

Newsletter

Issue No 6/2 November 2007

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SETTLE DISTRICT**

Registered Charity No 1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Each year we say it can't get better, and each year we're wrong!

I speak, of course, of Settle U3A's autumn pilgrimage to the Theatre by the Lake at Keswick, arranged for us by Shirley Wolfenden (see John Moss' report on page 11). It is astonishing to relate that some locals objected to the building of the theatre on the grounds that no-one would attend the performances; it plays to packed houses, as it did on the day we visited.

An early start allowed a gentle meander through the Southern Lakes, where the autumn colours were at their best, and a coffee stop at the Grasmere garden centre. After an early lunch in Keswick we were treated to a breathtaking performance of *Around the World in Eighty Days*. We were astonished both by the prodigious talent of the actor-musicians, who each played several parts and also a range of instruments, and by the sheer pace of the performance. The programme notes show one actor playing no fewer than 18 parts and instruments, including half of Eugene the Elephant; which half was not clear.

Almost as good a performer as the actors of the theatre company was our driver, Les. Never a man to let facts get in the way of a good story, what Les told us about the history of the places we passed did however seem to have some basis in fact.

Lastly, I am delighted, on all our behalves, to send our very best wishes to our neighbour and U3A member Debi Burrige, on her marriage to Roy.

With best wishes
Tony Stephens

TO ALL GROUP LEADERS AND FACILITATORS

From the start of 2008 I will no longer book your rooms in the Victoria Hall. Forms for you to use will be given to you in November. Please fill yours in as soon as you can and hand it in to Edith at the Hall. She will let you know when a room is not available so that you can make other arrangements.

We have been using:

The Friends Meeting House—Alison Tyas 822313

St Johns Church Hall—Margaret Walker 822163

Langcliffe Village Hall—Jean Jelley 822963

When you book an alternative to the Victoria Hall, you must let me know as there is a cost involved. If you use an alternative when the Victoria Hall *is* available, your group must pay the hire charge.

This is by way of an experiment. If there are problems, ask me for help

Alison Tyas Groups Co-ordinator

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation: The group has now had its first meeting and also its first visit—to Abbot Hall, Kendal, to see the “Highlights of British Art from Turner to Freud” exhibition. As so often, the pictures which generated most discussion were those that seemed most opaque.

Our next meeting is at the Victoria Hall, Castleberg Room, at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 6 November**. Our next visit will be a return to Abbot Hall (**Tuesday, 20 November** at 2.00pm), this time to see an exhibition of drawings by Maggi Hambling.

*“Born in Suffolk in 1945, Hambling is best known as a distinguished painter and sculptor, whose work can be seen in the British Museum, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Collection and many other public collections in the UK and abroad ... in 2003, her controversial four metre high steel sculpture **Scallop**, dedicated to Benjamin Britten, was installed on an expanse of shingle beach at Aldeburgh in Suffolk. This exhibition brings together drawings with rarely seen sketchbooks from throughout her forty year long career. The drawings have been selected from a variety of sources, with loans from the Ashmolean Museum, British Museum, Tate, private collections and the artist herself. A single bronze sculpture—ironical titled **Line**, created in 1996—will form the centrepiece of the exhibition.”*

Frank Gordon

Circle Dancing: There will be no Circle Dancing on **November 9**.

Gillian Walton

Self-help Computer Group: The group will have met three times by the time this *Newsletter* is published, having brought the first November meeting forward by a week to enable members to join in the Saltaire visit. The dozen members who have attended so far again show a wide spread in computing experience—but much interest in each other’s problems and successes. Some previously considered problems have been met again (recapitulation does help!) and new

topics have been raised, including compatibility between Apple Macs (more members have them) and PCs, saving VHS tapes to DVDs, Skype and VOIP 'phones, development in back-up methods, and web-site production. Members are encouraged to set the agenda by sharing their current experiences both challenging and triumphant, thus ensuring pertinence at each meeting. **GHP**

Exercise: There will be no Exercise class on **November 13.**

Gillian Walton

Family History: At the first meeting on Friday 26 October there were only four people, although apologies were received from another three. We had hoped to discuss how the group would like to progress. We think perhaps a mix of talks by "experts" and meetings where we can discuss progress (it is always interesting to hear how other people are getting on with tracing their families) and pass on tips which have been found useful.

The meetings will take place on the fourth Friday of each month and for **23 November** we have provisionally booked a session for the group to attend the Chorley Family History Centre (which those of you who attended the last session will remember was very helpful in getting us started). Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend so that we can confirm numbers.

Margaret Cullingworth (01729 823978)

Great Lives: Did you know that by the time Hannibal reached his destination near Rome, he had lost all his elephants? Or that Elgar seemed to lose his inspiration after his wife died? All was revealed at our October meeting, and more nuggets will no doubt be there for the taking when James Watt and Keir Hardie are our next subjects. We will meet at the Victoria Hall on **Wednesday 21 November** at 10.30am. **Frank Pedley**

Handbell Ringers: We could do with 2 or 3 more people to join this little group that meets at 3.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday in the month in Settle Parish Church. It is not difficult and you don't have to be able to read music. If we don't have 2 more on **12 November** we shall disband until January—and miss playing the Christmas tunes. **Alison Tyas**

Looking at Old Buildings: The first visit of this session was to St Aiden's Church, Hellifield, and Hellifield Station. At the church we were guided by Canon K Phillips around the exterior, where we saw the foundation stone and were impressed that the church was built in about 18 months—this was confirmed by the builder's grandson who joined us for the visit. Inside, the Arts & Crafts style of architecture makes this church a real gem and there was much of interest.

On our way up to Hellifield Station Ruth Evans told us about the Midland Railways workers' houses which were built with partial double glazing, running water and flush lavatories outside. On the station we stood under the wonderful

canopy—hoping funds become available to restore and protect it—while Ruth Evans and Derek Soames gave us much interesting information.

22 November: visit to Skipton Castle. Meet at the gate at 11.30am. Group entrance – each £4.60. Bus from Giggleswick 10.25am; from Settle 10.30am. Tea rooms in the Castle. We need numbers for this visit to assess how many guides we require: if you haven't already told us or signed the form at the last meeting, please ring Vanessa Stone (01729 840451) or Dora Tattersal (01729 822 412).

12 December 2.30pm The Folly, Settle. A special opening of The Folly. James Innerdale, former secretary of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, will be speaking. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served. A charge of approx £2.00 will have to be made to cover the costs of opening the building for our visit.

Vanessa Stone

Philosophy: The group met on Monday 1 October for an introduction to the philosophy of Socrates. Subsequently it met on 29 October for an interesting discussion on his tenet that “No-one does wrong knowingly”. This was considered against contemporary ideas on punishment.

In **November** meetings will take place on **12** and **26** and will be concerned with Plato and Ethics. More details will be placed on the web-site.

New members will be most welcome.

Roy Anderson

Strollers: The last Strollers walk for this season took place on Wednesday 10 October. Nine of us, under the leadership of Janet Stafford, caught the bus to Skipton then, on a warm sunny day, we took in the industrial marvel of the Leeds to Liverpool canal (built 1770—1773), walking towards Leeds viewing the industrial behind of Skipton and the rural delights beyond. Some wildlife was visible including clouds of midges. Refreshments were taken at the Bay Horse, Snaygill, then we returned by the same route. **ABC**

Sunday Lunch: By popular request the next lunch will be at The Maypole Inn in Long Preston on **Sunday 18 November**. Please let me know by *Friday 16 November* if you are coming.

Audrey Daykin

Walking: A party of 8 members followed a lovely walk on a bright, clear day. Starting at Barbon village hall, the route skirted Barbon Manor park before crossing Barking Beck and circling Barbon Low Fell to Bull Pot Farm. This is now a centre for cavers exploring the nearby pothole where a plaque records the tragic death of a former *Craven Herald* editor.

Lunch on the upper slopes of Casterton fell gave ample opportunity of fine views across the Lake District southern fells and Morecambe Bay. The last couple of miles of the walk were a lovely contrast to the moors hitherto—through fields, woods and lanes back to Barbon village.

One member of the group—who shall be nameless to spare her blushes—had unfortunately forgotten her boots, and did the approximately 7.5 mile walk in a

borrowed pair of trainers one size too big! A great effort in true U3A spirit I feel: well done A- - - !!

John Jebson

Walking: Tuesday Walk—23 October. The scheduled walk from Grassington did not take place and instead five people enjoyed a very pleasant circular walk from Austwick. The weather was perfect—sunny and just a hint of chill in the air. After crossing Austwick Beck by the clapper bridge, we climbed gently and were soon enjoying stunning views towards Wharfe and Robin Proctor’s Scar. We had a lunch stop at Laundry Field where, in time past, sheep were washed. After crossing Austwick Beck, again by clapper bridge, we then enjoyed the gentle climb, with wonderful views, and downhill back to Austwick.

In view of feedback we have had, the walk scheduled for **13 November** will be shortened to cut out some of the climb. Please note the 9.30am start.

Margaret Cullingworth

Wine Appreciation—Group 2: October meeting

We sampled two whites: a Chardonnay Saint Véran (13% at £4.20) and a Pinot Gris—Villa Wolf (12% at £6.50). Both were recommended by John at Booths but we were not impressed ... Frances preferred her glass of water afterwards.

The reds also came from Booths. The first red was a Negroamaro-Tenuto Al Sole (12% at £4.69). The second was a Rioja—Berberana (13% at £4.99). Unlike the whites, both reds were enjoyed. I’ve even been back to Booths for two more bottles of the Negroamara.

The “Gold Medal” of the evening however went to Sheila’s sartorial bottle sleeves. **HB**

Next month’s Thursday meeting

Next month’s meeting, on 13 December, will be

Our Christmas Celebration

**Jazz from Val Baulard, a Quiz, a few carols
and a Jacob’s Join—bar available**

Coffee at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall

Outings

Guided tour of Saltaire village with Maria Glot

This has been arranged for **Wednesday 14 November**. For those travelling by rail, we shall be departing Settle on the 10.31am, changing at KEIGHLEY for Saltaire. We expect to arrive in Saltaire about 11.30am for coffee and biscuits provided by the United Reform Church, followed by the tour. Members travelling by car meet for the coffee at the UR Church. The cost is £4.50, pay your own travel expenses: it would be helpful if Shirley Wolfenden or I could have the money in beforehand.

Trains back: every 15 mins to KEIGHLEY,
then 14.13pm to Giggleswick,
15.12pm to Settle
and 17.15pm to Giggleswick.

If you would like to go and have not already put your name down, contact Shirley on 840882 or me on 825449. Make your own lunch arrangements.

Janet Stafford

Ilkley Playhouse

We are now taking bookings for Ilkley Playhouse for **Monday 28 January** to see a thriller entitled *Dangerous Obsession*. The inclusive cost is £13.50.

Names please to Shirley (840882) or Janet (825449).

Proposed London trip

Hodsons of Gisburn tell me that group tickets are not being issued for the Terracotta Warriors, which is a surprise. However they have given me a price for an overnight stay (**Friday 7 March**) at the Hilton at Canary Wharf, plus a visit to the Tutankhamun exhibition at the O2 centre, which we would do on the day of arrival: this is £125, and we would need a minimum of 25 people. The following day anyone who wished could be dropped at the British Museum to take their chance of getting one of the 500 tickets on offer every day. The bus would leave London for home around 3.00pm on Saturday 8 March. *If you have given your name in, would you please let me know if you still wish to go as I need to confirm things as soon as possible.* Thanks

Shirley Wolfenden

Around the World in Eighty Days

On the morning of 17 October at 8.30 a party of U3A members boarded a coach at the cricket ground for what was to be a memorable trip. Phoebus having already risen, he continued to smile on us all day. Very theatrical! Our destination was the Theatre By The Lake at Keswick to see if that which makes a good book can be turned into an entertaining play. The answers in this case are: “yes”, and “by the exercise of considerable skill and not a little talent”. We were amazed by the ingenuity of the set designers and delightfully entertained by a multi-talented cast, whilst being completely involved in what is after all a well-known story.

The plot becomes, in their accomplished hands, an original musical journey with all of the original “distractions” which add to the mounting tension. Will they complete the journey and win the wager?

Yes! Of course they will—but they might not. After all this is an original re-telling of the tale—and that confounded if well-meaning “Passepartout” seems to have an unending capacity for getting into time-wasting scrapes, which are impossible to resolve.

We are guided along by Sherlock Holmes and Queen Victoria (who, by the way, had a small side bet on the outcome). Well! One can’t let the Queen down can one? Of course not!

In the end the wager is won and true love is requited just as it should be in all Christmas season plays.

Just one matter remains unresolved—did the cast really play all of those many instruments on stage? Or were some of them really played off-stage? We may never know. **JM**

Anyone for exercise?

I have an exercise machine that I no longer want
(similar to the picture—though it’s not me I’m afraid)
and I offer it free of charge to any U3A member
who will dismantle and collect it from central Settle.

If interested, ring Pam on 822768.

TRAMPS presents -

Friday 16 November (Langcliffe Institute)

Saturday 17 November (Long Preston Village Hall)

7.30 pm

Tea with Mussolini

Coming shortly:

Miss Potter (January)

Atonement (February)

Settle Cricket Club

Available to hire for
parties, weddings, christenings etc.

Opening hours: Mon—Thurs 5.00pm onwards

Friday 4.00pm onwards

Sat—Sun 12.00 noon onwards

Also Sky TV, pool and darts

Ring 01729 822171 for details

A desperate little plea

Please when attending U3A events could you try to come armed with a 50p piece and *not* with either a £50 note or a collection of coppers and 5p pieces.

It is appreciated that you can't always have a 50p piece handy - but some people put them aside for just this purpose and with any luck remember to take one when they leave home for a class. *Please help!*

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 **John Rose**

Which U3A groups do you currently attend? Are there any new groups you'd like to see (no commitment to lead them!)?

I've joined the Meaning & Metaphor group, and am intending to re-join Walking.

I'd like a Practical Art group—not necessarily taught, but just a “co-operative” venture.

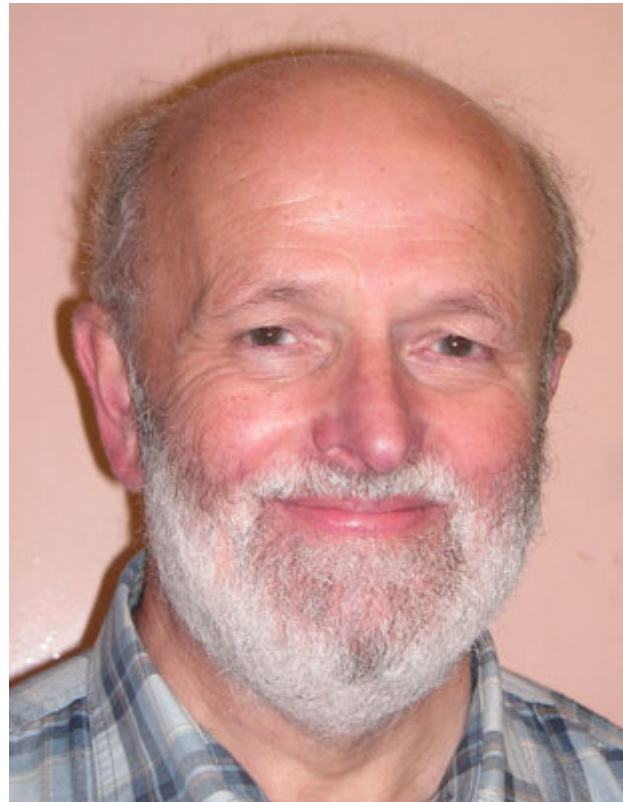
Where are your roots?

I originated in Ilkley. My parents came up from the South for my father to open the first W H Smiths in Ilkley, so I don't really feel 100% Yorkshire—but Ilkley was great to live in during the War. I was a member of the First Ben Rhydding scouts, who opened the hostel at Hag Dyke in Kettlewell.

What does your family consist of?

My wife Christine, and a daughter and a son. My daughter has 3 sons and lives in Wokingham and my son moved to Adelaide with his wife a year ago; we have just been on a visit to them.

Tell us briefly about your education and career:



I went to Ilkley Grammar School, then Leeds University (Mechanical Engineering). Then I did 2 years as a porter at Broad Green Hospital, Liverpool, as a conscientious objector to National Service (it was a valuable experience) and the main part of my career was in industrial textiles (eg fire hoses) and I ended up in Bentham.

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

The highlight was a few days ago when our washing machine developed a fault with the door lock. Garnetts gave me the Hotpoint address and said it would cost £100—so I tackled it myself and made it work!

My main achievement was to set up a group of REMAP at Airedale Hospital. REMAP provides design and build projects for retired engineers, and thereby helps disabled people who need special equipment that isn't commercially available.

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

I've got a concept in my mind, not yet fully realised, of engineering as an art form—*ie* something that doesn't have a purpose but provides some sort of satisfaction and uses engineering principles to create an effect; it might be quite complicated, but there's no question of costing your time. (Perhaps we could form a U3A group of like-minded people to think of ways of using "scrap" and to swap ideas?)

Have you any hobbies?

Clocks—collecting and repairing them. (?Another U3A group—we could move round looking at each others' clocks.)

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

The wording of Weather Forecasts! They should take a lead from the Shipping Forecasts where they design them to be pared down to the minimum.

And litter—in general people seem to be able to throw it down in greater volume than I can manage to pick it up.

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'm keen to do something about violence and killing.

And re-cycling: I'd put a punitive tax on all non-standard jars and bottles to make re-cycling easier (people say it's not worth re-cycling glass, but milkmen think it's worthwhile, so why not *all* glass?).

What is your wish for your grandchildren?

That they find a way of life that gives them satisfaction and is of use to the community, without having to accept the consumerism that's so prevalent.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers? No. (They can come and ask me if they want any!)

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

That it's better to do things you enjoy with enthusiasm than to do things you dislike through a sense of duty.

Scenes of the exertions of the Exercise group



Members of the Sunday Lunch Group looking forward to lunch at the Sun Inn in Kirkby Lonsdale on 21 October



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 **Thursday 6 December.**

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

Old age is when you notice that your toe nails are getting further away than they used to be.

I may be 70 but when I wake up I feel like a 20 year old.. Unfortunately there's never one around.