

Newsletter

Issue No 6/5, February 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

David Holdsworth's excellent talk in January on "matters digital" gave us the opportunity to try something I've been itching to do for a long time—use the large on-stage screen in the Victoria Hall in conjunction with a digital projector. The results were excellent, and I'm told by people who sat in the balcony that the sound was good. This gives us the opportunity to expand the Settle U3A membership in future without the risk of members being unable to have seats at the monthly meetings (for some time to come at least).

Much of our calendar of events is planned a year ahead, and a small sub-committee under Vice-Chairman John Jebson is already starting to plan our speakers list for 2008-9. I would like to remind you that now is also the time for putting forward suggestions for possible new group for 2008-9, whether you have thoughts that you might be able to offer to lead such a group, or merely that you have a good idea for a group someone else might lead.

Do please remember also that we have now proved the technical possibility of offering broadband for e-mail and web access in the Castlbergh room, and we could implement this, provided there was sufficient demand. The investment cannot be made unless we can be sure that groups will make use of broadband, so please let us know if you are a potential user of such facilities. In addition to enhancing the range of what existing classes can offer, broadband might open up possibilities for a range of new classes, so do let us know if you have any new ideas in this area.

With best wishes
Tony Stephens

FROM THE GROUPS ORGANISER

Five members attended the group leaders' meeting on 4 February. We saw a short sample of how broadband could be used in group meeting in the Castleburgh room.

I was keen to know how the room booking by individual groups is working and to make suggestions for further ways that groups could be less dependant on me as Groups Organiser. Any further ideas will be gladly listened to.

Alison Tyas

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: Our next visit is to the newly refurbished Leeds City Art Gallery on **Tuesday 19 February**. The intention is to travel by train. Times include

Dep Settle 10.31 arr Leeds 11.36. Dep Leeds 14.49 arr Settle 15.45
Dep Giggleswick 7.57 arr Leeds 9.04. Dep Leeds 16.52 arr Giggleswick 17.55
or any combination, or by bus or car if preferred. I intend to be at the gallery from mid-day onwards.

"Leeds Art Gallery reopened on 22 June 2007 following a £1.5m renovation. The highlight of the refurbishment is the uncovering of the Gallery's stunning Victorian Tiled Hall reuniting the Gallery with the Central Library for the first time since the 1950s. A new café, comfortable seating area and a shop have also been introduced into the new space. The former Art Library in the Gallery has been transformed into a new exhibition space. The Leeds permanent collection of art, which has been described as being one of the best collections of 20th century British Art outside London, has also been redisplayed with the support of Jeremy Lewison, former Director of Collections, of the Tate Gallery. Staff at the Henry Moor Institute have curated displays in the Leeds City Art Gallery sculpture galleries, using the city's impressive collection to tell the story of sculpture in Britain from the mid-19th century onwards."

And there's always the chance for a little retail therapy for them what needs it! Next meeting—the last for this session (already!) - at the Victoria Hall on **Tuesday 4 March** at 2.00pm when we will, amongst other things, fix a date for our visit to the Ben Nicholson exhibition at Abbot Hall during the summer.

Frank Gordon

Circle Dancing: On **Friday 15 February** Circle Dancing will be at Langcliffe.

Gillian Walton

Family History: At our last meeting we had a very interesting general discussion with a chance for each of us to say how we were getting on with our research and learn from each other. We are trying to arrange a joint meeting with Skipton U3A in February: please check the website for details.

Michael Cullingworth

Great Lives: Shakespeare's greatness has never been in doubt, but how much do we know about the great man himself? Probably less than we know about Josef Stalin. But when calculating a man's place in history, how do we compare the willingness of a million Russians to give their lives in defence of Stalingrad (or Leningrad's dreadful starvation) - both of which ensured that Nazism failed—with the ruthless killing of opposition and the suppression behind the Iron Curtain?

Was Uncle Joe, a man of steel, both great and evil? Come and join us on **Wednesday 20**

February—Victoria Hall at 10.30am. **Frank Pedley**

Heraldry: The next meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 21 February** in the Friends Meeting House, when Peter Marshall will be with us once again. This time he will be showing us slides of “Heraldry in the Furness Area”. Everyone welcome to what I know will be a good meeting.

We will not be meeting in March because of the early Easter holiday.

Hilary Baker

Line Dancing: Next meeting **Thursday 21 February** at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall.
PLD

Listening to music: Next meeting **17 February** at Smithy Croft, Rathmell. If you are new please phone 840882 for directions.

Shirley Wolfenden

Sunday Lunch: During the winter months we stay close to home and so on **17 February** the venue will be The Falcon Manor. Time 12.30 for 1.00pm. Please let me know by Friday 15 February if you are coming. **Audrey Daykin**

Walking: Planning meeting: Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the date for the Planning Meeting (**27 March**) is now not convenient. Therefore it is proposed to hold the meeting on **Wednesday 26 March** at 3.30pm at The Friends Meeting House. I suggest that instead of a Jacob’s Join lunch we now opt for an afternoon tea (if this is agreeable). If this is unsuitable for most people, perhaps someone else would be willing to conduct the meeting on the original date. We would welcome your comments (Margaret and Michael Cullingworth on 01720 823978).

Tuesday walks: We have been very lucky to manage two walks in January, although not the ones on the list. The first, on a very wet Tuesday, was from Gargrave, where it stopped raining just long enough for us to do a couple of miles along the canal and back on the road, followed by a browse in Dorothy Ward and a very nice lunch at Town End Farm tea rooms at Airton.

The second was a circular around Austwick using roads and trackways to avoid walking across fields. It was a very nice day and we had a wonderful view of a snow-frosted Ingleborough and glimpses of emerging snowdrops. This was followed by soup and chips at The Game Cock! **Margaret Cullingworth**

Wine Appreciation Group 1 - January meeting: We were faced with a blind tasting of two whites of the same grape and three reds of a same other grape. Only the two grapes concerned, the wines’ origins, and their prices needed to be identified (guessed!).

There was general appreciation of the whites. The first had a complex, interesting nose with delicate well-balanced flavours. The second had a more straightforward nose and a little more depth on the palate. Both were identified as Sauvignon Blancs and after a short general discussion, New Zealand (unusually the North Island) and Chile were suggested as the sources.

Sauvignon Blanc 1: Trinity Hill, Hawke Bay, NZ, 2006, 11.6%, £8.49

Sauvignon Blanc 2: Valdivieso, Chile, 2007, 13%, £5.39.

Most people correctly judged the first red to be Merlot, then opinions differed markedly. Some found its tannin strength overdone so as to be unpleasantly mouth drawing—others could tolerate it happily. France was finally identified as the producing nation.

The other two Merlots were each a welcome and pleasant experience, being well-balanced and smooth, the last one a little more so and its lingering aftertaste was a bonus:

Merlot 1: Domaine la Soumade, France, 2004, 14.5%, £6.49

Merlot 2: Sunrise Concha y Toro, Chile, 2006, 13%, £4.99

Merlot 3: Oyster Bay, New Zealand, 2006, 13%, £7.99.

GHP

Next month's Thursday meeting

will be on 13 March 2008
when the speakers will be Dorothy and Brian Burrows,
whose talk will be entitled

“Travels in Pakistan”

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

OUTINGS

Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

Relax and enjoy a 35 mile cruise along this famous waterway, listening to the live commentary, seeing spectacular scenery and passing through locks and under bridges, marvelling at the construction of this canal.

This outing will take place on **2 July**, leaving Salford Docks at 9.30am and taking 6 hours to get to Liverpool. There, we will have a couple of hours to look round before leaving for home at around 5.30pm.

The cruise, bus and driver's tip are all included in the price of £42. There are only 30 places available, so please give your name as soon as possible to either Shirley Wolfenden or Janet Stafford, along with a £10 non-refundable deposit.

Please note that the balance of the money must be paid by

10 May. Further information will be in future *Newsletters* so please watch out for it.

Shirley Wolfenden

TRAMPS presents –

Friday 15 March, St John's Hall, Settle at 7.30pm

AMAZING GRACE (15)

Keeping in Touch

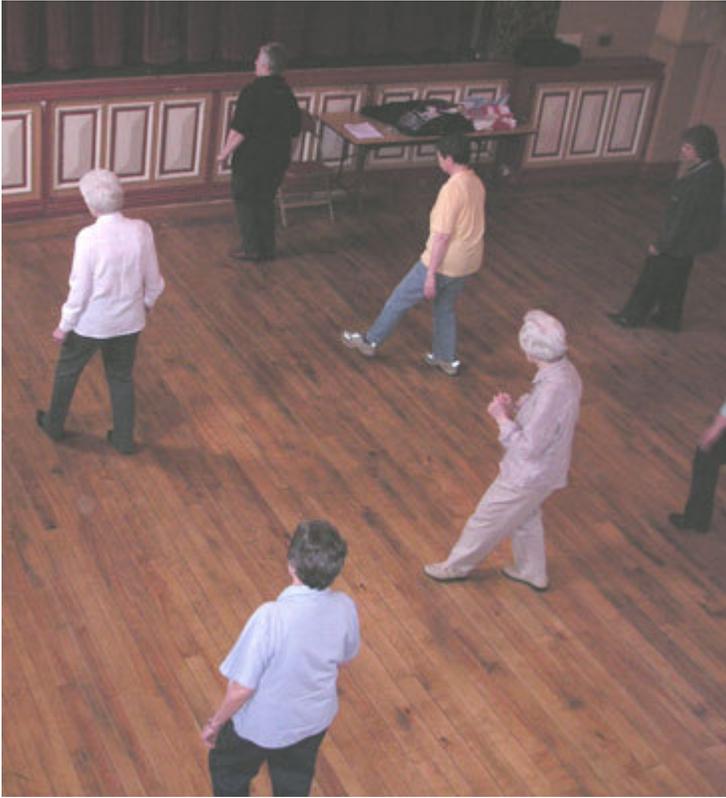
Just a reminder to you all, and a note to new members, about our arrangement for sending out cards to members who are ill, in hospital or bereaved. We rely on members to inform us of these situations and the contact list remains the same. Last year we actually sent out a wedding congratulation card to a member. We have had good feedback from our efforts and are happy to continue. The cards are printed “in house” and delivered by hand where possible, so there is very little cost to the scheme. So please do contact one of the following:

Olwyn Bolger: 823525 Margaret Cullingworth: 823978

Beryl Slann: 01524 251205 Janet Stafford: 825449



Pictures taken during the Tuesday walk around Austwick, led by the Cullingworths (hope the robin remembered his U3A 50p fee).





Members of the Line Dancing group (or should it be the Line *Sitting Down and Resting* group?) Incidentally, there's one man thinking of joining, but he doesn't want to be the only man. Any man brave enough to join him?

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 **Chris Petrie**



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

Mathematical Puzzles, Computers, Discussion.

I'd like to see a new Conservation group ("how to run life without using so much energy")

Where are your roots?

I was born in Lancashire but very soon moved to Yorkshire, where I was brought up in various places.

What does your family consist of?

Me!

Plus one sister (Alison Tyas) and two brothers, both now retired; and various nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Tell us briefly about your education and career:

Educated at Ackworth School, then I went to sea for 10 years as an engineer. Then I had 4 years in the Tyne area as a surveyor, during which I got my Extra First Class Certificate (degree-equivalent) in marine engineering, before going to Singapore for 32 years—first as a surveyor then as a marine consultant.

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

The *highlights*: one week-end during my apprenticeship on Tyneside, climbing from Rothbury and standing on top of the Cheviot; then on my first long leave from Singapore, climbing Beinn Dearg Mhor in Scotland.

Achievement: the satisfaction of having written a programme to design industrial standard piping (based on petroleum standard piping), which I used to design some 15 projects in S E Asia.

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

To climb mount Lingga in Indonesia. It's topped by two 300' columns of *smooth* limestone.

Have you any hobbies? Cryptography and mountain climbing.

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

I've never seen the TV programme—but I'm really annoyed by people who make decisions when they don't know what they're talking about—politicians especially.

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:

We're running out of energy.

Use less!

If everybody turned their lights out when they're not needed it would save an awful lot because of the built-in inefficiency of electricity production and distribution.

What is your wish for your great nephews and nieces?

I hope they manage to survive. Their future doesn't look brilliant (I estimate that oil will become very expensive and will effectively run out within the next 10—15 years).

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

Learn as much as possible on the technical side, so you can take sensible decisions. "Technical subjects" really aren't so difficult and people need to understand that there are physical laws that govern what we can and can't do.

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

Don't be afraid of asking questions.

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 6 March***

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

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

They tell you you'll lose your mind as you grow older. What they don't tell you is that you won't miss it very much..