

Newsletter

Issue No 5/3, December 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SETTLE DISTRICT

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Contact: 01729 822313

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Our display at the Settle Parish Church Community Festival raised considerable interest and I know we gained at least one new member.

Those of us who accepted the invitation to Skipton Magistrates Court for “Inside Justice Week” had a most interesting morning and were made very welcome by all concerned there. May I on behalf of the committee and myself wish you

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sincerely **Janet**

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: Sadly, our projected coach trip to Liverpool had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Undaunted, however, we reorganised ourselves to visit the exhibition of English Watercolours at Abbott Hall in Kendal. Those that were able to get along at short notice enjoyed it immensely and other members of the group will have made their own way there independently.

Our gallery visit on **19 December** will be to the Christmas exhibition at the Pendle Arts Gallery at the Heritage Centre, Barrowford, meeting there at 2.00pm (I must declare an interest here as I will have work included in this show!). Apart from the gallery there is a café, bookshop and museum.

Advance warning of a change of date: our first meeting in 2007 will be on **9 January**, *not 2 January (as might be expected)* as the original date is a bit too close to New Year’s Eve for comfort!

Frank Gordon

Circle Dance: In our newly-formed class we are learning a variety of dances from different parts of the world—some traditional, some modern, mostly gently but with one or two energetic exceptions! You don’t need a partner—just come and join the dancing circle! We meet on Fridays at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall or the Quaker Meeting House.

PS and GW

Computing for Beginners: Our November sessions have been devoted mainly to the basics of word processing. The next meeting now will be after Christmas.

Charles Newbould

Cookery Chat: At this time of year, when we are beginning to think of preparing traditional Christmas fare, we decided for our very last meeting of the group to take on the challenge of different ways with mincemeat. As always, members were innovative and imaginative. Each contribution was unique and equally delicious. We sampled mincemeat flapjack, mincemeat strudel, maids of honour with a mincemeat base, cup cakes with mincemeat and an adaptation of Mary Berry’s recipe for mincemeat cake.

KK

Discussion Group: During November we discussed the problems of the NHS, and the difficulties for society of our own obstinate longevity. (Michael Young, one of U3A’s progenitors, once remarked that these arose not so much because we are living longer as because we dying later—a comment which always provokes discussion). In December we shall be considering the role of religion in world conflict over the years, and on **18 December**, since none of us has lost money through the collapse of Farepak, we will be approaching Christmas with the stoicism one would expect of this well-balanced, intrepid group.

Frank Pedley

Family History: The next meeting will be on **Friday 15 December** at 10.30am at Victoria Hall, when we hope to be able to report progress following our visit to the Chorley Family History Centre. This visit was very informative and

useful, especially the introductory talk, and has certainly pointed us in the right direction to continue our search for our ancestors. By coincidence, there was a couple by the name of Stafford using the computer for their research and Janet swapped addresses with them, even though she is presently researching her birth family! We are still trying to line up a speaker for the new year.

M and M Cullingworth

Great Lives: Having dissected the lives of Jean Jacques Rousseau (he of the Social Contract), and the Welsh icon, Owen Glendower (or more accurately *Glyndwr*) the group decided that the December date would be too near to Christmas to give their undivided attention to the next personalities under the spotlight. So the next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17 January** at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall. They will be Dwight Eisenhower, and his predecessor, the 3rd President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, to whom is attributed credit for the US constitution and in particular the eternal definition of the aims of democracy—"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". New members welcome.

And here is a Christmas quiz question not found in the quiz books—Which two current, well-known politicians, have "Jefferson" as their middle names?

Frank Pedley

Looking at Old Buildings: The November meeting was a visit to two religious buildings, Farfield Quaker Meeting House and Bolton Priory. We were welcomed at Farfield by a member of the Religious Society of Friends who, before giving us a fascinating account of the foundations of both the Society and the building, invited us to sit quietly and experience the silence of a Friends' meeting. We admired the simplicity of the building and its barn-like structure. In the burial ground outside we examined the unique chest tombs of the Myers family.

At Bolton Priory entry is through a tower which only received its roof in the 1980s—about 400 years after the tower was built. King Henry VIII put paid to the roof by dissolving the Priory but he inadvertently saved the Portico which was due for demolition when the tower was completed. Our excellent guide outlined the history of the Priory and the various roles of the Augustinian canons. She pointed out some very interesting features such as an ancient stone altar table, the stained glass windows, a model of the Prior pre-C16 and the beautiful colour paintings of Madonna lilies and various herbs behind the altar.

This was a very enjoyable and informative day spent, as usual, in good company.

Dora Tattersall and Vanessa Stone

Next meeting is at Austwick Hall on Thursday **25 January** when we will be shown round the property by the owners. They will also make available old photographs and documents. Meet at the hall at 1.30pm. There is parking in the grounds for 8 – 10 cars and parking in the lane outside. If you have problems getting there or can offer a lift, please contact me on 01729 851823.

Patsy Mellor

Walking: Could I please remind walkers that the planning meeting will take place on **Tuesday 19 December** at 10.30am at Smithy Croft, Rathmell. This will be followed by a Jacob's Join lunch. Everyone welcome.

SW

Thursday group: The group returned to a favourite venue for November, the Bolton Abbey Estate, with its 80 miles of footpaths. The route chosen this time took us over Little Hare Head and Middle Hare Head, down through the Strid Woods and along the river path to the Cavendish Pavillion (tea, of course) and our car in the car park—about 7 miles of not (too) difficult walking. The weather was magnificent, the views superb and the autumn colours unbelievable; a truly memorable day.

Olwyn Bolger

Wine Group 1: The Spanish Casillo de Almansa, 2005, Sauvignon Verdejo was considered to be well worth its £4.49 price, while the second white, Hawkes Bay's Trinity Hill Sauvignon Blanc was deemed to exceed it in nose, flavour and depth—and price—£7.99.

"It would be nice/different with food" has been a comment often heard at our tastings—so we put it to the test, having two reds with refreshments arranged by Shirley and Ray. The Castillo de Almansa 2002 Tempranillo/Monastrel/Grenache (£4.99) and a Siglo Rioja 2004 at £5.99 (on offer £3.99) complemented well, the latter particularly so. The evening was rounded off very happily appreciating the qualities of Yalumba Shiraz/Viognier 2003 (£6.99).

GHP

Wine Groups 2: At the November meeting we tried a white wine from France. 13% vol, Pasquiers dry Muscat 2004 at £4.59 was voted disappointing. The next white, Etchart Privado, 13%, Torontoes—Chardonnay, again was not popular at £4.79. The reds were very welcome: Chateau Roc Vieux Pinot Noir, 2005, vol 13.5%, from the Loire was smooth, fruity and very satisfying at £6.29. The last wine of the evening, a South African Pinotage, Table Bay 2005, vol 13.5%, at £5.49 met with happy approval of this full-bodied wine. **TM**

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.

The "Granny List": Just a reminder that, if you are entertaining young children over

the Christmas period, we now have a list of toys and equipment that you can borrow from other U3A members. Contact Christine and John Rose on 01729 822553.

Line Dancing: The next meeting will be on Thursday 4 January 2007.

Settle Parish Church is urgently looking for someone with financial experience to act as a voluntary Treasurer for the Parochial Church Council (ie all the affairs of the church). Enquiries would be most welcomed by the Rev Dr Neil Kendra for general discussion and further details—ring 01729 825307. The present Treasurer retires in March so a handover period is possible.

FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Whilst being a very friendly group, we must remember that there are people who, for various reasons, object to having their name, address or photograph published. Please could you bear this in mind when taking photos of U3A events, particularly when passing pictures for the *Newsletter* or to Frank Woodhams for the world wide web.

The Cookery group has now closed. If anyone would like to start a new one, please let me know.

Alison Tyas

Next month's Thursday meeting

Next month's meeting, on 11 January, will be

Tony Stephens: "Travels in Chile, Ecuador and the Galapagos"

Coffee from 10.00am for 10.30am start in the Victoria Hall

OUTINGS

Bookings for a visit to Ilkley Playhouse on
Monday 29 January 2007

will be taken on 14 December at the Christmas Social. The play is a thriller called "*Mind Game*" written by the author of "*Midsomer Murders*".

Cost £13.00 includes bus fare and driver's tip. Cheques payable to Settle District U3A Social Account. If you pay cash could I please make a plea for you to bring change.

The bus will leave Settle Cricket Club at 6.00pm and pick up at the usual places. Limited number of seats available so early booking is advised.

Shirley Wolfenden (840882)

Seasonal warning !

In case anyone hasn't already heard, we have learned via Craven U3A of a special Police Notice issued recently about a scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072 396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at <http://www.icstis.org.uk>

Notice

At the Group leaders' meeting it was decided that we should share the cost of car journeys. All passengers are now asked to pay the driver £1 per journey whatever the distance involved. If the driver does not want to accept it, it can be handed to the Treasurer for U3A funds, but it MUST be

paid by each passenger.

Similarly, if a group meets in your home, you should charge 20p per person towards the cost of hospitality. I have some printed cards that can be used to save embarrassment.

Alison Tyas, Groups Co-ordinator

Invitation for New Year's Day
Alison is having Open House on
Monday, 1 January from 2.00—6.00pm
for those of you with nothing better to do. Come for an hour or so
and wish each other a Happy New Year.

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 Sunday 31 December 2006.

30 January 2005.
2005.

Childhood: the time when you make funny faces in the mirror. Old age: the time when the mirror gets even.

Old age is when you finally know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions any more .