

Newsletter

Issue No. 7/3 DECEMBER 2008
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SETTLE DISTRICT

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www.SettleDistrictU3A.org.uk

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

I've encountered 2 more fascinating groups recently, each time in a packed Castleberg room in Victoria Hall. Michael & Margaret Cullingworth's Family History Group provides an excellent vehicle for genealogy sleuths to research their family roots and this month's talk, by Dr. Michael Slater highlighted the value of wills in this regard. Together with his wife Mary and their friend Sheila Gordon, he has been involved in the Giggleswick Wills Project, a study of (to date) wills from that parish covering the period 1390-1603.



Frank Gordon's Art Appreciation group mixes a presentation on a facet of art together with a visit to a gallery two weeks later. This month's talk was on the 'Camera Obscura', its origins as a means of solar observation for medieval astronomers and its further development by means of various lenses for use by artists, notably Vermeer, but also Canaletto and Sir Joshua Reynolds, through to modern day cameras. Frank asks "is photography Art?" Any thoughts out there?

The constitution of U3A groups throughout the country, rightly in my view, sets tight limits on the length of service of Chairman and Vice Chairman and the need for other senior officers to face re-election every year so to ensure that the Committee does not simply become a self-perpetuating clique estranged from the membership. The Committee would love to receive regular feedback from members. What do **you** think we could do to improve the U3A experience? Group members I know can pass their concerns on via their leaders. By the time you read this David Holdsworth will have had his first meeting with all Group leaders and will be reporting back to the Committee. I would however welcome views of U3A members who

are not necessarily regular attendees of any group who have thoughts to offer.

My number is 01729 825786.

Finally may I wish all members a very joyful Christmas and a safe, happy and despite the dreaded recession, *prosperous* New Year.

Best wishes

John Jebson

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: Many thanks to all those who braved the weather to get to the meeting at The Brewery, Kendal. People seemed to enjoy the photographs so maybe I'll do something similar again one day.

I might have mentioned more about equipment and its influence on photographers. Cartier Bresson was amongst the first to have a Leica single lens reflex lightweight camera which could be swung up to the eye for a quick photograph.

Our next visit is to the Mercer Gallery, Harrogate on Tuesday, December 16th at 2.00ish. The exhibition is 'Into Abstraction: Paintings from the Harrogate Fine Art Collection' together with 'Winter World – Artists' interpretations of wintry themes, in works from the Harrogate Fine Art Collection'.

(The Exhibition will continue until Jan 18th)

Since the beginning of the 20th century, abstract art has formed a central stream of modern art. Explore the ideas that lie behind it in paintings by Alan Davie, Ian McKeever, Patrick Heron, Adam White, Cecil Collins and more. This exhibition provides a useful and interesting introduction into abstraction and its development. Once the dominant form of painting, it is now less fashionable but still capable of great power and beauty. This should form the ideal partner for a little wander through some of Harrogate's many attractions, both commercial and cultural.

Frank Gordon

Book Club: I have taken over the Book Club as Peggy has moved to Scotland. The Book Club is proving popular. We meet in each others homes and we each have a chance to choose a book we like. This year the chosen books have included 'The Kite Runner' and 'Nationality Wog.' In January we are reading 'A long way Down by Nick Hornby. The next meeting will take place on 19th January. If you care to join, or for more information please ring me on: - 01729 823442.

Ann Dowdall

Circle Dancing: the last session of the year was on December 5th and the first session of the New Year will be on January 16th.

Digital Photography : The group has spent this term discussing the basics of using a freely available computer program (Picasa from Google) to import photos into a computer from digital cameras, organise them, crop, make simple enhancements (e.g. lighten/darken, adjust colour) and then email them and printing.

After the Christmas break Frank Higginson is going to run some sessions on camera basics, such as the effects of shutter speed, aperture and focal length on the image, etc., and look at what makes a good picture, whether it is an informal 'snap' or a more formal picture. We may then go on expeditions to take local pictures which we will then discuss and publish on a web site.

If you would like to join the group our first meeting in the New Year is on Wednesday 14 January at 9.30 am in the Victoria Hall.

Frank Woodhams

Exercise Group: the last session for this year will be on December 9th and the first session of 2009 will be on January 13th.

Gillian and Pat

Great Lives: There will be no meeting in December. We shall resume on January 21st at 10.30am when John Jebson will give a talk on the Duke of Wellington. **Jean Imrie**

Listening to Music: There will be no session in December, so the next meeting will be on January 20th at 2pm at Smithy Croft
Shirley Wolfenden

Looking at Old Buildings: There was a very good attendance at the meeting on 27th November but unfortunately no-one came forward to act as co-ordinator. However, dates were decided and a programme was drawn up for the year. Since then I have spoken to Hilary Baker, who suggested, as some of us thought, that the meetings take place on the 'fourth Thursday' of the month, as the third clashes with the Heraldry Group and there are several people who attend both. I have therefore taken the liberty of altering the list as follows. Those meetings planned for the fifth Thursday will stand. Please let me know if any of the dates are now unsuitable for the person organising the visit.

29 January, 26 February, 26 March, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 24 September

It was agreed that the person arranging the visit would be responsible for putting details in the Newsletter the previous month and, if appropriate, to do a short write-up after the visit. Please inform me as soon as possible if there are any changes and I will endeavour to put the programme on the U3A website and also make hard copies for those people who do not have internet access.

*Contact: Tel 01729 823 978 or e-mail
curlycully@tiscali.co.uk **Margaret Cullingworth**

Walking Groups: Tuesday walk 11th November - Arnside Circuit.

The phrase 'drowned rats' came to mind as the group of 9 very wet walkers arrived at the Bakery in Arnside at the end of what had started out as a pleasant 5 mile circuit. True it was very windy and the forecast was for rain and the Lakeland hills

were invisible as we set off along the foreshore, round Blackstone Point, to Far Arnside and back over the Knott – well, only 3 people did that bit. That's when the rain began in earnest. One person even sat in a puddle just to make sure they were really wet! Fun though.

Debi Burrige

THEATRE TRIP

Ilkley Playhouse Monday January 26th 2009. We will leave Settle Cricket Club Car Park at 6pm prompt. Can I please have £16.50 per person as soon as possible (Cheques made payable to Settle District U3A Social Account) and either given to me at the Christmas Jacobs' Join or sent to me at *Smithy Croft, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0LA* by Tuesday December 18th at the latest.

Thank You

S Wolfenden

TRAMPS presents –

Sat 13th Dec

7.30pm

Settle Victoria Hall

WALL-E (U)

Sat 10th Jan

7.30pm

Bentham Victoria

Institute

ST TRINIANS (12A)

Fri 16th Jan 7.30pm

Langcliffe Institute

& Sat 17th Jan

7.30pm Clapham

Village Hall

MAMMA MIA (U)

www.tramps.org.uk

uk

North Craven Building Preservation Trust

“WASSAIL” at THE FOLLY

Saturday 13th December 2008

10.00am – 12 noon

Music by Alan Hemsworth and Friends

☆ Free Admission ☆

Mulled wine and Mince Pies

I have a pair of black Mountain Equipment gloves left after last month's meeting. Please get in touch if you think they might be yours.

Frank Gordon

Copy date for next issue of Newsletter

All copy for publication in the next issue needs to reach the
editor

(Sue Simpson e-mail: susanmsimpson@btinternet.com)

by Thursday 1st January 2009.

All copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.