



Tarporley and District u3a

May 2023 Newsletter

The beginning of May really does see the formal boundary between the end of the cold season and the start of summer. There is the sound of birdsong in the mornings and the evenings are getting lighter. One glory of the month is the blossom – at last until a sudden breeze covers the garden with petals.

Throughout the world, many countries have May traditions, religious, cultural or even political, that speak of rebirth, renewal and, in some cases, the start of romances and new relationships.

In the UK this particular month sees a significant new beginning with a new monarch. So let us hope that the weather remains bright and sunny and the day passes with all the pomp and ceremony that we know this country can do so well.



Membership

At the time of writing the Committee is delighted to announce that the membership now stands at 499. This is quite an achievement for our group that has only been going for 10 years – nearly – and shows how important it has become in the lives of so many local people. Meeting together for learning, for companionship and for a sense of community, Tarporley u3a, like the hundreds of others in the country, is playing its part in making sure that our later years can be just as fulfilling as our younger ones.

Somewhere out there is our 500th member. If you know someone who would benefit from all that Tarporley and District has to offer, then please do bring them along.



MONTHLY MEETING

Tarporley Community Centre.

Thursday 25th May 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**.

Grant Ford

Every Picture tells a Story

Grant is a Leading Specialist in the international art auction world and is an independent curator, broker and advisor. He has been the senior paintings specialist for the BBC Antiques Roadshow since 2007 and worked for Sotheby's for 15 years.

Grant will discuss some of the great pictures he has handled in his distinguished career, look at why some pictures come in and out of fashion and how the global art market has changed through time.

Staying Safe – a Trip to Safety Central, Lymm

There are still some places available for this interesting trip that could leave you living a longer and healthier life, all the better to enjoy more trips!

The visit is free but there will be a £10 charge for the coach.

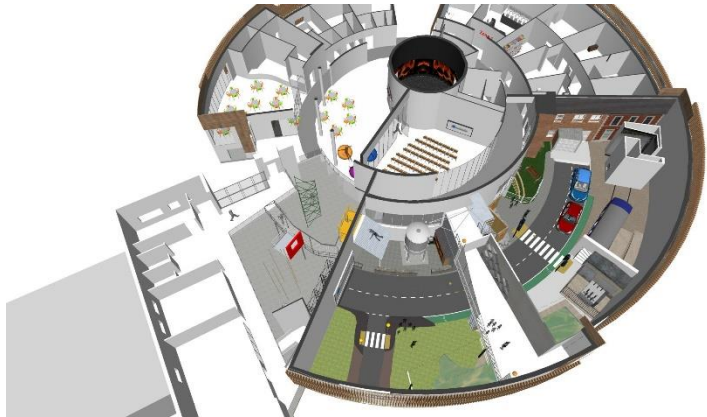
Date – May 17th

Pick-ups – 1.15 pm from Tarporley and 1.30pm from Kelsall

Duration of visit – 2.5 hours.

A list was opened at the March meeting but there are still places available.

Please contact Liz Carter on lizcarter19@btinternet.com if you would like to join the group.



Art Appreciation Group

On April 15 some of the u3a Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a visit to Carden Park Sculpture Garden to be shown round the new sculptures on show by Emma Rodgers from the Wirral. Our guide was Grant Ford, a leading specialist in the art world, who regularly appears on the Antiques Road Show and will be talking to the u3a at the meeting 25 May. We all enjoyed learning about the sculptures and later Emma gave a demonstration of how she moulds details of her work.

In May one of the group's members, Louise Barson, is telling us about her art and in June local Tarporley artist, Rachel Davies, will be speaking to us about the stories behind some of her work. In July we are planning to visit Manchester to see the exhibition of Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama, at Factory International. When we can fit it in, a few of us also visit local galleries or places displaying interesting art.

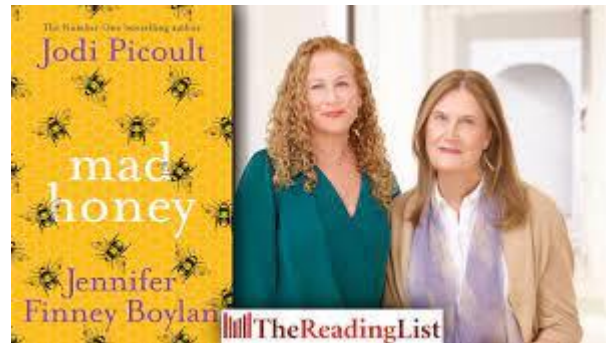
Our normal Tarporley meetings are in the Craven Room at 10 till 11.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

For more details ring Audrey Wraith, the convenor, 01829 751838.



Book Group 1

Jodi Piccoult is a number one American Author who has written 28 novels and Jennifer Finley Boyland is a bestselling author, transgender activist, Professor at Barnard College and a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times. The book was chosen by a member who attended the Chester Literature Festival last autumn where Jodie Piccoult and Jennifer Finley Boyland had discussed their latest book.



Mad Honey has a slightly bitter taste and has been produced by bees who feed on the pollen of rhododendron flowers. Ingesting this honey, depending on the amount taken, can cause hallucinations, a slower heartbeat, temporary paralysis or unconsciousness.

Oliivia McAfee is a professional beekeeper and single mother who moved to New Hampshire with her young son Asher. They left Boston where Olivia was the victim of abuse by her charming and successful husband. The murder of teenager, Lily Campinollo throws the lives of those in the community into disarray, bringing secrets into the public domain and causing relationships to be questioned, dissected and doubted.

The story highlights current issues which are both intriguing and unsettling and is told by the main protagonists from their prospective and sets the denouement within a courtroom backdrop. The Group felt that the two authors had their own styles which did not always fit seamlessly together. However, the plot did draw the reader in and although some considered the narrative over long, it did produce an enjoyable and provoking novel. There was a lot of reference to bee keeping and bees, which was both interesting and informative and the facts were successfully woven into the narrative. The current issues covered by the book at times felt a bit didactive, but the points made were necessary to the plot and did provoke some lively discussion.

Overall, an enjoyable book.

Book Group 2

This group discussed the 2017 and Costa First Novel Award, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. This gentle but perceptive tale of an ordinary woman and her changing relationship with the world around her, has gained many fans since its publication.



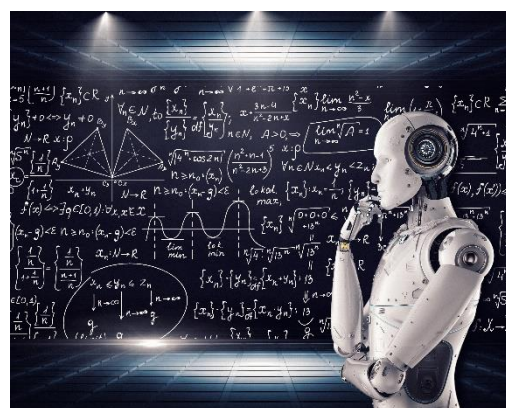
Nature Group

One of the successes of our Nature Group has been WhatsApp. Here we have been able to share photos and to comment about what we have discovered. We have shared almost every aspect of natural life, both locally in gardens, woods and on beaches, and even on overseas holidays. It's great to follow the seasons, from the first snowdrop to the autumn colours and a touch of frost. It's also been a great learning experience as we help each other identify that butterfly or garden bird. Recent WhatsApp photos include:



Science Group

For our April meeting, we continued to explore the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This is a major technological development which is likely to have a significant impact on the way we do things. The challenge is to develop AI for our benefit and to limit any harmful impact. The major IT companies, eg Microsoft and Google, are investing heavily in this field and they are now starting to introduce their products to the general public. One of the aspects we covered was the use of ChatBots. These are essentially clever search engines which can give surprisingly detailed answers, and which can even write essays or poems. Members will no doubt be aware of the Prime Minister's desire to improve our Maths skills. We thought we would test the ChatBots to see if they could solve a GCSE level problem, highlighted in a recent edition of The Times. The problem is:



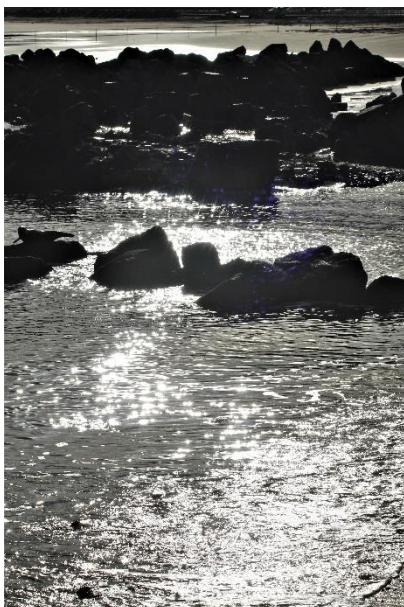
Amy is one third the age of her mother. In 12 years time, Amy will be half the age of her mother. How old is Amy's mother?

We fed this sentence into 3 systems (Microsoft Bing, OpenAI ChatGPT, and Google Bard). All the systems rose to the challenge and showed us their workings out. 2 systems told us that Amy's mother is 36; the third said 24. Readers might like to check out the answer themselves.

One conclusion, from this trivial test, is that AI may prove to be a very powerful piece of technology but it will have to be used with caution.

Capturing the Moment

Some more lovely images from the Digital Photography Group. This time they have been out in the evening and night, using the technical abilities of their cameras, and their own artistic flair, to compose beautiful shots in low light conditions.



Theatre in the Community

Tarvin Community Centre has always had a bold approach when offering drama. So they are delighted to be able to invite you to the following production:

The Shoddy Detective

Wednesday 17th May 7.30pm (Doors 7.00pm)

A laugh-out-loud slapstick whodunnit featuring four actors, a dozen characters and a whole load of chaos. For fans of classic comedy such as Only Fools and Horses, Dad's Army, Morecambe & Wise, The Two Ronnies and more.



The only date in Cheshire on their UK 2023 Tour, this is not to be missed!

Tickets from £12.00 available at Tarvin Post Office or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/tarvincommunitycentre or on the door.

Tarvin is the only community centre venue on the tour which includes such places as The Theatre by the Lake in Keswick and the prestigious Stephen Rowntree Theatre in Scarborough, so quite a coup for Tarvin to be in such company.

Kelsall Community Centre

Kelsall is a promotor with Cheshire Rural Touring Arts and is offering an evening of music.

Gus Glynn – Routes to Classics, an evening exploring the development of folk and contemporary music via the guitar.

Saturday June 3rd at 7.30pm

Tickets are £12 and can be obtained by ringing Jim on 01829 751031



Night at the Flicks

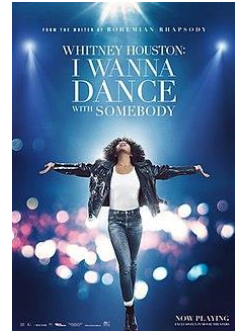
Community based film shows are increasingly popular, particularly among older age groups. Here are some forthcoming shows available to members.

Tarporley Community Centre

June 16th at 7.30 pm

Whitney Houston - I wanna dace with somebody

The performance starts at 7.30 pm



Tarvin Community Centre

Friday May 26th

Mummies at 6.00pm

Tickets £3 and £4 from the Post Office or on the door.



Allelujah at 8.00 pm

Tickets £5 from the Post Office or on the door.



Film shows are also available on occasions at the Jesse Hughes Hall in Eaton and in Kelsall. Please go to their respective websites for more information.

New Painting Group

There will be a meeting for members interested in joining the new painting group at 5.00pm on Tuesday May 9th in the Committee Room at Tarporley Community Centre. If you are interested, please come along or contact Don at don.igoe@hotmail.co.uk.



It has become the tradition to end the Newsletter with a smile, so thanks to BH for these stunning, intellectually perceptive and positively side-splitting one-liners.

Isn't the English language a thing of beauty!

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.

Some drink at the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle.

Support bacteria, they're the only culture some people have.

The more you complain, the longer God makes you live.

There are 3 kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

What is a free gift? Aren't all gifts free?

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

Women who seek to be equal to men lack ambition.

The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

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 u3a individuals in the Newsletter to other public, digital spaces.

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

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

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