



**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



## Sharing the Chair

So why are Jane Webster and Hazel Brooke now Joint Chairs of u3aGWE? Well, we have both been on the Committee for some time and a year ago we took over planning together the Speakers' Programme for our monthly meetings and thoroughly enjoyed sharing views of possible speakers, balancing the programme and hopefully providing you with a wide range of talks. Planning sessions (usually in Kember and Jones over coffee and cake) were so lively and interesting that someone at the next table, on one occasion, asked which organisation we were involved in as it sounded great! Of course, we immediately urged her to join u3aGWE.

We both enjoyed sharing this role so much that when it was time for Gail to step down as Chair, after her energetic and very successful leadership over the past 3+ years, we decided that doing the job together was not only appealing to both of us but might establish an alternative model for the future since some u3as are finding it difficult to get one individual to take over the sole responsibility of Chair.

So – here we are! Jane brings to the role a background in both the public and private sector and Hazel in medical research, the Third Sector and university governance. We are both passionately committed to u3a, having found it a huge source of interest, friendship, fun and enjoyment over the years.

We hope you will share with us your thoughts and hopes for our future development and we're looking forward so much to leading the organisation, with the help of what we know already is a fantastic Committee.

We wish you a very Good New Year and hope that 2026 will bring you health and much happiness.

You can contact us [here](#).

## Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 15: Glasgow's Tobacco Lords/ Merchant City



We are welcoming Kevin Scott of "Walking Glasgow" to present his new talk on "Glasgow's Tobacco Lords/ Merchant City." Many of you may have enjoyed his talk on "Grahamston, Glasgow's Forgotten Village" which he presented in August at the u3a in Scotland Jamboree held in

Edinburgh. Alternatively, you may have been fortunate to join one or more of Kevin's highly informative and varied walks around Glasgow.

**We do hope you will join us on Thursday 15th January at Hyndland Community Hall, Novar Drive from 10 am (for a 10.30am start), when there will be coffee, tea and biscuits and a chance to chat to other members.**

At our meeting on Thursday February 19th Valerie Reilly will talk to us about the 'History of the Paisley Shawl' and in March we will be welcoming back Clem Clements who is going to present 'The Bell Lighthouse and Arbroath.

There is more event news

at [this link](#).



Photograph: Jenni Austin

## AGM and Christmas Party

Our final meeting of 2025 was a joyous occasion attended by upwards of 80 people all sitting at festively dressed tables, enjoying refreshments and meeting and chatting with friends old and new. Then came the important business of holding the AGM when all committee members were re-elected, except Gail Donaldson, who has fulfilled the maximum number of years permitted in the Chair role. All agreed she has done a remarkable job over recent years, when numbers have increased to over 550 and new groups have been formed, bringing the total to over 60. Council Representative and GWE committee member Liz Ervine presented Gail with an illustration by Amanda Rees, one of our drawing and painting group members, depicting the Greater Glasgow summer BBQ at GWR which was hosted by Gail.

We were delighted that Hyndland Secondary School Choir accepted our invitation to join us again this year, singing Christmas Carols so beautifully, which set the festive mood.

There followed mulled wine with mince pies and shortbread, a Christmas Quiz, stand up Bingo and a raffle, which resulted in GWEu3a donating £313 to the 'Men Matter Scotland' charity. We were ably assisted by Christian and Allan Millward's family and their grandchildren worked diligently to support us in having an extremely enjoyable Christmas party.



## Your u3a needs YOU!!!

We are delighted that so many of you are enjoying the new layout of our monthly meetings in Novar Drive where we're sitting at tables for coffee and tea before the meeting and sometimes for sandwiches afterwards. The feedback is that it is much more

sociable than sitting in rows of chairs and new members have commented on how friendly we are and how easy it has been to get to know us. However, someone has to put out all the tables and chairs and man the coffee counter and we really need some of



you to share these tasks. The more offers we have, the less often we would need to call on you! If you could spare time to come along at 9.30 on the day of the monthly meeting and lend a hand, please contact [hallrota@gweu3a.co.uk](mailto:hallrota@gweu3a.co.uk)

## Games For Fun

Games for Fun are now meeting twice each month - on the first Monday and third Tuesday from 2-4pm in Cottiers bar/restaurant, 93-95 Hyndland St.

Our next meetings are on Tuesday 20th January and Monday 2nd

February from 2- 4 pm

We are playing a variety of games and have added new games to our list. We are always open to new ideas and you are welcome to bring your favourite games. Join us if you can for an afternoon of fun!

More information [here](#).

## Canasta

We are looking to set up a Canasta group, initially as part of the Games for Fun session but will review that if interest grows.

If anyone has an interest in joining this group please [contact our groups coordinator](#) who will pass on the details.



## Classical Music Appreciation

The next meeting of the Classical Music Appreciation Group is on Tuesday 20th January.

There are still spaces for new members.

The chosen topic is Heaven and Hell. Please get in touch [here](#).

## Inter u3a Quiz

We regularly take part each month - on zoom - in the national u3a Quiz which is organised by Ayr u3a. Currently we have a pool of 6 quizzers to fill the 4 spaces we need each month but we would like to add to this pool. If we have more people wanting to quiz then we can enter a second team. The quiz takes place at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month. If you'd like to find out more contact us via [this link](#) on the web site.



## IT Help

The IT Help Group next meets on Monday 2nd February. We will have volunteer members with some experience on hand to help with any issues you are having - IT issues, smart phone problems, social media etc.

Please note the volunteers are not IT professionals but will use their experience to help solve problems. If we don't know how to fix something we will try and find out! This is drop-in group at Cottiers bar /restaurant, 93-95 Hyndland Street between 2 and 3pm. No need to book a slot - just pop in! Contact us on [this link](#).

## Spanish Conversation Group



Following a break over Christmas time the Spanish group started back on 6th January 2026. We are an informal friendly group of people who aim to converse only in Spanish during our meet up every Tuesday. No one is a native speaker.

A dictionary is used when we are all stuck, and one of our group posts any new vocabulary on our WhatsApp group prior to our next get together. The group has grown over the years and has a good number of members. Those attending each week varies.

We are a mixed group of abilities. Some are very fluent and have studied the language over many years, others have studied it in recent times and benefit from that experience. We all help each other improve depending on our abilities. We chat about a wide range of subjects, making it a good opportunity to widen vocabulary and grammar. Those of us who are not yet confident may come along with a prepared conversation. This allows us all to participate.

On occasions our group can have a lot of people and, if possible, we break into smaller groups allowing us each the opportunity to chat. There is no teacher in the group. It is not a class. It's a great place to chat, increase conversational skills and meet with a diverse group of people who have their own "Spanish experiences".

Contact our group via [this link](#) to our web page.

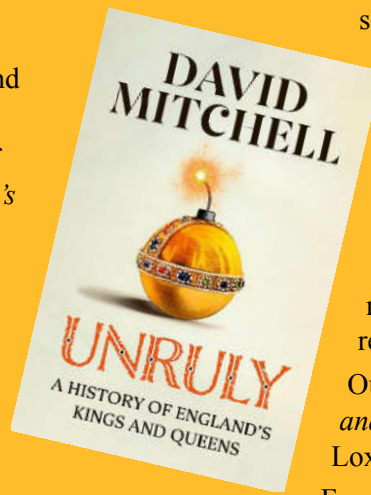
## History Book 1

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, *"Unruly: A History of England's Kings and Queens"* by David Mitchell.

"In this book David Mitchell reviews the stories of English Monarchs from the time of The Venerable Bede until Elizabeth the First. During the journey he also makes some interesting points about academic historians and of the relationship between the monarchy and the people.

This proved to be a most divisive read for our members;



some hurling the book down in disgust, never to be picked up again, others laughing out loud. If you have retained the adolescent humour of your schooldays and find David Mitchell amusing, then there may be something in it for you. If not, then best avoid any contact. More of our group were in the anti- David Mitchell faction so there may be some copies to be had at very reasonable rates."

Our next read is *'UPROAR!: satire, scandal and printmakers in Georgian London'*, by Alice Loxton.

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



## Local history and Art Appreciation 2

Our joint December event was an excellent talk from one of our very popular speakers, the local sculptor and artist James Winnett. We heard about James's work on his recent public Art Project commission in

County Mayo, 'The Touchstones'.

The project, undertaken over a year, comprises of ten carved stones that operate as a network, located within the wider archaeological and mythological landscape of the area. James's wonderful

storytelling skills ensured we were thoroughly entertained.

Our next joint talk will be on Wednesday, 28th January at Partickhill Bowling Club at 3pm, when we'll welcome Ailsa Turner. Ailsa's talk is titled 'From the Trongate to the

Trossachs: the paintings of John Knox'.

Keep an eye on our local history webpage nearer the time for further details of this and other events.

Please contact us [here](#). For information on Art Appreciation 2 please click [here](#).

## Science and Technology



The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st January when David Murray-Smith will talk about *"Transport in Scotland: Some Options for the Future"*. The talk brings together current policies regarding decarbonisation and transport with underlying scientific, engineering and economic issues. The emphasis is on energy usage and energy sources in the context of efficiency and ambitions in terms of net-zero CO2 emissions.

Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June (omitting December) at 3pm at Partickhill Bowling Club, 46 Partickhill Road, Glasgow G11 5BY.

The group also has a WhatsApp Group which is run by Alan Watt on which we share items such as links to articles and broadcasts about science that may be of interest.

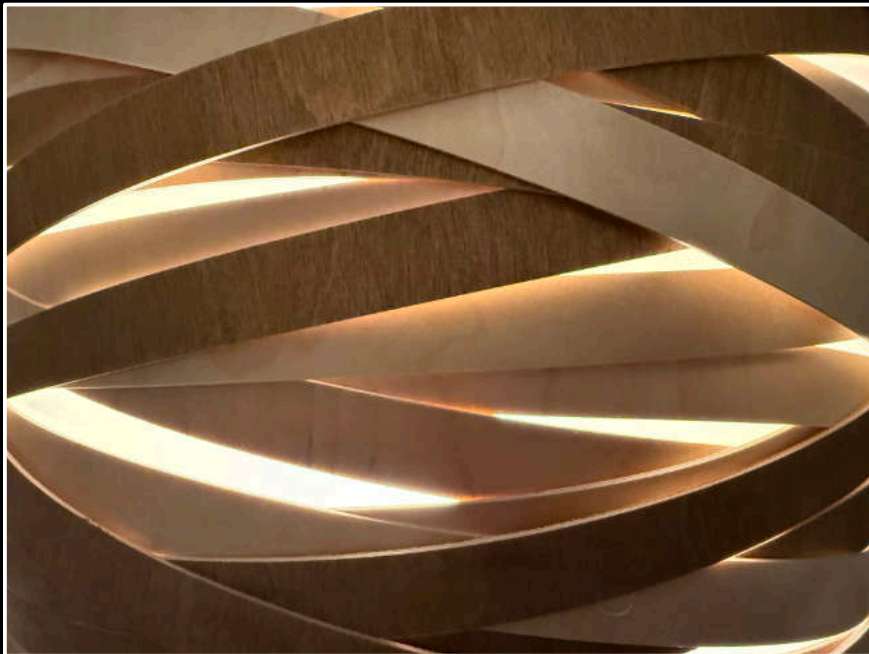
### 2025-26 Programme

You can see details of the programme for the coming session on the group's web page. Find out more information about the group, and how to join, [here](#).

Gordon Saunders



Heather Alexander



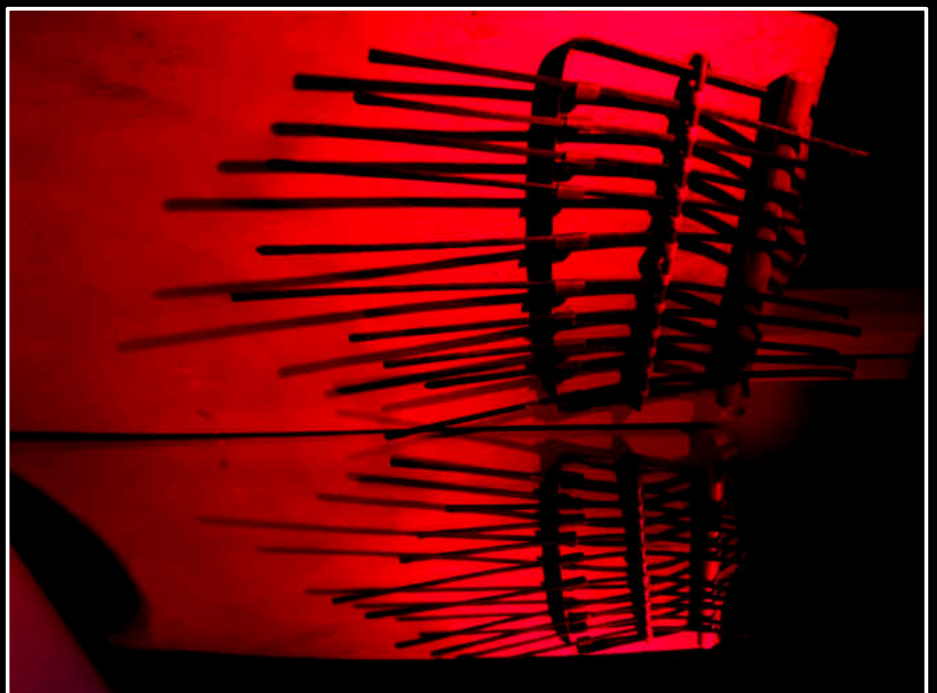
## Photography

December's theme was Around the House. The group's imagination kicked into action with shots ranging from inflatable dinosaurs to supersized mince pies.

The shots featured here have a more abstract quality: a vase in an alcove, a wooden lampshade, and an African musical instrument.

Our next task is to snap Arts and Crafts. Samples from that will appear here next month.

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



Alison Campbell

## Travel Group

The new travel group is actively planning some trips for 2026 and 2027. Join the group [here](#) if you would like to hear what we are planning!



## MOTO

The social group for members on their own continues to meet in Cottiers once a month for a catch up. We also share social ideas in our WhatsApp Group. Join us if you would like to be more socially active in 2026!

Contact us via [this link](#).



## Tuesday Morning Coffee

Our Tuesday morning coffee group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Annie's on the Corner at Anniesland Cross. The next catch up is on Tuesday 10th February at 10.30am. Please let us know if you plan to come as it is a very busy coffee shop and they keep tables for us! Find out more on [our web page](#).

## Pending Groups

The following are groups we are looking to establish if we have enough interest and someone willing to lead (support would be given to start off and with admin). [Details here](#).

Travel books,  
British Sign Language 2,  
Crime Book Group 3,  
History Book Group 3

Poetry Appreciation 2,  
Italian Conversation 2,  
Badminton

## Groups

Check out the list of our 61 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,  
Book Group 3,  
Bridge -Social/Informal and Improvers  
British Sign Language,  
Chess,  
Cinema,

Coffee and Chat,  
Coffee Morning,  
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

Inter u3a Quiz,  
IT Help,  
Italian Conversation,  
Knitting,  
Latin 1 Beginners,  
Latin 2 More Experienced,  
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,  
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.