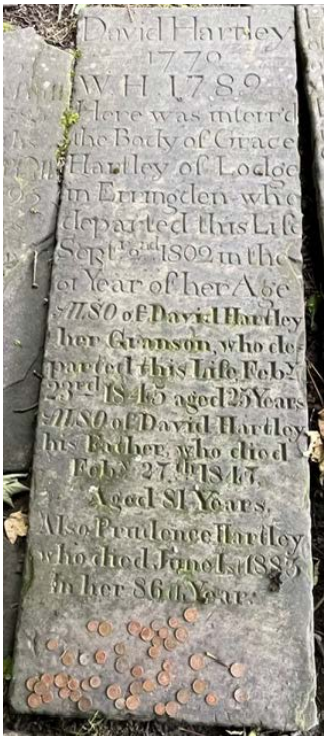


GROUP NEWS JUNE 2024

Alfresco History / Archaeology

Alfresco History is a new group whose first meeting was on 4 June when we discussed ideas for the future of the group, details of which can be found at <https://u3atod.org.uk/alfresco-history-inaugural-meeting/>

Our first visit was a guided tour of Heptonstall looking at places of significant historical interest.



Our next meeting will be a guided tour of Halifax Minster on Wednesday 17 July at 3pm. The cost of the tour will be £6 pp which includes a cup of tea. We shall meet at Halifax Railway Station at 2.45pm.

If you are interested in this, please email stephaniehaworth@aol.com to be added to the list.

We shall meet again, to discuss future plans, on Wednesday 21 August at 1.30 in Tod College Pextenement Room.

Our future meeting days and times will be flexible.

Weekend Walking Group

Seven members of u3a Tod walked from Hebden Bridge centre to Gibson Mill in Hardcastle Crag on Saturday 8th June, with an eighth joining us at the Midgehole Road entrance to Hardcastle Crag. At the Gibson Mill cafe, we sat down and did a bit of informal planning of how this group would operate, before returning to Hebden Bridge by a slightly different route. The total distance was 6 miles, although the route was less undulating than most of our walks will turn out to be.

The majority decided that our outings would take place on a Saturday. We were content to make the frequency monthly for the time being, and the regular slot would be the second Saturday, which is as near as we can get to half-way between the Tuesday walking group's outings.

We obtained two offers of walks for the next two months: one starting in Luddendenfoot, and another in Mytholmroyd. No-one came forward to act as convenor, but I indicated my willingness to do this for a few months,

Come and join us

As a new group, we're keen to expand our membership. Please contact me, [Bill Black](#), as (temporary) convenor via the group website page (https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/walking-at-the-weekend/), where you'll also find details of forthcoming walks.

Art Appreciation/History

What would I steal was the subject this month. 15 members came up with their favourites, a varied selection, several of which, like a 15th C fresco, would be difficult to tuck under a coat. A couple of members hated the thought of stealing something as it would have to be hidden from view but nevertheless one of them came up with a painting that been taken by the Nazis, was lost and now believed to be somewhere in Russia. Another member was obsessed with roads and gates and got AI to paint him a picture which incorporated both and was pretty impressive.



Katherine Pleydell-Bouverie Pot



John Piper Window in Coventry Cathedral



Ashbee Dish

Our next meeting is The Power of the Poster: power, politics, people, places and persuasion given by Gay Lee Greenwood. Turns out to be very appropriate for election day which means this meeting will be held in the Stoodley room (2nd floor, left) at Todmorden College (near Aldi) the first Thursday in July, 2.00pm. Contact 01706 812890 or tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com for any queries.

Art Club

Many of us have created pieces in response to the seasonal topic *April Showers, May Flowers*. A new theme – which will be adopted by some but which the mavericks amongst us can ignore - will be suggested at our next session.

Art Club has grown to capacity over the past couple of months but, if you are interested, you are welcome to come along and get a feeling for the group. We meet fortnightly, on Wednesday afternoons, at Fielden Hall. Contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, e. tristan.molloy.tn@gmail.com and we will give you details of the next meeting.



Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met again on Monday 10th June, at the usual time, 2 pm, at our new venue in the Ridgefoot community room. Ten of us enjoyed several games of Sequences, CuBirds and Splendor, rotating between games sometimes for variety. We had one new attendee, who gamely got to grips with the strange new ideas involved. Newcomers with no experience are always welcome and generally find themselves having fun, being guided through by our more experienced members, though - a word of warning - some of the games, once grasped, can be addictive! To find out more about all this, get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987, or just drop by at our next session on the 8th July.

Canasta Group

We met on Monday 27th May and in spite of it being the Bank Holiday we had a good turn-out of 14 members, playing 2 x four and a six. Tuesday 11th June saw 9 of us including a potential new member Chris who is about to move into the area and after watching a couple of hands she was able to play herself proving it's never too late to join us, so come along and give it a go.

Our next Sessions are on Monday 24th June and Tuesday 9th July at the Hare & Hounds, Burnley Road, Todmorden – further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

We met in May to discuss My Childhood by Maxim Gorky (1868 - 1936) which is the first part of Gorky's autobiographical trilogy, published in 1913/14.

In My Childhood, Gorky describes his life upon moving to his grandparent's home as a young child after his father died of cholera and his mother becoming mostly absent from his life.

Most of us enjoyed the book despite Gorky's shocking descriptions of his violent but loving Grandfather regularly beating the children unconscious and the poverty and suffering of the Russian people at that time. We found it remarkable that in this reminiscence, Gorky did not resent his grandfather's brutality. We also enjoyed the descriptions of Gorky's kind, illiterate grandmother and the detailed portraits of the other characters. Gorky was a Marxist and supported the Russian Revolution but later had disagreements with the Soviet regime. He is regarded as being the founder of Soviet Realism.

Coffee Club

Unsurprisingly the death of Rob Burrow CBE provoked considerable conversation at Coffee Club on 3/6/24. This included discussing differing reactions on receiving terminal diagnoses, care & treatment of patients & families including emotional care of families on bereavement

Other topics included the embryonic Archaeology Group, Lunch Club & perceived flaws in the 'bidding system' for Local Authority housing also registration for medical treatment on changing address & apparent lack of publicity for the visit of the ship 'Opal's Comet'

For those not wishing to holiday abroad we discussed the delights of Eastbourne, Portland and the Scottish Lochs. Having enjoyed the recent parade some also commented on the forthcoming events list including Todmorden Country Fair & various musical events

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 1st July** in the private room on the right as you enter **Honest John's**. Someone will be there from 10.30am until about noon. Try popping in for a few minutes for a chat. Drinks are ordered from the room so no need to venture into the bar area

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

The Concert Party (Senior Moments) Group is continuing to meet on Tuesdays for the time being. We will be performing at Roomfield House on the 25th June, and are developing some alternative material for next year. Please pop in and meet us if you would like to find out more; or phone Gill on 07504290071

Craft Club

The members had a 'messy' session on May 17th when making weird papier mâché creatures. In the following session on May 31st we turned our attention to ways of recycling the many 35mm photographic slides which most of us have. The items made included coasters, placemats and mobiles. June 14th saw us developing and updating our childhood making of clothes peg dolls



On June 28th the topic of decoupage on to terracotta pots will be revisited for our newer members. There will also be the chance to apply the technique to making coaster or Christmas decorations using a base of MDF. The following two sessions on July 12th and 26th will be devoted to 'wet' felting. There will be two groups: one for beginners to learn the basic techniques and the other for more experienced 'felters' to tackle more complex projects.

There are current no places available for new members to join Craft Club. Anyone interested in joining when a space arises is invited to come to a session to see if they are interested in joining our waiting list. Please contact the convenor.

Creative Writing

Our first meeting in June was well attended, and we welcomed a new member to our group. This month's themes are 'Closed Doors' and to write a 'Joke Poem' Contributions included an extended collection of 'knock knock' jokes, which we could all join in with, and a thoughtful piece about people who, for one reason or another, encounter more closed doors than they deserve. We cheered up though, hearing about a new doll - Divorced Barbie; who comes with Ken's house, car etc. A good start to the month and hopefully more to come.

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

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

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

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?

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. No visits were booked for June.

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

The big decision today was when the German Group would take its summer break. We decided on 16 July, starting again on 3 September. For the moment, we continue to practise our oral skills and to read Dürrenmatt's *Der Besuch der alten Dame*, a play whose wit and profundity we're appreciating more and more, week by week. We might even finish it before we break for the summer.

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.

We are aggregating scores towards handicaps for our annual Champions Cup, probably in August. Please submit your score cards.

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/.

Let's Go

The forecast was wrong! We enjoyed a day of sunshine, taking the scenic route through the wonderful Yorkshire Dales, passing the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct, in both directions, to and from Hawes.

At the Creamery, members enjoyed one of the best presentations we have ever had. The manufacture of Wesleydale cheese owes its roots to the monks of Roquefort, some of whom left the warm climate of France to enjoy the delights of North Yorkshire. They brought with them, the process of making cheese, initially from sheep's milk, then later milk from Friesian cows.

A short history of the Creamery was given, followed by a demonstration of cheese manufacture. Tankers arrive daily, and milk is mixed with culture, rennet, and salt. In the manufacturing process, curd and whey is produced. Curd is compressed and becomes cheese; set aside to mature for weeks or months. Whey used to become animal food, but not any longer; rules have changed. It cannot be thrown away. Now it is separated; some part is used as a bio fuel and the water content reused in the factory.

Members sampled, in the shop, various cheeses; many now contain fruits –pineapple, berries, ginger and even gin!



Our coach moved on to the centre of Hawes, so members could visit the market stalls.

There are a few places available for our next trip to Dunham Massey on the 27th June. Please contact Linda Cook on 01706 817254 or email landcook@talktalk.net for further information. We will then have a break over the summer holidays, resuming in September.

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 from Heptonstall. The transcribing section have now, between them, worked through about a fifth of the available wills and continue to enjoy deciphering the hand-writing and learning about the lives of our ancestors.

A meeting was held on 17th June at Tod College, to compare notes and debate the way forward. If you might be interested in joining in with either (or both) of these activities, please get in touch in the first instance with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Lunch Club

On 3 July the Lunch Club met at the Ram Inn, Cliviger. This was the first time this venue had been used.

Mah Jong

Another unremarkable month, but we do have two new players, Jane and Mike. Welcome to the wonderful world of the Winds and Dragons.

Minor successes or near misses are worth recording

Diana – her highest score yet – a Purity hand with 6 doubles earned 3000+ points

Sian was one tile away from the rare Double Limit hand, Mixed Pungs

Anne negotiated a Mixed Chows with three Two Bamboos in a goulash hand: harder than it seems when your 'wild' tiles require constant shifting from place to place!

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 ad hoc sessions until we recommence for the winter.

Contact rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk

Novel Appreciation

This month we discussed *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. It tells the stories of Nigerian teenage lovers Ifemulu and Obinze, across three decades and three continents.

Ifemulu leaves Obinze and Nigeria to finish her education in America. After much initial hardship, she eventually becomes a successful blogger and academic, and after fifteen years in America, she returns to find Nigeria much changed and Obinze married with a child. Can Ifemulu reconnect with her country and former boyfriend, or is she now an "Americanah" - a returnee from the Nigerian diaspora who no longer understands her roots?

Through their stories, Adichie explores the immigrant experience in England and America and themes of race, identity, authenticity and belonging, often with great insight and humour.

Attendance was low at this meeting, and opinion of the book equally divided. For some, the novel was "big, ambitious, intelligent, funny and moving", while others described it as "unrelatable", "corny" and "snide". Why not read it, and see what you think?

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

Our next discussion is based on the thoughts of the Romanian Emil Cioran which will take place at Roomfield Baptist church at the usual time of 10.15 am on Monday June 24th. For anyone interested in trying this group there is disabled parking outside the church and tea/coffee with homemade cake is provided at the end of the session.

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

Photography Group

May seemed to be a busy month for everyone, our practical session was a visit to Skipton. I asked those who came on the visit to choose a topic, perhaps a thing, a colour, signs etc. and spend time looking for the chosen topic. This is quite interesting as it means that you have to look everywhere and, in the process, see much more of the town than the casual visitor.

The topic for the month was "Shadows" which did pose some problems as there were few nice sunny days. We did however get some nice images.



Downpipe Decoration - Dee Kerslaw



Shadows – Bill Griffith

Future practical sessions are for June a visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and July a guided tour of Barton Aerodrome. Both of which gives our members plenty of scope for capturing interesting images.

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

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation Group has not met since last month's Report

Practical Art

We have enjoyed some excellent support from the members of Practical Art and have recruited 2 new members over the past month. In our last 2 sessions we have been drawing and painting animals both in charcoal and with bright colours in a Fauvist style of painting. We are continuing introducing basic techniques and different media for our newer members whilst exploring new ways of working with our more experienced group members. The group as a whole has a very lively buzz about it.

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

Psychology

Nature/Nurture was the subject for discussion this month. This has been debated for centuries, as people have sought to discover the main determinants in character formation; biological determinants, ie genetics, or environmental factors such as early upbringing, social relationships and culture. The group thought it was a mixture of these.

We were aware of the greater availability of genetic information (this field has grown exponentially in recent decades), but we probably had more to say about environmental factors, speaking from our own experiences.

We were aware of the influence of Behaviourists, such as John Watson, with his emphasis on positive or negative reinforcement, to shape behaviour. We were also aware in our youth of an influence from religion in encouraging consideration for others. We felt that although this had felt strict and onerous at the time, perhaps today's children were missing this? We had a lively session reminiscing about family and school, and the tactics we employed to avoid rocking the family boat (maintaining homeostasis in the family system)!

Next month, just after the General Election, we will discuss the Psychology of Power and Politics. Thursday July 11th at Honest John's at midday. If you would like to join us, please contact Brenda Botten at broyd33@hotmail.co.uk

Quiz Group

There will be no quiz meeting in June

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

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

The meeting in June discussed Berta Isla by Javier Mariás a best-selling Spanish author and translator.

This book was translated by Margaret Jull Costa. It is a spy novel and examination of a relationship of secrecy and pretence between two people. It raised questions of control, secrecy and the impact of events and the choices we make.

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 Methodist Church, with tea/coffee and biscuits regularly on offer, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. 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 that, or else get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Social History Group

The group discussed the Harry Mortimer autobiography at our last meeting in May, The June meeting will discuss a short film about the life of Todmorden born musician Geoff Love.

We meet on June 21 in the Methodist church Todmorden at 10 15am.

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

Tablet Club

A small group of us met at the Honest John and practiced useful but awkward features of the smartphone, how to turn the phone off, put it into flight mode and take a screenshot.

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.

Strollers Group

18 Members of the Strollers walking group met on 5th June for a walk around Hollingworth Lake. Some travelling by train to Smithy Bridge and walking up to the lake side at The Beach whilst others met us there.

Tristan led the walk stopping along the way to tell us some fascinating facts about the history of the lake and how it had been a very popular Victorian tourist attraction, with people staying for a week's holiday in one of the hotels on the lakeside and enjoying trips on a paddle steamer or the ferry.

We walked round in a clockwise direction and although the photos show a lovely sunny day some stretches were extremely windy and cold although we didn't get wet. At the end of the walk we split into two groups some had fish and chips at Mr Thomas's, whilst others went in The Beach and enjoyed lunch there. Thanks Tristan for a good walk of about 3.5 miles.



If you are interested in joining us on our next walk on 3rd July please get in touch with Convenor barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Admin Convenor helenstarmar@hotmail.com Details will be sent to existing members in due course.

Thursday Cinema

Last month we saw Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry, a very fine film made in Georgia which won the Best Feature award in the recent Hebden Bridge Film Festival.

This month's visit to Elevenses will be on Thursday 27th and the film will be The Bikeriders which the blurb says "exploits the iconic mid-century cool of the motorbike as a potent and very American symbol of individual freedom".

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

Walking Cricket

The Tigers went to Oldham on Friday 31st May to play their first competitive Greenfield game of the year. They were fortunate to have a tremendous turn out of players, and as Oldham had 12 players, a 12 a side game was played for two overs per player.

The Tigers won by 16 runs and as players noted the ball bounces differently and it was imperative that they walked between the wickets. There was an enormous improvement in that, with some good fielding and bowling.



The next Greenfield training session is on the 20th June at the cricket club and competitive game against Rotherham is on 25th June. 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 May Walk was led by Tristan Malloy and the June walk will be led by Trevor and Christine Williams on Tuesday 25th June.

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.