



Tarporley and District u3a

March 2023 Newsletter

There was a time when we could categorise March as having something to do with lions and lambs. Unfortunately, whether due to extra sun spots, global warming or interventions by aliens, we may now expect anything from Arctic storms to sunstroke.

However, the rhythms of the seasons may still be apparent in the profusion of wonderful spring flowers that make the world look such a colourful place.



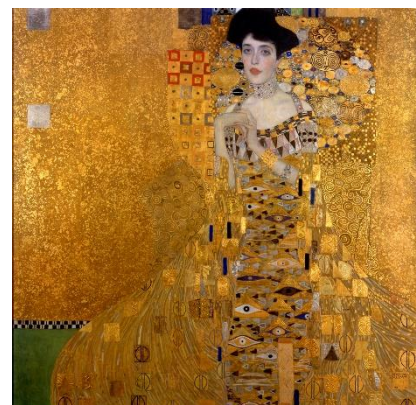
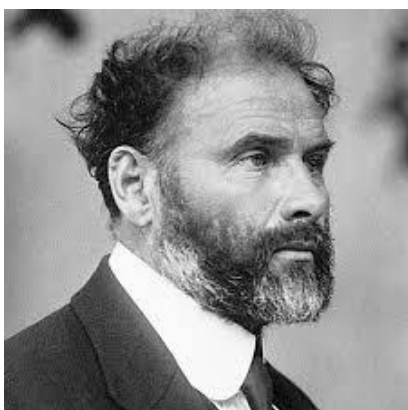
The pictures are of the Farndale Valley in North Yorkshire where this glorious sight of wild daffodils has been enchanting visitors for generations.

The area around Dymock on the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire border is also well known for its wild daffodil walk, but if these are too far to visit, most parks will also have a wonderful, if slightly more regimented, show and there are unexpected displays of flowers in many unexpected natural settings.



Art Appreciation

Having attended an exhibition at the Lady Lever Gallery and a talk at the Grosvenor Museum early in March, the next meeting of the Group will discuss the two visits and also look at the art of the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt. The meeting will be held on the 14th March in the Craven Room from 10.00 – 11.30. Newcomers will be most welcome. Please contact Audrey for more details at j.wraith2012@btinternet.com



MONTHLY MEETING

Tarporley Community Centre.

Thursday 23 March 2023

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

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

The talk starts at **10.30 am**

Scams

Detective Constable Andrew Kevan

Cheshire Police Cyber Crime Team

DC Kevan will talk about the importance of on-line security, how to spot fraudsters and what to do if you think you have become a victim of a scam operation.

This is a timely talk given that so much of our daily life, and financial transactions, take place in the digital sphere. The talk will help us navigate this world with greater confidence.

Also present at the meeting will be Jorge Ferreira, Tarporley PCSO, giving members a chance to meet him and raise any issues.

Praise for the February Speaker

The talks at the monthly meetings can generate a variety of views, often strongly expressed. The second talk on February 24th by former Prison Officer Karen Castel inspired one member, Keith Barker, to send in this special form of appreciation:

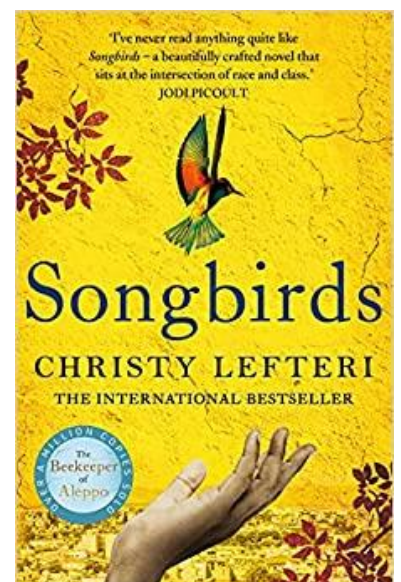
“Five feet four and what a career,
Does anyone else come anywhere near?
Prison Officer Karen - what a talk.
That’s one strong soul who walked the walk.”

Book Groups

Christy Lefteri wrote this book after speaking to a domestic worker in Cyprus who was originally from Sri Lanka and who spent her days caring for someone else’s small child, whilst the only contact she had with her own child was through technology. The domestic worker had not physically seen her own child for eight years but had chosen this way of life to give her child a better future. Lefteri had spent time volunteering at a women and children’s refugee centre in Athens and it made her realise that not all migrants are refugees and some make choices because they consider this is the best option.



Songbirds concerns a Sri Lankan domestic worker in Cyprus called Nisha. By day she looks after Petra’s daughter Alik and the evening she keeps contact with her own daughter via a tablet owned by Yiannis, who is a lodger at Petra’s house. Yiannis dreams of marrying Nisha, but she disappears and no-one seems to care except Petra and Yiannis. Until Nisha’s disappearance in many ways Nisha had been hardly visible to Petra other than she was invaluable without being visible or fully appreciated. Petra and Yiannis begin to search for Nisha and realise how little they really knew of her and as they discover more about her, they discover more about themselves. The story weaves strands of those whose lives intersect with Nisha’s life and you learn of the different perspectives of the characters involved.

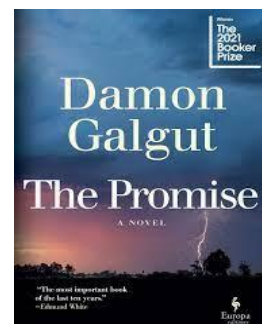


Lefteri wrote that “it is a story about migration and crossing borders. It is about searching for freedom for a better life, only to find oneself trapped. It is a story about learning to see each and every human being in the same way as we see ourselves.”

The book group's discussion veered off and encompassed many aspects of domestic life and in many cases the dependence on outside help. The book itself was thought to be complex and well-constructed, the descriptions are vivid and lyrical, the characters plausible and realistic.

Recently a new Book Group was established which has already attracted many new members. Their next meeting will be held at the Swan in Tarporley on Tuesday 14th March when they will be discussing *The Promise* by Damon Galgut.

To find out more about this new group, do contact Kim Richmond-Flynn at kmjflynn@gmail.com



Science Group

The topic for February's Science group meeting was 'Hydrogen – the super sub'? Andrew Needham and Paul Bujac discussed the proposals to use hydrogen as a fuel to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions associated with burning carbon-based fossil fuels such as natural gas.

Several ambitious ideas are being considered as part of the UK Government's self-imposed legal target to achieve net zero; that is no UK based carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Several Government strategies have been published. They all face challenges as there are no simple ways to produce hydrogen cleanly. Different routes are being explored. Currently hydrogen is widely manufactured, from methane (natural gas) and with carbon dioxide as by-product, for a feedstock for ammonia for fertilizers. One potential production route ('blue' hydrogen) is to use the established method from methane but to capture all the by-product carbon dioxide and store it underground for posterity. However, it is argued that a more environmentally friendly approach is to use 'renewable' electricity generated by wind turbines or by solar panels to then generate 'green' hydrogen by the electrolysis of water.

UK Hydrogen Strategy



The development of any of these 'cleaner' routes will incur significant costs and require determined political backing over a significant time. The meeting discussed HyNet, a local example of co-operation between industry and Government. HyNet is 'UK's leading industrial decarbonisation project'. It is based in the North West and North Wales and the major elements include hydrogen manufacture, storage and distribution, as well as carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). In the CCUS, the by-product carbon dioxide will be stored under the sea off the North Wales coast. Several initiatives are planned. These include a new gas distribution system to supply industrial uses such as glass making, and a separate proposal to convert households

in Whitby, a village near Ellesmere Port, to burn hydrogen, rather than natural gas, for heating and cooking.

It is unlikely that using hydrogen will be the panacea for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, but it may have a place in certain industrial processes or even for transport e.g. HGVs. Whatever the preferred uses, technology, economics and politics will need to be reconciled if any significant progress can be made.

The next meeting of the Science Group will be in Friday March 17th at 10.30 am in the main Hall. The topic has yet to be arranged.

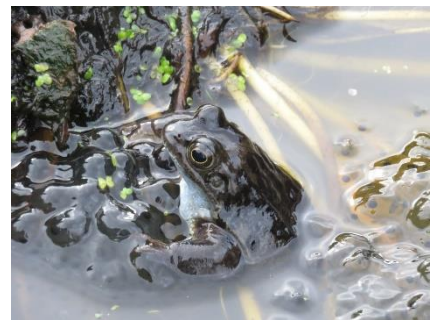
Nature Group

Our Nature Group is now nearly 3 years old. We were formed in Spring 2020 when Covid restrictions were at their most severe. Everyone was locked down and outings were limited to short local walks. These limitations however made us appreciate all the nature around us, particularly at that time, the spring flowers, trees coming into leaf, and various wildlife.

Several of us started sharing photos on social media, initially using Facebook but within a few weeks, we moved to WhatsApp and formed the u3a Nature group. We now have a WhatsApp group with some 27 members. As Covid restrictions eased and as members ventured further afield and holidays re-appeared, the number and variety of WhatsApp posts increased rapidly. Since Spring 2020, we have shared some 1800+ photos on almost every aspect of Nature we have found. The posts obviously follow the seasons, with snowdrops the first to appear, then trees, young birds, butterflies and dragonflies, summer flowers, autumn fungi and colours, and migrating birds, to name just a few seasonal observations. As well as local posts, we share photos when on holiday, be it North Wales or Devon, or more recently Malaysia and Western Australia.

As Covid slipped into the background, we were able to meet in person at last, and, over the past few months, we have met every month in the Community Centre, to enjoy a wide range of presentations, often with a quiz, from our members. It is fascinating and rewarding to share members' knowledge and love for so many different aspects of Nature. From the smallest lichen to the tallest trees, from ladybirds and dragonflies to wild deer and grey seals, we are still learning.

We have enjoyed field trips including the Mosses and Meres of North Shropshire, woods and limestone pavements in North Wales, and a trap full of amazing moths here in Cheshire. More trips are planned.



Using WhatsApp is probably unusual for a u3a group but it does mean that we can keep in touch in between monthly meetings and when we are away.

The next meeting is on March 9th at 10.am in the Arthur Meredith Room. The subject will be Australian Wildlife. New members are always welcome.

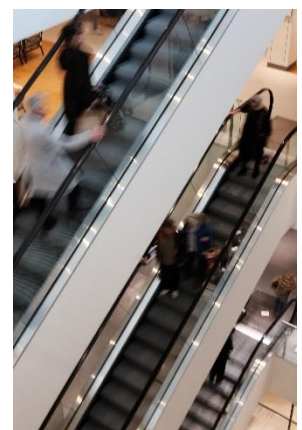
Digital Photography

Many of you will have enjoyed the photos that the Digital Photography group send in on a regular basis. But it is the group's intention to improve the quality of the pictures they take and get the best out of the cameras that they have. Group Convenor Alan Durbin, sent the following information about the subject of their last meeting:

'To illustrate the motion in a moving subject the photographer can increase the exposure time in a shot, referred to as decreasing the 'shutter speed'! When the photographer wants to isolate the subject from the background in an image, then the aperture of the camera lens is increased to decrease the depth of field in the frame; this allows the subject to 'pop out' from a blurred background, which is important in portraiture. Changing shutter speed and aperture size affect the exposure, so care has to be taken not to over brighten or underexpose the image; this means the photographer has to control the amount of light entering the camera lens.

This month, our photographers have taken control of the camera settings, (rather than let the camera choose them!), to show movement in subjects and to isolate them from backgrounds.'

....and here are some of the results of that hard work.





Raise the Curtain and dim the Lights

We have access to some excellent amateur dramatic performances in the area, as anyone who went to the stunning Ashton Hayes Theatre Club performance of Jerusalem in Tarvin will attest.

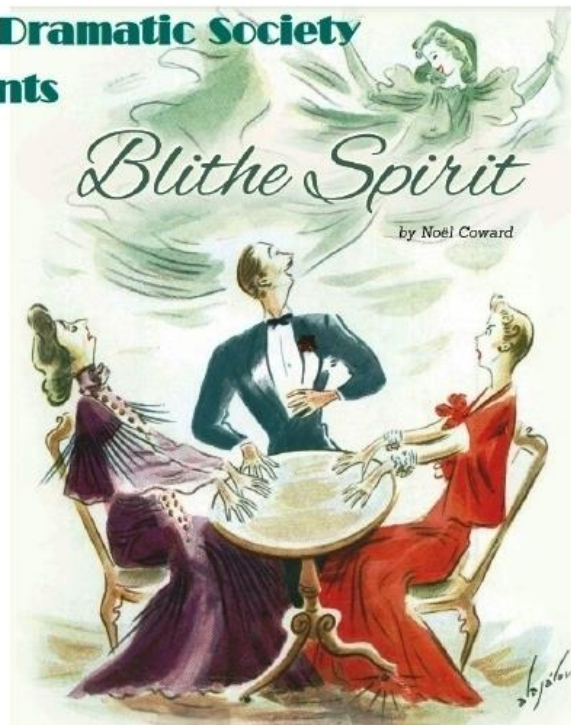
This month Tarporley Amateur Dramatic Society is poised to entertain us with the sparkling Noel Coward play *Blithe Spirit*.

Tarporley Amateur Dramatic Society
presents

**Tarporley Community
Centre
at 7.45
Thursday to Saturday
23rd-25th March 2023**

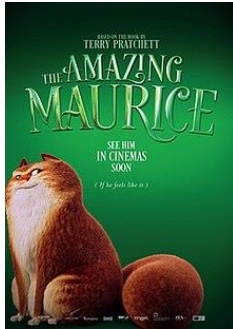
**Tickets £9
from Hair Academy,
High St.
or book on-line at
www.tarporleyads.co.uk**

Scan QR code
for web site.

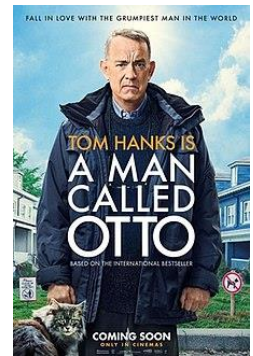


A Night at the Flicks

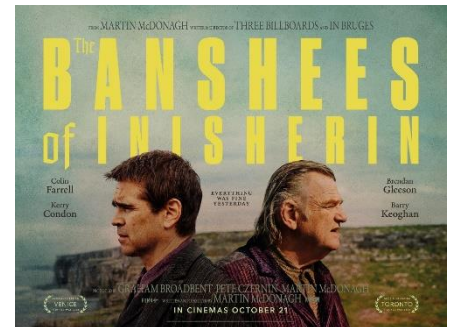
Coming to Tarvin Community on March 24th at 8.00pm is 'A Man Called Otto' starring Tom Hanks.



If you have a young person who likes the movies then you can take them to see The Amazing Maurice at the same venue at 6.00pm



The film in Tarporley Community Centre on March 17th will be the very well-reviewed The Banshees of Inisherin starring Brian Gleeson and Colin Farrell.



Warm Spaces

With the mild weather we have been experiencing recently, the idea of a warm space may seem less important. But energy costs remain high and companionship is still necessary, so here is a remainder of where you can meet.

Tarvin Community Centre is open on a Tuesday afternoon in the Wilkinson Lounge from 1.00pm until 4.00pm

Tarporley Community Centre is open on a Friday afternoon in the Craven Room from 2.30pm until 4.30pm with craft and bingo sessions,

St Philip's Church Kelsall is open on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 pm until 4.00pm

Many churches and libraries are also open for this purpose, so do investigate local places and organisations.



....and to finish on a lighter note, the absurdities of the English language....

If at first, you don't succeed then skydiving's not for you.

Wear short sleeves! Support the right to bare arms!

How come we never see the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

42.7 per cent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Borrow money from a pessimist, they don't expect it back.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Don't drink and drive. You might hit a bump and spill your drink.

Nostalgia: How long's that been around?

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Get a new car for your spouse; it'll be a great trade!

It is as bad as you think, and they are out to get you.

Just a brief word about the images 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 individuals in the Newsletter to other public, digital spaces.

To send any articles or information for the Newsletter , please contact Sue Hardacre on 01829 741962/07946 958831 or send them, before the end of the month, to bandshardacre@btinternet.com

To respond, or contact any Committee member please phone

the Secretary, Liz Carter, on 01829 732863 or email Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com

