

**GROUP NEWS
JANUARY 2024**

Art Appreciation/History

Members enjoyed watching a DVD telling the story of how the chapel at Vence came to be built. It all hinged on a young lady who came to nurse Henri Matisse after his operation for cancer. A great friendship developed (although some surmise that Matisse fell in love with her). She later became a nun, who took the name Sister Jacques-Marie. The story was told by her, now an old lady, with wonderful recall and a twinkle in her eye and with plenty of archive footage. Matisse designed every piece in the

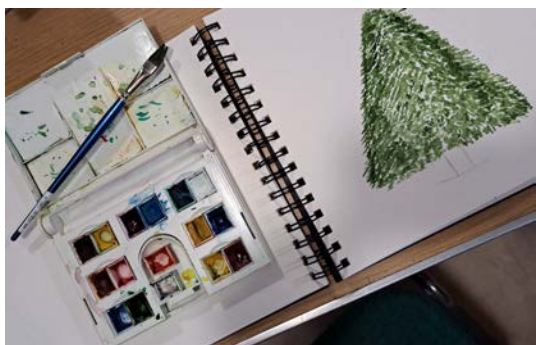
chapel including the glorious windows, the confessional door, the priests' raiments and the altar piece. He drew on the tiled walls using a brush tied to a long cane. There was hardly a dry eye in the room as she told how at the last her Mother Superior forbade her from going to his funeral. Thanks must go to Gaynor Lea-Greenwood for buying this DVD when she visited the chapel. It is not easy to get hold of.



Our next meeting, the first Thursday in February, will be a visit to Dean Clough, Halifax to see an exhibition of their collection, not often on view. Doug Binder, artist in residence, will be setting up his studio in the main gallery and will happily chat with visitors.

Art Club

Our final meeting of the year comprised two, distinct parts. A first hour of concentrated, contemplative creativity gave way to commingling and chatting, over a delicious bring-and-share tea. An enjoyable finale to a busy and productive year. Art Club has space to welcome new members to our fortnightly meetings on Wednesday afternoons, at Fielden Hall. If you would like to come along, meet us and enjoy a taster session, contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, e. tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com



Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met again on Monday 8th January, with eleven players enjoying games of Qwirkle, Splendor (definitely spelt without the "u") and CuBirds for two convivial hours. Our sessions happen just once a month, on the afternoon of the 2nd Monday, downstairs at the White Hart, starting at 2pm and going on until about 4. To find out more, get in touch with either Brenda or Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987 - or just turn up for a taster session, or to watch and wonder at the variety on offer..

Canasta Group

The Canasta Group had its first meeting of the year on 9th January when we welcomed a new member Sally, making up two tables of a 4 and a 5. Our next meeting is Monday 22nd January at the White Hart 2 – 4 pm.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Monday of the month at the White Hart 2 – 4 pm. It's not too late to join us if you're interested - further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

This year, the Classic Literature Group met for a Christmas lunch in December. We enjoyed the meal and good company at The Old Gate in Hebden Bridge.

We will be discussing 'Slaughterhouse-Five' by Kurt Vonnegut at our forthcoming January 2024 meeting.

Coffee Club

On the 8th January, on a cold but thankfully dry morning, ten of us met at Honest Johns in Todmorden for the first meeting since early December, four of our number also stayed for lunch.

In addition to talking about the Tod U3A groups other topics discussed included the Jewish / Hamas conflict, flood mitigation, forthcoming local events, widely differing personal experiences of Police action following burglary, the value of locally formed lobbying groups etc etc.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 5th February in the private room on the right as you enter Honest John's. Someone will be there from 10.30 - 12.15 pm so feel free to pop in for a few minutes or the full session and enjoy a coffee and a chat. Drinks are ordered from the room.

Meeting: First Monday of the month 10.30 am until noon, Honest John's, Todmorden

Contact edithf789@aol.com

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

Senior Moments has become a very friendly, flexible, and supportive group which has grown in confidence since it was first formed. We had the first post-lockdown events before Christmas: a sing-along as part of an Overgate fund-raiser. and performances at two Care Homes in Todmorden.

In the coming year we expect to receive invitations from a variety of local groups and organisations, and look forward with interest to what 2024 may bring.

We usually meet on Friday afternoons 2 – 4 pm at the Fire Station community room and would welcome anyone who would like to drop by to find out more. Alternatively contact Gill Baldwin on 01422 845365

Creative Writing

A good turnout for our first meeting of 2024, with some pieces left over from Christmas. One was a description of people preparing, and shopping for the big day – not many, if any, of our members knew that this was viewed by a mannequin. A poem compared the story of the Nativity with that of the plight of refugees that still continues. Another epic journey featured among the contributions, with train cancellations and their effects which most of us are familiar with.

Our themes for January are "It Sounds Like A Good Plan" and "Was It Really Such A Bargain?"

Contact Colin on colinsanson236@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining the Group

Craft Club

The group's last meeting of 2023 was spent making Xmas tree ornaments, having our Christmas party including Secret Santa, painting on fabric bags and preparing materials for use the following day at Kidsfest.

After the 4 week break over Christmas we assembled again on January 12th to finish working on the fabric bags, sorting out all of the remaining Kidsfest materials and of course catching up.

The next two sessions on Jan 26 and Feb 9th will see us making quilled flowers, frame boxes and small clay vases. All of these will be combined in various ways.

Over a dozen members of Craft Club spent Kidsfest providing a range of activities for the children who approached our tables. At the end of the day we were all exhausted but on reflection decided that we enjoyed our time there and would consider repeating the exercise next year.



Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The group have vacancies for new members. We meet every 2 weeks, mainly on zoom so that nobody needs to drive home. The group is all about enjoying some wine and wanting to know more about it. We meet face to face at The Fielden Centre about every other month though are considering making this more frequent.

Contact Bob Hayter bobhayter_2000@yahoo.co.uk or Michael Astrop mwastrop@gmail.com for more details.

European Film Club

The European Film Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month 13.30, film at 14.00 at Roomfield Church. Any enquiries should be sent to angelagreenwood@free.fr

French: 'An Improvers Group'

We have started the New Year at Tod College, our new venue. A big thumbs up from all 12 participants on 8th January, with no unsurmountable parking issues.

We are working from 'BBC Talk the Talk French, an indispensable toolkit' if any newcomers are interested in joining us. Do contact me, or assistant convenor Margaret Russell, if you would like the ISBN number or help with locating a copy. The book is certainly well named and ideal for improvers at all levels.

I look forward to the next session on 22nd January, 1.30pm to 3.30pm, in Hawkstones Room (203) when members will present their role play and introduce us to their imaginary family. Brothers, sisters, grandchildren, in-laws, etc will all be played by members of the group.

Such fun! Gill Radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The monthly zoom meetings continue. This month we had a good chat about the things we had not had time nor weather to do in the garden. And thoughts turned to spring and seeds. Ideas were swapped and advice given.

The Zoom Gardening Group meets at 10.30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month from October to March. Group Convenors are Peter Gibson (toddypg@gmail.com) and Fiona Ryland (fio.a.ryland@gmail.com). Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A Todmorden.

German Group

On 9 January the German Group was back in The Honest John for our usual two-hour session. But not everything was 'usual' on this occasion. True, everything started with our usual chat in German, and the last half hour was taken up by reading, translating and analysing another short story. But between these two events we had something else.

One of our members, an ex-Tod High teacher of French and German, challenged us all with a very different kind of exercise. She handed us all sheets of paper containing the lyrics of a song which she then played to us. The tricky bit was that the written lyrics weren't complete, so our job was to fill in the missing words. Not easy, but fun.

Last week was different too. Last year we read and translated Andorra, a play by the Swiss author Max Frisch. This year we'll be reading another Swiss play, Der Besuch der alten Dame by Friedrich Dürrenmatt - another popular A level text. We began last Tuesday. I think we picked the right play.

Golf for Fun

Winter is upon us, but we continue to meet informally for a short round (9 holes) most weeks, weather permitting. The regular time is Monday for a 10.30 am tee-off. Sometimes members play on Tuesday afternoons, 1.30 pm, taking advantage of opening times at the Club House.

Please contact the convenor John.Allison@3-C.Coop

Let's Go

This group has a break over the winter months whilst we arrange the 2024 programme and will resume after Easter.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club hasn't met since the Christmas lunch in early December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23 January at the Shoulder of Mutton in Hebden Bridge. Enquiries about the Lunch Club to denisetyas@me.com

Mah Jong

Welcome to two new members – Martin and Diana. Both have got their feet under the table and their heads round the basics and play a mean ordinary hand. We look forward to their excitement on achieving their first special hand.

The old lags have had a pretty unspectacular month. Nevertheless, a couple of very decent 1000+ ordinary hands with doubles from June and Maureen – 4224 and 1920 respectively. Never underestimate the potential of an ordinary hand, especially if you are East and you whack in a mah jong with concealed majors, especially dragons and your own wind.

We meet every Wednesday from 15.00 until 17.00 in The Golden Lion, whose hospitality is much appreciated. Please contact Emily Watnick if you are interested in joining us - emilywatnick@gmail.com. New members still very welcome.

Members On Their Own (M.O.T.O.)

The MOTO group meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at Honest John's at 11am and the next one is on February 19th. New members are always welcome. To find out more, please ring Kay on 01422 844567.

Modern Greek Group

The modern Greek class re-commenced on Thursday 11th of January. We have a full and very harmonious group. We are progressing very well. We can no longer accept beginners I'm afraid.

Meeting Alternate Thursdays in Hebden Bridge town hall at 11am Contact rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk

Novel Appreciation

We met on Monday 8th January to discuss *A Month in the Country* by JL Carr. In this short novel, Tom Birkin looks back to the glorious summer of 1920 when, newly discharged from the army and still shell-shocked from his experiences, he accepts a commission to restore a medieval wall-painting in the church in the (fictional) North Yorkshire village of Oxgodby.

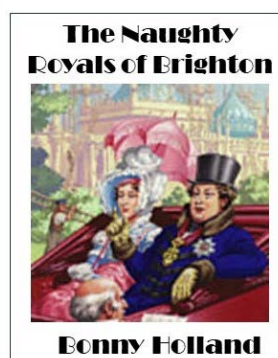
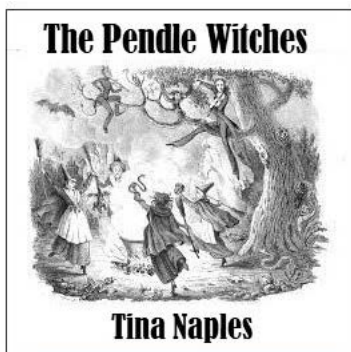
As the "Judgement" is revealed, Birkin is drawn into the community, undergoes a recovery - and falls in love.

We found the novel was beautifully written, with much feeling, whilst avoiding sentimentality. There was humour, especially in Londoner Birkin's first reactions to the North and its speech and customs. There was gentle suspense: what would the painting reveal? who was buried in the tomb just outside the graveyard? how would Birkin's love-life progress? Perhaps what appealed above all was an indefinable "atmosphere" which beautifully captured the sense of a hot summer in the kind of rural Yorkshire community that has long since faded away.

Our next meeting is Monday 5th February to discuss *All the Light we Cannot See* by Anthony Duerr.

Online Zoom Talks

The group now has 83 members registered and 27 members connected for the third talk. The third talk was about 'The Pendle Witches' by Tina Naples from Durham u3a.



The next talk is on the 1st February at 2 pm and it will be 'The Naughty Royals of Brighton' delivered by Bonny Holland. Discover the Royal Pavilion Palace, an iconic seaside pleasure palace known for fun and excess, built for King George IV.

If the weather permits Bonny will do a livestream virtual walking tour where she'll show the stunning Royal Palace built in the Indian style, and tell the tales associated with it. If the weather is not conducive, she will deliver her normal slide talk that covers the same content.

A programme is arranged up to the 4th April, and if you are not registered, but would like to receive the link for the talks just email Michael on mwastrop@gmail.com.

Opera Appreciation

On January 12th the opera was another version of the Cinderella story - Rossini's "La Cenerentola". This is the spectacular 2008 Barcelona production featuring Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Florez, both widely acclaimed for their roles of Cinderella and the Prince."

Members are welcome to attend any meeting to see if they are interested in joining the group."

Meeting. Second Tuesday of the month Roomfield Baptist Church 01706 344821 or email k.coates994@gmail.com."

Philosophy

The next philosophy meeting is via zoom on 22nd January at 10.15 am with the topic of White Holes.

The next meeting at Roomfield is at 10.15am on 5th February with a topic yet to be determined.

Meeting Alternate Mondays at 10.15 am at Roomfield Baptist Church and or Online via Zoom Please contact baronps@hotmail.com

Photography Group One

Meetings now held in the small room at Fielden Hall on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays, together with outings. Details from billgriffiths0@gmail.com or by phone at 07966171126

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

Meeting. Second Friday of the month. Contact davidaconolly@gmail.com

Poetry Enjoyment (zoom)

Our poems at our December meeting had a Christmas and winter theme. We concluded that Christmas is a time of great joy but also a time of remembering and missing loved ones no longer with us.

Sadly, I am no longer able to convene the poetry enjoyment meetings. At present no members of the group feel able to take on the role. We have decided to suspend meetings for 3 months and then review the situation. Hopefully with the coming of spring one of us will feel able to take on the role.

Contact suenightingale@btinternet.com.

Practical Art

In mid-December the group met for a short catch-up session before going to the Top Brink pub for an excellent Christmas Meal.

We returned on Friday last for our first session of 2024 where we welcomed some new members to our group. Our activities centred around drawing birds with particular attention to detail of colour and plumage. This is in part a preparing for our next class when we will be using our bird drawings for some group artwork on a similar subject.

Meeting. Alternative Fridays 10.30 am -1 pm at Fielden Hall contact coateswendy1@gmail.com or Corinne Roberts stoneyroyd12@gmail.com

Psychology

Six members met this week to begin discussion on our chosen topic 'Seven deadly Psychologies' a series of Radio 4 programmes based on the seven deadly sins. These are still available on BBC Sounds.

We listened to a download of 'Greed' and the format seemed to work well, so we agreed to continue with 'Pride' next month. This could prove a particularly interesting topic as it is generally acknowledged to be the only one of the sins to have positive, as well as negative, connotations.

We'll meet again on Thursday, February 8th and listen to the programme at the meeting, so if you intend to join us although it might be helpful to listen to it beforehand, it won't be a problem if you've not been able to.

Quiz Group

Next Quiz group is on Thursday 25th January at Central Methodist.

Meeting. Fourth Thursday at 10.00 am, Central Methodist Church convenor. myrna-cb@tiscali.co.uk

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

We had our first meeting of the year at Honest John's. Rather than review a specific book we each talked about a book we had read during 2023. A mix of fiction and non-fiction were talked about along with the reason we had chosen the book or author. It was a really interesting session the format of which we will no doubt use again in the future.

Meeting. 1st Thursday of each month, 1pm onwards at Honest John's. Please contact Convenor Christine at daisyfieldhouse@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested in coming along.

Science Group (Zoom)

The Science Group holds a Zoom meeting each Wednesday opening at 10.00am. At each meeting we have two half hour video lectures, one from each of two series. There is a brief discussion after each lecture. An email including a link to access the meeting is sent to all Science Group members ahead of each meeting. The lectures start at 10:15, and the meeting normally closes at around 11:30. For further information contact Tom Williamson at tom.w16@outlook.com

The first course is "Origins of Life" The next five lectures are:- Life from the Bottom of the Sea, The Deep Hot Biosphere, Experiments at High Pressure, More Experiments Under Pressure, and Deep Space Dust.

The second course is "Chaos". The next few lectures are entitled:- "The Properties of Fractals", "A New Concept of Dimension", "Fractals Around Us", "Fractals Inside Us", and "Fractals Art".

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, downstairs at the White Hart, and our most recent meeting on the 15th January saw three full tables in action, with the return of some old hands as well as more recent recruits. But we always have room for more players (of any level of experience). If you're tempted to join us please just turn up, or get in touch with either Brenda or Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Social History Group

The Group will meet again on Friday January 19 at the Methodist Church Todmorden at 10.15am to continue its discussion of the 'The Class of 37'. We will be discussing the chapter on Blackpool.

Please note the change of venue as our last meeting had grown rather large for our previous venue

If you are interested in joining us please contact alanfowler1944@btinternet.com

Strollers Group

We are currently hibernating until March. Details of the March Stroll will be emailed to everyone in February.

Tablet Club

Meeting. First Tuesday of the month. 11 am. Honest Johns contact ianmacadie279@gmail.com

Table Tennis & Badminton



Table Tennis/Badminton meets every Monday during term time, at Todmorden Sports Centre, at 3:00 pm. Cost £3/session.

Meeting. Mondays at 3.00 pm Todmorden Sports centre please contact Ernie Rogen: arlineandernie@tiscali.co.uk IF YOU Would like to join this group.

Walking Cricket

It turned out that the first coaching session of the year, on the 4th January, was the last with our coach John Brierley as he stood down as our coach on the following Saturday. This has led us to forming our own coaching team, who will be carrying out coaching sessions at the end of our regular sessions.

Our first playing session, on the 11th January, attracted a record number of group members, and some excellent skills were on display.



Some of Our Ladies Batting

The next session is on the 25th January at 11 am to 1 pm at the Todmorden Leisure Centre. If you fancy a game or just want to try it out, either contact the convenor Michael Astrop on mwastrop@gmail.com or just turn up at the Todmorden Sports Centre, Ewood Lane on the second (2 pm to 4 pm) or fourth (11 am to 1 pm) Thursday in the month.

Walking Group

The Walking Group meets on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) and details of each walk are sent out in advance by email to all Group Members.

Our January walk will be led by the Convenor, Peter Gibson on Tuesday 30th January. However, the response to the recent request for volunteer walk leaders for other 2024 walks has been very poor, with just 3 volunteers to date. If the group is to continue, then more members will need to come forward as walk leaders.

Enquiries about the group, or requests to join, should be addressed to Peter Gibson at toddygp@gmail.com. Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A Todmorden.