

Newsletter

Issue No 6/3, December 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Those who attended the November monthly meeting in the Victoria Hall took part in an experiment with a new seating arrangement in which seats faced the front in chevron pattern, rather than across the hall as has been customary. The reason for the experiment was that it was felt that the new arrangement should improve the sound in most of the hall, give opportunity to use the large on-stage screen in future and, perhaps most importantly, give the potential to seat a larger number of members in the hall. Most people I have spoken to thought the experiment a success.

Since the Settle U3A was established a little over 5 years ago, it has enjoyed very favourable terms for the use of the Victoria Hall's facilities. As a result of recent increases in membership, we are able to offer an increased payment to the Victoria Hall for the use of the facilities in 2007-8, and would wish to increase our contribution further in 2008-9 if our finances enable us to do so. To enable us to do this without increasing our membership fees, the Committee decided at a recent meeting to launch a membership drive, providing the new seating arrangements suggested the potential for accommodating more members at our monthly meetings.

Although we shall consider advertising to attract new members, by far the most effective advocates of any organisation are its own members. I am therefore taking the opportunity of this *Newsletter* to ask members whether they can bring the U3A to the attention of friends and acquaintances they feel would benefit from joining the Settle U3A. Don't forget that it is not necessary to belong to one of the many U3A Groups to benefit from membership; attendance at the monthly meeting should itself be sufficient justification for many people.

With best wishes

Tony Stephens

outings

1 London: I am sorry to inform you that due to lack of numbers the London excursion has been cancelled. Thanks to all the members who supported it, and perhaps we can do better next time.

2 Ilkley Playhouse: There is just one ticket available for the Playhouse in January. The cost is £13.50 per person; cheques can be made payable to Settle District U3A Social Account, and given to/sent to me at Smithy Croft, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0LA. Alternatively payment can be made at the Thursday meeting.

Shirley Wolfenden

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: Our visit to the Maggi Hambling exhibition at Abbot Hall turned out to be a great success with everybody very appreciative of her lively drawings, paintings and monoprints. The large-scale waterfalls cascading virtually onto the gallery floor were particularly exciting.

We meet next on **Tuesday 18 December** when we shall visit the Art Treasures of Manchester exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery.

The website www.manchestergalleries.org tells us: "This exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of Art Treasures of the United Kingdom, the largest ever art exhibition in the UK, held here in Manchester in 1857. Held at Old Trafford, Art Treasures featured 16,000 exhibits and attracted over 1.3 million visitors, including Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens and John Ruskin. This exhibition both celebrates this major artistic event and brings back to Manchester some of the outstanding pictures and artworks which were on show. The exhibition includes works by British artists such as Gainsborough, Turner, Constable and the Pre-Raphaelites, as well as European old masters including Michelangelo."

The plan is to take cars to Clitheroe Park and Ride and take the train from there to Manchester. This is a new and promising method of visiting an exhibition for us and time will tell whether it turns out to be a useful expedient for the future. Our first meeting in 2008 will be at the Victoria Hall on **Tuesday, 8 January** at 2.00pm
Frank Gordon

Family History: The trip to Chorley was a great success, although searching the records was frustrating for some of us. It was worth it though, just to see the wonderful countryside on a beautiful sunny day. There will be no meeting in December; the January meeting will be on **25 January** at the Victoria Hall.

Margaret Cullingworth

Handbells: No more sessions until **14 January** at 3.30pm in the Parish Church. New and inexperienced members welcome.
Alison Tyas

Line Dancing: Proposed future meetings— **20 December** (St John's Hall); **3 January** (Victoria Hall); **17 January** (venue tba).
PLD

Listening to Music: The next Listening to Music afternoon will be on **Monday 20 January 2008** at 2.00pm. New music lovers are very welcome. We have a pleasant, relaxing afternoon and find out about new music that we have not heard before. Do join us. Phone 840882 for information.

Shirley Wolfenden

Looking at Old Buildings: In November the group met at Skipton Castle for a very informative guided tour. We now know the connection between Henry VIII's battleship *Mary Rose* and the building of the Tudor wing of Skipton Castle. There was much else of interest.

13 December at 2.30pm, The Folly, Settle (please note the date—**not** as shown in last month's *Newsletter* [*apologies—Editor*]). Special opening—all members of U3A welcome. Please join us for an informative and festive finale to Settle U3A's

Christmas Celebration. £2 charge to cover the cost of opening the building includes tea/mince pies and shortbread.

Vanessa Stone

Mathematical Puzzles: People who've never been to our sessions (ie most folk) might be surprised to learn that our Tuesday afternoon sessions involve lots of laughter. We always have a few puzzles awaiting solution. The difficulty is very wide ranging, and occasionally encompasses practical problems, such as ensuring the even distribution of seed in one member's crescent-shaped flower bed. We have shelved plans for a joint session with the Gardening Club. A slightly less practical problem involved a badly designed creel.

Participants often try problems at home and then share their solutions with the class, while sometimes demonstrating very limited artistic talent on the white board. Nobody is pressured to do anything. There is nothing so sophisticated as a planned course of instruction, just a collection of shared mathematical brain teasers. So it is possible to join in at any stage (or leave).

This group is very keen not to be a clique, and we have enjoyed having a new recruit this autumn. Sadly, she is planning to defect to the Open University after Christmas.

You can see a fairly complete catalogue of our puzzles to date (and most of the solutions) on the Settle U3A website.

David Holdsworth

Sunday Lunch: On **Sunday 16 December** the venue will be The Falcon Manor Hotel, when the menu will be their Festive Lunch, price £12.95.

On **Sunday 20 January** we will meet at the Golden Lion in Settle. Please let me know by the Friday before the actual date if you are coming.

Audrey Daykin

Walking: *Tuesdays:* A reminder that the planning meeting will take place on **Thursday 20 December** at 11.00am at the Quaker Meeting House, and will be followed by a Jacob's Join lunch. Please come along with your suggestions for walks; even if you don't want to lead a walk your input would be welcomed.

A very pleasant (dry) walk along the river from Dent was enjoyed by ten members (including the two walking wounded!), even though it was raining in Settle when we set off. The disappointment was that the Dent Craft Centre was not open for coffee!

Margaret Cullingworth

Thursdays: Quite a record: no walks cancelled recently! The first two benefited from fine weather; these were Long Preston to Winterburn and back, with views over the Malham hills, and around Bordley Town, a remote collection of farms on high moorland, reached from Skyrethorne Lane, Threshfield. Our third and last walk of the session led us from Settle down Watery Lane and up through the fields to Stockdale Lane, to Victoria Cave and then back by the path above Langcliffe to Settle again. We agreed that our local scenery never fails to thrill us. All U3A members are welcome to join us, meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month, 9.30am at the Cricket Club.

Olwyn Bolger

Wine Appreciation Group 1 - 8 November: Two Pinot Grigios

filled the bill for the evening's whites, both from Italy, but in different price brackets. The "i", with its "artistic" label, 2007, 12% and at £3.99, had a wonderful yet strong nose and well appreciated fresh finish. The Alois Lageder at £8.99, 2006, 13% displayed a milder nose and opinions varied about its qualities on the palate: was it more complex? richer? Its predecessor had taken the limelight!

Vin de Pays de l'Ardeche St Desirat Syrah at £3.45, 12%, 2005 was a wonderfully deep red and its pepperiness defined its Syrah derivation. A Chilean, Carmen Naipa, Carmenara/Cabinet Sauvignon from the Maipo Valley, £8.99, 2005, 13.5% was a strong dark red with nose to match. It was powerful to taste, though smooth and well balanced.

A sweet sparkling red as finale raised the odd eyebrow! Italy's Cavallino Il Cascinore, Brachetto d'Aquiui, £6.99, 5%, 2006; it was a most pleasant drink. There were no adverse comments and it could be a very acceptable dessert wine - we thought with chocolate based desserts.

GHP

Next month's Thursday meeting

will be on 10 January 2008
when the speaker will be David Holdsworth, whose talk will be entitled

"Why digital is better ... or is it?"

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

At Home with Alison

Tuesday, 1 January at Quaker Garth, Kirkgate for those who have no other commitments that afternoon. Come and meet others in a similar situation and partake of tea and cake. No need to reply. Just turn up any time after 2.00pm

TRAMPS presents -

Friday 11 January 2008, 7.30pm at Langcliffe Institute
Saturday 12 January 2008, 7.30pm at Clapham Village Hall

Miss Potter (PG)

Is there any demand from Settle U3A Groups for broadband?

We recently trialled the use of broadband in the Victoria Hall's Castleberg room. We found that the wireless signal there was too weak, but managed to get a good signal by putting it onto the Hall's electrical mains supply, using equipment supplied by Steven Bennet of PCs.

We managed to project an adequate image of a live French TV station onto an 8' x 4' screen in Castleberg on a sunny day. I made a video of the experiment so that Groups might judge the adequacy of the picture quality for their own needs. The question now is whether any Groups would be interested in using broadband. To make it available we would need to

- check whether there is sufficient demand to justify proceeding
- get permission from the Victoria Hall (not automatic)
- sanction approx £300 expenditure in the Committee
- install broadband equipment, a new wall mounted pull-down screen and an electrical supply meeting H & S requirements.

I would ask Groups therefore, through their Group Leaders, to let Alison Tyas know if they feel projection in the Castleberg room would be useful for them. If there is sufficient demand I will then formally ask the Victoria Hall's permission to carry out the required installation, and put a proposal to our Committee.

If broadband proved to be useful, there might well be demand to upgrade the system, but we must be certain that it is sufficiently useful to justify any expenditure, which might be grant funded.

Tony Stephens

The November outing to Saltaire





The Mathematical Puzzles group

The picture above shows a Meccano model of Leonardo da Vinci's design for a military bridge. It is made of easily transported sections. We looked at the question of why does it work, as it looks as though it should just bend at the joints, which are flexible. **DH**





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 **Wyn Wilks**



Which U3A groups do you currently attend? Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)? Exercise and Singing for Pleasure.

I'd like to have a Canasta group—though nobody else seemed to be keen at the time when it was advertised in the *Newsletter*—and I'd like to have a Social History of England class.

Where are your roots?

I was born at Yealand Conyers (near Carnforth), then we moved to Lancaster when I was 5 and my family retired from farming. I came to Settle when I got married in 1949 (I said "We're not *staying* here" - and we're still here 58 years later).

What does your family consist of?

My husband Frank and 2 married sons—one in Australia and one in the New Forest; both of them have 2 children. I am one of 6 children, 3 girls and 3 boys.

Tell us briefly about your education and career:

I went to Greaves School in Lancaster (a jolly good school but it's now a block of flats). I never took 11+ but as a teenager I did further education at night school 3 nights a week.

My first job was in a jeweller's shop, then during the War I worked for the Canadian Army in their financial HQ, the Canadian Treasury in Lancaster. After that I went into the Land Army in Shropshire (milking cows and delivering milk in a pony and cart, including lifting the heavy milk churns). Next I worked in the Wages department of Lansil till I got married and came to Settle, where I was a cook at Settle Girls' High School. After I had my children I went to work in the office of Andertons Brewery (the building is now The Wine Shop), until I got a job as Housekeeper at Catterall Hall. Then I went to Lambert's (the newsagents) and finally to Speight and Watson.

Before I was married I took a leading part in the amateur operatic group in Lancaster and did the same later in Settle till the children were born. I was a Guide Leader for 25 years, responsible with another girl for reviving them: it was through scouting that I met Frank.

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

Highlights—meeting Lady Baden-Powell; playing leading parts in Settle Opera for two

or three shows; our 2 sons achieving scholarships to Giggleswick School and then to London University (Imperial College) where one got a First and the other an Upper Second; celebrating our Golden Wedding in 1999 by going on a Norwegian cruise.

Achievement—A contented husband!

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

I'd love to go to Ireland but my contented husband won't go.

Have you any hobbies?

I was a founder member of the Langcliffe Singers and Take One, and a member of Craven Camerata. Now I just sing with U3A.

I go on patchwork courses and I knit; I also play indoor bowls.

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

Wherever you go—the theatre, or concerts—you always have to queue to go to the toilet. And the Ladies is always further away than the Gents.

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:

Too many wars and too much violence are caused in the name of "religion" - but it isn't really religion.

A *local* problem is the lack of residential parking: there's no room left anywhere near our house when we have visitors.

What is your wish for your grandchildren?

They're all grown up now, so I wish them success in their careers and that they have a happy marriage.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

Keep your nose to the grindstone and hope good job opportunities revive.

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

To follow your instinct.

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.

U3A Summer Schools: Details of the two 2008 summer schools - in Telford (July) and Cirencester (August) - are now available from Gillian Walton.

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 3 January 2008.***

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

Age—you just wake up one morning and you've got it!

I don't let growing old bother me. There are 3 signs of old age: loss of memory ... I forget the other two.