

Talks & Workshops Programme 2026

Title	Speaker	Date & Time	Location	Brief Description
Tutankhamun - Egypt's most famous Pharaoh but a Pharaoh of no importance	Keith Coates	Monday 19th October 10 am – 12 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	Many people will have heard of Tutankhamun even if they don't know the name of any other ruler of Ancient Egypt (except Cleopatra). Why is he so famous? What, if anything, did he achieve compared to other great pharaohs? As well as trying to answer these questions, we will look at the issues around his parentage, how he came to the throne and the questions about his early death.
Artificial Intelligence	Bill Black	Monday 19th October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	If you're interested in what's AI is all about, this session will take you through the history of AI, and a review of some of the ways it is embedded in our economy and society, before moving on to how AI-enabled chat-bots can be used for everyday tasks, and how to use them effectively.
The global surge in military spending and the alternatives	Chris Green	Tuesday 20th October 10 am – 12 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Bridestones	The UK spends £66 billion a year on the military - £10 billion of this is on nuclear weapons. Spending on the military is budgeted to increase substantially in the next 5 years. Meanwhile the Education budget has declined from 5.6% to 4.1% of national spending over the last 12 years. This talk examines if this is beneficial or detrimental to global security and our domestic interests.
Sailing in the Mediterranean with the u3a	Bill Black	Tuesday 20th October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Pex Tenements	We'll start this session with a review of this year's week-long cruise in 4 chartered yachts around the islands of the Ionian. This will be followed with an overview of the u3a sailing network, and other ways to participate in sail cruising at low cost.
Nelson's Navy	Chris Jones	Wednesday 21st October 10 am – 12 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	An insight into ship's surgery in Nelson's navy with a look at local participation in the Battle of Trafalgar.
Pecoetry: Cheeky Eco-Poetry on Life, Marketing and Climate	Claire Townley	Wednesday 21st October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Pex Tenements	What do hopeless salespeople, clever marketing, human behaviour and climate change have in common? They've all found their way into Clare Townley's poetry. Join local eco-poet and sustainability communicator Clare for an entertaining mix of original comic poems, stories and observations about the strange things we humans do, from the everyday to the environmental. Expect humour, a little food for thought, and a few audience

				duets for willing volunteers. No previous knowledge of poetry, climate change or acting ability required!
An Introduction to Printmaking	Corinne, Mary and Wendy	Wednesday 21st October 2 pm – 4 pm	Fielden Hall	Printing is all around us. Much of it requires complex, expensive equipment and has a specific commercial objective. However, it is possible to use simple materials and items to produce beautiful and useful printed objects. This session aims to introduce those taking part to simple basic techniques that can be used to print on to a wide range of surfaces such as paper, fabric, canvas and much more. You can expect to experiment and have to take home several pieces some of which maybe finished and others which may need to be completed at home.
The Relentless Empress	Michael Astrop	Thursday 22nd October 10 am – 12 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	How one woman fought the Lords of England to gain the throne that was rightfully hers. From 1135 and 1153 Henry I's daughter, Matilda, battled with her cousin Stephen and the nobles of England to succeed to the crown as her father had wished.
Getting Dementia is not Compulsory	Sally Turner	Thursday 22nd October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Bridestones	Most of us know someone who has been affected by dementia of some kind, and it is likely there is someone in your family who is afflicted with this disease. So far, it seems, there is no pill or medicine which can halt or cure its ravages. In her talk Sally will give an overview of the set of diseases we call 'Dementia' including current attitudes and recent research into prevention and even reversal. She will also look at what to do if we start to notice subtle changes to the performance our own memory as well as simple lifestyle choices we could be making earlier on in our lives in order to live longer and better. This talk is suitable for people who may be worried about their memory or who perhaps care for someone with Dementia. It is not suitable for those who already have dementia.
So, this is Immunology - The Sequel	Reg Czudek	Thursday 22nd October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	Part 1 Understand the basic structure of DNA and of proteins and the mechanisms to

				transcribe, then translate them to form proteins. Part 2 A deep dive into how our immune system and how it can recognise any parasite, especially new ones like SARS and Cov II This second session will need the understanding shared in part 1, if you already have this knowledge by all means join in after the break.
Experimenting with Negative Space	Corinne, Mary and Wendy	Thursday 22nd October 2 pm – 4 pm	Fielden Hall	A chance to explore the reversal of the standard technique used in painting and craft work. The norm is to concentrate on the main subject and add a background to it. What if this is turned on its head and the background is produced first? This is the question that will be explored on this session. The space where the main subject would normally be is either left blank or has some simple marks made within it. Often the resulting image can be interpreted in more than one way. Participants will be able to experiment by working on paper, canvas, fabric and other materials. There will be the opportunity to work with a range of media and techniques including some out of watercolour, embroidery, paper cutting, stencilling and applique.
General Strike 1926	Alan Fowler	Friday 23rd October 10 am – 12 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Bridestones	This talk on the General Strike will look at the causes and consequences of the strike in 1926, as well as, key events during the strike. It will also include a review of the recent books on the strike in 2026 published on the centenary of the strike. There will be some references to the impact of the strike on the Calder Valley. Finally, the talk will review the significance of the strike in the context of the inter war period.
Interrailing in Europe	Alan McDonald	Friday 23rd October 2 pm – 4 pm	Tod College, Todmorden Stoodley	Alan will talk about his holidays presentation about interrailing in Europe illustrated with holiday photos. He will also give a live demonstration of how to organise it.