

Newsletter

Issue No 6/12, SEPTEMBER 2008
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SETTLE DISTRICT

*Registered Charity No 1095635
www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk
Contact: 01729 822313*

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

What a splendidly chaotic August meeting we had, with twice the normal attendance; people turning up to see what was on offer for next year, and being entertained by the line dancing, circle dancing, exercise and singing for pleasure groups. A special thanks is due to everyone who performed so splendidly—I suspect the success of these demonstrations will tempt other groups onto the floor at future meetings (note to next chairman—remember to find the microphone before chaos descends).

By the time you read this, you will either be about to vote, or have just voted, for a new committee and chairman. I offer them my best wishes in taking forward an institution which is so important to many who live in North Craven. I would like to reserve particular thanks for this year's committee, who have made my year as chair of the Settle U3A such an easy and pleasant task, and to David and Edith and everyone at the Victoria Hall who do so much for us.

With best wishes

Tony Stephens

FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

Please remember to sign up for the groups you want to join and make a note of the group leader's phone number so that you can let them know when you are not expecting to attend a meeting.

There are one or two mistakes in the programme, and there have been some changes since the programme was printed, so please take note when signing up. These changes are highlighted on the signing-up sheets.

It is not too late to ask to join a group at any time of the year, but some may not want new members if they are already full or if it would be difficult for a new member to catch up.

Lastly, I would like to thank all group leaders (even when they don't like being called that!) for their help and forbearance during the past 6 years.

Alison

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Listening to Music: The next session will be on **Monday, 20 October**, 2.00pm at 1 Birchwood Close, Settle. The late start is due to "holiday clashes".
Janet Stafford (01729 825449)

Looking at Old Buildings: At the August meeting several people expressed an interest in keeping this group in existence. A preliminary meeting has been arranged at the Quaker Meeting House at 2.00pm on **Thursday 27 November**. If you are interested, please come along.

Madrigals: Despite the title, madrigals will constitute only a small part of the repertoire. Whilst very much depends on the voices available, I envisage looking at a mixture of later secular works, folk songs and sacred material—in fact most things that can be sung unaccompanied. **Alan Hemsworth**

Strollers: The next stroll is planned for **Wednesday, 17 September**—a walk by the River Lune at Kirkby Lonsdale. Meet at the Cricket Club at 2.00pm.

I have had to change the date of the October stroll as it is on the same day as the Keswick theatre trip—my fault as I arranged both. The October stroll will be on **Wednesday 22 October** around Long Preston— 10.30am bus. I shall book a table for lunch at the Maypole, so will need numbers: please let me know on the September stroll or by phone on 01729 825449. **Janet Stafford**

Sunday Lunch: Membership of this group will not be known until after the AGM but can I let you know that *the time is different this month*. Because The Priests House has another group in they have asked us to go at 1.00pm on **Sunday 21 September**. To those who enrol—please let me know if you intend to come.
Audrey Daykin

Next month's Thursday meeting— 9 October

The speaker will be Richard Chapman
who will be promoting

Guide Dogs

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

THE SEX OF A COMPUTER

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. “House”, for instance, is feminine: “la casa”. “Pencil,” however, is masculine; “el lapiz”. A student asked what gender is “computer”? Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether “computer” should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The Men’s group decided that “computer” should definitely be of the feminine gender, “la computadora”, because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay check on accessories for it.

The Women’s group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine, “el computador”, because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data, but still cannot think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer, you could have got a better model!

The women won!

(With thanks to Dorothy Hemsworth)

Up close and personal

This month the spotlight falls on **Helen Lupton**



Which U3A groups do you currently attend?

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

Art Appreciation, Line Dancing and if possible Exercise and/or Circle Dancing.
No time for more.

Where are your roots?

Born in London and then Middlesex until age 6 when we moved to Hertfordshire for the schools for 2 brothers and self; eventually into a new-build house with a large garden, designed by and for my parents. My father built a tennis court (which was useful for my school friends and their brothers). After marriage I lived for the first 10 years in Rugby where husband Arthur taught, and

then London when he returned to engineering (joining his father in water consultancy).

What does your family consist of?

My side has quite a link with education—teaching in schools and university—mother, brother, uncles and sons. We have 4 sons, all married—9 grandchildren.

Tell us briefly about your education and career

I was home-schooled for a year before moving to dame's school in Berkhamsted, followed by Girls High School which I left for 3 years (because I fought with my elder brother so much) to go to my grandmother's boarding Prep School for Girls in High Wycombe—the first in the country which she founded in 1900. War broke out when I was rising 18 and I went to Bedford College, London, to which I would never have got had I had to take entry exams. I was not very successful at school though I tried hard. I loved university (BSc in Psychology). I should have joined the Forces (good for me, I thought) but was flattered by winning a research scholarship for which work I was "Reserved". However, when I was offered, at the end of the War, a practical job at Rowntree & Co Ltd (who had employed psychologists as such since 1922) I jumped at the opportunity and remained in selection and training work till I married (late in life), moving once to British Petroleum (office and supervisor training) first.

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

Highlight: Marriage. I've been so lucky all my life in work and homes.

Possibly the only thing I've really *achieved* on my own—everything else has depended on help and co-operation with others, including raising the children and anything we've been able to do in Settle, like Abbeyfied (I was on the building committee) and developing the Community News—has been getting a good degree and at the same time being President of the college Students' Union, which must mean something of a personal achievement—if it matters!

Have you any unachieved ambitions? O yes—mastering the laptop so I can do it myself—e-mails and website; I want not to have to bother Arthur with notes on an author, or Biafra or whatever information I think I need.

Have you any hobbies? I've always wanted an all-consuming hobby about which one becomes an expert. However I make do with creative knitting and watercolour painting a bit, seeking design in the landscape. Also countryside and gardens. I love the sea and used to do quite a bit of diving. At one time I was a keen worker for comprehensive education and training of school governors.

What books are you currently reading?

"Half a Yellow Sun", a novel by Adiche about the war in Biafra.

I try to keep up with authors and literature for teenagers. I was inspired by "Out of our Minds" by Ken Robinson whose thesis is: our country and the world depend on developing creativity rather than only relying on intellectual ability. Our schools, colleges and work places should be pointed towards doing this. You don't have to be an academic to be useful to self and society.

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

How people don't get on and "do something about it" to add a little something to putting world to rights—even if it is writing to the papers or their MP. Me included - perhaps not a naïve hope?

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:

Disarmament—work towards integrity of government policies ie awareness of double standards when selling arms and considering human rights practices. But unfortunately I'm not a politician.

What is your wish for your grandchildren? Be happy and useful at whatever it is you choose. If you've chosen wrongly you can get what you want if you really try hard enough and want it enough (the catch, of course, is how to gear yourself up enough to really want it!).

Have you any advice for today's school leavers? The above and also try to put back in—somewhere and in some way—what you are taking out from others or the community.

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

"Do less, well" - keeping the comma in, in this text, but enjoying its omission.

TRAMPS presents—

Friday 19 September at 7.30pm
Langcliffe Institute

The Other Boleyn Girl (12A)

Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, Eric Bana

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

Are you interested in films and bringing filmsto the Villages?

If you would like to join our lively Team we need help with poster production and distribution in Settle, ticket sales etc.

Contact Saida Simmons on 823108

SETTLE CRICKET CLUB

Available to hire for parties, weddings,
christenings, etc.

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 5.00pm onwards;
Friday 4.00pm onwards;
Saturday– Sunday 12.00 noon onwards.

Also SKY TV, pool and darts.

Ring 01729 822171 for details

BAD TIDINGS OF NEITHER COMFORT NOR JOY

The Committee has been notified by central U3A office that the Executive is contemplating increasing the annual subscription which we have to pay to central funds for each of our members, with effect from 2010.

The sum mentioned is £3.50—an increase of £1 a head.

If this is confirmed, the Settle U3A committee will have to decide, in the light of our financial position at the time, whether to increase our local fee accordingly.

The Seniors' Breakfast Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "Seniors' Special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for £1.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said, "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you £2.50 because you're ordering à la carte" the surly waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"YES!!" said the waitress triumphantly.

"I'll take the special then" my wife said.

"How do you want your eggs?" the waitress asked.

"Raw and in the shell" my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home.

MORAL: *DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS. We've been around the block more than once!*

A Little Bit of History

Elizabeth Maudsley, who died recently, was the first person to volunteer as a member of the Steering Committee of Settle District U3A. Regrettably, ill-health limited her contribution. For the record, the first person to respond to the suggestion in the Craven Herald that Settle might have its own U3A if there was enough demand was Jean Asher of Stainforth. Perhaps a blue plaque outside her house ...? **Frank Pedley**

NOTICE

The committee has recently decided to reverse to some extent its earlier decision not to publish obituaries on the occasion of the death of any Settle District U3A Member.

Accordingly, while full obituaries as such will still not be published, any member who wishes to announce in this *Newsletter* the death of a fellow-member is invited to let the Editor have brief information.

Copy date for next issue of Newsletter

All copy for publication in the next issue needs to reach the acting editor (Pamela Servant, 23 Duke Street, Settle BD24 9DJ: e-mail pms@daelnet.co.uk)

in writing by Thursday 2 October.

All copy received by e-mail will be acknowledged.

What's the good having something to look forward to if I can't remember what it is?

I was brought up to respect my elders, but now I don't have to respect anybody.