

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

January 2008



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

NOTICES

Greetings from the Chairman

The Committee wishes all our members a Happy New Year and a successful programme of events.

Please note that the new railway timetable may affect group visits. The Freedom Pass will continue to operate from 9.00 am on buses, but from 9.30 am on trains. As a new concession the Freedom Pass will be accepted by bus transport outside London with effect from 8th April. That is good news.

John Mercer

**South East Area Summer School
University of Chichester Tuesday 8th July – Friday 11th July 2008**

Subjects on offer include:-

Art History, Chichester Harbour (East side) Conservancy, Creative Writing, Development of Classical Music, Health and Wellbeing, Medieval and Georgian Chichester, Painting with Water Colours, Poetry – the work of Rudyard Kipling, Reading Fiction, Story Telling, and Walking the West Sussex Countryside.

Residential en-suite accommodation £260. Standard accommodation £235. Further details from Derek Payne ☎ 01732 354228 or Judy Sturrock ☎ 01227 721532

George Murrell

Nominated Charity 2008/2009

Members are reminded that the charity to be supported during 2008/2009 will be decided at the AGM on 20th March. Any member wishing to propose a particular charity should submit his or her nomination – with a short supporting written statement – to the Secretary, George Murrell, 76 Chester Road, Sidcup, DA15 8SH by 23rd February 2008. Alternatively, it may be handed to any Committee member

George Murrell

Election of Officers 2008

The Election of Officers for 2008 will take place at the AGM on 20th March. All nominations for the Committee must be received by the Secretary (or any other Committee member) by 23rd February 2008. A nomination form is attached to this Newsletter for this purpose and further copies are available from the Secretary. It may also be downloaded from our Website.

George Murrell



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

The united effort of Sidcup U3A to raise money for our chosen charity is progressing well and your contributions, purchases, donations and help are mounting up. Many thanks.

You will recall that one of our members has supported the work of this charity for some years and has her own correspondence from her friend Specks, the dog that she supports. Here is the latest letter to her:-

I hope you had a lovely summer. I did because we went away for some weekends to see some of Karen and Jon's friends, which I really loved. They have dogs, too, so it is like one big playtime for me. It is just great visiting new places and getting a chance to show off my lovely new burgundy jacket to people who have never seen a hearing dog before. They are always so interested and impressed with my skills. And when they learn that I was once a rescue dog – wow, are they bowled over! I am such a good ambassador for Hearing Dogs and for all the stray dogs that need a good loving home. I think I should be proud for all the work I am doing.

Karen and I have quite a routine now, which I love. We go for lots of walks, and that means we keep our figures nice and trim! It also means I get to meet some doggy friends and have a chance to play and let my fur down. I am always listening for the sound of Karen's whistle though, which is how she gets my attention when I am off doing my own thing. When I hear that whistle, whatever I am doing, however much fun I am having, I race back to Karen just in case there is a problem and I can be of help. Learning to come back to their owners whenever they are called is a vital part of a hearing dog's training, and I am really good at it!

Since Karen has had me with her, she been able to do more things on her own because she says I have given her the confidence to go out and about. This includes visiting her friends and having a nice cup of tea and some tasty-looking biscuits and I get a big fuss made of me. To be honest, I would like one of the biscuits, too, but Karen is quite strict and makes sure no-one sneaks me one when she is not looking. I suppose I would get quite fat if I ate lots of biscuits, but it does seem mean. Mind you, Karen always gives me one of my special treats because I have been such a well-behaved boy. We also go to our local pub regularly. I really enjoy that because people are getting to know me now, and say hello to me before they even say hello to Karen! I have to be careful I don't wag my tail too hard in case I knock bottles and glasses off the tables.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and thank you for supporting me. I hope you like the card. I give really good kisses!

Specks

Reminder

Would members please remember to collect their Group Notices for forthcoming events; they are available from the Group Coordinator's table. Also, it would be helpful for members who cannot attend Monthly Meetings to arrange for a friend to pick up their notice.

Annual General Meeting 20th March 2008

You will remember that last year we organised a display of group activities for both the Deputy Mayor of Bexley and new members to see. We will be doing this again this year and have invited the Mayor to attend the AGM and look at what we are doing in Sidcup & District U3A. Last year it was very successful and we ask that group leaders again organise a display of their activities for the meeting on 20th March.

John Mercer

Request from the Chairman

We would like one or two extra members to help lay out the hall before each meeting and others to help put the tables and display boards away. Anyone who wishes to volunteer their services please speak to the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman.

John Mercer

Mature Times

Members who have a computer with internet access may be interested to learn about the existence of "The Mature Times". This is a website based news outlet which has a Newsletter that can be sent to subscribers free of charge by email. Both the website and the Newsletter contain information and advice of various types relevant to the over 50s, and also an area dedicated to U3A activities. As well as providing news this organisation supports campaigns against problems such as age discrimination, burdensome council taxes, indifferent healthcare provision, and inadequate pensions and benefits.

The website address is **www.maturetimes.co.uk**.

Editor



Members will be sad to hear of the recent death of Molly Harbert. Her husband, John Harbert, extends his thanks to all those who have offered support during the past few months.

GROUP NEWS

Classical Music 2 : Leader Derick Johnson

o

Betty Miles presented her programme for December beginning with Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 played by the CRS Symphony Orchestra conducted by Stephen Gunzenhauser with solo organist Imrich Szabó. Next was the Havanaise Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, with the brilliant violinist Marat Bisengaliev, followed by Chopin's wonderful Larghetto Piano Concerto No. 1 by the Philharmonia Orchestra with pianist Nikolai Demidenko. As a change we heard Antonio Vivaldi's Flute Concerto No. 3 "Il Cardellino" (the goldfinch) by the Australian Chamber Orchestra with solo flautist Emmanuel Pahud. Two pieces by Edward Elgar followed – first his Cello Concerto played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by John Barbirolli with cellist Jacqueline du Pré, and then the Maggini String Quartet playing his String Quartet Allegro Molto. After the break we heard Schubert's Impromptu No. 2 Andante Maria Joao Pires, and then Johann S. Bach's The Christian Oratorio played by the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden. The last items were Berlioz's "The Shepherd's Farewell" from "L'Enfance du Christ", (the childhood of Christ) played by the LSO led by Colin Davis, and The Nutcracker Divertissements written by Tchaikovsky and played by the Czechoslovak Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ondrej Lenard. This concluded one of the best programmes of the year.

Derick Johnson

‡ The Sächsische Staatskapelle (Saxon State Orchestra) based in Dresden, Germany, was founded in 1548 by Moritz, Prince Elector of Saxony. It is one of the world's oldest orchestras still performing.

Editor

10-Pin Bowling : Leader Gay Braybrook

À

This group meets every Monday morning (during school term time) and we would welcome some new players. We only play for fun although there is a bit of competition but no previous skill is needed. It is a guaranteed way to beat the winter blues. Also, there is no requirement to play every week.

We meet at Bexleyheath Superbowl at 10 am for games to start at 10.20. Usually we finish about 11.30. The cost is £3.00 for one game which includes hire of shoes and tea or coffee.

Contact me if you would like to join us.

Gay Braybrook ☎ 020 8309 6372

‡ Any group leader seeking to fill a vacancy may send me an announcement such as this for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Editor

GROUP VACANCIES

group name	leader	vacancies
Beginners Bridge Acol Tuesdays (11 am - 1 pm) <i>Weekly for 6 weeks</i>	Barbara Shilling 01322 400443	Vacancies on future courses
Bird Watching 1 st Wednesday (morning)	Gay Braybrook/José Steward 020 8309 6372/020 8302 1627	Yes. Notice on board at meetings
Darts (at The Alma pub) 2 nd Monday (midday)	Fred Green	Yes
Freedom Pass Explorers 2 nd Monday	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Yes
Local History (Group 3) 2 nd Wednesday	Pam Kirk 020 8856 8372	4
Music (Group 2) 2 nd Friday (2.30 pm)	Derick Johnson 020 8850 1245	3
National Trust/English Heritage Various dates & times	John & Olive Mercer 020 8300 3136	Yes
Quilling Occasional Saturdays (2 - 4 pm)	Val Gosden 020 8300 0664	Please phone leader
Ramblers (Group 1) (6-7 miles) 4 th Tuesday (10.30 am)	Annette Jansen 01322 522252	Yes
Saturday Ramble (4-5 miles) 1 st Saturday (morning)	Gay Braybrook 020 8309 6372	3
10-Pin Bowling (Bexleyheath) Mondays (10 am) <i>except school holidays</i>	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 lists, 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.

José Steward, Group Co-ordinator ☎ 020 8302 1627

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

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
NOMINATION FORM**

2008–2009



We the undersigned being persons whose names appear on the membership list of the above U3A hereby nominate:-

Name

Address

As a candidate for election as: Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee member (6).

Proposer **Seconder**

Declaration and Consent.

I declare that I am a member of Sidcup and District U3A and that, if elected, I consent to serve.

Signed Date

The present Committee is as follows:-

- Gay Braybrook – Welfare Officer
- Dennis Brittain – Treasurer
- Anne Evans – Social Secretary
- Valerie Gosden – Speakers Secretary & Raffle Organiser
- John Harlow – Membership Secretary
- Annette Jansen – Vice-Chairman
- John Mercer – Chairman
- George Murrell – Secretary
- José Steward – Group Co-ordinator

All nominations must be returned to me, the Secretary, by 23rd February 2008 either at the monthly meeting or by post.

George Murrell
76, Chester Road,
Sidcup, Kent
DA15 8SH