



Learn, laugh, live

Settle District Newsletter

Issue Number 4/18 January 2020

settledistrictu3a.org Registered Charity No 1095635

Learn, laugh, live
with Settle District U3A



We hope 2020 brings you
peace, health, happiness and
fun

Monthly meetings are on the 2nd
Thursday, Victoria Hall, 10.30am,
just £1. Coffee from 10am

This month: January 9th
'Campbell's Bluebird' by David
Howard

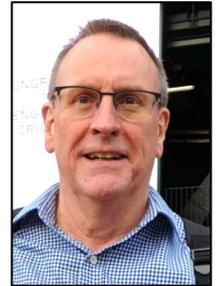


Next month: 13th February
'Cyber Crime and Internet
Security' by the NY Police



WHAT A GOOD IDEA!

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



Well, the season to be jolly has come and
gone and now it's time to be making your
New Year resolutions - if only so you can
enjoy the thrill of giving up on them later in
the year. While I was musing on what I might resolve for
2020 I started thinking about resolutions that our U3A could
consider. In the process I discovered that a U3A in Northern
Ireland recently sold clothes and jewellery - donated by
group members - at a special fashion show. They had a lot of
fun and raised £2,000. What a good idea! We could do
something like that. Or what about starting a Maths Group
like they have at a U3A in Hertfordshire? Working through a
SATS textbook, with no prior knowledge, the group members
have learned a lot and can now help their grandchildren with
their homework. That sounds like a good resolution too.

Talking of grandchildren I was with them on Christmas Eve,
tracking Santa's progress round the globe on my smartphone.
While we were monitoring his journey through Kazakhstan I
received two messages from U3A members asking about my
progress with group visits. I'm asked so often about this that
I'm beginning to feel like one of those satellite-tagged
migratory birds making its way south to Africa. Well, for
those of you who are interested I visited two groups in
December: Wine Appreciation and Card-making. I now have
a better appreciation of wine and I definitely appreciate the
Wine Appreciation Group. What a lovely bunch of people.
And talking of lovely people the Card-making Group is
fantastic. Going to a meeting of this group is like entering
Aladdin's Cave - such wonders await you there. I loved 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.

Seasons greetings, Les - chairperson@settledistrictu3a.org.

Don't forget that the Yorkshire and Humber Region U3A is
running a Turner Study day at The Mercer Gallery in
Harrogate on 10th March. Contact chines845@gmail.com

MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hello, my name is Jeanne, I am the U3A group coordinator. My role is to support the leaders and members of our groups, and encourage and support members to set up new ones. In recent months I have been helping the webmaster with the new website.

If you would like to put something on the website you can ask me to do it for you. I have been in U3A since 2011 and this year I am enjoying the dance groups.



A NEW GROUP for 2020? Try something new!

Try a new **swimming group** on Wednesday mornings - Kath Mason will run the group if there are enough people interested. Don't forget the new **photography group** which starts Monday 13th January, 1.30 at Victoria Hall. We would like to set up a **ballroom / latin dance group**. Would anyone like to lead this group?? If you are interested in any of these, please contact Jeanne Hine at the monthly meeting or by email - groupcoordinator@settledistrictu3a.org

GREAT LIVES GROUP

In December we had a most interesting presentation by Ian Tennant on Philip Larkin, Coventry born but for many years synonymous with the Brynmor Jones library at Hull university. His powerful poetry encompassing contemporary speech rhythms and vocabulary was much appreciated in the group. Despite some of his controversial views (admiration for Hitler, hatred of "abroad" and children!!) and ambivalent attitudes to women (from shyness to philanderer - a wife and a succession of mistresses, often concurrently) Larkin is generally recognised as a giant of the post-war generation of British poets. He was also the well respected jazz critic of the "Observer" for 10 years. Depression and melancholia were however often his companions throughout his life and he died in 1985 aged just 63.

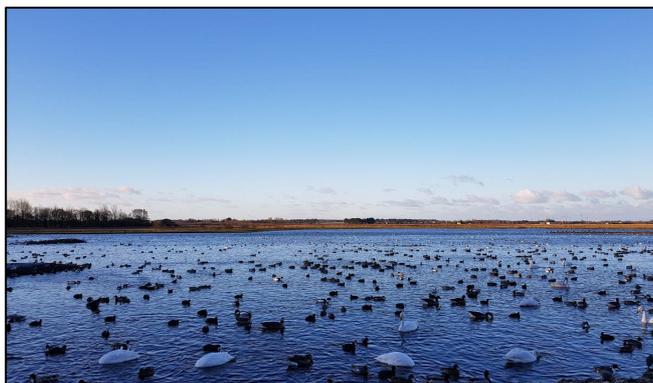
On Wednesday 15th January, by complete contrast, I'll be offering some thoughts on the life and work of Florence Nightingale, Victorian legend. **John Jebson** (01729 825786)

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

In December the birdwatching group went in search of the elusive Crossbill at Beacon Fell Country Park. Did we find any? Well ... group member Alan Bailey can answer that for you. He was moved to tell the story of our Crossbill Safari in verse:

*Crossbills were sighted;
The group was delighted;
But one grumpy member
Was far from excited.
"Call that a treasure"
He said in displeasure,
"It's nobbut a finch
With a twist for good measure.*

In January we go to the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's reserve at Martin Mere. We'll let you know how we got on in next month's newsletter.



Contact Group Leader **Les Chandler** on lchandler52@gmail.com.

CAN YOU HELP??

Our Speaker Secretary, Kath Mason is currently booking speakers for our 2021 monthly meetings - yes 2021!. If you have details of a recommended speaker, or a particular topic that would interest you please email Kath on speakersecretary@settledistrictu3a.org. It may not be possible to include all suggestions, but ideas are always welcome.

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 3rd February 2020**
We may edit articles to fit the space available.