



Monthly Meetings

We've had great speakers this year at our Monthly Meeting. The first of 2026 was from Kevin Scott whose subject was The Tobacco Lords/Merchant City, then in February we had the delights of hearing from Valerie Reilly about the origins and development of the world-famous Paisley Shaw. In March, Clem Clements described the building of the Bell Lighthouse in Arbroath and in April Robert Jamieson gave us a description of the history and collections of Glasgow Botanic Gardens. One of our members gave us her feedback on this talk:

"If all the volunteers at its world famous (Robert Jamieson's words) glasshouse, gardens and arboretum are as knowledgeable, interesting and interested as he, then I think everyone present at our monthly meeting on 16 April will be getting along there to have an expertly guided tour from his colleagues.

Robert's passion for the history of the gardens along with his extensive knowledge of the plants and trees was very evident throughout his presentation. Robert was also infinitely patient with the many u3a members who were asking him questions, appearing to be unfazed by anything thrown at him! The level of interest shows how stimulating was his talk and how impressed everyone was by the depth of his knowledge." GD

May Speaker

May brings a very different subject but it promises to be just as interesting in terms of history! Susan Morrison, writer, broadcaster and comedian, will tell us about **THE WOMAN WHO STOPPED A GLASGOW WITCH HUNT**. Between 1563 and 1736 Scotland



Susan Morrison

experienced waves of witch hunting. Something like 3500 victims were executed on charges of witchcraft. Most of them were women. But one woman stood in the way of one witch hunt - and stopped it. Find out more about the woman who faced down the witch hunters, the Presbytery - and The Great Witch of Balwearie.

Susan has been MC at the Stand Comedy Club since the day it opened, she has hit the stage from Bournemouth to Inverness, but as she likes to say, she 'works in comedy, but lives in history'. She has presented radio documentaries on BBC Scotland for over 20 years, unearthing the lesser explored histories of, amongst many things, women, pirates, witches and even toilets. A published author, she has her own weekly column in the Edinburgh Evening News. Anyone whose heard one of Susan's talks will know how informed and entertaining she is – don't miss this!

June Speaker

In June our speaker is from the charity 'Dogs for Good'



Dogs like this are helping families

whose aim is to train dogs to enable the people they work with and their families to live happier, healthier, more independent lives.

More on that to follow, but since it's June and most of us can't be at Wimbledon to eat overpriced strawberries we'd like to invite you, at the end of that meeting, to a glass of fizz and a strawberry tart! More details on that to follow and the opportunity to book your place.

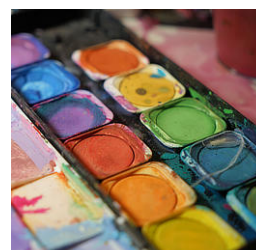
We won't have a Monthly Meeting in July but will be back, raring to go, in August.

[Find events news here.](#)



Save the Date!

The Glasgow Network of u3as is holding their annual Barbecue at 1051 GWR on Thursday 18th June. Details will follow in the next few days.



Drawing and Painting 1

Drawing and Painting group 1 which meets in GWR on Wednesdays 2.30-4.30 fortnightly has a couple of spaces for new members. If anyone is interested, please contact Lesley via [this link](#).

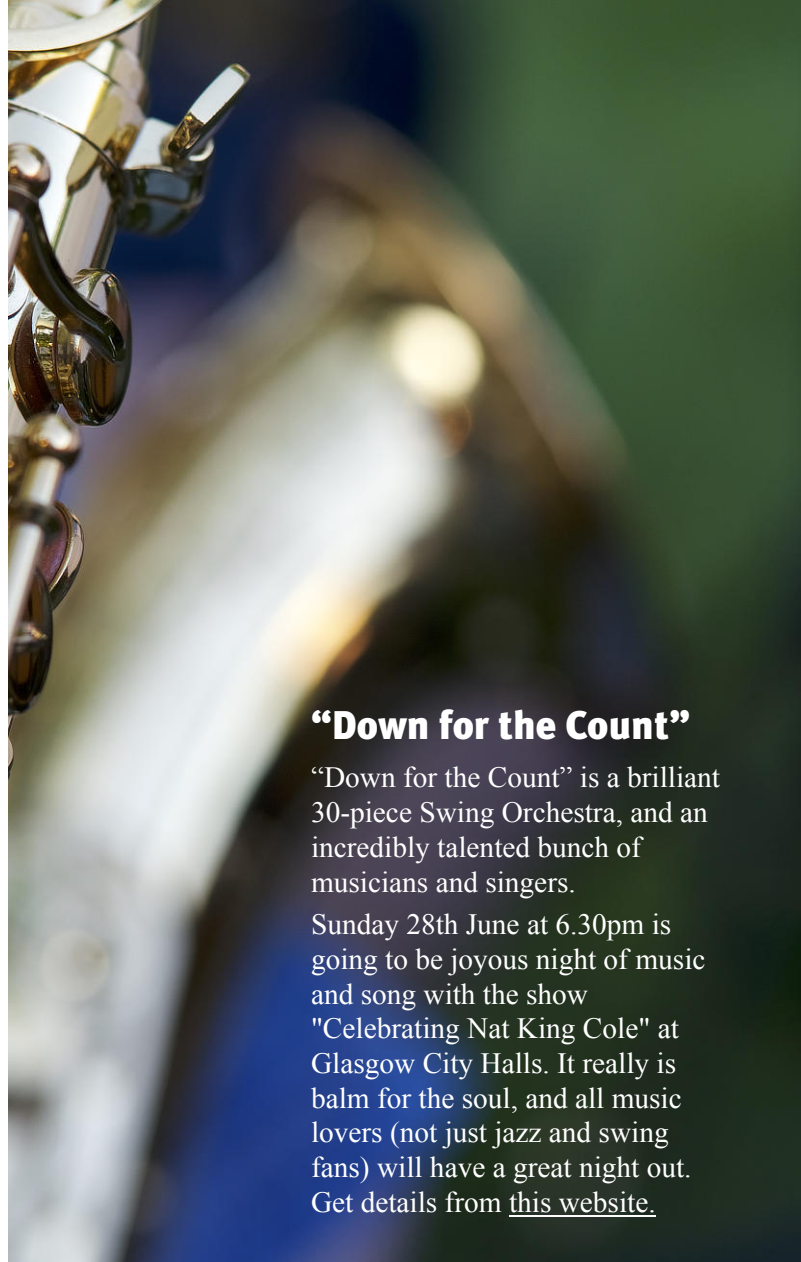


Local History Group

Our April meeting was a look at familiar West End territory through an unfamiliar lens. One of our members, historian Dr Ronnie Scott (whom many of you will know from his work at Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities), led us on a walking tour entitled 'History of Health Care in the West End'. This took us by some buildings we pass every day but about which we were either only vaguely aware, or totally oblivious to, their role in the city's healthcare. As usual, Ronnie was both informative and entertaining and, vitally, infinitely patient with our many questions and anecdotes.

Our meeting on 18 May is another walking tour, this time of 'Grahamstown – Glasgow's Forgotten Village', led by Kevin Scott (again, whom many folk will know from his walking tours of Glasgow)

Find out more about the group [here](#).



"Down for the Count"

"Down for the Count" is a brilliant 30-piece Swing Orchestra, and an incredibly talented bunch of musicians and singers.

Sunday 28th June at 6.30pm is going to be joyous night of music and song with the show "Celebrating Nat King Cole" at Glasgow City Halls. It really is balm for the soul, and all music lovers (not just jazz and swing fans) will have a great night out. Get details from [this website](#).

Share a memory

We're told that most people of our age remember where they were when JFK was shot. That started us thinking about the huge 'bank' of memories we have among us in u3a Glasgow West End. We have approximately 580 members. Together we have lived for at least 40,000 years!! What a wealth of experiences, from childhood joys and traumas, to teenage angst, careers, adult lives, romances, events in the world. Happy and sad memories, life-changing people and experiences.

We'd love to put some of these in the Newsletter – anonymously if you prefer. Please just click on the link and send us a memory. A first offering:



A Musical Memory

When I looked back over the many decades of my life I thought about the pieces of music I've loved over the years, from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the

Beach Boys in my mini-skirted youth to all the wonderful choral works I've sung throughout most of my adult life. However, I decided to go back to my mid-teens because this song brings back a special memory from these days.

I was on a school trip to Belgium and Germany, aged 16. I had never been abroad before and we were on an overnight train, travelling south into Germany. There were six of us in a sleeping compartment, three bunks either side, and we spent the evening

and into the early hours sitting on the bunks, chattering, watching the lights of Germany in little towns and villages as we flashed past in the darkness. It was so thrilling and we were just at that point of sitting our Highers, not quite sure where we were going to next but so looking forward to life opening up beyond the confines of Inverness in the 60's.

Late in the evening one of the girls started singing very quietly and we all joined in with our own favourites. This is the song I particularly remember from that evening – 'When I fall in love' by Nat King Cole. The words and music are so simple, the voice is perfect and I find it almost unbearably poignant. We were so young and so full of hopes and dreams. I wonder how many of them came true?

Hazel



Jenni Austin



Mark Atkinson



Peter Taylor

Photography

Look Up! Look Down! These were the directions to accomplish the May brief for the photography group. The responses ranged from a box of flipflops to wind turbines to cupolas.

Next we will visit Pollok Park's many sights. You'll see some shots from that outing next month.

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



Ventures With a Bus Pass

Our April Venture was to Moffat, a longish journey with plenty of time for catch-up conversations!

Once there a choice was made, some went off for a pre-lunch walk, others to a coffee shop.

It was a bright dry day so even a stroll around the town was pleasant.

Photos show the reproduction Spitfire in the grounds of the RAFA home, Dowding House and the sculpture of Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, who led RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain.

The famous Moffat Ram stood out brilliantly against a blue sky.

Our next Venture is on May 8th, to Inveraray.

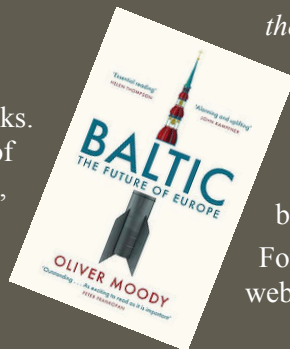
Joining our group is simply through the GWEu3a web pages, clicking on [this link](#).



History Book 1

The group meets monthly on Monday mornings to discuss non-fiction history books. Below is a review by one of our members of our last read, 'Baltic, the Future of Europe', by Oliver Moody.

"The group's consensus was that this book is very informative and timely, given



the world's political uncertainty. The well-researched content was made all the more accessible by the quality of writing by the journalist author."

Our next read is 'The Golden Road', by William Dalrymple.

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



Music Appreciation - Pop Nostalgia

The next pop nostalgia meeting takes place at the Kibble Palace on May 15th from 12 to 1pm. You can contact us via [this link](#).

IT Help



The IT Help Group next meets on Monday 1st June. Our July date is Monday 6th July. 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 a 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](#).

Science and Technology



The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th May when John Davies will give a talk entitled "Me and my carbon footprint". John said this about his talk:

"Each of us is responsible for the emission of about 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year on average – our carbon footprint. This talk describes my attempt to measure my household's carbon footprint (energy, transport, food, goods and services) so that we can plan how to reduce it."

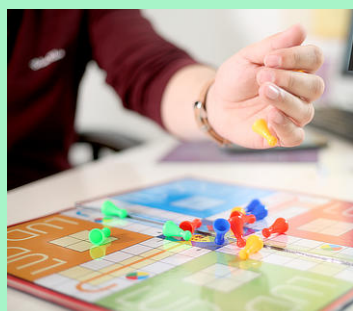
Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the

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. If members of the group want to join the WhatsApp Group they can ask me to put them in touch with Alan so he can add them to it.

2025-26 Programme

You can see details of the programme for this session on the group's web page.

Find out more information about the group, and how to join, [here](#).



Games For Fun

Games for Fun continue 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 19th May and Monday 1st June 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!

Please [contact our groups coordinator](#) who will pass on the details.

Creative Writing

"The Four Elements", Roma Crampin

THE 4 CLASSIC ELEMENTS

Their mother, Martha, thought that names could determine character. But Naia grew up to hate the water, Sky had an irrational fear of air travel and Terra cried like a baby if her hands got dirty. Martha was, however, proved right with Flamma: she is serving 20 years for arson.

EARTH

Adam and Eve were working in their new garden. Suddenly Eve screamed; "A snake! Adam! Help!" He rushed over and killed it with his spade. "You are so brave, darling! Let's use it for compost in the orchard." But every year their apples were simply inedible. Eternal ignorance was bliss.

AIR

They walked out of the air-conditioned airport and the pollution was like an assault on their lungs. "Three weeks of this," she gasped. "It will kill me." After three weeks

they returned and this time the air felt quite normal. The human body adapts very quickly - before it dies.

WATER

He was only allowed to see them once a month. They cheered when he said they'd go to the seaside. Seaside meant Felixstowe! Butlins! Ice cream! Fish and chips! He took them to Shingle Street: pebbles, cold sea, no shops. What not to like! He'd even made fish paste sandwiches.

FIRE

She left her flat in Hyndland Street in time to leave Central Station just before the vape shop exploded. As she left the station in Manchester, she looked back to see fire engines arriving. Back in Hyndland Street a time delay switch set a restaurant alight. Wasn't that a coincidence!

<https://glasgowwestend.u3asite.uk/u3a/groups/creative-writing/>

MOTO

u3a's Moto Curry Club had a great evening at Bantawala in Byres Rd, organised by Jean. We received warm greetings from the staff when we arrived and once we placed our order, the food kept arriving, with a variety of Indian starters, followed by tasty curry mains. For those of us who still had space left there were traditional desserts. Unlike a lot of restaurants, it was a leisurely meal and we didn't get chased out of the door when we finished. Everyone agreed the food and service had been wonderful, we'll be back. Our next outing is 20th May at 29 States Broomhill Shopping Centre, who have extended their pre theatre till 6-30 for us. We've a few spaces left if you want to join us. Contact Steve Dunn [here](#).

More about 29 States [here](#).

Learn more about the group [here](#).

