

Issue No 7/5
FEBRUARY 2009



**THE
UNIVERSITY
OF THE
THIRD AGE
SETTLE
DISTRICT**

Registered Charity
No 1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends



The most immediate threat to Victoria Hall's continued existence, lack of funding up to 31st March, was lifted by a number of donations from hall users and the relocation of parish council meetings to increase revenue.

That still left a huge question mark over next year's grant funding from Craven District Council, so at the council's crucial Policy Committee meeting on 21st January our U3A had a good lobbying presence of 7 members (including 4 of your committee). I was allowed to address the meeting for a few minutes to put our case for the retention

of the Hall as being vital to our organisation and the kind of activities we were able to offer the people of Settle District. The Trustees put forward their business plans, but the crucial argument

in my opinion was that of David Heather, one of Settle's councillors, who pointed out that without the Volunteers giving their time gratis, the cost to CDC of running Victoria would be £40 000 per annum, so a grant of £10 000 per annum represented a very good deal for Council taxpayers. I know that a number of U3A members are represented in the Volunteers' ranks so they deserve all our thanks for their continued good work. Grant funding has been approved for the next 3 years.

I attended the latest meeting of the Looking at Old Buildings group to hear one of Yorkshire Dales National Park's building conservation officers, Don McClellan, talk on the methods of construction of Dales buildings, illustrated with many examples of each basic type from across the Dales, including Settle's Folly. He particularly impressed me with his description of the skilled work of medieval and early modern architects and builders, working with what we now regard as the most primitive of tools and equipment, but whose basic building designs are replicated in modern premises.

See our website for the full programme of visits with the fascinating LAOB group.

With best wishes, John Jebson

**NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING -
THURS 12 MARCH 2009**

Prior to the scheduled talk on the above date there will be an extraordinary general meeting, commencing at 10.30am. The sole item on the agenda will be to consider revised fees/charges for the forthcoming year 2009/2010.

Your Committee unanimously recommends the following for approval :-

Proposal 1--Annual subscription fee to be £12 per person (currently £10)

Proposal 2 --Admission charge for members at monthly general meetings to be £1 per person (currently 50p)

All other charges to remain the same. Revised charges to come into force as from 13 August 2009.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ART APPRECIATION: Our next visit will be on Tuesday, February 17th to the Peter Scott Gallery, Lancaster University, meeting at the gallery at 2.00 to see:

'WHAT IS THE CASE' An exhibition of sculpture by David Gilbert.

This exhibition is the result of seven years work, and is still in process. It is made up of a number of small components almost entirely carved in balsawood, each one housed in a perspex box because of the vulnerability of this material. To date there are 78 of these elements, and around 60 of these will be displayed in the Peter Scott Gallery. *'The vulnerable nature of the wood fits a sense of the fragility of our life, and of the many aspects to the way it all is*

- the human situation and that of our world. Experiencing the difficulty of carving this material (balsawood) seems rather like the actual experience of living.'.

The Gallery is located in the Great Hall Complex on Lancaster University Campus. Full information at:
www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/peterscott/scott.htm

Frank Gordon

CARD MAKING GROUP: 3rd Thursday each month

TAKE – paper, card, scissors, glue, yards of double sided tape and shiny things.

ADD – up to 8 people, a sprinkle of laughter, a dash of concentration, Wendy's patience and expertise.

RESULT – beautiful cards that I am happy to send. **Joan Myers**

COMPUTERS: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2.00 – 3.30 pm. Victoria Hall

This is literally a "self-help" group of members who have a range of experience to share with each other about use of computers. We are a small group and value each others contributions. If you would like to join us we look forward to seeing you with us. The dates that we will be meeting are:

February 25th. March 11th. March 25th. April 8th. April 22nd.

May 13th. May 27th. June 10th. June 24th. July 8th. July 22nd.

I will be unavailable for Wednesdays of April 8th 22nd May 27th June 10th. I am sure there will be members within the group to help on these occasions. and this can be arranged with future planning. "You have a new problem we may be able to help each other, or point you in the right direction." **Derek Hewitson**

Family History

The next meeting on Friday 27 February is a trip to the Preston Family History Centre at Chorley. Please meet in the Cricket Club Car Park in order to leave at 10 a.m. It is advisable to bring a packed lunch and/or a drink as there are no catering facilities.

If there is anybody who was not at the January meeting and would like to go, please telephone 823978 and we will try to accommodate you.

We have four copies of a document entitled "Using the IGI" and 5 pages of "Useful Websites for Family History" at 35p each, if anyone would like them.

Margaret & Michael Cullingworth

GREAT LIVES: Our next meeting will be on Wed 18th February at 10.30 am when the subject will be: 'The Life of Mary Seacombe'.
Jean Imrie

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS: March 25---Wednesday, 2pm.
Guided visit to the 17th C. Great Barn at East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley. There will be a charge of £5 (sorry, whether a Nat. Trust member or not). We will be able to visit the House (unguided) and there is a tea-room, for lunch and/or tea.

The House and grounds are open 11 am to 4pm. Drivers please offer lifts if possible. Please let me know by March 18 if you are intending to go. **Jill Sykes** (Tel: 015242-51398)

MADRIGAL GROUP: We will continue to meet at 10.0am in St. John's Hall during February (7th and 14th) and March (7th and 14th). We are currently celebrating the anniversaries of Handel, Purcell and Mendelssohn, and the poetry of Robert Burns in our choice of music. Anyone with some sight reading ability who wishes to join us should speak to Alan Hemsworth (823902) **Alan Hemsworth**

SCRABBLE GROUP

The group meets at the Victoria Hall on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be at 2pm on the 9th March. There will be **no** 13th April meeting as the Easter Bank Holiday falls on that date. **Pat Lodge**

WALKING GROUP: The walk on 27 January took the group along pleasant footpaths round both Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs, passing the imposing Swinsty Hall with its beautiful gardens. There were some wonderful reflections and plenty of photographic opportunities.

The walk on Tuesday 24 February, will be from Kirkby Lonsdale to Whittington and back along the footpath at the side of the river (weather permitting). This involves a steep climb at the beginning and some road walking on a quiet lane. The walk is between four and five miles. **Margaret Cullingworth**

...AND SOMETHING MORE ABOUT THE GROUPS:

We have over 30 groups in Settle District U3A in the current 2008/9 session,

and they range very widely with appreciation of wine, art and poetry, and dancing in both lines and circles. Yet we only cover two foreign languages (French and German) and family circumstances have put our philosophy on hold. In short, there is scope for extending ourselves in new directions.

At this stage, I would like to begin thinking about our offerings for 2009/10.

If you find yourself thinking "If only there was a U3A group on X", please let me know what is the value of X - Italian, Theology, Middle-East Politics, or Thai Kick-Boxing. Other suggestions would also be welcome.

Moreover, if you awake every morning thinking "I would really like to run a U3A group on Y", I would really like to know of your enthusiasm, and to help turn it into a reality. There is a wide variation in the style of our different groups, and there is no prescribed formula, so if you've got ideas for new things, let's talk: tel 822903 e-mail ecldh@leeds.ac.uk, or contact me via the website. **David Holdsworth**

THEATRE VISIT: Monday 26th January 2009 REVIEW

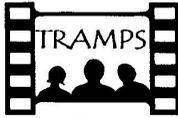
'There's nothing like a good laugh!' This remark was overheard as we left Ilkley Playhouse after a performance of 'The talented Mr Ripley' by Phyllis Nagy. Quite a few people felt that what they had just seen was nothing like a good laugh. Well, it was billed as a disturbing psychological thriller!

Phyllis Nagy adapted Patricia Highsmith's book for the stage in 1999, about the same time as the late Anthony Minghella directed the most recent film version with Matt Damon as Ripley, the intelligent, suave and charming but completely amoral main character.

The play is set in the early 1950s in USA and Italy. Tom Ripley is a young man struggling to make a living in New York City, with no prospects but a talent to survive by doing whatever is required. Within the two acts, there is a multiple time element whereby Ripley operates simultaneously in two scenes which take place in two different time frames. Only Ripley is aware of the differing time frames, and sometimes even **he** is not aware. The other characters know only the present time the text gives them.

There are many layers to the often confusing plot and the ending is complex.

The acting throughout was superb. Even the actress reading in for someone who was ill seemed fairly at ease with her part. One thing that was difficult at first was the lack of scenery which led to some confusion as to where (as well as when) we were. But it was good to see the stage version, having enjoyed (if that is the right word) the film. **Debi Burrige**



The Ribblesdale Area
Moving Picture Show

TRAMPS presents –

Fri 20th Feb 7.30
Austwick Village Hall
**BUTCH CASSIDY
AND THE
SUNDANCE KID (A)**

Sat 21st Feb 7.30
Clapham Village
Hall
IN BRUGES (18)

Sat 7th March 7.30
Low Bentham
Village Hall
**THE BOY IN THE
STRIPED PYJAMAS
(12)**

www.tramps.org.uk

March Speaker Meeting – Thursday 12th
– Michael Cullingworth

**“O YES IT IS” – A HISTORY OF
PANTOMINE**

The date of the May meeting is 14th May
(not as printed in the programme)

If members change their email address
please could they inform the Membership
Secretary, Pat Smith.
patdsmith@f2s.com

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 5th March 2009
(Tel: 01524241271)

All copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.