

