

Newsletter

Issue No 6/11, August 2008
**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SETTLE DISTRICT**

*Registered Charity No 1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

If you're getting fed up with our "summer" weather, it may help to know that it is worse elsewhere. An e-mail from our son in Hong Kong says they can't go out of the house because of tropical cyclone Kammuri. Only his son is happy, and can't understand why there are so many people at home to play with him.

On a more serious matter, the Committee wishes to submit proposals to make three amendments to its constitution at the AGM on 11 September. U3As adopt constitutions based on a tried and tested model drawn up by U3A HQ, but have some discretion to adopt, or otherwise, certain sub-clauses. Earlier this year a sub-committee led by Vice-Chairman John Jebson reviewed the Settle U3A constitution and concluded that section 3, which deals with the U3A's objects, does not adequately reflect the reality of how we now operate. The sub-committee also recommended two minor changes to Section 6, which concern the operation of the Executive Committee.

Constitutionally, it is necessary to give advance notice of any proposal to be placed before the AGM. The separate insert you should find inside this *Newsletter* is the notice of the proposal which the Committee intends to put to the AGM.

With best wishes

Tony Stephens

The Annual General Meeting of Settle District U3A

will be held on

Thursday 11 September 2008

in the Victoria Hall starting at 10.30am.

(Coffee will be available from 10.00am)

The main business will be to receive the Committee's Report and Accounts, to elect officers and committee members to serve from 2008-9, and to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Nominations for election must be made on the required form (available at today's meeting, ie 14 August, and subsequently, from me) and must reach me at least 14 days before the AGM.

Gillian Walton, Secretary

FROM THE GROUPS ORGANISER

Please read all the information at the front of the new Programme and obey instructions. There are rather a lot this time but it is important.

If you can't be at the AGM on 11 September you can leave me a list of the groups you want to join and, as my last job as your co-ordinator, I will sign your name on the lists for you. This year you will have to leave your lists with me **beforehand** as I shan't be able to help you afterwards.

Alison Tyas *Quaker Garth, Kirkgate, Settle, BD24 9DX 01729 822313*

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Beginners French: A busy year for French enthusiasts! With the text in front of us, we have listened to recordings on CD of various dialogues and been appalled at the speed with which the French seem to speak! We have watched the film "Jean de Florette" about Marcel Pagnol's early childhood with French subtitles!

In preparation for the summer holidays, we have compared the merits of various campsites and learnt how to seek help at the pharmacy or from the doctor with a variety of symptoms, aided by the cartoon characters, Claudie and Céline.

We have practiced telling the time and talking about the weather and learned a lot of er verbs!

We have started to read about the life and exploits of Tistou, a story by Maurice Druon about a boy with green fingers, and hope to do more of the same when the class resumes fortnightly on **8 October** under the new title "Intermediate French".

New members most welcome.

Anne Richer

Circle Dancing: The next meeting will be on **Friday 12 September** (10.00-11.00am in the Victoria Hall).

Gillian Walton

Exercise: There will be no more classes now until **Tuesday 16 September** (10.00-11.00am at the Cricket Club).

Gillian Walton

Heraldry: I have now had confirmation of our visit to Conishead Priory on **Thursday 18 September**. We are due there at 11.00am, when we will be met with coffee and biscuits. We will leave Settle Cricket Club at 9.45am *prompt*. The cost of the visit will be £3.75 each. They do require numbers in advance so please let me know if you are coming, on 840609 by the previous Sunday (14 September). Non-Heraldry group members are welcome to join us—just let me know. **Hilary Baker**

Line Dancing re-starts on **Thursday 18 September**, provided that a facilitator can be found.

PLD

Looking at Old Buildings: For our July class we had a 2-for-1 in Giggleswick by visiting St Alkelda's Church in the morning and Queen's Rock House in the afternoon.

Kathleen Kinder gave us a fascinating insight not only into the church from its Pre-Conquest foundation but also into how its history mirrored that of England. Kathleen pointed things out about the church building that even people born and bred in the area did not know. We saw the evidence of the early foundation, and learnt of the possible site of the chancel house needed

because upward of 15,000 people have been buried in the churchyard over the centuries. We learnt a lot and were inspired to learn more via references Kathleen gave us and sent later by e-mail.

The inspirational day continued in the afternoon at Queen's Rock House, built in the 1770s, where we were received, informed and entertained—maid service for tea no less—in a manner suited to a gentleman's residence. Gillian and Roger Walton gave us a tour of the house, garden and coach house. The last looked like the equivalent of a garage for a trio of Rolls Royces complete with coach wash recently discovered outside. The many features of house and garden held us fascinated—one puzzle perhaps being solved in the kitchen by the suggestion that two rows of hooks on the beams were for strings to hang oatcakes to dry. But does anyone know why indoor shutters should have a neat hole near the top, covered by a circle of paper? To tell night from day perhaps? Again we learnt much and had plenty of food for thought to take away with us. **Vanessa Stone**

Strollers Walk: On Wednesday 9 July, a warm but not sunny day, 9 of us in 3 cars descended on Clapham and headed for the Nature Trail where we had a most enjoyable and exhilarating walk.

Pausing first to admire the waterfall, we then walked through beautiful woods and beside the lake to the Grotto. We there posed for a photo-shoot before returning to Clapham for tea and delicious chocolate muffins in the Old Barn.

*Next walk: **20 August*** to Austwick—meet 2.00pm in the Cricket Club car park. Please let Beryl Slann (015242 51205) know if you are coming, to arrange tea at Woodview.

Date for the October walk will be changed.

Margaret Gladwin

Sunday Lunch: Two dates for your diaries: **17 August** at the Pheasant Inn at Casterton, and **21 September** at The Priests House at Barden Tower. Usual time, 12.30pm. Please let me know if you will be coming.

Audrey Daykin

Walks

Thursday 3 July-Great Whernside

Smaller than Ribblesdale's Whernside, the Wharfedale version dominates the skyline above Kettlewell and is an interesting challenge in its own right.

Our route from Kettlewell was by Dowber Gill Beck and Hag Dyke— a scout hostel situated at approx 1500 feet, making it one of highest altitude hostels in the country. With its solar panelled roof and 2 mini wind turbines its green power credentials are impeccable. The route to the summit now presented its steepest aspect—with a brief scramble up a shale rock path followed by a rather boggy plateau and the spectacular boulder strewn summit. Although not the clearest of days our own Three Peaks were clearly visible.

The walk then followed a horseshoe shaped ridge before descending to the slightly lower ridgeway by the superbly named Little Hunters Sleet. At Cam Head, with the sun shining the decision was taken to forego the direct return to

Kettlewell and instead to follow the ancient trail down to Starbotton, to my mind one of the most beautiful of Dales villages. From there the return to Kettlewell was via a section of the Dales Way, largely tracking the Wharfe through pastureland and meadows. An enjoyable walk providing a snapshot of upper Wharfedale's varied landscape, a total of approximately 9 miles.

John Jebson

Tuesday Group:

On 8 July two optimistic members set off from Settle in pouring rain for the environs of Arnside. By the time we got there the rain had stopped and although there were no long distance views a very pleasant walk ensued. We set off along the rocky shoreline, reaching the cover of trees just as a heavy shower came down. We kept just above the shore as far as the outskirts of Silverdale, where there was a convenient seat for us to eat lunch. We then struck inland in the direction of Arnside Knott but decided to keep to the lower grassy slopes because of the wet conditions underfoot. There was a mixture of woodland and open grass and some good views through the trees across the estuary. The sun came out briefly as we returned to Arnside for a very welcome cup of tea. A walk which we hope to repeat (and complete) in the not too distant future.

The walk on 22 July, which should have been in Nidderdale, was instead a very pleasant stroll from the Cricket Club, along the Ribble Way to Stackhouse and Langcliffe and back via the locks and Watershed Mill.

*The walks programme is now on the web-site and copies are available from Alison Tyas or Margaret and Michael Cullingworth. There is also a copy in the Library and Tourist Information. Thursday walks re-commence on **4 September** with a walk on Pateley Moor (Nidderdale), and Tuesday walk on **9 September** with a short walk from Hebden (near Grassington).*

Margaret Cullingworth

Wine Group 2: July meeting—A Chilean night.

No 1: A La Joya Viognier 2006—not a red but a golden coloured wine (13.7%)

No 2: Also a La Joya—Pinot Noir (13.5%)

No 3: Again, a La Joya—Merlot (14.5%)

No 4: Veramonte Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 (13.5%).

All the wines were enjoyed by all the members which was most unusual and not a drop left for our host to enjoy later. All the wines were priced between £6-7 and all available at Dukes Wine Shop.

HB

From the Newsletter distributor

This U3A produces this *Newsletter* for each household in our membership each month. There is news of groups, and messages about changes to the dates or places of groups' meetings. Notices of outings are always advertised in the *Newsletter*, so if you don't read yours, you could well miss out.

Newsletters are available at the main U3A meeting on the second Thursday of each month in the Victoria Hall.

If you don't take your *Newsletter* for 3 successive months I no longer name one for you, but I always have spares, so if you were to get interested again you could go back on the list.

Is there anyone who would prefer to read their Newsletter on the Web? If so, then I don't need to have one printed for you and we save costs.

Alison Tyas (01729 822313)

Many thanks to all U3A members
for the cards and good wishes.

Pat Lodge

Undressing in Winter

JEAN STEVENS introduces her new collection of poems
An hour of light-hearted anecdotes, reflections and poetry

ILKLEY FESTIVAL

Monday 6 October 2008 at 9.00 pm
The Wildman Theatre Ilkley Playhouse
Weston Road, Ilkley
Box Office: 01943 609539

For details of future presentations
see our web-site
www.tramps.org.uk

Coach Trip to The Theatre By The Lake at Keswick

15 October

Full payment is now due (£22.50) - cheques
payable to Settle District U3A Social Account.

We leave the Cricket Club car park at
8.30am on Wednesday 15 October.

We shall have a coffee stop in Grasmere and still arrive in Keswick in time to have
lunch before the performance.

Any queries—contact me on 825449.

Janet Stafford.

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 **David Holdsworth**



Which U3A groups do you currently attend?

Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)?

Continuing French, Mathematical Puzzles (which I lead), Art Appreciation, Poetry Appreciation, and I have also been going to Philosophy.

I should like to see something on *Climate Change* again.

Where are your roots? My family has been traced back to 1753 living in Huddersfield (my great-great-great-great grandfather); my father was the first of the family to move (400 yds) over the borough boundary to Elland, where I was brought up.

What does your family consist of? My wife, Hilary. We have a daughter who lives in London and 2 grandchildren, and we had a son who died in 1991.

Tell us briefly about your education and career: I went to Elland Southend Infants & County Boys School, then Elland Grammar School. I got one of the last State Scholarships and went to Oriel College, Oxford, to read Theoretical Physics followed by a DPhil on quarks.

Almost all my working life was in IT at Leeds University; this included a secondment for several months to ICL and a sabbatical at York University.

I've had a long membership of the British Computer Society, spent 6 years as a vice-president in

the 1990s and am currently on the Board of Trustees.

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

Highlight: my wife taking up cycle touring—we've often toured France, also Austria, Germany and Belgium.

Achievement: I think I have influenced the way digital data will be stored long-term—but I shalln't live to know whether I'm right. This came about through organising our data storage at Leeds University, leading to us submitting conference papers and getting involved with NASA.

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

I would like, in my cycling racing days, to have done 25 miles in under 1 hour (I'm 32 seconds out).

For historical reasons, I'd like to find a copy of software we wrote in the 1960s at Leeds University—an operating system for the computers of the time; it's been lost but we still hope to find it because it warrants a place in the Science Museum.

I'm involved in the Settle Going Green group and would like Settle to reduce its carbon footprint—and to become a beacon in this respect.

Have you any hobbies? IT history, cycling, jazz, maths, film, the countryside, art.
I still get a kick from writing software that works.

What books are you currently reading?

I'm part-way through Camus' "At Combat"; written 1944-47. It's an English translation of Camus' writing for the French Resistance newspaper *Combat* and gives a vivid picture of France at an incredibly complex time. It makes you appreciate why wars are a bad idea.

Also from time to time I dip into Roger Penrose's "The Road to Reality—A Complete Guide to the Laws of the Universe". It was introduced to me by Bob Leakey and it will last me the rest of my life.

And I subscribe to *New Scientist*.

I rarely read fiction.

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

People who are proud of their ignorance of maths and science.

People who park on the Keep Clear sign outside our house.

I support U3A's campaign against inappropriate background music on TV—especially documentaries.

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:

The global warming issue: the politicians aren't sufficiently aware of its pre-eminence.

Over-population is the root cause and a global one-child policy would be beneficial—but how could it be implemented? Nuclear power is part of the solution—it's the only way we've got of generating loads of energy without emitting carbon dioxide. I would like see a technology using existing weapons-grade nuclear material to generate electricity, thereby ridding the world of nuclear weapons *and* solving the global warming problem.

What is your wish for your grandchildren?

Survival of civilisation into the next century.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

Don't be a couch potato.

Live within your means.

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

Spilt milk shouldn't be cried over—but be more careful with the bottle next time.

Copy date for next issue of Newsletter

All copy for publication in the next issue needs to be sent in writing to reach the editor (Pam Servant, Brayshaw Cottage, 23 Duke Street, Settle—e-mail pms@daelnet.co.uk) by

Thursday 4 September

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.

Sadly, we have to report that Elizabeth Maudsley died last Saturday,
9 August.

A woman went into a bar and said "Give me a double entendre". So the barman gave her one.

When you reach a certain age and think trendy dressing will make you look younger, remember that nothing can fool a flight of stairs.