

u3a Sidcup Newsletter May 2025

1 message

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Sidcup & District U3A



St.Lawrence Church Hall : Monthly Meetings

Apologies for late delivery of this Newsletter, it's getting very close to our May Meeting.

May 15th	Pauline Martindale	Around the UK in photographs
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• New Members' Meeting Monday 12th May , Queensgate Apartments**New on the [website](#) this month:-**

- Events : SHOWCASE
- Handmade Cards : Elephants (*they never forget*)
- Freedom Pass : report & photos ; Wandsworth Common, April
- Ramblers 2 : report & photos : Footscray Bluebells, April
- Ramblers 3 : report & photos : Shuttle Riverway to Bexley, April

Groups RoundUp:-**Amblers: leaders John Baker and Sheila Donovan**

This month we went to Beckenham Place Park and started with a visit to the Homestead Cafe near the park's mansion house. We then walked past a swimming lake and into extensive woodlands. Just before leaving the woods we reached a deserted former golf club house (which is being renovated). The views of the park were impressive as we walked across open grassland back to the mansion, then made our way home.

Art Appreciation: leader Val Gosden

The challenge was for each of us to bring along a picture that was painted in the 1800s. This resulted in two Impressionist painters, two English painters, and a Spanish one. In the first category was Renoir (two women in a dance hall) and Degas, well-known for his pictures of

ballerinas. The Spanish painting, by Joaquin Sorolla was of two young girls joyfully running along the beach in Valencia. The painting by John Constable was entitled 'The Cornfield', and the watercolour painting by Richard Redgrave was of a cottage in north Wales in 1838. We plan further challenges in the future, whilst still continuing with our interesting professor-led lectures.

Book Group: leader Kate Berry

Book of Fire by Christy Lefteri

Set in the Greek/Turkish borders, Irini walks through the fire ravaged forest, and sees the dying body of the man who caused the tragedy, killing people and wildlife. Was it murder or suicide? She delays getting him help, leaving her haunted by guilt. A beautifully written and profound book. Chosen and reviewed by June Reid.

Family History: leader Kate Berry

At April's meeting we discussed maps, and how they can help in our research of our ancestors, and the areas they lived in. Tithe maps, poverty maps, bomb damage maps, census maps, parish maps, and many more can all be found online. We all were also able to view some of the old maps of the Sidcup area, which are kept at the Library Archives, and found them very interesting.

Local History: leader Lynn Plumer

We visited the Florence Nightingale Museum situated on the site of the Nightingale Training School set up at St Thomas's Hospital in 1860. Florence was the founder of modern nursing. We discovered all about her affluent childhood, how she fought against her parents' wishes to become a nurse, her work during the Crimean War and how she campaigned for better healthcare for ordinary people.



Parks & Gardens: leaders Rinka Halliday and Jill Bryant

Our first visit of the season was to Lessness Abbey to see the bluebells in the surrounding ancient woodland that once surrounded the abbey, stretching toward Bostall Heath. The bluebells were at their best and what a sight on a warm early Summer day.

Pot Pourri: Leader Pat Laughton



This month's visit was led by Rinka Halliday and Karen Wallis to the Fitzrovia Chapel and then on to the British Museum.

The chapel is a gem hidden amongst the buildings of Middlesex Hospital at the Tottenham Court end of Oxford St.

Ramblers 2: Leader Helen Salmon A group of us made our way to Footscray Meadows via the Bexley Road entrance to see the bluebells. We noticed a few at the start and continued into North Cray Woods where there were many English bluebells, wood anemones and other



wildflowers. They looked beautiful.

Ramblers 3: Leader Trevor Ford

No heavy-booted tramp, but a soft-shoed shuffle along the Shuttle Riverway from Sidcup to Bexley followed up with a spicy luncheon at the Kings Head.



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