



## GROUP NEWS JANUARY 2025

### **Art Appreciation/History**

No meeting planned for 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**

The January planning meeting planned for the 15th was cancelled due to the ongoing travelling difficulties. An email announcement will be made to group members when the room booking for the February meeting is confirmed.

Any members wishing to join the group, please contact Bill Black using [bill.black@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:bill.black@u3atod.org.uk).

### **Art Club**

Art Club have now temporarily moved to the College during the refurbishment work pending at Fielden Hall.

Unfortunately our first meeting of 2025 had to be cancelled because of road closures and the severe weather. At our next meeting on the 22nd of this month we have been invited to produce work on our interpretation of “ Brrr, it’s cold outside”! Very topical!

### **Board Games Group**

The Board Games Group will, weather and roadworks permitting, have happened more or less as "usual" on Monday 13 January, our first scheduled meeting of 2025. The new year will almost certainly bring new games to play, and hopefully new players, eager to stretch their thinking in unusual ways. If you're tempted or even just intrigued, please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or on 01422 844987.

### **Canasta Group**

Only four of us managed to meet on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December but we had an enjoyable afternoons play with much laughter. On the 14<sup>th</sup> January six of us played 3 against 3 which is in my opinion the best possible game and we had two very close scoring games – another enjoyable afternoon enhanced by the music from our era played in the Hare & Hounds.

Next meetings Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 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

January meeting cancelled due to fire at Honest Johns.

## Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We have had a fairly long break due to Christmas commitments for many of the members and the bad weather.

We are now back and determined to have fun providing some silliness and a reminder of the songs that we love. All without the aid of a karaoke machine or microphones.

We will spend the next few weeks expanding our repertoire, before venturing out for the 2025 performances.

Anyone interested to meeting the group will be made very Welcome on Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm in the Fire Station Community Room.

## Coffee Club

Despite illness, snowfalls, ice and road closures three members actually managed to wend their way to our first meeting of the year. All were surprised and saddened to learn of the death of Gail Allaby but eventually managed to spend a pleasant couple of hours chatting about everything from Elon Musk to the merits of Beamish Open Air Museum.

Any member of a U3A branch (not just Todmorden) , who happens to be in town on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025** is invited to call into **Honest John's** at 6 Rochdale Road Todmorden to join us or even just to say 'hello'. We meet there every month from about 1030am until noon and have exclusive use of the private room on the right just after mounting the steps to enter the building.

Drinks are ordered from the room so there is no need for anyone to venture into the bar area and light snacks are also available. People can stay for just a few minutes or the whole session and don't even need to have a drink if they do not wish to. Attendance fluctuates but usually there are between six and twelve attendees. Future dates will be published in the monthly Groups Report.

## Creative Writing

A mixture of awful weather, illness, and the A646 being closed between Todmorden and Hebden Bridge meant we had to cancel our meeting on the 9th of January. Fingers crossed for our next one on the 23rd of January.

## Craft Club

Due to the cold and icy conditions outside our January 10th meeting had to be cancelled. Members did their own craft catch up at home in the warmth. We are looking forward to seeing the results at our next meeting on January 24th. We shall be in our temporary meeting space in the Bridestones room at Todmorden College from 10 to 12.30.

The programme for 2025 will be one item to be discussed. More information about this will then be available from the convenor.

## **English Language and Linguistics Group**

This group is not currently meeting. For updates, please contact Bill Black using [bill.black@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:bill.black@u3atod.org.uk).

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

The group continues to enjoy their wine in a sociable way whilst learning a bit more each time about the wines we bring to the group. There are vacancies for anyone to join us. We meet twice a month, on the first Saturday in the month online using Zoom and on the third Friday in the month, face to face at Tod College. Dates and times may vary so please check the U3A website for details. We bring along our own wines which we buy to the theme set by members at the previous meeting.

On Friday 24th January we will be meeting for a 'Jacob's joint' lunch at 1pm in the Pex Tenements room at the college. We will compliment our lunch with non alcoholic wines and their alcoholic equivalents. Group members are not expected to be extravagant buying their wines unless they wish to. In fact many good wines are available at Aldi, Lidl, the Co-op and other supermarkets.

## **First Tuesday Book Group**

Adverse weather conditions meant that only four members attended the meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. We talked about THE QUEENS OF SARMIENTO PARK by Camila Sosa Villada. A book about trans sex workers in Argentina. We discussed whether the book was a novel or a memoir and decided that it was a novel. One member was uneasy about some of the more graphic descriptions of the sex workers' lives.

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

The January Meeting was cancelled due to bad weather and the road closure.

Do get in touch if you would like to join us. [gillmrادford@gmail.com](mailto:gillmrادford@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 a discussion of all things gardening, and plans for this coming year's gardening endeavours.

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

## **German Group**

Last Saturday, The Honest John, our venue since lockdown finished, was severely damaged by a fire. I contacted Tod College and got a booking for yesterday. This morning, though, I received an email from the college informing me of upcoming building works as part of the Town Deal, so we'll be looking for a new venue again soon.

We agreed a while back that it would do us no harm to have a good look at our direction of travel. This, presumably, would involve scrutinising our present path and introducing different ways of doing things. We began the process with both energy and imagination last Tuesday. It will continue next week.

## 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

This Group is on hold for the time being pending finding new Convenors

## Local History

Due to the inclement weather, the first planned session of the Local History Group for 2025 had to be postponed until Monday 20th January, when it will hopefully take place as usual, starting at 10:30 am in Tod College. We are looking forward to Sue Hayter's presentation on the topic of "Public Health and the Ranger Report of 1851", along with the usual general discussion and contributions, as we begin to focus our projects around constructing a general portrait of the upper valley as it was in 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), by telephone on 01422 844987, or just turn up on the day (there is a charge of 2 or 3 pounds to cover room-hire and refreshments). All welcome.

## Lunch Club

The January lunch will be held on Tuesday 21 January at The Stubbing Wharf, Hebden Bridge. Anyone who is interested in coming along but is not on the group list should contact [denisetyas@me.com](mailto:denisetyas@me.com) for further details.

## 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 sessions recommence on the 9th January - 10 sessions on alternate Thursday

Χρόνια πολλά

# Mah Jong

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 if you are interested in joining us - [treasurer@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3atod.org.uk) New members still very welcome.

Our first meeting of the New Year produced a couple of stunners. First of all, Jan scored a Run, a Pung and a Pair for a cool 1000. But Sian made history with a spectacular All Honours hand.

Now, an All Honours hand is not all that rare, but an All Honours hand that is achieved by the person playing East, and which contains a pung of East winds and is all concealed (higher scores) is off to a cracking start. Here's a photo of Sian's hand:



Not specially clear, but a pung of 9 Circles, a pung of East Winds, a pung of White Dragons, a pung of South Winds, a pair of 1 Circles and Spring and Winter Seasons. The basic score is 60 but it commands 8 doubles – had there been four players, it would have been 9 - plus 3 extra doubles for being All Honours: 11 doubles in all. Total score 122,880. This outstrips the previous best which was about 16,400 by well more than a mile. An absolute bobbydazzler!

Dead exciting stuff. Come and join us!

## Novel Appreciation

January's meeting was cancelled

## Opera Appreciation

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

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

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

## Philosophy

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.

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

## Online Zoom Talks

On the 9th January members enjoyed a fascinating talk about Leonardo from Catherine Stevenson. Sadly, only 18 members attended which is disappointing out of 97 registered members. This talk was not recorded so others are unable to enjoy the insights that Catherine shared.

The next talk of the New year will be on the 6th February 2025 at 7 pm and it is entitled 'Songs Banned by the BBC' when Anthony Kay will focus how music has been the backdrop to our lives, but much of it was banned by the BBC and why.



## Photography

Unfortunately we haven't met in January as yet due to the road closures and the weather. I'm still trying to rearrange things to see if we can slot something in this month so that we can start to view images from our Autumn Project.

Our December meeting was a group lunch at the Robin Hood in Old Town, Hebden Bridge we had a great Christmas lunch which everyone enjoyed.

## Pickleball Group

Pickleball meets at Mytholmroyd Community Centre when we can book a court. To be added to the mailing list for the group, please contact Bill Black using [bill.black@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:bill.black@u3atod.org.uk).

## Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

No Report this month.

## Practical Art

No Report received

## Psychology

The January meeting was cancelled due to the weather and road closure. Diana is happy to present her introduction to Memory next month, February 13th, so none of us has missed anything! Let's hope for better weather.

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

The next Quiz is on Thursday 23rd January. 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 met just before Christmas, with a surprising number of word-wranglers turning out despite the weather and the road-block east of Todmorden. Perhaps it was the offer of mince-pies to go along with the hot drinks? The first scheduled session of the new year, however, had to be cancelled due to the addition of snow and ice to the impediments. All being well the next session will be on the 20th January in the downstairs room at Central Methodist Church as usual, starting at 2 pm, at a cost of £2 per head for room-hire, with mid-session refreshments (not too literally) thrown in. 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 else just drop in.

## Social History Group

The Group did not meet in December but meets next on Friday January 17 at 10 15 am in Todmorden Methodist Church . We will be discussing the autobiography of Philip Snowden, his early years in Yorkshire. New members welcome.

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)

## 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 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 next walk will take place on Tuesday 28th January 2025 and will be led by Group Convenor, Peter Gibson. We are currently in the process of trying to fill the calendar with walk leaders for the rest of the year - more volunteers needed!

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

## Weekend Walking Group

There is no walk planned in January. For information about the group, or offers to lead walks, please contact Bill Black using [bill.black@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:bill.black@u3atod.org.uk).

## Walking Cricket

Members could not wait to get back to their walking cricket and so an extra session was arranged for the 2nd of January and ten members enjoyed a game.

The session for the 9th January was cancelled due to bad weather.

The next session will be on the 23rd January and the next competitive game is a women's match against Wakefield u3a on the 6th February.

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 group had its first meeting of the new season on 10 January, showing an Iranian film to those members able to overcome road closures and the harsh weather.