



**DECEMBER MEETING
(Members only)
Thursday 12th December
"CHRISTMAS SOCIAL"**

Coffee served from 10.00am
Mulled wine and mince pies
served during interval in the
entertainment.



Fri 22nd Nov 7.30 pm
'THE GREAT GATSBY' (12A)
Austwick Village Hall

Wed 27th Nov 7.45pm
'WINTER IN WARTIME' (15)
Victoria Hall Settle
www.tramps.org.uk

U3A 2014 DIARIES AND CALENDARS

There are just a few diaries and calendars still available. Any order should be placed directly with U3A National Office. You can order by post to Third Age Trust, Old Municipal Buildings, 19 East Street, Bromley BRI 1QE, by telephone on 020 8466 6139 or by e-mail, national.office@u3a.org.uk.

SETTLE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

**Autumn Concert
Saturday November 23rd
at 7.30**

SETTLE COLLEGE

*Programme includes music by
Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven*

*Tickets from Cave and Crag and
Settle Music
(contributed by member)*

**THEATRE TRIP
TO ILKLEY PLAYHOUSE**

to see
THE UNEXPECTED GUEST

by Agatha Christie,
on Thursday 30th January.

Cost including driver's tip £17. We will be taking bookings and payment at the November and January meetings but not at the December meeting. Alternatively, contact Shirley Wolfenden on 01729 840882. Cheques to be made payable to Settle District U3A Social A/C. We shall be leaving the Cricket Club at 6pm for the performance at 7-30pm. **Janet Stafford.**

U3A WEBSITE

This is a really comprehensive site. We hope you are all managing to access the relevant pages. Should you have information to circulate, or wish to update your group website, please contact our webmaster **Frank Woodhams** at f.woodhams@uea.ac.uk

Copy for publication in the next issue **should** reach the editor Sue Simpson by **Friday 6th December** e-mail: susanmsimpson@btinternet.com (Tel: 01524241271) Copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.

Issue No 12/02
November 2013



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

Registered Charity No
1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk

**U3A
SETTLE
DISTRICT**

Dear Friends,
Have you noticed, Christmas is only 6 weeks away? Talking of which, the December Thursday meeting is traditionally a Christmassy, social occasion and for the past few years our different interest groups have entertained us with music, dancing and pantos. This year we had hoped to do something a bit different but unfortunately at the last minute our plans have failed, the best laid plans of mice and men and all that. However, do not despair! Due to the proximity of the Christmas meeting the committee is busy sorting out your entertainment and this free, members only Thursday



meeting will include a glass of mulled wine and mince pie for attendees as well as coffee and biscuits. It has been a busy few weeks since I wrote to you in the October Newsletter. Whilst I have spent many hours helping to get our gift aid claim for the past 2 years in order, on a happier note I and several other members of our U3A enjoyed the Yorkshire and Humberside Region's (YAHR) Jane Austen study day in York. Barbara Morden, a cultural historian, led the event helping us to look at Austen's novels in the context of the times and gave us a synopsis of the life of the authoress. It was an excellent event both culturally and socially and I hope there will be more study days. If so, I do encourage you to try one. I am sure you would find the effort of attending well rewarded. I drew your attention in the October Newsletter to the University of Leeds mini Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) called "Fairness and nature: when worlds collide". After outlining the 2 principles of justice and the conflict between man and natural laws, the course looked at how successfully or not these concepts could be applied to climate change, the nature of values and the value of nature. As well as teaching through text and lecture the course made use of video footage and graphics. In my opinion the course was very interesting and well put together. The discussion board that all students were encouraged, but not required, to contribute to was filled with entirely relevant, lively discussion. There are numerous diverse MOOCs (all free to join) on offer from lots of different universities. If they are as good as the MOOC I completed, I really do recommend you have a look at one on a subject or topic that interests you. (Go to <http://futurelearn.com/courses>.) As the daylight hours shorten these courses offer an excellent use of those long winter evenings. Perhaps one could be used as material for a new group?

Nita

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

GREAT LIVES:

OCTOBER MEETING

John Parry's mystery Great Life emerged as Norman Birkett and a fulsome delivery it was.

Born in Ulverston in 1883, Birkett left school aged 15, without any qualification, to work in the family's draper's shop. Then, feeling the call of the Methodist ministry, he went on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, only to switch his studies to law three years later.

The following years as a barrister saw him in big demand successfully defending people accused of murder, becoming a King's Council in 1924 and High Court Judge in 1944. (In the interim, 1936 to be precise, he appeared for Mrs Wallis Simpson at court in Ipswich with the hotel 'evidence' in the infamous divorce case).

1945 saw him in action as the British Alternate Judge at the Nuremburg War Trials which dragged on for nearly a year.

Following this he returned to High Court work but found the job unrewarding, although this did not prevent him doling out both corporal and capital punishment sentences where appropriate.

In 1936 he had purchased a 64 acre farm in Little Langdale in the Lake District to prevent it from falling into the hands of developers and in retirement continued fighting for the preservation of the area. He had, in fact, in 1945 suggested the idea of National Parks to the Government and was highly satisfied when the proposal was accepted.

Created a Baron, as Lord Birkett, his final battle in the House of Lords in 1962 was to move the motion rejecting Manchester Corporation's Bill seeking to abstract water from Ullswater. The speech was a triumph and Ullswater was saved - but, sadly, Birkett collapsed and died three days later.

In his memory in 1963 a hitherto undistinguished Lake District fell was named Birkett Fell and the Lord Birkett Cup for an annual sailing event on Ullswater was introduced and is still popular today.

This was an accomplished review of a multi-talented man and we even had television archive material showing Birkett in action at Nuremburg and also being interviewed by the fearsome John Freeman.

An appreciative gathering warmly thanked John for his excellent production.

Alan Hemsworth

LOOKING AT OLD BUILDINGS: All members are welcome at the planning meeting at 2pm Thursday November 28th in the Castleberg room at Victoria Hall. The group is looking for a new co-ordinator to allow it to continue after the New Year. (It doesn't meet in December). There are lots of good ideas for places to visit, so think about volunteering and enabling these to be organised.

Debi Burridge



THEATRE OUTING — A PERSONAL VIEW

October saw our annual visit to Keswick and the beautiful "Theatre by the Lake" The forecast for the day was dire but as we assembled in the car park it was still dry



but gloomy. Fingers crossed we set off on the well worn road-through Windermere, through Ambleside and on to Grasmere, the weather still holding. Alas, today the lake was not of mirrored glass, reflecting the trees in all their Autumn glory. Autumn was a little late this year and the water was ruffled. After a short stop for refreshment and retail therapy it was onward to Keswick and still the rain held off. After a superb lunch in

Keswick we had a brisk walk to the theatre-and still no rain! Just as we reached the theatre the first real drops fell...and fell...and fell. Well at least it was dry inside. Oh the play itself you ask...It was "She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith and those who didn't come missed a real treat. It was wonderful and all I had hoped for; very simple sets, exterior of house, interior of house and somewhere in the woods. The wit, the costumes, the colour and the acting were all first class. Muddles, mayhem and misrepresentations there were in plenty. It was glorious. I first loved this play when I took part in a school production and sixty years on it was just as wonderful but without the nerves! A really good and enjoyable production. Unfortunately when we came out it was still raining and we had a very wet journey back to Settle.

Many, many thanks to Janet Stafford for arranging such a lovely day out - despite the weather - and I can't wait for next October!

Hilary Baker

WALKING: The Walks Programme is now on the website and there is a hard copy in the TIC and the Library.

10th DECEMBER Walk from Knight Stainforth to Feizor for Lunch at Elaines (12 noon in Feizor)

Those walking meet at 10.15 am at the Cricket Club to share cars, or if preferred, in the car park at Knight Stainforth (by the caravan park) at 10.30 a.m. If driving to Feizor for lunch (or need a lift) meet at 11.30 am at the Cricket Club to share cars. We have two spare places for the meal at Elaine's Tea Rooms at Feizor. Please call 01729 8823978 Mobile: 07857 858528 to reserve.

Margaret & Michael Cullingworth



Autumn colours on a recent walk. (Frank Woodhams)