



Registered Charity No 1095635

Letter from the chair

SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 3/17 December 2018

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Dear Members

'Tis the season to be merry...so with that in mind we have our Christmas Social Event on 13TH DECEMBER to start the ball rolling. PLEASE NOTE - Christmas could be said to be coming a little early this year for U3A members - 15 mins., to be precise. We have a full programme of performers so have arranged to open the (Victoria Hall) doors at 9.45AM on THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER with CURTAIN RISING at 10.15AM.

You may recall in November's Newsletter there was an appeal from the Community Refugee Sponsorship Scheme to support the possibility of a family moving to the Settle area. We have had a letter of thanks for the offers of help from members - so 'thank you' indeed.

I recently visited our new Wine Appreciation Group - it was an enjoyable challenge with much to discover. If I recall correctly the grape was Sauvignon Blanc, varying countries of origin and prices. Determining which was which was tricky and I thought I knew my wines! A big thank you to hosts and drivers.

The promise of photographs of Committee Members for our Noticeboard is nearly complete. Hopefully you are already able to recognise CM's as we should wear our Lanyards and like us all, enjoy a chat to get to know each other.

Jan and I attended a YAHR Development Day - Sharing Good Idea's, which was stimulating and could well inform how we go from strength to strength, each and all playing our part. More about that in the New Year.

Finally, a reminder the Christmas Event is for Members only. I know very many are working behind the scenes to entertain us and we look forward to seeing you there to join in the harmony and laughter!

Seasons' Greetings.

Jackie

PUTTING MONEY IN THE VICTORIA HALL SAFE Please can you make sure that, if you use an old envelope - or even a new one - that it is very securely sealed. An old plastic bag tied up with a note inside is fine, or even better for the smaller amounts, a proper bank money bag. I can get bags for you if you have difficulty. Last week I reached into the safe and picked up an envelope and the money just poured out into the safe. In transferring the small change into my own bag, I dropped a coin, which luckily I was able to recover, but I shouldn't have to pick the money out of the safe in small handfuls. In wet weather paper tears easily and envelopes don't always seal right across the gap. I can usually manage to pick an envelope up so that nothing falls out, but again, I shouldn't have to. All I need on the note is the Group that the money comes from. Adding the date and the amount is a help, but not essential. The vast majority of bags/envelopes that I collect from the safe are beautifully presented and I am very grateful for those who make my life a little easier.

Alison Tyas

January Meeting: Thursday 10th January 2019

'The Thunder Dragon Kingdom' with Stuart Kellington

Coffee from 10 am



The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show

Wednesday 2nd January at 7.45pm Settle, Victoria Hall

THINGS TO COME (12A)

Friday 11th January at 8 pm Bentham Town Hall

SWIMMING WITH MEN (12A)

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

FRIDAY 7th Jan 2019 to: Chris Taylor christine@castlebergh.plus.com Tel: 01729 823975

Copy will be acknowledged by email. Wherever possible, the full account is used but occasionally it is necessary to edit the piece for the printed copy.

The full submissions will be used on the website version.

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GROUPS

LaOB RETIRING LEADERS

The members of this group would like to extend very grateful thanks to Elizabeth Evans and Ruth Evans for all their hard work over the years organising outings and talks, and also encouraging others to do so. There have been many interesting visits made, sometimes in adverse conditions. There are still accounts of some of these on our website, on the LaOB page and they make fascinating reading. It is hoped the group will become active again in the future. **Debi Burridge**

THEATRE TRIPS

I have made a block booking for **Matthew Bourne's ballet Romeo and Juliet** on 23rd May at Bradford. Price £45.00 which includes a dress circle seat, coach and drivers tip. I do still have a few seats left for **Beauty and the Beast** on 5th January in Keswick. **Ring 01729/823978 Michael Cullingworth**

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

After coping with strong winds at its first meeting and then a Force 9 Gale on its October outing, the Birdwatching Group was relieved to meet indoors in November! The meeting featured a presentation by James Bray, the Project Officer for the RSPB's *Birds of Prey in Bowland* project. James explained that, although Bowland has sufficient habitat to support more than 13 pairs of Hen Harriers, there are in fact only 2 or 3 pairs on average each year. The main reasons for this deficit are poor land management and raptor persecution on some of the large private estates in Bowland. The economic and cultural conflict between intensive grouse shooting and Hen Harrier conservation poses a particularly intractable problem. But it's a problem we have to solve if our raptor species are to be saved from extinction, not just in Bowland but across the UK.



RETRO STRETCH AND TONE

This new group will be starting on January 4th 2019, every 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday morning between 10 and 11am, in the Catholic Church Hall, led by Alyson Cadman, a qualified teacher of exercise to music. This is a fun exercise group for all abilities set to music. A great opportunity after the indulgences of Christmas to help you start the New Year feeling healthier and happier.

Jeanne Hine

SPANISH INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION

Another new group will be starting on 8th January 2019, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday morning 10-11.30am, led by Tamsin Candeland, it is not for beginners, and so a great opportunity to progress your language skills with Tamsin's help. The focus of the group will be news items, magazine articles and short stories. Venue to be arranged.

On line sign up is available for these 2 groups but space is limited so sign up today. **Jeanne Hine**

GREAT LIVES

At our November meeting, John Parry gave a very interesting talk about Philip Toosey, someone he knew personally. Toosey was born in 1904 in Liverpool, As an adult, he worked in the cotton industry and later for Baring's Bank. As an officer in the Territorial Army, he was sent to France when the war started in 1939 and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. Later, he went to Singapore and when it fell to the Japanese, he was imprisoned in Changi Jail and then worked on the Burma-Siam railway and was involved in building a bridge over the river Kwai. This formed the basis of a novel of the same name by Pierre Boulle, later to become a Hollywood film. The fictitious character of Colonel Nicholson played by Alec Guinness was based on that of Philip Toosey. On returning home, Toosey repeatedly suffered from stress and nightmares. He died in 1975 of heart problems caused by his poor diet in captivity, (when a prisoner he lost 4 stone).

Keith Bradshaw

Our next meeting will be on Wed. 19th December (Victoria Hall 11.00am) when we have a most welcome guest speaker-renowned Langcliffe author Susan Fisher who will give us a presentation on the life and work of Violet Douglas Pennant. Violet was a philanthropist, an enthusiast for local government and briefly Commandant of the WRAF. Everyone welcome. **John Jebson**