

Dear u3a friends!

I'd like to start with a BIG thank you to members who sent back views on funding of our u3a, following my recent request.

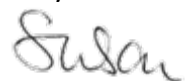
My inbox was nicely busy with replies, along with a good pile of completed paper copies of the questionnaire. It's brilliant to know that so many people responded — this will give our committee a good picture of how people feel about u3a, to help shape the future.

Our committee meets soon to look at your responses and consider how we progress the review of funding. I'll keep you updated on this discussion.

In the questionnaire replies, it was heartening to read so many positive comments about being a u3a member, as well as thoughts on u3a costs. Our Settle District group is definitely achieving the u3a goal of providing opportunities to learn, laugh and live.

Our next monthly meeting is just around the corner, so come and learn about Dog Breeding with Ros Kind, on Thursday 12 March. We meet at 10am for refreshments and the talk starts at 10.30am, at Settle Methodist Church.

Very best wishes,



Susan Clews sdu3a.chair@gmail.com



Committee role spotlight - Vice Chair

Given that we have successfully operated for the last two and a half years without a vice chair, the answer to the question 'what does the role involve?' would appear to be 'not very much'. However it does provide support for the chair, standing in on occasions when they are unable to attend, and offers an extra pair of hands with tasks that crop up unexpectedly from time to time. While the secretary, the treasurer and the membership secretary for example have clear roles that already take up a significant amount of their time, the vice chair has the freedom and flexibility to take on additional responsibilities or things that fall outside the remit of other committee members. It is also an important way of getting to know more about how the u3a works in preparation for taking over as chair. It's a fantastic way to learn the ropes and I would thoroughly recommend it. Please contact any member of the committee if you would be interested on taking on any this or any other committee role. **Robert Jackson**, sdu3a.vicechair@gmail.com



u3a
Settle District

MONTHLY MEETING

2nd Thursday of the month, 10 for 10.30am at St John's and Zoom.

Members and non-members welcome
Entrance £1, tea/coffee 50p

Thurs 12 March
Dog Breeding



by Ros Kind

Thurs 9 April
The English Civil War



by David Slater

This war, which was not just English, nor very civil, touched every aspect of contemporary life and still has resonance today

GROUP NEWS — BIRDWATCHING

February saw the last of our indoor meetings for this season with an in-depth look at the UK's gulls and terns. These birds evoke very different emotions. While terns are viewed as delicate and delightful, the common term pictured, *[photo Phil Simnett]* gulls are seen as big, noisy and



unpleasant. But if gulls are a monster, we humans created that monster through over-fishing. Because they can't dive for fish, gulls were forced to look for food on land which brought them into conflict with people. The sad thing is that gull species continue to be persecuted despite suffering serious decline worldwide. This catastrophic fall in numbers could see us lose all six of our breeding gull species starting with the Common Gull and the Kittiwake. This is bad news given the significant part they play in maintaining a healthy environment.

For more information about the Group check out the [Birdwatching Group webpage](#) or contact **Les Chandler** on lchandler52@gmail.com

GREAT LIVES

Bob Young gave his usual polished presentation in February, this time on poet, broadcaster and architectural critic, "*Come friendly bombs and fall on Slough*", John Betjeman. His poetry had themes based in 20th century everyday life which appealed to a far wider audience than was usual for the genre. His *Collected Poems*, published in 1958, sold an astonishing 100,000 copies in its first edition and he was made Poet Laureate in 1972. There were two women in his life; wife Penelope Chatwode by whom he had two children and his mistress Lady Elizabeth

Cavendish, the love of his life. A statue of him was erected in St Pancras Station, London to acknowledge his successful campaign to preserve its architecture. He was afflicted by Parkinson's Disease and died in 1984.

Our next meeting will be on March 18th, Catholic Church Hall 10.45am, when Debi Burridge will give a presentation on Caroline Herschel. **John Jebson**

WALKING

The proposed walk from Buckden was abandoned due to the adverse weather. Ideas for the walk were pooled and we walked along the high road to Langcliffe, and on to Stainforth via the Hoffman Kiln. We headed to Feizor and warm bowl of soup in Elaine's warmed us up for a very windy walk back to Settle.

Seven of us enjoyed a good walk from Hanlith to Malham by the river Aire, and back via the Pennine Way. We saw the source of the Aire, a recognition of the industrial past of the river, and the watery grave in Kirkby Malham church. Four of us started a nine mile walk in Gargrave following the Pennine Way to Airton.

Six members of the Tuesday Walking Group enjoyed a circular walk from Settle to Langcliffe via the weir. It was lovely to walk in the sunshine after so many wet walks this year. Contact group leader **Annette Lindsell**, annettelinsdell@yahoo.com

CARDMAKING

As you can see the sheep are dreaming of summer meadows and the hares are planning for March in February! Contact Group leader **Wendy Newby**



OLD BUILDINGS

In February the group visited Blackburn. First up was Holy Trinity, an imposing Victorian Gothic church with tall, elegant windows and an impressive interior [photo©Churches Conservation Trust]. Unusually the church was built by the



Government because the population of the town was growing so fast the Church of England didn't have the funds to keep up with demand. In the 1940s the vicar of Holy Trinity was Chad Varah who went on to found the Samaritans. In contrast to the grandeur of Holy Trinity, St Leonard's is a simple little church, one of very few built in the reign of Mary I — 'Bloody Mary'. This beautiful building is thought to incorporate stone taken from nearby Whalley Abbey, when it was abandoned after the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

For more information about the Old Buildings Group check out the [Old Buildings Group webpage](#) or email the group leader, **Les Chandler** on Ichandler52@gmail.com

SCIENCE FOR ALL

At our last meeting, Howard Crumpton gave a talk on the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of hydrocarbon reservoirs, a technology that allows the extraction of oil and gas from rocks that were previously uneconomic to develop. Howard's talk addressed many of the concerns surrounding this controversial technique, including water use and contamination and whether it causes earthquakes — yes, it does.

Our pre-Christmas meeting with three short talks and a social time following with nibbles and mulled wine was a success. So we are planning a similar session for 20th March, pre-Easter. The three short talks are Iain Burke, *Is there Life out there?*, Christine Taylor, *Wanderings* and David Holdsworth, *Chinese Remainder Theorem*. These will be followed by chocolate nests, Simnel cake, traditional Easter cake and chilled white wine.

The Science for All group was established by Anita Lee in November 2024. After Easter Christine Taylor takes over the role of Group Leader. **Anita Lee** [Thanks Anita for all your hard work establishing this great group!]

CRAFT

At the craft group this month we injected a much-needed bit of spring into our afternoon. We made flowers from offcuts of felt, garden wire and salvaged buttons. They're displayed here in vintage ink bottles. Next meeting is on Friday 27th March. Group leader **Charlotte Treglown**, charlottetreglown@googlemail.com



ART APPRECIATION

At our last meeting we turned our attention to Lent, in that Diane Dillon gave us her take on three pictures of the crucifixion, as portrayed by El Greco, in the 1500s, by Salvador Dalí and by Stanley Spencer in the 1900s. They offer a great contrast in the depiction of reverence and of cruelty. The Dalí picture is in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum which bought it for £8000 and was criticised at the time for profligacy. Our afternoon was rounded off by Jackie Allott telling of her love of Peter Doig's paintings. Much inspired by Gauguin, there is a similar use of colour for emphasis rather than verisimilitude.

The first Tuesday of April falls on Easter Tuesday, so we will give it a miss. We need more volunteer material for May — new ideas are always very welcome. Group leader **David Holdsworth**, david.holdsworth@bcs.org

ART

The art group have been working hard on portraits to reach an impressive standard, as you can see. If any members are interested in improving their art skills, just come along. Contact group leader **Teresa Gordon**, daveglass56@icloud.com



SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Sadly, one of our most loved members, Ann Maynard, passed away recently. She will be missed by the group and all who knew her. Ann's funeral is on the 20th March at



2pm at Skipton Crematorium. We join the group in sending our condolences to Ann's husband, family and friends. The Singing for Pleasure groups meets on Tuesday mornings at 10am at the Friends' Meeting House and all are welcome. Singing ability is not necessarily required - it's just a relaxed, enjoyable session. **Cate Holland**, cmholland468@btinternet.com

And finally . . . a bit of exercise anyone?

Several members of Settle District u3a undertook the Couch to 5K programme before Christmas and successfully completed the Skipton Park Run to mark their achievement. To keep the momentum going and to encourage others to follow their example, we have now set up an informal 'not a park run' park run. We don't have a park or any of the timing gadgets that they have in Skipton, but we do have a beautiful loop round Stackhouses and Langcliffe. We meet in the Swimming Pool car park at 9am every Saturday and welcome people of all ages and abilities. It's not a formal u3a event and there is no charge. It's not a race, just a friendly run for anybody who wants to get out for a bit or exercise at the weekend. No booking, no fuss, just turn up. Hope to see you there! **Robert Jackson**, sdu3a.vicechair@gmail.com

Thank you for all the contributions to the newsletters. As always, views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the committee. The deadline for the next edition, 150 words max, is **5pm on Monday 30 March**. We reserve the right to edit articles without consultation. Articles to the editor at sdu3a.newsletter@gmail.com