

GROUP NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

Walking Cricket

We hosted Oldham u3a at the Todmorden Cricket Club on Thursday 29th August and we won by 7 runs. Picture below shows both teams.



The team is going to the Walking Cricket Festival at Bradford on Saturday 14th September where ten teams will be playing to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the start of the game of Walking Cricket in the u3a. The next session will be on the 26th September 2 pm to 4.30 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 August walk was led by Jane Milne and Tristan Molloy and the September walk will be led by Corinne Roberts on Tuesday 24th September.

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.

Weekend Walking Group

This new group took a break over the summer but will be re-commencing with a walk on the 12th October from Callis Bridge to Todmorden via Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway and Calderdale Way. (6 miles, 900 ft of ascent, approx. 3 hours).

Details are on the Website Calendar and Groups pages. If you want to be added to the group membership in order to receive reminders about forthcoming walks, or to offer to lead a walk, please contact Bill Black using the contact link on the Group's web page: https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/walking-at-the-weekend/.

World Film Club

The world film group had its first meeting of the new session on Friday 13th September. Despite the date we did not choose a horror film to show, and the session also went without a hitch! For our first film of the season we enjoyed a film made by an Indian director, and our next choice will be by an Iranian director so we are genuinely exploring films from around the world.

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.

Alfresco History / Archaeology

There have been no outings in September. October outing is on Tuesday 1st October when we will be following the Hebden Bridge Trail: November is a guided tour of Todmorden Town Hall.

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 had its regular monthly meeting on Monday 9th September, at which ten enthusiastic amateurs played games of Splendor, Pandemic and CuBirds. Pandemic, a new game for the group, is a "co-operative" game, where the players combine to achieve an objective before time runs out (in this case curing diseases before the world is overwhelmed!) Much fun was had unriddling the rules and discussing what to do and when, and we'll hopefully have a better idea what (and what not) to do next time. As always, anyone is welcome to join us, you don't need any great expertise - or even a competitive streak. There's no charge for the sessions, or for the refreshments. To find out more please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987, or just drop by at our next session on the 14th October.

Canasta Group

The Monday session saw nine of us turn up to play so we had two tables of four players with one table having a different player sitting out each round which worked well. A good afternoons play was achieved.

The Tuesday session saw two tables of four and we enjoyed the cards as well as the background music which was from our "era" the 1960s/70s.

Our next sessions are Monday 23rd September followed by Tuesday 8th October. Further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Art Appreciation/History

September's talk was given by Pauline Feeny on the Life and Art of Tirzah Garwood, an artist who is only recently getting the appreciation she deserves. Born in 1908 she attended Eastbourne School of Art and later the Central School of Art. She was taught by the much better known Eric Ravilious and married him in 1930. She won several medals for her wood engravings and often used domestic settings and her family as subjects. Eric was killed in 1942 leaving her with 3 children and that year she also developed breast cancer. She started to produce designs by hand for wall paper and wrapping paper using the marbling technique. In 1946 she married Henry Swanzy and began to do illustrations for children's books and made 3D models. Unfortunately, the breast cancer returned in 1948 during which time she turned to oil painting. She died in 1951.



Our next meeting will be at Fielden Hall on 3rd October when Gary Thomas will talk to us about working with architectural stained glass.

New members always welcome. For information contact Judith on 01706 812890 or email Tristan, tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com

Art Club At our last meeting of Art Club there was discussion amongst the group about possible temporary alternative venues in light of the imminent closure of Fielden Hall for refurbishment. We then got down to the business in hand which for most of us meant completing the last suggested project namely "reflections".

Although the group is currently at capacity potential new members are welcome to come and join in a session and if interested, then go on a waiting list. Anyone interested should contact Judith Malone on 01706812890 Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm at Fielden Hall.



Classic Literature Group

Mary Barton was Elizabeth Gaskell's first novel published in 1848 and was an instant success. As the wife of a Unitarian Minister in Manchester she saw and acknowledged the unhappiness and bitterness of the working people of the city and their belief that they had been treated unjustly and unkindly by the rich and felt that she needed to put this into words, especially as she was aware of a growing desire for revenge.

She also considered that the lives and hardships of some of those she saw daily in the busy streets of Manchester were worthy of recounting.

The group agreed that it was a very moving and powerfully told story and that her sympathies were with the working people and their struggles.

Coffee Club

The next meeting of Coffee Club will take place **at Honest John's Coffee Tavern** at 6 Rochdale Road Todmorden OL14 5AA on the morning of **Monday 7th October**.

If any member of U3A is in town that morning, please feel free to pop in for a few minutes just to chat about anything & everything. Someone will be there from about 1030am until about noon.

We meet in the private room on the right as you enter the building so just walk straight in there. No need to give us advance warning but please bring your U3A membership card

It isn't necessary to even have a drink but, if you do, both food and drink can be ordered direct from the room so there's no need to venture into the bar area at all

If you require further information prior to the next meeting please email edithf789@aol.com entitling it U3A COFFEE in order to ensure it isn't treated as 'spam' mail.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We are now meeting again after our summer break. We visited Millreed Lodge on 10th September and were made welcome by an enthusiastic audience who have invited us back again before Christmas.

We were very sad to hear that one of our founder members – Reg Olley had died on 8th September. He was a lovely, gentle and supportive man, who was very well known and respected, especially in Todmorden and Walsden. He had been in care since before lockdown at Waterside Lodge, and was very pleased last year, to hear that Senior Moments wanted to start up again, we performed with him twice this year at Waterside Lodge.

Reg loved silly songs, and we dedicated one of his favourites to him (Mud, mud, glorious mud) when we sang it at Millreed on 10th.

Creative Writing

This Group is taking 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.

Craft Club

At the August 23rd meeting some of the members were introduced to basic Crochet. Both right handed and left handed techniques were on display. One grateful cat received a new crocheted blanket which was its owner's first crochet project.



After a busy few months the September 6th meeting was devoted to catching up with projects that had been started but not completed.

A former member of the group will be returning for the September 20th session to lead a repeat of her session on Encaustic Art. On October 4th we shall be continuing to develop the technique of painting on fabric to decorate cushion covers and tote bags.

There are currently no places for new members in Craft Club. Anyone who thinks that they might like to join us when there is a space can contact the contact the convenor to arrange a visit to a session to find out more.

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The group missed just one meeting over the summer, getting together online to enjoy a glass of wine and chat about what and why we liked it, as well as other things, of course.

Following our early September meeting which included our wine expert, Jane, we will meet face to face at Tod College at 14:00 on Friday 20th September. The theme for this event will be Reisling. Group members should remember to bring a glass as well as their wine choice. Visitors are welcome to join us and may like to bring a glass in order to take part.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

French Improvers met again after the summer break on 2nd Monday in September. 8 of us shared our summer stories and learnt to ask each other questions. We did a quick random number exercise and revised digital time which lead nicely into watching a video clip about reflexive verbs.

More of the same on the 4th Monday in September with Margaret and Edwin leading the group once more.
radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The Gardening Group has continued the visits to each other's gardens. This month some Members returned to Fiona's garden, once the rain cleared. We discussed the various autumnal jobs and the problems of moles and other garden visitors, which cause problems - including neighbours' cats.

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

We returned to business as usual on Tuesday, 3 September after a long summer break. After telling one another what we'd all been getting up to over the holidays - in German - we read and translated two short stories by the East German writer Reiner Kunze. The first one, called *The Six-Year-Old*, was about a boy sticking needles into his toy soldiers. When asked 'Why them?', he replies, literally, 'Because they're the others'. This 1970s story reminded us of the thoughts and feelings behind our riots of summer 2024. The second story, *At Least*, was rather more complicated, covering an attempt by the narrator's 15-year-old daughter to persuade her father to let her go to an all-night party half way during the school week. Instead of simply forbidding it, the father uses subtle arguments about not only how her behaviour would affect herself, but also the effects on those teachers who until now have defended her honesty and outspokenness. The daughter is angry: she could have ignored any attempt to boss her around, but she cannot ignore the big picture laid out before her with such rationality by her father. In a sense, she's a victim of her own intelligence.

Golf for Fun



We had our Champions Cup on Monday 19th August. A great day out on the golf course! Really good to see some old faces - Arthur, Howard - and particularly Mike, coming to wish us all well.

The Cup goes to...myself this year, with a stunning(!) round of 52 (9 holes) and 27 points.

The guest trophy goes to Ralph Lees, with a round of 42 and 20 points.



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



We spent a fantastic afternoon at the Yorkshire Air Museum, preceded by a short visit to the McArthur Glen shopping outlet and managed to avoid the heavy downpours that interrupted an otherwise sunny day. The site is a memorial to thousands of allied aircrew and ground personnel stationed throughout Britain during WW11. Bomber command losses were enormous We were given a brief history of RAF Elvington, as it was then, before exploring the original Nissan huts and viewing the 60+ aircraft and vehicles around the site, spanning the history of flight, from the early pioneers through the Cold War and beyond. The museum has the only surviving Halifax 111 bomber in Europe, named Friday the 13th, the unluckiest name they could think of as so many had been lost during the early years of the war, and it is huge! Members' memories of their own fathers' wartime involvement were recalled and knowledgeable volunteers had many stories to tell.

Our next trip will be on 4th December, details of which will be announced in October.



The Chapel at RAF Elvington



Friday the Thirteenth



The Halifax Bomber

Local History

Our meeting on the 2nd September was an unusual one, attended by members from other U3A historical groups, and featuring a talk from a visiting lecturer, Anne Melia, on "Life and Death in Todmorden from 1851 to 1951". Taking data from the national census and other sources a fascinating - and sometimes surprising - picture was developed of the size and make-up of the population of Todmorden during those years, the changes that took place, and the range of experience and life-styles involved.

The next meeting on 7th October will likewise feature a visiting speaker, Peter Thornborrow, who will be talking about "17th Century Yeoman Farmhouses and Furniture of the Upper Calder Valley."

For our November meeting we will be returning to our more usual format, involving the exchange of information amongst our members, with a focus on local weaving and the mills plus catching up on possible answers to previous questions left hanging - such as, "why did tailors die young?"

If you might be interested in joining in with this kind of research and discussion, please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Lunch Club

In September the Lunch Club saw a departure from the norm. Members enjoyed a teatime meal at an Italian restaurant, Pollino, near King Cross in Halifax. Two dates were offered, and the response was such that the convener decided to run the event on both dates. As a result, the convener and husband enjoyed two meals out in one week! Twenty-four members attended in total, and the consensus was that it had been a refreshing change. The lunch club will continue to operate at lunch time in the Todmorden/Hebden Bridge area but, following the success of this venture, occasional variations are anticipated in the future.

Mah Jong

Not an especially high scoring month, though Emily enjoyed 8960 points from an All Honours hand.

Nevertheless, there have been splashes of brilliance. A complete set of flowers – worth two doubles – is a rarity, as is a Chow Mien (1000). We've also had another Todanni (1000) following last month's and a pretty spectacular Mish Mash (1000) – difficult to achieve as a hand based on pungs (3 of a kind) which all have to be drawn from the wall is a matter of both luck as well as determination not to give in to the temptation to seize upon a discard for fear of otherwise scoring almost nothing.

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

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

Novel Appreciation

Our September meeting discussed D.H.Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. We had a thorough, wide-ranging conversation about the writing style, characters, portrayal of sexuality, comparison with other Lawrence work, and the context - including the author's likely state of mind when he wrote it in the late 1920's.

Views were mixed regarding the quality of the writing, with quite a few disliking it, and a few asserting that his other works were far superior. The word 'gloomy' came up at least 3 times! The descriptions of the natural world, however, were appreciated by many if not all of us. Some felt the characters and conversations felt, at times, to be merely ciphers through which Lawrence expressed ideologies. It was noted that he was very unwell with TB, and his marriage a far from happy or stable one, at the time of writing. It was postulated that the author's own sexual problems (e.g. premature ejaculation) and marital disharmony may have coloured his portrayal of the sexual acts and perhaps of women in general – though it was noted that he had a number of strong female attachments in his life.

We were informed that DHL is/was very unpopular in his local area (Eastwood in Nottinghamshire) for the thinly disguised way he portrayed real people and (some tragic) events.

Online Zoom Talks

They online talks group started the autumn/winter season with a talk entitled 'AI is Everywhere' on the 5th September at 7 pm. The talk was recorded and is still available if anyone missed it.

The next talk is about the US elections and will be delivered by Paul Carter on Thursday 3rd October at 7 pm.

If you are not a member of the group and would like to receive the link to the talks or the recordings, please let Michael know on 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."

Philosophy Our next meeting at 10.15am on 30/9/24 is via zoom and we will be discussing pragmatism. The next meeting at Roomfield is on 14/10/24 with Richard Rorty under discussion.

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

Photography Group

Our first meeting in August was a car-share visit to Kirkstall Abbey on the outskirts of Leeds. 12 members of the group took part and was enjoyed by everyone as the abbey is quite extensive and gave opportunities to take plenty of images. Whilst it was very interesting it also gave quite a number of challenges particularly with light and shade.



Kirkstall Abbey by Fiona Ryland



Kirkstall Abbey by Janet Almond

At our second meeting of the month details of our Autumn Project were announced. As there are 15 weeks from the beginning of September until Christmas each member has been asked to take photographs covering 15 topics, a list of which was forwarded to them just prior to the 1st of September. Then in January meetings each member needs to show one image from each topic or as many topics that they have managed to take. It's not an easy project as some of the topics will need some thinking about!!

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation Group had a reduced meeting in September and enjoyed some poems on the theme 'Rash'. We meet again on October 10th.

Practical Art Our group returned on Friday August 30th for our first session back after a summer break. Whilst the weather is still decent and the foliage still abundant we decided to do landscape using a small "window" to select a part of a photo or image on a laptop and then enlarging it. Hopefully this made it easier to simplify and work more loosely. Next session we are each setting up a still life of draped fabric and shoes.

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

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.

Psychology

8 of us regulars welcomed a new member to our mix, as we went on to listen to two extracts from "All in the Mind" on BBC Sounds, on the topic of the psychology of Hope. Afterwards, we discussed our own techniques for positivity, which included setting realistic goals and using mindfulness and nature. We shared our own attitudes, one of us in particular being super positive, even in the face of pain/discomfort, to others who have experienced the grief of loss, and have had to work to regain an enthusiasm for life. Our discussion was lively and wide-reaching.

Next time, on October 10th, we hope to look more closely at the methodology of psychologists, both quantitative and qualitative, and the statistics and conclusions we are presented with via the media. Can we trust these findings? We will each try to bring our own examples from newspapers, or elsewhere, of information which we may choose to challenge.

If you would like to join us at Honest Johns at midday, please contact Brenda Botten at broyd33@hotmail.co.uk

Quiz Group

Our next quiz is on Thursday 26th September at 10.15 at Central Methodist.

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

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 in the downstairs room at Central Methodist Church, with tea/coffee and biscuits regularly on offer, usually 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 for entertainment and enjoyment rather than victory. 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

We met in August to discuss Bradford Mill Girl and will continue the discussion in September.

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

Strollers Group

Eight of us started out on a very enjoyable 3-mile stroll in dappled sunshine with lovely views and lost only one enroute even though there were several opportunities for members to opt midway for a shorter walk. We had a bit of a climb near the start but were then rewarded with level ground and a meandering downhill final stretch. We finished with lunch at Innovation's newly styled cafe in Hebden Bridge where there was much exchange of local knowledge and a lot of laughter.

If you are interested in joining us on our next walk on Wednesday 2nd October 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 .

Tablet and iPad Club

A small group meets for the Tablet and iPad group and discuss various apps and any problems.

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.

Three Valley Readers

We met in September to discuss Anne Tyler's book The Ladder of Years. The reviews from those attending were varied. The resulting discussion on topics brought up was considerable and enjoyed.

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.

Thursday Cinema

In common with many other U3A groups we did not meet in August. The next meeting will be on Thursday 26th September when the film offering is Beetlejuice Beetlejuice which is described as 'Quirky, spooky and brash'. From what I have read I would place it somewhere between fantasy and gentle sci-fi. More details will be sent to the group. Further details from the convenor gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com or 07833204152