

Introduction from the Chair

Greetings to all members.

Let me start by thanking all involved in the production of this newsletter. Jean Pearson and Keith Coates have assembled all the information in just 5 days, from the initial meeting to the first draft. Thanks to all members and convenors who have forwarded snippets for your enjoyment.

I am certain many members are avid readers of “Third Age Matters” and will know that U3A nationally is just about to welcome its 1000th group. This set me thinking about the history of U3A nationally and Todmorden, in particular. “500 Beacons”, written by Eric Midwinter, one of the founders of U3A, gives a detailed history from the 1980’s to the time when there were 500 groups.

U3A Todmorden was founded by the late John McNair, who was about 90 years old, at the time. He was the first Chairman and only Honorary Life Time member. John was an educationalist and in his memory a plate, to be presented annually to a language student, was given to Todmorden High School.



U3A Todmorden now has 448 members and 40 special interest groups. There are 12 committee members. Also involved in its running are many unsung heroes: 31 convenors, who organise the groups so well. The publicity group who write reports for the local newspaper, update the web site, keep us up to date on Facebook and also produce the posters. There is a small group who every month ensure the posters are displayed. At the monthly meetings, refreshments are provided by a small back room group. At the front of the room is a small team who ensure we can hear the speaker and see the videos and photographs.

All these activities take time and so we regularly ask for volunteers. Recently we have been pleased to welcome Gill Radford as Vice Chair; Emily Watnick as Assistant Treasurer, and Janice Wrench. However, eventually, all committee members will have completed their stint and will have to be replaced. The original concept of U3A was that “older people deserved educational facilities and older people should manage their own educational facilities.” So new people are always required with new ideas. There are no vacancies, at present, on the committee, but we always welcome help from any member. Please get in touch with me or any committee member.

Ernie Rogan, Chairman, U3A Todmorden

Christmas in U3A

Oh to be in U3a, now that Christmas 's here
Each group has a party, it is that time of year
If you're not good at baking, or maybe not inclined
Pop along to Morrisons to see what you can find
When you go out shopping, don't hurry back in haste
It may be best to get some clothes with elastic in the waist
No one really wants to be ignoring all those chocs
I mean it's very, very rude to shoo away the box
Then there's the lunch at Stubbins, the menu looks so good
I couldn't stop myself, from selecting Xmas pud
So do yourself a favour, it would be so unwise
If you don't equip yourselfwith clothes a bigger size
Glenys Halliday
U3A Todmorden Poet in Residence

Christmas Meeting

The Central Methodist Church will be open from 1.30 pm for a 2 pm start on Thursday, 15th December, 2016, again with our well-known non-alcoholic punch and other seasonal goodies for your delight!

The meeting will begin with entertainment by John Wallis of Halifax, entitled 'The Golden Age of Music Hall and Variety'. His presentation will involve well-known songs accompanied by banjo, ukulele or mandola. The humour is traditional old-style from Yorkshire, Lancashire and Liverpool. He is well-received in the area and was recommended by one of our members. Foot-tappers and songsters most welcome!

This will be followed by our usual Christmas Quiz and our Quiz Group Convenor – Myrna Beet – says the Quiz will be full of fun with pictures to identify, a music section, Christmas abbreviations, a maths puzzle and much more! So, do come along and give it a try!

**Vice Chair
Gill Radford**

Hello

I would like to introduce myself to those members of U3A Todmorden who don't already know me, which is likely to be rather a lot of you since I only joined this wonderful organization in 2013. Having taken the opportunity to retire early after teaching in the Secondary sector since 1978 (give or take a couple of years) Phil and I moved back west after living in North Lincolnshire for 23 years.



How lovely it is to be back amongst these glorious hills! Our goal had always been one day, to live somewhere where we could put on our walking boots, open the door and go! No longer the need to drive for 2 hours or more to the Peak District or somewhere similar in order to

find a challenging walk. The Pennine Way is on our doorstep and one fine day, when Phil too is allowed to retire we will perhaps complete this taxing walk we started two summers ago 100 miles down, just 168 to go! In bite size chunks of course!

Childminding duties prevent me from taking part in more U3A groups. I would love to join the Craft group but that is on a Friday when I go to see my grand children in Rochdale. So I have to make do with convening two French Improver's groups and attending Anne's Advanced French Conversation class and Duncan's Spanish for beginners – although he would love us to believe we had developed into intermediate students!

I am learning the role of Vice Chair by attending monthly meetings and watching avidly to see to what exactly I have committed myself....and was it a short straw? I decidedly think not, because without being introduced to U3A Tod, I might be still wondering how to occupy myself profitably away from the classroom. Indeed, with all the interesting and enthusiastic people I have met here, I just hope I can keep up!

John McNair Memorial Plate

The Chairman's Introduction mentions the John McNair Memorial Plate for Languages which was presented to Todmorden High School in memory of John who was the driving force in forming U3A Todmorden and its first chairman. The photograph shows the presentation of the Plate in September 2013 by Jean Pearson (then Chairman), accompanied by John's daughter Barbara, to the Head Teacher and head of languages. The photo was taken by U3A photographer, the late Phil Willis.



**Membership Secretary
Dinah Kenworthy**

Dinah was elected to the committee in June and has become our Membership Secretary.

Dinah is local – being born a “few years back” in Cambridge Street – so many of our members will know her because of her association with so many organisations in Todmorden.

She enjoys tennis, golf, sunshine and cars but dislikes the slowly, creeping demolition of our town.

You will meet Dinah at the signing-in desk at our member`s monthly meetings where she is always helpful if you have any questions about our organisation. She welcomes help from our members – it`s always very busy. If you would like to get involved – and have the opportunity to get to know other members and learn more about our organisation – you can contact Dinah on 01706 813590 or dinsut@yahoo.co.uk



**Assistant Treasurer
Emily Watnick**

Hello, I`m Emily Watnick, recently co-opted to the U3A Committee as Assistant to Treasurer Bill Griffith. I will be helping out on the desk at the monthly meetings collecting subs and doing other money-related things.

I am a fairly new member of the U3A, having moved to Hebden Bridge from South London with my husband Gavin Bate when I retired last year. Originally from New York I have lived in the UK for almost 40 years. We have two sons living and working in London. We were attracted to life in the North when one son was at university in Sheffield and Manchester and came to appreciate the landscape, the people, and everything there is to do in the area. Also useful is a train service close at hand so I can get back to London to continue supporting Crystal Palace FC!

I`m a member of the Mah Jong, Scrabble, Art Appreciation, and Quiz groups (on the subject of quizzes, some of you may have seen me recently on Only Connect on BBC2.) Gavin and I have been made to feel very welcome by our new friends in the U3A , and joining the group has helped us to settle and feel part of our new home area.

Most of my working life was spent in charity finance, the last 11 years as Finance Manager at the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings –a useful place to go for advice if you own an old home of any sort. I hope to use my experience to make a positive contribution to the success of Todmorden U3A.



Committee Member
Mary Devereux

I moved to Sowerby Bridge when I married a few years ago and transferred my U3A membership from Ilkley to Todmorden. I remember thinking at the time Todmorden seems rather a long way from my new home. Little did I know what awaited me!

I am a retired teacher and psychologist with a special interest in motivation and learning difficulties. I was warmly welcomed to the new group and was soon travelling along the valley frequently. I am currently an enthusiastic member of several groups practical art, art appreciation, art club and Let's Go. I have very much enjoyed making friends and exploring new directions.



More recently, a friend inveigled me to join the U3A committee and promptly departed for foreign parts (not Lancashire). I believe committees are undervalued but not a lot would happen without them. I did not retire to spend time in committee but U3A is a worthy exception.

The ethos of U3A has been of great personal benefit to me, with its emphasis on bringing like-minded people together to share knowledge, experience and pleasure. I value the scope for meeting and sharing with others, and enjoy developing new enthusiasms, often learning alternative techniques, from a wide range of supportive people.

National Events

Three events have been advertised recently by U3A National Office:

- U3A Christmas Concert with Brandenburg Singers at The Queen`s Chapel
- The Elizabethan Experience- tours of the Globe Theatre specially tailored for U3A members
- Celebration of 1000th U3A at Friends House ,Euston Road London

It is noticeable that these events are in London as have been other special events such as the annual lecture for U3A members at the Royal Society and the special screening for U3A members of the theatre production of "The Importance of Being Ernest "at the Odeon ,Covent Garden. There are very few, if any, such events outside London. There are clearly more opportunities in London but it should be possible to have some in other major cities.

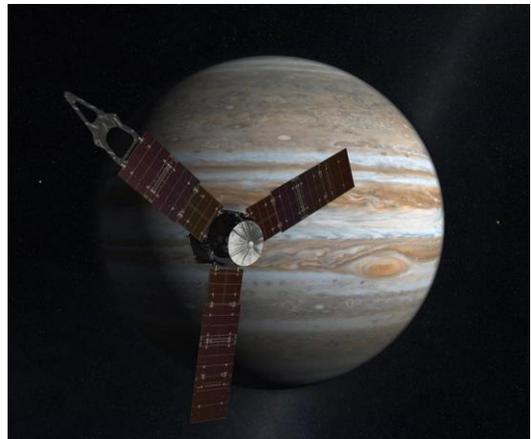
Perhaps this is an issue that should be raised with National Office in conjunction with neighbouring U3As.

Science Group Reaching for the Stars

The science group have been following the progress of the Juno probe that has arrived at the planet Jupiter, and is now sending photographs and data back to earth. John Allison, a member of the group, was part of the design team when he was at Manchester University. The probe took years in its planning and it even took five years to travel from earth to Jupiter and yet it arrived exactly on time.

It is amazing to think that we can fire a rocket from earth with a probe aboard, it can be released and then find its way for five years to get to exactly where we want it to go. One of the first questions John was asked was "How does it do it?" The answer is it navigates like sailors of old by looking at the stars. An on board camera takes pictures of the stars ahead every twenty seconds and an on board computer compares the image with a stored star map. This camera is essential for the probe to know where it is.

However Jupiter has a strong magnetic field which traps high energy electrons. These could produce flashes of light when they hit the camera sensor which might be confused with star light so John's job was to design a radiation shield out of tungsten which would protect the camera. The Juno probe will move into shorter orbits and be sending data back for months to come. John gets twitter feeds from California and has agreed to keep the group updated in the months ahead. Exciting stuff! You can see John's slides at:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-AysSpq22huT0Zuc0M1Si13bTg>

Recently the group has completed a study of some of the best images from the Hubble space telescope and we have also been looking at the interaction between music and the brain. This is a new field and some members found it a bit difficult.

What Next?

In December the group will visit the Springfields factory near Preston where fuel elements are manufactured for nuclear power stations. This is a follow up to our visit to the Heysham nuclear stations earlier in the year.

The group is also investigating how we can use internet courses from future learn. The science group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the month in the upper room of the Fielden Centre.

Geoff Boswell Science Group Convenor

Mah Jong

Our group has been running since April. We began by following some on line tutorials, and now follow the U3A recommended British Mah Jong Rules; there are many versions of the game, and it was felt that this would enable our members to play out of area.

Very briefly, the game is as follows: a Mah Jong set has 144 tiles that are arranged into a square wall. There are 4 players per table, each with 13 tiles that have been drawn from the wall. Players pick a tile from the wall then keep it or discard it until a player has completed a winning set of tiles, whereupon "Mah Jong" is declared. There are 50+ combinations of winning hands, so the game requires lots of concentration, memory, calculation skills and the all important element of chance; this final element makes it a game of surprises and probability-defying winning hands. There was an example recently of what has become known as the "Legendary Triple Knitting Hand"— gasps were heard from behind the curtains in the upstairs bar of Wetherspoons!

Harriet Appleby ha@blurrededges.co.uk

Opera Appreciation

I felt I had a hard act to follow when I volunteered to take over convening the Opera Appreciation Group from Sue Whitehead. She even organised a farewell meeting at her home in August with drinks accompanied by operatic arias.

I decided to focus on 20th century works and have challenged the group with my choice of Janacek's Jenufa and Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw. Both deal with difficult subjects accompanied by unfamiliar music. Jenufa is about a young woman who becomes pregnant and how her stepmother deals with the situation by drowning the child. The Turn of the Screw is a marvellous frightening, ghost story at one level but also a psychological study of the mind of a young governess.

At our November meeting we were delighted to have a guest speaker- Dr Douglas Jarman, an acknowledged expert on Alban Berg who will be explaining some of the music in Berg's opera Wozzeck. Wozzeck is an example of German expressionism. All the characters are extremes of different personality types. It tells the story of a poor soldier who is bullied and abused and ultimately takes his own life. It may sound grim but these operas are marvellous portrayals of the human condition.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the upstairs room of the Stubbing Wharf pub in Hebden Bridge. New members are welcome. No prior knowledge required.

Sue Nightingale suenightingale@btinternet.com

Speaker Finding

When a full quarter of members turn up for our monthly meetings, there'd better be something special waiting! So that could be the business and notices section, or it could be the hour devoted to our guest speaker. No pressure then!

Trying get a balanced programme that is by turns thought-provoking, entertaining and informative can be a challenge. The table shows the range and variety that we have been able to provide over the last four years, thanks in no small part to members for the suggestions offered.

I am particularly concerned to achieve greater parity between male and female presenters – that is a real challenge, since many more men are involved in public speaking. When we recently had one of our speakers assessed by visitors from another institution, I was reminded again of how important, nay vital, members' contributions are. With so many new members, could I perhaps expect suggestions more frequently? Maybe the table will help stimulate you, dear member, to contribute?

pink - social, personal, constitutional ;... **yellow** - celebration of trips; always specific to that presenter; **green** - local, nature, history, music, arts ;...**blue** - engineering, technology, science...

As well as prompting your ideas, I hope that the table also brings back good memories. Enjoy the sneak preview of 2017

Peter Carrigan Speaker Finder

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Dec	?	Music old days/quiz	/Quiz	Punch and Judy/Quiz	Bygone Times DVD
Nov	In hand	Cotton cartoons 14-18	From Tod to Korea/Marilyn	Cycling	Age and Motoring
		Alan Fowler	Alan Stuttard	Mike Darke	Inst AdvMotorists
Oct	Don't chuck it Check it	Mus Theatre Gilb/Sull	Anne Lister	Canals	Psychology 2
	Sheila Antrobus	Bernard Lockett	Pat Osborne	Diana Monahan	David Groves
Sep		Moses Holden	Gallivanting ont bus	U3A Chair	An Immigrant experience
		Steve Halliwell	Dave Whatmough	Barbara Lewis	Chandra Law
Aug	Life on the edge	Chocolate	Magna Carta	Youngsters/care	Hebden little theatre
	Dr Mary Holmes	LesleyWoods	Jean Pearson	Henrietta Bond	Ray Riches
Jul	Food	Guatemala/Palestine	N Korea fact/fantasy	Air Ambulance	Gardening stately
	Geoff Tansey	David Gilman	Geoff Budd	-	John Sheard
Jun	Have Guitar will Travel	Canadian subarctic	Back Issues	Venice living	Off Stage Choices
	Neil Smith	Frank Nicholson	Lynn Midwinter	Kathryn Ogden	Andrew Rawlinson
May	Oregon Trail	Stranger in Japan	Extremes India	Chernobyl children	Still at school
	Ian Barclay	Gill Russell	Sally Pulvertaft	Mai Chatham	Geoff Scargill
Apr	Eurovision	Life as a cabbage	Summat or Nowt	History of the Car	Miracle of movement
	Derek Scott	Jane Shepherd	Steve Murty	Barrie Yates	Mark Tyrer
Mar	NurseryRhymes	Short in tall world	My Convict Family	Countryside service	Photography
	Alex Hemsworth	Penny Dean	Sue Hayter	?	Geoff Boswell
Feb	Titus Salt	Ice Caves	Lament for the Mills	Galapogos	The Press
	Maria Glot	Ian Barclay	Robert Cockcroft	Geoff Carter (R)	John Greenwood
Jan	Dei goes to war	Orientalism music	Aquaponics	Music for the Ear	Yellowstone
	Alun Pugh	Derek Scott	Paulo Marini	Paul Whittaker	Geoff Carter

Lets Go Group

The Let`s Go Group arranges trips /visits about every 6 weeks throughout the year which are open to all U3A members. During 2016 the group will have visited 10 venues which have included 2 Museums, 1 garden, 1 city, a recording of a TV programme and 5 houses including gardens.

The success of the group is demonstrated by the continued high level of demand. There will have been 487 bookings from members during the year ; an average of nearly 50 per trip .

Plans for 2017 are already being drawn up by Convenor ,Linda Cooke ,and her assistants.

All details of the Let`s Go Group activities can be found on the web site www.u3atod.org .

Bramhall Hall



The latest Let`s Go trip was to Bramhall Hall The construction of the hall began in the late 14th century by the de Davenport family, still a well known name in the area. The building was extended and modified over about 400 years.

From 1870 to 1935 the house passed through various owners until eventually sold to the local council. Much of the house and contents to be restored to "original." condition. Of National importance is the Solar, with its wall paintings, which dominate the room. Dating from the 1530's these are one of the most extensive and well preserved suites of wall painting in existence. These indicated the wealth and status of the Davenport family and are rich in symbolism. The paintings are filled with moral messages and are to warn that evil lurks everywhere and chaos will ensue if a moral life is not led.

The Withdrawing Room was added above the Great Hall in about 1570 and has a beautiful and intricate plaster ceiling; the height of fashion in Elizabethan times. Above the fireplace is the coat of arms of Elizabeth 1 and the motto "Vive la Royne". There are also rooms decorated in Victorian style, which have been carefully preserved.

Contact details for U3A and its Committee Members

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01706 813590 Dinah Kenworthy

Email us at : enquiries@u3atod.org.uk

On the web: www.u3atod.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/u3atod

Committee

Officers:

Chairman	Ernie Rogan	01706 812015	arlineandernie@tiscali.co.uk
Vice-Chair	Gill Radford	01422 886021	gillmradford@btinternet.com
Secretary	Marion Kershaw	01706 839176	todwords@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Bill Griffiths	01706 876984	billgriffiths0@gmail.com

Members:

Gail Allaby	01422 844392	g.p.allaby@allaby-cook (Groups Co-ordinator)
Peter Carrigan	01706 43391	carrigan90@gmail.com (Speaker Finder)
Keith Coates	01706 344821	k.coates994@gmail.com
Mary Devereux	01422 831923	molly-bloom@hotmail.co.uk
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Peter Gibson	01706 814137	toddytg@gmail.com (Database Controller)
&Technical Officer)		
Dinah Kenworthy	01706 813590	dinsut@yahoo.co.uk (Membership Sec.)
Emily Watnick	01422 843601	emilywatnick@gmail.com (Asst Treasurer)

Special Interest Groups

Art Appreciation/History	Mary Findon	01706 814022	w.m.findon@btinternet.com
Art Club	Jean A Pearson	01706 813933	pearson382@btinternet.com
Board Games –	Denise Wilson		denisewil16@btinternet.com
Coffee Club	Jean A Pearson	01706 813933	pearson382@btinternet.com
Concert Party	Rita Olley	01706 819926	ritaandreg@todonline.co.uk
Craft	Mary Findon	01706 814022	w.m.findon@btinternet.com
Creative Writing	Barbara Griffiths	01706 876984	barbiergriff@gmail.com
Computer Tablets	Ian McAdie	01422 842474	ianmcadie279@gmail.com
French Conversation	Anne Foster	01706 814623	thefostershq@yahoo.co.uk
French Improvers	Gill Radford (there are two French Improvers Groups)	01422 886021	gillmradford@btinternet.com
Gardening –	Ann Brook	01706 815099	ann.brook@gmail.com
German	Vicky Jackson	01422 845327-	vejx@btinternet.com
Golf for Fun	Mike Cook	07976402276	mic@allaby-cook.co.uk
Greek -	Peggy Thomas	01422 646744	peggythomas@wilinsky.com
Jazz	David Greenhough Lynne Taylor	07795570906 or 01706 876181 01282411902	lynne.tlr@btinternet.com
Let's Go	Linda Cook	01706 817254	landcook@talktalk.net
Lunch Club	Judy Lower Gisela Lea-Mccan	0754968992 01422 843329	judypaul.lower@talktalk.net gleamccann@aol.com
Mah Jong	Harriet Appleby	01422 886909	ha@blurrededges.co.uk
Music Appreciation	Richard Pomfret	01706 839115	richpomf@googlemail.com
Natural History	Audrey Locksley	01422 882049	al@locksley6.plus.com
Novel Appreciation	Anthony Peter	01706 551998	antpeter51@yahoo.co.uk
Opera Appreciation	Sue Nightingale	01422 886771	suenightingale@btinternet.com
Philosophy -	John Bouttell	01706 839075	johnbouttell@gmail.com

Special Interest Groups

Photography	Anne Beard	01422 883823	time4tea4@gmail.com
Photography Group 2	Ernie Rogan	01706 812015	arlineandernie@tiscali.com
Poetry Appreciation	Lynne Taylor	01282 411902	lynne.tlr@btinternet.com
Poetry Enjoyment	Lynne Taylor	01282 411902	lynne.tlr@btinternet.com
Poland Appreciated	David Greenhough E Freeman (Email Contact only)	07795 570906 or 01706 876181	edithf789@aol.com
Practical Art	Wendy Coates Mike Peace Corinne Roberts	01706 344821 07745124085 01706 559754	coateswendy1@gmail.com michael_peace2@hotmail.com stonetroyd12@gmail.com
Science	Geoff Boswell	01706 813860	gbosewell@gbosewell.plus.com
Scrabble - Group 1	Pam Booth	01706 818729	
Scrabble – Group 2	Marion Kershaw	01706 839176	todwords@yahoo.co.uk
Social History	Alan Fowler	01422 842828	alanfowler1944@btinternet.com
Spanish Improvers	Duncan Relf	01706 814668	duncanrelf@btinternet.com
Table Tennis/Badminton	Ann Priestley	01706 815451	pann900@talktalk.net
Quiz Group	Myrna Beet	01706 815458	myrna-cb@tiscali.co.uk
Walking	Anne Beard	01422 883823	time4tea4@gmail.com
Wine Tasting	Roger Howard	01422 886771	jrogerh2@btinternet.com
World Affairs	Doug Simpson	01706 813404	doug@dougsimpson.plus.com

For further information on any group please contact the Convenor or visit our website www.u3atod.org.uk to view our Diary and monthly Groups Report.