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u3a

Sidcup & District U3A



St.Lawrence's Church where we will meet from May 2023 onwards.
The next meeting on May 18th is "Preraphaelites" with Delia Taylor

[Address from the Chair](#)

I've been a member of Sidcup (& District) u3a for about a decade and on the committee for most of that time. As the recipient of lots of photos, I'm perpetually excited by some of the trips that our intrepid groups undergo and fascinated by some of the other Interest Groups. So, too, listening to long-term members it's heart-warming to hear them say, "u3a was the saving of me". Of course, each u3a is autonomous and unique, so we offer different activities from other local & national u3a's. You only have to read "Third Age Matters" (TAM) to see the whole gamut of opportunities.

It all relies on volunteers and we are grateful for those who get actively involved, those who are Group Leaders, or on rotas for registration, refreshments, etc. Last month I told you about new committee members and they are already energising us. Our national founder, Eric Midwinter writes in this season's TAM about everyone's involvement, however small. Elsewhere, on the Letters Page, a new Group Convener/Leader, explains how she was helped by sharing with and being mentored by a more experienced convener. There is plenty of help and experience within our u3a and in the wider u3a movement. So, too, with existing groups, leadership can be shared. We should be planning (albeit informally) for succession. What happens if the current GL wants to give up? Will the group die? It may well be that if your group becomes too full, you might be prepared to "break away" to start a new group, while still keeping in touch with your old group. We don't want potentially new members to be turned off simply because they cannot get into groups. What about new Interests? By attracting new members we can widen our offer. What about trips? The visit by our neighbouring Welling u3a, may have whetted the appetite for reinstating some of those.

Last year was the 40th Anniversary of the u3a Movement in this country and we celebrated it in a couple of ways with a Tea Party and with a Ramble adding our contribution of person-miles to that of other London u3as by walking a section of the London Loop. Our own u3a is now over 25 years old. Although we didn't celebrate that with a Silver Jubilee we should be proud of what our own founders and Group Leaders have achieved. So, too, we have recently made an exciting link with residents of Queensgate Apartments to share some activities and a comfortable venue. We can continue to build on that. Although our move to St. Lawrence Church hall for our monthly meeting may be seen as "down-sizing" it's merely a recognition of a sensible adaptation to current membership attendance.

The challenge for us all must be to make the next 25 & 40 years be relevant and attractive to present and future members. So that we can all :-

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

Trevor Ford

St.Lawrence Community Centre, 1 Hamilton Road, DA15 7HB

Our future monthly meetings will be held in the hall beyond the church. As usual, the meeting will officially start at 2pm. However, the usual helpers (tea, registration, etc.) will assemble between 1 & 1.30pm. In addition we would be grateful for some extra help to set out the chairs (& stack them afterwards), So if you are willing to help with this, please arrive by 1.15pm.

There are bus stops and the public car park nearby. There are, though, a couple of disabled parking bays at the front of the church and several general spaces at the back. For those arriving on foot, please enter via the entrance on Hamilton Road and sign in at the lobby. For those parking at the back, you can come in via the back entrance (between the hall & the church), but please go through the hall to sign in at the lobby, before taking your seat.



Back of St.Lawrence Community
Centre

If arriving by car, please enter by the back door, but make your way through the hall to sign in at the lobby.



Entrance to St.Lawrence Community
Centre

Pedestrians should arrive at the side/front door from Hamilton Road.

Group News

- Musical Appreciation correction : the calendar on the back of the booklet *wrongly* stated that the Group meets on 1st Friday of the month. This was an error on my part. It should be the **2nd FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.** Corrected version : [click](#) .
- New Members Tea Party, June 12th: reminder : invitations have been sent out to those members who have joined us recently and to Group Leaders to join us. To see Invitation [click](#).

- Showcase Evaluation : reminder : Group Leaders if you haven't returned your feedback on that event, it would be appreciated if you could do so. If you are having difficulty filling in the form just send the responses to me in an email.
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Other News

- Voter i.d. : You will doubtless have heard that some form of photo i.d, will be required in future in order to vote in local and national elections. If you have a Freedom Pass this is an acceptable form of i.d. (This is referred to in this season's TAM and confirmed by our own local council.)
 - Invitation to Brick Lane Music Hall, 6th June : At the last count, there were still a few places left for this matinee organised by Welling u3a. But you will need to be quick. For details [click](#)
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National u3a News

The National AGM takes place in October. Although each u3a only gets 1 vote, any number of members can attend (*virtually via ZOOM*). However, you will need to pre-register. For details [click](#)

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