

**GROUP NEWS
OCTOBER 2024**

Art Appreciation/History

After showing a short film entitled Capturing Magic the Making of Stained Glass, which can be found on YouTube, Gary Thomas gave us an entertaining presentation on stained glass, mainly based on his own experience of the making and fitting of this beautiful material, from the initial design (cartoon) to the finished product. He also explained the process of etching on glass using sand blasting. It is thought glass (which is made from salt, wood ash and sand) was discovered by the Phoenicians 5000 years ago.



Our next meeting will be a trip to the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester. Our usual venue will be unavailable from December for a few months.

Members will have details but contact tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com with any queries or tel Judith on 01706 812890. New members always welcome.

Alfresco History / Archaeology

Unfortunately our planned Hebden Bridge Trail walk on 1st October had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Hopefully we shall be able to do it next year.

Our next outing will be a guided tour of Todmorden Town Hall on Wednesday 20 November at 2pm.

For further details or if you wish to join the tour, please contact Susan Cockcroft susancockcroft38@gmail.com or 07554118420

For any other information, please contact stephaniehaworth@aol.com

Art Club

At our last meeting arrangements were confirmed about the location of our meetings during the period when Fielden Hall will be temporarily closed for refurbishment. We then took the opportunity of sharing our very different interpretations on the theme of "Reflections" before carrying on with new work, some of the group starting on a new suggested theme of "From above".



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. If anyone is interested they should contact Judith Malone on 01706812890. Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm currently at Fielden Hall.

Board Games Group

The Board Games Group has its regular monthly meeting in the afternoon of the second Monday of each month, in a rather privileged location where we not only get to play for free but also get free hot drinks and biscuits. That might perhaps be an added temptation to come along and see what we do? While everyone likes to win we play as much for each other as against each other, just enjoying discovering the rules and the twists and turns of the many very different games we have available. None of us can yet claim to be wholly expert in any of them, so joining in as a novice should not be daunting, and could open new doors to unexpected pleasures. To find out more please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987.

Canasta Group

Eleven of us met on the 23rd September including a new comer who had come along to “try it out”. Another enjoyable afternoon with three tables. On the Tuesday session on 8th October everybody seemed to be on holiday or with medical appointments and only three of us showed up – but we had a fun afternoon each playing for ourselves and the lead passing from one to the other. The first game proving null and void as no one had been able to make two Canastas and “go out” before we had depleted the deck!

Our next sessions are Monday 28th October followed by Tuesday 12th November. Further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

No one was wildly enthusiastic about our September book, 'The Infernal World of Branwell Bronte' by Daphne Du Maurier but we had an interesting discussion. We talked about how Branwell was a vulnerable little boy protected by his father and how he later failed to deal with life outside the parsonage. Over the years he suffered a series of humiliating failures and a descent into addiction followed by an early death. We were not without sympathy for him.

We also discussed the challenge of writing about someone who lived over a hundred years ago. There is a reliance upon written sources and a temptation to speculate when sources can't be found or don't exist. We also realised that much of our discussion was speculation.

We ended with a more general discussion of the Bronte sisters and their novels.

Our next meeting is on Monday 28th October when we will be discussing 'The Turn of the Screw' by Henry James.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We marked the start of our second year of performing, by being invited by the incoming Mayor of Luddenden, to a fundraising event at Booth Cricket Club. A visit to Leedham Court in Hebden Bridge is booked for next month.

We are also developing next year's program. Anyone who is interested can come and meet us at Tod. Fire Station where we rehearse on most Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm.

Coffee Club Nine of us met up for Coffee Club on 7th October and spent a pleasant morning ‘putting the world to rights’. In addition to discussing various activities and events likely to take place in the area during November we also spent time discussing the new Tod U3A Pickleball Course

From there we progressed to the Town Deal and various other ‘improvements’ being planned in Todmorden and Rossendale areas including the amount of public money spent both now and in the past on the commissioning of outside consultants, public artworks etc.

Continuing with the quasi political theme we moved on to the convoluted systems used in USA elections but this gave us all a collective headache so moved to less contentious topics such as poor quality bus services, music, crocheting also holidays & trips both past and in the near future

As some planned to attend U3A Lunch Club that afternoon it was decided not to take lunch at Honest Johns but to meet again next month on **Monday 4th November at Honest John’s** in the private room on the right as you enter the building.

All U3A card holding 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. 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.

Craft Club At the September 20th meeting the members welcomed back Sue Hayter, a former member of the group, who gave a demonstration of encaustic art. This is painting with wax and an iron. The technique was enthusiastically tried by members who took their work away to either frame or use to decorate cards. Thanks to Sue for coming back for a morning.

On October 4th we turned our hands to developing our skills in either painting or stencilling on fabric bags and cushion covers, some great pieces were produced.

We also spent some time at both sessions discussing the logistics of our move to a temporary home at Todmorden College from December until April whilst building work is carried out at Fielden Hall.

The session on October 18th will take the form of a challenge set by a club member to decorate a zipped bag. As everyone will be working on an identical bag it will be very interesting to see the range of techniques and materials used.

November 1st will see members learning to make fabric coil pots.

On November 15th we shall be having what has become an annual session in which we explore a German Christmas Craft. This year it will be making model houses with smoking chimneys



Creative Writing

Our meetings resumed after a month's break, our themes for October being 'Sundays' and 'Naughtiness'. As ever though, any and all pieces of writing are welcomed and appreciated. Variations from the theme included an account of a holiday in Ireland, in a village which most of us had never heard of on the west coast of that country, where semi tropical plants thrive and at least one resident has a swim in the Atlantic Ocean every day. Another member produced a 'what am I?' poem about an unwelcome plant which appears every year, to bully its neighbours and exasperate gardeners. Along with memories about the Sabbath, such as 'Family Favourites' on the radio, and our second half activity stretching the grey cells some more, it was great to meet up again.

New members are always welcome, so come and give us a try!

English Language and Linguistics Group

This group will meet for the first time on Tuesday 22nd October at 3:00 pm in Roomfield Baptist Church. Information about this group is at https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/english-language-and-linguistics/.

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The Enjoyment of wine group continue to meet online and face to face in the Gaddings room at Tod College.

Online we use zoom meaning that nobody has to drive home after. For October the online meeting has the theme of wines of eastern Europe for Saturday 12th and an in person get together on Friday 25th when the theme is alcohol free wines and their alcoholic equivalent.

First Tuesday Book Group

This Group had its first meeting in October when the group agreed to be open to reading and discussing all sorts (should that be "*genres*"?) of literature, but our first book was a novel: "Prophet Song" by Paul Lynch. It was well-received by the majority.

Conversation didn't slacken and lots of differing, thought-provoking, perspectives on the dystopian setting, were contributed. The book was said to have set a "high bar" and to be a "must read" for a wider population and could serve as a warning against complacency.

The group is closed for membership, currently, but for our next meeting, the book is "Now We Shall Be Entirely Free" by Andrew Miller, published in 2018 and set in the period of the Napoleonic Wars. Look out for our verdict next month.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

We are currently working on Reflexive verbs to talk about our Daily Routine as well as the unexpected times the French language requires an activity to reflect back on themselves. Sometimes it is simply best to accept that communication skills don't always work the same as English.

As always, we aim to develop Listening and Speaking skills in particular which are a great way to keep our memories active and 'brain fog' at bay!

We meet at TCCLH in the Pex Tenement room 2nd & 4th Mondays in the month, 1.30pm until 3.30pm. radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group. (zoom meetings and outings)

The zoom meetings have restarted and will take place at 10.30am for 40 minutes on the 1st Tuesday of each month from October to March. This month a few gardeners met to discuss autumnal jobs to do in the garden.

Group Convenors are Peter Gibson (toddypg@gmail.com) and Fiona Ryland (fi.o.a.ryland@gmail.com). Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A Todmorden.

German Group

As I mentioned earlier, the German Group, which enjoyed the arrival of another new Member today, is reading a set of interviews with Germans born just after the 2nd WW. The invisible interviewer is the same age as the interviewees and is Jewish. The book, Born Guilty, describes the variety of ways people born at that coped with what they gradually learnt about their parents. The Group's reaction so far has been one of downright enthusiasm.

It's not only literature we do, though. Today, for instance, the Group tackled a really tricky exercise on endings, one which showed clearly how, if you get the ending wrong, you change the whole meaning of the text. It sounds terrifying, but the Group has done a lot of reading and Members have gradually absorbed the niceties of German grammar. One Member, writing from her sickbed, made two mistakes. The other forty-nine missing endings were filled in perfectly.

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.

The next event is the Charities Shield on 19th November 2024.



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 final trip of the year is on Wednesday 4th December to York where members will be free to spend the day as they wish. The Christmas markets will also be open.

Local History

Our October meeting featured a talk from a visiting speaker, Peter Thornborrow, who gave an information-packed guide to the 17th Century Yeoman Farmhouses and Furniture of the Upper Calder Valley, based on his long personal and professional involvement with the official "Listing" of these distinctive buildings. For our next meeting, on the 4th November, 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 some questions left hanging from previous meetings - such as, "Why did 19th century tailors die young?" and "Who voted for John Fielden?" 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

The Lunch Club had a Greek/Turkish theme this month. Twenty members made a return visit to an old favourite, the Aya Sofia in Hebden Bridge.

Mah Jong

One major achievement this month – a Run, a Pung and a Pair. Well done, Sian! This is a spectacularly difficult hand: all 14 tiles are in one suit, and all of them have to be sourced direct from the wall – no discards allowed. And that's why it scores 2000.

There's also been a relatively rare Chop Suey, and June succeeded in crossing Windfall - 1 of each wind and 5 pairs in one suit - off her bucket list.

And one player was within a cat's whisker of a Royal Ruby – pung of Red Dragons, and then pungs and a pair of red bamboos – not just once but twice in the same afternoon. Mah Jong is certainly a game that teaches you how to manage disappointment and to be patient.

We meet every Wednesday from 15.00 until 17.00 in The Golden Lion, whose hospitality is much appreciated. Please contact Emily Watnick treasurer@u3atod.org.uk if you are interested in joining us. 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

Modern Greek sessions have commenced from 3rd October, every 2 weeks. We have begun a new book and we are consolidating our knowledge. If anyone is interested in joining, please get in touch. You should at least be able to read the alphabet. Contact rontapsall@hotmail.co.uk

Novel Appreciation

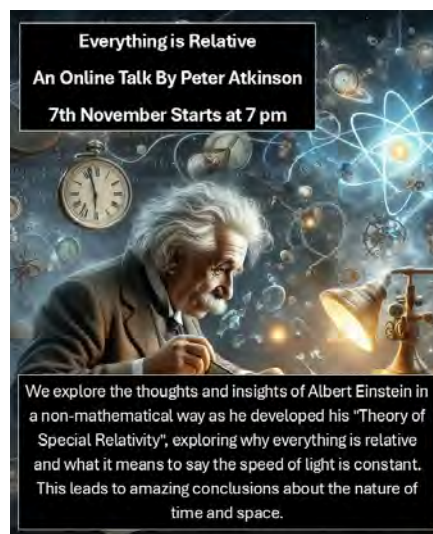
This month we discussed *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke. This fantasy novel won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2021. Set in a parallel universe, Piranesi inhabits 'the House', which consists of hundreds of halls and vestibules containing large statues, with lower regions washed by tides of water. It apparently triggers memory and identity loss in newcomers. The story is told via Piranesi's journals as he lives alone, but regularly visited by a man he refers to as 'the Other'. His work of mapping and caring for the House is interrupted by the sudden appearance of an elderly man and woman who have links with the present day city of Manchester.

Most members of the group enjoyed the book, with several enjoying certain sections more than others. The themes of the novel and its characters were interpreted by different people in different ways, which led to an interesting and detailed discussion. Piranesi was generally considered to be a very entertaining book of great imagination and originality.

Online Zoom Talks

The group had a fascinating insight into the working of the American presidential election with the October talk.

Next month the talk is about Albert Einstein and it is entitled 'Everything is Relative'. The speaker, Peter Atkinson, will explore the thoughts and insights of Albert Einstein in a non-mathematical way as he developed his "Theory of Special Relativity". This leads to some amazing conclusions about the nature of time and space.



The talk will take place at 7 pm on Thursday the 7th November.

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 is via zoom on 28th October at 10.15 am when we will be discussing post modernism and post structuralism. The next meeting at Roomfield is on 11th November while the meaning of reality as the topic.

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

Pickleball Group

This new group kicked off with 15 members attending a session in Mytholmroyd Community Centre Gym on Wednesday 9th October, led by Tony Jenkins, who introduced the game to groups in Elland and Mytholmroyd. Whilst in the course of a few minutes play, everyone was still finding their serve, we've resolved to play again weekly, at the later time of 3:00 pm on Wednesday, in the same venue.

The group has its own equipment: 4 paddles and balls, so you don't need to buy your own while you're learning the basics. Any members wanting to know more, please see details on https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/pickleball/.

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The October meeting of the Poetry Appreciation Group listened to poems about 'caution'. We all survived.

Next meeting will be on November 14th when we aim to be in 'Harmony'.

Practical Art

We have had busy sessions in the last month, welcoming more new members to the group. A challenging topic was to take a photograph and, using a viewfinder, concentrate on a small area of the picture. This was then enlarged to fill the picture space.

The second topic this Autumn was to draw seedheads and berries working on large sheets of paper. We used a variety of types of charcoal from charcoal pencils, willow charcoal through to dense black concentrated charcoal.

And last week we used watercolour to paint fruit and vegetables of our choice or from a set up with a demo and instructions on how to proceed through the painting, hopefully inspiring our newer members.

We are due to relocate to Todmorden college after Christmas when the Fielden closes for renovations and our last session on the 6th December will be a lunch at Top Brink.

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.

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 further meetings.

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

Psychology

There were 9 members present this month and what a very lively and interesting session we had.

Our topic was 'Differing approaches to Psychology' and looking at the way the media reports findings from surveys and research. We were given a thorough explanation of quantitative and qualitative research, with some really interesting examples of both.

We discussed media reports about the Lucy Letby case and NHS statistics. We learned about an experiment with children carrying out research among their peers and discussed whether we might be losing the ability to use our instincts.

One of our members had completed a survey on Attachment Styles and we all agreed that Attachment Theory and Styles would be an interesting topic to pursue next month.

Look forward to seeing you all with your thoughts and ideas about 'attachment' on November 14th

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

Quiz Group

Our next quiz is on 24th October, 10.15 am at Central Methodist Church.

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

We have just begun two new courses. The first course is “Biology and Human Behaviour” The next five lectures are: - The Basic Cells of the Nervous System, How Two Neurons Communicate, Learning and Synaptic Plasticity, The Dynamics of Interacting Neurons, The Limbic System.

The second course is “Impossible: Physics Beyond the Edge”. The next few lectures are entitled: - “On Sunshine and Invisible Particles”, “Reflections on the Motive Power of Fire”, “Maxwells Demon”, “Absolute Zero”, and “Predicting the Future”.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues 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, making free use of dictionary apps and printed lists of obscure 2 and 3 letter words, with no penalties for challenging or testing out "possible" words. We also rotate winners between tables (usually managing about four games a session) so that everyone gets a chance to hear new gossip and views. 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 met in September to discuss the autobiography of a Bradford Mill Girl. Our next meeting is at the Methodist church on October 18 at 10 15 am where we will watch a film about Todmorden. All are welcome.

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

Strollers Group

The group of three members met at 9:55 and caught the 10:08, 596 bus to Blackshaw Head. A scenic ride to the start of the walk at about 10:30. From the village we climb Higher Back Lane, a green lane which rises from Old Shaw Lane at the village start.

The track bears left and continues at an elevated level for about half a mile, to a cross-track. A right turn here and a vista where we could see much of the route ahead. Dry, fresh weather, good for walking and enabling clear distant views made this even more of a pleasure. This track is partly stony, partly grassed and narrow so care is needed.

Down hill for a few hundred yards to a farm at the head of Brown Hill Lane. A left turn takes the track behind low trees to a gate, and a rutted deep stony track for a quarter of a mile to a cross track at Field Head Farm - we cross the main track (New Road) and carry straight on towards Rodmer Clough. This downhill track passes Land Farm on our right.

We followed the metalled road over a pack-horse bridge (School Land Lane) which rises quite steeply for 1/4 mile up to Edge Lane where we turn right for a few hundred yards. At the brow of this road at a pair of galvanised gates on our left we climb through the adjacent gap style. Following a stony quarry track, bearing right at first bend to join a green track passing in front of a derelict building. The track joins a new rubble-capped track, turning right, looking for a gap-style onto Heptonstall moor on our left, briefly joining the Pennine Way. The track climbs over the moor and where it descends the Pennine Way cuts away to our left. We carry on until we reach a dry stone wall and a wooden gate. Through the gate to our right and follow the track to the upper edge of Popples Common. Turning right we pass two memorial benches, meet a limestone-chipped farm track, cross it and meet Smithwell Lane, and the bus stop for the 596 bus back to town. This bus runs every half hour and a bus came within 5 minutes. 3.4 miles - a little longer than anticipated but enjoyable, especially given the kind weather.

NB The Strollers Group is splitting into two to cater for those who wish to do a "stroll" of 1 – 2 miles on the flat (mainly!) and those who want the type of walk we have been doing this year i.e. around the 3 miles with some ups and downs. Graham and David have agreed to be the Convenors for the new Intermediate Walking Group. Further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com Walks will resume next year.

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

For the October meeting we reviewed Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi.

We all found it a book that was slower to read as we were totally immersed. The book incorporated politics, literary criticism and the experiences of a group of women in Tehran in the late 1970s and 1980s. "Highly intelligent skilful writer"

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

Our next film will be Joker: Folie a Deux, the sequel to 2019's Oscar-winning Joker, and stars Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga who each find true love and a partner in crime. Widely described as cinematic brilliance. Further details from the convenor gwendolinemgoddard@gmail.com or 07833204152

Walking Cricket

Todmorden Tigers arrived at the Bradford Festival on Saturday 14th September with only 6 players and no ladies due to illness and injury. So extra players were required and Ilkley had only three players and so they merged together to form 'Todley'.



The Tigers with their new Ilkley team mates

They won their first two games and only closely lost the third game because of a 60-run penalty as they did not have any women players.

The next session will be on the 24th October 2 pm to 4.00 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 September Walk was led by Corinne Roberts and the attached photo shows the group on the hillside between Cornholme and Shore. The other photo shows us meeting a very handsome (but apparently friendly) beast en route towards Bridestones after visiting Shore Baptist Chapel.

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

Seven members took part in this walk of six miles on Saturday 12th October. We started at Callis Bridge, having been favoured by the bus timetables in both directions coinciding nicely there. We started on the route of the Pennine Way route through Callis Woods, and then drifted over to the Pennine Bridleway. The long path known as London Road afforded spectacular views on a bright day.



Deviating from the planned route, we crossed Mankinholes hamlet beside the Youth Hostel taking a direct path across the fields to emerge in Lumbutts adjacent to the Top Brink pub. We took a refreshment break just after leaving Lumbutts, and continued via Oldroyd, Kilnhurst and the canal tow path into Todmorden town centre.

World Film Club

The World film group had two showings scheduled this month, although one never took place due to our inability to get timely access to the venue! The Other - an offbeat Western - went well, and was enjoyed by members

At the moment we are using our launch season to show films suggested by members, followed by a discussion of the films, and there will be further showings scheduled up to December 13th, with the next season starting in January 2025. There are usually two Friday showings in each month

There are capacity constraints on membership, but numbers are kept under active review, and we are happy to put people on a waiting list (which is currently empty, so admission is likely to be possible in the near future).

Contact details are on the U3A website.