



Registered Charity No 1095635

**Letter from the chair**

**SETTLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

Issue Number 4/17 January 2019

[www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk](http://www.settledistrictu3a.org.uk)

**Hello and Happy New Year to all,**

Our Christmas Social was quite possibly spectacular! The singing, dancing, instrumental orchestrations, the Yokels, linguistic interpretations abroad and the Turkey - led to raising the roof or at least our spirits. Thanks must go to absolutely everyone involved - especially the Groups and their Leaders, who put so much into making the event special. Thank you all.

It is time also to thank Frank Woodhams who kindly took over the role of Webmaster on an interim basis. His care of our Website for the past few months has been greatly appreciated. We now are very pleased to welcome Richard Hine as our new Webmaster. He/we have ideas to make the Website work and look even smarter for all.

If you are planning something different for 2019 perhaps joining another Interest/ing Group would be just the thing or maybe a talk organised through Westnet by North Yorkshire Police - 'Operation Owl' Edmond usually a good evening.

Following 'rave reviews' from 2017 the YAH Regional Summer School at Easingwold 5th-8th August is now taking bookings. Details for all events are on our Notice Board/Website.

NB National Summer Schools in August and September 2019 as well as the AGM in August, with attendant Workshops, all sound very good albeit further afield.

Nearer to home, we have our New Members Meeting on 8th March. This may seem a little late in the year for you to think yourself a 'new member'. Hopefully you are well and truly part of things by now. However there may be something more to discover about the U3A organisation and importantly, more you would like to tell us about how you have found things, perhaps what we could do differently or better. Fresh ideas are welcome and essential, as well as a chance to socialise.

Finally, in future months, we will canvas ideas and in particular the part you can play on or with Committee. Ahead of our AGM in September we will need nominations for CM;s and Officers - including Vice Chair and Chair. Put simply, if we cannot fill those roles our wonderful U3A could fold. One option is for a member to be co-opted onto Committee now e.g. a prospective Chairperson, to learn more about the role. Please contact me or any CM to talk more about this really interesting opportunity!

**Jackie**

**February Meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**'Bibby's in a Nutshell' with Chris Bibby**

**Coffee from 10 am**



The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm Bentham Town Hall**

**SWIMMING WITH MEN (12A)**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Austwick Parish Hall**

**FINDING YOUR FEET (12)**

**Wednesday 6 February 2019 7.45pm in Victoria Hall, Settle**

**A WOMAN'S LIFE (12)**

*Please keep copy to approx 150 words and submit for the next newsletter by*

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> February 2019 to: Chris Taylor [christine@castlebergh.plus.com](mailto:christine@castlebergh.plus.com) Tel: 01729 823975**

*Copy will be acknowledged by email. Wherever possible, the full account is used but occasionally it is necessary to edit the piece for the printed copy.*

*The full submissions will be used on the website version.*

## NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GROUPS

### THEATRE TRIPS

I have made a block booking for **Matthew Bourne's ballet Romeo and Juliet** on 23rd May at Bradford. Price £45.00 which includes a dress circle seat, coach and drivers tip.  
**Ring 01729/823978 Michael Cullingworth**

### BIRDWATCHING GROUP



December took the Group to Leighton Moss and, for once, the weather was kind to us. The sun shone through thin cloud; the wind stayed away; and the birds put on a splendid show. The highlights were a singing Cetti's Warbler and first sightings for many of the group of several species including Marsh Tit, Teal, Greenshank, Snipe and Marsh Harrier. But the star of the show was the Water Rail which gave several group members their first-ever views of this very elusive species. And what views they were: the bird came so close we could have touched it! A wonderful experience to cap a very good day's birding. The only downside of our visit to this marvellous RSPB reserve was the tree full of roosting Little Egrets - which turned out, on closer inspection, to be a big flock of white doves. But you can't have everything!

For more information about the U3A Birdwatching Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on [lchandler52@gmail.com](mailto:lchandler52@gmail.com).  
**Les Chandler**

### GREAT LIVES

At our December meeting Sue Fisher gave a fascinating account of a lady, Violet Douglas-Pennant, whose life Sue has extensively researched. Violet was born in London in 1869, the seventh daughter of George Douglas Pennant, the second Baron Penrhyn and his first wife Pamela who died shortly after Violet's

birth. In 1886 her father inherited Penrhyn Castle in North Wales and sugar estates in the West Indies. Violet spent several years in India and during her thirties worked in London. From 1911-1918, she was head of the Pensions Office in Cardiff at a salary of £1000 a year, money she didn't even need, having her own private means. In 1918 she reluctantly accepted the post of Commandant of the WRAF only to be dismissed 14 weeks later on a charge of gross misconduct. Despite strenuously denying this, she was forced to leave her post. The rest of her life was spent, unsuccessfully, trying to clear her name. She died in 1945.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00 am, Ian Gray will talk about the life of Sir Edmund Hillary. Everyone welcome.

**Keith Bradshaw**

### BADMINTON GROUP

Due to retirement of some of our badminton players, we have space for new players. So if you want some fun exercise and are free 10-11 on a Friday morning, why not come along to the Langcliffe Institute. There is a spare racket you can use while you decide if it's something you want to continue with. We're not too serious, we just aim to have fun and fellowship with the added benefit of fitness thrown.

**Kath Hamflett**

### RETRO STRETCH AND TONE GROUP

New start date for this group - please note this will commence on Friday 1st February at 10 am at the Catholic Hall Settle. **Debi Burridge**