

GROUP NEWS AUGUST 2025

Art Appreciation/History

Art Appreciation members congregated at Manchester Cathedral for our August meeting, to view Manchester Academy of Fine Arts' (MAFA's) annual exhibition, *Voyages*. MAFA's current membership numbers 110, treading in the footsteps of Ford Maddox Brown, Annie Swynnerton and L S Lowry. Nearly half of the members are exhibiting works in *Voyages* – interpretations including physical, political and artistic journeys. Our thanks to Linda Brill (MAFA Academician and member of the Art Appreciation group) for her welcome and introductory talk.



Amrik Varkalis



Peter Stanaway



Art Appreciation members at MAFA Exhibition



Simon Manby

Art Appreciation meets on the first Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be on 4th September, 2:00pm, at Fielden Hall, when we will hear about ceramic artist Eric James Mellon. The group welcomes new members. Please contact Judith on 01706 812890 or Tristan at tristan.molloy.tm@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Alfresco History / Archaeology

In July, the group met to review recent visits and to plan future ones. The August visit will be an informal visit to the Calderdale Industrial Museum on Saturday 23rd August at 2:00 pm, and the September visit will be to Queen Street Mills in Hare Syke - date to be confirmed.

Art Club

Art Club gives its members the opportunity of exploring their own projects and ideas in a range of techniques and media from collage to watercolour via water-soluble oils and acrylics.

From time to time the convenor will suggest a topic by way of inspiration and this can often be interpreted widely and freely. The group is one that does not provide tuition but plenty of mutual support, encouragement and constructive advice.



We meet every alternate Wednesday between 2 and 4pm at Fielden Hall the next one being on the 20th August. 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 met on the 11th August, the second Monday of the month at 2 pm as usual, in the Ridgfoot Community Room. There were eleven eager players in attendance, including one new member, who settled-in very easily. We managed several games of Qwirkle, Splendor and CuBirds between us. If you're curious about these strange-sounding games just drop by when we're meeting, or contact the convenor, Jim Botten at jroyd33@gmail.co or telephone on 01422 844987. All are welcome (and everyone has fun).

Canasta Group

Another two successful meetings at the Hare & Hounds this month when we welcomed a new member Angela who has recently moved into the area. Thanks to Sally for organising the July 28th meeting. The meeting on Tuesday 12th August saw a bumper meeting with three tables of four players – an afternoon of laughter, friendship and play.

Our next meeting is on Monday 25th August (yes we know it's a Bank Holiday) followed by Tuesday 9th September, both at the Hare & Hounds 2 – 4 pm. New members welcome - barbarawigley@btinternet.com for more information.

Coffee Club

Despite dire warnings about Storm Floris also family issues common to the Summer season six of us managed to meet at Honest John's during the morning of 4 August. Whilst enjoying a variety of the warm drinks on the menu we chatted about various entertaining local events due in the month including **free** films, exhibitions and performances.

In addition we discussed various U3A events and, as usual, shared the long list of non U3A coffee mornings, reasonably priced films, hobbies / talks etc available in the area.

Little time was spent on international or national news other than an interesting event in New Zealand where a mother had smuggled her child onto the bus in a suitcase !! To reassure those who may not be aware of the case the child was rescued alive and none the worse for the experience thanks to the vigilance of the bus driver.

Members of **any** U3A branch who happen to be in town on **Monday 1st September**, 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 10.30am 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. Some of us also elect to take lunch after the meeting.

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, to give a light hearted look back to the popular songs and musicals from around the 1960s, plus the odd theme tune, clog-dance etc.

Meetings were less often over the summer. but should now be back to each Tuesday at 2pm in the Fire Station Community room.

We would love to have some new members, so 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



On July 25th we looked at the effect of using cling film on wet paint that had been applied to paper. Very interesting effects were produced. The card making members of the group then used the paper to achieve some novel cards etc.

The card theme continued on August 8th when a Club member set the other members a challenge to produce a card from materials that she supplied.

At our meeting on August 22nd the topic will be never ending cards.

We shall be leaving the topic of cards on September 5th to start working towards Xmas by making 'Folded Fabric Xmas Decorations'

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

The group met again both on line and face to face in July. At the face to face meeting on the last Friday in July the group brought along "a Spanish wine that you don't normally buy" and we shared each person's selection over a light lunch brought by members.

There was a relaxed discussion, not only about the wine but also about many other subjects.



First Tuesday Book Group

We didn't meet in August as too many of our members were on holiday.

Meeting again in September as usual, on the first Tuesday of the month, at 2.00pm in the Greenwood Room of the Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

We didn't have a meeting in August. 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)



This month we went to see Irene and Peter's lovely garden with a beautiful display of Dahlias.

A good social time was had by all, and the sun shone.

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 having a summer break. We will be returning to the Honest John on Tuesday, 2 September.

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.

In perfect weather for golfing, we competed for the u3a Championship. Howard Jameson achieved the most Stableford Handicap points and was duly presented with the Champions tankard. Hearty congratulations, Howard. A good round well rewarded.

Keep golfing!! We look forward to the Charity Shield in the autumn, probably October.

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 intermediate walk last Tuesday 19th of August started from Mytholmroyd leisure centre carpark. There were only 3 walkers and we set off towards Hebden Bridge walking gently up small paths on the Northern side of the valley. Reaching the Burlees farm area we walked back towards Owlars and then reversed again back towards Hebden and came down the Nutclough valley, returning to Mytholmroyd via the canal. Total distance about 4.5 miles.

Let's Go

Two Let's Go Trips have been arranged going to Liverpool and Chester.

Liverpool is on Wednesday 8th October and you will be able to choose whether to be dropped in the centre, to visit historic building, museums, art galleries or shop; or at the quay.

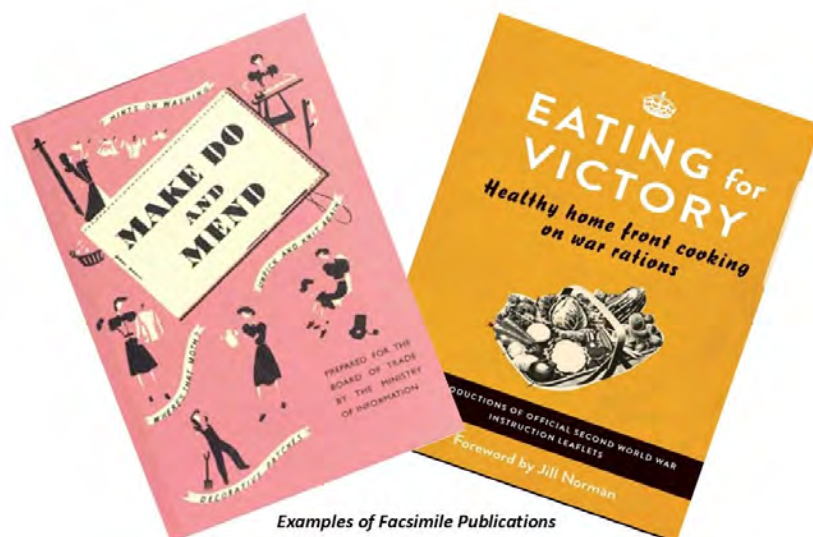
At the quay you have the option of going on a 50-minute river cruise or just visiting the galleries around that area. The cost will be £15.00 just for the coach, or £25.50 for coach and river trip.

Chester will be on Tuesday 2nd December to visit the Christmas markets. The cost being £20.00

Further details will be emailed to you the week of 8th September and payment can be made at the monthly meeting on 18th September.

Local History

Our August meeting saw eight members listen to a presentation of reminiscences from the second world war in Todmorden. Members brought along publications from the period which showed how they could all pull together to make things go just that bit further.



Todmorden library has been refurbished with an excellent facility for local history and so we have organised a visit to the library instead of our September meeting. We will meet at the library in Todmorden at 10.30 on Monday the 1st September and be given a talk on how we can use the resource to carry out the research for our own local history projects.

It was decided that for our next project we would look at the transition from the Victorian to the Edwardian periods in the Calder Valley. Our visit to the library should help facilitate that research.

Normally 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.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club is currently taking a break.

Mah Jong

Mah Jong, July - August 2025

Some notable achievements recently as follow:

Jan – Run, Pung and a Pair. Not easy at all. Marion – 56 with 8 doubles, total 14,336

Martin – two, yes TWO, Unique Wonders in consecutive weeks Fiona – a high scoring Purity hand

And last but not least, our new member Rosie is off the mark with her first Mah Jong. Yaaay!

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."

Pickleball Group, Todmorden

The u3a Todmorden Pickleball Group continues to thrive. We have had several more new members. It has become so popular that there was a request to continue playing over the summer holidays.

We are grateful to the Sports Centre for allowing us weekly sessions on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm in August. We'll resume our regular slot on Tuesdays 10 till 11am from 2nd September.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact via the usual u3a email, FAO Andrea Ransom.

Poetry Appreciation (zoom)

The Poetry Appreciation group met on Thursday 14th and considered poems on Discord.

Michael Longley's Ceasefire, Carol Ann Duffy's Disgrace,
Robert Garioch's Nemo Canem Impune Lacessit,
Gerard Manley Hopkins's Carrion Comfort, and
Joshua Blackman's Stay for the Signkept us occupied.

Next month we reflect on Autumn.

Practical Art

We spent our last session before taking a break in August in Riggs Garden Centre.

After taking photos of the plants we all met up in the cafe for lunch. There were seventeen of us including some partners, and it was a very sociable gathering!

We return to the Fielden on September 12th — topic to be decided. An email will go out before the first session with details.

There are still places available on the Art and Craft short courses if you are interested. You can contact either Corinne or Wendy or fill in the form if you would like to take part. Please look on the website for dates and times.

Psychology Reflections and Revelations: A Summer Psychology Session

With many members away on holiday, our Psychology Group meeting on 14th August 2025 took on a more relaxed and informal tone. The session was designed as a member-led discussion, offering those present a chance to connect more personally and share ideas for future topics. It was a warm and engaging gathering, with a well-paced flow of conversation that allowed us to get to know one another better. Several members expressed appreciation for the informal format, and it was proposed that we consider holding similar sessions twice a year. This suggestion will be revisited in our next meeting.

Looking ahead, we agreed to explore the theme of the Seven Deadly Sins, beginning with a focus on *gluttony*, not merely in terms of overindulgence in food, but as a broader reflection on consumption and desire. If time permits, we will also begin discussing *greed*, particularly in relation to material possessions and the psychological underpinnings of acquisitiveness.

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 11th September 2025, where we look forward to another thought-provoking discussion that blends psychological insight with personal reflection. We have now reached capacity for the Group, so are unable to accept any new Members at present.

Quiz Group

The quiz group met on Thursday 24th July. 14 members were present to enjoy(?) some questions from me. Dave Tyas

Next month our meeting will once again be held on the fourth Thursday of the month 28th August at 10:15am.

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 “Radio-Astronomy-Observing the Invisible Universe” The next five lectures are: - “A Telescope as Big as the Earth”, “Galaxies and Their Gas”, “Interstellar Molecular Clouds”, “Star Formation and ALMA”, and “Interstellar Chemistry and Life”.

The second course is “Memory and the Human Lifetime”. The next few lectures are entitled:- “That Powerful Glow of Warm Familiarity”, “Deja Vu and the Illusion of Memory”, “Recovered Memories or False Memories”, “Mind the Gaps! Memory as Reconstruction”, and “How We Choose What’s Important to Remember”.

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. At our most recent meeting we happily welcomed a new member, who made up for some regulars who were off enjoying themselves elsewhere. We also saw the first ever (that anyone can remember) draw at the final scoring of one round. Resulting in a "sudden death" play-off!

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 met in July to see a 1960s film about Todmorden and cricket. We meet again on August 22 at our usual venue at 10 15 am. We will discuss an autobiography about growing up in Liverpool.

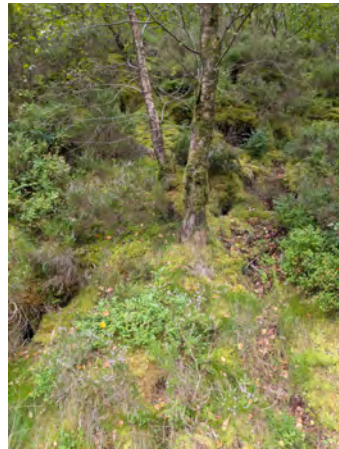
Table Tennis & Badminton

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.

Strollers Group

11 members of the Strollers Group met near the New Delight at Colden and enjoyed a very pleasant two mile walk down to Mytholm through the ancient oak woodland, on a walk led by Steph, with us all having lunch at Stubbing Wharf to finish the morning.



Please contact Barbara at barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Helen at helenstarmer@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

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 Group

No walk arranged in August. 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. Anyone who is prepared to take over as Group Convenor is welcome to contact Peter if more information is required about what's involved.

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.

World Film Club

Our new season commences 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.

Walking Cricket

A team of eight Tigers travelled to Nelson & Colne College on Thursday 24th July to play a new team formed by the Burnley FC charity 'Burnley in the Community'. The Tigers won by 113 runs to 109.



Members of the team playing at the Burnley game

After 24 overs of good competitive cricket Oldham u3a set the Tigers 251 to win at Todmorden Cricket Club, but unfortunately they came up short by only 3 runs.



Scenes from the Oldham game

The Tigers are playing a home game against Sandbach u3a on the 4th September and at Headingley for this year's Yorkshire Walking Cricket Festival on the 8th September

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 2 pm the Todmorden Cricket Club if the weather is fine or the Todmorden Sports Centre, Ewood Lane if not, on any Thursday except the third one in the month.