

# Newsletter

Issue No 5/11, August 2007  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
SETTLE DISTRICT**

Registered Charity No 1095635  
<http://www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk/>  
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## ***FROM THE CHAIRMAN***

Dear Friends

As I write arrangements are well in hand for the AGM in September, a busy time for any committee. You will find in this *Newsletter* a form for nominations to the committee. Please consider yourself or approach somebody you know to stand for the committee; it is an interesting experience and a good way of making even more new friends in the U3A.

Come along to the AGM, when you can put your name down for all those groups you want to join as autumn approaches.

Don't forget our Anniversary Celebrations on Friday 31 August. Tickets are going very well but we do still have some left.

Sincerely **Janet**

**The Annual General Meeting  
of Settle District U3A**  
will be held on  
**Thursday 13 September 2007**  
in the Victoria Hall starting at 10.30am.  
Coffee will be served from 10.00am.

## FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Do read your Programme thoroughly, especially the instructions at the beginning, then come and sign up for your chosen classes on **13 September**. This is a new season. Established members of classes still need to sign up again.

Some details may have changed by September, so do check dates of first meetings etc when you sign up.

If you can't get to the AGM on 13 September, please WRITE what group you want to join on a piece of paper and let me have it before that date. I can't guarantee to remember if you tell me when you see me or ring when I am thinking of something else.

There are some groups where numbers are limited. Where this does not involve a tutor it is very easy for 2 or 3 of us to start a second (or third) group. Sign up in September or let me know and I will put you in touch with each other.

**Alison Tyas** (01729 822313) Quaker Garth, Kirkgate (opposite the Victoria Hall)

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

*Beginners French:* We have played bingo, "sung along" in French, selected barbecue equipment from supermarket brochures and chosen restaurant menus from lists of ingredients. We have learnt to greet each other, talk about our families and describe what we are wearing. We can even direct a French visitor to different places in the town. We have followed the amusing anecdotes of Marc and Julie in Paris and hope to do more of the same when the class resumes on **10 October** (twice monthly next term). New members most welcome. In the meantime, "Bonnes vacances à tous!" **APR**

*Continuing French:* Our last meeting was an enjoyable ending to quite a hard-working year. We watched *Le Diner des Cons* at Saida's house, a film that made us laugh out loud but, at the same time, produced much thoughtful discussion afterwards. This was followed by a Jacob's Join with a definite French flavour and a glass of rosé from the Loire Valley, or French Chardonnay. A good time was had by all, which is what U3A is all about!

The next meeting will be on **Monday 1 October** and is open to all who have a reasonable knowledge of French, no matter how rusty.

**Olwyn Bolger and Anne Richer**

**Music Appreciation:** The next meeting is on **20 August** at Smithy Croft, Rathmell. Telephone 840882 for directions. **Shirley Wolfenden**

**Singing for Pleasure:** Finished on a high note! We now look forward to tuning in again on **Wednesday, 19 September** at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall. **MH**

**Strollers:** Four of us enjoyed a walk around Giggleswick as planned last month. The weather was not good but we did not get wet, and enjoyed our coffee stop at the Hart's Head. After much discussion we decided to change our time to afternoons (rain before seven, stopped by eleven, as the saying goes). Our next walk will be on **22 August** along the canal at Gargrave, catching the bus which leaves Giggleswick at 1.27pm. We will alight at The Anchor and walk along the towpath into Gargrave and have a cup of tea at one of the cafés before catching the bus back. **Janet Stafford** (825449)

**Sunday Lunch:** In July we visited The Slater's Arms in Bradley. All agreed that it was good value for money but it was small, crowded with no separate dining room.

The August lunch will be on **Sunday 19 August**, when we will visit The Old Hall Inn at Threshfield. A table has been booked for 1.00pm. Please let me know by Friday, 17 August if you are coming and as this venue is new to us give me a ring if further information is required.

*Preliminary notice -*

A tentative booking has been made for **16 December 2007** when the Pendle Heritage Centre in Barrowford are hosting a Christmas Lunch in their old barn, price £16.95 per person.

Last winter the Looking at Old Buildings Group made an enjoyable visit to Barrowford and so *we would like to extend an invitation to last year's Old Buildings Group* to join us. A minimum number of 15 is needed before the booking can be confirmed and so please, will anyone who knows now that they will be free on that date and would like to join in the party, please contact either me on 01729 825123 or Jill Sykes on 01524 251398. **Audrey Daykin**

**Wine Appreciation—Group 1:** Summer Dinner, 12 July

This occasion has become a well-practised event for the group involving pre-planning, financing, purchasing, cooking, accommodation, transport, publishing, communication and co-operation—and it has noticeably improved with the practice!

The evening's wines:

A rosé, Clos d'Yvigne, Bel-Ami, 2006 Bergerac, 13.5% filled the bill as an aperitif but was the least memorable beverage of the evening.

Drylands, Sauvignon Blanc 2004 Marlborough, 13%, followed by Jackson Estate Vintage Widow Pinot Noir, 2005 14%, again from Marlborough; then we had Wolf Blass President's Selection Shiraz, 2004 14% to accompany in turn the starter, main and cheese courses. All three were much appreciated.

The Pedro Ximenèz Napoleon Sherry, Bedega Hildalgo 17% was served with the dessert and has been a happy talking point ever since! It was deliciously rich and fruity. Time for coffee, the taxi and (for some) a quiet, contemplative Friday completed the occasion. **GHP**



*Wine Appreciation Group 1—minus 2 (1 sick, 1 on the camera)*

**Wine Appreciation—Group 2:**

1st red— Montana (Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon) 13% Co-op £5.49  
In spite of the bottle's large dimple even FE was not seduced by the contents: "Headache material".

2nd red—Cote du Rhone 13½% Co-op £3.79  
Opinions divided, ranging from 2/10 to 7/10. MB broke into song—"I like it".

3rd red— Devonet (Merlot/Pinotage) 14% Laithwaites £6.66  
The label stated "A lovely harmonious blend". RC proclaimed "A very smooth bottom with a musty residual aftertaste": when told that it was S African, stunned everyone claiming "... the first S African wine that he'd enjoyed".

We also had two white wines:

Laithwaites Sauvignon Blanc 12% £6.42  
Not popular. RC didn't have a second glass, which was most uncharacteristic.

The Gold Medal of the evening went to a Frascati,  
12% Co-op £3.99  
Unanimously voted the Best Buy!

A very enjoyable evening. **HB**

**Thursday meetings—Lecture programme for 2007-8**

Some of the Membership cards for next session had to be printed before the programme was complete: the July 2008 speaker had not been fixed.

If you have one of these cards, you may now care to note that on 10 July 2008 the speaker will be Tony Stephens, and his talk will be entitled "*Singing for my supper: five years in the life of a Westminster Abbey chorister*". This will be mainly a digital presentation with a bit of music thrown in.

## Keswick Theatre Trip

There are a few seats available for the Keswick outing to see *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Payment of £18 per person is now due and must be paid by 25 August to secure your place. Cheques payable to *Settle District U3A Social Account* and sent to Shirley Wolfenden, Smithy Croft, Rathmell, Settle BD24 0LA.

## Friday 31 August Anniversary Celebration

The last date for getting tickets is  
Monday 13 August.

*Would members please note that tickets MUST be presented at the door.*

TRAMPS presents -

*Friday 21 September (Langcliffe Institute) and Saturday 22 September (Clapham Village Hall)*

**The Last King of Scotland**

*Friday 19 October (Langcliffe Institute) and Saturday 20 October (Clapham Village Hall)*

**Casino Royale**

## *Up close and personal*

*In this series we try to find out a bit about the life and background of one of our members. Some of us of course have achieved great things, while others have led what may be regarded as a more everyday sort of life; this series is equally interested either way.*

This month the spotlight falls on our Chairman, **Janet Stafford**  
***Which U3A groups do you currently attend? Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)?***

Wine Appreciation (Group 1), Tuesday Walks, Listening to Music, Art Appreciation.

I'm interested in the new Digital Photography group.

***Where are your roots?***

I was born and brought up in Salford. Then after I married we lived in Wales, Hyde, Leeds and then Warwickshire; we came to Giggleswick in 1992 and to Settle in 1998. I still see myself as a Lancashire woman, but I'm glad to have ended up here—it's the best move we ever made.

***What does your family consist of?***

One daughter, one son and daughter-in-law, and one bachelor son, four granddaughters and one grandson. And I'm the middle one of three sisters.

***Tell us briefly about your education and career:***

Because I was evacuated during the War I didn't go to school till I was 6. I failed the 11+ because I couldn't read the paper due to undiagnosed short sight (it was sorted out later when the NHS came in). In 1948 I went to Tootal Road secondary modern school in Salford, where they didn't take exams so I left with a reference at 15. Then I took a cookery course at Salford Royal Technical College (now the University) and got ULCI and CGLI certificates, after which I became a dental receptionist/chairside assistant until I got married—and had 3 children.

In 1973 I went to the General Infirmary in Leeds for nurse training then moved to Stratford on Avon Hospital as a Staff Nurse—then to Lanchester Poly (Coventry) for District Nurse training and subsequently work as a District Sister in Solihull. At this time I took GCE O Level English Language. Then I took a post as Liaison Sister with the Elderly.

When my husband was given early retirement in 1992 I decided to take it too, and we moved to Settle (we'd always said we'd come back here and all the family had come back to Yorkshire). I did A Level English Literature and AS Level History at Craven College—both very interesting.

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

The highlight was having a husband and a family.

I suppose the achievement was nursing—getting the qualifications, especially after starting late, and ending up with a career, and the financial independence of a pension, because of it.

***Have you any unachieved ambitions?***

Not really an ambition, but I'd love to see where I'd have got if I *had* passed the 11+.

***Have you any hobbies?***

Not so much *hobbies* as *interests*. I really enjoy walking (that was one reason we came back here), and I like reading—mostly novels but also a daily newspaper; I like to keep up with what's going on nationally. Also I enjoy the theatre, and cooking and entertaining

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

Bad manners—and aggressive and bullying behaviour.

***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:***

As recent events have reminded us, everybody needs access to good, clean drinking water.

I support the charity Wateraid: we can't do much about the world-wide problem as individuals but everybody could contribute to Wateraid or some similar charity.

***What is your wish for your grandchildren?***

That they should achieve their full potential in whatever they do in adult life.

***Have you any advice for today's school leavers?***

Work hard but make sure you get some pleasure out of life.

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

If you have a slow start in life *don't give up*: there are opportunities to achieve at every stage.

## **The Walking Group**

Click links to see the pictures: [\*taking a brief rest at Stainforth\*](#) and [\*Hutton Roof\*](#)

### ***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—e-mail pms@daelnet.co.uk)  
by Thursday 6 September 2007.*

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

*You're getting old when you still get the urge, but can't remember what for.  
You have to stay in shape. My grandma started walking 5 miles a day when she was 70.  
She's 93 now and we don't know where the hell she is.*