



Settle District Newsletter

Issue Number 9/25 August 2026

settle.u3asite.uk Registered Charity No 1095635

Hello!

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their u3a membership. It's super to see so many members coming back year after year, as well as welcoming new members. There is still time to renew your membership now – just come along to our Information Day or visit our [joining information page](#) to avoid any queues on the day.

Information Day is on 13 August, from 10-12 at St John's Church in Settle. It will showcase many of our groups – so why not drop in and see what's on offer? We'll have lots of group leaders present, displays and demos and you can sign up for something new.

If you have local friends and family who aren't members of u3a please encourage them to come along too as there really is something for everyone.

It's exciting to see three new u3a groups launching this autumn – meditation, cryptic crosswords and map reading. A big thank you to members who are running these.

There's no monthly meeting in August – and who would want to follow Les Chandler's fascinating talk on coalfields which was expertly researched and presented. We invite any member with an interest area to consider sharing at a monthly meeting – always a friendly audience and another way to get to know people.

So, until our next meeting, very best wishes,

Susan Clews, Settle and District u3a Chair sdu3a.chair@gmail.com

Committee News

We and group leaders are looking forward to catching up with you on the Information/Sign Up day to share news and information about our 43 groups for 2026/7. Yes, 43 groups! You will be spoilt for choice. Just to let you know we have had a great response to all the new groups that have been set up. There are two groups, beginners and advanced, for Cryptic crosswords with leader Tim Swingler, Meditation led by Audrey Larkins and Map Reading led by Ken Larkins. All are all full with a waiting list. Any problems or queries please contact the membership secretary, Denise Fenner on sdu3amembership@gmail.com or leave a message on the U3A enquiries line.

u3a
Settle District

MONTHLY MEETING

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

All welcome Entrance £1, visitors £2, tea/coffee £1

Thurs 13 August
Information Day - Come and see what groups have to offer for the new year



Free entry & refreshments!

Thurs 10 September
The American Songbook
by Stuart Atkin



After a lifetime in music, Stuart will present the works of some of the most renowned songwriters from the USA

GROUP NEWS — UKELELE

Our well established ukulele group currently has space for some new members. It is a relaxing, friendly and informal group with many having attended for several years. There will be a table at the information day and we will be happy to chat with newcomers. Support and help and encouragement for newcomers is happily offered but a separate beginners tuition group is not currently available. Many beginners have made great progress within the group so far.

Our past highlights are performing at the Christmas party. We are all looking forward to the next sessions. We meet in Settle on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 pm until 4pm.in the Friends' Meeting House in Settle. **Liz** and **Denis**, ukulele group co leaders, sdu3a.programmes@gmail.com

PHILOSOPHY

What is Philosophy? How does the study of philosophy illuminate our view of the world and how we interact with others - now and in the past?

Interested? Come and join our lively discussions starting with an overview on 17th September at 2.15 pm at the Friends Meeting House. No prior study of philosophy required! Come and sign up on 13th August. Group leader **Rhys Davies**, rhyskatdavies@gmail.com

WALKING NETBALL

Throughout the year our weekly sessions have included the usual mix of exercise; improving heart health, building strength, and enhancing coordination. We have had plenty of fun along the way and managed sporting challenges with stoic acceptance.

Joining the group is a terrific way to meet new people. Team sports help to forge bonds; friendships becoming social networks. Everyone who comes along plays a part in the overall success of the group, regardless of ability.

A huge thank you to everyone for taking part, past and present. The hall has been full of laughter, relentless energy, and irrepressible enthusiasm. It couldn't happen without you.

The group is taking a short break throughout August. Sessions will resume at St John's Hall on Wednesday 9th September at 10am. Why not see how you can make a difference along with building your skills and self-confidence. Find out more on the Information Day. **Diane Lawlor**

BIRDWATCHING

July took the group to the RSPB's Fairburn Ings reserve for a '*Spoonbill Safari*'. On arrival we made our way to a special watchpoint overlooking the trees where several Spoonbills, and a large number of Little Egrets, have made their nests. We couldn't get too close for fear of disturbing the birds but through the leaves we enjoyed views of attentive Spoonbill parents and their chicks [Chris Chandler]. These bizarre but



charming birds never cease to delight. When it was time to leave the Spoonbills one of the adult birds drifted majestically across the sky in front of us, banked and swooped down to its nest, its crop full of food for a hungry chick. What a special way to sign off our visit! For more information contact **Les Chandler** at lchandler52@gmail.com

PICKLEBALL

The pickleball group has a few spaces next year. Pickleball is played on a badminton sized court and is a cross between badminton, table tennis and tennis with an underarm serve. It is played with a paddle and air ball - both of which are supplied. It is a really easy way to exercise without being aware of it (until afterwards perhaps) and we have a lot of fun. It's quite addictive — you have been warned! We meet on Monday mornings at St John's Church Hall. **Kath Hamflett**, Pickleball Group Leader, 01729 268673

OLD BUILDINGS

June and July were a very busy time for the group. In June we visited Farnley Hall near Otley, home of the Fawkes family and best known for its extensive collection of paintings by J M W Turner - a family friend and regular visitor to the Hall. In July the group visited Queen Street Mill in Burnley, the last surviving steam-powered weaving mill in the world [*Phil Simnett*], for a



fascinating insight into industrial weaving in the Victorian era. Then it was Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion featuring very fine collections of historic furniture, portraits, and textiles. Finally the group enjoyed a second tour of Bradford City Hall for those members who missed the outing in April.

For more information about the group check out the Old Buildings Group webpage or email Old Buildings Group Leader **Les Chandler**: lchandler52@gmail.com.

SETTLE SOLOS

We are a small group of single people who meet twice a month in the afternoons of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in The Folly coffee house. If you are on your own or a carer for your partner and would like to meet others in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere then please come along and give the group a try. We have a WhatsApp group which you can join so that you can keep in touch with other members about events that may be of mutual interest. Members have attended the cinema at Victoria Hall and other events there, plus bonfires and concerts further afield. Come along and you will be made welcome. Group leader **Anne Brennand**, annebrennand@outlook.com

WALKING

From Gargrave the walk started along the canal toward Skipton then across fields to Flasby. From there we followed the beck to Hetton. After lunch at Hetton and a short stretch up a minor road toward Winterburn we turned off onto a track to Friars Head. The last stretch was via Eshton back to Gargrave. The walk was approximately 8 miles in total.

It was a beautiful morning as we climbed out of Arncliffe and onto the moor with views of Littondale behind us. The usually boggy peat was as dry as a bone. Wharfedale came into view as we walked along the ridge before we descended into Litton and made our way back through the meadows to Arncliffe. **Annette Lindsell**, annettelinsdell@yahoo.com



SCIENCE FOR ALL

Science for All aims to inform and entertain whilst demystifying science and putting the fun back. Science doesn't have to be scary or baffling or jargon-heavy. This group is for curious minds: people who just want science made accessible. Our talks are mainly light-hearted but explore some challenging topics. We've had a look at Victorians who panicked when mains electricity was first introduced: they thought it would leak out of the power sockets! We discovered the science facts behind the fiction of Frankenstein: some modern medicine is based on the book. We learnt that Antarctica was once a tropical jungle. The tricky subject of fracking was aired objectively. Or you might want to learn the forensic skills of Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple, then try them out to solve a 'crime'. Our continuing success story has been the enthusiastic interaction of audience and presenters. Learn and laugh with S4A. Group leader **Chris Taylor**, chrisinsettle@gmail.com

PLAY READING

In June we read and laughed through *Out of Order* by Ray Cooney (1990) - a political comedy/farce that seemed to fit whatever the politics-of-the-day might be. In May we read *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie (1953) which by chance is currently playing at London County Hall. Christie had a preference for her drama to be played out in a site-specific space. We have thought of trying such a 'specific' reading again ourselves maybe next year.

Plays by J B Priestley, Woody Allen, L Brown & M Benjamin, Alan Bennett and R & A Goetz have entertained and stretched us. The latter play, *The Heiress* (1944) but from an earlier tale by Henry James (1880), led to a 'near riot' amongst us as we tried to really establish who had/would do what. All good fun. We meet again in October with a script to be decided. **Jackie Allott**, 1jab2jal@gmail.com

CRAFT

The craft group, which meets on the fourth Friday of each month, has a few spaces available. At each session we spend a couple of hours trying a craft activity together, but



members are also welcome to bring their own projects and enjoy the company. **Charlotte Treglown** charlottetreglown@googlemail.com

BOOKS

The Skylarks War by Hilary McKay (2018) was our book for July. This was a 'first' for the Group — a 'Junior' title and winner of a Costa Children's Book Award. It was generally enjoyed. The setting was the early 20th century when Clarry, Peter and cousin Rupert survived their dysfunctional childhoods. Barely adults themselves they faced the traumas of WW1. We wondered at the author's ability to pitch the storyline for her readers age-range 9-14 years. There was plenty of well researched detail about day-to-day living which would have likely informed younger readers and have been nostalgic for older ones. On balance the story had 'weight' and well managed suspense. For September we will be reading *Midwinter Break* by Bernard MacLaverty (2008) Group leader **Jackie Allott**, 1jab2jal@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 24 August**. We reserve the right to edit articles without consultation. Articles to the editor at

sdu3a.newsletter@gmail.com