

Newsletter

Issue No 6/6 March 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

*Registered Charity No 1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk
Contact: 01729 822313*

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Following a lack of interest from groups, we shall not be taking up the Victoria Hall's offer to install broadband in the Castleberg Room. The committee did however agree to look into the possibility of installing more light-proof blinds in the Castleberg Room.

George Pattison advises that his group use the wireless broadband signal downstairs this month, and the Victoria Hall have agreed to allow us free use of this signal for an experimental period. Any group wishing to make use of this signal would need to talk to David Ramage, the Victoria Hall manager, to get an access code (the wireless signal is too weak to be useable in the Castleberg Room).

Could those who attended the Northern Chamber Orchestra concert in Skipton on 5 March, or will attend the NCO concert in Settle Parish Church on 8 May, let Shirley or myself know whether they feel it would be worth running a Settle U3A coach to a future NCO concert, perhaps in 2009? Whether the NCO will come back to Settle in future years may depend on the support they achieve in Settle this May, but they hold concerts regularly at venues easily accessible by coach from Settle, such as Lancaster, Blackburn and Skipton. If there were sufficient demand, we might run a coach to a concert, as we do to the theatre.

With best wishes

Tony Stephens

Your Committee needs You

The strength of any organisation like U3A must always lie in the numbers of its members who not only join in (or lead) the many group activities but also who are prepared to be involved in the administrative work done by the Committee to provide essential back-up to the frontline activity. U3A National Office, in its Notes on the Model Constitution, warns us as an organisation that "it is important to ensure that there is some sequential retirement of [Committee] members. You cannot afford the whole Committee to reach the end of their service at the same time."

Four members of your Committee will retire at September's AGM and a further two officers have indicated their wish to hand over to "new blood" whenever practicable. It would be inconceivable for any committee to function properly in the face of such losses so we urgently need more volunteers to take on the work.

Committee meetings are monthly on the Monday morning prior to the scheduled monthly general meeting of members and generally last little more than 1¼ hours. We are currently compiling detailed "job

descriptions” for the work done by your officers so that new recruits are aware of what awaits them! Please note that the work can be flexible to a certain extent. If you think you can help in any way, however limited, please contact me (01729 825786) or any Committee member.

John Jebson, Vice-Chairman

FROM THE GROUPS ORGANISER

I have had a request to start a German (Absolute Beginners) Group again. Please let me know if you are interested; starting in April, date and time to be decided.

Alison Tyas 01729 822313

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Circle Dancing: The last class will be on **14 March**; after Easter there will be classes on the first Fridays in April and May.

Gillian Walton

Family History: At our February meeting we had a very interesting and informative time discussing aspects of family history. Audrey Daykin very kindly shared her vast knowledge, with input from Genevieve Moss. Audrey has said she will talk to us again and bring reference books on **Friday 28 March**, when we will have a working morning, so please bring along any research you are currently working on and any problems you may have encountered. We will also discuss how we are going to proceed with the groups when the new session starts in September.

There will be an open day at the Records Office at Northallerton on Saturday 5 April from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Margaret Cullingworth

French: French on Monday mornings is an amazing way to start the week but it is still fun and we do seem to be learning a lot. Somehow, these learning experiences have included the meaning of quite a number of words that are not exactly polite! We have continued to translate articles from French newspapers and discuss the contents but an innovation this term has been the listening to French news broadcasts that member David Holdsworth has recorded for the U3A laptop. It has been interesting to hear reports of events that are given quite a different slant and emphasis. We have read a delightful play together, set in an olden-days village, with plenty of amusing characters and petty feuds and bickering and the trauma of an absence of bread until the baker can be reunited with his runaway wife. We are fortunate in Settle that we have the facility of the Victoria Hall's meeting rooms for our classes. The Castleberg Room is a very pleasant venue for a group of 12.

Olwyn Bolger and Anne Richer

Handbells: We are an enthusiastic but very small group. Please could 2 or 3 people come and join us? - either previous members or newcomers. 3.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday in the month at the Parish Church.

Alison Tyas

Great Lives: We shall be delving into the background of Akbar, the great Mogul emperor of India in the 16th century. By contrast we shall hear about the life of Thomas Cook, who was the first to recognise that there were generations to come who were addicted to travel—including many U3A members ...

10.30am **Wednesday 19 March.**

Frank Pedley

Heraldry: There will be no Heraldry this month (March).

The next meeting will be a visit to Gisburn and Marton churches on **Thursday 17 April**; meet in Booths car park at 10.00am.

Hilary Baker

Line Dancing will be held in the Victoria Hall until further notice—watch this space.
PLD

Listening to Music: The next meeting will be on **Monday 17 March** at the home of Janet Stafford: 1 Birchwood Close, Settle (825449).

JS

Looking at Old Buildings: We swapped New for Old for the February meeting when we went to look at the first cruck barn to be built in the Yorkshire Dales since Tudor times. Four hundred years ago all buildings in the Dales were cruck built and heather thatched. This unique barn forms an extension to the Craven Arms in Appletreewick and was conceived and built by the landlord, David Aynsworth, and his son Rob. Rob told us about the construction, the locally sourced materials and the traditional tools and methods used. We rounded off our visit with a tasty lunch in the 17thC inn which features oak beams, flagged floors and open fires. Well worth a visit and a look at the webpage:

www.craven-cruckbarn.co.uk.

*Next meeting: **Thursday 27 March***—Eldroth Hall, Eldroth, by kind invitation of Mr Peter Thackrah. Please meet in the Cricket Club car park at 10.30am to fill up cars to reduce the number of cars parking in Eldroth and to offer lifts if needed.

Dora Tattersall & Vanessa Stone

Scrabble: Seven members enjoyed some entertaining games during the February session. Part of the fun was also educational as players defined the meaning of their chosen, somewhat obscure words to their rather sceptical companions. Next meeting **Monday 14 April**.

Pat Lodge (1 Mainsfield Rise, Giggleswick, Settle. Tel 01729 824173)

Strollers: I have booked a room at the Victoria Hall for **Wednesday 26 March** at 10.00am to plan our programme. Please come along with your suggestions and if you cannot attend please let me know, or somebody else, of any suitable walks. New members welcome. All strolls take place at 2.00pm on different Wednesdays once a month, usually meeting at the Cricket Club unless we are catching the bus.

Janet Stafford (825449)

Sunday Lunch: By a majority decision the group have chosen The Sun Inn at Kirkby Lonsdale as the venue for March. The date will be **16 March** and as that is Palm Sunday I have *altered the time to 12.45pm* to accommodate the church-goers among us. Please let me know ASAP if you are coming, by *Friday 14 March* at the latest as the restaurant will be busy on that day.

Audrey Daykin

Walking: Thursday 7 February: A minor crisis was averted prior to the walk's start with one member discovering that she had forgotten her thick walking socks. In the tradition of U3A ingenuity she was able to borrow the requisite number of thin pairs from some of the other group members and completed the walk none the worse: well done E_ _ _ _.

The walk started from the Dent car park and climbed fairly steeply alongside Flinter Gill, a wooded ravine, passing evidence of 19thC limestone quarrying and kiln operation to reach South Lord's Land and the broad Green Lane traversing the lower fell to meet the Barbondale road. A short step on the road was followed by a lovely diagonal descent to Underwood on the lower slopes of Middleton Fell. Although the fell tops on both sides of the valley were mist-covered the views in either direction of Dentedale were spectacular.

There was a great deal of surface water in all the fields, following heavy rain in the previous week, which necessitated a curtailment of the second part of the walk, across field paths north of the river—known to be in poor condition from the previous week's recce—and its replacement by a walk back to Dent on the Dales Way path being better able to dodge the occasional large puddle. The walk ended in fine style with tea and toasted teacake in a lovely Dent café—a good day in good company.

John Jebson

Walking: *Tuesdays:* Gill and Frank Woodhams led a circular walk from Stainforth on a beautiful February morning. The walk started with an exhilarating climb out of Stainforth, followed immediately by a high stile! Thence to Winskill, past the top of Catrigg Force and across fields to the Malham Road, then back across more fields to Stainforth. It was concluded by bar snacks and drinks in the Craven Heifer—much needed for the recovery of one of our members, who tripped over and fell just as we were finishing the walk!

Our second walk in February was a circular from Draughton to Bolton Abbey village, attracting eleven members—this time in gale force winds but thankfully no rain, although the conditions underfoot were very wet. We arrived at the Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms in time for soup and sandwiches. From there it was a battle into the wind as we climbed to Halton East, then down across the fields and up the hill back to Draughton.

Please note that the walks **planning meeting** will now take place on **Wednesday 26 March** at 3.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, followed by a Jacob's Join afternoon tea.

Margaret Cullingworth



The Great Lives group gets down to some serious discussion

TRAMPS presents— **Amazing Grace**
Saturday 15 March, St John's Hall, Settle, 7.30pm—admission £5
For details of future programmes visit our website: www.tramps.org.uk
For details of future programmes see our web-site—www.tramps.org.uk

Singing for Pleasure - The group seems to enjoy combining physical exercise with its singing





Next month's Thursday meeting

will be on 10 April 2008 when the speaker will be
Tony Burkitt

whose talk will be entitled
"Lincoln from Roman times"

Coffee from 10.00am . Venue: The Victoria Hall..

An Evening of Song by Limelight

Saturday 12 April— St John's Church, Settle at 7.30pm

Admission £5 — Proceeds to Settle Swimming Pool

Tickets from U3A member Michael Cullingworth or pay on the door

Calling all U3A Grandparents!

Do you have equipment for the under 5s, eg push chairs, cots, high chairs or toys that you don't use all the time? Or do you *need* such items occasionally?

Christine and John Rose keep a register of both those who have items and those who want to borrow them. Ring Christine or John on 01729 822553

Manchester Ship Canal outing

As we have had a terrific response to this outing I have decided to go for the bigger bus. Therefore there are a few seats left. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please ask them to contact me on 01729 840882.

May I remind everyone that the balance is due by **10 May**.

Thank you all for your support.

Shirley Wolfenden

Elizabeth Maudsley would like to thank all members for their kind thoughts and cards received during her recent illness.

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 **Audrey Daykin**

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

Scrabble; Looking at Old Buildings; Sunday Lunch (also Family History— spasmodically!)
New group: Local History—which includes popular culture of the area (eg how people lived, employment, entertainment).

Where are your roots? I always say Hellifield but I was actually born in Leeds (Elland Road, but I'm not a football fan). I returned to my roots 11 years ago but in between I've lived all over the country because of my career and marriage.

What does your family consist of? Just me. I'm a widow with no children and both my brothers are dead. I have one sister who lives down in the Cotswolds.

Tell us briefly about your education and career: I'm an "old girl" of Settle Girls High School and my time there was the happiest period of my life. From there I went on to train as a State Registered Nurse, then on to a State Certified Midwife.

After a few years as a ward sister I took a teaching qualification and rejoiced in the designation "Sister Tutor". I rose up the ladder of nurse education (Post Basic) to national level, having responsibility for two health regions, Mersey and The North West. The last ten years of my working life I was heavily involved with the Hospice Movement and helped to pioneer further education in terminal care for all grades of nursing staff and also for the invaluable volunteers.

It was all a long time ago: since then the entire structure of nurse education has altered and the hospices now play a major role in the further education of nursing and medical staff.

I seldom look back, never with nostalgia, and do not often speak about my career. The "good old days" were not always good and in my opinion the present generation are doing their best in difficult circumstances. Their problems are different, that's all.

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

Highlight: When I closed down a nurse training school.

While inspecting a hospital for its suitability for training I realised I kept meeting the same tired eyes in every ward I went to, albeit under a different nurse's cap. Students were being used for cheap labour, and so I stopped it.

I don't think the hospital management liked me very much.

Achievement: Being awarded my BA degree from the Open University at the age of 61. This was followed at the age of 65 by a certificate in Christian Studies from the College of Ripon and York St John.

Have you any unachieved ambitions? None, I am content.

Have you any hobbies?

I have been an obsessional amateur genealogist for the past twenty years. Fortunately much of my research took place before the Internet came on the scene so I've spent many happy hours in County Record Offices handling original sources. People always ask "How far have you got?"; well, on most of the lines, to the 17th and 16th centuries, but one line goes back to 1079 whereas another is stuck at 1790. The search is never-ending.

What books are you currently reading? Sebastian Faulks "Engleby" and Roy Strong "A Little History of the English Country Church"

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

Negative people and the way in which so many people appear to get pleasure from pulling down anyone who achieves a modicum of success. A word of praise works wonders.

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:

One of the world problems is the differing style of government in the various countries. Western civilization does not suit all cultures and other people have as much to offer us as we to them.

Remedy: make knowledge of history compulsory learning; many youngsters have no concept of

their place in time. Most situations have happened before in a different context—somehow they were resolved and the world has continued.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

Four letter words are not merely expletives; they include hope; love; good and best.

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

Faith in God is all that really counts; it has underlain my whole life.

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) by*

Thursday 3 April.

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

Life would be infinitely happier if only we could be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18.

By the time you get to 70 people expect you to be responsible, wise and dignified. This is the time to disillusion them.