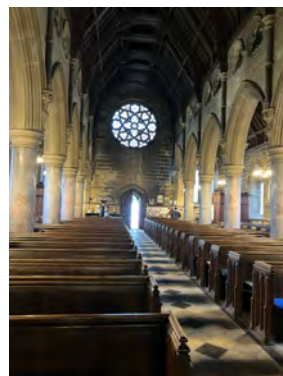
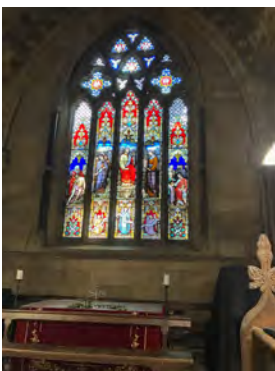


**GROUP NEWS**  
**APRIL 2025**

**Alfresco History / Archaeology**

On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 20 members of the group enjoyed a visit to Todmorden Unitarian Church, a prominent landmark on the edge of the town. The church was built in 1865 by three sons of John Fielden, MP in his honour. The visit started with an informative talk about the history of the building, including its restoration after it passed into the hands of a group of trustees. It was cold, as we were warned.



Thanks to Vicky Barber for making the arrangements for the visit and to Barbara Wigley for the interior photographs.

**Our Next Trip** is to Sunny Bank Mill in Farsley, Leeds on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If any additional members are interested in joining us, please contact Bill Black (07593 596670 or [groups@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3atod.org.uk)). There are more details on the group's page on the u3a Tod website.

**Art Appreciation/History** Our Treasurer, Jane Milne, gave us a very interesting presentation on Women, Art and the First World War. The scene was set with music by a woman composer of that time. Jane concentrated on 12 women artists, one of them German, who had lost a son in the the 1st WW and a grandson in the 2nd, and who produced some very powerful woodcuts. Some artists were commissioned to produce work for war museums and some for propaganda. Jane read out some accounts of women's experiences "on the job" which painted a vivid picture of how things were. It was a time when women came into their own doing jobs that had been pretty much the province of men. Members were impressed by the paintings by these relatively unknown women artists and requested a written list of names so that more of their work could be researched. Enquiries to [tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com](mailto:tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com) or tel : 01706 812890.



Flora Lion - Womens Canteen at Phoenix Works, Bradford



Lucy Kemp Welch



Anna Airy

Singer Manufacturing Company



The Mothers - Kathe Kolwitz



Winifred Knights – The Deluge



## Art Club

Art Club meet every alternate Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm currently at the local Community College pending refurbishments at Fielden Hall. It's a mutually supportive group but without formal tuition and members work in a variety of media. Some of us will be working on our own project, others following a suggested theme, currently "Water, water everywhere".

Our next meeting will be on the 16th April and anybody interested in seeing if the group is right for them is welcome to come along and give it a try free. Please contact Judith Malone on 017068 12890 for further details.



## Board Games Group

The Board Games Group met again on Monday 10th April, playing several games of Qwirkle, Ticket to Ride, Splendor and CuBirds with the usual amount of laughter and delight. We play just for the mental exercise and fun, though winning is always a bonus. If you are at all curious about these strangely-named pastimes don't hesitate to get in touch. We meet at 2 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month, and the convenor is Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.co](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.co) or telephone on 01422 844987.

## Canasta Group

The Canasta Group has met twice in the past month both times the cards providing some interesting hands. New members welcome.

Our next sessions are on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. We meet at the Hare & Hounds on Burnley Road, 2.15 – 4.15 pm. Further details from Barbara Wigley [barbarawigley@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarawigley@btinternet.com)

## Coffee Club

There was no meeting of the Coffee Club in April however we are delighted to confirm that Honest John's will re-open later this month so we will be resuming our monthly visit there in May,

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

As the 5<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday it has been decided to meet on the **12<sup>th</sup> May** any time between 1030am and noon. Both food and drink can be ordered direct from the room so there's no need to venture into the bar area at all

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

## Concert Party (Senior Moments)

**Senior Moments Concert Party** is a slightly unusual U3A group, which supports the local community by providing an hour of free entertainment for care homes, groups, fund raisers etc.

We are most definitely not a choir, but hark back more to Gang shows and "end-of-the-pier" entertainment.

We perform acoustically without the use of Karaoke machines or microphones, to give a light hearted look back to the popular songs and musicals of the 50s and 60s plus the odd sketch, theme tune etc.

We sang a few songs at the Dementia Friendly Todmorden Spring Concert last month; and visited Waterside Lodge on April Fools' Day with an updated program for 2025.

If you feel that you might like to be involved, please contact Gill on 07504290071 and come to meet us at the Fire Station Community Room.

## Craft Club

At our meeting on March 21st we concentrated on making woven hearts from various non-woven materials including paper, felt, foam sheets and recycled Amazon Gift packaging. The hearts will be used as small 'baskets' to contain gifts or creme eggs as well as in card making.



On April 4th members turned their attention to making mushrooms and other fungi from various combinations of cooking foil, air dried clay, tissue paper etc. The resulting pieces will be mounted in pieces of bark or tree root to make a decoration.

There will not be a meeting on 18 April as it will be Good Friday.

The members will meet next on Friday May 2nd back at Fielden Hall from 10.30 to 1.00. Note change of time back to our norm. The topic will be worry worms and other creatures, The May 16th meeting will see us exploring more ways of making gift boxes.

## Creative Writing

Our second meeting in March included a variety of written contributions including:

- A convenor answering so many questions and clarifications to and from their group that there was no time for the actual activity
- A history debate about who came to Britain first – Saxons or Romans?... and
- A member our group getting us to proof read, and listen, to a first chapter of book they're thinking of starting

In the second half, we had 10 minutes to come up with an acronym about politics and politicians at home and elsewhere. A US politician featured the most times, but we're NOT responsible for the tariff war!

## Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The enjoyment of wine group continues to meet regularly though our recent online meeting had to be abandoned due to technical issues. Instead we enjoyed our chosen wines individually. We meet once a month at Tod College around the third Friday in each month and also online using zoom on the first Saturday each month. The group chooses a theme in advance and we buy our wines wherever we choose, mostly at local supermarkets. We then drink our wine at the meeting and have a discussion around the theme with the key questions being whether we like it and if we would buy it again. We also look into the background of our theme to better understand what we are tasting and help us in the future to better choose wines that we like.



Our next meeting is our Easter lunch on Good Friday at Riva, Hollingworth Lake. Then we meet again online on Saturday 3rd May.

There is space in the group for more members so if you think you might like to join us and enjoy your wine in a sociable non-judgemental environment then contact Bob or Michael as listed on the U3a Tod website, and join us next time.

## First Tuesday Book Group

For the April meeting the group were considering “The Periodic Table” by Primo Levi. We had a mixed response to this multi-faceted book, though we agreed the author seemed extremely clever, and apparently, calm, in the face of the appalling circumstances of Italy, particularly, for a Jewish family, during the Second World War.

Our next book (for our meeting in May) is a fact-based account of wartime secret agents dropped into northern France to assist the Resistance in occupied France.

The group (we meet in Hebden Bridge Town Hall) still has one vacancy if anyone wants to join us.

## French: 'An Improvers Group'

Hoping the Town Twinning trip has gone well for the members of our group who took part. I'm looking forward to hearing their news on 14th April. We had been practising key phrases for accepting and declining invitations. It's always useful when our sessions can be put to good use of course!

Do join us if you want to focus on practical conversation skills. Reading, listening to and speaking French are our usual activities. Tod College, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Contact me at [radfordgill23@gmail.com](mailto:radfordgill23@gmail.com)

## Gardening Group (zoom meetings and outings)

We held our last winter zoom meeting last month when several members joined for an informative discussion on all things gardening. During the spring and summer months we will visit each other's gardens.

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

A major part of the German Group's way of doing things is that responsibility for running classes is often handed over to Members, allowing convenors to put their proverbial feet up and Members - to mix metaphors - to seize the reins.

For instance, one Member had been mentioning 'doing a recipe' for weeks. I thought she was planning to do a bit of cooking at the White Hart, where we're having our sessions at the moment. What she actually produced - as I should have expected - was a highly sophisticated linguistic game requiring us all to confront numerous questions based on snippets of a German recipe. It was such fun, especially when she followed it up with a recording of a song. We were handed the lyrics, though lots of words were missing. Our job was to listen to the song and fill in the words. Also great fun and challenging.

## Golf for Fun

The new season is upon us (1st May). Regulars will be considering their Golf Club membership options for the 2025 season, and I have circulated information to all on my U3A Golf mailing list. Anyone wanting further details please contact me.

We play regularly, weather permitting, at 10.30 Mondays and 1.30 pm Tuesdays. Anyone wishing to try us out (for free), please come along half an hour before. Drop me an email to let me know.

In August we play for the U3A Todmorden Golf for Fun Championship Cup. We play a handicap system (simple Stableford) based on scores in the previous 3 months, so from 1st May, please return score cards. This levels the playing field, so to speak, and gives everyone an even chance of winning...for fun!!

Before that, we play a postponed match for the 2024 Autumn Charity Shield on Monday 28th April, tee-off 10 am, with 2024 handicaps.

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 next IWG walk was on the 15th April and all members have been sent comprehensive joining and participation notes. Anyone wishing to be added to or just try the group out should contact me directly ([graham.newiss@gmail.com](mailto:graham.newiss@gmail.com)) and I will forward the information pack.

## Let's Go

Diana and Christine have agreed to take on organising the Let's Go trips - watch this space for details of the first trip.



## Local History

Our April meeting took place as usual on the first Monday of the month at Todmorden College, albeit not quite as usual, due to the refurbishment works happening there. After a little re-arrangement, adjusting to the altered circumstances, we had a very enjoyable session looking at and trying to interpret seventeenth-century handwriting - somewhat more challenging than the average crossword puzzle! Our May meeting may continue with more in the same vein, looking at local Wills and Deeds from half-a-century ago. We are also zeroing-in on a date for a small group to visit Todmorden Library to practice on the computers there, with their free access to on-line historical sources, including Ancestry and FindMyPast. There is a £2 a head charge for room-hire for our regular monthly meetings, plus an optional £1 for refreshments. For more information please get in touch with Jim Botten at [jroyd33@gmail.com](mailto:jroyd33@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01422 844987.

## Lunch Club

In March the u3a Lunch Club filled La Vida in Hebden Bridge with 30 members attending. This is a new restaurant in the building which previously housed The Olive Branch. Members were obviously keen to try it out!



For further details about this and other forthcoming lunches contact [denisetyas@me.com](mailto: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.

## Modern Greek Group

All going well with the Greek class. 2 more sessions before the summer break.

# Mah Jong

Another quiet month, but with one amazing oversight. It's a test for the writer to explain this to the reader whose knowledge of mah-jong is nil, but I shall try.

The player concerned with this oversight was attempting the rarely-achieved hand of a Run, a Pung and a Pair. This requires you to have a hand entirely in one suit: a Run of tiles from 1-9, a Pung (three tiles of the same number) and a Pair (two tiles of the same number). You are not allowed to complete this hand using tiles discarded by other players: everything relies on the unseen tiles that you pick up from the wall.

This particular play was, however, made a little easier by its being a 'goulash' hand in which the 2 Bamboo tile is a wild one. The player concerned was lucky enough to have three of the four that are available, and of course you are a fool if ever you discard one of them as they are stupendously valuable.

Each player starts the round with 13 tiles (except for East, but let that pass). Play proceeds with each player in turn picking up a tile from the wall: if you want to keep the tile, you have to discard a different one; or you can pick up a discarded tile you need, and then discard one of your own that you don't. But at any one time when you have finished your play, your hand must have 13 tiles.

However, a winning mah-jong hand is always composed of 14 tiles: the 14<sup>th</sup> tile is the one you pick up either from the wall or from the discard pile to complete your hand. But before that, when you discard a tile knowing that you need only one specific 14<sup>th</sup> tile to win, you are required to declare that you are 'calling' or 'fishing'. It is imperative to do this.

And yet somehow it is ridiculously easy to find yourself with 14 tiles in your hand, to realise that they constitute a winning hand and to remember that you have not said you were fishing. This is what happened to the aforementioned player. Her fellow players, as was their informal right, told her very clearly that she could only continue to play if she discarded a tile and said she was fishing. She panicked, and discarded a 2 Bamboo, and another player, who *was* fishing immediately went mah-jong.

Well, there we go. This is a game in which conversation is possible, but it encourages distraction, and distraction can lead to disaster – and a good deal of laughter!

Come and join us! **We meet every Wednesday from 14.15 until 16.15 in the Hare and Hounds in Todmorden.** Please contact Emily Watnick if you are interested - [treasurer@u3atod.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3atod.org.uk) New members still very welcome.

## Online Zoom Talks

We changed our meeting to the first Wednesday of the month for April (which some members liked as they did other things on Thursday) and 24 members were informed and updated by Barry Linton on 'How to Stay Safe Online'.

May 1st is the last talk in this season and back by public demand is 'Songs the BBC Banned Part II' by Anthony Kay from Harrow u3a. For those of you who did not enjoy part I, it was the songs that resonated with our members rather than the reason they were banned, as members sung along and some danced around the room, so I'm told!



We look forward to seeing you then – singing and dancing allowed.



# 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)."

# Photography

The Photography Group have their annual exhibition in Todmorden Tourist Information Centre for the whole of April. If you visit the exhibition and like what you see and want to develop your photographic skills let us know, we have a few vacancies in the group.

# Philosophy

The next philosophy meeting is at Roomfield on May 12<sup>th</sup> when we will be discussing matters arising from the the topic of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

# Pickleball Group

Pickleball is currently being played only in Todmorden, on Tuesday mornings from 10-11 in school term-time. We will resume after the Easter break on the 22nd.

The sessions at Mytholmroyd have ceased since the numbers of members available to play dropped below 4 consistently.

The group meeting in Todmorden now has 8 or more members attending each session, meaning we are using two courts. A coaching session is being arranged in May.

Contact Andrea Ransom, Convenor, 07860 902979, for more information about the group.

# Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The poetry Appreciation group discussed poems on the theme of 'Romance'. The poets considered ranged from Sapho to Amy Clampit, Carlote Mew and Robert Herrick.

In May we will look for poems concerning 'Memory'. In April we hope to investigate 'Romance' in many of its multitude of connotations.

# Practical Art

We are still in the college awaiting our return to Fielden Hall, hopefully at the end of this month. Updates will be sent out about our next meeting on the 25th April.

The group has been busy drawing and painting the theme of 'Doors, Windows and Openings' in watercolour and/ or mixed media. We then had a catch up session for pictures in progress! The subject required careful drawing and painting but the results were terrific!

Our next session is dedicated to large scale oil pastel paintings of bark, moss and lichen.

# Psychology

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, members of the Psychology group met at Todmorden Community College to discuss 'Attachment Theory'.

Attachment theory, initially developed by John Bowlby (1907-1990) and expanded upon with Mary Ainsworth, examines the crucial bond between infants and their primary caregivers. Their research categorized attachments into four types: Secure, Anxious, Avoidant, and Fearful, with Secure attachment being optimal for healthy child development. Although subsequent psychologists have refined and built upon their foundational work, Bowlby and Ainsworth's core observations maintain their relevance in contemporary psychology. During our meeting, members engaged in discussion about these attachment patterns, reflecting on their personal experiences both as children and as parents. The group found particular encouragement in learning that early attachment patterns characterized by shyness or anxiety aren't necessarily permanent and can evolve over time into more confident behavioural patterns, suggesting that attachment styles possess a degree of flexibility rather than remaining fixed throughout one's life.

Meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1:30pm. The next meeting will be held at Honest John's in Todmorden on Thursday 8th May. The next topic will be about 'Perception'. We have now reached capacity for the Group, so are unable to accept any new Members at present.

# Quiz Group

Another good turnout for the March meeting of the Quiz group - with an excellent quiz enjoyed by 18 members.

Our next quiz will be at 10.15 am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Central Methodist Church.

# Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues to meet regularly in the downstairs room at Central Methodist Church on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, starting at 2 pm. It costs £2 per head for room-hire, with tea or coffee, biscuits and laughter included. 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 in on one of our sessions for a taster. There's always room for more players, of whatever standard.

# Social History Group

The Group met in March to discuss Philip Snowden autobiography, his early years in Yorkshire as pupil teacher. The discussion continued in April.

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

## 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”.

## Strollers Group

In spite of the bus being late we met up with those who had driven to Towneley Park and enjoyed a walk down to the Hall (currently closed for renovation) and then via a quick look at the Bowling Green and the Offshoots Community Garden in the old walled garden of Towneley Hall, where the volunteers were busy preparing the beds and planting seeds for the coming year. This was an area not many of us had seen before.

Then via the War Memorial, skirting Thanet Lee Wood before entering the wood and walking alongside Hole House Brook before taking a U turn past the folly of Monks Well, and back to the Hall via the tunnel, two miles in total.



Some of us enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Cafe by the Hall before walking up The Causeway to catch the bus back home.

Finally, I am still looking for volunteers to lead walks for the rest of the year! Helen and I are happy to send out the information etc. so you don't have to get involved with Beacon and emails etc.

Please contact Barbara at [barbarawigley@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarawigley@btinternet.com) or Helen at [helenstarmer@hotmail.com](mailto:helenstarmer@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.



## 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.**

## The Book Club (formerly the Novel Appreciation Group)

Our April book, *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, is the first of a quartet by the acclaimed Italian author, about two girls growing up in a poor district of Naples, a city still recovering from wartime destruction.

The girls, Elena and Lila are different personalities. Lila is a force of nature, clever and seemingly fearless, who taught herself to read. Elena, conscientious and a people-pleaser is mesmerised by Lila, copying everything she does, even when it's scary.

The story, narrated by Elena years later, and written in anger because her friend has decided to disappear, is a powerful evocation of childhood and skilfully captures its gamut of emotions as well as the complexities of teenage angst and romance.

Our group thought it an authentic portrayal of a post-war neighbourhood riven by poverty, violence, family rivalries and the subtle but ever-present menace of the local mafia, the Camorra. Education offers an escape from deprivation for Elena but Lila has to take a different path.

## 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 March walk was led by Jerome Way and the next walk will be led by Corinne Roberts on 29th March.

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.

Unfortunately, I'm not able to participate in walks personally at present due to a problem with my right hip, but we have volunteers for leading walks every month this year, with the exception of July. If anyone's available to lead a walk on Tuesday 29th July, please let me know at [toddypg@gmail.com](mailto:toddypg@gmail.com).

# Walking Cricket

## Walking Cricket for April 2025

On the 3rd April the Leeds u3a team came to Todmorden and two of the Tiger's players gave their services to Leeds on the day to make the teams up to ten players. Nevertheless, the Tigers won a tight game by 18 runs.



*Leeds and the Tigers come together.*

The group is hoping to start playing outside from the 10th April weather permitting, but if the rain returns, we will be back playing in 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 Crickey Club if the weather is fine or the Todmorden Sports Centre, Ewood Lane at 2 pm if not on the second or fourth Thursday in the month.

## World Film Club

The film group finished its latest season on 11 April. Over the last two seasons we have shown films from India, Japan, France, Iran, Spain, Germany, Brazil, UK and USA, with our aim always being to show a varied and eclectic programme of films from as many countries as we can source. Our next season is planned to start on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will feature films from even more countries - we hope to include films from Thailand, China, and Belgium along with others, and are hoping to finish the season with a celebrated Bollywood film.