

JUNE MEETING

“A HISTORY OF PUPPETS AND PUPPETRY”

Harold Hoggarth

Thursday 13th June 2013
Victoria Hall 10.30am
(Coffee from 10.00am)



‘LES MISERABLES’ (12)
Bentham Town Hall
Fri 7th June 8.00pm

www.tramps.org.uk

CLASSIC FEST IN HARROGATE (18-31 August 2013)

Our speaker for July, Bernard Lockett who is a Trustee of The International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, has sent information about the music festival in Harrogate this summer. Posters for these will be on display at our May and June meetings and we have been advised that they are pleased to offer U3A members a discount of £2 per ticket if they simply quote “U3A offer” when phoning the box office to book their tickets. Box Office Telephone: 01423-502116. If you enjoy music such as ‘The Merry Widow’ and ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ then tickets are on sale now!

NEWS FROM THE REGION

At the **YAHR AGM** on 30th April, Settle U3A members Hilary Baker and Kate Helm were elected to the regional committee so we can be assured of being kept informed of everything that happens in our region.

SILVER SURFERS

Would you like to be able to use a computer, email your grandchildren, read the U3A Newsletter online etc? Then this may be for you!
Age UK is linking up with Settle College to offer computer sessions led by young experts. These will take place at Settle College’s Lower School building (formerly Settle Middle School) on Wednesdays from 3.15pm to 4.30pm. The tuition will be individual. Complete beginners and those who know a little will be welcome.
To register an interest ring 01729 823066. Transport can be arranged via Age UK if required.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Website, Frank Woodhams, is the **WEBMASTER**, and the person to contact on: f.woodhams@uea.ac.uk
Please check the website regularly for up dates and new information.

Copy for publication in the next issue **should** reach the editor Sue Simpson by **Friday 7th June** e-mail: susanmsimpson@btinternet.com
(Tel 01524241271) Copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends

Last year on the Walking Group’s away days in the Peak District we were accompanied by Kate’s (our Secretary) friend and Leicester U3A member, Jan. This year, Leicester U3A Walking Group invited our group to join them in the Peak District. Despite some very windy weather, - four of us were actually blown over like a line of dominoes on Hartshorn on the edge of Kinder Scout! – we enjoyed several excellent walks together in the Castleton, Hope and Edale area. It was lovely to meet members of another U3A, just as friendly and welcoming as our own



and enjoy the diverse conversations that inevitably arise whilst walking in a group. In fact it was very like being at the Askham Bryan event, talking about our different groups and what we do. I hope we will maintain our link with the Leicester group and perhaps forge closer links with other U3As.



Now, I know some of you reading this will be thinking “this is an unusual letter from the Chair; it contains no cajoling or nagging. What a refreshing change!” Please do not become complacent! On behalf of the committee I would like to remind you that we still need volunteers to join us. From September we will need a new Secretary when Kate steps down from this post. We would also appreciate some IT literate people to volunteer to shadow, and perhaps assist with, the valuable work that David Holdsworth and Frank Woodhams currently do for us.



Best wishes
Nita

Group leaders will be pleased to know that a new projector has been ordered and its arrival is imminent.

RAMTHOR

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ROMANS: The May meeting will now take place on Wednesday 29th at 2pm in the Scaiber Room of the **VICTORIA HALL**.

Tony Burnett

GEOLOGY & LANDSCAPE GROUP: Our next meeting will be on May 21st at 14:00. Weather permitting we will be off to see something of the geology of the Craven Basin, to contrast it with the very different rocks of the same age in the Dales. We will meet in the Cricket Club car park. Remember to park on the left as you drive in. Also, we will need to car share as some of the locations have very limited parking. Remember any cars left in the car park **MUST** display U3A stickers (these can be obtained at the monthly coffee morning on May 9th). The walking required will be extremely limited to 50-100 yards at each stop and we will drive between exposures.

If the weather is not kind we will be in the **Friends Meeting House** at the same time, for a talk **"The Geology Around Settle"** which will illustrate the differences between the geology of the Dales and Craven Basin. Hope to see you all there.

Paul Cochrane

GREAT LIVES: Please note there will be no meeting in May.

Jean Imrie

HERALDRY: Our outing this month will be a visit to York Minster on Thursday May 16th. We will travel on the 7.54 train from Giggleswick, (Hellifield 8.06). Hope for a fine day! There will be no visit in June. Details of the July meeting will be in next month's letter.

Hilary Baker

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS: On May 23rd James Innerdale, a conservation architect, is going to take us on "A Walk round Dent", looking at the old buildings in the village. We meet James at 2pm at the National Park car park in the village. This should be a really interesting meeting and I have ordered good weather!

It would help to have an idea of numbers so please could you let me know if you intend to come (01729 840609) Also same number if you need a lift. Hope to see you in Dent.

Hilary Baker

VISIT TO THE PLAYHOUSE PATELEY BRIDGE THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2013



What a welcome! This (left) greeted us on our recent visit to The Playhouse in Pateley Bridge (right). It is a little gem of a theatre lovingly built up by the The Pateley Bridge Dramatic society in a former Primitive Methodist Chapel, which had been taken over by the



Salvation Army and bought from them for the princely sum of £125 in 1963. The Society's proud boast is that they have never borrowed money to finance any of the building or improvements, but have always been able to raise it. After much clearing out of rubbish, conversion and renovation the Society opened for its first performance in its new home in June 1968. They have gone from strength to strength ever since.



There are 73 seats around what was the upstairs gallery, 2 well-organised dressing rooms, a kitchen and a scenery store and delightful entrance and bar area. The dedicated members stage about 3 performances a year.

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Our second visit of the day was to the former Pateley Bridge Workhouse, dating from 1863 but since 1975 the home of the Nidderdale Museum. With its 11 large rooms and seemingly endless corridors packed to the rafters with thousands of artifacts and period photographs, this is a museum that would repay hours of study. All aspects of Dales life were lovingly depicted, from an original cobbler's shop to a schoolroom, general store, apothecary's, courtroom and a Victorian parlour among others. A highlight was a huge doll's house recreating its owners life in 1891 with all objects normally found in each above and below stairs spaces recreated in exquisite miniature. All in all this was a day's excursion that will stay long in the memory. Many thanks to Alan and Dorothy Hemsworth for organising the trip.



Debi Burrigide and John Jebson

WALKING GROUP: The next planning meeting will be on **Thursday 23 May at 11am** in the Quaker Meeting House. This is to plan the walks between July and September and will be followed by a Jacob's Join lunch. Please come along, and if you can, bring your suggestion(s) for a walk. If you would like to lead a walk but can't come to the meeting, please contact Margaret Cullingworth (Tel 01729 82378) or Frank Woodhams to let them know. Look forward to seeing you there (even if it's just for the food!).

It seems to be the same few people who are willing to lead a walk and we need more volunteers. It doesn't matter how long you have been in the group. The Tuesday walks aim to be around 5 miles and the Thursday walks 8+ miles.

Margaret & Michael Cullingworth

U3A Founders' Lecture 9th April 2013

This was the first of such lectures and was very well attended with a packed and appreciative audience from hundreds of different U3As. The title of the lecture was "School days' Stories, Educational Failure and the U3A Idea" and was given by Eric Midwinter, one of the three original founders of the U3A in the UK. It was a wide-ranging talk that kept us entertained and informed with some radical ideas put forward. Starting with the influence of schoolboy stories and comics, the lecture went on to link these to public schools, the first elementary schools and on to the current educational system. Some of the views expressed evoked whispering from the audience, many of whom must have been teachers, particularly when he suggested that children today are herded into schools because we don't know what else to do with them! School has become about containing young people and feeding them information instead of actually educating them in such a way that they enjoy it. "To insist on children spending 9000 hours of their life in schools without a reasonable guarantee of contentment is plain wrong. Children's lives are there to be lived at this moment not put on hold for some misty future. All summed up beautifully in the five magical words of the great American educational philosopher John Dewey: PARTICIPATION IN NOT PREPARATION FOR." He completed the lecture by asking a rather long question that began "Is there anywhere in this country a working model of a service rather than a system, where education is for its own sake and for that moment, where it is based relevantly on individual wishes, fuelled by personal gifts and worked out in learning circles in which the vibrant co-operative spirit wins out over the dourly selfish competitive edge..." We all know the organisation he referred to – the U3A.

The full text of the lecture can be found on the national website www.u3a.org.uk on the home page (Founders' Lecture 2013) and, as it was recorded, it will be available soon as a DVD.

Kate Helm