Tarporley and District u3a

November 2026 Newsletter

1

Hello Everyone ! Welcome to November! And the November newsletter,



November really is a very pretty time of year, (when it isn't pouring down with rain,) with so many beautiful colours. However, this year, with the hot dry summer, some trees, like the silver birch, rowan and horse chestnut shed their leaves or changed colour earlier, while others held onto their green longer, leading to a mixed time line, rather than a simultaneous change. It is still a very beautiful time of year. The pictures left and right are of Portal Woods, which although not large are very pretty.



The name November comes from the Latin word novem, meaning nine. Originally the ancient Roman Calendar had only 10 months and it began in March, making November the ninth month of the year. Later, the Roman King Numa Pompilius added January and February to the beginning of the Calendar. Even though as a result of this November moved to the 11th position, the historical Latin name was never changed

We have a full moon on Tuesday 24 November. It is a supermoon, meaning it occurs near the Moon's closest approach to earth, making it appear bigger and brighter in the night sky. It should be visible on 23 - 24 November. It is commonly called the Beaver or Frost Moon, as it marks the time when the cold weather begins and animals prepare for winter. And many humans do their best to hibernate!



One of the first things we have to look forward to in November is **Guy Fawkes Night**. This day



celebrates the failure of the plot to blow up the houses of Parliament. It was declared an official day of thanks giving to celebrate the kings survival, sparking the tradition of lighting bonfires around London, that eventually spread across the nation and has evolved into what we celebrate now. When I was younger, there seemed to be a lot more people having bonfires! Rather than organised ones, we always had one and my father did everything that the adverts on the television said not to do, ie return to a firework that has not taken light!

And the weather ??? It will rain or it will be dry! As the Uk autumn climate varies widely by region and year, it could do anything!

We also have remembrance Sunday in November, and this year it will take place on Sunday 8th November. There will be a parade and service in Tarporley.





At 10.25 the remembrance parade will start at Burton Square, leading to St Helens Church, followed by a service and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial. There will be road closures in effect from 10am to 11am so plan your journey carefully. It is a lovely way to show respect to those who have served and a poignant way to honour those who fought and died.

We are well into autumn now, with all the weather that comes with it. And after having a really dry summer we seem to have suddenly had a lot of rain. Some days we managed to avoid the rain. In fact one day we had a lovely walk. We went down to the canal towards Beeston Castle, but we had to stop just past the canal because there were cows!





On the whole however, I felt as though I had turned into a snail as I was going out in the rain or going out just after it! On one occasion there seemed to be a break in the heaviness of the rain, so I took the opportunity to drag Togg out! She did not want to leave the house ! I should have listened to her! That day was really something - just so **wet.** I don't believe that it stopped raining for a second! Although the rain appeared to have eased off, as soon as I stepped outside the torrential rain came back!



My walking shoes are waterproof, but my socks were soaking wet!! And I was squelching home. I felt as though I had a lake in my shoes! How does that happen?! Togg was really not enjoying it and she actually asked me to take her home!

Togg- waiting to go home!

Me dressed for the rain- just missing my shell!

And with the onset of winter and the cold and rain what better time to think about joining a new group?! See the interest group reports further down, after the monthly meeting. There are a few which have spaces for new people.

Committee News `



New members and convenors were invited to a coffee morning at Rose Farm on Tuesday 20th October. It was a huge success. The coffee and cake was excellent! The Chair enjoyed his carrot cake and he is really quite a connoisseur! New members were able to meet convenors and find out more about various groups and they were also able to meet committee members and find out more about the u3a itself, as well as having the opportunity to speak to other new members. There was an excellent turn out and everyone really seemed to enjoy it. The next one will be in about 6 months or when there is an influx of new members. It is a great opportunity for all to meet.



The AGM took place on Thursday 22 October and all the members of the committee were voted on. More committee members are still needed so please think about whether you would be interested.

Membership is very healthy at 598 members, although a few have still to renew their membership.

Hektor and Togg would like to thank the chair for the call out he gave them at the AGM , it meant a lot to them that he acknowledged how much work they put into the newsletter. They also think he has done an excellent job as chair over the last year and they are sure that he will continue to do a great job! Paws crossed!



Call out for help! – because of the size of the membership now, the data management needs of the u3a is becoming quite onerous to the volunteers. We are starting to use Google Sheets and AI to help and would welcome interest from anyone with experience of using Google Apps Script or Javascript. If you think you might be able to help, please let us know by contacting the secretary. Thank you in advance!

Just a reminder that our u3a does have its own website where you can find out about forthcoming events and all our groups. Just click on https://tarporleyanddistrict.u3asite.uk/

MONTHLY MEETING

TARPORLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thursday 26 November 2026

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

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

The talk starts at **10.30 am.**

Andrew Kevan

Detective Constable

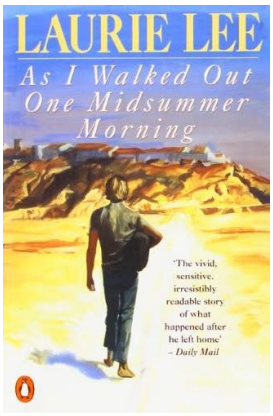
Scams



Detective Constable Andy Kevan from Cheshire Police Cyber Crime Team gave us a fascinating talk in early 2023 on the importance of on-line security, on how to spot fraudsters and what to do if you think you've been scammed. He will be with us again with more information about AI and new 'scams' – and old and new ways to protect ourselves from on-line criminals

Interest Groups

Bookclub - Vita Vera



Vita Vera, meaning 'real life' in Latin, is the essence of our book group. We are avid readers of the non-fiction genre. Autobiographies and biographies spring to mind, but it's more than that. We enjoy reading about an event, and how the people around that event were affected, or vice versa, how the people affected the event. The event and the people do not have to be well-known public figures, often it's the people not in the spotlight that have the biggest impact. Ordinary people in an extra-ordinary event, that's Vita Vera. Each reader of the same book can be, and often is, touched in different ways. Whether it's feelings of sadness, pity, happiness, or relief, we each feel it differently, and it's that difference that good writing makes to the reader. That's why Books – Vita Vera exists, to bring those like-minded people together.

We meet at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Friday of the month at The Swan Hotel, Tarporley, and we'd be delighted if you could join as we are always open to new members. The last book the group read was 'As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning', by Laurie Lee who wrote 'Cider with Rosie', which I think most people have read.

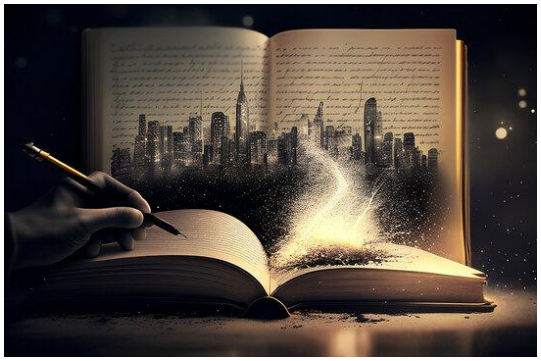
Art Workshop



The Art Workshop runs every Tuesday at The Swan in Tarporley 1.30-3.30 pm. We work independently on our own projects using watercolours and oils. We encourage and support each other in our practice and enjoy the ambience of The Swan. You are very welcome to join us; please get in touch. Doesn't that sound like a lovely way to spend a cold or wet (or both) winter's afternoon?!

Creative Writing

Calling all those who enjoy creative writing! Jane Turner, a member of Tarporley & District u3a, is interested in setting up a new Interest Group for anyone who enjoys turning their hand to writing. Whether it's keeping a diary, noting down the changes of the season, writing family history, trying short stories or even a novel this is for you.
Jane is not expecting accomplished authors, just people who enjoy writing as a relaxation and an outlet. It is expected that the group will meet Monthly, probably at Tarporley Community Centre.



We are always very keen to have new Interest Groups, they are the lifeblood of the u3a. When people, like Jane, put themselves forward as potential Convenors they are welcomed with open arms. However, it is up to the members how much interest there is.

I will also be sending an email to all members but, if you are interested, please respond via the website.

On receipt of the email please reply to me by pressing 'reply'.#

Pat (Tyson-Jones)

Interest Groups Co-ordinator

Chess

There are still places in the chess group, which meets in The Swan in Tarporley every second Tuesday of the month between 2pm and 4pm. You can have a coffee while you play or even something a little stronger if you wish (you will not be judged!), and that often helps your play. Players of all abilities are welcome .You may have played years ago, perhaps you haven't played since school and feel that you would not be good enough or would not be welcome? Well! you would be very welcome indeed. The group is for experienced players, who have played recently, as well as those who feel they may not be able to remember the rules or have forgotten how to play. It is really for all abilities. No need to feel intimidated or feel you don't remember, it will come back to you and there is help! Chess is a life time hobby with no restrictions on your body! It also improves your cognitive functions like memory, problem solving and concentration, and as we pass 30, we really don't want to lose those functions! why not give it a go? Please contact the convenor, Steve for further details – steve.dilworth@gmail.com



Scrabble

There are still places in the Scrabble group! Make contact before it fills up! Play Scrabble for a mix of mental exercise, social fun and strategic depth! This is another great game to play to play to help with cognitive function. It also helps with vocabulary growth and math and strategy! It is great for social connections as it brings together family and friends. Each game Is unique as every tile drawn creates a unique board. Don't delay! Sign up today! In addition to the above, it is a great game to play during the dark winter months!!!



Midway Walking

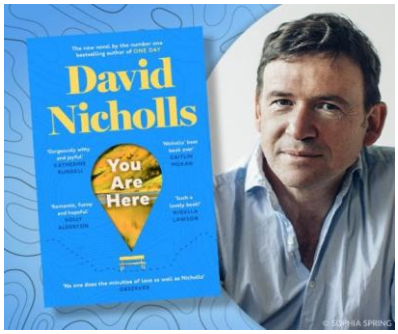


In early October the Midway walkers enjoyed a walk around Raw Head and Bulkeley Hill. The weather was lovely and there were stunning views over the surrounding countryside.

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Book Club 1

The book chosen this month was **You Are Here by David Nicholls**. This is a delightful 'rom com' of a novel tracing the growing attraction of two lonely and hurt people as they tackle the challenge of the Cost to Coast Walk from St. Bees Head to Robin Hood's Bay.



Marnie is a divorced, self-employed copy editor living a self-contained but lonely life in London. Matthew is a Geography teacher in York whose recent separation from his wife and uncertain recovery from a mugging has left him unmoored. To compensate, he spends his spare time walking the local hills in a solitary manner, hoping to find a way forward. When a mutual friend persuades them a to join a small group walking the first part of the Coast walk, they reluctantly agree. As the gradients steepen and the weather proves fickle, others leave the party, leaving Marnie and Michael to carry on together further than either expected. Their growing attraction to each other becomes hard to ignore but is tested by bad weather, wet clothes, unpredictable evening accommodation and the death of a fellow walker, of which all conspire to frustrate the progress of this budding romance. When Michael agrees to meet his estranged wife in Richmond in the hope of a possible reconciliation, a disappointed Marnie leaves for London. When reconciliation proves impossible, Michael tramps the North York Moors, but even he gives up in the face of non-stop rain. Has the romance similarly been washed away?

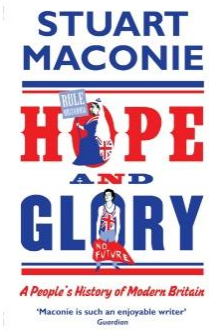
Nicholls writes beautifully with witty observations and humorous dialogue, creating believable characters whose journey towards happiness is studied with mutual misunderstandings and mistimed approaches. While he ends the book on a very hopeful note, there is no conclusion, just a fervent hope in the reader that these two characters will discover the happiness that Nicholls has been suggesting since the unforgettably wet agony of the ascent of Black Sail Pass.

A delightful and cheerful book that leaves the reader smiling – though with their fingers crossed for the future of these two lovely characters..

Book Club 2

Hope and Glory; A Peoples History of Modern Britain by **Stuart Maconie**

A personal view of the people, events and places that shaped 20th Century. Maconie takes a single event from each decade and weaves a cohesive review of the whole from this single moment.



The general consensus was that the book was an interesting, educational and frequently thought-provoking work. The main criticism being that Maconie's own personal political persuasion and prejudices did inform the narrative and affected the enjoyment of some chapters. Some members felt it was a rather bleak view of the Country and contrasted it with Bill Bryson's 'Notes on a Small Island' which paints a much warmer picture of Britain when viewed by a foreigner. It is a 'Northen' book and several members felt that a working knowledge of northern soul music would have been very useful!

The book's format – fanning out from as single event, back and forth through the decade – was felt to be overly subjective on occasions and rather confusing by some. However, everyone agreed that it is wittily written and that they had all learnt something new and interesting.

Overall, we felt, though flawed, it was an interesting and informative 'history' and gave it 7.5/10

Science

Over the last 7 years since this Group was formed (in the pre Covid times), we have enjoyed many presentations predominantly from our group members. The topics presented have covered the wide spectrum of science subjects. For example, with an awareness of climate change, we have often looked at ways of reducing the use or impact of fossil fuels perhaps by renewable energies or by carbon capture.

Last month, we held an open discussion on the 'Anthropocene Age' and the impact of humans on the world. This Age is the time starting at the end of last ice age, some 12000 years ago, when the world population was about 5 million. The population has now grown to some 8.3 billion. Most of this increase has occurred during the last few hundred years, particularly following the Industrial Revolution. This incredible population increase has resulted in major changes to the Natural World (loss of habitats and species) and, through the use of fossil fuels, to significant increases in CO_2 in the atmosphere and to global warming.

We had a very broad discussion predominantly looking at the human impacts on the planet. This included looking both at where technology might provide solutions to our problems, and where it has provided further problems eg pollution by indestructible plastics.

The sober conclusion from the meeting was, unsurprisingly, the only way forward to better managing the planet was far more co-operation between the Nations.



Nature

At our October meeting, we started to look at the incredible diversity of the Natural World. Why are there so many species? For our starting point, last time we introduced the ‘Tree of Life’, an overview outlining all those species. We used the Tree from the recent BBC series on ‘Evolution’ with Chris Packham.

Members had been asked, before the meeting, to choose and describe a species that fascinated them. Four members volunteered for this first session. The species they described were Rays and Skates, Horses, Gold Lion Tamarins, and Whales.

We can give readers a taste of the meeting by briefly summarising one of the presentations. Rays and Skates are both cartilaginous fishes, related to sharks, that have large pectoral fins which are used for swimming much like birds in flight. Both species are bottom dwellers with mouths on their underside. However, Rays give birth to live young, while Skates lay eggs. Rays are usually larger and some have venomous tails.

We will further develop this topic by choosing more species and sharing some basic research at our next meeting, perhaps also looking at how those different species are distributed across the world.









Digital World

At our recent Digital World meeting, Peter Schofield gave a broad introduction to how people communicate these days, paying particular attention to emails and Messaging Apps. Emails have been the well-established communication channel but these are now being superseded by a wide range of Apps. Emails are still used for more formal messages, such as paying bills and official correspondence. Messaging Apps are now taking over for the shorter messages sent to family and friends, often with attached photos, or even to larger groups. The dominant App is WhatsApp, used amazingly by 90% of the UK population. There are many other Apps offering slightly different facilities. These include, in order of general popularity, Facebook Messenger, Google Messages, Microsoft Teams, and Discord. Younger people, as might be expected, also use other facilities with 16-24 year olds using Instagram and Snapchat on their phones.


A family get-together

History Matters Group

This year the History Group has enjoyed talks on Mary Fitton, Tarporley Manor House, The Earls of Stanley, Apothecaries, Duke of Marlborough, the Manchester Ship Canal, Oakmere, the Shropshire Union Canal and the Maritime History of Liverpool. Talks are still to come are on Bunbury and about old maps.

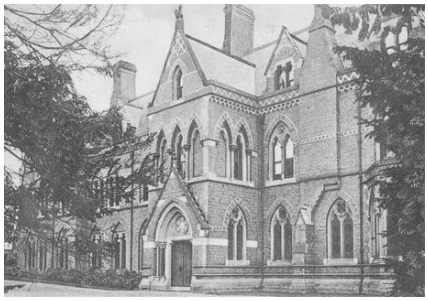


In September Diane Lloyd of Lloyds Flower Farm, which is situated in Heath Green Tarporley, gave a talk about setting up the Flower Farm and how she believes the land where the flowers now grow was formerly the kitchen garden of Arderne Hall. Some of the History Group visited the Flower Farm in October and made bouquets.

Arderne Hall (photo below) stood where Macdonalds Hotel on Tarporley golf course now stands.

It was built for George Bailie-Hamilton-Arden in 1865. George Baillie Hamilton (1827-1917) was the heir apparent of Earl of Haddington who had inherited through his wife Helen Catherine Warrender. The Hall was demolished in 1958.

Arderne was the seat of the Utkinton estate which had been passed down the centuries sometimes through the female line. The original holders were the Done family who held the ancient hereditary title of the Master Forestership of Delamere from the thirteenth century. On the death of Sir John Done in 1630, with no direct male heir, the estate eventually passed to the descendants of Eleanor Done who was married to Ralph Arderne of Harden and the estate then came into the possession of the Arderne family with whom it remained.



Arderne Hall replaced an earlier white building called Eaton Banks and it was here that General Richard Egerton, who won considerable fame at the Battle of Waterloo was a tenant.

Tarporley Future Attractions

Tarporley Film Night

Friday 20th November

Tuner - a talented piano tuner who suffers from hyperacusis discovers an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down. stylized and atmospheric. It blends tense crime drama with musical precision and explores identity, obsession, and the cost of extraordinary ability.



7pm for a 7.30pm start in Tarporley Community Centre. ADULTS £5, CHILDREN £4 (subject to film rating).

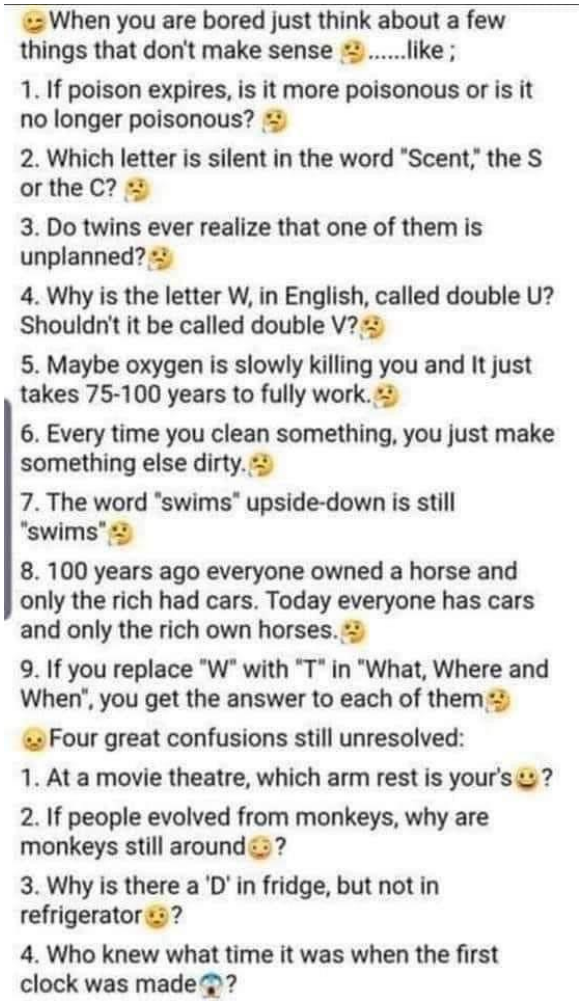
Tarporley Amateur Dramatic Society present Allo Allo!



The hilarious stage adaptation of the beloved TV sitcom. This immersive show will transport you to Café René in wartime France. A fast paced farce following the misadventures of a weary café owner caught between secret resistance missions, unwelcome Nazi guests and a series of outrageous misunderstandings. Unforgettable characters, absurd disguises, double entendres and lightning-quick wit combine in a night of cleverly orchestrated mayhem. Directed by James Blackford.

I shall say this only once!! – get your tickets! We have got ours for Friday 27th November. Normally it is on for 3 nights , but a new date, Tuesday 24th November has been added. – The other dates have sold out!!! The play starts at 7.30 but the doors and bar open earlier 6.45pm .

And nearly finally, some little things to ponder when you are feeling bored, sent by Uncle Bill Harrison



When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense .....like ;

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims"
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
9. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them

Four great confusions still unresolved:

1. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is your's?
2. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
3. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

And finally……..

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, Angela Wilson by email at Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com

For contributions about your group's activities, please get in touch with the editor at Angiegreen1961@sky.com

For wider information on the activities of Tarporley and District u3a go to https://tarporleyanddistrict.u3asite.uk/