

## GROUP NEWS AUGUST 2024

### Preserving Pickling & Fermenting

This new Group had its first meeting in July when five members attended. We had a good chat and have a possible venue for our next meeting. At the moment no date has been arranged for August or September.

Further details on our Website if you are interested in joining this Group.

### Alfresco History / Archaeology

We shall be meeting on Wednesday 21 August at 1.30 in the Pex Tenements Room at Tod College to discuss future plans. We shall have to pay £2 or £3 each for the rent of the room. Days and times of meetings will be flexible. If you are interested in joining please email [stephaniehaworth@aol.com](mailto:stephaniehaworth@aol.com) to be added to the list.

### Art Appreciation/History

August saw Art Appreciation members on one of their quarterly visits; on this occasion to Bankfield Museum, in Halifax. Eighteen of us attended, attracted primarily by *Engineers & Chocolatiers*, an exhibition by local artist Kate Lycett, celebrating the landscape, architecture and people that have shaped Calderdale. Lynn Grady, of Calderdale Museums Service, welcomed us and gave us an introduction to the venue (originally the home of Edward Akroyd, his family and 27 servants) and the several exhibitions currently housed within. These include *INSPIRED: The Art of Making Historical Fashion*, which many of us found fascinating. Art Appreciation group meets on the first Thursday of the month. We are back at Fielden Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September when Pauline Feeney will tell us about the life and works of

Tirzah Garwood. Contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, e. [tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com](mailto:tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com) if you are interested in the group.



## Art Club

Many members of Art Club continue to work on our current topic, *Reflection*, one of us having completed one interpretation. Amidst July's art activity, we took time out to celebrate a significant birthday for one of our members, Judith.



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](mailto:tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com) and we will give you details of the next meeting

## Board Games Group

The Board Games Group continues to meet on the second Monday of each month for two hours of assorted modern board games and old favourites. The names of some of the games we play may be rather strange, but they all involve well-thought-out challenges that get the synapses firing in different ways. More importantly they are all fun and stress-free to play, win or lose!

Curious newcomers with no experience are always welcome. To find out when where and how to join in please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or on 01422 844987.

## Canasta Group

The Monday session started well in the absence of the Convenor due to covid, with a table of 6 and one of 4 until a late arrival turned the 4 into 5 each playing for themselves! Everybody forgetting one of the golden rules of Canasta - **5 people playing for themselves never works!!** The only way to play if five sit down together is for one person to "sit out" each round with two teams of two OR make two separate tables, one of three and the other of two. Hopefully the lesson has been learnt.

The Tuesday session saw two tables of four and a good afternoons play ensued. Our next sessions are Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August followed by Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Further details from [barbarawigley@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarawigley@btinternet.com)

## 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

## Classic Literature Group

In July, we discussed 'Scarlet and Black' by Stendhal. It was published in 1830 and was written by Marie-Henri Beyle, using Stendhal as his pen name. The novel chronicles the attempts of a provincial young man to rise above his poor upbringing through a combination of talent, hard work, deception and hypocrisy. Members were surprised to learn that the novel was loosely based on police records of 1827, describing the similar story of a blacksmith.

The novel, set in post Napoleonic France prior to the 1830 July Revolution, was not initially well received. Its fame came later in the century. It is both a psychological portrait of the romantic hero, Julien Sorel and an analytic satire of early nineteenth century French society, especially the clergy and the aristocracy.

Our discussions centred on plot and characterization. Opinions were divided on whether Julien Sorel could be described as a hero. Most of us enjoyed this long novel.

Our August book is 'Mary Barton' by Elizabeth Gaskell.

## Coffee Club

The month of July will be seared into the memory of us all after the sad and alarming events worldwide, particularly Southport and the subsequent riots, so it came as some relief to discuss mundane matters when nine of us attended the Coffee Club on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

In addition to talking about the various Tod U3A groups we chatted about numerous subjects such as the website [www.safeandfoundonline.co.uk](http://www.safeandfoundonline.co.uk) currently being trialled by various Police forces including West Yorkshire, Manchester & Cumbria

Also, perhaps inevitably, the new rules for Winter Fuel were discussed, a reminder was issued about Todmorden Ward Forum on 27/8/24 also local exhibitions in the area, free films at the Hippodrome and discounted rates for films at Hebden Picture House plus much more. Six stayed for lunch.

The next meeting will take place on **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 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

## Creative Writing

At our meeting on the 8th of August, members read out their take on the themes for this month - 'Joyriding' and 'The Journey'. These ranged from two vehicles running out of fuel on the same journey, an account of a boat ride in Malaysia, with some paragliding mixed in, and cycling down what sounded like horrendous hills, ending up with a visit to the hospital. A poem about our journey through life itself featured too, containing symptoms and feelings we all could recognise and acknowledge. Our next meeting will be on the 22nd of August, before a break in September (both meetings). New members would be very welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know by following the links on the u3a website.

Contact Barbara Griffith [barbiegriff@gmail.com](mailto:barbiegriff@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the Group

## Craft Club

The last month saw the members working with two very different traditional crafts. The session on July 19th was a continuation of work on the wet felting technique.



On August 9th we were introduced to the technique of Illusion Knitting/Crochet which can produce remarkable results using just simple stitches and two colours of yarn. We were shown an example of what can be achieved in this case a knitted version of the cover from Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody LP cover. After this we experimented with technique to make small knitted or crochet samples.



In response to requests from some members our session on August 23rd will cover crocheting for either right or left handed people. Yes, it is different. After a busy few months we are going to have a catch up session on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## **Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)**

The Enjoyment of wine group are now on holiday. The next meeting will be online on the evening of Saturday 7th September. If anyone would like to join us enjoying a glass of vino in the comfort of your own home please contact Bob Hayter or Michael Astrop. No previous experience or wine knowledge required.

## **European Film Club**

The European Film Group met for the last time on Friday 28 June. Many thanks are due to Angela Greenwood for setting up and running the group until now. 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. The first season will run from September 13<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup> showing a selection of members' recommended films at the Roomfield Church Hall on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

The group is currently full, owing to capacity issues at the hall, but the membership list is kept under active review, and we are happy to put people on a waiting list. Contact details are on the U3A website.

## **French: 'An Improvers Group'**

No French Improvers sessions in August. Next meeting September 9th, Tod College, Pex Tenements, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone again. [radfordgill23@gmail.com](mailto:radfordgill23@gmail.com)

## **Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)**

This month we visited Edina and Frank's beautiful mature garden, situated high on the moors. It was full of colour from a large variety of perennials and bushes, and had a variety of mature trees too. It was certainly an encouragement to all of us that despite a lot of wind, rain and altitude, with perseverance, and a lot of work over many years, a lovely garden is possible.

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](mailto:toddypg@gmail.com)) and Fiona Ryland ([fio.a.ryland@gmail.com](mailto:fio.a.ryland@gmail.com)). Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A Todmorden.

## **German Group**

The Group is taking a summer break and 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 Champions Cup competition will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 10 am tee-off.

For all inquiries, please contact the convenor, [John.Allison@3-C.Coop](mailto:John.Allison@3-C.Coop). Our web page is [https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a\\_groups/golf-for-fun/](https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/golf-for-fun/).

## Let's Go

The next trip is on Wednesday 11th September departing at 9.00am when we will first call at the MacArthur Glen Outlet near York where we will have time for an early lunch, and then proceed the short distance to the Yorkshire Air Museum where we will spend the afternoon, returning at the usual time of 4.00pm. Please contact the Convenor for availability.

## Local History

The Local History Group met again on 5th August for the second of its regular meetings now taking place on the first Monday of each month, starting at 10:30 at Tod College.

Bill Black gave a short introduction to the on-line Pennine Heritage Photographic Archive, explaining the different options for searching the many thousands of images and sampling some of the very varied contents.

Mike Astrop gave a typically fascinating presentation on Todmorden's riotous (and successful) resistance to the introduction of the inhuman new Poor Law regulations of 1834 (which introduced the infamous workhouses), and which resulted in Todmorden being the only area in the country to continue operating the former system of welfare for almost fifty years.

Jim Botten gave a brief overview of the history of the UK Census, in order to address some questions that were raised at the previous meeting, when we took a close look at Water Street as it was in 1851.

The next meeting will be on September the 2nd and will be a rather special one, with a guest speaker, Anne Mealia, talking about "Life and Death in Todmorden 1851-1901". The presentation will take place in the Stoodley Room at Tod College, lasting about an hour, and will cost £4 a head to attend, including refreshments. This talk will be open to members of other U3A groups. Please contact [mwastrop@gmail.com](mailto:mwastrop@gmail.com) for further details.

## Lunch Club

The Lunch Club didn't meet in August

## Mah Jong

As always with Mah Jong, there were many near misses this month. Other players irritatingly had the last tile required for a hand and would not discard it. However, a rare Todanni was completed.

Todanni is a hand that is unique to the u3a Todmorden Mah Jong Group. It was devised by one of the Group, John, for the 10th Anniversary of u3a Todmorden in 2018. It involves a pung of 5's in 2 suits and all the winds and dragons, with any tile paired.

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](mailto: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

Our U3A Modern Greek classes will begin our Winter sessions on the 3rd October. We are starting a new book and we will be revising what we know for the first few meetings.

Therefore, we are open to a few new participants assuming that they know the alphabet and the present tense.

Contact [rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk)

## Novel Appreciation

This month we discussed *The Singularity* by Balsam Karam. The novel is set in an unnamed coastal town divided into an affluent tourist area and one of half-built, abandoned buildings and poverty-stricken immigrants. It revolves around two unnamed women who encounter each other by chance and recounts their tales in a very unconventional style.

We explored the possible meaning of the title in the context of the story, a number of options were posited.

We all found it very moving and, in many respects, harrowing. For some this made it very difficult to read, others found it very engaging despite the grim nature of the tale. Most thought the novel well worth reading and that its experimental form played a fundamental part in conveying the atmosphere and feelings.

## Online Zoom Talks

We are instituting a programme of winter evening online talks by Zoom. They are starting on the 5th September and they will go out at 7 pm on the first Thursday in the month. All members have been circulated with a copy of the programme, but if you have missed it and would like one, please let Michael know on [mwastrop@gmail.com](mailto:mwastrop@gmail.com)



## Opera Appreciation

We are continuing with a varied programme of some of the most popular operas and some lesser known.

There is scope in the group for new members- the group doesn't take " an "academic" approach but simply seeks to enjoy opera and perhaps, learn something about it."

**Meeting.** Second Tuesday of the month Roomfield Baptist Church 01706 344821 or email [k.coates994@gmail.com](mailto:k.coates994@gmail.com)."

**Philosophy** Our next meeting is at Roomfield Baptist church on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.15 am. The topic is philosophy and ecology with special reference to the morality of driving fossil fuelled cars.

The next zoom meeting a fortnight thereafter will be on the concept of accelerationism. Further topics include a discussion on the meaning of philosophy.

**Meeting** Alternate Mondays at 10.15 am at Roomfield Baptist Church and or Online via Zoom Please contact [baronps@hotmail.com](mailto:baronps@hotmail.com)

## Photography Group

The practical session for last month was a visit to Barton Aerodrome. The visit was arranged with the Friends of Barton Aerodrome. We had an excellent tour of all the hangars with plenty of time for taking photographs of the aircraft including those in the Maintenance Hangar which enabled us to see into engine bays and inside of wings etc. Apart from taking photographs we were able to talk to engineers doing the maintenance work.



Not something that our group generally get access to is to visit the control tower, but we were lucky enough to be treated to 20 minutes watching the air-traffic controllers at work.

The Chair of the Friends conducted the tour who gave us plenty of time to take photographs, gave us a lot of information about the aerodrome and answered lots of questions from us.

Judging by the comments from members of the group this was one of the best photographic trips so far. We all took a large number of photographs.



As I (convenor) was away in France, so the group decided on a visit to Gordon Riggs Garden Centre for coffee / lunch and a social get together and maybe get the cameras out. From Facebook comments they had a great time – but I've not seen many photographs as yet!!

## Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation Group met, on zoom, on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> to consider some poems on the theme(s) of time or pressure or time pressure.

One poem appeared to be describing the feelings of a person suffering a heart attack! Another was a reflection on a life approaching the end. A third was a reflection on the peace of mind produced by planting some trees and looking forward to the future. The fourth poem was a reflection on the very old hominid footprints discovered at Happisburgh.

Next month our topic will be 'RASH'.

## Practical Art

For the last Practical Art Session before our summer break we arranged a meal at Top Brink Pub where we did some sketching out of doors before we had our meal. Fortunately, it was a beautiful day and we also enjoyed our meal. We are now having a break from classes but return with renewed enthusiasm on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting.** Alternative Fridays 10.30 am -1 pm at Fielden Hall contact [coateswendy1@gmail.com](mailto:coateswendy1@gmail.com) or Corinne Roberts [stoneyroyd12@gmail.com](mailto:stoneyroyd12@gmail.com)



# Psychology

Eight of us enjoyed listening to an episode of "All in the Mind" on BBC Sounds - 'Anxiety in Ageing', suggested by Jilly. Her presentation drew upon earlier learning and some recent negative experience. She reminded us of ways of taking care of our personal welfare.

We agreed with the topics likely to cause anxiety - money, health plus worries about the NHS, technology in the modern world, especially social media, and cognitive decline, which has become more of a worry even than cancer. In our discussion, we all shared some of those anxieties, but in a realistic way; we agreed that societal negative stereotypes needed to be challenged and felt ourselves still to have much to offer to the world!

Our next session, on 12th September, will be the anti-dote to "Anxiety", ie "Hope"! This was suggested by Kathy, and was broadcast on All in the Mind on BBC Sounds on 26th March. Try to listen ahead of the meeting!

If you would like to join us at Honest John's at midday, please contact Brenda Botten at [broyd33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:broyd33@hotmail.co.uk)

## Quiz Group

The next quiz is on Thursday 22nd August, 10.15am, at Central Methodist.

**Meeting** – Fourth Thursday at 10.15am Central Methodist Church. Convenor [myrna-cb@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:myrna-cb@tiscali.co.uk)

## Readers Group (3 Valley Readers)

We met on the 1st February to review Love Marriage by Monica Ali.

This is her 5th novel after a 10-year gap. It is about the dynamics and impacts of relationships. We generally found it a page turner and easy read.

**Meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 1pm onwards at Honest John's. Please contact Convenor Christine at [daisyfieldhouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 is continuing to meet in the downstairs room at Central Methodists, with tea/coffee and biscuits regularly on offer (if someone remembers to bring the milk) for the all-in price of £2 a head.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month starting 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 in the least bit tempted please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01422 844987.

## Social History Group

We met again in July to discuss the account of a Bradford Mill Girl and will continue the discussion in August.

If you are interested in joining us please contact [alanfowler1944@btinternet.com](mailto:alanfowler1944@btinternet.com)

## Strollers Group

Ten of the strollers met today for a linear walk from Harvelin Park to Todmorden. Thankfully the T8 bus had enough seats for us all and we were at our start point by 11:30.

From Lee Bottom Road, we walked a quarter of a mile up the gentle incline of the broad link path up to "London Road" - the Pennine Bridleway - a short stop for a breather, a right turn and we were on our way to the the next turning.

Half a mile and two muddy puddles later we turned right to descend just 100 yards to the left turn onto the pretty Sisley Lane, a green lane taking us a quarter of a mile to Mankinholes Youth Hostel. Crossing Mankinholes Bank, a gentle field-side walk got us to the Top Brink Inn - no time for a stop.

Onwards via a narrow path to where the fields open out as we travel down Lumbutts Clough. This should have given the best views, but it did come on to rain. Here the path gets rough, sandy in places, and flagged in others, though all is well worn. Possibly the trickiest part of the walk.

At the bottom of this section, by the top of the adjacent woods and following a fence, we came across the most difficult section of the walk. Due to considerable overgrowth of Himalayan balsam and brambles since the walk was tested just a few weeks ago, the going was tougher than expected. Much hacking with the sticks to get a path through.

Finally, we emerged on Woodhouse Road to drop down to the Rochdale Canal via a steep flight of stone steps for a last easy mile back to Todmorden, apart from those who opted for a pub lunch at this point.

If you are interested in joining us on our next walk on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September please get in touch with Convenor [barbarawigley@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarawigley@btinternet.com) or Admin Convenor [helenstarmar@hotmail.com](mailto:helenstarmar@hotmail.com) Details will be sent to existing members in due course .

## Tablet and iPad Club

A small group met for the Tablet and iPad group and discussed various apps, including how to send pictures on diabetes monitoring app.

**Meeting.** First Tuesday of the month. 11 am. Honest Johns contact [ianmacadie279@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:arlineandernie@tiscali.co.uk) IF YOU Would like to join this group.**

## Thursday Cinema

A few of us met in the cinema in July and thoroughly enjoyed Forrest Gump but in common with other U3A groups we will not be meeting in August.

Details of the September film will be sent to members in the usual way.

Further details from the convenor [gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com](mailto:gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com) or 07833204152

## Walking Cricket

We were represented at the u3a York Festival knock out competition on the 19th July and we came fourth. A most enjoyable and very hot day was had by all.



The next sessions are on the 15th August 11 am – 1 pm at the Todmorden Cricket Club and 22nd August 2 pm to 4.30 pm at the Todmorden Leisure Centre. A home game against Oldham will be held at the cricket club on Thursday 29th August.

If you fancy a game or just want to try it out, either contact the convenor Michael Astrop on [mwastrop@gmail.com](mailto: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 July Walk was a Ted Hughes themed walk led by Gavin Bate and Emily Watnick and the August walk will be led by Jane Milne on Tuesday 27th August.



Gavin reading a Ted Hughes poem in the ruins of Heptonstall's first church.

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

## Weekend Walking Group

The weekend walking group has not planned a walk in August. One is planned for September. Anyone interested in leading a walk is invited to contact Bill using email [groups@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3atod.org.uk).