

SEPTEMBER MEETING AGM

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2013
Victoria Hall 10.30-12.00
Coffee from 10.00 am

DATES FOR YOUR SOCIAL DIARY

There are still some seats available for our trip to The Theatre by the Lake at Keswick on Wednesday 16th October to see 'She Stoops to Conquer' by Oliver Goldsmith. Cost £26. Contact me on 825449. Cheques to be made payable to Settle District U3A Social A/C and sent to 1, Bichwood Close, Settle BD24 9RJ. Please note later departure time, we shall leave the Cricket Club car park at 9am. **Janet Stafford**

What Kind of a Member are **YOU** ?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay away and criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part and help the club along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you push the cause along and really make things tick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about "the clique"?

Think this over, member, you know the right from wrong
Are you an active member, or do you just belong?
Anonymous

U3A WEBSITE

I have slightly changed the layout of the website. The link for those groups that have web pages is now on the left - *click* on Group Pages. The space on the right is now mainly for News and Notices, so if and when you have such items please send them to me (f.woodhams@uea.ac.uk). Also if you have a photo of a group activity that you would like displayed there, for a short time, just send it. If your Group does not have a web page, and you would like one, just let me know so that it can be organised. It is also possible for Group Leaders to update their web page. Finally any suggestions for improvements to the web site, which has been virtually unchanged since 2002, are always welcome.

Frank Woodhams

Copy for publication in the next issue should reach Elizabeth Evans by
Friday 6th September e-mail: eevans42@btinternet.com
(Tel : 01729 825148) Copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.



'**MANON DES SOURCES**' (PG)
Settle Victoria Hall
Wed 28th Aug 7.45pm
'**THE QUARTET**' (15)
Austwick Village Hall
Fri 13th Sept 7.30 pm
'**A ROYAL AFFAIR**' (PG)
Settle Victoria Hall
Wed 25th Sept 7.45pm
www.tramps.org.uk

U3A CALENDAR 2014 NOW AVAILABLE

"Jane Austen - Fact & Fiction"

Study day led by **Barbara Morden**

At: The Beddingfield Room
The Bar Convent
Blossom Street
York YO23 1AA

On: Tuesday 22nd October
10.30-3.30

Cost: £14.50
(includes a sandwich lunch)

Application forms from Kate Helm or
download from

www.yahru3a.co.uk

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NEWS
FOR
MEMBERS

Dear Friends

Well, it has been an eventful July and not just because of the arrival of a royal baby! The speaker booked for our July meeting was unable to attend at quite short notice, a problem overcome by the showing of a DVD of Eric Midwinter's Founder's Lecture – an excellent, interesting substitute and available for loaning out to any member who missed it or would like to watch it again. Next, I had a short and amicable meeting with Alan Martingell, the chairman of the Victoria Hall. I am pleased to report no complaints or problems were raised by either party. Then there was the summer lunch organised by our social committee at The Plough, Wigglesworth. I had not been to this event before but thoroughly enjoyed the good food



and company.

Please don't forget that the September meeting is our AGM. Nominations for election as officer or committee member must be made on the appropriate form – available at the August meeting – and in the hands of the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM. No-one has yet volunteered to replace Kate as Secretary or to replace Debi as Vice Chairman, and Roy has asked for a volunteer to deputise for him as Treasurer. These are vital roles for our organisation and out of our current membership of approximately 300 members surely there are at least three people who can take them on.
Nita

NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

In the middle of July I attended the National Summer School at Harper Adams College near Telford. There were 8 different courses with an average of about 20 people on each from all parts of the UK. The course I did was Art History – 20th Century Art. The tutor had sent an introduction to herself and a timetable of what we were to cover in advance of the course, which made me realise that I hadn't even heard of some of the phases and styles! Although we had 4x90 minute sessions each day, none of them felt arduous, just fun and informative. The tutor presented us all with a booklet with all her notes and had encouraged us to bring memory sticks to download all her power-point presentations. That meant that we didn't have to take notes and could concentrate on the slides and ask questions and make points easily as we went along. The course concentrated on pictorial art and we covered lots of 'isms' – Fauvism, Dadaism, Cubism, Minimalism etc and lots of other things besides. We learnt something of the cultural events that often influenced the change or adaptation of style and looked in a little more detail at the work of some of the key artists of the period. The object of the course was for us to be able to recognise a style, if not the artist, when visiting a gallery. The quiz we had at the end demonstrated that we can probably do that at least some of the time. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and meeting many people from lots of different U3As. The weather was very hot so the open air swimming pool was a bonus at the end of each 'sticky' day and the food was excellent – and plentiful! I will certainly be looking out for next year's Summer School information, eager to choose something new to explore.
Kate

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

HERALDRY: On 16th July we journeyed via Sutton Bank to view the churches at Stonegrave and Gilling en route to the main objective, Gilling Castle. This 14th Century building (with later additions) was purchased in the 1930s by the Benedictine monks of Ampleforth. It is now the preparatory school for the college, hence its very limited access for adult parties.



We were given a conducted tour by the Prior, visiting various parts of the castle before achieving the highlight of the day, the Great Chamber. It is impossible in a brief article to do justice to the painted



glass, the heraldry (both in windows and in plaster), the Tudor panelling, the later furniture installed by 'Mouse-man' Thompson, even the friezes depicting family trees in the Anglo Saxon Wapentakes of Staincliffe and Ewecross (better known as Craven). Our thanks to Shirley McCauley and Jim Woodward Nutt for organising this splendid event. Sadly, this was the last meeting of the Heraldry Group, which was started in 2003 by Hilary Baker.

Over the years we have enjoyed a variety of subjects looking at examples of Royal, Civic, Livery Company, Military, Commercial Heraldry (and even Pub signs bearing the Arms of the local gentry!). Some of us previously enjoyed heraldry as an art form but under Hilary's leadership, and with speakers and visits to religious and secular buildings (the Shire Hall at Lancaster comes to mind) we have come to appreciate the colourful history of families and dynasties. Through Hilary's guidance and expertise, visiting churches, and other buildings containing heraldry, takes on a whole new meaning as one deciphers the stories told in windows, banners, tombs and shields. On behalf of the members of the Heraldry Group I would like to express sincere thanks to Hilary for the considerable amount of time, work and expense she has incurred in educating and edifying us. It is all greatly appreciated.

Alan Hemsworth

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS: Something different this month! A tour of the Undercliffe Cemetery in Bradford. Undercliffe Cemetery is a Grade II* English Heritage listed site in the Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest category. Undercliffe Cemetery was opened in 1854, contains 23,000 graves and holds a total of 124,000 burials. The Cemetery offers unrivalled opportunities to appreciate the finest examples of Victorian funerary art set within the original design of this 26 acre parkland. Undercliffe offers good vantage points and fine panoramic views across the city of Bradford and out over the Aire Valley. We meet at the Lodge which is on the Undercliffe Lane entrance at 2pm on Thursday 22nd August. The Tour lasts between 1 hour and 1.5 hours and consists of a short historical overview at a central point followed by a guided walk around the cemetery with perhaps 10-12 stopping places each of which has a point of interest. The cost is £3 per person and there is plenty of parking onsite. The paths are fairly level. Sadly there isn't a cafe. Please let me know if you are going (by Monday August 12th), as I need to let the guide know numbers beforehand, and also if you need/can offer a lift. Tel 825922 **Debi Burridge**

WALKING: The new programme is well under way and with a bit of luck the fine weather will continue so that we can enjoy the rest. We look forward to seeing old and new members at the Planning Meeting on 26 September when we would be grateful if you could bring along suggestions for a walk you would be willing to lead. If you are not able to come to the meeting, please telephone us on 01729 823978. **Margaret & Michael Cullingworth**

SMITHILLS HALL

Our visit to Smithills Hall on Thursday 25 July was a great success, despite the small group. It is thought that there was a building on the site from 933 but the first record of a hall was 1335 when the de Radcliffe's obtained the manor. It was eventually acquired by the Barton family through marriage and in 1485 they built a new East wing and enclosed the kitchen into a new West wing. Other extensions were added in the 16th Century and nothing else was changed until the 19th Century when the hall and estate were bought by Richard Ainsworth. The architect, George Devey, was employed and the hall was then extensively rebuilt and modernised but eventually, due to changes in the economy after the First World War and the demise of the bleaching interest, which was the family's main source of income, the upkeep became too great and Smithills was sold to Bolton Council in 1938. Part of it then became a residential home and day centre until the 1990's but a museum had been opened there in 1963.

The hall is mainly of Tudor appearance on the outside with the Victorian extension in keeping with the original. We had a guided tour by a very knowledgeable and informative volunteer and were shown the great hall with its beautiful beams and ceiling and the divisions that had been to create smaller rooms. We progressed to the bower which is where the family ate and the solar room above, which contained a magnificent bed. The withdrawing room was wonderful with linenfold panelling and carvings of members of the Barton family and also a large square Tudor bay window. The chapel was reached by a corridor which had originally been an open verandah where furniture would have been stored. It has some wonderful stained glass, the most important being Tudor panels mounted in the East Window. The Victorian rooms created in the West wing extension for Colonel and Mrs Ainsworth, whose sitting rooms, though very different, contained wallpaper designed by William Morris and tiles by William de Morgan, had been refurbished by Bolton Council in 1999. The estate extends to 2,400 acres and the grounds are now a country park with extensive paths and tracks for walking, cycling and horse riding. All in all a grand day out!

Margaret Cullingworth

MADRIGALS: A Tribute to Alan Hemsworth

Several years ago my long-time friend, Alan Hemsworth, decided it was high time Settle U3A had a music group dedicated to singing madrigals. Well, it turned out to be a group not just devoted to singing madrigals, but rather one engaged in singing anything Alan might produce from his seemingly inexhaustible supply of sheet music. His interesting choices of pieces to perform at U3A Christmas Entertainments have reflected just how wide has been his selection of music for us to sing on Tuesday mornings.

Alan has managed the group, organised the music, conducted and polished our performances, accompanied pieces as necessary and sung the base line – not infrequently doing all at the same time - to secure the enjoyment of his happy group.

Sadly, he tells us the time has come to disband Madrigals and More and to hand in his baton. Reports suggest the handle of his trusty music case has finally broken under the sheer weight of the music he brought to every meeting, but our leader has made no official announcement on this subject.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all members of the group when I say that we shall greatly miss our fortnightly meetings and the good fellowship coupled with Alan's musical skills, incomparable wit, good humour and unfailing encouragement (even to me when I failed miserably to master the lyrics "La, la" and "Doo-bi-doo").

In short, Alan, many, many thanks indeed for the years of pleasure and enlightenment your original idea has given to us. Should you manage to repair your case handle and want to start all over again, your madrigal singers await!

Keith Wright