



Learn, laugh, live

Settle District Newsletter

Issue Number 3/18 December 2019

settledistrictu3a.org Registered Charity No 1095635

Learn, laugh, live with Settle District U3A

Monthly meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at Victoria Hall at 10.30am, coffee from 10am, just £1

Our Christmas Party is free, and for members only
5th December, from 10am



Next meeting: January 9th 2020
'Campbell's Bluebird' by David Howard



Before your U3A magazine goes to recycling, see page 51 - an article about our Family History Group's graveyard project. If it seems a bit out of date, it is! - it was written in August 2018. An exhibition of some of the current graveyard project research is running at the Folly until Christmas - Ghosts of Christmas Past!

WHAT USA HISTORIANS DO - A 12 PAGE SUPPLEMENT



Why noses don't grow ears and cars powered by chocolate waste

YOU WHAT?

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



This month I've continued my visits to our U3A groups and come to the conclusion that everyone should do this - it's a treat. I started with Ukulele. And wow! What a smashing group of people and what a wonderful sound! And then it was French. Another great group of people who taught me a lot, including the French for a sheep's more intimate parts. Ça alors! I finished the month with the Play Reading group and Alan Bleasdale's *On the Ledge* - gritty drama and very funny. I won't spoil the story for you. All I'll say is that the group's rendition of the play was blooming marvellous!

Working down the list of our groups made me wonder what is on offer elsewhere. In Doncaster they have 'Applied Criminology'. I'd struggle with that. And Cambridge offers 'Self-management' - clearly that would be beyond me! But walking cricket (Chagford) or walking football (Barnsley): now we're talking. Let me know if you're interested in starting a group for any activities we don't currently cover.

Away from the groups the other members of the U3A committee and I had a good meeting with some of our new members this month. They gave us food for thought. Amongst other things, they told us how we can improve our new members' first steps into the U3A and flagged up areas of the website we need to look at. We'll work on these things in the coming months but in the meantime our focus is on the Christmas Spectacular on 5th December: 10 am to 12.30 pm in Victoria Hall. Singing, dancing, drama - it's got the lot. And a quiz, mince pies, mulled wine and carol singing. And it's all free! Don't miss it!

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

Seasons greetings, Les.

MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hi, I am Barbara Herring, your Secretary. I am the committee scribe and organiser. I joined our U3A in 2018 when I moved to Settle so I am new to the organisation and the area. I am a member of the bridge group and the Scrabble group. I love art and I am a keen quilter so I joined the Art Appreciation group this year for inspiration and the sheer joy of it.



BIRDWATCHING GROUP

As the Newsletter goes to print the members of the Birdwatching Group will be on safari, scouring Beacon Fell for Crossbills. These birds are truly unusual. They have a bizarre bill, to feed on seeds other birds can't access; they build their nest from spiders' webs; and, unlike other species, they breed all year round. They can be difficult to find!



On the 7 January 2020, we're off to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Martin Mere. It should be a great trip: thousands of swans, geese, ducks, and waders as well as harriers, falcons and a myriad of smaller birds including, if we're lucky, the stunning Bearded Tit.

Les Chandler - lchandler52@gmail.com

GREAT LIVES GROUP

At our November meeting Alan Hemsworth gave us an interesting snapshot of more than 600 years of the Lords Bolton of Wensleydale. Probably the most impressive figure was the first Baron Bolton - Sir Richard Scrope - who rose to the exalted rank of Lord Treasurer under Richard the 2nd in 1378 and whose legacy is the magnificent medieval fortress of Bolton Castle, dominating the skyline of Wensleydale. The Lords in later centuries served the crown at the battles of Agincourt and Flodden and the 8th Lord even survived the wrath of Henry the 8th, having supported the revolt known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. The family acquired a Dukedom as a result of

support for William the 3rd, but this became extinct in 1794.

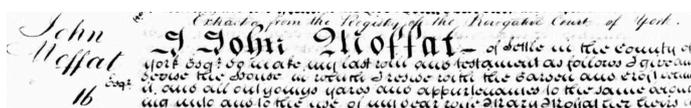
On Wednesday 18th December (Victoria Hall 11.00am) Ian Tennant will give a presentation on Philip Larkin, poet, librarian and jazz critic.

John Jebson

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The group has over 50 members this year, sharing social history and family history skills. This month Marion explained her research into the McNichol family, thinking they descended from the clan on the Isle Skye only to find that, actually, at least 7 generations were Yorkshire linen weavers.

Ken Lister gave another skills tutorial, this time on how to get hold of old wills and probate, with examples of the mysteries they can unravel.



The group runs on the 4th Friday of the month, 10.30am, at the Friends' Meeting House. All welcome.

OTHER GROUP NEWS

Welcome to our new members. Do feel free to pop along to any of the groups to have a taster - just as Les has been doing!

The new photography group starts on 13th January at 1.30pm in the main hall of Victoria Hall. Group leader, Ann Sheridan.

There is a high demand for language groups!! Would anyone please be able to run a beginners French, German, Spanish, Italian or Japanese group?? - with help from Jeanne of course. Thank you.

Any group queries? Email Jeanne Hine - groupcoordinator@settledistrictu3a.org

Missed the print deadline this month? If you'd like a reminder sent to you just before the deadline each month, just email the editor.

Many thanks for the items in this month's newsletter. For the next edition, articles of **150 words max** to newslettereditor@settledistrictu3a.org by **Monday 30 December 2019**
We may edit articles to fit the space available.