



Registered Charity No 1095635

SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 3/14 December 2015

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Letter from the chair

Dear friends,

As we approach Christmas what better way is there to welcome the festive season than to come to our Social Event on 10 December from 10.00 am for a 10.30 am start in the Victoria Hall? Do come. This is a Members Only event.

At the time of writing we are finalising the programme which will provide some of our groups with the opportunity to demonstrate their activities. Of course, many of our groups feature things like bridge, badminton, geology, yoga, art appreciation, play-reading and so on which do not lend themselves to "display", but others do. There will be singing, dancing, a quiz, music, mulled wine and mince pies, and other delights. We should enjoy a most entertaining morning.

Also may take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a New Year in 2016 which is full of stimulating, interesting, and healthy U3A activities.

Ian Tennant

**January Meeting: Thursday 14th January in the Victoria Hall
Michael Cullingworth with 'The Other Beatrix Potter'
(Coffee from 10am)**

Theatre Trips

Please note that the trip to Harrogate on 19th December will not now take place due to lack of support. Also the trip to see **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** on 6th January has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

I have reserved tickets for a matinee performance of Matthew Bourne's ballet **Sleeping Beauty** at the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford on Wednesday 24th February. The price will be £40 per person, including stalls seat, coach and gratuities. Closing date for bookings 20th January. I will be taking names at the December and January meetings or telephone 01729 823978/e-mail: curlycully@uwclub.net.

Another theatre trip arranged by Michael Cullingworth is to see **Billy Elliot**, the musical at the Alhambra Theatre on Thursday 19th May 2016, matinee performance. Price per person £66, including stalls seat, coach and gratuities. For further information and payment details please contact me, details above. Closing date for reservations is 21st January.

Michael Cullingworth

There has been a suggestion to resurrect The Lunch Club – anyone who would want to organise it, see Groups' Organiser Debi Burrige 825922 debi.burrige@gmail.com

Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by

Friday 8th January 2016 to: Chris Taylor

christine@castlebergh.plus.com

Tel: 01729 823975

Submissions will be acknowledged by email



Friday 8th January 2016 7.00pm Ingleton Comm Centre

The Water Diviner (15)

Wednesday 13th January 7.45 pm Settle Victoria Hall

Addicted to Sheep

Wednesday 27th January Settle Victoria Hall

Force Majeure (15)

Have any member have any suggestions or connections we could use for speakers at the Thursday meetings for 2017? Let any member of the committee know your ideas.

Members are invited to join the Cookridge and Horsforth U3A holiday to Bruges, 9-12th March 2016, £299 per person sharing:

4 day/3 nights holiday in Bruges with Riviera Travel from 9-12 March 2016 is offered to fellow U3A members. £299 per person sharing a double/twin room, (£95 single supplement)

There are 17 spaces available, travelling from Leeds. Book via Alison at Riviera on 01283/742322, stating your U3A membership. Riviera offer a 10% refund which is sent to the U3A on month after travel.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

GREAT LIVES

At our November meeting we heard a fascinating account of the life and work of Oscar Wilde by Dorothy Hemsworth. Best known for his plays, including "The Importance of being Earnest" and "Lady Windermere's Fan", Wilde also produced collections of poems and fairy tales.

He had married Constance Lloyd in 1884, by whom he had two sons but it was Lord Alfred Douglas who was probably the love of his life. Imprisoned in 1895 for homosexual offences he was released two years later, a broken man, and his epic poem "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" chronicled his experiences inside. Disowned by his wife he lived in France until his death in 1900. His grandson is now bringing to the West End Wilde's only novel, the homoerotically themed "Picture of Dorian Gray".

Our next meeting is on December 16th (Victoria 11.00am) when Keith Bradshaw will talk about Albert Einstein.

John Jebson

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS

On Thursday 28th January the visit will be to Parcevall Hall for a guided tour commencing at 2 p.m. The cost will be £12 per person and will include tea and cakes. Please let Michael Cullingworth know if you would like to attend and if you could offer or need a lift - telephone 01729 823978/e-mail: curlycully@uwclub.net. Further details in the January Newsletter.

Michael Cullingworth

For our November meeting, 26 members went to Bradford to see the Victorian Undercliffe Cemetery, bought for £5 by a builder who in addition to

making use of some of the gravestones had plans to build houses on the site. Planning permission refused, the cemetery was saved from neglect and vandalism by local residents and providing a tranquil green "lung" for the city.

At the Sunbridge Wells underground project we visited neglected Victorian buildings and cellars undergoing transformation into a "Victorian Centre" which will host independent shops and businesses. Many interesting features including a spiral staircase, brewing jars, a prison cell and original quarry walls will be incorporated into the new centre. Hopefully the cellars where the Beatles once performed in the 1960s will soon be filled again with music and people. **Nita Hart**

Our final visit of the day was to the Midland Hotel, now beautifully restored. A feature of the bar was a large mural with a view of Forster Square as it was in the middle of last century, with trams and trolley buses, railway vehicles and a horse pulling a cart loaded with wool, the sacks labelled 'Isaac Holden', one of the mill owners whose family memorial we had been inspecting earlier in the day.

We were then taken to see two restored ball-rooms and two very large and comfortable bedrooms, leaving the Hotel through the listed 'Victorian Tunnel', the original entrance to the Hotel from the concourse of Forster Square Station, now gone.

David Pemberton

CIRCLE DANCING

Please remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays so the dates for the first sessions of 2016 will be January 8th and 22nd. New dancers are always welcome.

Gillian and Pat

ART APPRECIATION

Our January session will be Frank Gordon 'Art, Lies and Truth - what artists do'. Do come and see what this intriguingly titled talk will reveal.

Debi Burridge