

APRIL 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

March was a busy time for our group with a return visit to Castlefield Basin in Manchester and rather surprisingly managed to get photographs in areas not previously captured, despite being a rather wet day. The group wanted to revisit again in May when we should hopefully have some fine weather. As well as the visit everyone was getting their photographs printed and mounted ready for the annual exhibition to be assembled on Easter Saturday at Todmorden Tourist Information Centre. The exhibition is on for the whole of April if anyone wants to visit it.

At our second meeting of the month, we viewed the images taken at Castlefield Basin and the project of the month "The Golden Hour" (the hour after dawn and the hour before sunset).

We now have a full membership which is basically the number of members to let us have time for each member to show their quota of photographs at our second meeting of the month with time allowed for discussion. We are now starting a waiting list.

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



Castlefield Basin by Fiona Ryland



Llandudno Sunrise by Janet Almond

Philosophy

We cancelled our scheduled meeting on Easter Monday. The next meeting is on April 15th via zoom. The topic for discussion is metaphysics. The meeting thereafter is at Roomfield Baptist church at 10.15am on April 29th. No topic has yet been chosen.

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

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation Group met (on Zoom) 8th April. Contact davidaconolly@gmail.com

Poetry Enjoyment (zoom)

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

Practical Art

Our group has had a short enforced rest due to the fact that our last session should have taken place on Good Friday and of course the Fielden Centre was closed for the holiday. However, the group continues to thrive with the addition of several new members. We meet again on Friday April 12th. when we will be attempting to design a book cover for a favourite book using photographs, magazine cuttings, paper collage and any other media we think appropriate. We anticipate this to cover 2 sessions and members have been asked to put their thinking caps on and for our session on Friday to just come to class with some ideas for their design. As usual members are free to use the session to further their own creative work if they so wish. Either way Wendy and I are around to help if we can.

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

Eight of us met at Honest John's to learn about and discuss the work of American psychologist Carl Rogers (1902 - 1987). Through his own therapeutic work, he developed his Person Centred Approach, in which the counsellor was to work in a non-directive way, demonstrating empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard for the client. The very act of attentive listening would enable the client to find their own route towards understanding and self-actualisation.

We went on to discuss briefly the 9 protective characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, noting that if society as a whole was more person-centred, we would not have had to legislate! We are unsure about the next session. Details to be confirmed later.

Quiz Group

The next quiz will be on April 25th. The start time will now be 10.15.

Meeting – Fourth Thursday at 10.15am Central Methodist Church. Convenor myrna-cb@tiscali.co.uk

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

The book reviewed in April was A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles an American.

This is his second book which was published in 2016, 5 years after Rules of Civility. The book is about Count Rostov a Russian aristocrat. It is 1922 and he is living in the luxury Hotel Metropol in Moscow. However, he is then sentenced to house arrest and is moved out of the luxury rooms to a small room in the attic. This is during the period of Bolshevik power and the founding of the Soviet Union. Lenin was the ruler followed by Stalin. The book follows his life and relationship over 30 years in the hotel. All those present at the meeting enjoyed the book. This group is currently at full capacity

 $Meeting - 1^{st}$ Thursday of the month 1pm onwards at Honest John's. Please contact Convenor Christine at <u>daisyfieldhouse@yahoo.co.uk</u> for more information.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group met again on April Fools' Day (!) downstairs at Central Methodist Church, with a very full attendance considering it was a Bank Holiday. Much fun was had as usual, with some lively discussions and debates. The next session will be in the same place at the same time (2pm) on Monday 15th April. If you're tempted to join us please just turn up, or get in touch with 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 did not meet in March but we will meet on April 19 to discuss the autobiography of Harry Mortimer at 10 15am.

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

Strollers Group

Thirteen members of the Strollers Group met at 10:30 on Wednesday 3rd April for this Todmorden circular walk led by Graham, largely on well known paths. Not a bad turn out considering the weather - damp and overcast.

The first section of the walk took us along the Rochdale Canal, about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles to the intersection of the tow path and the A6033, where some members with other commitments had to separate.

Eight of us carried on, across the main road and up the fairly steep Hollins Road, and taking a sharp left to climb Lumbutts Road. No real alternative to following the road here unfortunately, and a 3/4 of a mile climb up the hill. Sadly, no improvement in the bogginess of the one field-section of the walk at Blackwater Dam since I'd checked the route a fortnight earlier, so we decided to detour via Long Hey Lane. This added an extra 1/2 mile as we walked the periphery of the dam, to follow the stony track to Shoebroad, passing the Quaker burial ground on the way.

Two of our members were very knowledgeable on the history of this landmark, and were able to answer many questions posed by fellow walkers - thank you!

The final section took us down the steep tarmac hill to the Unitarian Church, where we walked through the graveyard to pick up Longfield Road at the lower gates. Back to Todmorden, having walked 3 1/2 miles on mostly hard footpaths. Next one from me (Graham) is in August - fewer hard paths - I promise!



If you are interested in joining us on our next walk which will be led by Brenda on Wednesday 1st May please get in touch with Convenor <u>barbarawigley@btinternet.com</u> or Admin Convenor <u>helenstarmer@hotmail.com</u> Details will be sent to existing members in due course.

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.

New flooring, members should check their footwear.

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

Thursday Cinema

Fifteen of us attended our March meeting and saw Perfect Days which was much enjoyed by most but a small number were not impressed. The showing was followed by a spirited discussion which took place while we were still seated in the auditorium.

Our next film will be on Thursday **25th April** and will be **Back to Black**, the story of Amy Winehouse's extraordinary rise to global fame from her early days in Camden. It is told through Amy's eyes and inspired by her deeply personal lyrics and her tumultuous love story.

Again I need numbers in advance to enable the cinema to arrange a block of reserved seats enabling us to sit together. So please let me know **by the end of Thursday 18th at the lates**t if you would like to join us for this film using either <u>gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com</u> or by phone 07783204152

We meet on the 4th Thursday in the month for the Elevenses showing (doors open at 10.30). Ticket prices are $\pounds 5.50$ (con) or $\pounds 6.50$ with a free beverage and biscuit.

For more information contact Gwendoline Goddard at <u>gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com</u> or 07833204152.

Walking Cricket

Because the Todmorden Leisure Centre floor was being refurbished we only played on one day in March – but what a day! On the 28th March we had our normal session from 11 am to 1 pm and then at 2 pm Ilkley u3a walking Cricket team came to Todmorden Leisure centre to play us in a friendly game. Todmorden won by 50 runs. Their first victory in a competitve game since their inception in July 2022.

From April onwards the playing times have gone to be from 2 pm to 4.30 pm every second and fourth Thursday. The first session of April was on the 11th and 17 members turned up to play. After a 45-minute warm up and practice session it was decided that the team playing Leeds u3a on the 18th April would play the rest. A good game was had by all ending the 'Tigers' winning by 74 runs.



The game against Leeds u3a will be from 11.15 to 11.30 on Thursday 18th April, spectators always welcome.

The next group session is on the 25th April at 2 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.

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 March walk was led by Anne Wear and the April walk will be led by Jerome Way on Tuesday 30th April.

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.



More to see **A** – **O** on following pages.....

Art Appreciation/History

Ten at Thenford was the subject of April's illustrated talk by our convenor, Tristan. Thenford estate in Northamptonshire was bought by Michael and Anne Heseltine in 1977. Over 25 years they created a 70-acre arboretum and a sculpture garden. Tristan picked 10 of these varied sculptures by 10 different artists, telling more about these sculptors. The bust of Lenin was made by Latvian sculptress Dzintra Janson. We learned of the process of making the bust and its rocky history after the breaking up of the USSR.

The talk was followed by 2 short videos: Clare Twomey on Elisabeth Frink. (Standing Man) and Ronald Rae (Head of John the Baptist) talking about his Falkirk Wheel exhibition.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, 2/4pm, usually at Fielden Hall but May's meeting will be a visit to Rochdale Town Hall. New members always welcome. Contact Judith Malone, 01706 812890 or Tristan Molloy, email tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com





Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met again on Monday 8th April in its comfortable new venue. A select company split into two small groups sped through three games of Ticket to Ride and two of Splendor (sic) in the two-hour slot. If you are interested in finding out more about how much fun it can be to learn and play these strangely-named new games, do 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

The Canasta Group had a very lively meeting on Monday 25th March with 16 members playing four tables of four. It was much quieter affair at our Tuesday meeting in April with only six members present. This gave us the opportunity to play together as two teams of three which I consider makes for the most interesting play. We all enjoyed the music playing at the Hare & Hounds as it was from our era – the 1960s/70s - some even singing along!

Our next meetings are on Monday 22nd April and Tuesday 14th May 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>

Art Club

Awakening and celebration featured in Art Club's March sessions. Some of us have completed paintings inspired by the theme 'Awakening'; others continue, with work in progress. One of our members, Campbell, reached a significant birthday, which we were pleased to help celebrate. We also celebrated the return of two members and the addition of a new one! 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, e. tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com and we will give you details of the next meeting.









Classic Literature Group

In March, the Classic Literature group discussed 'Alice in Wonderland'. This children's classic was written by Charles Dodgson under the pseudonym of Lewis Carroll and was published in 1865. In 1862, Carroll went on river outings in the company of three children who were neighbours. He enjoyed relating fantastical stories to them and was able to judge his ideas from their reactions to his story telling. One of the three was Alice and she later persuaded Carroll to put his stories on paper.

To be honest, the book was not popular with the majority of the group. There was, though, agreement that characters from the book, such as the Cheshire cat, are well known today. Carroll also mocked the society of the time and the convention that all children's books had to have a moral. It was felt that this is not a book that children would choose to read or have read to them today. Maybe the story is preferred as a stage play, ballet or film.

It is certainly a very imaginative book with humour found in puns, ridiculous changing scenes and absurdity. Absurdity has continued in British humour, with the likes of the Goons, Monty Python etc. One could say that the works of both Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear were forerunners of absurd humour or 'l'humour anglais'. Well into the book, we have a croquet match with flamingos used as mallets and curled up hedgehogs used as balls. Some find such absurdity hilarious, others do not.

We will be discussing 'All Passion Spent' by Vita Sackville-West at our meeting on April 22nd.

Coffee Club

The nature of Coffee Club has always meant that we never know who to expect at our monthly meetings or how long they will be staying. That formula seems to work well with some attending on a regular basis and others just calling in briefly en route to appointments, shopping etc

At our meeting on 8th April, we welcomed two new faces and took the opportunity to talk a little more about equality, diversity and inclusion before moving on to chat about a myriad of other more wide ranging subjects after which six of us stayed for lunch.

Yet again there is to be a Bank Holiday on the first Monday of May so our next meeting will take place on **Monday 13th May in** the private room on the right as you enter Honest John's. Someone will be there from about 10.30am until about noon

If you are in Todmorden that day please 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 you decide to take lunch after the meeting.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We returned to Waterside Lodge at the end of March to celebrate the birthday of one of the residents; and also did a short spot on 6th April at the Town Hall, as part of the Spring Concert organised by Dementia Friendly Todmorden.

Our rehearsals will now be at the Fire Station Community room on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm and we would welcome anyone who drops in to meet us. Please contact Gill Baldwin on 07504290071 for more information

Craft Club

The past month saw the members using wool in two very different ways. On March 22nd we made yarn birds from spun yarn and on April 5th wool fleece was needle felted to decorate landscape cards.

On April 15th we shall be introducing some of the newer members to macrame while other members use their knowledge of the craft to make a range of items. Later in the month our topics will be papier-mâché animals and Japanese paper flowers.

The group is currently full but anyone interested in joining when space becomes available should contact the convenor to arrange a taster session.





Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group met on the of 28th of March, our themes for that month being 'An argument with a friend' and and 'My Dream Vacation'. Group members also reflected one or two recent events, with a plea for the rain to give it a rest, plus observations about country's water suppliers. The 'second half' activity, which featured "How Did the Police Get Involved", was enjoyed.

Into April, and our themes are 'A life changing decision' and 'Easter Parade'. Another new member was welcomed to our group at our first meeting on Thursday the 11th.

Contact Barbara Griffith <u>barbiegriff@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in joining the Group

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The Enjoyment of wine group are trying out a new meeting plan. On one Saturday per month the group will meet online just as we do currently. Then on the third Friday or thereabouts each month we will meet face to face at Todmorden College. The first meeting at the college is on Friday 19th April. See the schedule on the U3a website for more details.

There is room in the group for new members please contact any group member or Bob Hayter, group coordinator. We like to enjoy our wine, chat about it and learn a bit more whilst being sociable.

European Film Club

The European Film Group will be meeting on 6 occasions, before the summer break, for a season of Scandinavian films. We have now reached maximum of 60 members. New information will be available in September.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

We are developing our descriptive skills this month. Firstly, describing peoples' appearance and personality traits and then places we have visited or would like to visit around the world.

There is an extraordinary amount of vocabulary to revisit, or more likely to learn, so we are having fun devising memory games to challenge our brain cells too.

Hugo Cotton as always, helps us to develop our listening & reading skills. Next topic, les Jeux Olympiques.

Radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

We had our last Zoom meeting until October. It was decided that we would meet in each other gardens over the next few months, and talk about all things gardening. We welcomed two new Members on the Zoom.

The Zoom Gardening Group meets at 10.30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month from October to March. 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

We've been continuing with The Visit and have just learnt the potential cost of dumping a single-minded woman in a poverty-stricken town and forcing her into prostitution. In this new profession, Klara/Claire meets and marries a billionaire, becomes one herself and, after years of travelling around the world, decides to go back to her hometown.

Boris-like, she offers the town a billion (currency unspecified) of levelling-up money, under the sole condition that the man who betrayed her (it was worse than mere dumping, to be fair) be killed.

This leaves everyone facing a moral conundrum, the citizens of Guellen, not the Members of the German Group, who continue to read and translate.

But last week and tomorrow we also concentrated / will be focusing on German videos borrowed from YouTube. Last week's was all about poverty in the UK and subsequent shoplifting. Tomorrow's is rather more light-hearted, but secret for now, of course. Wait for the next report!

Golf for Fun

Will winter ever relent? The new season starts on 1st May. We are keen to attract new members. Tuition will be provided; balls and clubs may be borrowed. There are various options for fees payable to Todmorden Golf Club; some of the details are yet to be finalised, and I will circulate information as soon as possible. There is no u3a group fee.

The regular time for u3a golfers 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.

For all inquiries, please contact the convenor, John.Allison@3-C.Coop.

Let's Go

Please note the trip to Port Sunlight on 24th April is full.

The next trip is on Tuesday 21st May to Hawes and the Wensleydale Creamery where we will have a cheese making demonstration. Please contact Linda Cook on 01706 817254 or email <u>letsgo@u3atod.org.uk</u> for availability and any further information.

Lunch Club

On 17 April 25 members of the Lunch Club enjoyed an excellent meal at Top Brink, Lumbutts.

Enquiries about the Lunch Club to denisetyas@me.com

Local History

The new Local History Group is still in the process of formation, so there are as yet no fixed regular meetings taking place.

Nine members particularly interested in old documents have taken on the task of transcribing the Heptonstall Wills and their associated Inventories from 1700-1750, digital photographs of which are held at the Birchcliffe Archive in Hebden Bridge. An initial visit has been paid to the Archive, where we learned what was involved and practised deciphering ancient hand-writing. The group has now divided into pairs to begin work on different documents, and the first complete agreed transcription has already been filed (one down and 105 to go!) Once every pair has filed its initial work a further group meeting will be arranged to discuss learning points and onward progress.

A much larger sub-section of the Local History Group are more interested in doing their own research into particular topics, and they are having a meeting on the 17th April to focus on their specific interests and develop a process.

There is also a smaller group of members interested in investigating the very early years of the history of the area, up to and including the Medieval period.

If any of this sounds as though it might be of interest to you, it's not too late to get on board. For answers to any questions you might have or to declare an interest please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com

Mah Jong

A genial though generally dull month, highlit by Anne's All Winds and Dragons, and a quite remarkable 'zero to hero' fortnight for Angie. First week, she scored a rare Zero – not even 2 for a pair of dragons or 4 for a flower or season. The following week she won 6 out of the 7 hands at her table with a total of 3,266.

Just shows that we can all be abandoned and visited by the winds and dragons at their godlike whim.

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 - <u>emilywatnick@gmail.com</u>. 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

This month's novel was *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami, a fairly early novel of his and the first to bring him widespread national (and later international) acclaim. Like many of his others it had an element of magical realism, where it was not always evident whether what was being expressed was to be taken literally or as a dream or fantasy.

A range of views were expressed, leading to a discussion that included Japanese culture more generally. Some really enjoyed it, others not so engrossed. The beauty of the language was appreciated, and his portrayal of female characters enjoyed. There were also some welcome small elements of humour, such as the parrot that kept squawking 'shithead'!

We noted quite a lot of fairly explicit sexual content and conjectured whether this reflected the 1960's young Japanese cultural morés, or was taboo-breaking. Suicide and mental health problems were strong themes throughout the story. In summary, an intriguing book very much enjoyed and appreciated by some, but not to everybody's taste.

Please contact Brenda Botten if you would like to join us: <u>broyd33@hotmail.com</u> or ring 01422 844987.

Online Zoom Talks

The talk by Robert Pullen on the 4th April was on 'Sleep and Dreams' and 29 members attended. The talk gave a fascinating insight into why we need to sleep and what makes us go to sleep. Robert, who comes from a background in brain research went onto look at the different stages of sleep and why we can sometimes remember our dreams and why on other occasions we cannot.

The membership of the group was asked to let us know if they wanted the programme to continue or have a break until the autumn. The majority eventually decided to have a break so this was the last one in this current season. The 24/25 Autumn/Winter season will start in September 2024 and run until April 2025. The programme for the new season will be published and sent to all existing member in July 2024. If you are not registered, but would like to receive information about the new season of talks just email Michael on mwastrop@gmail.com. Alternatively, if you are on the group list but wish to be removed let Michael know about that as well.

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**."