

GROUP NEWS SEPTEMBER 2025

Alfresco History / Archaeology

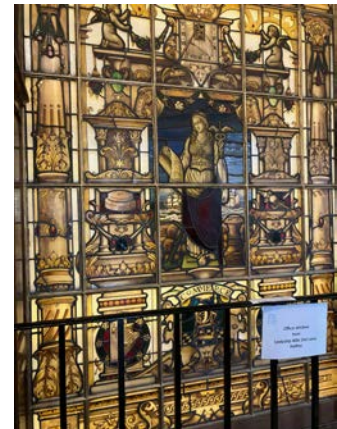
At the planning meeting, it was decided to make the August visit an informal affair, going to Calderdale Industrial Museum as individuals, rather than arranging a group tour. We opted to go on a Saturday, due to the limited opening days, and in the event 6 members of the group arrived at the agreed time and had an enjoyable afternoon visiting the upper floors. Whilst the top floor was a mixture of a work-in-progress exhibition of relatively recent textile machinery and a guest exhibition of the Bradford Model Engineering Society, the second and first floors held interesting exhibits of working textile machinery from local businesses. Several of these were operated and brought to life by knowledgeable volunteer guides who had worked with these machines during their working lives. The Jacquard Loom and Moquette loom were highlights for me.



A framework weavers home



Halifax Square Root Weavers Panel



*Window from Ladyship Mills,
Old Lane, Halifax*

18 members of the three history groups have signed up to a private group tour of Queen Street Mill in Harle Syke near Burnley on Friday the 19th September. Queen Street Mill is preserved as a steam-powered working mill, so this should be a great visit for those who want to see history brought to life.

Plans are already well advanced for November's trip to Rochdale Town Hall, again with a guided tour, which will conclude with information about archaeological finds. Information about the October and November trips will be circulated to group members. If you want to be added to the mailing list for the group, please let Bill Black know using the email address groups@u3atod.org.uk.

ART APPRECIATION/ HISTORY

Our joint convenor Tristan gave an illustrated talk on Eric James Mellon, a centenary celebration.



Eric James Mellon



Born in 1925 Mellon was a painter, printmaker and ceramist, who became recognised particularly for reigniting an interest in narrative representation on pottery and for his extensive research into wood ash glazes. Tristan concentrated on his pottery and we were given an insight into the science behind making glazes (who knew!). After refreshments we watched a short, serene Chinese film of a man making a glaze.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm at Fielden Hall. New members always welcome. For any further information contact Judith, tel: 01706 812890 or Tristan at tristan.molloy.tn@gmail.com

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 current theme, democratically chosen from a number of options, is “how green is my valley”!

We meet every alternate Wednesday between 2 and 4pm at Fielden Hall. 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 again on the 8th August, as always on the second Monday of the month at 2 pm, in the Ridgefoot Community Room. Despite some regular players being off elsewhere doing other things nine of us thoroughly enjoyed some noisy games of Mexican Trains and (a little less loudly) Qwirkle, that good old stand-by. 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

Once again we have met twice in the past month, attracting 12 members when we had three tables of four and 10 members when we played a 4 and a 6. Both sessions enjoyable as usual.

Our next sessions will be Monday 22nd September and Tuesday 10th October both at the Hare & Hounds, Burnley Road, Todmorden 2.15 – 4.15 pm. New members welcome - barbarawigley@btinternet.com for more information.

Coffee Club

Due to a combination of ill health, late holidays and domestic commitments attendance when we met at Honest John's on 1/9/25 was again lower than usual nevertheless it was as interesting as ever

Members were both saddened and surprised to learn of the recent demise of member Frank Holt but very much appreciated the family's invitation to attend his funeral on 11th September.

Some of the topics later discussed included free home energy advice visits, the many films and one play available in the area throughout September and the upcoming Heritage Open week

We also briefly touched on the merits of the University system versus Apprenticeships also the sudden surge of British pride demonstrated by the displaying of the Union and National flags

Members of **any** U3A branch who happen to be in town on **Monday 1st October**, 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 to buy. Some of us also elect to take lunch there 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 Reports.

Concert Party (Senior Moments)

We look forward to visiting Rossendale Hospice again on 18th September. They very kindly gave the following feedback on their website last month:

"A special visit from the University of the Third Age - We recently welcomed the U3A group, an inspiring self-help education organisation based in Todmorden, to perform for our wellbeing patients.



The talented group treated our patients to a wonderful live music performance, bringing joy, smiles and comfort to everyone present.

We are incredibly grateful to the U3A group for sharing their time and talents with us. Their visit left a lasting impression, and we look forward to welcoming them back in the future."

Craft Club

The members have continued to meet through the summer and explore a variety of crafts.

The topic for August 22nd was making never ending cards. Then two weeks later we looked forward to Christmas by making folded fabric Christmas trees and pine cones.



The Christmas theme will continue on September 19th when we shall be returning to macrame to make 'two sorts of Christmas tree'. One October 3rd the topic will be making a gift box book.

Members of Craft Club will also be involved in some of the Summer Short Courses which are being offered for the first time this year. They will be delivering some of the courses as well as taking part in these and others.

Creative Writing

Our members at the first meeting in September wrote to one of this month's themes - Disappointment. Two of these were about youngsters; a story about someone changing their mind about an unwanted gift, and the other where an activity went wrong after some underage drinking. Again, demonstrating that we don't have to stick to the topics, was a piece mentioning Mary or Maria the Jewess, also known as Mary the Prophetess or Maria the Copt, an early alchemist known from the works of Zosimos. We welcome any new members who would write about...anything they like really, so why not give us a try?

Enjoyment of Wine (Zoom)

After a summer break in August the Group met on Saturday 6th September and enjoyed a glass or two of Italian wine. Members had chosen a wide variety of wines which we discussed with several members saying they would buy their selection again. One agreed that theirs was not worth the money and they would avoid it in future. With the autumn break season well under way there are insufficient members to cover the cost of room hire so the September face to face meeting has been cancelled. The next group meeting will be online on Saturday 4th October at 7:00pm when our theme will be Merlot wine whether red, white or rosé.

First Tuesday Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group welcomed two new members to its September meeting.

We discussed Don DeLillo's book "The Silence" - a short (dystopian) novel about a serious power outage and its impact on a small group of people. It happened on the day of the Super Bowl too! The book was not well received by members, though as with all books of any quality, it made the reader think about how they might react, in such circumstances as it presented.

The group will be considering "Held" by Anne Michaels at its October meeting, and "Elmet" by Fiona Mozley at its November meeting.

French: 'An Improvers Group'

No September message from French Improvers other than to remind members we reconvene on Monday 22nd September at 1.30pm until 3.30pm at Tod College. Hoping everyone can come along with memories to share about 'les grandes vacances'. Amitie, Gill. radfordgill23@gmail.com

Gardening Group (zoom meetings and outings)

This month has been quiet with no garden visits. Very sadly we have lost one of our small Group's members - Frank Holt. He will be missed by all of us, not least for his humour.

Membership is open to all current u3a Todmorden Members. The Group Convenor is Fiona Ryland (fio.a.ryland@gmail.com)

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.

The Charity Shield competition will take place on 6th October, tee-off 10 am.

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

Unfortunately, as neither I nor David Savage can lead the September walk and no volunteers have emerged, I have reluctantly decided to cancel this one.

The next IWG walk is due to take place on Tuesday October 21st, which I am planning to lead. Walk details will be issued to group members in early October.

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

Lunch Club

The September 'lunch' was another off piste special chosen and organised by the convenor. Sixteen members enjoyed a teatime get together at the Rim Nam Thai restaurant in Hebden Bridge. Everyone enjoyed the South East Asian cuisine including those for whom it was a relatively new experience.

Non-members interested in joining should contact denisetyas@me.com. Meals are generally lunches and focus on British cuisine with occasional variations.

Mah Jong

Some notable achievements recently as follow:

Martin – Unique Wonders in three consecutive weeks.

Ant – a Todanni – not so tricky when there are only three players, but a tidy-looking hand nonetheless.

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 - emilywatnick@gmail.com. New members still very welcome.

Local History

This month's meeting of the U3A Local History Group took place at Todmorden Library, where the Library's local-history specialist, Sarah Browning, took us through the range of resources that the newly-refurbished Local History Collection now has to offer. Notably, the Local History room is now available to all-comers (no pre-booking need) whenever the library itself is open, a great improvement on the previous arrangement.



There are a vast array of interesting and useful resources available, some that can be freely browsed and some which require liaising with a librarian. There are also some which can be taken out to read at home. Overall the ten members who attended had a very enjoyable and interesting morning, lingering long after Sarah's initial presentation in order to delve into various personal topics and ask further questions.

We have similar visits in mind for other local history archive locations, in Halifax and Wakefield and possibly Hebden Bridge, though no dates have yet been set.

In October our monthly meeting will be centred on a talk by Alan Fowler, who will be talking about the cartoons that Sam Fitton produced for the Cotton Factory Times between 1907 and 1918, which should, as always, be fascinating.

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

The Modern Greek sessions recommence on Thursday 9th October at the Saltonstal room in Hebden Bridge using our text book 'Επικοινωνήστε Ελληνικά '

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."

Photography Group

August practical session for Photo Group was planned to be at Bolton Abbey, however, early in the morning of the day we were going the weather forecast was for temperatures of 30 degrees plus and with no shelter at Bolton Abbey it did not look promising.

Utilising the Group's WhatsApp Group, it was rapidly cancelled and Hardcastle Craggs was decided upon as the alternative. This proved to be the better choice, but even with being in the shady woods a few members found the heat oppressing. We did however manage to take a lot of photographs which will be reviewed at our second meeting in September.

Pickleball Group, Todmorden

The Pickleball group is growing nicely, we now have 12 playing members and will soon need to rent a third court.

We are all learning together, and yesterday had a coach from Go Pickle to give us some expert tuition. It was very useful and we hope we'll be putting it into action next week.

If anyone is interested in giving it ago, come along and see what you think.

We hope to arrange to play another U3A group in the in the near future and another private group in Mytholmroyd. Watch this space!! All you need is non slip indoor shoes. We're a very friendly, welcoming group.

Practical Art

We are returning to the Fielden Hall on 12th September after our summer break. Our first theme is Autumn Seedheads and Fruits. We shall be working on large sheets of paper, either white or coloured, with charcoal and pastels as well as twigs and Indian Ink. Hopefully we'll work in a freer style, at arms-length from an easel!

Psychology Food for Thought: Exploring the Psychology of Gluttony

This month our psychology group explored *Gluttony*, one of the seven deadly sins, through the lens of psychology, literature, and modern food culture. We discussed the evolutionary roots of craving, the influence of today's hyper-palatable foods, and the role of shame and cultural stories around appetite. Members reflected on the difference between hunger and emotional craving, and debated where enjoyment ends and excess begins. We also touched on how gluttony can lead into greed, asking the timeless question: *What is enough?* The session was lively, thought-provoking, and gave us plenty to take away for reflection.

Looking ahead, next month we'll explore recent research showing that curiosity doesn't always decline with age, but becomes more focused, and that keeping curiosity broad and engaged may help maintain brain health and vitality in later years.

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 9th October 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 as usual on the 4th Thursday of the month (August 28th) when 12 members attended. We also entertained two visitors who came to see what it was all about. All were treated to an excellent quiz set by Nina Smith.

The next meeting will be held at 10:15am on the 25th September at Tod Methodists.

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. 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

We met in August and started reading and discussing an autobiography by Ron Garnet on his early life in Liverpool in the 1930s. We will continue this at our September 19 meeting at the Todmorden Methodist church at 10 15 am; some members are then going on to visit Queen Street mill, Burnley in the afternoon as part of a wider U3A history group.

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

We had a wet but enjoyable walk this month led by Diane and Margaret along the canal from Todmorden as far as Woodhouse Mill where some of the group turned round and walked back to Todmorden, with three more intrepid walkers completing the planned walk up and along the old Toll Road, passing an egg honesty shed as well as Billy Holt's horse Trigger's grave, before descending back to Todmorden. Thanks to them both for this.



Cobwebs by the Canal



The Egg Honesty Shed



The Strollers



Trigger's Grave

I am not available to lead a walk in October and as no one has stepped forward to lead a walk there will be no walk in October. The Strollers only walk March to October so there may not be any more walks this year. Please contact Barbara at barbarawigley@btinternet.com or Helen at helenstarmar@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

The Book Group

At our September meeting, we discussed Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Paradise*. Whilst many aspects of the story were somewhat grim, all present enjoyed it and considered it a good read.

Set in Zanzibar around the turn of the 20th century, it describes the life of a young boy, Yusuf, whose father pays off his debts to a merchant by giving him his son for labour. There was a sense of foreboding from early on in the story, with hints at very unpleasant possibilities, but at the same time there is beauty and warmth in the characters and the landscape. The theme of Freedom runs through the book, with different notions presented as to what that concept conjures up for different characters.

One of our group had done some helpful research and brought up biblical and koranic references that appear to have inspired this novel.

Walking Cricket

On Thursday 4th September Sandbach u3a beat the Tigers at the Todmorden Leisure Centre by 33 runs. The Tigers went onto play at the Headingley u3a Walking Cricket Festival where there are 12 teams competing. The Tigers won all of their games to come third with 356 runs. Behind Sheffield on 425 and Wakefield on 371.



The Tigers, in their new shirts, celebrating their victory at Headingley

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.

Walking Group

The Walking Group usually 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.

Due to a shortage of volunteers to lead our walks, the group has been inactive for the last couple of months but is springing back into action on September 30th with a walk led by Jane Milne.

Enquiries about the group, or requests to join, should be addressed to Peter Gibson at toddypg@gmail.com. However, Peter will be stepping down from the Convenor role at the end of the year (after 7 years) and so a new Convenor is being sought. Contact Peter if you think that could be you!

Membership of the group is open to all current members of u3a Todmorden.

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.