

GROUP NEWS NOVEMBER 2024

Photography

October has been a busy month for the Photo Group with a number of members away on holidays etc. The visit to Salt's Mill at Saltaire primarily to see the Ian Beasley's street photography exhibition, however, as we were all armed with cameras we took the opportunity to wander and take a whole range of images from an eclectic range of things on display. Everyone enjoyed the visit and suggested that we have a return trip in 2025 as none of us had seen around the whole of the mill and we had only had a very limited peep at Saltaire Village.



Salt's Mill by Barbara Lansdell



Autumn Colour by David Birchall

The theme for the month was "Autumn Colour" especial for those who couldn't make the Saltaire trip. We've been really lucky with the beautiful array of colour, spoilt a little by the dull overcast weather. Post processing, however, was used by many to bring out the colour as we had seen it.

The Autumn project is well underway to get 15 images each from a list of 15 topics one image for each topic. Some easy topics and others that needed a bit of thinking about.

The current programme ends in December so there were discussions particularly about the practical sessions for 2025.

An important discussion was our venue for the New Year, with the temporary closure of Fielden Hall we needed a new home. There were a few options, but these were narrowed down with the decision to move to Gordon Rigg's for our meetings from the beginning of the New Year.

Philosophy

The next meeting is on 25th November at Roomfield. We will be discussing the future pattern of meetings. The topic for discussion is autocracy.

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

Pickleball Group

An average of 8 members are attending weekly Pickleball sessions at Mytholmroyd Community Centre's gym, using the starter kit of paddles and balls purchased for the group. There is a possibility of an additional session taking place in Todmorden, and members will shortly be canvassed to see if there will be sufficient numbers to support this. As current numbers at Mytholmroyd allow for 50% playing time during the hour, I would be grateful if people who haven't come before would let me know, as we could consider extending the session to allow more playing time if numbers rise. Bill Black (groups@u3atod.org.uk).

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation group met on Nov. 14th to discuss poems on the theme of Harmony. Our harmonious discussion covered work by Michael Longley, Charles Causley, William Blake and John Milton. Discord was absent.

Practical Art

Practical Art goes from strength to strength, welcoming six new members recently! We have experimented with watercolours, painting seasonal fruits; tried our hand at creating flower paintings using oil pastels and acrylics, scratching through to the layers underneath; and painted animals in soft pastel on velour paper. Our next project is using Brusho in a mixed media picture.

This will be our last practical session before the break, as on the 6th December we go up to Top Brink for our Christmas Lunch. As our next class would be the 20th December we won't meet then but will be back on 3rd January, when we will be relocating to the college. The time changes to 10am until 12 as another group comes into the room after us.

Psychology

Ten of us met on Thursday to talk about Attachment Theory and Styles. Most of us had read up on the subject and others shared extra information from their personal experiences.

We found a distinct overlap with Transactional Analysis, so we agreed that it would be interesting and useful to pursue that subject next month.

Pili will lead on that, and Diana will prepare materials to share on the subject of Memory for January's meeting.... we think we've covered this in the past, but couldn't quite remember! It will be interesting to revisit the topic, as we have had many new members since it was last explored.

We agreed to maintain our current day, time and venue for 2025 and The Honest John has our booking for the whole of next year.

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

Quiz Group

There will be no quizzes in November and December. The next quiz will be on 23rd January, 2025.

We are looking for a new convenor and volunteers to be quizmaster.

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 are currently watching two courses. The first course is “Biology and Human Behaviour” The next five lectures are: - The Automatic Nervous System, The Regulation of Hormones by the Brain, The Regulation of the Brain by Hormones, The Evolution of Behaviour, and The Evolution of Behaviour- Some Examples.

The second course is “Impossible: Physics Beyond the Edge”. The next few lectures are entitled: - “Visiting the Past”, “Thinking in Space Time”, “Faster than Light”, “Black Holes and Curved Space-Time”, and “A Spinning Universe, Wormholes and Such”.

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

Ernie showed a film about Todmorden at October meeting and we will show a different film in November.

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

Strollers Group

The Strollers Group will be resuming next March when we will be doing walks of only 1 to 2 miles. Details from Barbarawigley@btinternet.com or helenstarmer@hotmail.com

We have been invited to join the Walking Group for their Christmas Treasure Hunt walk – further details will be sent to members when received.

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 November to discuss The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell. It was inspired by The Last Duchess by Robert Browning and is based on the life of Lucrezia de Medici starting in 1561.

The group had mixed views with some really enjoying it - the writing style and descriptions particularly. Others did not enjoy it for what was considered over descriptiveness and writing in the present tense.

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

Thank you to those who supported this group but for various reasons numbers have dwindled, and although we had a promising start I think the decline has been due, at least in part, because we have not been able to choose the film to be shown on the designated day. Unless another member is willing to take on the role of convenor it will close.

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 October walk was led by Bill Griffiths and the next walk will be led by Judy Audaer on Tuesday 26th November.

On Tuesday 10th December, we'll be having another of our December Walking Treasure Hunts. As usual, this is being organised by Bill Griffiths and will take place in Burnley - starting with a bus journey for the Yorkshire contingent. Entry will be open to all four U3A Walking and Strollers groups and details will be circulated nearer the time.

Enquiries about the Walking Group, or requests to join, should be addressed to Peter Gibson at toddygp@gmail.com. Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A Todmorden.

Walking Cricket

We had a total of 18 members in attendance on the 24th October so we had a 9v9 game. Overall, the standard of fielding was excellent from both sides with a number of good individual performances from players on both sides

November the 7th saw Oldham return to the TLC for a friendly game against the Tigers. It was decided by both teams that instead of the usual competitive game the teams would be mixed. The game brought out good skills in those playing in both teams and more importantly it demonstrated the values of the u3a.



The Mixed Oldham and Todmorden Teams

The next session will be on the 28th November 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

Weekend Walking Group

A Saturday morning walk on Wadsworth Moor went ahead with 4 members on Saturday 9th November in low cloud. There was very little to see from the two vantage points of High Brown Knoll and Sheep Stone trig points, from which distant landmarks are visible on a clear day. This walk started and finished in Old Town, courtesy of the half-hourly 595 bus, at an elevation of 900' (270 m), leaving only a further 500' of ascent to the highest point.

Next month's walk will take place on Saturday 14th December, and the route will be posted on the Group web page and in an email to members. If you want to confirm taking part in the next walk, offer to lead a subsequent walk, or are interested in convening this group, please contact Bill Black using groups@u3atod.org.uk.

World Film Club

Film 1 1st November 2024 A Japanese Film (1950)

The film is regarded as influential because of a variety of cinematic and narrative techniques introduced that have been copied and developed since. It centres on the murder of a Samurai warrior and the rape of his wife. The account is told by three strangers who happen to find each other sheltering from a storm in an abandoned and decaying temple. Each relate the story from the recent trial of the bandit accused of the crimes. What emerges is that despite a single event occurring each actor will see it from different perspectives and no one recollection is reliable. It was enjoyed by the group and the follow up discussion afterwards.

Film 2 15th November 2024 A French, Canadian, Belgium and English film (2002)

This animated film of 2002 is regarded by many as a cult classic. It tells the story of a doting grandmother, who is also her young grandson's guardian, giving him a bicycle to give him an interest in life and how he develops a passion for cycling as he grows to manhood. As a young man he is kidnapped and disappears while on the Tour de France. What follows is his grandmother's search for him, along with their dog and engaging along the way three now elderly sisters. Another film that was enjoyed by the group, many of whom had seen it several times.

Both films were well attended with an average of thirty members.

Alfresco History / Archaeology

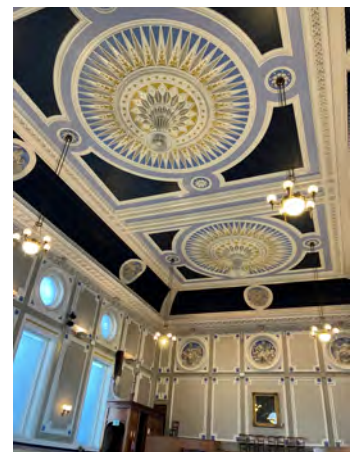
The November outing for the Alfresco History group was a guided tour of Todmorden Town Hall when 15 members of the Group were shown round by our Group member Susan Cockcroft and her fellow volunteers. We learnt a lot about the history of the Town Hall and saw parts not normally open to the public even meeting the current Mayor in the Mayor's parlour and being able to have a close look at the Chains of Office of both the Mayor and Lady Mayoress. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon ending with tea, coffee and delicious fruit cake. Thanks to Susan for organising this event.



Susan telling us about the Committee Room



Thomas Fielden who Donated money for the Town Hall



The magnificent ceiling in the Ballroom

There will be a trip to East Riddlesden Hall early in December and a meeting on 15 January to discuss future outings. Bill Black will be emailing everyone with further details.

From January onwards, I shall no longer be able to convene the group so if anyone feels ready to take over, please let me know or let it be known at the meeting on 15 January

Steph Haworth stephaniehaworth@aol.com

Art Appreciation/History

Barbara Walker's *Being Here* exhibition fills three gallery spaces at The Whitworth (Manchester), providing colourful, imaginative and clever takes on the political and cultural realities of her life and those around her. In another space, *The 'Death' of the Life Room* explores the life room tradition over the past century. On, again, to eye-popping, post-war textile designs by Shirley Craven. These were just some of the exhibitions enjoyed by the 14 of us who visited The Whitworth for our November meeting, the experience enhanced by an introduction from Aisling, one of the gallery's Visitor Team. Art Appreciation group meets on the first Thursday of the month (but with a break in January 2025). We are vacating our regular venue (Fielden Hall) during renovations. Contact Judith, tel. 01706 812890 or Tristan, e. tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com if you are interested in the group.



The Art Appreciation Group



Barbara Walker Painting



Life Drawings



Textile Hangings

Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met as usual in the afternoon on the second Monday in November, with 12 attendees variously enjoying old favourites "Qwirkle" and "Splendor", plus first-time attempts at "Carcassonne" and "Skip-bo". Much of the fun for us is in discovering new games and their rules (and their own particular ways of challenging the brain), so new-comers to the group are at no disadvantage. If you've ever enjoyed "Cluedo", "Risk" or anything similar you might want to give us a try. Get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or on 01422 844987.

Art Club

At our latest meeting we discussed the arrangements for our next meeting as it will be the last one before our temporary move to the Todmorden Community College during the refurbishment of Fielden Hall our normal home.

Thereafter our members got down to work many of us tackling the the current theme of “Looking down” using many different approaches.



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. From the 11th December we will meeting at the College until the refurbishments at Fielden Hall are complete.

Canasta Group

A busy session on Monday 28th October with 12 players and 9 of us on Tuesday 12th.

We've recently gained a new member – welcome to Linda but have lost two others whose busy lives clash with the days we meet so why not give it a try in the New Year. We will be meeting on Tuesday 14th January and Monday 27th January at the Hare & Hounds, Burnley Road, Todmorden 2.15 – 4.15 pm. We will be revisiting the rules as some of us have become muddled with the rules we use. Further details from barbarawigley@btinternet.com

Classic Literature Group

We discussed Henry James's novella *The Turn of the Screw* in October. It was first published as a magazine serial in 1898 and is based on a similar story told to James by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1895.

The story's complex frame casts doubt upon the reliability of the narrators and it is also deliberately ambiguous so that the reader has to decide whether the ghosts are real or figments of a disturbed mind. Henry James had financial difficulties by the 1890s and disparaged the novella as 'a shameless little pot-boiler, absolutely calculated and mechanical' but later seemed to change his mind about its merit.

The group was lukewarm about the tale and suggested that it is indeed a potboiler and some of us found James's convoluted sentences off putting. Nevertheless, *The Turn of the Screw* is one of the most analysed and ambiguous ghost stories ever written and is James's most widely adapted work, generating theatre and TV plays, an opera and a ballet.

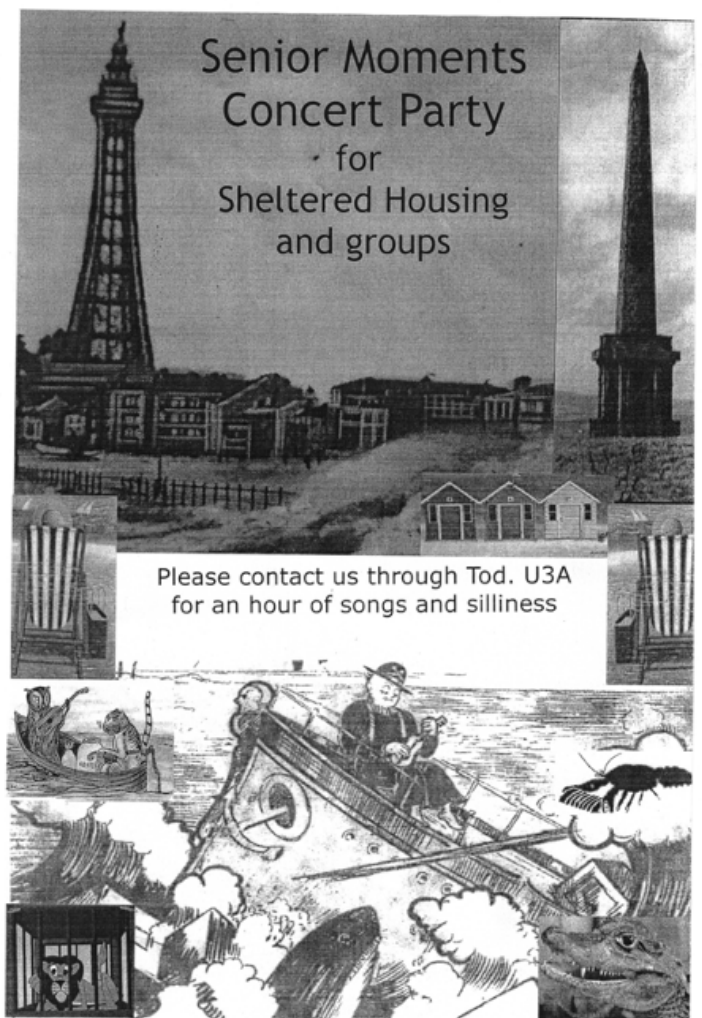
We will be reading *Swann's Way* by Marcel Proust at our meeting on 25th November.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We continue to meet on Tuesday afternoons for rehearsals at the Fire Station and are developing next year's programme. In the meantime, we are continuing 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.

We had a very friendly reception at Leedham Court in Hebden Bridge on 12th November with the added bonus of delicious cakes, and have been asked to return next May to help celebrate their 10th anniversary.

We look forward to visiting the Overgate HUB at Tod. Health Centre for the first time on 3rd December.



Coffee Club

Our regular members were delighted to welcome yet another new face to the meeting on 4th November and, as usual, spent a pleasant morning discussing a multitude of random subjects including skip licences, disposal of food waste, the Todmorden Town Deal and U3A Groups.

No-one can accuse U3A members of being parochial so wider issues such as Global warming, the imminent American elections and many other subjects did not escape our attention either and the morning seemed to race by. At the end of our allotted time some of us elected to stay for lunch

If you are a member of any U3A (not just Todmorden) , and happen to be in Todmorden on **Monday 2nd December** why not call into **Honest John's** and say hello. We have exclusive use of the private room on the right just as you enter the building from 10.30am until about noon.

Drinks are ordered from the room so there is no need to venture into the bar area, you can stay for just a few minutes or the whole session and you don't even need to have a drink if you do not wish to. Future dates will be published in the monthly Groups Report.

Creative Writing

Our group met on Thursday the 14th of November, our themes for this month being 'Worries' and 'The Plot'.

Once again, our members provided a number of varied aspects about these words. Confirming that worries, certainly these days, are many and varied, we heard about a mole who was concerned about humans blocking underground routes through their shared garden.

'The Plot' produced diverse offerings - means of despatching a pesky spouse, childhood memories of a garden plot and, of course, the gunpowder plot. Our eight members attending meandered into a great discussion about parkin and the availability (or lack) of parkin pigs!

Our 'second half' activity was provided by a member who drew inspiration from TV's 'The Number One Ladies Detective Agency'.

Our next two meetings will start at 1.30pm, to hopefully travel home in daylight. New members will be very welcome.

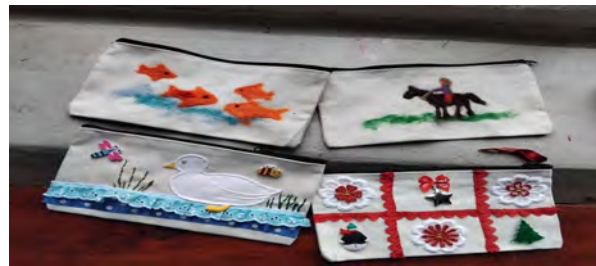
English Language and Linguistics Group

An inaugural session was held on 22nd October at Roomfield Baptist Church on the theme of ambiguity in language, with consideration of what a range of example utterances show about the analysis contributed by different branches of linguistics.

A follow-up session is planned for 3rd December on the theme(s) of correctness and linguistic pedantry. More detail, including some background web reading is on the Group web page. Please contact Bill Black (groups@u3atod.org.uk) to join this group.

Craft Club

On November 1st some of the finished items from the challenge to decorate a zipped bag were brought in. An amazing variety of techniques were used by group members. Some examples are displayed on the photograph.



The topic for this session was learning how to make a basket using rope covered with yarn.



At the second session in November we had what has become an annual treat-making a traditional German Christmas Decoration. This year it was a model house with a smoking chimney.



In December the group will be relocating to Todmorden College whilst building work is carried out at Fielden Hall. We have decided to hold our Christmas celebration on November 29th whilst still at Fielden Hall. As well as having our celebrations we shall be investigating making ornaments using glitter foam.

There will only be one meeting for the club in December- on December 13th in the Bridestones room at Todmorden College. The topic for this is as yet undecided. The meetings after this will be at Todmorden College starting on January 10th. We expect to return to Fielden Hall in April.

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The Enjoyment of wine group continue to meet both online on Saturday evenings and in person on Friday afternoons at Tod College though some meetings have been postponed recently due to low numbers. There is space in the group for several more members. Anyone interested should contact Bob Hayter or Mike Astrop in the first instance.

We enjoy a glass of wine in a relaxed way whilst exploring the what's and whys in our glass. We buy our own wines around a theme decided amongst the group and what we don't consume at tastings we take home to enjoy later with a little more insight. Online meetings give everyone the opportunity to taste and comment on their wine without the worry about driving home after. The next online meeting will be on Saturday 7th December at 7pm when the theme is 'Your favourite Christmas drink and the food you would eat with it'. Then on Friday 20th is the group Christmas lunch, 12:30 at Rive Hollingworth Lake, places and menu choices must be booked in advance.

First Tuesday Book Group

We met for only our second-book-discussion meeting on 5th November. The book had been Andrew Miller's "Now We Shall All be Entirely Free", set in the period of the Napoleonic wars. The title is taken from the last line of the book and it sparked some considerable discussion as to what was meant by it. No spoilers here. The book had been a good read - though flawed in places and in some aspects - without exception, we had all enjoyed reading it. Not an author any of us knew previously, despite him having won some awards. Our next book will be Claire Keegan's short stories collection "Walk the Blue Fields" - group members are asked to read the first five stories, at least, for the discussion.

We have one space available for group membership if anyone is interested in joining us. Happy to hear from them via the Website <https://u3atod.org.uk/groups/>

French: 'An Improvers Group'

We have been improving our spoken French and using the past tense. It's certainly more complicated than English especially when you throw reflexive verbs into the mix too but there are lots of guides available especially on youtube to encourage members to practise in their own time.

The challenge now is to share our plans for the immediate future. How about preparing our Christmas Holiday plans to talk about at our Christmas meal in December? Sounds like a plan!

The group encourages anyone interested particularly in developing their Listening and Speaking skills. Do consider joining us. We meet at TCCLH In the Pex Tenement room 1.30pm to 3.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Amitié Gill radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group (zoom meetings and outings)

We continue with monthly zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am. This month several members joined for an informative discussion on all things gardening.

Group Convenors are 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

Over the last few weeks we've been focusing on texts from Born Guilty, a collection of interviews with largely Austrian individuals born just after WW2. What links them is that they all have parents who were active Nazis or lied to their children about what their husbands had been up to.

What differentiates them from one another is how honest they are to the interviewer, one another and themselves about their parents. The book is all about that key German concept of Vergangenheitsbewältigung: coming to terms with the past. The book proved to be even more moving and relevant for members of the Group because we are all approximately the same age as the interviewees.

Two weeks ago we decided to give ourselves a bit of emotional relief by reading and translating something completely different, namely a brilliantly satirical story by the Nobel Prize winning author Heinrich Böll. Something Must Happen makes a mockery of a fundamental aspect of German identity, namely the ethos of hard work, which comes across as something of a myth. The story is both brilliantly entertaining deeply thoughtful.

Golf for Fun



https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/golf-for-fun/.

The Charities Shield on 19th November was snowed out. It has been rearranged for the spring, tentatively 28th April 2025.

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

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 November meeting began with some feed-back on questions that had arisen from previous sessions, addressing such topics as "Who Voted for John Fielden in 1832?" and "Why did 19th Century Tailors Die Young?", and then moved on to substantial contributions from some of our members, covering the local manufacture of loom-shuttles, the diary of a hand-loom weaver, the Greenwood family and Wood Bottom Mill in Mytholmroyd.

In advance of our December meeting those present had a lucky dip to draw a five-year period between 1800 and 1900 which they will then explore for some national or local festive references to report back on at that meeting, and we already have some talks from members lined-up for January and February. It was also suggested that in the new year we would focus our individual researches around the general theme of "The Upper Calder Valley in 1851", with the aim of putting together a snap-shot of that year across all sorts of topics - educational, medical, industrial, political, cultural, economic. 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 November lunch was held at a favourite venue, The White House at Blackstone Edge. We were once again amazed at the venue's ability to serve 20+ different meal choices promptly and without pre-ordering.

Anyone who would like to join the list to receive details of events should contact denisetyas@me.com

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.

Mah Jong

We are currently meeting at 14.15 – 16.15 at our new venue - the Hare and Hounds.

The move has brought about – fortuitously, doubtless – two Unique Wonders, a Todanni, and a stunning All Honours score of 5248 from Mary.

There was also an unusual game which ended in a draw with all three players requiring a final tile: two of them would have had All Honours hands – high scoring, too, as most of their pungs were concealed – and the third playing for a Dragonfly for the first time. All hinged on an unavailable red or white dragon. Hi-ho - such is the thrill of the chase.

We meet every Wednesday from 14.15 until 16.15 in the Hare and Hounds in Todmorden, 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.

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 John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*, written at the end of the second world war. Set in a small itinerant coastal community in California, it's essentially a collection of sketches recording the lives of the local characters over a period of time rather than having an overarching story arc. It demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses inherent in people however humble and impoverished their lives might be.

The group responded positively to the book, finding the writing to be high quality, and incorporating humour and warmth. The characterisation was detailed and skilful and the settings and natural world beautifully described. The overriding theme was considered to be human compassion conveyed by the characters, whatever their personal problems. The occasional incidents of violence and the suicides were discussed. It was suggested that these gave credibility to the events occurring as a whole: life comprising tragedy as well as humour.

Some of the group had not read Steinbeck before and appreciated his skill and compassion as a writer.

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."

Online Zoom Talks

On the 7th November 28 members puzzled over a talk by Peter Atkinson on Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity. Peter emphasized that the talk was for non-experts but some of us did find parts difficult to grasp. We had some interesting questions and our thanks to Myrna for trying to assist Peter in explaining some of the concepts.

'Time' came up as a big topic of interest so it has been decided to give an extra talk on the 27th November at 7 pm entitled 'Understanding Time' by yours truly.

Next month the talk, on the 5th December, is completely different with the accent on humour when Brad Ashton is going to tell us about 'The Job of a Laughtime'



The Job of a Laughtime
Online Talk By Brad Ashton
5th December Talks Starts at 7 pm

With his writing credits on well over 1,000 TV shows and over 400 BBC Radio shows, Brad tells backstage stories about the many top name comedians he has had the pleasure (and sometimes displeasure) of working with.