



Monthly Meeting: August 21

We are delighted that Rosalind Holmes will present an interesting talk on the subject of “*A hundred years of Chinese history through the lives of the women of one Beijing family*” at our monthly meeting at Novar Drive Community Hall on Thursday 21st August. Our programme will begin at 10 am and this will be the ideal opportunity for us all to get together again following our summer break.

Rosalind was born and brought up in Yorkshire, which she says we will be able to tell when she gives her presentation. However, she has lived for over 50 years in the west of Scotland. Her working life was in education and when she retired from training teachers, she became very involved in East Renfrewshire u3a and served for an impressive nine years on their committee. Rosalind is now enjoying a second retirement!

Rosalind has always been interested in China and its history and especially the role of women and she hopes our members will enjoy her exploration of some of their lives.

We certainly will, and will also enjoy meeting up with many of our members once again and extending a warm welcome to new members. [Details here.](#)



Dear All

I hope you have all been enjoying the summer holidays and the spells of lovely weather we have been having. I know that some of you look after grandchildren over the summer; for those of you there will still be a sense of “back to school” relief. Others have hopefully been enjoying some exciting travels.

We have been busy preparing for the u3a Jamboree which is taking place in the Craiglockhart Campus of Napier University in Edinburgh on Friday 29th August. Many of you are contributing your amazing skills and help on the day and others are coming mainly to enjoy the activities and talks on offer. I am sure we will all have a fantastic day. For me the highlight is meeting members of other u3as from all over Scotland. It should be a very friendly occasion.

On Thursday 21st August we are back in the hall at 24 Novar Drive for our monthly talk. This month our speaker is Rosalind Holmes and her topic is “*A hundred years of Chinese history through the eyes of the women of one Beijing family*”. This sounds fascinating and I hope to see as many of you as possible there. We will serve tea and coffee from 10am as usual and the talk will start at 10.30am.

We hope to plan a few more events between now and Christmas and more details will follow about these. In the meantime, if you have any ideas for events and activities you would like us to look at, please just let me know.

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

Gail Donaldson, West End u3a Chair.

Do [click here](#) to watch a YouTube video of members' images from the last couple of years.

Photography

For our August meeting many of our locally-based members took advantage of the summer weather to meet in Kelvingrove Park. Members who live further afield captured images from their local open spaces. You can see some of the results here: Ann Mumby shot a bee on a flower, Heather Alexander captured kayaking enthusiasts in Inverness, Peter Taylor recorded a Parisian park, and Mark Atkinson (slowly) snapped the River Kelvin in spate.

Our theme for our next Zoom meeting on Wednesday 3 September is "Bowling Harbour". We'll meet there before that date to capture all the features of the riverside. Some of the presented images will be shown here next month.

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



Local history

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

We're taking a break over July and August, meeting again in September

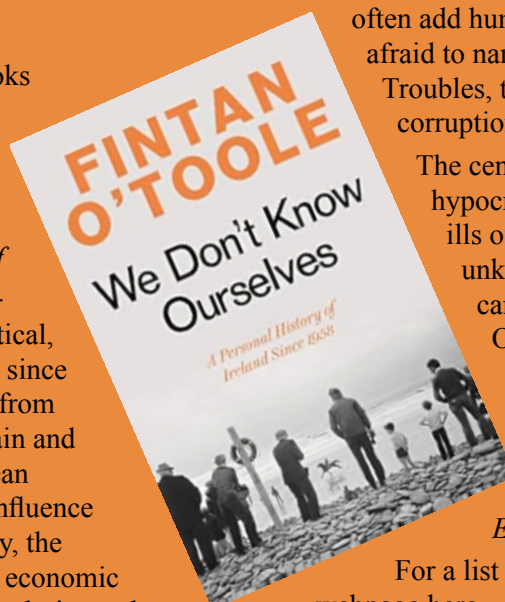
when we'll be enjoying a 'Theatre and Entertainment' walking tour of Glasgow, led by Judith Bowers. Those of you who came along to her presentation on the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall in Argyle Street will know what an entertaining speaker she is. Please contact us [here](#).

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, *'We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Ireland since 1958'*, by Fintan O'Toole.

In this book, O'Toole links pivotal political, social and economic changes in Ireland since his birth in 1958 to personal anecdotes from his life. He includes emigration to Britain and the United States, entry into the European Community, Catholicism's significant influence and scandals of sexual abuse and cruelty, the Troubles in the North, the 'Celtic Tiger' economic era and subsequent banking crisis, and culminates by discussing the successful referendum campaigns to legalise same sex marriage and abortion. His storytelling skills



often add humour, poignancy and anger. He is never afraid to name names in his critical analysis of the Troubles, the cover ups of the Church, or the corruption of the State.

The central theme running throughout is that of hypocrisy, with O'Toole commenting that the ills of the society were both "known and unknown". Following the referendum campaigns in a transformed Ireland, O'Toole concludes '*... Ireland stopped being afraid of itself*'.

A great read, thoroughly enjoyed by all group members.

Our next read is *'Budapest: Between East and West'*, by Victor Sebestyen.

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

(As this group has proved so popular and is full to bursting, we've set up a second one.)

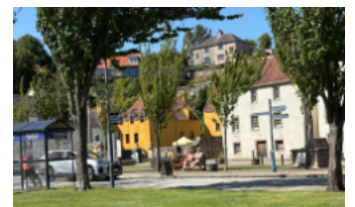
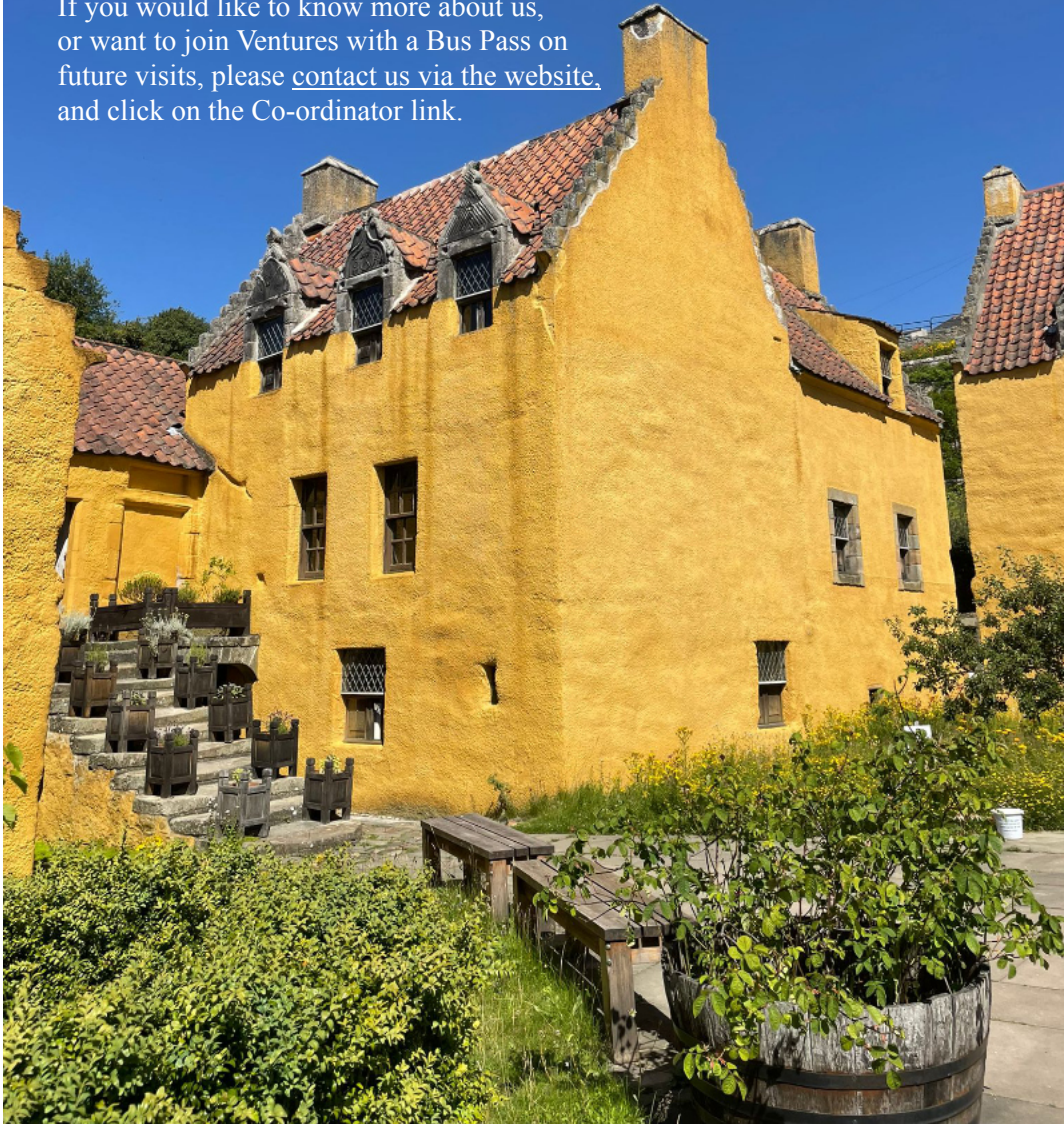
Ventures with a Bus Pass

July's venture was a new one for us to the historic village of Culross in Fife. We were blessed with glorious sunshine on one of the hottest days of the year.

Fourteen of us enjoyed wandering the cobbled streets and narrow lanes, and some managed to fit in a tour in Culross Palace and gardens.

Lunch in The Red Lion was most enjoyable - all in all a great day out.

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





Music Appreciation - Pop Nostalgia

The next Pop Nostalgia group meeting is at noon on August 21st at 1051GWR.

All welcome!

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



Classical Music Appreciation

There will be no meeting of the group in August. The September meeting will have as its theme "transport".

Please get in touch [here](#).

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](#).

The Four O'Clock Gang

The Four O'Clock Gang continue to enjoy a drink and a chat on the first Thursday of every month at 1051 GWR.

If you haven't tried us out - why don't you join us - we are a friendly bunch! Find out more [on our web page](#).



Cocktails!

This month we organised three cocktail masterclasses at 1051 GWR.

They were great fun - we all learned a new skill and most of us have a new favourite cocktail!

More about 1051 GWR [here](#).





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](#).



Ukelele

Our West End ukulele group started late 2024 and, like many u3a groups, it is primarily a “social” group. Playing the ukulele (sometimes badly) and singing along (sometimes more badly 🤪) is simply our Uke group members’ common thread.

We started mostly with novice players, but the ukulele is possibly the easiest instrument to learn to play - there is no need to be able to read “music”, and it is now the teaching instrument of choice in many primary schools - so progress was relatively quick.

We have weekly sessions (Thursday 2 till 3.30), on an “attend when you can” basis (recognising the busy lives u3a members lead).

We can loan a basic ukulele on a “try before you buy” basis to anyone interested in joining the group, although ukuleles are very much a low-cost instrument with a basic ukulele “kit” costing as little as thirty pounds.

If you are interested in joining, or just sampling our wee group, please [get in touch!](#)

Groups

Check out the list of our 58 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 1,
History Book 2
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.