

GROUP NEWS MARCH 2024

The Photography Group have their Annual Exhibition at Todmorden Information Centre for the whole of April – so please pop along to support them. The Information Centre is open Monday to Saturday 10.00 - 15.00.

Photography Group

Despite the rather damp February weather most of the group braved the elements making a visit to Towneley Park to take Landscape Photographs. This followed our visit to Landscape Photography of the Year exhibition which showed us that the subject of landscapes did not limit us to the picture postcard images but encompassed a broad range of the various parts that make up the landscape for example trees, structures, agriculture, and people. By using this thought we all managed to capture a wide range of images despite the inclement weather.

At our second meeting in February, we reviewed the images taken at Towneley together with the topic of the month Shadows.

Thoughts of everyone was choosing which pictures each were submitting for our annual exhibition which is to be held again at Todmorden Tourist Information Centre for the whole of April.

Meetings now held in the small room at Fielden Hall on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays, together with outings

Details from <u>billgriffiths0@gmail.com</u> or by phone at 0796617112



The Tunnel, Towneley Park, Fiona Ryland

Philosophy

Our next meeting is via zoom on Monday 15th March on the topic of Rudolf Steiner. There will be a slight change to our normal pattern meetings due to the timing of Easter this year. The meeting due on April 1st at Roomfield has now been changed to April 8th at 10.15 am. We will be discussing whether war is an inevitable human condition. The next zoom will be a week later rather than the normal fortnight in order to retain our usual pattern of meetings. Any suggestions for topics for this virtual meeting are welcome.

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

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation Group met (on Zoom) 14th March and discussed five poems suggested by the idea Anticipation.

Night Soil Man by Calder Valley poet John Foggin tells of the longings of the eponymous hero to be able to enjoy the simple pleasures of smell; lavender, sage, cedar, woodsmoke and lemons, when he retires from his unpleasant job.

Penelope's Tale by Cathy Miles tells the story of Odysseus's 20-year absence at the Trojan war from the perspective of the 'woman left behind'.

The Planets in Love is a puzzle by Emily Breeds "inspired" by Holst's orchestral suite. We remained puzzled. My Life's stem was cut by Helen Dunmore is a celebration, by the dying author, of making the most of the remaining time

Contact davidaconolly@gmail.com

Poetry Enjoyment (zoom)

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

Practical Art

Our Art Group is growing in strength once again, after we have lost people who sadly died, who are poorly or stopped coming after Covid. We have gained five new members recently, and we give a warm welcome to them.

The last sessions have looked at a variety of media and how to use them. Corinne demonstrated the use of oil pastels, vibrant and colourful sticks which can sometimes be used like traditional oil paints. She introduced us to her beautiful landscapes, using these pastels. We also experimented with soft pastels used for landscape.

In a new approach we painted birds in a joint venture, as working in pairs one member drew the body and the other the head, concentrating on detail. Then the birds were matched up and all mounted in a colourful display.

Wendy took people through a watercolour painting of a badger emerging from its sett into the snow, using the wet in wet method of applying watercolour paint. And last week we looked at charcoal used to paint winter trees and the resulting paintings were stunning.

We are now taking a break over Easter as the hall is in use on the day we should meet and we'll return on 12th April at 10.30 to 1 pm as usual.

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

Psychology

There were 8 members present last week to listen to and discuss the BBC programme on Envy. We compared envy with jealousy and remarked on how the use of social media encourages envy in the young (and not so young!)

Next month we will be taking a look at Carl Rogers, one of the leading 20th Century psychologists, whose person centred approach changed much in the thinking of psychotherapy / counselling.

We'll meet at the usual time and place ... on Thursday 11th April. Brenda will lead the discussion, but do take a look at Carl Rogers beforehand if you can.

Hope to see you all then, new members always welcome.

Quiz Group

The next Quiz meeting is on the 28th March at 10.00am at Central Methodist.

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

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

The March meeting of the Three Valley Readers Group discussed "Demon Copperhead" the most recent novel by the American author Barbara Kingsolver. It was highly regarded on publication and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Women's Prize for Fiction and the James Tait Black prize for Fiction.

The book is a powerful and moving reimagining of David Copperfield set in Appalachia and exploring contemporary issues of institutional poverty and opioid addiction. The group all agreed that it wasn't an easy read - it's long (over 500 pages) and the subject matter could be disturbing at times, which led one reader to give up, but most were pleased to have read it.

The book provoked an interesting and lively discussion on the themes covered and the fun of spotting parallels in characters and storylines with David Copperfield. We all rooted for Damon/Demon, finding him a very likeable character and felt that his resilience alone made him "the hero of his own life"

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

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group met for the last time at the White Hart on the 4th March, prior to its closure. Future meetings, starting with the one on the 18th, will take place downstairs at Central Methodists, starting at 2 pm and going on until about 4. 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

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 final four lectures are: - The RNA World, The Pre-RNA World, Natural Selection and Competition, and Three Scenarios for the Origin of Life. The course to follow is entitled "Great Heroes and Discoveries of Astronomy"

The course on Chaos is now complete. The first four lectures in the new course: - "Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach" are "Learning from Failure", "Flawed Design Concept: The Dee Bridge", "Wind Loading: The Tay Bridge", and "Rainwater Loading: Kemper Arena".

Social History Group

The group met in February to finish its discussion of the 'Class of 37'. We are taking a break in March when there will be no meeting. We resume again in April meeting on April 19 at 10. 15 am at the Methodist church when we will discuss the autobiography of Harry Mortimer the brass band leader who was born in Hebden Bridge at the start of the Twentieth century.

If you are interested in joining us please contact <u>alanfowler1944@btinternet.com</u>

Strollers Group

The first walk of the year on 6th March was a gentle walk through Centre Vale Park hopefully learning some interesting facts along the way.

17 of us met afterwards at the Hare & Hounds where we discussed the future of the Group before enjoying a drink and lunch. We had offers from members to lead walks for the next four months and full details will be sent out in due course before each walk to enable you to decide whether it is a suitable walk for you.

Barbara is the new Convenor of the Group so if you would like to join or lead a walk later in the year please contact barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Helen the assistant Convenor who will be in charge of the Admin side of the Group (helenstarmer@hotmail.com)

Looking forward to meeting more of you







Tablet Club

A small group met on Tuesday the 5th March. It was a round table "surgery" where I solved various problems that were worrying members. The problems included doing a "factory reset" on an old phone so it could be donated to a charity. Sorting out which permissions WhatsApp needed to work, access to the phone's contacts, and a similar (but not the same) problem with email. Finally, some discussion around how to install and setup a central heating control app! We couldn't do this because the configuration needs information from the thermostat at home.

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

Table Tennis & Badminton



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

Table Tennis and Badminton restarts Monday 18/3/24. New flooring, members should check their footwear.

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.

Thursday Cinema

A monthly visit to the Picture House in Hebden Bridge with reserved seats in a block so no-one has to sit alone. We will meet on the 4th Thursday in the month for the Elevenses showing (doors open at 10.30). Ticket prices are £5.50 (con) or £6.50 with a free beverage and biscuit.

For more information contact Gwendoline Goddard at gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com or 07833204152.

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 and posted in the website calendar.

Our February Walk was led by Sheila Underhay and the March walk will be led by Anne Wear on Tuesday 26th March. For the first time ever, all monthly walking Group slots for the year were filled by volunteer walk leaders before the end of February - and we might even be having another of Bill Griffiths' Walking Treasure Hunts in December this year!

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



Walking Cricket

The first game of February came on the day it snowed, and so some members could not make it, but twelve did and Andrew (our new co-convenor) ran a good coaching session and a game.

The 22nd February saw sixteen members play an exciting game, which was also was good practice for the visit the following day to Headingley. On the 23rd all of the players that wanted to went Headingley Indoor Cricket School to play the Leeds u3a. A game was played with the Leeds main team, and the members who did not play in that game, played a mixed game with the other Leeds players. Unfortunately, we did not win the main game, but the others players had a great time.



The Tigers started off in high spirits in Leeds as can be seen from the team briefing above





Roger bowling & Andrew at the wicket

The TLC is refurbishing the floor in the gym and so we are having a session at the Cricket Asylum in Sowerby Bridge on the 14th March. On the 28th March we are having our normal session from 11 am to 1 pm and then at 2 pm Ilkley are coming to play us.

The next session is on the 28th March 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 or fourth Thursday in the month.

More to see A - O on following pages......

Art Appreciation/History

We welcomed two guests whom we are delighted to say are now joining our group. Campbell Malone gave us an enjoyable illustrated talk on the School Prints which were produced after the Second World War and background on how they came to be produced. The idea was to send original prints to schools so that every child got the chance to see great art. This was followed by a short film by Goldmark Art which gave us a much closer look at some of the prints which included work by Picasso, Matisse and John Nash, all persuaded to produce a print for this series.

It led to some members recalling seeing prints on their school walls. More recently the Hepworth gallery have followed this trend.

We meet on the first Thursday on the month at Fielden Hall, 2.00pm. Contact Judith Malone Tel: 01706 812890 or Tristan Molloy email <u>tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com</u>. The April talk will be a look at some of the sculptors and works featured in the garden of the Thenford estate.

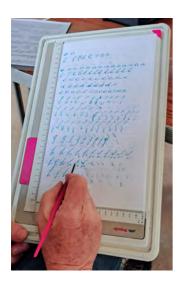






Art Club

Attention to detail, dogged determination and a couple of dogs have featured in Art Club in recent weeks. Quite apart from the good company, Art Club is inspirational in the range of subjects, skills and techniques which members bring and share. I thought I should also introduce you to Baxter, who has been with us for a few months, now and lies, contentedly, under a table, while creativity abounds around; Baxter is one of the quieter members! Would you like to come along for an Art Club taster session? We meet fortnightly, on Wednesday afternoons, at Fielden Hall. Contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com and we will give you details of the next meeting.





Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met again on Monday 11th March, in a new venue. With the closure of the White Hart we accepted an invitation to have free use of the community lounge at Ridgefoot, the Together Housing project opposite Tod College. Clean, quiet and comfortable, private surroundings mean that we shall certainly stay here for the foreseeable future. Twelve members thoroughly enjoyed rounds of Ticket to Ride, Sequence, Azul, Qwirkle and dominoes. To find out more, please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987. 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

Our final Monday meeting at The White Hart Wetherspoons in February saw 14 of us playing three tables of four and a two. Another lively afternoon with much laughter.

Our Tuesday meeting on the 12th March saw depleted numbers due to hospital/doctors appointments etc but 8 of us enjoyed an afternoons play at our new venue the Hare & Hounds where we were made very welcome.

Our next meetings are on Monday 25th March and Tuesday 9th April at our new venue the Hare & Hounds, Burnley Road, 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 <u>barbarawigley@btinternet.com</u>

Classic Literature Group

At our February meeting we discussed 'Palace Walk'. This is the first book in the Cairo Trilogy by the Egyptian author Naquib Mafouz who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988 but is not so well known outside the Arab world. Mafouz was also a strong believer of peace between Egypt and Israel and a supporter of Salman Rushdie.

The Cairo Trilogy is a classic saga in the detailed literary style of Proust or Flaubert or maybe Dickens and follows one Cairo family over three generations from WW1 to 1952. The group was divided in its opinion. Some were hooked and intended to read books two and three, others found the contents troublesome. A good discussion followed.

We will be discussing 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll at our March meeting.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We will return by request to Waterside Lodge at the end of March (to apologise perhaps?). We have also been invited to do a short spot on 6th April at the Town Hall, as part of the Spring Concert organised by Dementia Friendly Todmorden.

After Easter our rehearsals will be at the Fire Station Community room on <u>Tuesdays</u> from 2-4 pm and we would welcome anyone who drops in to meet us.

Please contact Gill Baldwin on 07504290071 for more information.

Coffee Club

Due to holidays, illness, medical appointments etc our numbers were severely depleted at the March meeting but that didn't prevent us chatting about the contents of the most recent U3A magazine also briefly discussing the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

This latter topic proved to be more complex than we had at first envisaged so it was decided to defer exploring in depth until more of us were available. We again discussed the Town Deal and various other local issues but decided against taking lunch on that occasion

As the first Monday in April is Easter Monday that has had an impact on the date and timings for our next Coffee Morning. It will take place on **Monday 8th April** in the private room on the right as you enter Honest John's and will end about **11.45am** Contact edithf789@aol.com Please mark email u3a Coffee Club.

Someone will be there from 10.30am so feel free to pop in for a few minutes for a drink and a chat, drinks are ordered from the room so no need to venture into the bar area unless, as we often do, we decide to take lunch

Craft Club

At the end of the February many members of Craft Club went to the funeral of one of the long-time members of the Club. She will be missed by all of us.

At our meeting on February 23rd we returned to jewellery making, A wide variety of designs were produced from the materials provided.

On March 8th thoughts turned to Easter when we tried (in a few cases without success) to blow eggs so that the shells could be decorated in several ways. Some beautiful examples were made to adorn Easter tables etc.

On Friday March 22nd Club members will be tackling making yarn birds. April 5th will see us using needle felting to produce greeting cards. Then on the 19th newer members will be introduced to macrame whilst those with more experience of the technique will continue to develop their skills.







Creative Writing

Our group have welcomed new members this year, and the last meeting in February and the first in March were very well attended. Our themes for March are 'An argument with a friend', and 'My dream vacation'. Our first meeting in March featured a 'second half' activity of writing about the picture on one of a number of postcards picked at random. The time limit, stretched a little by one or two members, was ten minutes. Just the thing to get the grey cells going on a grey March afternoon!

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

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The enjoyment of wine group continue to make the most of online meetings but from the 19th April will also be meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month at the college in Todmorden. If you would like to come along and enjoy a glass whilst chatting with like-minded U3A members and learning a bit more about what you are drinking please contact one of the group convenors, Bob Hayter and Michael Astrop. The Group has vacancies though places at the college will be limited. We will continue to meet online on the first Saturday in the month at 7pm ensuring nobody has to drive home after having a drink. The theme changes at each meeting and is decided by the group in advance. Last week we all brought a white wine which we tasted and described to the group who then guessed the country of origin, all in good humour.

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'

We are enjoying the sessions at TCLH so much that we have booked 6 more sessions until the end of June.

Sessions revolve around opportunities to use the BBC book 'Talking the Talk French, how to chat in social situations: your indispensable toolkit.'

Up to press, this month, we have shared with the group our rôle plays at a School Reunion, New neighbours 70th Birthday Party, Welcome drinks at a Holiday Village. Great fun! especially when members take on a celebrity's persona instead of their own! We are learning everyday expressions using the verb avoir and continuing to watch and listen to video clips provided by Hugo Cotton.

Contact me at <u>radfordgill23@gmail.com</u> if you are free and fancy improving your long lost French skills on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month, 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The monthly zoom meetings continue. We are arranging visits to each other's gardens during the spring and summer. Visits to RHS gardens are under consideration for later in the year.

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

German Group

Over the last few weeks we've been concentrating on Duerrenmatt's play translated in the American film version, I was told, as The Visit. When we finished the first act last Tuesday, we realised that what some of us thought was a deeply dark comedy had morphed into an equally dark tragedy, potentially, at least.

Our last session was different in another way too: instead of practising our German conversation skills, we had a go at some really quite tricky grammar exercises, playing around with the German passive combined with modals. I thought that the response might be a quiet hmmm, but I got the impression the Members enjoyed themselves, perhaps because it was something different.

So if you'd like something different in your lives, join the German Group! However, we're taking a two-week break over Easter and not meeting again until 2 April.

Golf for Fun

Winter weather is still with us, but we continue to meet informally for a short round (9 holes) most weeks. 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

Our first outing of the season is on Wednesday 24th April to Port Sunlight on the Wirral, where a guide will join us on the coach to give us a tour and history of the village. Contact Convenor for availability.

Local History

The initial meeting of interested members took place on 12th March at Tod College. 15 managed to attend and 17 sent apologies. Friendly, fruitful and enlightening discussions took place, developing a way ahead. Two basic sub-groups were established at this point, one aimed at research and one at working with local archives to transcribe and index documents. If you are interested, but have not previously been in touch, please contact Jim Botten at iroyd33@gmail.com for more information. It's not too late!





Lunch Club

After a break in February the Lunch Club met on Tuesday 12 March at the White House, Blackstone Edge. Details of the April meeting will be sent out shortly.

Enquiries about the Lunch Club to denisetyas@me.com



Mah Jong

An unexceptional month with mah jong except for some impressive scores on Ordinary and All Honours hands:

Maureen -6,912 – enhanced especially by a rare complete set of flowers (2 doubles) and her own flower and season (1 double each)

Ant – a preposterous 12,800

Sian – delighted by her first All Honours of 3,584

Mary also had a rare hand with All Winds and Dragons.

Chasing the rare hands is such a pleasure. The current writer still yearns for a Red Waratah, but recently he has been dreaming of the Gates of Heaven – and you can read into that whatever you like.

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 (Members on their own) group has been put on hold for the time being. If anyone is interested in joining this group in the future, please get in touch with 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

Novel Appreciation

A select few of us met to discuss 'The Colour' by Rose Tremain, about a newly married couple who emigrate to New Zealand from Norfolk in the 1860's, along with his widowed mother, seeking new beginnings and prosperity. The harsh climate and unknown territory presents immediate challenges; Joseph finds some gold - The Colour - in their stream, and thus begins his obsession, which he pursues, leaving the 2 women behind. Tremain uses her research about the gold fields of the time imaginatively; the main characters are clearly drawn, although we felt some of the side characters were stereotypical. We admired the descriptions of landscape and weather. Joseph's selfishness and previous mis-deeds are gradually revealed to us; he eventually returns to England alone. We were relieved when his wife, Harriet, is able to stay to continue without him, anticipating a happier future.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 2nd (please note the change of day to avoid the Bank Holiday), and we will be appreciating 'Norwegian Wood' by Haruki Murakami. Please contact Brenda Botten if you would like to join us: broyd33@hotmail.com or ring 01422 844987.

Online Zoom Talks

Twenty members connected for the fifth talk, by Dr Steve Barrett on the 'Beginning of Everything'. This is a companion talk to 'The End of Everything' which Steve will be delivering live to our members meeting on the 19th of September. It was a superb talk and Steve gave links to a video of the talk a long with a copy of the slides. All those members who attended the talk and who saw the video said how good it was.

When I conceived the idea of online talks, I saw it as something for the winter period, but many of those who have seen them have said they would like them to continue for a longer period, so I am seeking the views of members about if they wish to carry on the programme. Currently, the members wanting the talks to carry on are leading, so if you have not commented please let me know your views.

The next talk is on the 4th April at 2 pm and it will be 'Sleep and dreams' by Robert Pullen If you are not registered, but would like to receive the link for the last talk and future one just email Michael on mwastrop@gmail.com.

Opera Appreciation

We are continuing 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.**"