



Registered Charity No 1095635

SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 9/15 June 2017

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

As part of the recent Festival of Happiness I was asked to give a talk on the question "What is the U3A?" The talk was illustrated by pictures of our group activities, provided by group leaders, and put together by Sue Simpson. Certain points from that talk bear repetition here for information purposes for all our members.

U3A began in France in 1972 with each French U3A group closely linked in with an existing French university - effectively an extra-mural department of that university. When U3As were formed in the UK in 1982 onwards the French model was not adopted. Rather each U3A in England became an autonomous body - a mutual aid organisation which operated under the guiding principles of the U3A Movement. We have a national body called the Third Age Trust and in the UK there are 12 Regions. So here in Settle we are part of the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, together with 47 other U3As. Nationally, in the 9 English Regions, plus Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, there are currently 1,010 U3A groups with a total membership of 385,000 members.

The aim of each U3A is to encourage and to facilitate local older people no longer in full-time employment to keep both minds and bodies in good order through learning, exercise and enjoyment. The Third Age principle is that membership of a U3A should be open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased. Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.

Our hope in Settle is that we may continue to grow our U3A as there must be many more local people who could benefit from our activities.

Ian Tennant

July Meeting: Thursday 13th July in the Victoria Hall
Vikings – Britain's Ancestors? - Noel Moroney
(Coffee from 10am)

THEATRE TRIP

Tickets are still available for **THE MIKADO** price £44.00. **Saturday 19th August** at The Royal Hall, Harrogate, Matinee performance
Contact **Michael Cullingworth** 01729 823978

WESTNET SALTAIRE DISCOVERY TRAIL

Bradford U3A is hosting this on **Wednesday 21st June**, meeting at Saltaire Methodist Church, starting from 6.45 pm as a 1-1/2 hours wander. £5 per person. Cheques to Bradford U3A Social Fund to Kate Helm, 63 St Paul's Road, Bradford BD8 7LS by Wednesday 14th June.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

GREAT LIVES

At our May meeting Keith Bradshaw gave us a stirring account of the brief but heroic life of one of England's greatest warrior kings- Henry V. We marched, in our imaginations, with him and his small army through northern France in 1415 to the climactic battlefield of Agincourt by which time the English force had dwindled from 10,000 men to barely 6,000, largely due to the ravages of dysentery. Their incredible victory was due to the skill of the English archers and the overconfidence of the vast French army whose knights, once unhorsed were unable to rise in their heavy armour on the muddy ground and proved easy prey for the English. A further two expeditions led by Henry were by comparison a succession of sieges and minor skirmishes, though Henry married the French king's daughter Katherine in 1420. His untimely death aged 35 as a result of sickness, possibly dysentery, in 1422 left a 2-year old heir who later proved wholly incapable as king and led directly to the Wars of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday June 21st when by complete contrast Paul Cochrane will give a presentation on the life of William Smith, described as " the father of English geology". All welcome at this, our last session prior to the summer break.

John Jebson

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS (LAOB)

Thanks are due to Anne Webster for a most enjoyable visit to Gawthorpe Hall. A full write-up is on the Group web page.

Elizabeth Evans

27th July trip to Rochdale - places still available and it is open to any U3A member, not just LAOB members.

Details in last month's newsletter.

Debi Burridge

Thursday June 22nd

Little Salkeld Watermill & Acorn Bank Watermill. Open to all U3A members. These two watermills both operate and produce flour for sale. Little Salkeld also has a cafe, which serves snacks and light lunches. We shall have a guided tour of this fascinating mill, built around 1750, it has two waterwheels, which should be in operation for our visit.

Six miles away is Acorn Bank, which is owned by the National Trust, and operated by volunteers. It originally had three waterwheels. It also has a

tearoom and a fine garden. We intend to travel by coach, leaving the Cricket Club at 9.00 am. The cost of the coach trip and visit to Little Salkeld, including guided tour, U3a charge & drivers tip will be £22. Admission to Acorn Bank is free to NT members, £6 to non-members.

Bookings to Jim Woodward-Nutt:

jim@woodward-nutt.co.uk or Tel: 01729 851808.

U3A SLIDESHOW

Many thanks to all who contributed pictures of group activities. I intend to keep this up to date so please keep sending me pictures showing the wide variety of groups. Particularly useful are those which reveal members engaged in the activity.

suesimpson@btinternet.com



Ukelele Group



Table Tennis Group

GEOLOGY

The Geology Group had another successful field trip this time to Dumfries and Galloway staying in Stranraer. 15 of us visited sites in Dumfries, the Rhins of Galloway and the coast towards Girvan over two full days and en-route as well. The weather was very kind to us and sun cream and

floppy hats were the order of the day. The rocks ranged in age from Ordovician to Permian times (between about 460 to 250 million years old). We saw a large part of the succession on the Rhins with significant folding. On the coast towards Girvan we looked at a rare example of a small piece of oceanic crust forced up onto the continental crust (obduction) during the joining of Scotland with the rest of England (normally it subducts i.e. goes underneath).
Keith Waterson



Castledyke Park, Dumfries



Castleton Fisheries on A77 south of Girvan



Ardwell Bay on the Rhins of Galloway

Photos: Sally Waterson

U3A Weekenders' Group – Sociable Sundays or Saturdays from September 2017

Following the suggestion in the last newsletter, it is proposed this new group starts Autumn 2017. We would like this group to be welcoming and friendly with a mix of themed discussions, out-door time and probably some cafe time. It would be monthly to start with and may develop to include visits to interesting places or events. We don't want to duplicate anything already happening in Settle U3A. The unique element is getting together on a weekend day, and having an enjoyable and interesting low-cost time.

The inaugural meeting will be at Settle Library meeting room on Saturday 16th September 11.30 – 13.00, with the main aim being to decide what we would like to do, and when, from October onwards. Would we prefer Saturdays or Sundays? And what sort of time?

Please let us know if you are interested in joining this group. There are opportunities to find out more, suggest ideas and register your interest at the U3A Open Meeting on 10th August and at the AGM on 14th September.

Debi Burrige 825922 debi.burrige@gmail.com

A Zumba style group was suggested and we have a leader so look out for further details in August

Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by Friday 7th July 2017 to: Chris Taylor christine@castlebergh.plus.com Tel: 01729 823975 Submissions 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.