

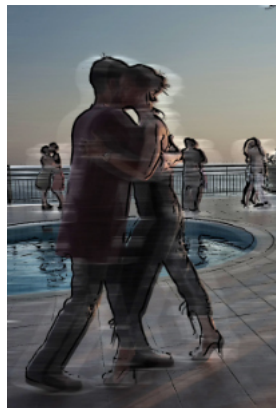


u3a Jamboree

As you know we are planning our u3a Jamboree which is taking place at Craiglockhart Campus of Napier University in Edinburgh on Friday 29th August. We have lots of interesting talks and activities lined up and it looks like being a great day out for u3a members. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come. Tickets are £12.

Activities include for example: Memoir and creative writing, various craft sessions, dancing to jazz, circle dancing and ceilidh dancing, pickleball taster sessions and competition, various musical events including a 'pop-up' choir, Tai Chi and Qi Gong sessions, nature and local geology walks, quizzes, introduction to sign language, science events – including astronomy, current science discoveries, climate change. secrets of the brain, war poetry reading (linked to the Scottish war poetry museum tours), croquet taster sessions, craft/art/photography exhibitions, ukulele taster sessions....

[There's more information here.](#)



Dear All

I hope you are all enjoying this glorious summer weather. June was a very busy month. A sincere thank you to all who participated in the groups showcase last month. I think it was a great success and illustrated what a wide range of wonderful groups we have. Later in this newsletter we have included a poem that our member Jean Marshall of our Creative Writing Group wrote. We have a lot of talent in our u3a!

The Glasgow Network Barbecue at 1051 GWR was also very successful and I hope all of you who managed to go enjoyed the evening. The weather was glorious - a complete contrast to last year when you might remember the driving wind and rain forced us inside.

Our next big event is the u3a Jamboree in Craiglockhart Campus of Napier University in Edinburgh. This is on Friday 29th August and is an all-day event (10am - 4pm). At point of writing, we have over 40 talks and activities lined up and are still adding more. The building itself is worth visit. It hosts the War Poets Library which is an interesting collection. The day will be a celebration of all things u3a and hopefully give you a chance to try a new group activity. We will have a coach taking us through. Tickets for the Jamboree are £12 and are now on sale. While tickets can be purchased through eventbrite they can also be purchased via our u3a.

Bank: Bank of Scotland Glasgow West End u3a Group Account (Note this is a business account)

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Account: 26658165

Ref: Jamboree & your name

Again, I'd like to confirm we have no monthly meeting this month though of course many of our groups continue though throughout the month - it is an individual group decision so please check with your group leader. We are back in the hall in Novar Drive on Thursday 21st August when our speaker is Rosalind Holmes. Her talk is entitled - "A Hundred Years of Chinese History through the eyes of one Beijing Family"

Finally, I wanted to mention again that our Committee always welcomes new blood. If you'd like to come along to a committee meeting with a view to perhaps joining the committee at the AGM later this year, please just let me know

Best wishes and as always thank you for your continued support.

Gail Donaldson, West End u3a Chair

Photography

Our June theme of “Brand Spanking New” proved to be a difficult one.

Nevertheless the members rose to the challenge and created great variety. One stunning shot, by William Briody, was of a poppy emerging from its protective casing.

For more information get in touch [here](#).

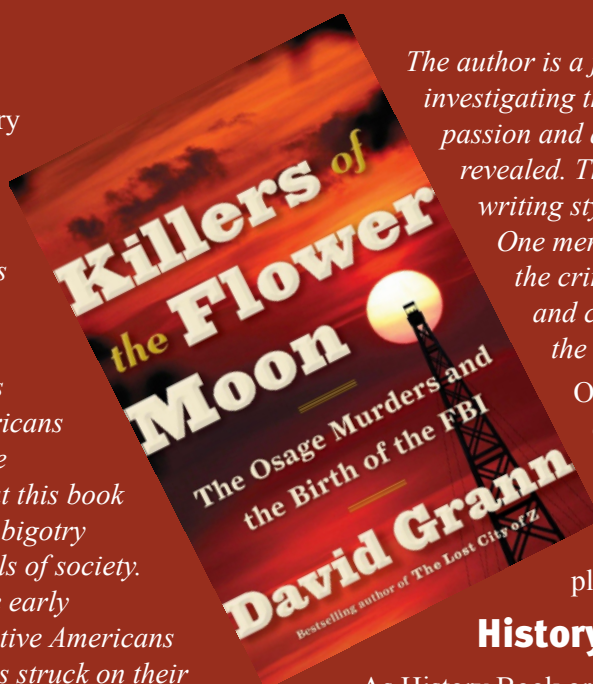


History Book 1

The group reads non-fiction history books and meets monthly on Mondays to discuss them.

Below is a review by one of our members of our last read, “*Killers of the Flower Moon*”, by David Grann:

“It’s well-known that the USA has difficulty in treating African Americans fairly. The attitude towards Native Americans is less documented, but this book opens our eyes to the widespread bigotry towards them of whites at all levels of society. The book is a true story, set in the early twentieth century, of a tribe of Native Americans who became wealthy when oil was struck on their land. Many of the white people in the area, including incomers with an eye to the riches, conspired legally and illegally to take the money from the tribe. Some went as far as murdering members to further their ends.”



The author is a journalist who spent years investigating those events. The story is told with passion and a powerful desire for the truth to be revealed. This makes up for a less-than-elegant writing style, because the book is a page-turner. One member, quoting a journalist, described the criminals in the story as “Shits, shysters and charlatans!”. Another member said of the book: ‘A hit! Love the story!’”

Our next read is ‘*We Don’t Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Ireland since 1958*’, by Fintan O’Toole.

For a list of other future reads, please visit our webpage [here](#).

History Book group 2

As History Book group 1 has proved so popular and is full to bursting, we’ve set up a second one.

Please click on the ‘History Book Group Leader’ link on the [new group’s webpage](#) if you’re interested in joining.

Get Ready for the u3a Jamboree!

A Scottish Celebration of Learning & Fun

Join us in Edinburgh on Friday, 29th August 2025



Mark your calendars for the all-Scotland u3a Jamboree at Edinburgh Napier University's beautiful Craiglockhart Campus. This is your chance to dive into the vibrant world of u3a activities from across the country.

What's the Jamboree All About?

Connect: Meet fellow u3a members, catch up with old friends, and make new ones.

Discover: Try your hand at exciting new activities or enjoy familiar favourites.

Enjoy: Most importantly, have a fantastic time celebrating the spirit of u3a!

Calling All Committees and Activity Leaders! Share Your Spark!

Before individual bookings open (planned for mid-May), we need your help to shape an unforgettable day! We're reaching out to u3a Committees across Scotland to:

1. Spread the word about the Jamboree within your u3a.
2. Crucially: Find enthusiastic members willing to lead activities. We're looking for your skills, creativity, and imagination to bring the Jamboree to life!

Our Venue: Craiglockhart Campus

Nestled in a green oasis within the city, the Craiglockhart Campus offers:

Versatile Spaces: Various indoor rooms, including the main Rivers Suite hub.

Outdoor

Opportunities: Plenty of green space perfect for activities, plus immediate access to Craiglockhart Hills and Nature Reserve for walks and exploration.

Great Facilities:

Flexible meeting rooms with excellent AV/IT (for 25-100 people), a campus café, a coffee

bar for mingling, and the nearby Craiglockhart Leisure Centre for sports.

Historical Interest: The campus houses the Scottish War Poets Collection, recalling its time as a WWI hospital for poets like Sassoon and Owen.

Help Us Build the Programme!

What activities could your u3a offer? Think about taster sessions to let members explore something new! Let us know your ideas and requirements for space and facilities.

We already have about 15 activities. We need at least the same again. We'll be adapting the schedule right up to the last moment, but if you have an idea, even if it isn't fully formed – GET IN TOUCH!

Initial Activity Ideas (More Welcome!):

Friendly Competitions:

Sports: Pickleball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton (at the nearby Leisure Centre), Golf/Bowls possibilities nearby.

Mind Sports: Mah Jong, Bridge, Chess, Backgammon, Scrabble.

Quiz: An inter-u3a quiz challenge (one offer already!)

We need u3a groups to help organise these!

The Rhetorical Room: A rolling programme of engaging 30-45 minute talks by members on any interesting topic. Maybe even guest speakers?

Get Outdoors:

Guided walks (general, nature, nature reserve tours) on nearby hills. A map reading/ GPS course?

Activities on the campus green space like Croquet, Qi Gong, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates.

Creative Corner:

Craft workshops and exhibitions (Art, Craft, Photography).

Sessions by Creative Writing or Play Reading groups.

Scottish War Poets Collection tours and related poetry readings.

Chapel Happenings:

A pop-up choir (seeking a leader for a rehearsal/performance!).

Performances by Ukulele, Jazz, Guitar, or other music groups.

A Ceilidh (tentative offer received!).

What Are YOUR Ideas?

This is just a starting point. We know there's a wealth of talent and ideas within Scotland's u3as – tell us yours!

Email initial offers of activities to u3ajamboree@gmail.com

Get in Touch!

For further information or to discuss further contact George or Liz at the addresses below.

We look forward to hearing from you and creating a brilliant u3a Jamboree together!

Steering Group

Liz Ervine, Glasgow West End and Council Representatives for Scotland liz.ervine@u3a.org.uk

George Cleland, Edinburgh and Council Representatives for Scotland george.cleland@u3a.org.uk

Gail Donaldson, Glasgow West End, u3a in Scotland

Linda Matheson, Ayr, u3a in Scotland
Bob Low, Dundee

Moira Shearer, Glasgow Southside
Jane Webster, Glasgow West End

Local history

The group normally meets on Mondays to visit places of historical interest or to hear presentations about items of interest.

In June we had a guided tour of the Old Burial Ground, Glasgow Cathedral. We'd previously had tours of the Necropolis and the Cathedral from the same excellent volunteer guide from the group who conserve and restore these landmarks. Most of us confessed we'd walked by the Burial Ground many times without ever realising it was there. The lives of those buried here reflect key moments in Scottish, British and world history. If you find yourself walking by in future, go in for a look.

In June we had an additional event, courtesy of the Art Appreciation 2 group which offered us places on their visit to Glasgow Art Club.

The group now takes a break over July and August, during which time we'll plan the programme from September onwards. Keep an eye on our webpage at the link below, nearer the time for details.

Please contact us [here](#).



Art Appreciation 2

Art Appreciation 2 and Local History had their final joint event of the season, a visit to The Glasgow Art Club.

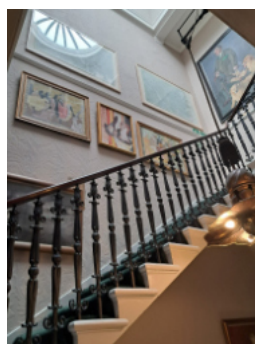
The visit was organised with the help and support of Alison Gifford who is both a member of u3a and Glasgow Art Club and we extend our thanks to Alison for all her patience.

To say the visit was a success would be an understatement, everyone who attended left the premises full of praise for the impressive venue and



the warm welcome we received. After an introduction and welcome from Alison, we had a most illuminating talk by the President of the Glasgow Art Club, Robert Ferguson which was entertaining as well as informative.

We then moved through to the Gallery where we had an excellent soup and sandwich lunch in magnificent surroundings, before we were allowed



to explore the building at our leisure.

Although it is a Private Member's Club, the Glasgow Art Club IS open to the public for 'the

purpose of viewing' the current exhibitions. Just ring the doorbell during opening hours - Monday - Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm - and ask to see the exhibitions. While there, visitors can have coffee, snacks or lunches and the bar will be open.

Best to [check online](#) for more information and photographs, or phone 0141 248 5210 as, occasionally, there can be an alteration to opening arrangements when exhibitions are being changed. This hidden gem is well worth a visit.



For members who are interested in embroidery, The Royal School of Needlework's Scottish branch is hosting a hand embroidery Stitch Social on Saturday 19 July from 10am to 4pm, in Glasgow Art Club.

We hope you all have a good summer and look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn

For a list of other future events, [keep an eye on our webpage](#).





Science and Technology

Please note that the Science and Technology Group take a break for two months over July and August.

We resume meetings in September.

You can find out more information about the group, our programme of events and also how to join us, [here](#).

New dementia facility in Clarice Pears

This is not a u3a group but many of you use the wonderful facilities in the Clarice Pears Building at 90 Byres Road. Some of you may be interested that they are now supporting a new community group

Dementia Heroes and dementia cafe is a new community group launched for those living with dementia and those who care for them.

When: Wednesday 6 August, from 1-2.30pm; then the first Wednesday of every month.

Where: 90 Byres Road (street level), Byres Community Hub, Clarice Pears Building, School of Health & Well-being, University of Glasgow.

Format: Informal dementia cafe, with tea and coffee, for local people to share experiences and get advice from Alzheimer Scotland staff.

Dementia Heroes will also be supported by [Playlist for Life](#) and other partners involved in dementia care.

Tuesday Coffee Morning

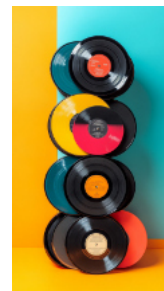
Our Tuesday Coffee Morning continues to meet at Annies at Anniesland Cross on the second Tuesday of every month. Join us if you can. [More info here](#).

Drawing and Painting (Group 1)



Drawing and Painting Group 1, which meets from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at GWR on Wednesdays, has room for a few new members.

Attendance is free. The only stipulation is that you purchase a drink of coffee or tea. Find out more [here](#).



Music Appreciation - Pop Nostalgia

The meeting that was scheduled for July 22nd at the Kibble Palace has been changed, (too noisy during school holidays). Instead, the Mezzanine at GWR1051 has been booked for Wednesday July 23rd at 12 noon.

The theme is "Poignant Lyrics" (or if that sounds too pseudy, Powerful Lyrics"!)

All newcomers welcome.

You can contact us via [this link](#).



Mahjong

The new Mahjong Group continues to meet. We next meet on Thursday July 24th, 11am at The Three Crows in Jordanhill.

[Contact us via our web page for more details.](#)



u3a Barbecue

Many of our members, and members from the other six Glasgow u3as, enjoyed a fantastic barbecue at 1051 GWR last month. The weather was glorious and the food was very good.

Congratulations to Viv Imrie-O'Duffy who won one of the quiz prizes on the day.

Christmas Lunch - The Bothy - Thursday 4th December - 12.30pm

We have organised Christmas lunch at The Bothy on Thursday 4th December. The menu is [here](#) (note some options are lunch only, some are dinner only).

So far, we have just booked out just over half of the downstairs area and there is still space to join us. (There is no guarantee that this will be available later as the remaining tables may get booked by other diners).

If you would like to join us, please email Gail our chair via [this link](#).

The cost of the meal is £46, and the deposit now due is £10. The balance is payable by the end of October and your menu choices are also required then. Please arrange to pay your deposit to our account

**Bank: Bank of Scotland Glasgow West End u3a Group Account
(Note this is a business account)**

Sort Code: 80 22 60

Account: 26658165

Ref: Christmas & your name



Moving On by Jean Marshall

My tongue aye tells on me.

It clypes: 'Ooutsider'.

So folk aye ask:

'Far are ye fae?'

I am content tae say:

'The North East'.

Nae birthed but brocht up

under its wide skies

o'er drilled parks.

A rain shadowed land

wi summer beaches

and hard sparkly steen

fae the bedrock.

Made by man

intae the grey granite city

Aberdeen.

Firm foundations for a solid life.

But lives like rock get blasted.

Shards fracture further.

I thought tae try a new life

So I left.

Now I bide high

aside the river.

But on ground

mair easily eroded.

My first constructions

collapsed. Pillars moved,

planks, keystanes

swept awa by a diagnosis.

There is nae granite here.

I watch the water.

The river aye renews.

It canna ging back.

So let me clamp

like a crustacean

ontae flotsam.

Let me command

a cliché, find a flow.

I will try and let myself

just go.



Ventures with a Bus Pass

The June Venture was a trip to the Doon the Watter to Dunoon and the day was a bit of an adventure for the six of us who came along.

Our journey started in Gourock with a bus ride to Hunter's Quay to pick up the Western Ferry and onward to Dunoon by bus – what started off in a grey monsoon suddenly changed to brilliant sunshine giving us magnificent views of the Clyde Coast.

Arriving in Dunoon, we immediately headed for Bookpoint for a restorative coffee and cake – this is a must for anyone visiting the town. After a walk, we met up again in The Boat House for, yet another, refreshment.

Although we were a smaller group than usual, we certainly made up for it in the amount of subjects that we found to discuss in a few short hours before we headed back via Calmac to Gourock and Glasgow.

If you would like to join Ventures with a Bus Pass on future visits, please [contact us via the website](#), and click on the Co-ordinator link.



Member of the Month

Jenni Austin



I was born and brought up in North London to fun-loving, hard working parents whose zest for life has always impressed me. It seems an Italian mother and an English father have been a great combination for various life influences.

My career has taken me on many paths from working for Europe's largest (at the time) photographic studios as a stylist on fashion and advertising; working in the sales department of a small computer company that was the sole distributor for many PC accessories and one of many computer system suppliers throughout the UK; having my own company that provided teams of people for house cleaning and garden maintenance; customer services for a toy distributor; to being secretary to a psychiatrist and mental health team in the NHS – to name a few. Although I came into retirement from the NHS post, I do still have a very part-time job working for a friend as a Digital Media Licensing Manager – a fancy sounding title for one who simply renews software licenses.

I moved from Hertfordshire to Galloway in 2001 with my family, and in 2015 I moved to Glasgow to be near my daughter. She has subsequently married and given me a whole new, wonderful role in my life as “Nonna” to two delightful grandsons.

When I first contacted the WEu3a it was just before the Covid Lockdown period, so I put it on a back burner, but unfortunately it slipped my mind by the time the Covid restrictions were over. I finally joined in the winter of 2023. The timing turned out to be not so good as at about the same time, my older brother became terminally ill and my time was spent, rightly and thankfully, on him for the following 6 months or so. When the inevitable happened I

went into a rather dark place and found things difficult to come to terms with, which had a detrimental effect on my demeanour, and everything I was trying to do, albeit with a high degree of lethargy. After a while I realised, this was not doing me any good and if I wasn't careful, I'd be on a slippery slope to unthinkable misery. I gave myself a good talking to, took the bull by the horns and decided I had to turn things around – there and then.

At that time, I hadn't joined any WEu3a groups, so I checked the calendar and the next thing happening was a few days hence – a 4 o'clock Gang social gathering at GWR. I was apprehensive as I've never been good at attending

anything unaccompanied where I don't know anyone. By the time I'd walked there my apprehension had taken the form of a tight knot in the pit of my stomach, which, thankfully, was immediately dissolved as I entered the meeting area where I received the warmest welcome and was made to feel like I belonged. I had a great evening and thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many lovely people, some of whom I'm sure will be life-long friends.

That initial step to turn things around for myself gave me courage and enthusiasm to join other groups that covered my interests, like Photography, Drawing & Painting, Art Appreciation, MOTO, Ukulele, Ventures with a Bus Pass, Film Lovers, Current Affairs, Mah Jong and others. I am so grateful to WEu3a for bringing a whole load more fun into my life – my only regret is that I hadn't joined years before, but better late than never! For many years I've had a little slogan that I use under my email signature that I firmly believe in, “Love Life More”, and for the past year or so, I've been doing exactly that. Many thanks WEu3a ©

Groups

Check out the list of our 56 Activity Groups on our website at the link below.

Go to each group's page to read more information or to contact it via [this link](#).

Art Appreciation 1,
Art Appreciation 2,
Badminton,
Book Group 1,
Book Group 2,
Bridge -Social/Informal,
British Sign Language,
Chess,
Cinema,

Coffee and Chat,
Coffee Morning Group,
Computer Programming Insights,
Creative Writing,
Crime Fiction 1,
Crime Fiction 2,
Current Affairs,
Drawing and Painting 1,
Drawing and Painting 2,
Film lovers,
Four O'clock Gang,
French Conversation 1,
French Conversation 2,
Games for Fun,
Genealogy,
German Conversation,

History Book,
Italian Conversation,
Knitting,
Latin,
Local History,
Longer Walks,
Lunch Bunch,
Mah-Jong,
MOTO,
Music Appreciation (classical),
Music Appreciation (pop nostalgia),
Photography,
Play Reading,
Pickleball,
Poetry Appreciation,

Quilting and Stitching,
Recorder Playing,
Science & Technology,
Social Bridge,
Spanish Conversation,
Strollers,
Sunday Lunch,
Table Tennis,
Theatre,
Travel Writing Reading,
Ukulele.
Ventures with a Bus Pass,
Visiting Gardens,
Walking with a Bus Pass,
Wine Appreciation,
Yoga.