



Tarporley and District u3a December 2022 Newsletter

May I introduce myself? I am Sue Hardacre from Tarvin, and I have taken over the job of compiling and editing the regular Newsletter from Raye Hurst. Raye has done a wonderful job over the years and I offer her, on your behalf, our thanks for all her dedication and hard work on the Newsletter which she managed as well as so many other u3a roles.



In the last Newsletter Raye promised an edition 'full of good cheer' and I certainly hope that this season brings some of that to us all. However, Christmas brings challenges as we grow older and family traditions may need to be adjusted as participants age. But if we are no longer hosting a dozen for Christmas Day or contemplating a 5 hour cross-country journey to see family members, the company of our friends and loved ones still remains at the heart of this festival. May each and every one of you find joy, comfort and peace during the festive season.

A Reminder of Places of Wamth and Companionship during the winter months.

Sunday	Church Services
Monday	5pm to 7 pm Tarporley Library
Tuesday	10 to 12 noon Little Angels Toddler Group in the Chapel
Wednesday	2.15 to 4 pm Knit and Natter in the Chapel
Thursday	5-7pm – Tarporley Library 3.30-6pm - Warm Space, soup, roll, Wi-Fi – Chapel All welcome, (children accompanied by an adult)
Friday	2.30-4.30 – Craven Room, Tarporley Community Centre
Saturday	10-12 Coffee Morning - Chapel 1 st Saturday of Month – County Market – Tarporley Community Centre.

Tarvin:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30 to 11 am St Andrews Parish Rooms, next to St Andrews Church,

Tarvin Methodist Church

See www.tarvinmethodist.org.uk

Tarvin Library:

Tuesday Noon until 7 pm and Thursdays 1.30 to 5 pm, refreshments available.

All Libraries in the CW&C area will be offering this service.

Tarporley:

St Helen's Church

Wednesdays 10.30 to 12.30

Tarporley and District u3a

Programme – January to February 2023

There will be no monthly meeting in December

New Year - 2023 – the first two monthly meetings at Tarporley Community Centre are:

- **Thursday 26 January 2023** - '***A Solo Walk Across Africa***', is an account of a 3,000-mile journey on foot from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, undertaken by Fran Sandham.

His book '*Traversa: A solo walk across Africa*', was well reviewed and was also serialised in the Sunday Times. Fran Sandham is a former editor of Rough Guides and is a freelance writer for numerous newspapers and magazines.

- On **Thursday 23 February 2023** brings – '***Experiences of a Female Prison Officer Part II***' – when a former female prison hospital officer, Karen Castle, talks about her life as one of the first female officers working in a male prison.

This will be the second part of the talk she gave the Tarporley & District u3a members in 2021. Part I was fascinating and Part II is much anticipated.

Doors open at 9.45am for coffee and tea and biscuits.
The meetings begin at 10.15 am

You can find out more from the u3a website at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home> where the monthly newsletter is available, as is information on how to join the u3a.

Tarporley Community Centre

The importance of Tarporley Community Centre to the running of u3a can't be overstated so I do hope that you have made your pledge using the link below - as was reported in the last Newsletter. The Community Centre Committee needs to raise the funds necessary to improve the energy efficiency of the building. Lower costs will mean that fees to users can be kept at a reasonable rate.

<http://www.spacehive.com/helpimprovetarporleycommunitycentre>

If you wish to show your support in raising this money, click on the above link and then the 'back this project' button.

This will take you to a screen where you need to enter your name & email address. Once you have done this, you will be taken to the payment screen.

Small donations are more than welcome (the minimum is £2) and as the number of pledges is important, if you are a couple, please pledge separately. Cash donations are also welcome, please contact any TCC Committee member.

Should the grant application not be successful, all monies will be returned in full to the donor.

Theatre Studies Group

The cessation of live performances and the closure of venues during the pandemic has had a severe effect on this group and it has taken time to regain its former vigour. However, at a meeting at Rose Farm on Friday Nov.11th members looked back at some of the plays they had seen and looked forward to the future .

During the summer members went twice to the Open-air Theatre in Grosvenor Park seeing first Romeo and Juliet and then Little Women. Despite the fine weather and the pleasant buzz that the venue and event create, members were unanimous in their view that both productions were disappointing. The love affair between Romeo and his Juliet failed to inspire passion and the transposition of Little Women to Britain in 1914 seemed to add no new insights into this well-loved story.



The group has relied on cinema showings of live London productions for some of their activities with Vue Cinema providing some excellent offerings. Members were blown away by the riveting solo performance by Jodie Comer in the National Theatre's production of Prima Facie. As a bright and ambitious barrister specialising in rape prosecutions, she found herself on the receiving end of a ruthless attack in court when she accused a fellow barrister of the same crime. Though one or two reservations were aired about the structure of the show, it was agreed that the acting was stunning and spellbinding.



Another NT Live performance that was appreciated was Much Ado about Nothing starring Catherine Parkinson and John Heffernan. This was described as 'a wonderful farce', 'fabulous

fun' and 'a joyous production'. This transposition of Shakespeare to a more modern setting was a success.

During lockdown streaming services, some free and some on subscription, provided access to great performances when theatres were closed. Mint Theatre from New York offered many shows and has started free streaming again. Original Theatre Online gives access to some new work and Sky Arts on terrestrial TV puts live filmed shows into its schedule. Wuthering Heights from Bristol Old Vic is a recent offering that might well inspire some lively discussion. All of these are grist to Theatre Studies mill.



The Group has arranged to see Betty the Musical in Manchester for its Christmas treat, which includes Dinner before the performance. This show tells the life of Speaker Betty Boothroyd and stars the inimitable Maxine Peake. They deferred choosing new plays for the spring season, but some members did choose to add their names to the two plays, The Verdict and Sleeping Beauty, being offer to the whole membership in spring 2023.

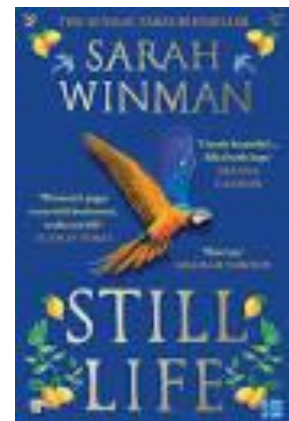


The Theatre Studies Group has occasional spare places, please contact the convenor Raye Hurst at rayewirral@aol.com for more details. There is always room for another group should there be the demand.

Book Group

Still Life by Sarah Winman

Set between World War Two and the eighties, the story is about strangers brought together by love, war and art. Ulysses Temper as a young soldier has a chance encounter with Evelyn, a sixty-year-old art historian, who tells Ulysses that "beautiful art opens our eyes to the beauty of the world." "It repositions our sight and judgement". After Ulysses is involved in an act to save a life In Florence, he then inherits a property there some years later, which in turn becomes life changing for him. The book is held together by the relationships which exists between the disparate members of a non – nuclear family, bound together by chance, circumstances, but ultimately by love.



The Group noted that whilst there were no direct speech marks this did not interrupt the flow of the plot which was thought by the majority to be engaging. The movement between London and Florence was enjoyed and enlarged the knowledge of the different characters and the developing relationships between them. It also gave a sense of the life and ambience of the Italian city, though the post-war years were given rather too much sunshine, wine and food to be totally credible. However, the description of the devastating 1966 flood was vivid.

Some disappointment was expressed over the fact that there was no real development of the relationship between Ulysses and Evelyn who are pivotal characters in the book. Evelyn's encounters with E M Forster and the parallels with A Room with a View didn't always seem to fit well. One member actively disliked the style and did not warm to "pseudo intellectual monologues and supposedly interesting asides". Another noted that the book was a bit slow to begin, but then started to flow and there was a willingness to remain engaged to see what happened next to the characters.

Overall the group felt it to be a well recommended title.

Science Group – Meeting on Friday Nov 18th 2022

16 members met to hear Jane Lowthion present an illustrated talk on "The Science of Nutrition". Jane, a member of the group, is a dietician by training and has worked in several clinical settings. Outlining the importance of a good balance of the major nutritional groups, carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals, she explained the importance of eating the right combination to ensure good health. As her audience confessed to eating food on a regular basis, there was a lively discussion on many issues, including veganism, dietary supplements, obesity and dietary changes through time.



All members of the Science Group are interested in a range of topics under this wide umbrella. Some members have work experience in scientific and technology fields, others with no such background are interested in the moral, societal and practical consequences of scientific progress. Some members share their knowledge with the group, others are happy to challenge ideas and question the impact of new technologies. Topics covered recently have ranged from Astronomy to Viruses.

A scientific background is not required for membership and, if you would like to find out more, please contact the convenor, Paul Bujac on paulbujac@gmail.com. The group meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at Tarporley Community Centre from 10.30am until 12.30pm and a £2 meeting fee is paid to cover room hire.

The next meeting is on Friday 16th December when Tony Yeats will be talking about Nuclear Fusion and the ITER project which looks at nuclear fusion research.

Images of Autumn from the Digital Photography Group





If you would like to stop taking just snaps and start taking beautiful pictures, then the Digital Photography group can help. They meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the Arthur Meredith Room at Tarporley Community Centre, though they do go out on photoshoots on a regular basis. A number of new members have joined recently so, if you are a beginner, you will be in excellent company. For further information contact Alan Durbin at alankdurbin@hotmail.com

Singing For Fun – a plea from the convenor



The group has enjoyed a renaissance during the past year. Coming out of Covid, we managed to get a couple of meetings in, but then were locked down again. We have also changed rooms twice in the year, to make access easier and also to give us more room. The sound proofing of the Craven Room has meant we have enough room to sing, without sitting too close.

The lock down also allowed us to build up funds and with a donation from the u3a we have now bought our own song books. We no longer have the problem of copyright, which raised its head prior to the first lock down. We have enough books for all members to have separate copies. That and a new keyboard having been given to us has meant we are growing in size.

We do, however, have 2 challenges, we don't have enough men and we need a keyboard player, so that we don't have to sing acapella when Anthony is not available.

At the moment the lack of male singers is the more serious. Men, you should remember that singing is great for Health, this recent BBC article should explain why singing is good for you, regardless of how good you are.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200518-why-singing-can-make-you-feel-better-in-lockdown>

In fact, most of our singers feel they are not good singers, and we tell everyone who joins that the best we do is hold a tune in a bucket, but we have fun doing it.

So, come on Gentlemen, come, and have a go, first meeting is free, and you get a cup of tea and a biscuit! We are also a very social group, having an Xmas do shortly, as well as a couple of Garden Parties in the summer, with more socials planned.

So, come along, our December meeting is on the 20th of the month, we will be Singing Christmas songs. If you visit and enjoy, then you can start the New Year with a new challenge, to help us to sound better than we do at present.

Here are some comments from people who have recently joined.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my first session with the Group. Everyone made me feel really welcome and I am already looking forward to the next session on the 20th December."

"Thank you and all the group for making both Mum and I so welcome today, we both really enjoyed it."

For more information contact Ken Wood on unome2@live.co.uk

Lurking on a List?

Our u3a has so many groups catering for so many interests that we can sometimes get carried away with enthusiasm and put our names down for more than we can realistically manage. Or our circumstances have changed, and we are no longer able to go to a particular group. Convenors are concerned that they may have a number of inactive members on their lists, and this may prevent new members being able to join.

If you think that this might apply to you, can you contact the convenor and discuss if it is appropriate for your name to be remain on the list.

Trips and Outings

These two outings have proved very popular and there are just one or two places available. Should that situation change then information will be sent by email.

The first trip will be on **Wednesday 8th February 2023** to see **The Verdict**, performed by the Middle Ground Theatre Company at the **Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**.



Our second offering will be on **Thursday 9th March 2023** at 2.30 pm at **Liverpool Empire Theatre** to see **Sleeping Beauty**



The two shows indicate the quality of outings regularly organised by the Committee for members' enjoyment. They also indicate how popular such events are.

Come Dancing (we're not strict)

I've enjoyed folk dance for too many years to count. The interaction with other dancers in the set; the music and fitting my moves to it; the different shapes, figures and steps; they all add pleasure.

I try to share this pleasure at our interest group. At present we dance to recorded music – though live music would be nice if any musicians join us.



Our dances date from 1650 to the present day (even some made up on the spot!). Some gentle, some lively. I try to arrange the programme to suit those who come, and dancers can change moves that they have difficulty with their joints or stamina.

We meet at Utkinton Village Hall, near the junction of John Street and Quarry Bank. Second and Last Thursdays 2.15 -4.15.

No partner or previous experience needed, and though we try to build on the dances taught. Most people can't come every week. Come when you can, we'll be glad to see you.

Next meetings are Dec 8th, Jan 12th and 26th. There is no meeting on Dec 22nd.

Contact me with any questions. And if you would like to come but those days don't suit, please contact me and say which you would prefer.

Mo (mjw@mowaddington.plus.com)

....and to conclude, a humorous offering to take us to Christmas with a smile.

Oulton Park stages many a race,
Cars and bikes vie to showcase their pace;
But there's always a scene
Where a fading has-been
Has to pit with a really sad face.

Tarp'l'y's 'uke' group was formed just for fun,
(‘Ukulele’ when all's said and done);
They first learned to strum,
Though their rhythm was bum,
But the laughs and the fun run and run.

We Cheshire folk love Christmas time,
With happy feelings at their prime;
So try to be jolly,
Not a Scrooge-like wally,
Gloomy faces would be like a crime.

Keith Barker Dec. 2022

**Happy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year
to you all.**

**To respond, or contact any Committee member please phone
the Secretary, Liz Carter, on 01829 732863 or email Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com**

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