

**GROUP NEWS  
DECEMBER 2024**

**Art Appreciation/History**

A full house, despite heavy rain, enjoyed 12 members' choices of works of art that for them best evoke Christmas or winter. As it was our last meeting before Christmas, we then tucked into delicious nibbles provided by members.



There will be no meeting in January and members will be circulated at a later stage with details of the studio/gallery visit proposed for our February meeting.

New members are always welcome, contact Judith on 01706 812890 or Tristan at [tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com](mailto:tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com).

## Alfresco History / Archaeology

Nine members of the group made their way to East Riddlesden Hall in three cars. 14 had originally registered to come, two of whom had been intending to go by public transport. Our visit was enhanced by knowledgeable volunteers who were able to tell us about the original owners, the Murgatroyds from Halifax, a royalist family who fell on hard times in the Commonwealth, and more recent tenants, when it was a 'house in multiple occupation'.

The group's next meeting will be planning the visits we will undertake in the New Year. It will take place at 3.00 pm in Roomfield Baptist Church on Wednesday January 15th, 2025. All u3a members are invited to attend. Contact Bill Black ([williamblack2@icloud.com](mailto:williamblack2@icloud.com)) for information about this group.

## Art Club

At our last meeting at Fielden Hall before moving to the College pending refurbishment work members of the group diligently got down to completing our varying interpretation of the suggested theme of "looking down" before breaking to enjoy some delicious refreshments. We thought it an appropriate time to celebrate not only Christmas but the birthday of one of the group. Gail Allaby.



Although the group is currently at capacity potential new members are welcome to come and join in a session and, if interested, go on a waiting list. Anyone wanting further details should contact Judith Malone on 01706812890.

Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm. Pending the refurbishment of Fielden Hall meetings will be held at the Community College from the 11th December.

**Board Games Group** The Board Games Group met as usual on Monday 9th December, with three new players in attendance to make up for those otherwise detained by seasonal maladies or travel and engagements. We played Ticket to Ride, Splendor, Qwirkle and Rummicubs, with the new players seeming to greatly enjoy their first experience, and some so inspired that they promptly went on-line and bought one of the games for themselves.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th January 2025 and we still have plenty of room for more players. To find out more please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or on 01422 844987.

**Canasta Group** Only six of us made it to the last session in November but as six is the perfect number for an enjoyable game of Canasta we all had a pleasant afternoon. On Monday 10th December Ann took charge and reports that ten members had a good afternoons play. Thanks for stepping in Ann.

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](mailto:barbarawigley@btinternet.com)

## Classic Literature Group

We postponed our November meeting due to the bad weather and flooding.

We met for a group Christmas lunch at the White Lion in Hebden Bridge this month. Our next meeting will be in January 2025 when we will be discussing Swann's Way by Marcel Proust.

## Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We had our final performance of 2024 at the Overgate hub at Todmorden Health Centre on the 3rd December.

We plan to start rehearsals again on 7th January. So in the meantime, we wish you all a jolly Wassail.

## Coffee Club

The morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> December was wet and miserable however any discomfort suffered on the journey was soon forgotten when six of us entered the warm and cosy atmosphere of our room at Honest John's on 6 Rochdale Road for our usual meeting.

We spent a little time exchanging views on topical items such as the 'right to die' vote in Parliament also the furore over the behaviour of television personality Greg Wallace before moving on to developments in medical treatments over the years then to some local issues

In addition to discussing various trips members had planned during December, learning the Ukulele and the variety of Christmas themed entertainment options in Todmorden and surrounding areas three of us also stayed for lunch.

If you are a member of any U3A (not just Todmorden), and happen to be in Todmorden on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025** 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

The final Creative Writing Group meeting of 2024 was on Thursday the 12th of December, at the TLCCH, and our theme was 'Under the Tree'. The pieces of writing included a poem featuring the appearance of an unwanted present – a rat, and a young lad almost in despair after finding his presents of eight pairs of socks for Christmas, but with a happy ending in the form of an electric train set. These, and another version of last months' theme – The Plot - preceded a nail-biting Christmas Quiz, with the help of brainfood from Xmas goodies – and a prize at the end!

New members will be most welcome in 2025, why not give us a try?

## Craft Club

On November 15th in recycling mode, we converted an orange or milk carton into a house with a smoking chimney. The smoke will be provided by a burning incense cone.



As the session on November 29th was our last at Fielden Hall before our temporary move to Todmorden College we had our end of year party. We also celebrated Gail's Birthday and made some Christmas decorations out of glitter foam. A very busy and enjoyable meeting.



Irene demonstrating glitter foam



Glitter foam decorations



Sheila, Mary (Convenor) & Heather



Gail and Sue

December 13th saw us meeting for the first time at Todmorden College. We spent the time making more glitter foam ornaments and trying to complete some of our unfinished projects.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays the next meeting will not be until January 10th.

## English Language and Linguistics Group

This relatively new group had a second meeting on the 3rd December in Roomfield Baptist Church with 11 members discussing linguistic pedantry, leading into discussion of the prestige of different language varieties.

The next session will begin with a talk about English verb morphology, which will be followed by an exploration of the ways English dialects vary in morphology as well as lexis and pronunciation, and how morphology is reflected in spelling patterns. This session will take place at 3 pm on Tuesday the 28th of January, venue to be confirmed.

Subsequent sessions will look at these topics:

- Parts of speech: what are they and what is their role in grammar?
- Parsing sentences to expose their structure.
- English verbs and the variety of complements they take.
- Complex and compound sentences.
- Tenses and reference to time
- Semantics - lexical and logical.

Contact Bill Black ([williamblack2@icloud.com](mailto:williamblack2@icloud.com)) for information about this group.

## 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. 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

The First Tuesday Readers' Group December meeting discussed 6 short stories of Claire Keegan - and we agreed she was a writer of rare quality. Her evocations of the land, nature and the sea, were enchanting. But she was also good on people. We admired, in particular, her ability to capture a multitude of meanings in a short and apparently simple sentence and "the best short stories leave you uncertain" (as one member said).

Even those of us who are not usually drawn to short stories, were pleased to have found this author, who, though writing for some time, has not made the impact she perhaps deserves.

The January meeting will be discussing "The Queens of Sarmiento Park" by Camilla Sosa Villada. We have a space available if anyone wants to join us.

## French: 'An Improvers Group'

The French Imps' December meeting was held at the Dusty Miller, Mytholmroyd on 9th December when 10 of us enjoyed a festive lunch. Of course, we intended to chat in French but I have to admit there was much more English conversation going on!

However, thanks to Joan who created a French quiz for us, we did share our French cultural knowledge. Sue K won the 1st prize of a chocolate orange. Felicitations Sue!

We meet again on 13th January, at TLCCH, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. [gillmradford@gmail.com](mailto:gillmradford@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](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

After lots of reading, translating over the last few weeks, yesterday we were all treated to a surprise, the kind of fun shock which is embedded in the ethos of the German Group.

It consists in one or more Members taking over a usual two-hour session and filling it with a set of entirely original exercises / games.

1. Bingo
2. Quiz (how many bones in a human skeleton?)
3. A 1980s song about 99. We were given the lyrics, but with gaps. Listening to the song we had to fill in the gaps. Difficult...

## Golf for Fun

Golf is somewhat sporadic this time of year. We meet as weather permits.

Just to remind you, the Charities Shield on 19<sup>th</sup> November was snowed off. It has been rearranged for the spring, tentatively 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

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/).

## Intermediate Walking Group

The decision has been taken to run the group on the **third Wednesday** of the month so that those members who are also on the Strollers list can attend both groups if they wish, with a respectable gap between both activities.

With this in mind the first walk will be on Wednesday **19th of February**, and details of the first walk will be sent out to members mid-January. It is intended to run the Group from February to October inclusive and members will be encouraged to lead some of the walks throughout the year.

## Let's Go

After 16 years 40 members enjoyed the final Let's Go trip to York recently, many of them exploring the Christmas markets, as well as searching for Paddington Bear who was reportedly sitting on a bench near the Minster eating his marmalade sandwich! The weather was kind to us, sunny but turning cold later in the day.



Members expressed the hope that the group would continue under new leadership next year as they so enjoy the trips.

## Local History

At our December meeting we heard from a number of our members who had for the occasion variously researched local Christmas customs, alongside seasonal disasters (fire and flood), and the regime in the workhouse.

We also heard a presentation on the history of home weaving in the area, which had involved the creation of a glossary of technical terms. A copy of the latter was distributed, along with notes of the Christmas researches, to the wider membership of the group.

We were also reminded that there is a freely available catalogue of the many books of local history interest owned by members, which are available for fellow-members to borrow.

Finally, we agreed that in the coming year we would focus our various individual research topics around the key year of 1851, with the aim of assembling an over-view or snapshot of the Upper Calder Valley in that period, covering health, education and employment, buildings and people, entertainment, customs and events. To start us off in January, on the 6th, we are looking forward to a presentation on the topic of "Public Health and the Ranger Report of 1851". If you think you might want to get involved with this kind of research, please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01422 844987.

## Lunch Club

On Friday 13 December members of the Lunch Club enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Dusty Miller, Mytholmroyd. In spite of the inauspicious date the event was judged to be a success. This was the third time Christmas lunch has been held at this venue, and we continue to be impressed by the high standard of food and service. Anyone wishing to join the Lunch Club list for 2025 should contact [denisetyas@me.com](mailto:denisetyas@me.com)



Lunch Club Convenor – Denise Tyas  
And u3a Chair - Dave Tyas



## 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.

Some neat achievements this month: one complete set of flowers for June, earning her an extra 2 doubles; Maureen achieved her first All Honours with 7 doubles adding up to a total of 6400, but Jan conquered all with the rare Run, Pung and a Pair. If there are two of these latter hands in a year, we consider ourselves lucky: that's how rare they are.

It's a wonderful game. Come and join us. 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](mailto:treasurer@u3atod.org.uk) if you are interested in joining us - New members still very welcome.

## Modern Greek Group

Last session before Christmas on the 12th with Christmas meal the following week. Progressing thoroughly through our new book. Καλό Χριστούγεννα.

## Novel Appreciation

This month we discussed *When We Were Orphans* by Kazuo Ishiguro. It is mostly set in the 1930s, with a final section in 1958.

Though the narrative structure is complex, it is basically about Christopher, brought up in Shanghai. His father and mother disappear, and Christopher is sent back to school in England. He eventually becomes a famous London detective and later returns to Shanghai in search of his parents. After discovering their fate, he returns to retirement in London.

The author employs the conventions of the traditional detective story to explore the failure of a man to gain self-knowledge.

Some of the group thought the first part of the story too long but found the second much more engaging. Some considered it had a Japanese flavour. Most were not convinced by the view (on the back cover) that the novel "extended the possibilities of fiction". The book, however, stimulated a wide-ranging discussion on many subjects including evacuees and adoptees.

## 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)."

## Online Zoom Talks

On the 5th December members enjoyed a good laugh at the tales of Brad Ashton talking about the famous comedians he had worked with. The talk was enjoyed by all those who attended and the ones who have seen the recording.

The first talk of the New year will be on the 9th January 2025 entitled 'Leonardo: would he have made a good u3a member?' by Catherine Stevenson. Catherine will explore Leonardo's incredible range of skills and talents, from his innovative designs for machines to his groundbreaking studies of human anatomy. We'll delve into his remarkable artistic techniques and examine how he shared his knowledge with others through his writings and lectures.

A promotional graphic for an online talk. It features a central image of Leonardo da Vinci, depicted with a long white beard and wearing a brown robe and a white cap, sitting at a table with two elderly people. They are all holding white teacups and saucers, suggesting a social gathering. In the background, there are framed anatomical drawings of the human body. A black text box in the top left corner contains the title 'Leonardo: Would He Have Made a Good u3a Member?'. Below the image, another black text box provides details about the talk: 'An Online Talk By Catherine Stevenson - 9th January - Starts at 7 pm' and a short description: 'This talk explores Leonardo's range of skills and talents. With his commitment to lifelong learning, it will also ask: Would Leonardo da Vinci have been a good u3a member? What can we learn from his approach to learning?'

**Leonardo: Would He Have Made a Good u3a Member?**

**An Online Talk By Catherine Stevenson - 9th January - Starts at 7 pm**

This talk explores Leonardo's range of skills and talents. With his commitment to lifelong learning, it will also ask: Would Leonardo da Vinci have been a good u3a member? What can we learn from his approach to learning?

## Photography

The practical session for the Photo Group was a visit to photograph "Winter Trees", whilst there were plenty of trees devoid of leaves there was still some bright Autumn colour in places, and this combined with lovely weather the Group photographed a wide range of opportunities that presented themselves. With a such a variety of images from Shibden Park plus the task for the month was "Red" gave us a very interesting viewing at our second meeting of the month.



Winter Tree – Fiona Ryland



Red Train –David Birchall

No topic is in place for December as the deadline for the pictures for our Autumn Challenge are due to be completed for presentation at our January meetings. The Challenge commenced at the beginning of September where the Group were given a list of 15 different topics and the challenge was to take an image of each topic, some topics were fairly easy some were quite difficult. There were no guidelines, so each member had to interpret the topics in whichever way they wanted. The viewings in January are going to be interesting! Our December meeting is a lunch meeting at The Robin Hood, and from there forward our meetings where we view the photographs that we have taken will be held at Gordon Rigg's at least until Fielden Hall re-opens.

## Philosophy

The pattern of meetings for the group has changed. We will meet now monthly at Roomfield with the option of a further meeting on zoom each month if it is necessary to complete discussions on the chosen theme. Our next meeting is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We shall be discussing assisted dying following the recent vote in parliament. As usual refreshments will be provided.

Please contact [baronps@hotmail.com](mailto:baronps@hotmail.com)

## Pickleball Group

About a dozen members have sampled this sport at weekly sessions held in the gym at Mytholmroyd Community Centre weekly on Wednesday afternoons. The group has a set of paddles and balls, so you can try the game before you buy your own kit.

Numbers dropped off recently, and the group is taking a break until January. Details of sessions available then will be circulated to all registered members of the group. If you want to be added to the list, please contact Bill Black ([williamblack2@icloud.com](mailto:williamblack2@icloud.com))

## Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

No Report this month

## Practical Art

On Friday December 6th. around 20 of us met at Top Brink Pub for a Christmas meal and a very good time was had by all.

We are now having a Christmas break and our next meeting will be in Tod College in the Bridestones Room on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the earlier time of 10.00am. A Merry Christmas to all and we hope to see everyone in January.

## Psychology

Seven of us met to learn more about Transactional Analysis. This psychological approach was developed from Freud's model of Superego, Ego and Id, by Eric Berne during the 1940's. The framework of Parent, Adult and Child helps us to analyse our interactions, and to be aware of the impact our words can have on others. A very useful way to resolve conflict and reach 'grown-up' resolutions.

Next meeting Thursday January 9th at noon at Honest John's; we will be looking at Memory.

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

## Quiz Group

There is no quiz this month. The next one is on 23rd January. Merry Christmas to all our members.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Methodists at a cost of £2 per head for room-hire, with tea/coffee and biscuits thrown in, as well as wordplay and gossip.

Normally we meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, but in December it will unusually have been on the 16th and 30th. Back to "normal" for 2025. If you'd like to join us please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01422 844987, or just drop by at 2 pm on one of our dates for a taster-session. All welcome.

## Social History Group

The group does not meet in December but will resume on January 17 at the Methodist Hall at 10 15am. We will be discussing the autobiography of Philip Snowden and his early years in West Yorkshire.

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

Three members of the Strollers Group took part in the Walking Groups Christmas Treasure Hunt – well done to them – see the Walking Group’s Report for more.

## 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](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.**

## Walking Group

The Walking Group normally meets on the last Tuesday of each month and details of each walk are sent out in advance by email to all Group Members and posted in the website calendar.

However, in December, we have our traditional Walking Treasure Hunt organised by Bill Griffiths. The 2024 hunt took place on Tuesday 10th January 2024 in Burnley and was greatly enjoyed by those who took part. Bill had produced two versions of the hunt - a short course and a long course and many thanks go to Bill for his time and effort in planning it.

Only one team took part in the short course, so of course they won (with a very good score). That team was Maureen Wilkinson, Margaret Russell and Margaret Tregellas. Six teams took part in the long course but as the Group Convenor, I'm too bashful to say whose team won!

No walks have yet been planned for 2025, but the next scheduled slot is on Tuesday 28th January 2025. An appeal for 2025 Walk Leaders will be circulated soon.

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

There was no weekend walk in December. Keep an eye on the group Web page for announcements about a January walk. Contact Bill Black ([williamblack2@icloud.com](mailto:williamblack2@icloud.com)) for information about this group.

## Walking Cricket

The games on the 14th and 28th November saw average and slightly lower numbers due to illness and injury, but the usual enthusiastic games were enjoyed by those who could attend. The 5th December saw Huddersfield come to play the Tigers and they did have the upper hand, but an excellent game was enjoyed by all, including excellent refreshments afterwards.



The final session of the year saw 21 members turn up to play and a very competitive game was had by all, including a bowling hat trick from Roger Barford. The next event is the Christmas lunch on Wednesday the 18th December when the annual awards will be presented.

The next session will be on the 9th January 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](mailto:mwastrop@gmail.com) or just turn up at the Todmorden Sports Centre, Ewood Lane on the second or fourth Thursday in the month.

## World Film Club

The World Film Group had a successful first season, showing six films to members, with the opportunity to discuss them afterwards. Meetings were well attended, and the range of films from different countries was eclectic, although we may consider more "themed" seasons when we have been up and running a bit longer. (Sadly, copyright restrictions mean we cannot announce the films that we are showing outside the group membership). We aim to show films in their original language with English subtitles.

We currently meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Roomfield Church Hall in Todmorden which has a good set-up for showing DVDs to an audience, but can only accommodate a maximum of 50 people. This does mean that we have some limitation on our numbers, but as some members inherited from the former European films group have lapsed over time, we anticipate being able to welcome some new members. If you would like to join, and are likely to attend regularly, please get in touch. We charge £10 when joining to cover room hire, but this will cover a number of films. Our next season will start on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and run to April 11<sup>th</sup> 2025.