



Registered Charity No 1095635

**SETTLE DISTRICT**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Issue Number 9/13 June 2015

[www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk](http://www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk)

**Letter from the chair**

**Dear friends,**

We still need volunteers to join the committee. Please consider it and don't be shy about putting your name forward if you think you might like to get to know some of the U3A a bit better.

This month I want to tell you about my current trials and tribulations. I try to grow vegetables. In the past few years I have had long battles with slugs. The usual barriers don't work here but I have gradually managed to reduce the number. I go out collecting after dark and first thing before breakfast. A hedgehog helps during the night and I was beginning to think I was getting on top of the problem.

However, that was before the little bunny decided it liked my garden. It ran to hide under my shed so I blocked that off all the way round. It then hid in the woodpile so I sorted that. It loves eating the cowslip heads - and is as happy as anything in the sun on the lawn nibbling the grass. I chase it whenever I see it in the hopes that constantly being chased will make it go elsewhere. There is no possibility of catching it. There are now so many good hiding places in the plants in the garden. The latest find is that all the new raspberry shoots have been nibbled off to short stalks which means that there would be no canes growing this year to make next year's crop. So I have reluctantly put up my fruit cage a month early. At the moment it can't get in there and without the top net the birds still can. Each row of veg is surrounded by a slug 'fence' and covered with mesh till you wonder if it is a garden or an internment camp for peas and beans.

I've been advised that I shouldn't try growing vegetables now. Can anyone help?

Your usually cheerful chairperson,

**Alison**

**July Meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30 a.m. in the Victoria Hall**  
**'Bess of Hardwick' with John Sheard**  
**Coffee served from 10.00 am**



Wednesday 24 June 2015 7.45pm Victoria Hall, Settle  
**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (PG)**

**Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 to:**  
**Chris Taylor [christine@castlebergh.plus.com](mailto:christine@castlebergh.plus.com)**  
**Tel: 01729 823975**  
**Submissions will be acknowledged by email**

**NEW GROUPS:**

So far, people have expressed interest in these new groups to be started: **Painting, Comparative Religions, Play Reading, Science, Psychology, Badminton/Table Tennis**  
Contact Groups' Organiser Paul Cochrane email [pf76543@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pf76543@yahoo.co.uk) or any other member of the committee if you would like to join any of these or would be interested in any other to be established.

# NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

## LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS (LAOB)

We visited two buildings that, considering their closeness in age, were very different - representing the breadth of Victorian /Edwardian taste.

The first was built by Enriqueta (a very interesting lady) in memory of her wealthy, cotton merchant husband, John Rylands. It was designed by Basil Chapnays, in Cumbrian red sandstone in a neo-Gothic style with elements of Art and Crafts. Although designed to be a library we all felt we were entering a Cathedral; all the more interesting as the Rylands were staunch Methodists!

Our second visit was a real contrast of light, colour and shabby charm. The Victoria Baths (winner of the 2003 BBC's Restoration Series) has already used over £3million in grants to secure the glass roof and wonderful stained glass windows preventing further deterioration but the dedicated volunteers still have much to do to realise their final goal of returning it to the "Water Palace" it once was.

Thank you, Sally for a wonderful day trip.

*Wendy Newby*

The August visit of LAOB will be to Leighton Hall (3 miles from J35 of M6) instead of Braithwaite Hall (NT) on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. As the visit will be during the school holidays and so close to August Bank Holiday I would be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in this visit in order that I can make the necessary booking with the Hall and determine whether it is worth organising a coach. The tour of the Hall costs £6.95. There is a teashop. Contact **Nita Hart**, e-mail: [bandnhart@btinternet.com](mailto:bandnhart@btinternet.com) or 'phone 01729 830299.

## GREAT LIVES

Our final meeting before the summer break will be on Wed.17th June (Victoria Hall 11.00am) when Keith Bradshaw will talk about F.M. Alexander and his famous relaxation and stress relief technique.

*John Jebson*

When is a Great Life not a Great Life? That was the question posed by John Jebson at the May meeting when he examined the life of Mrs Wallis Simpson. Most people – of a certain age – have their own opinions of the Duchess of Windsor but we were enthralled with John's detailed account. Not the most popular addition to the Royal Family, Wallis certainly supported the Duke although at times even she thought he was overstepping the mark.

The lack of recognition of Wallis by the 'Firm' and Edward's failure to be appointed to any worthwhile position led the pair to pursue a life of endless rounds of pointless social occasions. Mrs Simpson's existence may not qualify her as an asset in terms of 'Great Lives' but when it came to causing a constitutional crisis and an abdication, she certainly made her presence felt.

This was a difficult topic and one which John handled with sympathy.

*Alan Hemsworth*

## BOOK GROUP

We thought now would be a good time to let you know more about what we have been doing. As you may guess, we love to read books – and talk about them afterwards. We meet monthly in each other's homes (or other venues as needed). The one hosting chooses the book. This often leads to enjoying books we might not otherwise have thought of - as our choice of reading is wide and varied. Discussions are lively and stimulating, belying the idea that readers are a quiet bunch.

We are spoilt for choice but for instance, have just finished C J Sansom's *Dissolution* (2007) and are about to start Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* (1927).

We subscribe to the Library (including audio-books) but sometimes access our own copies. As an open group of up to twelve we welcome new members. Should there be lots more 'book lovers' come September, I would be happy to initially 'co-ordinate' another group if needed.

*Jackie Allott*