

Newsletter

Issue No 6/8, May 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SETTLE DISTRICT

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

This is the time of year when members put tentative ideas forward for the following year, gauging whether there is sufficient interest from members to start a new group. Alan Hemsworth has suggested a Madrigal Group, and has asked me to use the *Newsletter* to sound out interest. Clearly some sight reading skill will be necessary and anyone interested should take the matter up with Alan.

I hardly dare mention that Christmas is creeping up on us and the committee will be discussing at the June committee meeting possibilities for the U3A Christmas festivities. Could I ask anyone who wishes to put ideas forward to do so to our Secretary, Gillian Walton, in good time for the 9 June meeting.

Our June Thursday talk will be given by Dorothy Cockrell, who will be travelling from Edinburgh to give us a talk on enamelling which will include both a digital presentation and a live demonstration. Dorothy is one of the finest enamellers in the country, and some of her work may be seen by searching the gallery on www.guildofenamellers.org. Don't be surprised in looking through the gallery to see an enamel of a local scene—Settle market place. As far as I am aware, there are no local courses teaching enamelling, and a number of people from our area travel to Edinburgh each year to a Guild of Enamellers week-end run by Dorothy. Perhaps a possibility for a future U3A group if Dorothy is able to stimulate interest in June?

With best wishes

Tony Stephens

FROM THE GROUPS ORGANISER

Next month I shall start planning the programme of classes and groups for the autumn. Please would all group leaders/facilitators think about your groups, who will lead, where and when you will meet and who you can persuade to start up a new group.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TEACH.
The self-help groups are just as much fun as the taught ones.

Alison Tyas
01729 822313

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Great Lives: Among the great men subjected to our critical assessment next time will be Herod the Great, that much misunderstood (it will be alleged!) quasi-representative of the Roman Empire.

Alongside him will be a “mystery guest”: a mighty queen or perhaps a living politician—who would fill the Victoria Hall more than any other ...

We meet on **Wednesday 21 May** at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall.

Frank Pedley

Heraldry: Our visit on 15 May will be to the Furness Peninsula—first to Ulveston Church and then on to Great Urswick Church (an absolute gem). Unfortunately Conishead Priory is out because they host a huge gathering that weekend and will be busy preparing for it, but I have secured a date for us in September. Instead, on our way back we will try to find Witherslack Church - apparently worth a visit, but I couldn't find it when I went to see it. Meet in Booths car park at 9.15am on **Thursday 15 May**.

Advance notice of June meeting: because Bishop Aukland is open only on a Monday we will be doing 3 visits in that area on **Monday 23 June**. It will be an early start because of the distance. More details next month. **HB**

Looking at Old Buildings: The April walk around Austwick, with Jill Sykes, was delayed by rain but the group enjoyed an impromptu coffee morning given by Jill. Right on cue, as we finished our coffee, the rain stopped and we sallied forth. Jill expertly directed us to look at features of several houses and detect the clues to build up a history of the buildings. Look out, if you walk through Austwick, for the sign above the “Cheese Room”.

Future meetings: **15 May** at 11.00am. Meet at Giggleswick chapel for a guided tour and talk by Mr G R Bowring, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of Giggleswick School.

15 May visit to Queen's Rock House postponed

until **24 July**.

Please ring if you need a lift: Vanessa on 840451 or Dora on 822412

Dora Tattersal and Vanessa Stone

Sunday Lunch: A table has been booked for **18 May**, at the Priest's House at Barden Tower. The new management require longer notification of final numbers so please let me know by *Sunday 11 May* if you are definitely coming.

Audrey Daykin

Walks (Tuesday): On 8 April a record 17 people enjoyed a very pleasant short walk in the spring sunshine from Bolton by Bowland. As we walked across the fields there were some wonderful views of the Hodder Valley. We saw newly born lambs and three of our members went to the aid of a sheep which was on its back, struggling to right itself.

The walk on 22 April was a circular from Austwick to Clapham. The weather again was warm and sunny and the conditions underfoot were good, making it very easy going across the fields. The return leg took us through the tunnels on the track at the side of Ingleborough Hall, turning right along the track back to Austwick, with views of Robin Proctor's Scar, Norber and beyond. The was rounded off with bar snacks at the Gamecock.

Margaret Cullingworth

Walks (Thursday): On 17 April our walk commenced, once a pair of bootlaces had been borrowed by one member of the party, from Clapham via Robin Proctor's Scar to the heart of the amazing boulder field known as the Norber Erratics. Huge ancient Silurian rocks remain where they were deposited by the retreating glacier covering Crummackdale. Our walk then took us via Southerwaite farm and its nearby ford up the length of Crummackdale to the gap in the limestone cliff known as Beggar's Stile. This area is particularly notable for the limestone pavements and escarpments which in my opinion are more impressive than the better-known Malham ones. Above Beggar's Stile is Thieves Moss where considerable numbers of cattle, unofficially detached from their owners, could be grazed away from prying eyes!

The return to Clapham was via the high level route of Long Scar, dropping down through Trow Gill to Ingleborough Cave and an imaginative detour round Clapdale Wood to bring us back to our starting point—a most interesting walk of about 9 miles.

John Jebson

Manchester Ship Canal

The balance for this outing is now due and must be paid by **10 May**. The full amount is £37.00. Full details re timings etc will be in the June *Newsletter* so please look out for them. Any queries to me on 840882

Shirley Wolfenden

Anyone for Las Vegas or Marrakesh?

If anyone is interested in going for a short holiday to either Las Vegas or Marrakesh, just for the experience, please contact Val Baulard on 01524 412552.

Next month's Thursday meeting— 12 June

The speaker will be

Dorothy Cockrell

whose talk will be entitled

“An Enameller's life”

Coffee from 10.00am for 10.30am in the The Victoria Hall.

TRAMPS presents—

Sunday 11 May at Clapham Village Hall

La Vie en Rose (12) in French with English sub-titles

Sunday 18 May at Settle Victoria Hall

Blame it on Fidel (12A) in French with English sub-titles

For details of future programmes see our web-site—www.tramps.org.uk

HOTEL KEY CARDS

We're told that the following information comes from the Police. We can't vouch for that, or for its accuracy, but we'd be glad if anyone else can because it sounds sensible!

Have you ever wondered what's stored on the magnetic key card that opens your room in some hotels?

Answer: Your name
Your partial home address
Your hotel room number
Check-in and check-out dates
Your credit card number and the expiration date.

When you hand the card in at the front desk this information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel's scanner. An employee could take a handful of cards home and by using a scanning device, could download the information onto a computer and go shopping at your expense. And hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues to card to the next hotel guest. Until then, it is usually kept in a drawer at the front desk with your information still on it.

The bottom line is keep the card, take it home with you, or destroy it. Never throw it into a wastebasket (in the hotel or anywhere else) or leave it behind and never hand it in at the front desk. They won't charge you for the card (it's illegal).

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 **Jean Imrie**



Which U3A groups do you currently attend?

Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)?

Great Lives, Looking at Old Buildings—and I intend going to Heraldry and Listening to Music.

I'd like to see Geology revived—but that's a problem U3A has: continuity when a tutor has to give up. Also, yoga or meditation groups.

Where are your roots? I was born in Bakewell, Derbyshire, then from age 5–10 I lived in Grimsby.

What does your family consist of?

I'm a widow with 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren—3 boys and a girl, of whom the oldest is 20 and the youngest are 3 and 4. One daughter lives in Nottingham, another near Canterbury and the third in New Zealand (I've just come back from visiting her). I had a brother but he died 10 years ago.

Tell us briefly about your education and career:

After boarding school in Louth, Lincolnshire, I went to Leeds University in 1947, when the Universities were crowded with ex-servicemen, to do medicine; I qualified in 1953. I worked at Leeds Hospital for Women, then went to Otley to do Medicine and Paediatrics; I married and did sessional work for 10 years while having my children (dental anaesthetics—my husband was a dentist). I worked with babies and schoolchildren in community medicine and locum jobs living in Thornton in Craven for 17 years. I ended up in Settle Townhead practice, having specialised in Family Planning Clinics.

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

The *highlight* was having 2 unexpected late grandchildren!
I can't claim any great *achievement*.

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

I would like to be able to play the 3-manual organ in our [Long Preston] church *really well*. I started learning it when I was 70 but in winter it's too cold to play and in summer I've no time because I have 3 gardens to look after. I used to play the piano (now it's only *Twinkle twinkle little star* with the grandchildren). I find I get less ambitious with age.

Have you any hobbies? I was always a very sporty person—competing at school in athletics, and played in hockey and tennis teams at University. I've done lots of walking (including the Coast to Coast walk and the Dales Way). I'm a member of Craven Naturalists; I'm fond of gardening. And we've always kept animals big and small—cows, horses, as well as dogs and cats.

What books are you currently reading?

Joan Bakewell's Autobiography
Clarissa Dickson-Wright's "Spilling the Beans"
Philippa Gregory "The Other Boleyn Girl".

They're all excellent and I recommend them, though they probably appeal to women more than to men.

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

Unsolicited telephone calls at meal-times, and during interesting TV programmes!
And I agree with John Rose about *litter*. (There is no litter anywhere in New Zealand—so why not here?)

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:

I am dead against this war in Iraq; our troops should be withdrawn as soon as possible. Think of the good causes we could use the money for at home or abroad.

What is your wish for your grandchildren?

To grow up with a love of learning and a love of the outdoors.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

If you can't decide what you want to do, try VSO or some other voluntary work helping others.

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

I think our generation is very privileged to live as we do in this century; with no wars at home and with all that we need compared with the rest of humanity.

The great thing is to have peace of mind and to remember "you reap what you sow".

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 5 June

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

My wild oats have turned into prunes and All-Bran

Old age ain't no place for cissies—Bette Davies