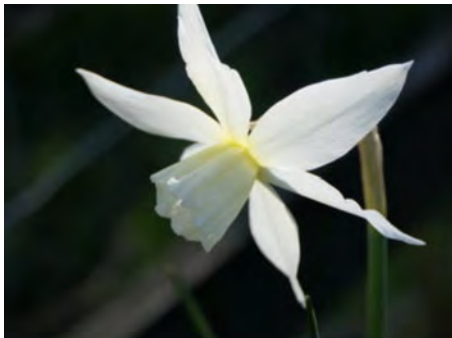


GROUP NEWS JULY 2024

Photography Group

Many of the group were on holiday or had appointments so it was a small group that went on the photo visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. We had a good day and took lots of photographs and it was nice to see that the images that we had selected to view at our second meeting of the month were of different subjects or from a different angle. Because the group visiting YSP was small there was an additional topic of the month for those who couldn't make the visit "Flowers". On this topic we had some stunning images shown.

The topic of the month was "Cityscapes" which resulted in a wide variety of places being photographed. Taking photographs of high-rise buildings is always a challenge to get the buildings vertical in the photograph often the buildings look to lean backwards or to one side. Usually, the angles can be adjusted in post-processing in something like Lightroom but it's nice to minimise the work by getting it right in camera.



Flower – Ann Beard



Sculpture – Alan Richardson



Cityscape – George Robertson

The group are looking forward to our next photo visit which is a tour of Barton Aerodrome, Manchester on 12th July.

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

Philosophy

The next meeting is at 10.15 am on 22nd July at Roomfield Baptist church with a topic yet to be announced.

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 as usual) to look at poems on the theme of 'relative'. One poem was the reflection of a son (or daughter) on the undemonstrative love given in deeds not words by a father. One was about the love of a brother after the death of his twin. One concerned the mysteries of modern physics, especially the theory of relativity. One was a lament for the replacement of absolute moral theory with moral relativism. Finally, one poem contrasted the genius of S. T. Coleridge with that of relative mediocrity.

We meet again on Thursday 8th August to look at poems concerned with time or with pressure or with time pressure

Practical Art

We seem to have a very enthusiastic group of folk attending Practical Art at the moment with several new members. We currently have over 20 members. In our last 2 sessions we have been studying groups of flowers in soft pastels. Our last session before our August break will be on Friday July 19th when we hope to do some outdoor sketching (weather permitting) and afterwards have lunch at a local pub (venue and details to be finalised).

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

Psychology

Today we discussed the psychology of Politics and Power, concentrating on British Politics. We were all relieved that the General Election was behind us, and we were pleased that the outcome had brought greater diversity of views into Parliament, with the extra presence of the Liberal Party and the Greens.

We are grateful to have a system of government by consensus, where politicians have to earn a mandate to govern. (Weber 2007). This rather than traditional domination through a popular belief in the sacredness of existing tradition (perhaps like India?), or through charismatic domination, such as the power held by Donald Trump in the USA.

We had a general discussion about the procedures of voting, the effect of younger people being allowed the vote and whether the country should explore proportional representation again. We hoped that young would-be politicians were putting themselves forward for the right reasons, ie not just to gain Power, but with a wish to serve the country. So we shared an interesting conversation about politics without even raising our voices!

Next time, on August 8th, we will look at Anxiety in older age, following a broadcast which Jilly has found for us. If you would like to join us at Honest Johns's at midday, please contact Brenda Botten at broyd33@hotmail.co.uk

Quiz Group

The next quiz will be on the 25th July at Central Methodist. The start time is 10.15.

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

Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

We met this month to discuss *Offshore* by Penelope Fitzgerald. It won the Booker prize in 1979.

It's a story about a group of people living on barges in London and forming a type of community. It's suggested they can't succeed onshore or don't get along with onshore mores.

The group had mixed feelings about this book. From really disliking it to indifferent to liking it.

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: - Finding Neutron Stars and Black Holes, Astronomers Put Einstein to the Test, Detection of Gravitational Waves, Surveys of the Entire Night Sky, Carl Sagan: The Great Space Communicator.

The second course is "Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach". The next few lectures are entitled: - "Soil and Settlement: The Leaning Tower of Pisa", "Water in Soil: Teton Dam and Niigata", "Maintenance Malpractice: The Mianus River Bridges", "Construction Engineering: Two Failed Lifts", and "Decision Making: The Challenger Disaster".

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues to meet downstairs at Central Meths 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 just that, or else get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Social History Group

We watched a film about Geoff Love and the Todmorden Brass Band from the 1970s which Ernie had shown for the group, it made an interesting change and we may do more of this in the future as it sparked of a good discussion at our June meeting.

Our July meeting at the Methodist Church (July 19th 10.15 am) will look at the autobiography of a Bradford Mill Girl set at the time of the Great War.

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

Strollers Group

Ten members of the Strollers Group met in Hebden Bridge and caught the bus to the Robin Hood pub up Cragg Vale from where David led us uphill for a short distance before we took a more level series of paths along and down through the woodland on the right hand side of Cragg Vale. We eventually came out at Mytholmroyd where the party had lunch before catching buses home. In spite of the wet conditions which resulted in parts of the walk being very slippery everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and thanks go to David for leading us on a very interesting and enjoyable walk.

If you are interested in joining us on our next walk on Wednesday 7th August 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.

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

Last month's offering from the Picture House (Bikeriders) was not popular so we did not meet in June.

The July film will be Forrest Gump, an adaptation of the highly acclaimed novel of the same name, and will be shown on Thursday 25th.

Further details from the convenor gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com or 07833204152

Weekend Walking Group

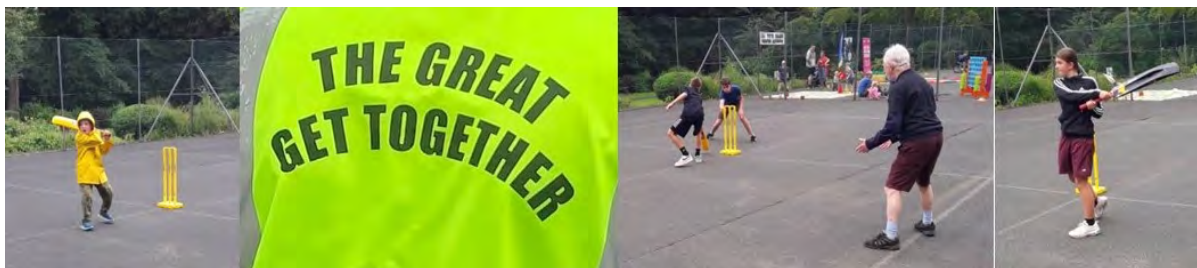
Members of this new group were invited to a Saturday morning walk in July starting and finishing in Luddendenfoot, and to RSVP to confirm their participation.

In the event only one member did so, and the walk was cancelled. Hoping that summertime absences may account for this, I am proposing to re-launch this group in September with a route that will be announced by the time of the next Groups Report.

For further information about this group, or to offer to lead a walk, please contact Bill Black by email: groups@u3atod.org.uk.

Walking Cricket

The Tigers lost the game at Rotherham on the 25th June and have spent the rest of their sessions practicing for the upcoming u3a York Festival on the 19th July. In the meantime, Ashleigh Cooper organised a Walking Cricket event at the 'Great Get Together' in Crow Wood Park at Sowerby Bridge on Sunday 7th July. He was ably helped by Mike H, Mark, Katie and Chris to bring a lot of fun to children and adults alike.



The next Greenfield training sessions are on the 17th and 18th July at the cricket club. The Tigers then go to York on the 19th July to play in the Yorkshire u3a knock out competition.

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 by email to all Group Members and posted in the website calendar around 2 weeks in advance.

Our June Walk was led by Trevor and Christine Williams and the July walk will be led by Emily Watnick and Gavin Bate on Tuesday 30th July.

During our June walk a group member lost her footing on a narrow path above a steep downhill slope and rolled sideways down the slope amongst mainly ferns for around 15 to 20 metres. Fortunately, she suffered nothing more than bruising and relatively minor scuffing. An Accident Report has been completed and filed.

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.



Alfresco History / Archaeology

Our recent visit to Halifax Minster was really interesting and we learnt a lot about its fascinating history. There were so many more photos we could have taken but too many for this group report.



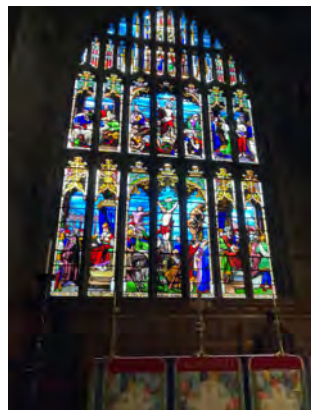
Outside Halifax Minster



Interesting Gargoyles



15th Century Font Cover



Victorian East Window



Old Tristram - a Beggar
Licensed to beg in the
precincts of the Church in the
late 17th Century

In August we are have a meeting at Tod College to discuss future ideas. Days and times of meetings will be flexible. If you are interested in joining, please email stephaniehaworth@aol.com to be added to the list.

Board Games Group

The Board Games Group continues to meet on the second Monday of each month, starting at 2 pm, in the Community Room at Ridgefoot in Todmorden, where we enjoy tea and biscuits alongside gossip and games. We continue to welcome newcomers with no experience, since we are all still finding our way with the variety of games and enjoy having our synapses stretched in different directions. To find out more about all this and join in, 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.

Art Appreciation/History

The subject of this month's talk was The Art of the Poster: power, politics, people, places and persuasion by Gaynor Lea-Greenwood. In the past Gaynor has given us entertaining and informative illustrated talks and this one didn't disappoint. She started with the Labour Isn't Working poster, very apt on what happened to be polling day. For over a hundred years posters evolved often following the art trends of the day. Many examples were shown of the various types of posters used for marketing, information and persuasion, red often featuring to catch the eye. The fact that Vogue got together with Ford as it appeared women were more interested in a car's looks and interior rather than its performance raised a few eyebrows.



The next meeting on the 1st August will be at Bankfield Art Museum to see the Kate Lycett exhibition featuring the Calder Valley. Enquiries to Judith Malone, Tel: 01706 812890 or tristan.molloy.tn@gmail.com.

Canasta Group

We had reduced numbers at the meeting on Monday 24th June as only 8 members were available to play and likewise only 8 on the Tuesday session in July, but a good afternoons play ensued on both occasions with some interesting hands. The game has endless variations and the scoring can change dramatically from one hand to the next. Why not come along to the next sessions on Monday 22nd July or Tuesday 13th August and give it a try. Further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Art Club

Art is not a reflection of reality; it is the reality of a reflection” wrote Jean-Luc Godard. Art Club members may not philosophize so deeply over our new topic, *Reflections*, but the theme is bound to inspire a variety of interpretations, using a range of materials.



If you are interested in seeing what we are about, 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.tm@gmail.com and we will give you details of the next meeting.

Classic Literature Group

This month's book was 'Sybil, or the two nations,' by Benjamin Disraeli, published in 1846. Arguably a timely choice for this election month for those not yet tired of politics. Disraeli argues that England was divided into two nations in the 'hungry 1840s', the rich and the poor. To illustrate this, he describes the world of Westminster, gentlemen's clubs and stately homes, and contrasts it with the abject poverty of the working class, their appalling working conditions and dreadful tenement housing, the Chartist meetings, the sabotage of the mills by displaced handloom weavers, and the ensuing riots and their savage suppression by the army. The novel becomes a tale of derring-do with a mob ransacking a castle and the happy fulfilment of a budding romance across the great divide of class. This book helped establish one nation conservatism, and was somewhat surprisingly enjoyed by all who read it.

Coffee Club

We met on 1st July and, unlike the media, made a conscious effort to avoid much comment on the forthcoming elections choosing instead to cover such topics as on line banking, prevalent telephone / internet ‘scams’, effects of ageing on skin density, policing of anti-social behaviour and the inherent benefits of holding a local forum

Other topics discussed included waste disposal, digital telephones, reliability of Wikipedia information, various local events held since the last meeting plus forthcoming events both in Todmorden and nearby areas including some U3A group activities. Six of us stayed for lunch.

The next meeting was arranged for **Monday 5th August at Honest John’s** in the private room on the right as you enter the building. All U3A members are welcome and someone will be there from 10.30am until about noon. If you are in town, please pop 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 feedback for the first year since lockdown has been very positive, with many requests to return to venues, we continue to meet on Tuesdays for the time being, and are developing next year's programme.

In the mean time we would like to continue with the current programme for a few more performances. So any ideas for local retirement groups or charity fund raisers who might like to book us free for an hour of light-hearted entertainment would be very welcome. Contact Gill on 07504290071



Craft Club

Craft Club spent its last two sessions doing some repeats and extensions of previous projects. At the first one the topic was decoupage using paper napkins on plant pots and on MDF squares to make coasters or hanging tree ornaments.

The second sessions covered making felt using the wet rolling technique. At the next session on July 26th we shall be continuing developing the felting techniques from the the last one.

On August 9th we shall be trying something new to almost all of us. This will be shadow knitting.

The group is currently full. However, anyone who may be interested in joining when a space becomes available is invited to contact the convenor with a view to coming to a session to see if they want to join the waiting list.

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Group had a bumper turnout for our first July meeting, the themes for this month being 'The Wedding Party' and 'The Reluctant Gardener'. We heard about wedding party plans being hit during the Covid era, but eventually turning out to be much less expensive than expected, once the restrictions began to be lifted. Plus, a cautionary tale about being careful what you plant in the garden, and checking identities of visitors, along with a new (to us) gardeners saying: 'New day, new dandelion'.

Our second half activity was to produce a piece about photographs brought in by one member, and was enjoyed by everyone, and our busy two hours sped by.

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

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom) The Enjoyment of wine group do just that, enjoy our wine and a friendly chat about the wine and many other subjects. There is space in the group for more members. The group continues to meet regularly online so that nobody misses out and has to drive home. The last meeting in June continued the periodic face to face meetings at Tod College. These are scheduled to recommence in September. A wine theme is selected at each meeting for the following meet allowing members at least 2 weeks to find their wine. Our next theme is Pinot grape varieties which should be available at most supermarkets for reasonable prices. If you would like more information contact Bob Hayter or Michael Astrop.

European Film Club

In November 2019, to mark the 30th anniversary of 'The Fall of the Berlin Wall', a series of German films were shown on 3 Friday afternoons at Roomfield Baptist Church.

Following the success of this venture the 'European Film Group' was initiated in January 2020. Five films into our first season we were 'locked down' by Covid, but we were up and running again in September 2021.

In all we have had 10 different film seasons and viewed a total of 65 films: 28 French films, 9 German, 9 Polish, 7 Italian, 5 Spanish, 3 Swedish, 1 Danish, 1 Finnish, 1 Dutch & 1 Hungarian film.

The European Film Group met for the last time on Friday 28 June. After the summer break the group will return in September as a 'World Cinema Group' to be convened by a team of four volunteers from within the group. Dates and contact details etc. will be circulated late August/early September.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

Whilst Gill is away practising her French & Italian, the group has worked together to revise numbers and phone numbers. They have found helpful video clips on YouTube and later in June they talked about jobs. Our text book has useful vocabulary & verb explanations for assisting the task. Thanks to Margaret for taking charge as well as other members in the group for organising various word games to keep the learning fun. Tres bien fait, les lutins francais!

Next month we take a rest & meet again in September on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 1.30pm. Todmorden College & Community Learning Hub. radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The Gardening Group has started its summer visits to each other's gardens. This month we visited Irene and Peter's garden. We marvelled at the lack of weeds in their terraces and enjoyed their beautiful flowers.

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 Just after Christmas 2023 we started reading and translating the Swiss writer Friedrich Dürrenmatt's three act drama Der Besuch der alten Dame, which sheds a tragicomic light not just on Swiss society in the 1950s but on the whole of society in the 2020s and beyond. Today, Tuesday 16 July, we finished it. This was entirely down to the determination, enthusiasm and linguistic skills of our Members.

There was also the fact that today was our last session before our longest break ever: we won't meet again until 3 September 2024. Let's hope The Honest John survives that long. The staff have been brilliant there, especially with Luna, my calm little Labrador. On our return we'll be picking a new project. Who knows what? No one, yet...

Golf for Fun

The new season is well under way. We will have a Champions Cup competition, probably in August. Please submit your score cards.

We are open to 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/.

Let's Go

Members enjoyed a leisurely sunny day out to Dunham Massey near Altrincham recently. There was the 17th century historic Georgian house to explore, the 300-acre medieval deer park, home to a herd of fallow deer, extensive gardens and the oldest building on the estate, The Mill offering a wealth of varied history. Friendly and informative volunteers were on hand to chat to and give regular tours around the gardens and the Mill, which some members took advantage of.



There will now be a break over the school holiday period. Details of the September trip will be announced at the August monthly meeting.

Local History

The Local History Group has now established a routine of regular monthly meetings, on the first Monday of each month, starting at 10:30 am in Tod College. The meeting on the 5th August will be in the Hawkstones Room when, alongside an exchange of information amongst our different researchers, there will be short talks from members on "Accessing the Pennine Heritage Photographic Archive", "The Poor Law Riots in Todmorden in 1834" and "The History of the Census". On the 2nd September there will be a longer talk by an invited speaker, Anne Melia, on "Life and Death in Todmorden 1851-1901". The latter will be a special event requiring advance booking and involving a larger contribution than usual towards room-hire etc. Meanwhile the 8 members who are working in pairs to transcribe the early 18th century wills of Heptonstall continue their dedicated labours, and are now about a sixth of the way through the collection. Membership of the whole group (and of the will-transcribing sub-group) remains open, and it is never too late to join in the fun of discovery! Please contact Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com, or by telephone on 01422 844987, for further information.

Lunch Club

On 3 July 20 Lunch Club members met at an old favourite, the Robin Hood Inn at Pecket Well. Matthew and Sally gave us their usual warm welcome.



Mah Jong

Another month of near misses. Especially notable were Jan who was one away from a Run, a Pung and a Pair, and Sian, the same afternoon, who was a tantalising two away. After a thrill like this, who can dare suggest that sitting at a table with 144 tiles is as dull as ditch water?

Ant forsook the easy opportunity of winning with a Dragonfly and chose instead to pursue his dream of a Red Waratah. Alas! Maureen, it turned out, already had the two Red Dragons he needed.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. One day our dream hand will be blown our way by a capricious wind.

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 *All my Puny Sorrows* by Miriam Toews.

All the group enjoyed this clever and funny book, despite the difficult subject of suicide. The core of the story is Elf's longing to end her own life, and her sister's agonising dilemma about whether to agree to assist her.

It was helpful to have been given background to the early years of these two devoted sisters, intellectually somewhat set apart from their Canadian Mennonite community. Information gradually emerged about their childhood and parents, the mother proving a pivotal character.

We noted themes of sisterhood and life in the shadow of a very gifted older sibling; criticism of the medical model of psychiatric nursing; parenthood and family; the importance of literature and poetry in their lives. We appreciated the skilful use of humour that did not detract from touching and appropriately emotional aspects of the story. Overall, a vivid and authentic portrayal of a very current topic.

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."