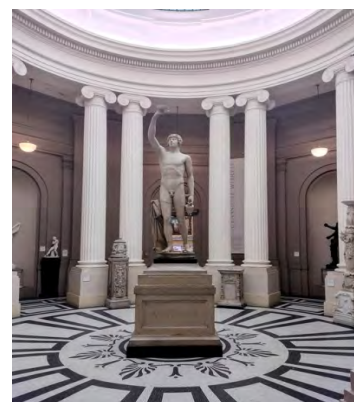


GROUP NEWS MAY 2024

Let's Go

48 members enjoyed our first trip of the season on a rare sunny day to Port Sunlight on the Wirral recently. There are over 900 Grade 11 listed Arts & Crafts-style houses in the village and beautiful gardens and parks. On arrival a blue badge guide joined our coach and gave us an informative coach tour of the village including the history of its founder, William Lever and his Sunlight Soap Factory, his workforce for whom he built the village in the Nineteenth century to the present-day residencies. The members were then free to explore and visit the famous Lady Lever Art Gallery, the Museum, an Edwardian Worker's cottage and the Soapworks.



The next outing to Hawes and the Wensleydale Cheese Creamery on 21st May is now full. If you would like to be added to the reserve list, please contact the Convenor.

This will be followed by a trip to Dunham Massey on 27th June and further details will follow in due course.

Please contact Linda Cook on 01706 817254 or email letsgo@u3atod.org.uk for availability and any further information.

Local History

The Local History Group has now effectively divided into two sections, one pursuing various self-set research objectives and the other working on transcribing 18th century Wills. The transcribing section have now, between them, completed some half-dozen (very varied) wills and are due to meet again on 17th May to compare notes and discuss progress. The three research groups are now pursuing their own areas of interest and plan to report back on progress within the next four weeks. No full meeting for the group as a whole has yet been arranged, but if you might be interested in joining in with either (or both) of the activities on offer, please get in touch in the first instance with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Lunch Club

On Friday 10 May 17 Lunch Club members, including one celebrating their birthday, met at the Moorcock Inn, Littleborough. This was the first time the Lunch Club had been to this venue, previously tried and enjoyed by the Enjoyment of Wine group. A return visit is likely. For details of the Lunch Club and future events see u3atod.org.uk



Mah Jong

This month there has been a universal cheerful glumness at the tables when asked ‘Anything interesting this week?’ So let’s just say that no one’s had a special spring in their step at the end of each session this month, but we have enjoyed our usual very companionable time and the Golden Lion has continued to host us very well.

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 Modern Greek class will have its final session on the 16th May and will then break up for our summer holidays - We will be having a couple of adhoc sessions until we recommence for the winter.

Contact rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk

Novel Appreciation

At our May meeting we discussed the Booker Prize winning *Time Shelter* by Georgi Gospodinov. It focuses on time, memory and nostalgia, describing the creation of an institution to treat elderly people with dementia through re-creating the environment of their younger decades.

The novel was seen as almost a chronicle of time itself, full of transition between humour and sadness, and the narrative moving backwards and forwards in time. Not all of us enjoyed these time shifts, some preferring a linear timeline.

The idea of recreating the past gets hijacked by politicians, leading to national referenda in European countries regarding which past decade they wish to build their future on. The absurd and reverberating tragedies, where nostalgia is weaponised by different political parties in different countries was felt to be expressed with wit, warmth and skill. A number of us expressed enjoyment of the beauty of the author's use of language.

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

Online Zoom Talks

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."

Philosophy

The next zoom meeting is on May 13th when world view will be discussed as the topic. Thereafter the group will meet at Roomfield on June 3rd the meeting on May 27th having been cancelled.

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 considered poems on the theme of Happiness and ran out of time.

Next (zoom) meeting will be on June 6th.

Photography Group

Photography Group One had a last minute change of venue for our April photographic trip from revisiting Castlefield Basin due to threatened heavy rain, instead we visited Bradford Industrial Museum. This provided an abundance of photographic opportunities combined with a variety of technical challenges. The biggest challenge was the range of lighting conditions which everyone managed to cope with. When we showed our images during our meeting at Fielden Hall it was great to see that there were almost no duplication of subjects. Everyone enjoyed the visit and quite a number were considering revisiting in the near future.



Bradford Industrial Museum by Sandra Fentiman

On a Sunday Morning Walk by Barbara Lansdell

The topic for the month was Sunday Mornings which gave the group a lot of different ways to interpret the subject. We viewed a wide range of the subjects captured.

We are now starting a waiting list. Details from billgriffiths0@gmail.com or by phone at 0796617112

Poetry Enjoyment (zoom)

Sadly, I report the demise of this group. It was one of the first groups started in the days of John McNair and was run by Lynne Taylor for well over a decade until she moved away from the area. Unfortunately, I am not able to convene it anymore nor are the other group members.

Thanks to Lynne and to the contributions from the many members over the years. It has been a pleasure to have been in this group.

Practical Art

Recently we took a step in a different direction ie. Design. We have been designing a book cover for a favourite book. This week we are honing our drawing skills by drawing or painting a Still Life.

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

Psychology

We were just a small group this week, but still had a lively discussion around Sloth, another of our 'Deadly Psychologies' from the BBC series. This topic was generally thought to be the most interesting of the 3 we've listened to. We were all able to identify with the feeling that we didn't always want to do what might be needed to be done... particularly as we get older!

There can be many reasons for this... anxiety, lack of confidence, depression, winter blues and we all acknowledged how hard it can be at times to keep motivated.

We plan to discuss Nature and Nature next month, deliberately avoiding Nature V Nature, as we agreed that both have a part in play in all our behaviours. We don't have a lead on this, so please bring along your own contribution, if possible, in whatever format you choose.

Look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, June 13th, when we will also discuss whether or not to take a summer break.

Quiz Group

The next quiz is on May 23rd at 10.15. It is at Central Methodist and there are refreshments.

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

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

At our May meeting, we discussed 'Sunset Song' by Lewis Grassie Gibbon. This was first published in 1932 and is the first part of the trilogy 'A Scots Quair', widely regarded as a classic of the Scottish modernist renaissance.

'Sunset Song' is set in Aberdeenshire at around the time of the First World War and follows Chris Guthrie's life, on a croft at Kinraddie, from a 15 years old girl to the age of 24. Gibbon identifies a crucial tension between the Scottish Chris of the country and the English book-loving Chris. We mostly enjoyed the novel.

Sunset Song uses a simplified Aberdeenshire dialect which most of us found fairly easy to understand but was off-putting for others to the point of abandoning the book. Thank you to Margie for this report.

Meeting – 1st Thursday of the month 1pm onwards at Honest John's. Please contact Convenor Christine at daisyfieldhouse@yahoo.co.uk for more information. This Group is currently at full capacity.

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 "Great Heroes and Discoveries of Astronomy" The next five lectures are: - Edwin Hubble and the Expanding Universe, Heroes of the Hubble Space Telescope, Pioneers of Radio Astronomy, Discovering the Cosmic Microwave Background, and Vera Rubin and the Discovery of Dark.

The second course is "Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach". The next few lectures are entitled: - "Structural Response: The Hyatt Regency Walkways", "Dynamic Response: London's Wobbly

Bridge”, “Dynamic Response: Boston’s Plywood Palace”, “Stone Masonry: Beauvais Cathedral”, and “Experiment in Iron: The Ashtabula Bridge

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group is continuing to meet in the downstairs room at Central Meths, with tea/coffee and biscuits regularly on offer. Scheduled to be on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, the excess of Mondays in April, and of Bank Holidays in May, has meant that we had an extra session on 29th April, and will not now meet again until the 20th May. We start at 2 pm and anyone is welcome to turn up and join in, we play at all levels but exclusively for fun. If you're tempted to join us please do, or get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Social History Group

We met in April to discuss the autobiography of Harry Mortimer and his description of Edwardian Hebden Bridge. We will continue discussing the book at our May meeting including the families move from Hebden Bridge to Luton. New members are always welcome.

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

Strollers Group

On May Day last week 15 of us enjoyed a Downhill Walk in warm sunshine. We took the bus from Hebden Bridge to the chapel at Blackshaw Head, then walked along Badger Lane until we turned on to the Pennine Bridleway along Marsh Lane. One of our members is an electric wheelchair user, which presented some challenges as we encountered many metal drains across our route. We were undaunted, and improvised with 2 bricks, a log and another member's fleece, plus some pushing and shoving! Many thanks to all who helped! We turned down Winters Lane and zigzagged down into the valley bottom - here some of the group split off to reach the canal towpath, whilst others continued on the road down. We gathered at the Stubbing Wharf, somewhat hot and tired, but agreed we had all enjoyed the marvellous views, the newly emerging leaves and many bluebells.



If you are interested in joining us on our next walk which will be led by Tristan on Wednesday 5th June round Hollingworth Lake please get in touch with Convenor barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Admin Convenor helenstarmer@hotmail.com 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: arlineandernie@tiscali.co.uk IF YOU Would like to join this group.

Thursday Cinema

For our April meeting 12 of us went to see Back to Black, the story of Amy Winehouse in her own words. It was a very long film and most people had other things to do so we didn't stay for a discussion afterwards but most said they were surprised to have been reminded that she was only 27 when she died - a tragic loss of an enormous talent - one member remarking "It was worth being here for the music".

The May film, Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry, will be on Thursday 23rd. It was the winner of the Best Feature Film at the Hebden Bridge Film Festival.

Further information from Gwendoline Goddard, gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com 07833204152.

Walking Cricket

There are two games in this period - the 25th April and the 9th May. In the game on the 25th April both teams played strong games with everyone contributing towards the score, although the 'numbers mean nothing' and 'experience tells everything', are the phrases that sum up the final score. We had a new member playing, Kate Leslie, and she took a wicket and got on the score sheet with the bat.



Batting shots from the 9th May. Andrew, Derek, Kate and Mark showing their strokes.

Friendly Games on the Horizon - We now have a friendly game every month up until August starting with Oldham on the 31st May and then Rotherham on the 25th June followed by Ilkley on the 4th July. All these games are away and outside so we are in the best form before we go to York for the Walking Cricket festival game on the 19th July. The festival will be a knock out competition with six teams competing, and as all teams will play through the day, we are taking a large contingent to cover when players get tired. We are also in putting practice at the Todmorden Cricket ground on the first and third Thursday mornings to get our greenfield skills up to standard.

The next group session is on the 23rd May 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 April Walk was led by Jerome Way and the May walk will be led by Tristan Malloy on Tuesday 28th May.

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

Art Appreciation/History

May's meeting was one of our 'away days', when 22 of us visited the recently renovated Rochdale Town Hall. After three years of restoration by specialists (alongside 500 volunteers and trainees), the building has returned to its 1871, neo-Gothic, decorative splendour. Work included removal of the stained-glass *Cromwell* window to York Glaziers Trust studios, for conservation. Our visit provoked a discussion about the Victorians' compulsion to revert to 'Gothic' for their grand architecture. Art Appreciation group meets on the first Thursday of the month. We are back at Fielden Hall on 6th June for a members 'bring-and-tell' session on the theme *What Work Would I Steal?* Contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, e. tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com if you are interested in the group.

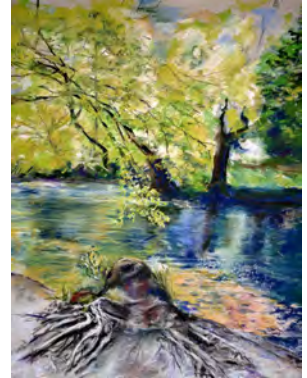


Board Games Group

The Board Games Group was scheduled to meet again on Monday May 13th, at the usual time, 2 pm, at its new venue in the Ridgefoot community room, opposite Tod College. Ticket to Ride, Sequences, Azul, Qwirkle, CuBirds and others were all on offer. If you'd like to try out some of these strange games, and the mental gymnastics (and fun) that they involve, 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.

Art Club

Art Club is buzzing with activity this Spring, our space filling with members new, returning and deep-rooted! Quiet, concentrated creativity has been punctuated by exchanges and discussion of inspirations, techniques and materials. Some of us have embarked on the latest suggested theme: *April Showers, May Flowers*. 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.



Canasta Group

The Canasta Group has had two enjoyable meetings this month – on Monday 22nd April 12 of us played on three tables of four but on Tuesday 14th May we tried a table of four and one of six. Everybody agreed that playing two teams of three players requires a different strategy to playing two against two, but we all enjoyed the experience.



This caused us to laugh when we arrived to play on the 14th – but John wanted to know what about him! Men are very welcome to join us.

Our next meetings are on Monday 27th May (Bank Holiday Monday) and Tuesday 11th June – New members welcome to join us at the Hare & Hounds, Burnley Road on either date – further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

We met on the 22nd April to discuss 'All Passion Spent' by Vita Sackville-West. The book was published in 1931 and addresses people's control over their own lives. All present enjoyed the book which was considered well written. Discussions provoked by the book were: Vita Sackville-West's life and relationship with Virginia Woolf; age; personal control; feminism and individual values. Recommended.

Coffee Club

Due to the Bank Holiday our May meeting took place on 13/5/24 and was well attended, matters discussed included travel insurance, house removal, delights of Weymouth, public transport & the performance by Hebden Bridge Panards due 25/5/24.

A list of events and items of interest in the local area during May was also circulated but, due to the Convenor's carelessness, the crucial information on dates was missing!!.. Six of us consoled ourselves by taking lunch in the dining area of Honest John's.

Our next meeting will take place on **Monday 3/6/24** in the private room on the right as you enter Honest John's. Someone will be there from about 10.30am and until about noon. Why not 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

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

The Concert Party will meet on Tuesdays at the Fire Station Community Room for the next few weeks 2-4pm.

We are working on some "new" songs from the repertoires of the Beatles, Eartha Kitt, and Bernard Cribbins, plus songs from My Fair Lady,

Please pop in and meet us if you would like to find out more; or phone Gill on 07504290071

Craft Club

On April 19th some of the newer members started learning 'the ropes' of the macrame technique. Many knots were made and some undone and redone a few times. Lovely examples of work made using the technique were brought in by more experienced members in order to encourage the learners.

On May 3rd we turned our attention to the origami technique for making Kusudama paper flowers.

Members who had not done the technique before produced individual flowers whilst more experienced ones started on the task of making 12 flowers which will be used to make a Flower Ball.

At our next two sessions we shall be recycling materials which most of us have around the house. On May 17th it will be making papier mache creatures and on May 31st reusing photographic slides.



Creative Writing

A mixture of other commitments and unwellness unfortunately led to the cancellation of the second meeting of April.

Our meeting on the 9th of May featured two versions of 'The Wrong Page', one describing the effects of gravity, and how far broken glass can travel and the other mentioning the many things we've become accustomed to, like it or not.

One poem suggested a, probably radical, cure for poverty; and a second wished for a far better means of holiday travelling than having to check in at airports. If only.

Another piece involved someone who worked as a 'Comptometer', which stumped at least one of the members attending. No answers on a postcard thanks.

The themes for the Thursdays 13th and 27th of June are: 'Closed Doors, and writing a 'Joke Poem'.

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

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The group had their first face to face meeting at Tod College last month sampling a variety of wines from a single vineyard and having a good social chat at the same time. The May meeting at the college has been postponed due to a number of members being away. We will continue to meet online using zoom which means that nobody has to drive home after. Next time we'll be tasting sauvignon wine and each bringing what we can find at our usual suppliers that being anywhere from Lidl to specialist wine merchants.

The group has room for new members, contact Bob Hayter or Michael Astrop for more details, previous knowledge not essential though a liking for a glass of wine with friends helps.

European Film Club

We are halfway through our Scandinavian season which will finish at the end of June. We have reached maximum capacity, but new members will have a chance to join in September.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

In May we have been pleased to welcome 3 new members to the group. It would seem our move to TLCCH is paying dividends! We are developing our conversation skills by asking and answering questions about places to recommend visiting, or not!

Also we continue to be inspired by Hugo Cotton and his eclectic video clips. The next one discusses, when do we earn the definition 'fluent' in a foreign language?

NB. The date of our 2nd meeting in the month has changed to Tuesday 28th, because our Monday slot is the Bank Holiday. In addition, the 2 meetings in June will be led by members of the group as Gill is on holiday.

Sessions recommence 9th September in Pex Tenaments room on the first floor. Amitie Gill. radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The Gardening Group has started its summer visits to each other's gardens with a sunny morning in Fiona Ryland's garden. Various gardening techniques and information were discussed, and some plants exchanged.

Zoom Gardening Group meetings are suspended throughout the summer but will restart at 10.30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month from October to March. Group Convenors are now 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

Meetings as usual, one two-hour meeting a week (Tuesdays 14.00-16.00) at the Honest John for free, except that we all usually have a cup of tea/coffee as a way of paying our way. A great sacrifice...not.

We're still reading and translating *Der Besuch der alten Dame*, using a variety of methods, eg. sometimes Members will be reading half a page; at others it will just be half a line, or an exclamation: Ach! For the last two weeks we have been looking at some poetry too. Last week we analysed two poems by Bertolt Brecht, published in East Germany long after he died. Both involved attacks on the state for official attitudes to literature. The tone of both was, we thought, fairly sarcastic. There was no way they would have been published any earlier, but this was 1969, just after the revolts had started in West Germany. Perhaps East Germany was playing catch-up. Today we looked at a poem by Heinrich Heine, possibly the most radical German poet of his day. The thing that surprised us all was when the narrator adopted attitudes that seemed very 21st century to all: things ain't what they used to be, the price of coffee's too high, and where's all the money gone? We'll definitely be returning to Heine.

Golf for Fun

The new season has started. 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. 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. Our web page is https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/golf-for-fun/.