



Tarporley and District u3a September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome back to the u3a Newsletter after the summer break. It is a pleasure to be able to record and celebrate the activities of our Tarporley u3a, especially on the occasion of our tenth anniversary.

The membership continues to grow steadily, and groups continue to thrive, though there is an inevitable growth and contraction as member numbers fluctuate and interests change. At the core of the idea of u3a however, is the willingness of individual members to take a step forward and participate in the running of groups and committees. If you would like to contribute to the growing success of the organisation, please contact any Committee member.



Convenor's Tea

Any volunteer organisation depends on the willingness of individuals to become involved and help run things. The success of all groups depends on the convenors, who organise venues, manage group finances, book speakers, organise trips and generally keep things going. As a thank you to these exceptional people, the Committee invited convenors to enjoy an afternoon tea at Abbeywood Gardens on July 18th.

A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by those who attended and Chair Raye Hurst thanked them most sincerely for all their hard work.



MONTHLY MEETING

Tarporley Community Centre.

Thursday 28th September 2023

10th Anniversary Celebrations

The party will start at 10.15am

Don't be late for the fun

**Join us for a morning of music,
song, entertainment and good
fellowship.**

Refreshments will be served.

There will be cake – and bubbles!

Membership News

Our membership year starts on 1st September 2023 and we would request that members who haven't yet renewed, do this as soon as possible.

If you don't renew before then, you won't be able to sign up for any trips or attend an interest group meeting. Interest group convenors will be checking membership at your September meetings, so don't be surprised if you haven't renewed, that they'll ask you about this.

Payments can be made in the following ways:

1. **Posting a cheque to the Treasurer, Graham Parker, 21 Walkers Lane, Tarporley, CW6 0BX. Please make your cheque payable to *Tarporley & District u3a* or**
2. **Paying by BACS (online banking) to *Tarporley & District u3a*, sort code 55-61-31 (*National Westminster*), account 70575843.**

Please use a reference comprising your membership number(s) and your postcode so we know who has paid.

3. Or you can **pay by cash or cheque** at our meeting on 28th September. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary as well at this meeting.

Go on, join the 72% of members who have already renewed!



Dog Walking Group

The dog walking group is a friendly group of people who enjoy walking 4 - 6 miles with their dogs. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month and all our walks are fairly flat and dog friendly with not too many stiles or roads, and always end with a dog friendly refreshment stop. We have a few vacancies and would love some new members, so if you enjoy walking and have a sociable dog or two, please come and join us!

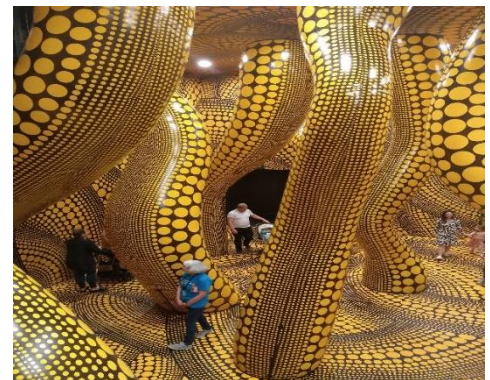
The photo is of our last walk around Bickerton Hill, which was followed by a coffee at The Bickerton Poacher. We always really enjoy the walks, and it is lovely to see the dogs having a great time. Please Email rosalind.crow@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in joining our group,



Art Appreciation

In early July some of the group visited the special exhibition of work by the famous Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama - "You, Me and the Balloons". This was housed in Manchester's newly built arts venue - Aviva Studios, filled with huge inflatables of colourful dolls, dogs, pumpkins and writhing tentacles, all covered in Yayoi's signature dots!

The gallery is a huge, striking industrial cavern, the North West's answer to Tate Modern's Turbine Hall. You can find it on Water Street in the Castlefield Conservation area. For more information about what is on go to www.factoryinternational.org



Book Club 1

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver

Published in 2018, this book looks at two periods of American history when some of the certainties of life were being challenged. At the centre is a broken-down house, too expensive to repair by the owners, a metaphor for the social and political conditions of the time.

Set in 1871 and 2016 in Vineland, an actual planned community in New Jersey, where the realities of life at both times are far from the utopian promises of its founder, Landis. Both main protagonists, Thatcher Greenwood in 1871 and Willa Knox in 2016, inherit the house and find family life within difficult to negotiate.

Thatcher, was a science teacher at the time when Darwin's writings were causing a backlash in educational circles, and forms a friendship with his neighbour, Mary Treat, a real American botanist who counted Darwin as one of her correspondents. His battles with the establishment and the furore caused by his views have strong echoes with the anti- progressive views of today.

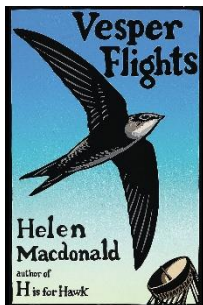
Willa finds herself looking after a motherless grandson for his physically absent father, a sick and ferociously right-wing father-in-law, a hippish daughter and a husband, though much



loved, who has failed to establish their lives with a degree of comfort they both thought they deserved as they have 'done all the right things'. With the rise of Trump in the background, Kingsolver has Willa struggle with many of the aspects of American life that thwart her attempts to find stability, her battles to get health care are especially resonant to a British reader. In the end, only the strength of family and a narrower view of what constitutes the 'good life', seem to be the only way forward.



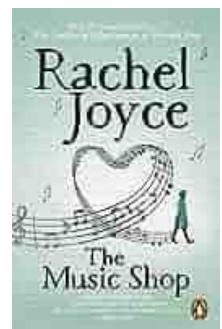
Kingsolver is a socially conscious and political writer but at times her focus on issues gets in the way of her characters, who often speak and act to make a point rather than to convey emotions. Not everyone felt sympathy with Willa and, though the historical scenes had some interest, some felt they made the novel disjointed. However, Kingsolver is an excellent wordsmith, and the writing did make this an interesting, if controversial read.



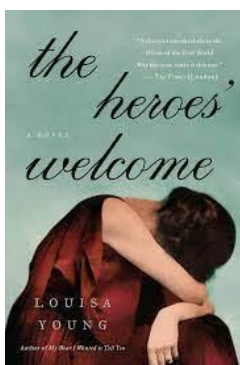
In August the group met at the home of one of its members and discussed *Vesper Flights* by Helen Macdonald. This had not appealed to all members, but those that had read it in its entirety were very enthusiastic. The book is a collection of essays, many, though not all, dealing with human connections with nature. The author's empathy, wit and comedic voice were emphasised and the humanity with which she approached her subjects was felt to be beautifully conveyed. Such was the enthusiasm shown by a couple of readers, that those who had struggled with the book felt that they might have to try reading it again!

Book Group 2

Our book for July was "The Music Shop", by Rachel Joyce. This is a story about a community of small shop owners battling against adversity and change. It is a warm and empathetic tale, non-judgemental and tolerant of difference. The book also describes the power of music to both comfort and inspire us. Frank, the central character and music shop owner, has a gift for music therapy and the novel interweaves interesting stories about writers and



music of all genres. The book group members enjoyed this book, especially those with an interest in music. Book Group Rating 4/5.



The book for August was "The Hero's Welcome", by Louisa Young, which is set in the aftermath of World War I. Two young men return from war and the novel describes the difficulties they, and their families, experience in coming to terms with both physical and psychological injuries. It is a deeply affecting book and provoked much discussion in the group. Quite emotionally challenging to read, but worth it. Book Group Rating 4/5.

Calling All Dissectologists!

If you enjoy piecing small pieces of cardboard together to create a picture AND raising money for a good cause, then you will be delighted to take part in the **St Luke's Hospice Autumn Jigsaw Challenge**.

This event is held throughout October in various locations, with the one in Tarporley Community Centre being held on Sunday October 15th from 3.00pm until 5.00pm. You may enter as a team of 2 or 4 and each team will be presented



with the same 500-piece jigsaw which has to be completed in the – closely observed – 2 hours. The 3 fastest teams go forward to the final which is held at the Hospice. You pay to participate, which is how the money is raised, and you can book by clicking on the link www.slhospice.co.uk/events/jigsawautumn If the day or the location are not convenient, you can choose another place or another time. Need more information? Call Jane on 01606 551246.

This sounds like a great deal of fun while supporting a facility that provides care for individuals and their families when they are at their most vulnerable.

The Ukelele Group

The Ukelele group is becoming well-known throughout the area. Keith Barker sent in this report of their performances.

“Since its start in February 2022 the ukulele group has been meeting twice a month to learn and develop playing skills and have FUN singing along to familiar tunes in a happy, friendly atmosphere. From an initial, tentative first step playing for an outside organisation before Christmas last year - at their request! - we have now played for the care homes at Iddenshall (three times) and Oaklands (twice), with appearances also at the OPAL groups of Kelsall and Tiverton - with eager and encouraging requests for return visits. Our reward is the happy smiling faces of the (mainly) old folk facing us and seeing them joining in with the songs from earlier decades. We are not perfect by any means, as you may discover on the

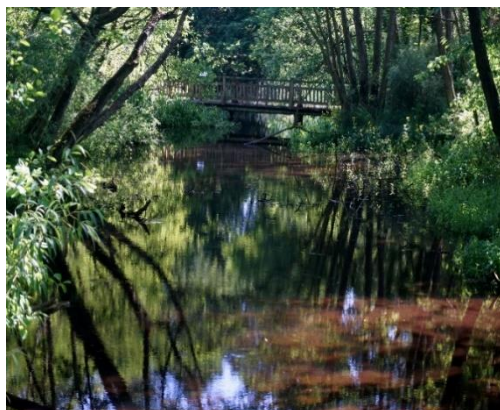
September Open Day, and not only do we not always play the right notes in the right order, we may not always play the right notes! Anyway, it's FUN.”



Digital Photography

The attached photos are from the Digital Photography field trip to Stonyford Cottage Gardens & Garden Centre (between Delamere and Cuddington) on 14th June. The gardens are informal and built around some natural pools fed from Stonyford Brook. There were a series of interconnecting bridges over tranquil water, set amongst dense woodland vegetation and lit by dappled sunlight.

ED: The group said that conditions were such that 'anybody' could take a decent photo, but after seeing these wonderful images, I am not sure that is true!



Science Group

There was an air of 'end-of-term' excitement at the July Science Group meeting as the members enjoyed some activities that might well come under the heading of STEM – educational activities intending to illustrate scientific principles in an unusual way.



Perhaps the most absorbing was a box of tricks called Turing Tumble which uses simple pegs and small marbles, to create a logic-based run that mirrors a simple computer programme. Also available was Spintronics, a set of wheels, cogs and chains that explain and illustrate the basics of electronics. Both these products had given hours of entertainment and instruction to many young people from more than one generation. They are still available from www.upperstory.com



A simpler experiment needed just string and golf balls to show some fascinating facts about pendulums, which could be enjoyed as a mathematical formulae or as just sheer fun!



The Science group would be delighted to welcome new members. Though activities are generated from the interests of members, you will not be asked suddenly to explain quantum mechanics or differential calculus. If there is a science-based subject that interests you, or worries you, and you are willing to do a bit of basic research – and yes, Google/Wikipedia is acceptable! – then this can be the start of a lively discussion.



For more information about the monthly meetings, held on the 3rd Friday in the month at Tarporley Community Centre, please contact Paul Bujac on paul.bujac@gmail.com

Country Dancing

This group of enthusiasts is very keen to get some new members. If you would like an activity that is fun as well as being good exercise, then Mo Waddington would love to hear from you. The group usually meets twice a month on a Thursday afternoon and has been practicing at Utkinton Village Hall, but these arrangements could be altered to suit members. If you are interested, please write to Mo Waddington at mjw@mowaddingtom.plus.com



Tarporley and District u3a Website

Despite our 'advanced years' most of us will be users of the internet. Some of us will be enthusiastic users, some will avoid it wherever possible, but for most of us, it remains a useful tool to explore things outside our immediate boundaries. It can answer questions very quickly – just the other day I was going to use the Kingsway Tunnel unexpectedly and had no idea of the cost. Within a minute, the internet had given me the answer.



The purpose of this brief note is to remind members that our u3a has its own public website. The best way to find out about the website is to go and visit it. Just click on <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home> and explore by opening the tabs at the top of the homepage. Or you can put Tarporley and District u3a in the search bar, that will get you there as well.

The website gives you all the information you could possibly want to know about who we are, what is going on and who is responsible for what. However, it must be said that the site, designed centrally, is not the most visually appealing. In response to this, the u3a national organisation, The Third Age Trust, is introducing a new website 'platform', SiteWorks, to replace the existing SiteBuilder system. The migration to the new system will start towards the end of this year. The new system is intended to have "all the qualities of the old system plus the potential to add more features and enhancements in the future". The proposed changes to the website platform provide an opportunity to further develop its scope.

Much of the initial work to establish our website was done by the late David Carter and it is now maintained by Paul Bujac and Don Igoe. They would like to establish a small working party to support this development. Please email paul.bujac@gmail.com with comments and any offers of help in developing the website.

Forthcoming Events

Films Tarvin Community Centre

Friday 29th September

Family Film 6.00pm (doors 5.30pm)

Tickets £3 Children, £5 Adults -*Please note new price for Adult Tickets

Elemental (PG)

The film journeys alongside an unlikely pair, Ember and Wade, in a city where fire, water, land and air residents live together. The fiery young woman and the go-with-the-flow guy are about to discover something elemental: how much they have in common.



Adult Film 8.00pm (doors 7.30pm)
Tickets £6 - *Please note new price for Adult
Tickets

Barbie (12)

Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.



Running Time 1 hr 54 mins

(ED – Go on, you know you really want to see it – and you don't have to wear pink!)

Tarporley Community Centre

The film selection for Tarporley Community Centre **on September 15th** had not been decided in time for inclusion in the Newsletter. Go to www.tarporleycommunitycentre.org for details.

Concert for Ukraine at 29th September



An evening of exciting music and dance for an excellent cause

Advanced Notice – coming to Tarvin Community Centre soon

Saturday 14th October – CRTA

Daniel Smith Blues Duo

Doors - 7.00pm Show - 7.30pm – 9.30pm (2 x 40minutes, plus interval)

All Tickets £12.00

Tickets available [online](#), at Tarvin PO, or on the door subject to availability

Acclaimed Daniel Smith Blues Duo bring their unique blend of sensational blues, boogie-woogie, classy soul-jazz, and foot-tapping piano to Tarvin.

Engagingly self-effacing, yet jaw-droppingly dynamic, Daniel Smith Blues Duo will immerse you in an authentic old-time feel-good show of exceptional music, packed with humorous, and informative, anecdotes.



Other venues in Cheshire put on professional theatre via Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. Their autumn programme of shows and venues will be available from September at

www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk

TARPORLEY U3A AT TEN

Come celebrate our U3A,
With groups that meet nigh every day;
Their aims are not done
'Til we've all had some fun,
With fulfilment in every way.

KEB Aug. '23

Juust 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.

For details of all Tarporley and District u3a activities please go to the website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home>

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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