



Registered Charity No 1095635

Letter from the chair

SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 6/17 March 2019

www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

Hello,

Following an unnervingly warm February we are now experiencing more normal temperatures. Even though climate change overall is a worrying prospect, there is much to distract us from such issues both within and beyond our U3A. However if you did want to consider this further, there is a course which is part of the YAHR Summer School at Easingwold this year, entitled 'Tackling Climate Change' that may be of interest - amongst other subjects.

I had an entertaining morning observing our thriving Bridge Group at play. There was discussion on some homework (dare I call it !) about possible opening bids according to certain potential hands - followed by two tables of play. Bridge is often called the 'game for a lifetime' I believe, because of the almost infinite rules and possibilities. It was enthralling rather than daunting and clearly one of the better ways to challenge your brain in kindly company.

We had our New Members Meeting recently which generated some lively discussions and ideas. I think it was enjoyed by all who were there and Committee will certainly take suggestions forward. Thank you to everyone - new members and Committee.

I was planning to mention in this Newsletter (however it was highlighted at the N.M. Meeting too) - that it is really good to see when we actively welcome new members (or visitors) and is much appreciated. This is particularly important at the Speaker Meetings which is often a first introduction to U3A. There should always be someone at the door to 'meet and greet' and Committee Members will be actively on hand to chat - we all like to talk and be asked questions.

Following recent appeals, interest has been shown in joining Committee but we need to hear from more who are willing to take on specific roles in September 2019. Nothing is too onerous or unsupported and talking about the possibilities may be just what is needed.

So we welcome ALL and look forward to the conversations.

Kind regards,

Jackie

PS Q. Why is everyone so tired on April 1st?

A. Because they have just finished a long 31 day March.

(My advice - pace yourself!)

April Meeting: Thursday 11th April 2019

**'A Whale of a Tale –
a whaling captain's story from Hull'
with Jenny Stacey**

Coffee from 10 am



The Ribblesdale Area
Moving Picture Show

Friday 15th March 7.30pm in Austwick Parish Hall

BOHEMIAN RAPSODY (12A)

Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by

FRIDAY 5TH April 2019 to: Chris Taylor christine@castlebergh.plus.com Tel: 01729 823975

Copy 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.

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GROUPS

GREAT LIVES

At our February meeting John Jebson gave a very interesting talk about John Ruskin, social reformer, writer and philanthropist. Ruskin was born in London in 1819, the son of a travelling salesman. During his early years he travelled extensively with his parents both in Britain and on the continent and acquired an interest in art. In 1848 he married Effie Grey but the marriage soon ended in divorce, the interference by Ruskin's parents being a contributory factor. In 1864 his father died and Ruskin inherited the family fortune. He spent much time writing about social problems, lecturing on natural history and geology and cataloguing Turner's works of art. He brought Brantwood on the shore of Coniston Water in the 1870s, spending time on the garden and the house. In the 1890s, he became increasingly infirm and died in 1900. Ruskin is buried in the churchyard at Coniston. *Keith Bradshaw*

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March (Victoria Hall 11.00am) when Fiona Burnett will talk on the life and times of Marie Marvingt, an amazing French woman- a mountaineer, pioneer aviator, all round athlete and journalist. She was one of the most decorated women in French history- sounds a fascinating subject. All welcome.

John Jebson

BIRDWATCHING GROUP



Long Preston Deeps

The Group's March meeting took us to Long Preston Deeps. We set off in heavy rain but

the clouds cleared by the time we got to Cow Bridge. A strong wind lingered, and some over-friendly horses made life interesting, but the birds didn't disappoint. Around the hide at the foot of Teenley Hill we found a number of small birds, including some delightful Reed Buntings. And the short journey back to Cow Bridge delivered several more species including a Little Grebe on the Ribble. The Group then moved on to view the Deeps from Hollin Hall, and finally the sewage works at Gildersleets. These stops produced spectacular numbers of Oystercatchers, Wigeon and several Gull species, as well as excellent views of Little Egret and Common Sandpiper. A good morning's birding.

For more information about the U3A Birdwatching Group and its activities contact Group Leader **Les Chandler** on lchandler52@gmail.com.

Last month's speaker resting his voice:



For all who wish to contact **Richard Hine**, our new webmaster, to have items put on the website, this is the contact email address:

settleu3a@gmail.com