

**GROUP NEWS
FEBRUARY 2024**

Art Appreciation/History

17 members visited Dean Clough to see the vast exhibition of their permanent collection which has never previously been shown in its entirety. Doug Binder was responsible for the setting up of the art galleries at Dean Clough and was curator and artist in residence for over 30 years during which he was responsible for the acquisition of much of the collection. Now in his 80s he still has a studio there. He gave us a talk about his journey as an artist and meetings with various well-known celebrities. He designed and painted Paul McCartney's famous psychedelic piano.



We meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Fielden Hall, Ewood Lane, Todmorden.

New members are always welcome. Any enquiries to Judith Malone, tel: 01706 812890, email judith.a@zen.co.uk or our convenor Tristan Molloy, email tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com

Our March meeting will be an illustrated talk by Campbell Malone on the School Prints.

Art Club

From Selkirkshire to Somerset – via Lancs. and Bucks. - *Childhood Memories* have been shared over the past month. Art Club members told personal stories through water colour and collage (and delicate calligraphy; work which is ongoing). 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 12th February, with a select company enjoying games of Ticket to Ride, Qwirkle, and... a new one to the repertoire, Sequence; all of which were much enjoyed. 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 Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987 - or just turn up for a taster session - you'll be made very welcome, and won't need to worry about being a new-comer, for we are all always in the process of learning to play our games.

Canasta Group

The Canasta Group has met twice since the last Group News with 12 members coming along on Monday 22nd January when we had three tables and again on Tuesday 13th February when nine members came and we played a four and a five. On both occasions there were moments of laughter and chat as well as more serious times when it was all to play for.

Our next meetings are on Monday 26th February and Tuesday 13th February at The White Hart, Todmorden 2 - 4 pm and thereafter on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Monday of the month. It's not too late to join us if you're interested - further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

We met at Honest John's to discuss our 'Slaughterhouse-Five' by Kurt Vonnegut. We felt that this anti-war novel was a timely choice in light of the wars and reporting currently flooding our screens. Slaughterhouse-Five is a semi-fictional and satirical account of Kurt Vonnegut's POW experiences following the Battle of the Bulge and his survival of the Allied bombing of Dresden in 1945. The book is narrated by Billy Pilgrim who has PTSD following World War II, causing him to become 'unstuck in time' and to believe that he has been abducted by aliens. We had a lively discussion which included the history, context and controversy of the firebombing, whether Billy is a reliable narrator, the unusual mix of genre, whether the several non-linear time frames work and Vonnegut's description, in Chapter 1, of his 23 year struggle to write the book. Slaughterhouse-Five was published in 1969 during the time of the Vietnam war and became a cult novel for protesters against the war. It has been banned in parts of the US at various times from 1972 to 2007 due to its sexually explicit material and political message.

We will be discussing Volume 1 of The Cairo Trilogy, 'Palace Walk' by Naguib Mahfouz at our February meeting.

Coffee Club

Despite the unavoidable absence of four regular members nine of us met at Honest John's on 5/2/24 for the coffee club with six of our number choosing to remain there for a light, but delicious, lunch where conversation continued to flow

Among topics discussed were the re-design of U3A website, Todmorden Town Deal, possible deficiencies in practical support to families given 'end of life' diagnoses, suitable walking routes within easy reach of Todmorden and old-fashioned health remedies e.g. poultices etc

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 4th March** 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 Please mark email u3a Coffee Club.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

Senior Moments is a very friendly troupe, and we have received invitations from a variety of local groups and organisations, including some who want us to visit again. (to apologise perhaps?)

At the moment we meet on most 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. After Easter however, we intend to change to Tuesdays. So please contact Gill Baldwin on 01422 84536 for more information

Creative Writing

Our themes for January were "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 members continue to explore and develop a range of craft skills at their meetings. On January 26th and February 9th some members spent more time working on stencilling bags/T shirts etc whilst others turned their attention to quilling. This was a new experience for some of the newer members. Quilled flowers were made along with a customised frame box to display them.

On February 23rd the project will be a return to jewellery to make pendants or brooches. On March 8th we shall be preparing for Easter by making appropriate decorations.



Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The group continues to enjoy their wine in a relaxed way whilst learning a little more about it and why they might or might not like certain varieties. There are still vacancies for more members, contact Bob Hayter or Michael Astrop for details. We meet online on Saturday evenings every couple of weeks when we buy our own wine to drink based on an agreed theme. This means that nobody has to drive home after. There is also no expectation to spend a lot on the wine, there are many excellent wines stocked at the local supermarkets. Our next meeting on 17th February is one of our occasional face to face group socials when we will meet over lunch at The Moorcock Inn, Littleborough and sample wines from their stock.

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

European Film Club

The European film Group is now halfway through this short season of 6 French film noir/thrillers dating from 1938 to 1995. The group is always well-attended with a post-film discussion for those who wish to stay. (contact details available on Tod U3A website)

We have now reached maximum membership until we return in September for the start of a new academic year.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

The 2 sessions in February are on 12th and 26th, at Tod College, Hawkstones room from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. We are using a BBC book called 'Talking the Talk French. How to chat in social situations: your indispensable toolkit'.

It is jam packed full of very useful phrases and tips to make sure you don't put your foot in it - as long as we can remember the right ones at the right time!

Our first session this month includes practising the French alphabet and spelling out loud (to a hotel receptionist) key information. The video clip is 10 choses à savoir sur Paul McCartney.

Several new members have joined us recently, and with our new space, there is still room for more if you would like to come and see what we do.

Amitié radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The monthly zoom meetings continue for at least another month. We discussed plans for our individual gardens this spring and the purchase of seeds and other plants. Offers were made of giving cuttings and runners from our gardens. During the later spring and summer months we will visit each other's gardens - to swap ideas and have a sociable time.

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

For the last four sessions (all held from 14.00-16.00 on Tuesdays in The Honest John) we have been concentrating on reading and translating the Swiss author Friedrich Dürrenmatt's most famous play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* (1958).

So far the work appears to be a comedy, but a certain darkness lingers in the background, reminding me of Mozart's words in Hermann Hesse's *Steppenwolf*: 'Humour is always black, otherwise it's not humour' (1927).

The more we read of this play, the clearer it becomes as to why it has been such a popular A level text for so long.

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

There is no Lunch Club meeting in February. Details of the March meeting will be sent to members shortly. Enquiries about the Lunch Club to denisetyas@me.com

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 Greek class is progressing and is now tackling deponent verbs- those with a passive form but active voice.

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

Mah Jong

- **Mixed Pungs** - a Double Limit score! – for Barbara this month. A major feather in a player’s cap, that hand is.
- John has had a set of seasons which scores an extra double and is a rare phenomenon.
- Ant has had a couple of very decent scores with All Honours hands – 5888 and 5376. The trick with All Honours is to be East (extra double) and to have concealed pungs/kongs which score more.
- And Diana has been a table winner for the first time. Congratulations!



We have a new member, Gail, who has mastered the basics already, and was able to join us for our annual Chinese New Year meal at The Golden Lion where the Three Lady Chefs did themselves proud and made us very happy. Thank you to them: they’re great. (It’s the Year of the Dragon, by the way.)

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 - treasurer@u3atod.org.uk New members still very welcome.

Novel Appreciation

This month we discussed Anthony Duerr’s *All the Light We Cannot See*, set in WW2 and inspired by the author witnessing a fellow train passenger annoyed by his poor phone signal. Duerr wanted to write in appreciation of the miracle of long-distance communication.

It has a lyrical style with many sensory descriptions. The two central characters are a French girl, blind since aged 6, and a German boy with exceptional radio technology skills. Their paths cross in St Malo during the air raids and their decisions demonstrate moral ambiguity.

Most of us enjoyed the book, particularly the language and writing style. Some considered the characterisation a little one-dimensional. The ending of the book was challenged, it seemed to go on too long, and the finish was thought contrived.

Most of the group were glad to have read it and appreciated the detail and research, along with the beauty of the writing.

For next month, we are currently reading Rose Tremain’s *The Colour*, to be discussed on 4th March

Online Zoom Talks

The group now has 84 members registered and 29 members connected for the fourth talk, the Naughty Royals of Brighton' delivered by Bonny Holland.

The next talk is on the 7th March at 2 pm and it will be 'The Beginning of Everything' by Dr Steve Barratt. Steve will be talking at the members meeting on the 19th September with the companion talk 'The End of Everything'.

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

At the January meeting the group saw a second version of Cinderella - Rossini's La Cenerentola- having seen Massenet's Cendrillon in December. Both were thoroughly enjoyed.

This month we are returning to tragedy with Verdi's La Traviata; seeing what is widely regarded as one of the greatest productions of that popular opera featuring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazon.

We will continue with a varied programme of some of the most popular operas and some lesser known.

There is scope in the group for new members- the group doesn't take " an "academic" approach but simply seeks to enjoy opera and ,perhaps, learn something about it."

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

Philosophy

The last meeting was at Roomfield where we discussed aspects of philosophy as a way of life rather than being an academic interest confined to some inner university sanctum remote from the real world however that may be defined. Following on from various conversations our next theme will be a discussion of self as a concept. This will take place via zoom. Our next meeting at Roomfield is on March 4th at 10.15 am.

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

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

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

Poetry Enjoyment (zoom)

Meetings are suspended for the time being – to be reviewed in the Spring

Photography Group One

We shuffled our meetings around in January, having our first meeting of the month at Fielden Hall where we reviewed the pictures taken in December at Manchester Christmas Market and other Christmas pictures. The second meeting was a visit to the Landscape Photographer of the Year exhibition at Piccadilly Station in Manchester. Seven of us went to the exhibition and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The range and scope of the pictures gave us a different view of what constituted Landscape and gave us plenty of ideas for our future work. We are following up the exhibition with a visit to Towneley Park to take Landscapes and putting our own interpretations on Landscapes.



Picture taken by Dee Kerslake at RHS Glow Event at Harlow Carr Gardens

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 0796617112

Practical Art

We started the new year on the subject of birds, initially drawing and painting from our chosen images and paying particular attention to detail. We had planned an interesting and hopefully fun development on this for Friday January .19th but sadly we had to cancel the session due to bad weather and icy conditions. Happily, we were able to bring this forward to our class on Friday 2nd February.

We worked in pairs again on the bird theme with one of the pair working on the bird's head whilst the other worked on the lower body. We then joined the two together to make a composite bird. It was experimental and intended to be a fun thing to do but with a serious artistic aim of working in collaboration with a fellow artist and also looking closely at colour and texture. The class seemed to really enjoy it and the results were very good so we intend to mount them on display board.

We have had several new members recently and are hoping to run some short workshops on media and techniques within the fortnightly sessions to introduce these to our new members if they wish.

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

Psychology

Six members braved the snow for this month's meeting ... those who didn't were probably the more sensible ones! However, we had an interesting session, listening to 'Pride' this time. This was the second of the BBC 'Seven Deadly Psychologies' series we have chosen as our topic.

We discussed pride both as a positive attribute and pride when it might signify conceit or arrogance.

Next time, we will listen to the programme on 'Envy', which should prove an equally interesting 'sin' to explore. This is still available on BBC Sounds, but we will be able to listen to it at the meeting, if you don't have chance beforehand. So do come and join us.

At the next session, we will discuss the option of continuing with more 'sins' or breaking off, perhaps to return later, and choosing an entirely different topic. So please bring any thoughts you might have for a new topic to the next meeting. New members are always welcome.

We meet next on Thursday, March 14th at The Honest John at midday.

Quiz Group

The next quiz is on 22nd February at 10am 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 met in February to review *The Lie* by Helen Dunmore. Those present all enjoyed reading this book. The writing style and descriptions that gave a sense of place was appreciated. The story is based around a young man who has returned from the great war to rural Cornwall and recalls his childhood, war experience and friendships whilst living isolated. An interesting book followed by an interesting discussion on various points.

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 on Clay, Clay on Life, Life's curious handedness, Self-Replicating Molecular Systems, and Günter Wächtershäuser's Grand Hypothesis.

The second course is "Chaos". The final four lectures are entitled: - "Chaos in Health and Disease", "Quantum Chaos", "Synchronisation", and "The Future of Science".

The course to follow "Chaos" will be "Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach".

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, downstairs at the White Hart. Our most recent meeting on the 5th February saw a somewhat depleted attendance but still sufficient to get in several varied and entertaining games. 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 on February 16 at the Methodist Hall in Todmorden at 10 15 am. We will discuss the chapter in Class of 37 on Storm Clouds. Next month we will start to look at Harry Mortimer On Brass. Harry was born in Hebden Bridge in 1902.

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

Strollers Group

Strollers are hoping to restart in March with a local walk round Todmorden finishing at the Hare & Hounds for a drink and lunch for those who wish. This will give us an opportunity to discuss the future of the Group and plan walks for the following six months. Members of the Group will be receiving an email with more details shortly.

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

The last game of January on the 25th was well contested with the Reds winning by 36 Runs & wickets. It was also the first session where the coaching team of Ashley and Andrew put the group through some training routines.

The first game of February on the 8th was disrupted by snow when many of the key participants (including the scorer, the umpire and the convener) could not make it, but Andrew took the session for the 13 members who braved the elements to play. The scoring was also a team game with Andrew, Nina, Roger, Elizabeth and Sue all having a go.



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

On the 25th the Reds batting with Mieszek & Ash at the crease. Below some the Yellow's attack



The next session is on the 22nd February at 11.15 am to 1.15 pm at the Todmorden Leisure Centre. On the following day the Tigers will be going off to Headingley to play the Leeds u3a in a friendly match.

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 and fourth Thursday in the month. All playing dates can be seen on the u3a web site

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 30th walk was led by Group Convenor, Peter, and it was a day "out of the blue", being just about the only good weather day amongst numerous very wet ones and it was thoroughly enjoyed by 15 walkers. Our February 27th Walk will be led by Sheila Underhay who'll be showing us some of the delights of Burnley. Watch the website calendar for details if you're not a group member.

Recent appeals for Walk Leaders for the rest of 2024 have been very successful, with all monthly slots now filled - the best response for volunteers in the 15-year history of the group! Many thanks to all the volunteers. We even have the possibility of another of Bill Griffiths' Walking Treasure Hunts in December, probably on Tuesday 10th.

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.