

Newsletter

Issue No 5/6, March 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SETTLE DISTRICT

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk
Contact: 01729 822313

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

You will have read and seen the photographs, in the *U3A News*, of the devastating fire at National Office. Things seem to be getting back to normal as we are receiving normal post once more. E-mail contact was maintained throughout the crisis—all credit to the staff down there.

Information has been received about the 25th Anniversary Celebrations and about using it to raise “awareness” of U3A both nationally and locally. The committee are discussing how to proceed in Settle District, and how to mark our 5th Anniversary in September.

With Easter approaching, a reminder of the loan arrangements for children’s equipment and toys: contact Christine and John Rose on 822553.

Sincerely

Janet

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: We had a highly successful visit to the Peter Scott Gallery at Lancaster University. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed John Hubbard’s large semi-abstract paintings of the Alhambra as well as an excellent display of ceramics, including some lovely work by Anna Adams. Paul Muchan’s illustrated talk on his pottery the previous week was also extremely well received by the group.

Our next (and last) meeting is on 6 March and is an unusual one in that Irene Rawnsley has kindly agreed to select a number of poems, each having a painting as their subject. The poems will be read aloud and should form the basis for lively discussion and comment. Art and Poetry—two for the price of one!

Our final visit is on 3 April (2.00pm as usual) to the Mercer Gallery at Harrogate to see an exhibition devoted to the work of William Powell Frith (1819-1909) who, it is claimed, “was the greatest British painter of the social scene since Hogarth. His best-known pictures, *Ramsgate Sands*, *Derby Day* and *The Railway Station*, are icons of their age. Frith is celebrated for his great panoramas of the Victorian world, populated by numerous figures, based on his friends, family, professional models and characters that he met in the street. Frith enjoyed huge success and popularity in his lifetime; on six separate occasions rails had to be put up around his pictures in the Royal Academy to hold back the admiring crowds”.

“Frith was born near Harrogate and spent his early years in the town, whose art gallery now owns a number of his works, including his famous Many Happy Returns of the Day. The Frith exhibition contains over 60 paintings, prints and drawings, many from private collections, and of course all of Frith’s major works, with loans from national and regional galleries around the country.” So this is a rare chance to see a major blockbuster exhibition within striking distance of Settle and will form a fitting climax to our Art Appreciation “season”.

Frank Gordon

Discussion Group: Having discussed personal debt and the problems of population, we planned a “practical session” in the Victoria Hall, when we attended the Area County Forum, and assessed its place in the local government system on 5 March.

On **Monday 19 March** there will be a more sombre discussion on the Right to Die.

Frank Pedley

Great Lives: At our February meeting we had a superbly succinct look at Isaac Newton the man, followed by an illuminating talk on Marie Stopes. We found no apparent link between the two—except perhaps that they were both not very nice people! On **Wednesday 21 March**, we shall be hearing all about the Rothschilds, and Andrew Carnegie.

Frank Pedley

Family History: The next meeting will be on **Friday 30 March** when Audrey Daykin has kindly agreed to talk to the group. This will be at Victoria Hall at 10.30am. In the meantime, good luck with your searches.

M & M Cullingworth

Heraldry: Thursday 15 March at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall. I hardly like to follow Alan Hemsworth’s wonderful talk last month. It was a wonderful exhibition of “Heraldry in my life”. I will however try to do a picture show of “Heraldry of the Oxford Colleges”.

Hilary Baker

Line Dancing: continues to be enjoyed by us all. Why not come and join us? - it is easy exercise to fun music. Beginners welcome at Victoria Hall, 10.30am on Thursdays.

PLD

Listening to Music: The next meeting will be on **19 March** at 2.00pm at Smithy Croft, Rathmell. This is a very soporific, pleasant afternoon spent listening to music brought by members. We have one major work and perhaps three smaller pieces. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome.

Shirley W

Looking at Old Buildings: Kirkstall Abbey is a childhood friend to many of us and on February 12 people went to renew their acquaintance with it. Instantly we felt at home when we were greeted as *The New Age Group*.

We had an excellent guide in Joe. Steeped in the history of monasticism, he had a wealth of information to share with us about the place of Kirkstall within the religious framework of Yorkshire in the Middle Ages.

It has to be said that we are a doughty group: in our quest for knowledge we have shivered in Kirkby Lonsdale; frozen in Grassington; sunbathed at Briggs Flatts and now dripped in the rain of Kirkstall.

Audrey Daykin

Next meeting: **Thursday 29 March**, Pendel Heritage Centre, Barrowford (through Long Preston and Gisburn; in Barrowford turn left at the old Toll House; car park on left just over the bridge; Heritage Centre on the right). Meet at 2.00pm at the Centre. There is a 17th Century farmhouse, 18th Century walled garden, a cruck barn. Also an art gallery (closes at 4.00pm) with an exhibition by Settle artists—Celia King, paintings and collages, and Don Glanville, ceramics.

Contact **Jill Sykes 015242 51398**

Sunday Lunch: Next lunch is **Sunday 18 March**. We will meet in The Black Horse, Giggleswick at 12.30pm for 1.00pm. If you cannot come please let Enid Parker know (823792).

HB

Walking: The walk scheduled for **Thursday 15 March** will not now take place. In its stead John Jebson will lead the walk from Grassington that was scheduled for 18 January but was cancelled because of bad weather.

Saida Simmons

Could I remind walkers that the next planning meeting will be at the Victoria Hall on **29 March** at 10.30am. I will not be present so I hope someone else will take the chair. As I have been co-ordinator since our U3A started I think it is time I stepped aside and allowed someone else to have a go. Therefore it would be a good idea to appoint someone at this meeting as a replacement. Thank you.

Shirley W

Wine Appreciation Group 1—February: The group has shown a marked preference for red wines in the past, but since the “budget” has made possible the purchase of slightly more expensive bottles, more complimentary noises have been heard after the initial two samplings during the evening. The noses and flavours of Jordan’s Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch (SA 2005 12.5% £7.25), and Martin Codax’s Albarino Galicia (Spain 2005 12.5% £8.85) were both enthusiastically appreciated.

So were the three reds—and preferences tended to follow the order of presentation:

Burgundy—Pinot Noir (2002 12.5% £7.95)

Quinta de Côa—Douro Valley (Portugal 2004 14% £8.50)

Weinert—Malbec (Argentina 2002 14% £8.95)

GHP

Next month’s Thursday meeting

Next month’s meeting, on 12 April, will be a talk entitled

“Don’t Put Your Daughter on the Stage”

given by Angela Crow

Coffee at 10.00am in the Victoria Hall

***PLEASE NOTE:** the date for the August meeting is **9 August**, and that for September is **13 September**, and NOT as shown in your membership card*

The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show

presents

Friday 23 March at 7.30pm

Langcliffe Institute

Saturday 24 March at 7.30pm

Clapham Community Centre

THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY (15)

OUTINGS

The outing to the Lowry, Manchester, is now fully subscribed and I will collect the money (£12 per person) at the March general meeting.

If you will not be there, will you please ensure that the money reaches me by Monday 12 March. Cheques payable to Settle District U3A Social Account and sent to S Wolfenden, Smithy Croft, Rathmell, Settle BD24 0LA

Shirley Wolfenden

Examples of Paul Muchan's pottery



STOP PRESS

This space is for any urgent items that come too late for the copy date (see below). Please keep wording to a minimum.

Circle Dancing: the last class will be held on 30 March—starting again in September.

Meanwhile, watch out for a new **Exercise** class, possibly after Easter.

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 Wednesday 28 March 2007
2006.*

If you're pushing 60, that's exercise enough.

You can only hold your stomach in for so many years.