



Tarporley and District u3a February 2024 Newsletter

It's an odd month, February. Spring seems to be getting closer but a glance out of the window will often remind you that winter hasn't given up yet. Of course, there is always Valentines Day to bring a bit of light relief and expensive roses, but here are some other fascinating facts about the month;

- It is one of the most mis-spelt words in the English language.
- It is the only month when you might not get a full moon.
- The name come from the Latin februum, meaning purification.
- The odds of being born on February 29th are 1 in 1,1461
- The Saxon name for the month was 'Sol-monath' meaning 'mud month' because of the wet conditions, though another source (OK website) said that Bede defined February as 'cake month' when offerings were made to the gods.
I'm with Bede on this!



Risk Assessments

As required by the Charity Commissioners, the Committee continues to deal with this issue and a sub-Committee will be presenting their proposals at the next meeting.

The framework has been agreed with the following principles:

The organisation consists of intelligent and competent individuals who have negotiated life successfully. However, the one 'risk factor' which must be considered is the higher average age of members.

Tarporley and District u3a is a voluntary organisation and assessments cannot be applied with the same rigour as must be applied in the employed sector.

.U3a members have a responsibility to look after their own safety and that of others and should not undertake any activity that they feel is outside their competence and ability. They have a duty to inform others of any problems that might affect the smooth running of an activity.

Any risk assessment requirements should be proportionate to the level of risk involved. The involvement of Convenors will be kept to a minimum, though those involved in organising 'higher risk' activities – walking, table tennis, trips and outings – will be provided with guidance needed to keep all participants safe.

When activities that take place in commercial spaces it will be assumed they comply with relevant regulations. Where community spaces are used, the Committee will check that appropriate policies are in place.



MONTHLY MEETING

TARPORLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thursday February 22nd 2024

Doors open at **9.45 am** for refreshments.

The meeting begins about **10.15 am** with announcements.

The talk starts at **10.30 am**.

NEIL HARRISON

GHOSTWRITER

Neil returns to let us into the secret of writing the stories for famous individuals, including an actor, and England football manager, a decorated British soldier, a spy and a gangster.

Be Aware of Email Scams

Our computers and phones give us access to the wide world, but they also give access to those who wish to scam us. These two current scams have been brought to our attention.

There has been an increase in reports of residents are being contacted via their landline or mobile by a person purporting to a Police Officer.

They are informed that their bank account has been involved in a scam and the police are conducting an undercover investigation and not to tell anyone.

They are instructed to attend the bank withdraw cash and not to tell the bank why, they are to return home with the cash, and a courier will collect it.

Fraudsters are extremely convincing and can be very threatening especially towards the vulnerable.

Police officers will **never** ask you to transfer money, withdraw cash or provide personal details over the phone.

It is concerning that we are seeing a few reports of this nature and thankfully banks have stepped in to protect customers from falling foul to these scammers.

Anyone who is receiving calls asking for money to be transferred or cash withdrawn by scammers should call 101 or report it to **Action Fraud 0300 123 2040** or online via the Cheshire Police Website or Action Fraud website.

Email Display Name Spoofing

This is an email scam perpetrated by fraudsters who use someone's real name (known to the recipient) as the display name for their emails. This is done by registering a valid email but false account with an unusual email address. However, the name at the top of the email – the 'display' name - will be one the recipient recognises and thus they may well respond promptly to the request.



Mobile phones are especially vulnerable to this scam as they have limited display space & may not show the email address of the sender, only their "display" name. Larger devices may display the email address, but it is still so easy to respond without checking. The content often gives a sense of urgency for you to respond quickly. Ask yourself if the message sounds like the person named, is it his style, is it spelled correctly?

If you are in any doubt, **DON'T** respond, click on any link or open an attachment, **DO** delete at once.

Contact the real person by calling them or by sending a new separate email using their real email address to check.

From: Don Igoe
 <gp4720177@gmail.com>
 Sent: 27 December 2023 13:21
 To: tarporleyu3a@outlook.com
 <tarporleyu3a@outlook.com>
 Subject:

Hi, Kindly let me know if you
 receive this message. Thank
 Don

Don Igoe

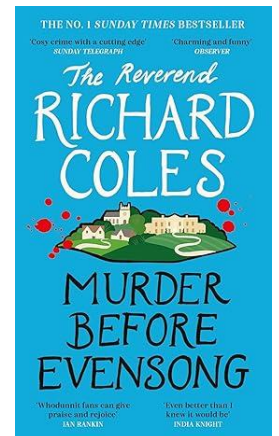


Chairman Don Igoe said “Two of our u3a Committee have recently been the target of this activity using our names which are on the u3a public website. I was one of them & our central u3a email post-box received the following email which purports to be from me. The actual senders email displayed below my name at the top is a real email address so won’t be picked up by virus or spyware protection but is not my email address!

Book Club 1

When a group member chose *Murder Before Evensong* by Richard Coles as a pleasant ‘easy read’ for the Christmas season, she probably didn’t imagine the diverse reaction and long discussion that the book would create in the January meeting!

Writer and columnist, the Reverend Richard Coles created a gentle village setting where the vicar, Daniel Clement, shook the locals by suggesting removing some pews from the back of the church and installing a lavatory. The ripples from this suggestion spread out, gaining supporters and opponents within the village hierarchy and culminating in the murder of the churchwarden. Hidden secrets going back to the wartime use of the Manor House as a hospital for the Free French were eventually revealed, along with the killer.



Was this a well-written ‘cosy crime’ novel full of realistic village characters shaken by a terrible event, or was it a poorly plotted and badly edited piece filled with caricatures where the murder was almost an incidental? Was this a novel written by a competent wordsmith or another edition to the current ‘celebrity crime novel’ publishing sensation? No conclusion was reached, but those naysayers must recognise that the book did become an instant Sunday Times best-seller, and the adventures of Daniel Clements continue!

Book Club 2

As December is such a busy month, the group decided that at the January meeting they would each bring a favourite poem to read out and discuss. Here are some of the poems:

The Night Mail by W.H. Auden. The Post Office information film of the 1930's with added words by Auden and music by Britten.

Warning When I am an old woman I will wear purple, by Jenny Joseph. A poem about how to grow old disgracefully.

Landfall by Anon. A poem about taking a ship out to sea in a storm and coming safely into harbour.

Smokey the Cat by Robin Laing, about a cat living in a distillery in Scotland. based partly on the story of "Towser" the former distillery cat at Glenturret Distillery near Crieff.

Leisure (What is this life if, full of care) by W.H Davies. The poem 's message of taking time to stop and "smell the roses" is a timely one although penned 100 years ago!



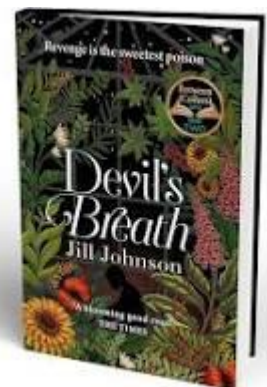
I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth. One of the members sang this with her choir and shared memories of an Italian tenor who came to sing with them and who was amazed by the show of daffodils in England (they only grow them in pots in Italy!).

Book Club 3 – Murder/Mystery

The first meeting of the Murder, Mystery Book club of 2024 took place on the 2nd January, in the Swan pub, Tarporley. The group read the book, Devil's Breath by Jill Johnson, recommended by BBC 2 book club, 'Between the Covers'.

Eustacia Rose is a Professor of Botanical Toxicology and had an extensive collection of poisonous plants for company. She leads a very quiet life in London until, one day, she hears a scream and then the action begins. The group found the book to be riveting at the start, it became less gripping as the plot developed and eventually became quite boring.

None of the group were sure they would read Book 2 in the Professor Eustacia Rose Mysteries.



The next meeting is on Tuesday, 6th February and will be discussing 'Talking to the Dead' by Harry Bingham. For more information about the group, please send a message via the **email** link on the U3A Tarporley, Book Club – Murder, Mystery page. **Please be sure to mention the group name in your message.**

Sunday Lunch Group

Report from Raye

The Sunday Lunch group began last October. We have been meeting on one Sunday of the month at local restaurants and have already got more members than we expected in the group so there is a waiting list to join.

Having discovered that restaurants usually insist on pre-booking for any more than 12 people, we have 12 places on offer each month and members contact me as the Convenor, exactly one week before the meal. The first 12 people to get in touch by phone, email or text, get a place that month. I am very strict and stick to the rules!



As a by-product, we are also discovering which local establishments have the best food and service and I imagine there are some that will become favourites and others we might decide to avoid. The system works well, and we are meeting a variety of members each time. It is a very easy group to co-ordinate so I wonder if another member would like to start a second group. Please get in touch if you think you could run such a group. Contact rayewirral@aol.com

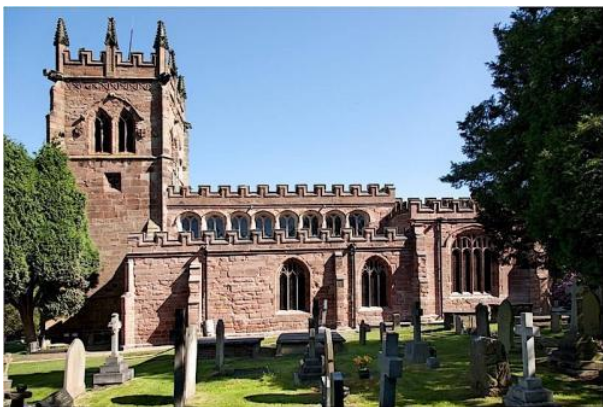
History Matters Group

History Matters had a record attendance for the January meeting which was held for the first time in the Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Chapel.

Steve Cornes, a member of Sealed Knot, a group who perform re-enactments, came in Civil War costume to talk about the Civil War, and in particular, a sad event at Barthomley church. He gave a fascinating and detailed talk which members enjoyed.



On Christmas Eve 1643 during the Civil War the church was a scene of a massacre. About 20 Parliamentary supporters had taken refuge in the church when Royalist forces under the command of Lord Byron started a fire. The Parliamentarians surrendered but twelve of them were killed. The evidence of the Barthomley Massacre was to have been one of the charges of treason against Charles I, had his trial been allowed to proceed.



Barthomley church, which is Grade I listed, and stands in an elevated position above the village which lies east of Nantwich and very near Junction 16 of the M6. The village had strong links with the Crewe family and Crewe Hall is only two and a half miles away. Inside the church is the Crewe Chapel built by Sir Ranulph Crewe in 1608, shortly after his acquisition of the estate to be his and his family's memorial.

Ed – The ancient church, dedicated to the very obscure 8th century Saint Bertoline, apparently a son of a Mercian King, but whose life is shrouded in mystery and myth. He died in Ilam in Derbyshire – allegedly.

Situation Vacant – Membership Secretary

The current Membership Secretary is moving to Yorkshire and the Committee must find someone to undertake this important role. Duties include:

- Attending monthly general meeting to answer questions about membership - from members, potential members and signing up new members.
- Managing members details including setting up new members on u3a's computer system (Beacon)
- Liaising with Interest Group Co-ordinator about new members requests to join interest groups
- Answering membership enquiries which are received by email
- Managing the membership renewal process
- Use of Beacon and the Tarporley & District u3a's website
- Liaising with the Treasurer re payments received by BACS
- Attend monthly Committee meetings as a Committee member and/or Trustee, though this is not compulsory but is desirable.



Skills Needed

- Computer literacy
- Good inter-personal skills
- Organizational skills

Time Involved

- On average an hour per week. During the renewal period July - September, time spent could increase.

Full training and support will be provided. If you would like to discuss or volunteer, please approach Anita Langford, any Committee member or email TarporleyU3A@outlook.com

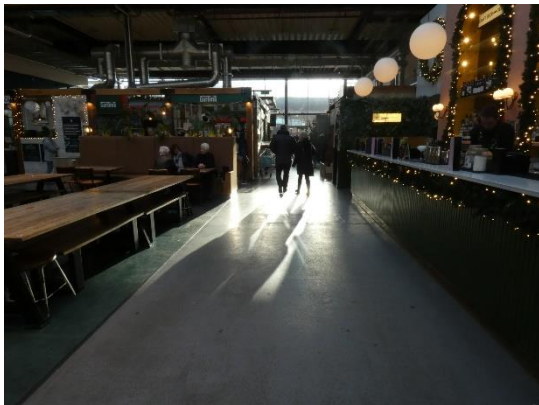
Digital Photography

In the last edition of the Newsletter, the group gave me some 'unedited' photos. I thought it would be a good idea to see the difference between unedited and final versions. I was sent some wonderful examples and here are some of the most impressive.



Improvement undertaken:

Cropping to remove artifacts which distract from the main subject.

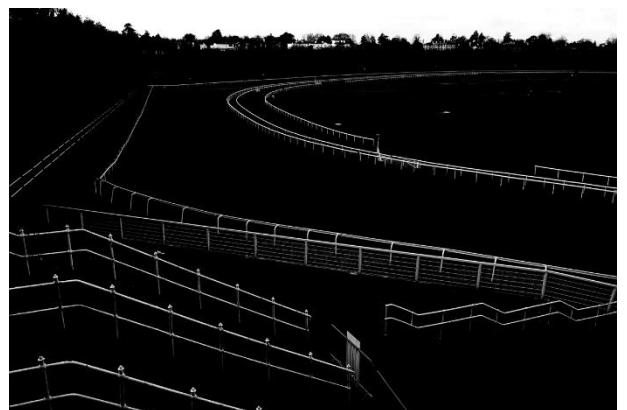


Improvement undertaken:

Cropping to enlarge the central figures and changing to monochrome to enhance the shadows.



Improvement undertaken Reducing the exposure and changing to monochrome for dramatic effect.





Improvement undertaken:

When shooting wildlife using a telephoto lens, cropping is invaluable to enlarge the central subject.



This image has been turned to monochrome using an editing package called Nic Collection. A vintage choice with frame gives the photo its original Victorian appeal!



Many thanks to Convenor Alan Durbin for all his hard work, not only for this Newsletter, but all the previous ones.

Trips

Thirty-three members have signed up for The Pirates of Penzance at Buxton Opera House on Sunday 4th August. Most of the party seem happy to enjoy a buffet after the show at The Palace Hotel. It would be splendid if the remaining 7 places are requested quickly, so that u3a can let the Opera House know they will take up all seats on hold. Contact gebaskerville@btopenworld.com if you would like to join this trip.



Trips are an important element of the activities available, and the Committee aims to offer at least one trip a month. This could be a show or concert, a garden, a place of historical importance or maybe just 'somewhere different' for the day. Such events include transport and may include a meal arranged at a venue. Another important element is arranging trips at various price points so that as many members as possible can participate.

Information on forthcoming trips is usually given at monthly meetings, in the Newsletter and by email. If you have a good idea for a great day out, then please do contact Raye Hurst or Edward Baskerville who will be delighted to talk to you. Email rayewirral@aol.com or Edward – see above

Forthcoming Attractions

Tarporley Community Centre

Film Night Friday February 16th at 7.30pm

Are you there God? it's me, Margaret

A delightful coming of age story as Margaret negotiates growing up in a new neighbourhood.



Tarvin Community Centre

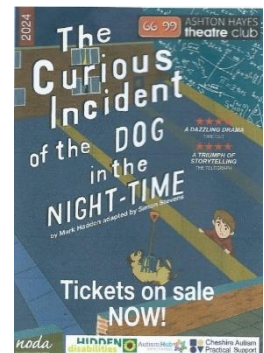
February 6th –10th at 7.45 pm

Ashton Hayes Theatre Club

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.

A stage adaptation of the novel by Mark Haddon by this excellent amateur group whose productions never fail to impress.

Some tickets are still available at www.ahtc.org.uk

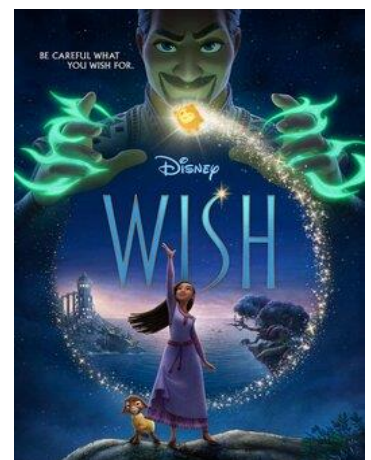


Friday February 16th at 6.00 pm

Wish (U)

Will Asha's courage and the magic of the stars save the day. Classic Disney animation.

A welcome return of the children's film show.



Friday February 16th at 8.00 pm

One Life (PG)

The life of Sir Nicholas Winton and the efforts he took to save 669 Jewish children from the Nazis in Prague. Starring Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham-Carter



Friday March 1st at 8.00 pm

OPEN MIKE NIGHT

Calling All Local Talents!

Whether you're a gifted singer, a masterful musician, a captivating poet, or a hilarious stand-up comedian, we want you to take centre stage! This is your chance to share your passion and entertain your fellow residents.

Event Details:

Date: March 1, 2024

Time: 20:00

Location: Tarvin Community Centre

How to Participate

Fill out our simple application form – [LINK](#).

Showcase your talent on our stage.

Hurry! Applications close on February 12.



ED: I know we have talented people, singers and musicians and I am sure we must have a comic or two in Tarporley and District u3a.!

Nature abhors a vacuum and editors abhor an empty space so.....

1. Looking 50 is great if you're 60. ~[Joan Rivers](#)
2. Age is a high price to pay for maturity. ~[Tom Stoppard](#)
3. No man is ever old enough to know better. ~[Holbrook Jackson](#)
4. When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick. ~[George Burns](#)
5. You're only young once but you can stay immature indefinitely. ~[Ogden Nash](#)
6. Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative. ~[Maurice Chevalier](#)
7. There is no pleasure worth forgoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward. ~[John Mortimer](#)

..and finally....

With the article in this issue about internet security I thought this might remind you that there are other ways of communicating!



Just a brief word about any images of members in the Newsletter. They are sent with the participants agreement but are intended for inclusion in the Newsletter only. Please do not send images of u3a individuals in the Newsletter to other public, digital spaces.

To respond, or contact any Committee member, please get in touch with the Secretary, Kim Harding by email at Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com

For contributions about your group's activities, please get in touch with the editor at bandshardacre@btinternet.com

For wider information on the activities of Tarporley and District u3a go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley>

Tarporley & District U3A is a Registered Charity – No 117137