



Registered Charity No 1095635

# SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 7/15 April 2017

[www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk](http://www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk)

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

The subject of this item this month is the regular Thursday Meetings which we hold once a month. On behalf of the Committee I want to apologise to all members for the quality of the last two speakers (in February and in March). They were disappointing, although some members did appreciate some of their contributions.

The booking of speakers has to be carried out well in advance. In fact you may be surprised to know the speakers for 2018 are already booked. How are speakers found and how are they booked? There is a Yorkshire and Humberside U3A Region list of speakers which is utilised. Then again we receive speaker recommendations from other U3As as well as from our own members who have heard a speaker elsewhere and feel that it would be good to have her or him here in Settle.

After recent experiences the Committee has decided to tighten up on the "vetting" and preparation of speakers. We shall try to carry out more checks. Is the speaker aware that the Hall is large? Is the speaker accustomed to using a microphone properly? Does he or she realise that the audience is composed of people of "older years" with many experiencing some hearing loss? Whilst it is good to have some interaction with the audience a debate when many people can't hear what is being said doesn't work. A talk, followed by questions is the best format provided that the questions are heard by all.

Thank you to everyone for your forbearance; your Committee will be seeking significant improvements.

Ian Tennant

**May Meeting: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May in the Victoria Hall**  
**'Moses Holden – Self- educated Astronomer' with Steve Halliwell**  
**(Coffee from 10am)**



**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.45pm**  
**Settle Victoria Hall**      *our Little Sister (PG)*

**Summer Day Trip to RHS Harlow Carr THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2017** Open to all U3A members. We shall travel by coach. Meet at the Cricket Club at 9.15am. Entry: free to RHS members. Group discount price: £7 pp. Guided Tour: £2 pp. Coach cost including driver's tip and U3A 50p will be £13. To book a place, or for further information, please contact Anne Webster: [amw.1@btinternet.com](mailto:amw.1@btinternet.com) or 01729 824 844

## LUNCH GROUP

A very enjoyable lunch was enjoyed at the Fountaine Inn, Linton, Grassington last month. Please note that the **next lunch will be on Friday, 21 April at The Higher Buck, Waddington, Forest of Bowland**. Please meet at 12.00 at Settle Cricket Club for car sharing. If you would like to come along please let me know as soon as possible. **Anne Webster: Tel: 01729 824 844** or [amw.1@btinternet.com](mailto:amw.1@btinternet.com)

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### BADMINTON AND TENNIS GROUP

#### Summer Sessions

The **Table Tennis** section only will operate during the Summer Term (Friday 7th April until Friday 30th June) at Langcliffe Village Hall from 10.30 - 12.00. The cost to cover the Hall hire will be £1.50 each. New members will be very welcome. Please note there will not be a session on Good Friday 14th April. We will start playing Badminton again on Friday 1st September.

**Tony & Wendy Carroll**

### GREAT LIVES

At our March meeting John Parry gave us a well-researched, illustrated presentation on the life and times of William Armstrong, later Baron Armstrong of Cragside. Born in Newcastle he was a noted inventor and industrialist, perfecting the hydraulic crane in 1845 and founding the Elswick Engine works to produce cranes, engines and bridges. It is however primarily his breech-loading gun and subsequent munitions developments that made his name, particularly when he was able to export his products worldwide—for instance to both sides in the American Civil War. He later bought the huge estate at Cragside and installed electric lighting there—a local first. He died at Cragside in 1900 having proved a generous patron to his Newcastle birthplace, though perhaps still considered by some as a "merchant of death" in respect of the casualties arising from his products. A most thought-provoking session from John.

**Our next meeting** will be on Wednesday 19th April (Victoria Hall 11.00am) when Ian Gray will talk on the life and times of **Shostakovich**, in particular his sometimes strained relations with Joseph Stalin and the Communist party hierarchy.

**John Jebson**

### LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS (LAOB)

#### REMINDERS:

#### 1. THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2017 – Gawthorpe Hall

**Gawthorpe Hall**, an Elizabethan gem, is a stunning structure with a rich history. It is sometimes referred to as the 'Downton of the North'.

Although not as grand, Gawthorpe was redesigned by Sir Charles Barry (who also redesigned Highclere Castle, the filming location for ITV's Downton Abbey).

**The Grounds:** Take a leisurely stroll around the formal gardens with views of the river, or perhaps a short ramble through the woodland to enjoy the wildlife.

**Gawthorpe Textile Collection** showcases the most extraordinary and intricate needlework, lace and costume amassed by Rachel Kay Shuttleworth as well as contemporary pieces from talented artists across the region. The team regularly host incredible events that support the collection.

**The Tea-Room After (or before) a visit to the property why not stop by the tea-room and say hello to the friendly staff. Choose from a selection of scrumptious sandwiches, cakes and scones plus hot and cold drinks – open 11.00am – 5.00pm**

**Transport by Bibby's coach, leaving Settle Cricket**

Club at 9.50am, returning at 4.30 pm. £18 includes coach, guided tour, U3A 50p and driver's tip. **contact Anne Webster 01729 824 844 [amw.1@btinternet.com](mailto:amw.1@btinternet.com)**

#### 2. Farfield Mill, Sedbergh 27th April

Reminder for people signed up for trip, **£18** (coach, mill entrance, drivers tip, and 50p U3A). We can order lunch choices, snacks etc from Weavers Cafe on arrival. **The coach will leave Settle Cricket Club at 9.15am.** In the afternoon there is a planned stop in **Sedbergh** before returning to Settle for approx. **4pm.**

**Payment will be collected on Thursday 9th April at the monthly meeting in Victoria Hall or alternatively it can be paid directly to Heather Chappell at 3 Longdale Avenue, Settle BD24 9BB.**

**Heather Chappell and Rosemary Harrod**  
(rohardesigns@yahoo.co.uk 01729/824239)

Thank you to Lynda Boyce for a "Grand Day Out" to Ripon last month. The detailed write-up is on the Looking at Old Buildings Group Web Page (LHS menu of the main website!).

**Elizabeth Evans**

### GERMAN CONVERSATION

At a recent class we had a very interesting talk given by Anne Buckley from the German Department at Leeds University about the German prisoners of war who were held at Raikes Wood Camp, near Skipton, from April 1918 until October 1919. The prisoners wrote letters which have been compiled into a book which Anne is getting translated. Our class was given photocopies of part of the book and invited to help with the translation.

**Keith Bradshaw**

## YOGA

Our next class is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am in the Victoria Hall. **Monica Jenkins**

## WESTNET QUIZ NIGHT

A team of Settle U3A members, relatively imaginatively named The Settlers, came a creditable nowhere in the WestNet Quiz in Skipton on 5 April! A packed room of eager quizzers and puzzled persons baffled their way through eight rounds of increasingly confusing questions topped off with a picture round of bridges of the world. A tasty pie and pea supper bolstered our reserves half way through the night. But seriously, a good night was had by all. May give it a try next time!! **Chris Chandler**



**Please keep copy to approx. 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to: Chris Taylor [christine@castlebergh.plus.com](mailto:christine@castlebergh.plus.com) Tel: 01729 823975 Submissions will be acknowledged by email. Wherever possible, the full account is used but occasionally it is necessary to edit the piece for the printed copy.**  
**The full submissions will be used on the website version.**