

Newsletter

Issue No 6/7, April 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SETTLE DISTRICT

Registered Charity No 1095635
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Our call for volunteers to stand for election for the 2008-9 committee (by myself at the last monthly meeting and by John Jebson in the February Newsletter) has not yet resulted in the hoped for stampede. To be precise, we have to date achieved a stampede of one. The position is however that four committee members, including myself, will be standing down from the committee in September, and two others would wish to stand down if others come forward to replace them.

Committee membership is not onerous (monthly committee meetings rarely exceed 1¼ hours) and some of the tasks currently handled by committee members could equally be handled by members not on the committee. Also, some jobs could be split to make them less onerous. The bottom line is that Settle U3A needs a few more of its 247 members to volunteer to help run the organisation if it is to thrive post-September.

One or two members I have approached who would have made excellent committee members were genuinely too busy to take on further responsibilities. However, I am reminded of the adage, which I find to be generally true, that the best way to get a job done well is to give it to a busy person. I suspect many of our 247 members who are busy could afford to give a little of their time to such an important cause.

If you are willing to help, in whatever capacity, either on or off the committee, or know someone who you think would make a useful contribution as a committee member, could I ask you to let either myself or any committee member know? Our joy will be unbounded, and the committee will be very happy to follow up any approaches you might suggest.

With best wishes, **Tony Stephens**

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Circle Dancing: Dancers willing to take part in the "Flower and Music" Festival on **Monday 5 May** should meet in Settle Parish Church on **Friday 25 April** at 10.00am for a practice. **Gillian Walton**

Dancing: Both the **Line Dancing** and the **Circle Dancing** classes are very popular and each regularly attracts 15-20 members. At each session, apart from regular exercise, which is so very beneficial, we have much fun and laughter and don't take ourselves too

seriously, but enjoy the company of like-minded people.

An article in *Saga* magazine reported that a study had shown that Line Dancing in particular, which needs concentration and co-ordination, is an excellent activity for helping to keep Alzheimer's disease at bay. The laughter engendered is also very therapeutic, and our "chuckle muscles" get plenty of use! We tend to learn a new dance most weeks, and also practice those already learned. Our leader, Joan, is an excellent teacher who puts up with our mistakes with patience and good humour.

Circle Dancing is also very good exercise, but is rather more gentle and contemplative. We have been introduced to much beautiful music from many different countries, which is a pleasing bonus, and here again the company of ladies "of a certain age" is most enjoyable. The more clumsy amongst us benefit by learning from our experienced and talented leaders. We are most grateful to Gillian and Pat for all their efforts, both in discovering these dances and for their patient tuition.

New members to each of these classes are always made welcome, and on behalf of all participants, I can heartily recommend both of these activities to you. Where else can you have a morning's exercise, fun and laughter for only 50p and without the need of a partner? Many thanks to Joan, Gillian and Pat in particular, and the U3A in general.

Dorothy Hemsworth

Family History: At the March meeting it was decided that that would be the last one for the current session and that the new session would commence on **24 October 2008** when, I hope, we will all be refreshed and raring to go! Thank you Audrey for all your help.

Margaret Cullingworth

Looking at Old Buildings: The March meeting at Eldroth Hall had much of interest both architecturally and historically. The mid-17C house, built of "slobbered squared rubble", has been altered over the centuries but is still a lovely example of a traditional Yorkshire farmhouse and attached cottage. It's a 3-storey dovecot over 300 years old and was, sadly, demolished in the 1970s but its bee boles (recesses in a stone wall) are still there, probably dating from the 1660s, and would have provided shelter for straw skeps in which bees were then kept. The Hall also has a proud history as being the home of the Moore family who became members of the Society of Friends around 1660 and were visited by George Fox on two occasions.

24 April: Austwick Village Walk led by Jill Sykes. Meet Settle Cricket Club (right hand side) to fill up cars and to give lifts if needed. Meet Jill in the centre of Austwick at the Village Cross at 10.30am for a walk of about 1½ hrs. NB this is a repeat of the inaugural meeting of the group and is for those that missed it and those that have joined the group since; anyone wishing to repeat the tour is, of course, very welcome.

15 May: *Advance notice*—NB not the usual last Thursday of the month, so apologies for any inconvenience. This will be a 2-part meeting—attend both or just one as you wish.

11.00am Visit to Giggleswick Chapel for a talk about the Chapel given by Mr G R Bowring, Bursar & Clerk to the Governors of Giggleswick School. A few copies of background information will be available at the next U3A monthly meeting.

2.00pm Visit to Queen's Rock House by kind invitation of Gillian and Roger Walton.

Vanessa Stone

Mathematical Puzzles: We continue to meet on the 2nd and last Tuesdays of the month. The dates are on the Settle U3A website as well as lots of information about past topics.

David Holdsworth

Poetry Appreciation: Having very much enjoyed our first full session, we've decided not to stop now as had originally been decided.

We'll be meeting again at the Victoria Hall from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on the following Thursdays: **10 and 24 April; 8 and 29 May.**

Several people have asked me about the group and, if you want to give it a try, you'll be welcome at one or all of the above meetings.

Jean Stevens

Sunday Lunch: The following booking has been made: **20 April**, The Victoria Inn at Kirby Malham; 12.30 for 1.00pm.

These lunches have become very popular and the size of the group (15) is making bookings difficult; many venues are reluctant to take more than 10 people in one group. This being so then I am sorry but it has to be a case of "first come first served" with a waiting list for any late cancellations (*alternatively, would anybody be prepared to look after a second group?*).

Audrey Daykin

Walking—Strollers: *Dates for 2008 (Wednesdays) - (meet at 2.00pm at the Cricket Club unless otherwise stated):*

21 May—Skipton via the Canal from Thorlby. 1.30pm bus, return from Skipton by bus

11 June—Chestnut Walk, Giggleswick. Tea at the Hart's Head.

9 July—Clapham. CAR

20 August—Austwick to Wharfe. Tea to be arranged. CAR

17 September—Kirkby Lonsdale, walk along the river to Ruskin's View. Tea in town. CAR

15 October—Long Preston. 10.30am bus. Walk round the village and lunch at one of the pubs.

Janet Stafford (Tel 823449)

Walking: *Thursday 6 March*—Today's walk commenced at Embsay with a steady climb past the reservoir to the summit of Crookrise Crag which, though a lowly 1250ft, provided excellent views of the Aire valley and beyond. From the crag, an epic descent into and up the other side of the aptly, if unoriginally, named Waterfall Ghyll was followed by the broad track across Embsay Moor, part of the ancient packhorse route from Rhyllstone to Bolton Priory. This route was immortalised by William Wordsworth as the White Doe trail in his epic poem "The White Doe of Rhyllstone", the poet's tribute to a local medieval legend. A return to Embsay was made via a line of grouse butts and the hamlet of Eastby. The walk concluded in the local pub with cups of tea all round—a stimulating ramble of approximately 8 miles. **John Jebson**

Walking: *Tuesday Walks*—Just one walk in March, which was a very pleasant stroll along the River Lune, crossing two bridges at Crook O'Lune, where the river forms a huge loop. The weather was rather cold and very damp. As we made our way along the easy tarmac path on the outward leg there were some wonderful sculptures, including upside-down trees.

After crossing the river at Halton (where there was considerable building work in progress, making it difficult to traverse) it was extremely wet and muddy underfoot as we walked back along the river bank. We passed an impressive piece of industrial architecture in the form of an Edwardian wrought iron bridge carrying a water pipe across the Lune and had some good views of the surrounding countryside. We crossed back over the river at Crook O'Lune and re-traced our steps to the Bulbeck Car Park, where there was a welcome tea van.

Margaret Cullingworth

Wine Appreciation Group 1: 13 March

This evening's wines formed part of an "offer" following dealing with Virgin on a

completely different matter. It is thus not possible to give prices for individual wines though the cost averaged around £4.50.each. Not unusually, 2 whites followed by 3 reds were reviewed by the group!

Augustinos Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2007 13% Chile. This had one of the strongest and most interesting noses that we have come across. It was savoured on the palate and the aftertaste was effective.

Miudino Albarino 2006 12% Spain. Most of the group thought that this was pleasant enough but were still remembering and enthusing about the first wine. It was a little too sweet for some.

Marque de Valencia Cuan Reserva 2000 14% Spain. Of medium red hue, the nose which suggested caramel and caramel was also identifiable in the taste It was soft and juicy.

Coteau du Languedoc Patrick Lesec 2005 14% France. A deep dark red promising and delivering a hugely strong taste which was greatly appreciated.

De Martino Legado Carmenere 2006 14.5% Maule Valley Chile. Another deep red, also much appreciated and described as “huge” - but with slightly less wow factor than the previous wine.

GHP

GCE A-level papers – 1976-80

Some months ago someone lent me a copy of GCE A-level papers for 1976-80 as the Mathematical Puzzles group had considered comparing ancient GCE questions with today's questions. However, the enthusiasm for this never really gained momentum. I can no longer remember who lent me the book. *If it was you, please either ring 822903 or e-mail ecl dh@leeds.ac.uk* **David Holdsworth**

outings

Manchester Ship Canal Trip

I am happy to tell you that I have managed to get the cost of the Manchester Ship Canal outing down to £37. If you have already paid the full amount I will refund the balance at the next monthly meeting. For those who have paid a deposit I would like the balance, please, at the latest by *10 May*.

There are still a few places left as we have ordered a bigger bus. This should be a wonderful trip full of interest and with spectacular scenery. **Shirley Wolfenden**

Next month's Thursday meeting—8 May

The speaker will be

Bob Smailes

whose talk will be entitled

“Yorkshire Air Ambulance”

Coffee from 10.00am for 10.30am in the The Victoria Hall..

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Dorothy Hemsworth passes on the following useful idea, now apparently being followed by all paramedics at the scene of an accident: *If you were to be involved in an accident, or taken ill, the people attending you might find your mobile phone but wouldn't know who to contact, or their phone number. Hence the "ICE" campaign (In Case of Emergency). All you need to do is to store the number of the person(s) who should be contacted, under the name ICE—simply enter ICE 1, ICE 2, etc followed by their number; then in an emergency the Emergency Service personnel will be able to contact the right people quickly.*

From **Patricia Whitton:**

SETTLE PARISH CHURCH

Aspire and Renew Appeal

Week-end 3—5 May

Flower Festival with a musical theme

Auction of flowers on Monday 5 May

SETTLE CRICKET CLUB

Marshfield, Settle

LIVE CRICKET

Sunday 13 April—1.00pm start

A Settle XI v Egerton XI

£3.50 entrance, including food and disco

All proceeds in aid of Chernobyl Children

TRAMP S presents—

La Vie en Rose

Sunday 11 May —Clapham Village Hall—7.30pm

Tickets £5 on the door

For details of future programmes visit our website: www.tramps.org.uk

Up close and personal

In this series we try to find out a bit about the life and background of one of our members.

This month the spotlight falls on **Frank Pedley**



Which USA groups do you currently attend? Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)? Great Lives; Discussion; Listening to Music; Myths and Metaphors.

I'd like to see a Railway group, and one on Religious Sects—all religions, and those within Christianity.

Where are your roots? Grinton in Swaledale. My father was a stone-mason and my mother was the postmistress; I remember helping her with deliveries, even on Christmas day.

What does your family consist of? I was one of 5 children, and I'm the sole survivor. I am a widower and have 3 children—2 daughters and a son, a solicitor, who started the Ecology Building Society to provide mortgages on older property. I have 3 grandsons and 5 great

grandchildren.

Now Hilary (Baker) is my partner and I'm very much part of her family of 5 children and 14 grandchildren.

Tell us briefly about your education and career: I went to a village school of 30 pupils and 1 teacher. Then I got a scholarship to Richmond Grammar School and went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to read Modern History. The war interrupted that and from 1940-46 I was in the army, mostly in the Education Corps.

After that I taught in a Day Continuation College in Rugby (they no longer exist), then became Warden of an Adult Education College (also in Rugby). I then moved to be Assistant Director of Extra-Mural Studies at Manchester University before moving into educational administration. I worked my way up to the top, as Director of Education in Rochdale, till I took a golden handshake and retired in 1974 when local government was reorganised.

In retirement I wrote 3 books on education and also became a free-lance journalist with the Municipal Journal.

During my career I was Borough Education Officer for Keighley for 12 years and I really regard Keighley as my home because I had the opportunity to start and develop so many things (eg Citizen's Advice Bureau, International Friendship Council). I started Keighley U3A in 1984 and Settle District in 2002, of which I am very honoured to be Life President.

What do you regard as the highlight of your life so far, and what as your greatest achievement?

The *highlight* has been my involvement with the founding and development of U3A in 1982. When I was made an Honorary Life Member, Michael Young said I was more responsible than any other individual for the success of U3A.

Achievement: getting to the top in my profession; and becoming a JP.

Have you any unachieved ambitions? I always had to be doing better than everyone else at school and at college, but at my age that's no longer relevant. I don't think there's any ambition I want to achieve nowadays, except perhaps to reach 90 in decent health.

Have you any hobbies? Reading, listening to music and some travel. I'm still involved with the organisation of U3A nationally and sit on various committees. I write the occasional article (I've been published in *The Oldie* recently).

When I was young I was a very good rugby player with prospects of an international career, but a rugby accident at the age of 20 put paid to that. I never played again and compensate by watching most sport on TV.

What books are you currently reading?

"An Equal Music" by Vickram Seth. I devour anything by Ishiguro, but still regard George Orwell as my favourite author.

If you were on TV's "Grumpy Old Men/Women", what would be your biggest grumble?

The misuse of the apostrophe.

People (especially teachers) who tell very able young people that they shouldn't try for Oxbridge because "they wouldn't fit in". I was a very working class boy with a Yorkshire accent but I never experienced any problems.

Select one of the world's major problems from your own point of view, and say what you would recommend should be done about it:

Caring for the old people of the future. Because we are all living longer, this is a time bomb waiting to happen. Social Services need all the help they can get from us in planning to cope with it. I am the acting Chairman of the Craven Older People's Reference Group, and we need new members of 60+ to help in formulating new policies.

It would help if those who wish to die were helped to do so. I am a long-standing member of the voluntary euthanasia society, "Death with Dignity". Perhaps it is easier for me because I do not believe in a personal god, or in the afterlife.

What is your wish for your grandchildren? That they survive global warming.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers? Make the best of the opportunities available

to you, especially the new apprenticeship system.

If there's one thing you've learned from life, what is it?

"This above all, to thine own self be true; ... thou canst not then be false to any man"
(stolen from Hamlet at the age of 18 and pursued ever since).

Copy date for next issue of Newsletter

*All copy for publication in the next issue needs to reach the editor
(Pam Servant, Brayshaw Cottage, 23 Duke Street, Settle) by*

Thursday 1 May

NB all copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.

STOP PRESS

This space is for any urgent items that come too late for the copy date (see below). Please keep wording to a minimum.

**HERALDRY: Meeting on *Thursday 17 April*. Visit to Gisburn and East Marton churches.
Meet in Booths car park at 10.00am**

If God had wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.