



December Newsletter

Members' meeting: 18 December 2:00 – 4:00
Central Methodist Hall

Christmas Meeting

Chairman: John McNair
(01706 816924

john.mcnair@phonecoop.coop)

Vice Chairman: Peter Gibson
(pandi.gibson@talktalk.net)

Secretary: Marion Kershaw
(todwords@onetel.com)

Treasurer: Mary Findon
(wmfindon@lineone.net)

Newsletter Editor: Pam Cross
(davidcross72@gmail.com)

From the Chairman

Our groups are doing well, with many members enjoying their regular meetings.

We do want people though to be a bit adventurous, and to see if they might find it interesting to try other groups.

Peter's list of groups tells you what's on offer and when. But groups sometimes have to vary the time or place of their meetings. The convenor of each group lets all the group members know of any changes, but can't inform people who have not been before and want to try the group.

So if you want to try another group, please check the arrangements, either by ringing the convenor or checking with Peter, who has all the up to date information. We don't want you to turn up at the wrong time or place.

"Learning for the brain is like breathing for the body" we're told by David Lewis of the Mind Laboratory, quoted on a recent BBC Learning Curve programme. And there does seem to be mounting evidence, based on new scanner research, that the brain actually keeps on developing as long as it's used. We're not doomed to mental deterioration as we get older, as long as we keep on meeting new stimulation. And that seems to me as good a reason for the existence of U3A as anyone could ask. Let's make the most of our groups !.

Sincerely

John McNair

**Happy Christmas and a healthy
and prosperous New Year to all
members.**

The Senior Moments



Concert Party



The Senior Moments Concert Party' (one of our U3A Groups), seen rehearsing to entertain members at our Christmas meeting.

The entertainment will be preceded by light refreshments and a quiz.

'The Senior Moments Concert Party' meets on alternate Monday afternoons in the Community Room at Todmorden Fire Station. For any further information on the group, please phone the convenor, Rita Olley, on (01706) 816957.

Groups Co-ordinator's Newsletter Report – 30th November 2008

More information available from group convenors.

New Groups

1. **Table Tennis and Badminton** – Convenor Ann Priestley (01706 814202; pann900@talktalk.net) The Group is now meeting every Monday during term time at Todmorden Leisure Centre Gym from 3pm to 5pm, The change of name reflect the inclusion of badminton facilities.
2. **Lunch Club** – Convenors Alison Greenwood (01706 816870; alison.greenwood@talktalk.net and Irene Gibson (01706 814137; pandi.gibson@talktalk.net) Monthly meetings, the most recent an early Christmas Lunch at the Golden Lion. No meeting in December, but The Ram in Cliviger is planned for the January meeting.
3. **German** – Convenor Thea Hurst, Administrator Val Clark (01422 843270; valerie66@talktalk.net) This “Improvers Conversation Group” meets on alternate Wednesdays at Thea's home inf Hebden Bridge from 11.15am to 12.45pm.
4. **Current Affairs** – Convenor Joe Mitchell (01706 817052; joe.mitchell47@btinternet.com) Recent discussions include “The Large Hadron Collider” and “Immigration”. Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at Todmorden Together.
5. **Philosophy** – Convenor John Allison (01422 845624 john.allison@3-C.coop) This group meets fortnightly on Monday mornings and looks like being a great success.

Established Groups

6. **Scrabble** - Convenor Denise Wilson (01706 817737)
This successful group will be having its next meetings on Friday 19th December and Friday 9th January between 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Todmorden Together.
7. **Spanish Conversation** - Convenor Duncan Relf (01706 814668; duncanrelf@btinternet.com) New members are welcome. Meets alternate Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Golden Lion.
8. **World Faiths** discontinued because of the very limited number of members.

9. **Computers** The group is in limbo at the moment while we search for a new Convenor. Members will be kept informed about developments or see U3A website.

10. **Music** – Convenor Richard Pomfret (01706 839115; richard@pomfret.me.uk) Alternate Mondays in the Community Room of Todmorden Fire Station 10a.m – 12.00.
11. **Literature Group** – Convenor Diana Forrest (01706 815615; dianaeforrest@talktalk.net) Normally evening meetings,
12. **Bridge** - Convenor Myra Townley (01706 818851; myra@myratownley.plus.com) The Intermediate Bridge group welcomes new members to make up a 3rd (or 4th!) table at 10.15 am on Mondays at the Conservative Club.

Groups Under Consideration

13. **Outings** - Convenor John McNair (01706 816924; john.mcnair@phonecoop.coop)
26 members expressed an interest in forming this group and, an initial meeting has been held. A new title may evolve.
14. **History & Appreciation of Art** – No Convenor yet but hope for a New Year start. For information contact Groups Co-ordinator.

Family History Convenor Douglas Wilson (01706 813430)
doug@calderwilson.freemove.co.uk

next meeting at 11a.m. on 6 February

New venue Todmorden Fire Station Community Room

U3A Visit to Halifax Magistrates Court

We were met by the two magistrates who gave a talk to U3A and who had kindly both given up their morning to act as our mentors. We were advised on court etiquette – to rise on the entry and exit of the three magistrates and to bow. The court is presided over by three magistrates, one of whom sits in “the Chair” and is the only magistrate to speak to the court. They are supported by the Clerk to the Court who is legally trained and advises the magistrates on legal points. When the magistrates feel the need to confer more lengthily, they withdraw to a room behind the court.

Court No 1 contains a glassed-in dock with a wire mesh ceiling, used for defendants on remand, with steps leading directly down into the cells below. However the first case we heard was that of a traffic offence and the young male defendant was seated in the open court. He had turned left into a car park without signalling, with the result that a cyclist had crashed into him with consequent bruising and cuts. He was charged with “driving without due care and attention”. The defendant had been contesting the charge, but on this occasion he pleaded guilty and was fined £100.00, given 3 points on his licence and charged £400.00 towards court costs – the case having dragged on for some while. This was the minimum under the magistrates’ guidelines.

The second case was that of a juvenile offender who had committed theft. He had broken his bail conditions and had been brought to court for a decision as to whether to remand him for the night in a Young Offenders Institution before sentencing the following day or whether to continue to grant him bail. A member of the Care Home where he had been living was present in court. He was in the “caged” dock and, was refused bail. On his way back down to the cells he foolishly gave the magistrates “the finger” which constitutes contempt of court and will certainly have counted against him when sentenced the following day.

We were able to put questions to 'our' Magistrates and they gave us instances of cases with which they had dealt. I was impressed with their evident dedication to this work, as indeed I was with the professionalism and seriousness with which the magistrates in court No 1 had carried out their magisterial duties. A very interesting and informative morning.

Anne Foster.

Golf Group

- Convenor Rod Wainwright (01706 816802; rodfromtod@hotmail.co.uk) We hope to start the group in Spring. After some initial professional coaching members can decide whether to apply for membership of a Golf Club or to meet up occasionally to play on a public course such as Townley Park..

November meeting

The 10 minute slot was used by **Robert Priestley** from Todmorden Antiquarian Society. He was most interesting on the activities of the society and on the earliest history of Todmorden. He mentioned the website at <http://todmordenandwalsden.co.uk/>, which well repays a look. The **main talk**, given by **Geoff Boswell**, was on the subject of Causeways, Guideposts and Crosses. This was copiously illustrated with a slide presentation and very warmly received.

[U3A Todmorden database](#) Information on the database is securely held and only released within U3A on a 'need to know' basis.

Help 1. Will anybody with a knowledge of **Graphics** who is willing to help with branding please contact our treasurer. (wfindon@lineone.net)
2. **Convenors** needed for **Art Appreciation** and **Computers**
3. **More members** wanted for **Spanish Improver, Current Affairs** and **Golf** groups.

[U3A National Summer Schools](#) – info on U3A national website (www.u3a.org.uk) or at our members' monthly meeting.

January Members' Meeting

15 January 2.00 – 4.00

Central Methodist Hall

Peter Cockroft will speak on

'Sir John Cockroft, winner of Nobel Prize for Physics - 1951'