



Learn, laugh, live

Settle District Newsletter

Issue Number 1/18 October 2019

settledistrictu3a.org Registered Charity No 1095635

Learn, laugh, live
with Settle District U3A



JOIN US FOR A

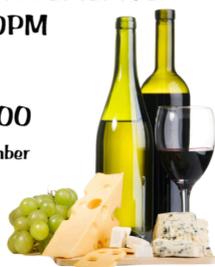
CHEESE AND WINE TASTING
with Andy Swinscoe

AT
THE COURTYARD DAIRY

FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER
7.30PM

TICKETS: £16.00

(available at the September
and October Meetings)



Our new website

The new updated Settle District U3A website is now up and running and the old one is no longer active. The new website is settledistrictu3a.org. You should be redirected from the old address, but if not, try refreshing the page. Do let us know what you think. Of course there may be teething problems - please contact webmaster@settledistrictu3a.org

WELL WHAT ABOUT THAT?

Our new Chair, Les Chandler, tells us what's on his mind this month



The nights are drawing in, the weather's on the turn, and inevitably we all start to feel down in the dumps. But don't feel glum. Not only do we have our U3A Group activities to keep us occupied and happy through the winter months we've got Christmas to look forward to! I'm sorry to mention the C-word so soon into October but it has to be done. On taking up the role of Chair of our U3A I've discovered that my first job is to organise this year's U3A Christmas Meeting. So Christmas is very much on my mind.

Our U3A Groups are now busy preparing for the Christmas Meeting and the programme promises to be every bit as spectacular as in previous years. The Christmas Meeting is on Thursday 12 December, at 10 am in Victoria Hall.

Looking ahead, I've discovered that Wednesday 3rd of June 2020 will see the UK's first national U3A Day. U3A's across the country will be invited to celebrate the event. This will be our chance to demonstrate our dedication to staying active and having fun in our third age so if you've any ideas on how we should mark the occasion please let me know.

Well, I've got to go now. I've got a Christmas Spectacular to organise! Having become Chair I've realised how much I don't know about our Groups and if I'm to do this job properly I need to find out. So I'm keen to start arranging visits to groups soon.

Now you know what's on my mind please tell me what's on yours, especially if you think there are issues you think the U3A Committee needs to address. Catch me at our monthly meetings or e-mail me at chairperson@settledistrictu3a.org.

Best wishes, Les

Next Meeting: **Thursday 14th November** Victoria Hall
Lakeland Peaks '542 in 2016' - Bill Honeywell

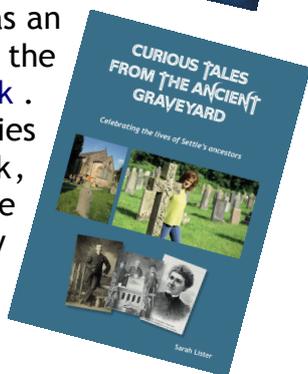
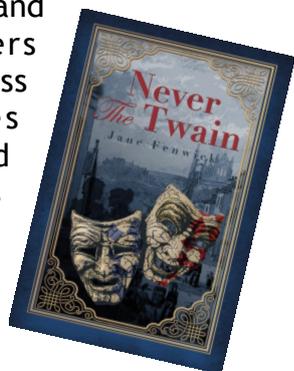
Coffee from 10am

Celebrating group news

CRIME BOOK GROUP

The crime book group meets on the first Friday of each month and reads historical and current detective crime fiction from across the globe. This month's book was 'The Devil in the Marshalsea' by Antonia Fraser, the first of a series of adventurous romps for rakish scoundrel Thomas Hawkins, this one set in a debtor's prison in 1727. It provided excellent historical detail. Next month we discuss 'Kingdom of the Blind' by Louise Penny.

Two members of this group have written books you may enjoy. One has the pseudonym of Jane Fenwick who has written the book 'Never the Twain'. Set in Whitby in the 1890s, this is a twin tale of jealousy and betrayal, love and murder. Twin daughters abandoned by their actress mother find themselves 'rescued' by Captain Edward Driscoll and taken to his mansion in Glasgow, where they find themselves in a murderous conspiracy. The Kindle book is available from Amazon for just 99p as an introductory price, and via the link from janefenwick.co.uk. There are still a few copies of Sarah Lister's book, 'Curious Tales from the Ancient Graveyard' - they are available to buy at monthly meetings until they sell out.



BIRDWATCHING GROUP

On Monday 4 November 2019, the Group will be moving indoors to hear a presentation from the RSPB's James Bray on the 'Birds of the Gambia'. It's at 2pm in Victoria Hall.

James is the RSPB's Bowland Project Officer and Group members will recall the excellent talk he gave us last year on Hen Harrier conservation in the Forest of Bowland. Before taking up post with the RSPB James worked for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in Scotland which probably explains his desire to study birds in warmer climes! His illustrated

talk for the Birdwatching Group will highlight many of the special birds of The Gambia, including the beautiful Egyptian Plover pictured below.

For more information please contact Les Chandler on lchandler52@gmail.com.



DID YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR NEW GROUPS?

This year we have a new Garden Visits group, which meets at times depending on Garden availability.

A new Photography group begins in January, on second Mondays of the month in Victoria Hall at 1.30pm. The group will explore how easy taking pictures can be. A traditional approach to photography will look at compositional techniques, and also examine technical aspects such as the roles of aperture, ISO and shutter speed. Once pictures are taken on a digital SLR, a smartphone, or mirrorless camera the group will then look at image editing programmes to make the most of pictures. Initially the group will look at the free google application Snapseed.

Contact the groups coordinator Jeanne Hine for more information - email her on groupcoordinator@settledistrictu3a.org

Meanwhile the Bridge Group could do with a couple of new members, either beginners or old hands. They meet every Thursday morning at the Golden Lion. Please phone John Parry on 01729 823843.

Many thanks to Chris Taylor for developing and editing the newsletter for the past 5 years. For the next edition, articles of 150 words max to newslettereditor@settledistrictu3a.com by Monday 4th November 2019. We may edit articles to fit the space available.