

Newsletter

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SETTLE DISTRICT

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

By the time you receive this *Newsletter*, the committee you voted in at the September AGM should have held its first meeting, in Duke Street, and should be finding its feet. We have a difficult task ahead of us if we are to match the success of last year's committee, so ably chaired by Janet Stafford.

In terms of both membership numbers and the range of activities, the Settle U3A has been remarkably successful in the 5 years since its inception. When U3A development officer Mike Long visited us this year he seemed impressed by what the Settle U3A had achieved in its short life, but warned against the complacency he has seen creep in elsewhere when some other U3As have reached our level of development.

In addition to handling the day to day issues of this year's programme, I would hope that your committee will be able to spend some time considering where the Settle U3A should be aiming for the next 5 years. It was therefore very helpful to have Frank Pedley's contribution to this discussion in the September *Newsletter*, particularly as Frank has been involved with the U3A since its inception 25 years ago. Frank's comments were not only based on the experience of Settle U3A, but on the much wider experience of U3As nationwide.

As Frank pointed out, the spirit of the U3A is that it should maximise the talents of all its members, and I would hope this will spur you to make some personal input into the direction of the Settle U3A. Your comments would be welcome on any level, from the philosophy of "what" the U3A is trying to achieve to better management of "how" it is achieving its aims. Contributions do not have to be "gift wrapped"; Pam would be delighted, if astonished, to receive an elegantly argued contribution to the *Newsletter*, such as Frank's, but a quiet word to a committee member over coffee at a monthly meeting would be an equally good way of getting your views across.

With best wishes

Tony Stephens



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Circle Dancing: The new session begins on **5 October** on Friday mornings from 10.00-11.00am in the Victoria Hall.

Pat Smith and Gillian Walton

Digital Photography: The group has started with 13 people attending the first meeting. We discussed the various types of digital camera available, from the small pocket-sized fully automatic to the digital SLR, looking at their features. After reminding ourselves of the basic folder and filing structure of a typical Windows PC we connected one of the group's camera to the U3A laptop computer that we are using and saw how to successfully transfer photographs from the camera to the laptop.

The next meeting, on **Tuesday 10 October**, will look at transferring photographs from cameras via a card reader and then will start to discuss the features of Adobe Photoshop Elements and similar photo enhancement software.

Frank Woodhams

Exercise: The class now takes place on *Tuesday* mornings from 10.00-11.00am at the Cricket Club.

GW

Great Lives: The first meeting of the new session will be on **17 October**. The subject will be Elgar.

Frank Pedley

Heraldry: There will now be no Heraldry till January. Watch this space!

Hilary Baker

Looking at Old Buildings: The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 25 October**. Meet at Hellifield Parish church at 10.30am for a tour of the church led by Audrey Daykin. This will be followed by a visit to Hellifield Station arranged by Ruth Evans.

Dora Tattersall and Vanessa Stone

Mathematical Puzzles: I recently invaded this male bastion. Most of the discussion was way above my head, but nevertheless very interesting and I was made very welcome. Come on ladies, why not join me—and even gentlemen?

PLD

Philosophy: The Philosophy Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in Victoria Hall at 2.00pm (*for October only the 2nd meeting will be on 29 October*). There will be a two tier programme: the 2nd Mondays will be an introduction to a major philosopher by myself or any other member of the group. The 4th Mondays will be discussion of a paper from a recent philosophy magazine.

Anyone interested who was unable to register or unable to attend the first meeting should contact me as the times of meetings can be changed if they

clash with other events.

Roy Anderson (01524 251335)

Sunday Lunch: Fifteen people have signed up for next year which is slightly too many, but not everybody comes to every lunch. About ten is a good number; over that the conversation tends to split into sub-groups.

The next lunch will be on Sunday **21 October** at the Sun Inn in Kirkby Lonsdale; we usually arrive at 12.30pm. Please let me know by *Friday 19 October* if you are coming.

Audrey Daykin

Walking: The walk on Thursday, 20 September, involved 3 members and started from Kettlewell. After a day of continuous rain the hillside becks were streaming and the rivers were full. A lovely walk along the hillside rich with the remains of summer flowers took us to Starbottom. The surrounding hills were alternately dull with rain and bright in sunshine. Going up the opposite hillside we were glad the ground was still dry, but above the trees we could see rain coming. By then we were in a strong wind and the rain came horizontally and we were soon soaked. By the time we stopped for lunch we found the rain had stopped and we began to dry out. A visit to Arncliffe church and a pleasant walk along the valley floor, then a short climb with the wind behind us now, and we were soon back in Kettlewell—bone dry and very happy having had such a lovely walk.

Alison Tyas

Tuesday's walk, 25 September: After trying three times and being beaten by the weather we at last managed to do the Gargrave to Skipton walk alongside the canal. There were 10 of us altogether and 8 of us got the bus and met the other 2 in Gargrave. It is always amazing how the miles slip by when you have lots of people to talk to. The view from the canal changes all the time as it winds its way to Skipton. After about 4 miles of easy walking, (canals don't go uphill) we arrived just in time for lunch which was taken at Eastwoods fish and chip restaurant. It was a very pleasant way to spend a long morning and no doubt we will do it again.

SW

<p><i>Is there anyone who would be interested in forming/leading a Story-telling group? Or in joining one? If so, please let Alison Tyas know (01729 822313).</i></p>
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Up close and personal

In this series we try to find out a bit about the life and background of one of our members. Some of us of course have achieved great things, while others have led what may be regarded as a more everyday sort of life; this series is equally interested either way.

This month the spotlight falls on **Jill Sykes**

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

Sunday Lunch Group—sheer indulgence plus good company; Looking at Old Buildings.

I'd like to learn more about local history and geology.

Where are your roots?

In Leeds. My father was a shoe repairer and my mother a seamstress, both from at least 3 generations of Leeds "Loiners". I had an Irish great, great grandmother.

What does your family consist of?

I'd known my husband Michael, from childhood, and then we trained at college together. He died 11 years ago. We have a daughter and a son; both have spouses and 2 children.

Tell us briefly about your education and career:

After 1 year at a Leeds primary school I was evacuated to a Quaker school at Yealand, near Carnforth—wonderful countryside for a city child—then on to a Quaker secondary school and 5 years at Leeds School of Architecture; then a working life (with short breaks for children) in private offices. Early jobs included working on University halls of residence and alterations to Settle High School and Skipton Girls School, followed by many years part-time in Michael's office.

I studied German and Traditional Building in evening classes.

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

A long student holiday in Italy stands out in memory, now overlaid by marriage and family; but coming to live in Craven has been a real bonus (Michael lived here during WW II).

The most exciting job in my career was discovering a huge fireplace and a staircase completely hidden in an old house I was renovating with a client.

Have you any unachieved ambitions?

To grow out of old age without being a burden to others.

Have you any hobbies?

Looking at humps and bumps in the ground. Archaeology: nowadays watching others dig, but learning from lectures and day-schools.

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

I've had an easy life in a safe environment. I'm not good at grumbling: they wouldn't have me on the programme!

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:

When nations and communities accept that problems and iniquities are discussed and sorted by lots of "give and take" and not by destruction and killing, then humankind might survive.



Reducing the birthrate would help the planet as well.

What is your wish for your grandchildren?

To have a happy life doing what they're interested in, and to steer clear of the world's social dangers.

Have you any advice for today's school leavers?

Work hard at keeping life interesting and exciting. Make this planet a better place than we have done.

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

My personal maxim is that "other people matter".

Can I have a second? I *can* get along without a computer!

Visit to London

Several people have expressed an interest in us organising a weekend in London to visit the Terracotta Army exhibition at the British Museum, and also the Tutankamun exhibition at the O₂ Centre. I will make some initial enquiries to see if this is feasible, and then we will have to find out if enough people would like to go. If you are interested perhaps you could let me know; there is no obligation at this stage. I think it would take place during February or March.

Shirley Wolfenden (840882)

Settle District membership for 2007-8

To date we have 251 members (NB this includes 50 people who have not yet renewed their membership from 2006-7: if they do not do so by November, they will be taken off the list (because that is when we have to send in our list for distribution of *U3A News* with the £2.50 fee per person to central office).

We have 172 women and 79 men.

If anybody who joined BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER does not receive the next Central Office U3A News, please inform the Membership Secretary.

The Membership Secretary would like to thank everyone who submitted the enrolment form and the subscription *together*, and thereby saved her a great deal of trouble!

Reminder!

Visit to Keswick

The bus leaves
Settle Cricket Club
at 8.30am on 17 October

TRAMPS presents -

Friday 19 October (Langcliffe Institute)

Saturday 20 October (Clapham Village Hall) Casino Royale

Friday 16 November (Langcliffe Institute)

*Saturday 17 November (Long
Preston Village Hall)* Tea with Mussolini

U3A Conference and AGM 2007

This year's AGM and conference took us to the far southwest. First, the conference on board the cruise ship *Van Gogh*. The theme was *reaching out* and throughout the 2½ days on board we had various presentations by members of the National Executive Committee.

One was from Stan Miller (Vice-Chairman) who had recently been elected Chairman of AIUTA—the international forum of U3As in their various guises throughout the world. Meg Shaw (NW Area Rep) gave a penetrating analysis of the philosophy of the movement.

Before the AGM proper, on the University Campus just outside Falmouth, we had a lecture from Professor David Vincent,

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Open University. The main thrust of his talk was the mutual benefits to both organisations of the co-operation and links between the two.

Then came short presentations by the 3 candidates for election to the 2 posts of Vice-Chairman. I was most impressed by 2 of the candidates—Ian Searle from Carrick U3A (at present a Vice-Chairman) and Meg Shaw of Clitheroe (whom some of you will have met when she spoke to us in our early days). They were the 2 for whom I voted subsequently.

The main feature of the Chairman's report was *reaching out to other organisations with similar objectives*. One of these was linking with organisations dealing with the looming problem of a very ageing population. A contribution from the floor emphasised the importance of replicating this at a local level.

Then came the financial report. Finances seem to be pretty healthy.

Finally the announcement of the 2 Vice-Chairmen elected: Ian Searle and Meg Shaw. So now we have a new North West Representative—Alex McMinn from Ormskirk.

Hilary Baker

Settle District U3A Representative

The Committee for 2007-8

Following the AGM in September, the Committee now consists of the following members:

Tony Stephens
Chairman



John Jebson
Vice-Chairman



Gillian Walton
Secretary



Shirley Wolfenden
Treasurer



Hilary Baker
Co-opted



Margaret Cullingworth



Pat Dewey
Membership Sec



Alan Hemsworth
Publicity



Pam Servant
Newsletter



Alison Tyas
Groups Co-ordinator



Ray Wolfenden
Coffees



NB At the end of this session, the Membership Secretary, the Groups Co-ordinator and the Newsletter Editor will be retiring and will not be eligible for re-election—so it's not too early to be thinking about whether you might volunteer to replace them on the committee for 2008-9

STOP PRESS

This space is for any urgent items that come too late for the copy date (see below). Please keep wording to a minimum.

Line Dancing: has now resumed. New members always welcome of whatever ability—but a sense of humour is helpful. 10.30am-12.00noon Thursdays (except the 2nd Thursday) in the Victoria Hall. **PLD**

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 1 November 2007.***

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

I know a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex and rich food. He was healthy right up to the time he killed himself.

Why exercise? If you're healthy you don't need it. If you're sick you shouldn't take it.