

GROUP NEWS JULY 2025

Art Appreciation/History

No hiccups with the technology this time. After refreshments we watched a 90 minute film on Young Picasso. He grew up in a bourgeois household, his father an art teacher, and moved from Malaga, where doves and bulls made an impression on him, to Barcelona and to Madrid, starting studying advanced fine art at the age of 13, when he was producing accomplished portraits. He later studied the human form. In the autumn of 1900 he made a trip to Paris where he loved the freedom and settled there in 1904, taking his mother's name Picasso. The loss of a close friend led to what is known as his blue period. Later came his rose period. It was probably his visit to an exhibition of African masks which led to him painting in a completely different way, founding cubism with his ground breaking masterpiece Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J. version).



On 7th August we will meet at Manchester Cathedral to view Voyages, an exhibition by 50 members of the Manchester Academy of Fine Art.

New members are always welcome. For further information contact Judith, tel: 01706 812890 or email Tristan, tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com

Alfresco History / Archaeology

The Alfresco History Group visited Whalley Abbey in June but no report received.

We will be having a group review and planning meeting on Wednesday 23rd July at 2:00 pm in the Hawkstones Room at TLCCCH (Tod College).

We will be reviewing the visits in the first half of the year, confirming the plans for the next few months, and proposing future visits beyond that.

Art Club

At our most recent meeting of Art Club, now back at Fielden Hall, after refurbishment, most of the group worked on our current theme, "The birds and the bees" a topic likely to provoke a broad variety of interpretation, others worked on their own projects.

The group is one that does not provide tuition but plenty of mutual support and encouragement and members work in a range of styles and media.

We meet every alternate Wednesday between 2 and 4pm at Fielden Hall the next one being on the 23rd July. Prospective new members are very welcome to come along and try a session to see if it is right for them. For further details contact Judith Malone on 01706812890.

Board Games Group

The Board Games Group will meet in July as usual, on the second Monday of the month, starting at 2 pm in the Community Room at Ridgefoot. Looking forward to playing the usual mix of games old and new, from "Qwirkle" to "Ticket to Ride" and all stations in between, and all for free! If you're curious or want to join us just drop by, or contact the convenor, Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.co or telephone on 01422 844987.



Qwirkle



Ticket to Ride

Canasta Group

Once again the Canasta Group have met twice in the past month when we enjoyed an afternoon of cards, chat and laughter. The Hare & Hounds make us very welcome and often play music from "our era" ie the 1960s and 1970s, which adds to the afternoons entertainment.

Our next meetings will be on Monday 28th July and Tuesday 12th August 2.15 – 4.15 pm. New members welcome - barbarawigley@btinternet.com for more information.

Coffee Club

On 7th July eleven of us, including some on their first visit, met for our monthly meeting in Honest John's. The majority chose to remain for the full session and three elected to stay for lunch.

As is often the case the topics of conversation were too many and diverse to be chronicled in this report but public transport, U3A groups, local activities and travel appear to be a constant theme

It appears that the bus service is currently being supplied by both Halifax and Todmorden buses which may explain some confusion and delays in the overall service.

The possibility of changing venues from Honest John's to a new location was again mooted but not discussed in any depth.

Members of **any** U3A branch who happen to be in town on **Monday 4th August 2025**, are 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. Future dates will be published in the monthly Groups Report.

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 theme tune, clog-dance etc.



We have had a break for a month or two and will be starting again with a performance at Roomfield House on 15th July.

If you feel that you might like to be involved please contact Gill on 07504290071 and come to meet us.

Creative Writing

Our second meeting in June had a couple of pieces on 'Tattoo(s)', one mentioning that the skin artwork might look better on younger skin - perish the thought! - and another about one brave soul having second thoughts. Away from that subject, a poem about the Druze people was read out - more than one person attending hadn't heard of them - have you? July's first meeting was well attended, both themes represented - when technology goes absent at the wrong time, and a poem about a spouse going through a phase of somewhat strange habits. Fingers crossed we may well have a future member - joining in with the writing challenges, or just bringing any piece of writing along.

Craft Club

At our June 27th meeting the Iris folding technique was combined with others to make 3D paper sunflowers. These were then used to make cards and small wall hangings on recycled CDs.



The following meeting saw members return to the ever popular topic of Needle Felting. Small mounted felt pictures mainly featuring landscapes were made.



Our next meeting on July 25th will be devoted to using cling film etc along with acrylic or watercolour paints to produce a range of images/backgrounds which can be used in card making or developed into framed 'paintings'.

The members are occasionally set a challenge by a club member to produce an item using an article/articles that they provide. On August 8th the challenge will be set by Martine. Photos of the results should be available in next month's Group's report.

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

Our next meeting is at Tod College at 1:30pm on Friday 25th July, all welcome. No meetings in August for holidays. Why not come along and join us for a relaxed chat – new members very welcome. Normally we meet online on the 1st Saturday in the month and face to face at Tod College on the 3rd Friday.

First Tuesday Book Group

The group welcomed Vivienne, a new member of the group to her first meeting. We considered Helen Dunmore's "Birdcage Walk". The member who nominated the book grew up in the area of Bristol where the book was set, and was able to provide pictures, both old and new, of the area. The images would have added to the enjoyment of the book, if they had been included.

Generally, members seemed to have been glad to have read the book, though there was not unqualified admiration of the style, and the devices the author had used to manage her plot. It was agreed she had good research and some particularly well-drawn characters. One group member, who had done research of her own, was able to point to similarities in the life of an historically significant woman, though the author did not appear to acknowledge this. Helen Dunmore is equally known for her poetry and her language in the novel was admired.

The next book for discussion will be Don DeLillo's "The Silence" and the next meeting will be Tuesday 5th August.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

Our penultimate session of the academic year for French Improvers was, rather fittingly, on 14th July when we included video clips of how the French, traditionally celebrate their National Day.

We will meet again on 28th July for the last session. La rentree will be the 4th Monday in September (22nd) still at Tod College, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Do consider joining us for a free tasting session if you have some knowledge of French and would especially like to improve your Speaking and Listening skills.

Amitie, Gill. radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group (zoom meetings and outings)

During the spring and summer months we will visit each other's gardens. 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

The German Group is preparing for the summer break. The final session will be next Tuesday, 22 July, and we'll be returning to the Honest John on Tuesday, 2 September.

Happy holiday All!

Golf for Fun

We play regularly, weather permitting, at 10 or 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.

Our U3A Todmorden Golf for Fun Championship Cup match will take place on 11th August, tee-off at 10 am. Polish your golf clubs up.

For all inquiries, please contact the convenor, John.Allison@3-C.Coop. Our web page is https://u3atod.org.uk/u3a_groups/golf-for-fun/.

Intermediate Walking Group

The June 17th IWG walk was from Crimsworth bus terminus on the A6033 to Hebden Bridge Old Town Post Office. The weather was warm, bright and blowy. Eight of us walked up to High Brown Knoll trig point which was the highest point on the walk. The usually boggy section near here was dry and firm for the most part thanks to our exceptionally dry Summer thus far. From here we meandered down the long moorland path past the ruined Weather Farm, and past Bogs Eggs Edge to Allswell Farm, where the farmer offered those who were interested to feed her pet lamb.

From here we took a cross-path to Old Laithe, and then down the grass lane to the Post Office where with about half an hour to kill before the bus was due, several of us stopped for coffee. The walk was just three miles in length.

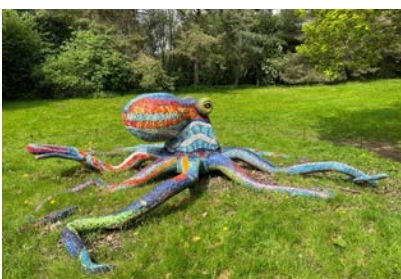
The next walk will be on Tuesday July 15th, when David Savage will lead. Members will have received email reminders by now.

Local History

With this year being the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two, our July meeting focussed on looking at the how the war-years were experienced in our valleys. Sue Cockcroft talked about her childhood memories, including the low flight of aeroplanes overhead and the distant flames of Manchester; memories which she had subsequently fleshed-out with further researches. Jim Botten talked through the contents of the "Todmorden News & Advertiser" for the 3rd September 1943, which marked the fourth anniversary of the war's declaration. Following on from the discussions these items provoked it was decided that there was enough material yet to be explored to justify returning to the topic for our August meeting. We meet at Todmorden College on the first Monday of each month, starting at 10:30 and finishing by 12, with a charge of £2 per head to cover room-hire, with an optional extra £1 for refreshments. If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987.

Let's Go *(Editor's note: A repeat with Diana's photos which I missed last month – apologies)*

The sun shone brightly on the first Let's Go trip organised by Christine and Diana to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. For those concerned it might be too hot there was a refreshing cool breeze. A disappointment of the trip was that the main indoor gallery was closed because it was being set up for a new exhibition. That said there was enough to see around the grounds, although the walking may have been more than some people were expecting. Diana's photographs of her favourites - *Octopus* and *Night and Day* (one sculpture with different mosaics on each side), by the Italian sculptor Marialouisa Tadei



Thank you to those of you who have returned your surveys about what you would like to do. I have begun to analyse them (there are some interesting ideas) but do keep on sending them. We hope to do another trip in September and I am looking into the possibility of going by train.

Lunch Club

The June meeting of the Lunch Club was held at another old favourite, the Robin Hood Inn. As in the previous month we were lucky to have a lovely warm, sunny day so the journey up to Pecket Well was an added bonus. The fire featured in the photo was definitely not required!



Mah Jong

Quite a routine month, though studded by several starry moments:

June: a Run, a Pung and a Pair. Not an easy hand as it's all one suit and no tile apart from the final one can be called from discards

Anne and Fiona: a Unique Wonder each

Emily: two performances of note – All Ones and Nines, and an Ordinary Hand with 8 doubles scoring 18,944

Sian: not scaling her previous best score of 122,880 but eclipsing Emily's 18,944, Sian came in with a cool 24,576 for an All Honours hand.

Such thrills make it all worthwhile – along with the weekly company of genial players.

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 New members still very welcome.

Members On Their Own (M.O.T.O.)

The MOTO (Members on their own) group has been put on hold for the time being. If anyone is interested in joining this group in the future, please get in touch with Kay on 01422 844567.

Modern Greek Group

No more Greek until October, although two ad hoc sessions have been arranged during the summer.

Online Zoom Talks

This Group is taking a break for the summer - members will be asked to re-register for the group when we restart in October.

Opera Appreciation

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

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

Meeting. Second Tuesday of the month Roomfield Baptist Church 01706 344821 or email k.coates994@gmail.com."

Philosophy

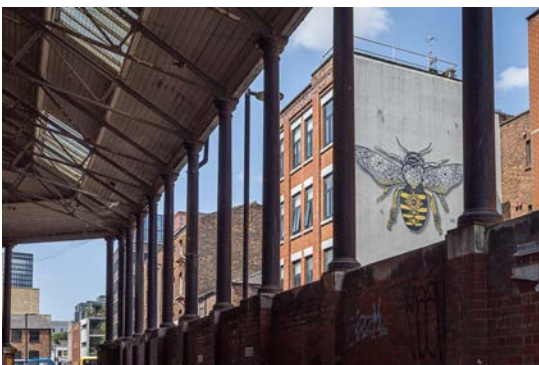
The next meeting of the philosophy group will take place at Roomfield church at 10.15 am on August 11th. The topic for discussion is based on the origin of life.

Photography Group

In June our activity was to visit two photographic exhibitions in Manchester, although one of the exhibitions was not open, although the dates for the exhibition were published at the time our programme was arranged in January.

The second exhibition, Quiet Light by Gunner Gu was still on and showed some interesting images of Manchester without people. Gunner Gu is UK based photographer of architecture, interior and lighting design, he has a global clientele across the UK, Europe, Asia and North America. It was interesting to see that the photographer had not necessarily followed some of the accepted conventions which gave rise to some interesting discussions amongst the group and possibly gave us some ideas for future work.

With time being available due to the lack of the main exhibition we decided to take photographs in and around the Northern Quarter, which provided interesting old buildings sandwiched in between modern ones and plenty of street art/graffiti.



Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

Last meeting of the Poetry Appreciation Group considered poems on the theme of Harmony with poems by Hardy, Yeats, Douglas Dunn and Ted Hughes.

We next meet on Thursday 14th August to consider Discord.

Pickleball Group, Todmorden

The Group has grown to 15 members, having welcomed some new players in the last few weeks. All have now joined Todmorden U3A Group. (A requirement of belonging to any U3A activity group). We all continue to have fun and improve our pickleball skills week by week.

You'll find some photos taken at our coaching session in May via the link <https://www.facebook.com/gopickle/posts/pfbid02m1oRQBipcY5YjnasuulLn9ezqgH4GRpwjiUiUZSWmKSqienQx6nUEQ44onbCfg5pl>

If you would like to come along on Tuesday mornings 10-11am, you'll be made very welcome. Just wear non slip shoes suitable for indoor use, and comfortable clothing, and we'll supply the rest!!

Our last session before the summer break will be 14 July, returning on 2 September. (This is because the schools use the Sports hall in the school holidays).

Practical Art

We had a fun session at our meeting last time as we persuaded three of our visiting husbands and one lady volunteer from the class to sit for their portraits! It wasn't an easy task, it's difficult to get a likeness, but everyone had a good attempt at it! One drawing had everyone creased up with laughter as it looked just like Rod Stewart on a bad day!

This week we will be taking birds or flowers as a theme but interpreting them in paint using a variety of unusual tools—cling film, bubble wrap, sticks etc instead of brushes.

The last meeting will be on August 1st when we plan to meet at Gordon Riggs cafe and as well as enjoying lunch, we will be taking photos or sketching the plants. We can then use these images to paint or draw from in our summer break.

Psychology

On 10th July 2025 members of the Psychology group met at Honest John's to discuss 'Assertive Communication'.

Brenda skilfully brought together recent discussions on related topics, particularly Transactional Analysis (T/A) and Social Linguistics, then expanded on them by introducing strategies for one-to-one, face-to-face interactions. We agreed that this setting is often the most effective for problem-solving.

The session highlighted key factors that influence communication, such as timing, body language, and potential barriers like hearing difficulties or stress. We discussed the value of having a mental 'script' to help deliver messages in a calm and clear manner. While we can't always predict how others will respond, it's important to be prepared for strong reactions, including criticism, and to respond with respect.

Such conversations may sometimes need to be paused, but having a plan to revisit the topic later is crucial. This approach aligns with Daniel Goleman's (1995) framework of the Five Elements of Emotional Intelligence: self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, motivation, and social skills.

Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1:30pm. The next meeting will be held at Honest John's in Todmorden on Thursday 14th August 2025. The next session will be based on relaxed member-centred discussions, and to also include ideas for future topics. We have now reached capacity for the Group, so are unable to accept any new Members at present.

Quiz Group

The quiz Group met at as usual at Tod Methodist Church on Thursday 26th June. In my absence, Myrna and Denise kindly undertook their previous roles. Next month our meeting will once again be held on the fourth Thursday of the month (July 24th) at 10:15am. I hope to see you then when I'll be setting the questions! Dave Tyas, Convenor

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 on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, starting at 2 pm downstairs at Central Methodist Church, with added tea and biscuits, all for a mere £2 per head. If you'd like to join us please get in touch with Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.com or by telephone on 01422 844987, or just drop in on one of our sessions for a taster. We always have room for more players (of whatever standard).

Social History Group

The group will watch a video on Todmorden which looks at Todmorden and cricket in the 1960s at our next meeting on July 18 at the Methodist church at 10 15 am. All are welcome.

Alan Fowler will speak that night at the Calderdale Industrial Museum at 6 30 pm at a meeting to celebrate the West Yorkshire Woollen workers strike of 1925.

Strollers Group

The Strollers had a pleasant walk along the canal from Luddendenfoot to Mytholmroyd after a frustrating start due to the bus we had planned to take from Todmorden Station being cancelled once it got there! We eventually caught a bus 30 minutes later than planned. We all enjoyed lunch once we arrived in Mytholmroyd.

Our next walk will be led by Steph from the New Delight above Heptonstall, via lanes and woodland down to Mytholm. A walk of approximately 2.5 miles on Wednesday 6th August if anyone is interested in joining us. Details will be sent to members of the group in due course.

Please contact Barbara at barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Helen at 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 3.00 pm – 5.00pm Cost £4 per session.

Please contact Sandra Lambshead on 07780 962 588 if you would like to join this Group.

The Book Group

At our July meeting, we (nearly all) greatly enjoyed *Drive your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk. The title and epigraph for each chapter are quotes from William Blake. His radicalism, combined with a witty infusion of modern feminism, inform the life philosophy of our heroine Janina, an older, eccentric woman living on the Poland/Czech Republic border. When she airs her suspicions that murders of leading lights in the local criminal/hunting/religious oligarchy might be the revenge of hunted animals, no-one believes her, including her loyal friends.

But we gradually see that beneath her surface astrologer-outcast persona she is also an ex-engineer and teacher, a woman of powerful and unusual insight.

And the book is funny. It takes the outward form of crime fiction, but happily wanders off, sometimes through Janina's stylish digressions about people and animals and how life is.

The climax holds a surprise for the reader, when her friends recognise the truth about the killings.

Walking Cricket

We played at home against Oldham u3a on the 26th June, and it was a close game with the Tigers losing by three runs. Both teams put everything into both playing the game and celebrating afterwards!



Regular sessions were held on the 3rd and 10th July. The Tigers are playing an away game against Burnley FC walking cricket team on the 24th of July.

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 Cricket Club if the weather is fine or the Todmorden Sports Centre, Ewood Lane at 2 pm if not.

Walking Group

The Walking Group normally 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 June Walk was led by Tristan Malloy, assisted as ever by Jane Milne, and was notable for taking place on the first wet day after a long spell of dry weather. However, the group still had an enjoyable walk, but the strong advance recommendations about protection against the sun proved totally unnecessary!

The monthly walks only take place when there is a volunteer from within the group to lead one and, as there are currently no volunteers for the July and August walks, these will not take place. However, we already have walk leaders in place for September, October and November.

The Group Convenor for the last 7 years will be stepping down from the role at the end of the year and so we are now on the lookout for a new Convenor for 2026.

Membership of the group is open to all current members of U3A and enquiries about the group, or requests to join, should be addressed to Peter Gibson at toddypg@gmail.com.

Anyone who is prepared to take over as Group Convenor is welcome to contact Peter if more information is required about what's involved.

World Film Club

Putting recent technical difficulties behind us we had a successful showing of a German tragicomedy which was much appreciated. Our current season will come to an end on July 25th, leaving members free to pursue Summer activities, and obligations of a grandparently sort, and we will then kick off again in September. We will have space for some new members next season, so if you would like to join please let me know via the web page.