

MAY SPEAKER MEETING

'AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SUPERTRAMP' JOHN HELLIWELL

Victoria Hall 10.30am
Thursday 12th May 2011
(Coffee from 10.00am)



Fri 6th May at 7.30pm
THE KING'S SPEECH (12A)
Austwick Village Hall

SETTLE U3A AGM

This is just to remind everyone that the AGM will take place on Thursday September 8th. We shall be looking for nominations for new committee members. If you may be interested in serving on the committee, please make yourself known to chairman Debi or any committee member.

GROUPS FOR 2011/12

I am in the process of construction the programme of U3A groups for 2011/12. So now is your chance to start a new group in Settle District U3A. It is important that we have new groups added to the programme to keep the U3A fresh and alive. Some groups come to their natural ends, and new groups are needed to maintain the variety of our programme. We already have two new groups for next session, Continuing Spanish for people with some Spanish fluency to practise so that they do not forget what they already know, and a group on Landscapes and Townscapes in North Craven which will look at the archive record to discover local history. We have ample space for more, and I do not yet know which of this year's groups will decide not to operate in 2011/12. A draft programme is on the website (in the top left-hand corner) but is only a draft, so please get in touch if you would like to add a group to the list, even if you do not feel competent to lead it. Please contact me by phone or e-mail: 01729 822903, ecldh@leeds.ac.uk *David Holdsworth*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends,

Have you stood up and been counted? Or were you like me and sat down with a cuppa to fill in your census form? Have you sent your response (in whatever way you chose) to our discussion document from last month? I do hope so. We can't threaten you with a fine if you haven't done the latter but it is just as important to our U3A. Thank you very much to all those who responded.



We did think about providing everyone with a rundown of costs and usage of the Victoria Hall but decided against it because of the amount of time and paper involved. But believe me; we have, as a committee, gone into all the facts in great detail! From what I have been sent most people seem in favour of keeping our relationship with the Victoria Hall and increasing the yearly subscription by the suggested amount. Some people thought the voluntary amount a good idea and also a possible increase in the payment for each group joined, as well as for the monthly meeting. Overall the respondents were happy with how things were being run. Thank goodness for that!

It has been interesting to read other comments that one or two people added to their responses. A few members expressed dissatisfaction with some of the recent speakers – difficult to hear/understand. As an ageing group we are probably all fighting some degree of hearing loss and we need to see and hear the speaker. This can be a problem with such a large space as the Victoria Hall. Sometimes the sound/loop system doesn't work as well as it might or the speaker doesn't face the audience. Most of our speakers probably haven't had any training in addressing large groups. I shall do my best to encourage future speakers to address us more effectively. Another idea was to get more of us involved with the running of the Hall. Already many U3A members help with publicity and stewarding at events. I'm sure others would be willing to do this. So why not have a word with David Ramage? Or join the Friends?

www.settlevictoriahall.co.uk

Have a happy Easter, not too many Hot-cross buns or Easter Eggs,
Best wishes, Debi Burrige

U3A
SETTLE
DISTRICT

ART APPRECIATION: A visit to Abbot Hall Kendal has been arranged for Tuesday 19th April to view the exhibition of work by Sheila Fell. Sheila was an artist from Cumberland and this exhibition will focus on her landscape and coastal paintings. Further information about these exhibitions can be found on the Art Appreciation section of the Settle U3A website.

Kate Helm

CIRCLE DANCING: We enjoyed a delightful session recently when we were joined by a group of circle dancers from Ilkley U3A. Each group learned dances new to them, and we plan to repeat the experience when we visit Ilkley.

Our next sessions will be on May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th before we break for summer, but there will be a Circle Dance afternoon on June 4th led by Anne-Lise Kryger from Penrith. This will be open to anyone and beginners are very welcome, no partner needed. Look for posters nearer the time.

Pat and Gillian

EXERCISE:

After a two week break, sessions will resume on May 3rd.

Gillian

GEOLOGY & LANDSCAPE GROUP: Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th April at 14:00** in the Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall. The topic for the session will be "The Geology of New Zealand" - this is not just a travelogue of my recent trip - but a look at a geologically fascinating place which has a geological history very different and distinct from our island.

Paul Cochrane

GREAT LIVES: In March we heard a fascinating talk on the great American expedition by Lewis and Clark. In 1803 when Jefferson was President of America, vast tracts of central and N.W. America were uncharted, and an expedition was organized under the leadership of Lewis and Clark (both retired Army Officers) to research and record all they could about this unknown territory- the geology, geography, flora and fauna, local people etc. The expedition set out in 1804 from St. Louis, following the Missouri river by boat and overland. After 6/12 they had covered 1600 miles, and wintered in an Indian settlement at Teton. There they hired an Indian girl who would accompany them and act as interpreter - Sacajawea. Approaching the Great Falls, the boats had to be transported by portage and horses used. They achieved the Pacific coast by following the Colorado river, where they wintered and recorded their finds. The journey had taken them two years, but they managed the return in only one year. This expedition is regarded as one of the most famous ever undertaken. There will be no meeting in April, but we resume on May 18th.

Happy Easter to all.

Jean Imrie

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS: Will everyone please note that the 28th April outing to Lancaster (Town Hall etc) has been called off due to lack of support.

Alan Hemsworth

THE MARCH MEETING went to 2 contrasting buildings in Settle. We took the opportunity to visit the Police Station, due to be closed and the staff moved to a purpose built one nearby. The present building, Cragdale, was built about 1880 before Chapel Lane was there, by a solicitor, Mr Peart, who demolished some cottages to improve his garden. We toured the place as it is now, from top (very dilapidated attics) to bottom - the cells, complete with assorted lost property! Several people remembered the courtroom - a lovely room with a big bay window looking towards Greenfoot. Next we went to the oldest house in Settle - Bishopdale House, owned by one of our members, Ann Sadaghiani. It dates from the 17th century, and after being used as a mill during the war, her part was separated and with an empty interior. Ann has renovated this sympathetically. The outside has some fine original features.

Debi Burridge

PHOTOGRAPHY: There will be no meeting on the 4th Friday of April that being Good Friday. The next meeting will be on FRIDAY 27TH MAY. We will meet in the Car Park at Stainforth at 2.00pm and will spend an afternoon taking photographs.

Frank Higginson

WALKING GROUP: Tuesday Walks have been well attended despite some interesting weather. We had an easy, not too muddy walk round Malham Tarn on a sunny day in February and found ourselves in the fog up by the smelting mill chimney. The Gisburn Forest walk became a damp meander down the Ribble and round the lanes above Settle. A very brisk March breeze saw a group being blown round Grimwith Reservoir - a little chilly too! The contrast with a text received during the walk from one member who'd just arrived in a warm and sunny Barcelona was irritating. The best weather was for the Bentham Heritage walk along the River Wenning in glorious spring sunshine with super views to the north. For Rodney's birthday, the extra walk from Hornby along the Wenning and the Lune, the weather reverted to damp misty conditions. But so many different birds were seen, including a large flock of house martins, that the group didn't mind that at all. Signs of an otter were spotted too.

Don't forget the Planning Meeting at 11.30 am on Thurs 21st April, in the Friends Meeting House followed by a Jacob's Join lunch.

Debi Burridge

WINIFRED WILKS

We are sorry to hear of the death of Winifred (Wyn) at the weekend. Wyn was a well known and popular member of the community as well as our U3A. Our sympathy goes to Frank her husband and to her family.