



Registered Charity No 1095635

Letter from the chair

SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 7/17 April 2019

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Hello,

Reaching out and communicating, I hope you will agree, is important. Letting others know what we do and how to join U3A can take many forms e.g. talk to others about U3A, being welcoming to newcomers in Groups/Speaker Meetings and sharing publicity locally. To this end, we are planning another Settle District U3A stall at Booth's Supermarket on 10/11th MAY (Friday and Saturday). Volunteers are needed to talk with interested passers-by - contact Anne/Secretary. IT REALLY IS AN ENJOYABLE WAY OF SPENDING A COUPLE OF HOURS.

More generally, sharing what is happening within Settle District U3A is important and this Newsletter is one means which offers interest. Word of mouth is also crucial but communication is a two way thing. It is hoped we are reaching our membership and you feel involved. We do not all engage in U3A in the same way, you may go to one or more Groups and/or only the Speaker Meeting. This may affect how you hear information. We can lead busy lives! However they say 'ask a busy person if you want something done' and as raised in previous Newsletters - we need something done! We need to hear from any who would be able and willing to be SECRETARY, VICE-CHAIR AND CHAIRPERSON for the coming year. It is imperative that the message is heard and those interested feel they can come and talk with me or a committee member, please.

An eager contingent at the WestNet Quiz Night last month, came 10th out of 17 Groups with 58 points (Winning score - 82 points). A great evening out and of course with scope for improvement, we shall be back!! WestNet is anticipating booking the Hall in Gargrave for next year, as I write.

Whilst thinking ahead - a reminder to HOLD THE DATE - 19th JUNE, as Settle is hosting WestNet SUMMER HISTORY TRAIL. I am already taking bookings! See our Notice Board and Website.

Exciting news – The Painting Group has a permanent Exhibition of 32 paintings in Rathmell Old School. Each of the works has the artist's name and contact details. Viewing arrangements through Eileen Clegg. I have a visit planned for next week.

Best wishes

Jackie

PS If you want to explore the Massive Open Online Courses /FutureLearn free courses - I see Chinese culture, geology, Shakespeare and critical thinking +++ is on offer.

May Meeting: Thursday 9th May 2019

'Institute of Advance Motorists – Be Road Smart' with Steve Ellis

Friday 12th April 8.0pm in Bentham Town Hall

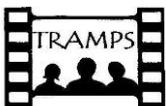
FIRST MAN (12)

Wednesday 17th April 7.45 pm Settle Victoria Hall

THE BREAD WINNER (12A)

Wednesday 8th May 7.45pm Settle Victoria Hall

POETRY (12A)



The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show

Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by

FRIDAY 3RD May 2019 to: Chris Taylor

christine@castlebergh.plus.com Tel: 01729 823975

Copy 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.

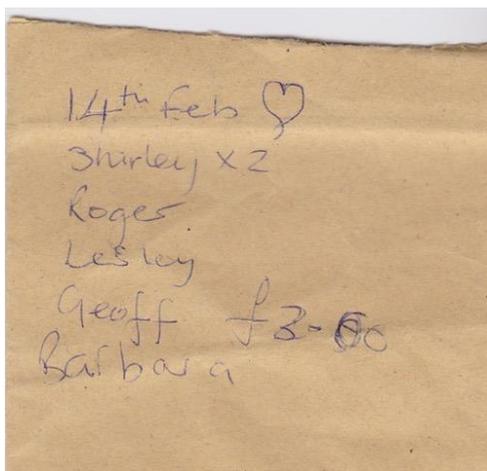
NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GROUPS

Suggestions for new groups

At this time of year, we are ready to help new leaders set up new groups. We need plenty of time for this because we need to look at the timetable and we need to arrange venues. So we are looking for suggestions and new leaders. If you have an idea, let us know, we can sit down with you for an informal chat over a cup of tea or coffee and try and coordinate things. **Debi and Jeanne** r5whw@hotmail.co.uk

Please Help Alison who does a remarkable job banking Group takings and recording the amounts to be credited to each Group. After the last appeal numerous small coins are rare but some offerings like that below are a challenge too far. Please ensure the Group name is clearly shown and in this case, mea culpa, it was my Bridge Group at fault - apologies Alison!

John Parry



BIRDWATCHING GROUP

The Group made the short journey to Hellifield Flash for its April meeting. Yet again the weather defied an unfavourable forecast and we were able to study the birds in warm sunshine. After enjoying excellent views of the birds on the main flash, including spectacular flight displays from a large flock of Black-tailed Godwits, we walked down to the smaller flashes and found, amongst other treats, a pair of migrating Wheatears - our first of the year!

The Group's next meeting is on Tuesday 7th May at 10.00 am in the Castleberg Room at Victoria Hall. We'll be looking in depth at 'Woodland Birds', focusing on their songs and calls and how they look and behave. We'll

discover the incredible roosting habits and engineering prowess of the Long-tailed Tit, reveal why Manx people Hunt the Wren, and find out how the Goldcrest came to be crowned as the King of the Birds. We'll also lift the lid on the amazing sex life of the Dunnock - not for the faint-hearted!

For more information about the U3A Birdwatching Group and its activities contact Group Leader **Les Chandler** on Ichandler52@gmail.com.



Black-tailed Godwit at Hellifield Flash

GREAT LIVES

At our March meeting Fiona Burnett gave us an excellent account of a lady unknown to the group, Marie Marvingt, a French heroine, one of the most decorated women in French history. A mountaineer, athlete, pioneer aviator she pushed the boundaries of what was considered female capabilities prior to World War One. It was in that conflict where she pioneered the concept of an air ambulance to get casualties quickly to hospitals-she was dubbed "the flying Florence Nightingale". She served briefly on the front line (dressed as a man!) and saw service on the Italian front in an Alpine regiment. The Flying Ambulance Corps of WW2 was largely her creation and even into her 80s she was still active-cycling from Nancy to Paris aged 86!! Only her death aged 88 stopped her obtaining her helicopter pilot's licence. Truly a remarkable lady with 34 official medals to her name.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April (Victoria Hall 11.00am) when Jenny Wheeler will give a presentation on the life and work of Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans.

John Jebson

Advanced Notice – Proposed Summer Outing for all members to Brantwood, home of John Ruskin at Coniston. Date to be arranged, late June/July.