



**A warm welcome to our June Newsletter.** June is the month of the summer solstice, which reminds us we're already half way through the year. It is a special month in that it heralds the official start of summer; days are long and roses and honeysuckle are growing in

abundance and we'll be enjoying all the sights and sounds of summer. June is the peak month for weddings too and of course the month when children start the long summer holidays. We know many of you will be on grand-parenting duties and most of our groups will be taking a break during July. We will not have a monthly meeting in July and there will be no Newsletter in July or August.

We will, however, celebrate the beginning of the summer holidays at the close of our monthly meeting on the 18th June with glasses of fizz and strawberry tarts, so please let us know if you will be joining us as we need numbers for catering so please [click on this link](#).

Also, at our June meeting we will be

joined by staff from the charity 'Dogs for Good.' This is a UK charity that creates life enhancing partnerships between people and dogs. Their work helps individuals and families live happier, healthier and more independent lives through the power of the human/animal bond. Dogs for Good has been expanding its impact across Scotland, working with local organisations, families and communities to support people with a wide range of needs; from Community Dog partnerships, Assistance Dog placements and



Family Support placements. Their approach focuses on building confidence, reducing stress and helping people achieve meaningful personal goals.

We'll hear directly from Dogs for Good's Practitioner, Carla and Community Engagement Officer, Denise about;

- *How their dogs support people in everyday life*
- *The growing work they're doing here in Scotland*
- *Real stories of the difference these partnerships make*
- *Opportunities for local involvement and collaboration*

We hope you'll enjoy the opportunity to learn more about an organisation making a genuine life-changing difference in communities across the country.

## BBQ

Later on the same day (18th June) many of us will be going to the Glasgow Network u3a Summer BBQ at GWR on Great Western Road. It was such a success last year and if you haven't booked your place yet, [here is the link](#).



In May we had the opportunity to enjoy an extremely entertaining presentation from Susan Morrison, when she delivered a spellbinding tale of “The woman who stopped a Glasgow Witch Hunt.” Susan knows so much about the shameful persecution of women and some men too. We all came away much better informed. However, Susan’s special gift is teaching with a lot of humour. As one member said, “I’ve never heard so much laughter in Novar Drive.”

We will look forward to meeting up with you again at the monthly meeting on 20th of August, when we will be welcoming Paul Noble, who will present “*Time travel under my floorboards - a house in time.*” It is a story of Glasgow life, from the 1870s, as seen through the eyes of one extraordinary family. [Details here.](#)



## Memories

You may remember last month we published Hazel’s delightful musical reminiscence of her train journey through Germany with her friends. It would be lovely to receive more of our members’ memories. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to us and we will publish it in a forthcoming Newsletter. Forward to [Chair@gweu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chair@gweu3a.co.uk).

## Showing our Appreciation

We are incredibly fortunate, as a u3a group, to have access to various cafes and restaurants, which provide us with warm, comfortable venues for our group meetings, at no cost. The one expectation is that, if possible, we buy tea, coffee or a drink, which seems a small price to pay for the space, heating and lighting we enjoy. Paying to rent accommodation would result in our having to charge group members per meeting and we are so grateful that we don’t have to do this, so keep enjoying your cuppa!



## Seasonal Recipes

If you have time, you may like to try your hand at a new seasonal recipe and with that in mind, here is one from Christian to get you started;

### Perfect Rhubarb Fool

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

450g rhubarb, roughly chopped

5 tbsp golden caster sugar

300 ml double cream

100 ml Greek yoghurt

Small bunch of mint, leaves only

Put the rhubarb in a pan with 4 tbsp sugar and heat gently, covered, until tender. Uncover and turn up the heat slightly and allow some of the juice to evaporate. Taste for sweetness, adding more sugar if necessary, then drain the rhubarb, reserving the juice. Allow to cool.

Whip the cream until it forms soft peaks then stir in the yoghurt. Fold in the cooled rhubarb and chill for at least an hour.

Serve in glasses with the reserved juice poured over the top with a few mint leaves on each portion.

Is ‘fool’ the finest British summer dessert, both for ease and sheer, simple delight? If so, what is your favourite flavour? What other recipes have you tried using rhubarb?

**We’re going to be welcoming more recipe contributions over the coming months, so please submit any recipes you might like to share and a photo of the finished recipe will be most welcome. Please forward to [Chair@gweu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chair@gweu3a.co.uk).**



Margaret Gair

Robert Marshall



## Photography

During a glorious spell of May weather the photo group visited Pollok Park. Our brief was to snap anything we pleased inside the park boundaries (or outside for more distant members).

The highland cattle were quite a draw with many members snapping them. Other subjects ranged from cobwebs to ceilings, and from bridges to benches. Flowers and swimming dogs featured, too!

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

## Local History Group

### Grahamston, “Glasgow's Forgotten Village”

Our May event was a guided walk led by Kevin Scott, who many of us know from his popular walking tours of Glasgow. The walk lasted approximate 2 hours and thankfully the rain stayed off.

As always, Kevin's wide knowledge of the area was impressive and demonstrated his thorough research. Kevin has a personal interest in the area, as his own family originate from the lost village. He took us back to the 17th century, when the area around Glasgow Central station was largely rural with a population of a few hundred up to the present day. As the railway companies' search for suitable land grew, we heard how local landowners competed for the wealth and the 'greediest' landowner was outbid, resulting in development of the city around the railways.

Kevin advised that this would be his last Glasgow tour as he was moving to Fife, where he already has plans to offer walking tours. Feedback from the group was very positive. Some of us managed a cuppa at the final stop, 'The Grahamston' cafe in the Raddison Hotel, where some of the artwork acknowledges Grahamston, Glasgow's forgotten village.

Our group will miss Kevin's Glasgow tours and we wish him well for the future.

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

## History Book 1

Our next read is *'The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining women'*, by Kate Moore.

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



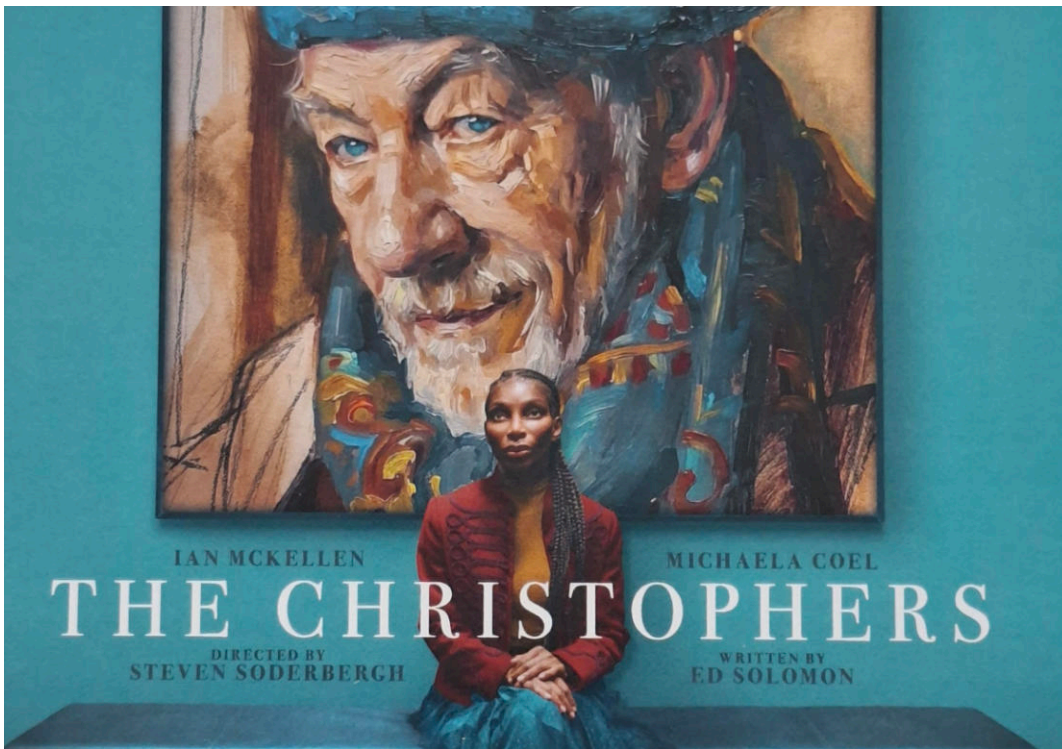
## Date for the Diary: 17th June

### A Celebration of Glasgow at Cottiers Theatre

As part of WestFest, go along to Cottiers for a day filled with history, heritage and traditional skills. Outside, you will have the opportunity to get some hands-on experience with slating with the Scottish Traditional Skills Forum and demonstrations in sign writing and stone carving by Glasgow City College.

This is a FREE event designed to spark interest in Glasgow's history, buildings and traditional skills. All are welcome and no need to book!

The theatre will be filled with a range of stalls hosted by heritage and history organisations for visitors to seek advice, to delve into Glasgow's history and learn about how to become involved in Scotland's heritage. There will also be a tour of the building during the day at 1.30pm. For the tour, please meet at the Cottiers bar.



## Film Lovers

In 1939 Glaswegians were the biggest cinema fans in the UK. They went to the cinema on average 51 times a year - compared to just 21 times for English cinema-goers. Back then, what we now know as the GFT (Glasgow Film Theatre) was called The Cosmo. There are probably very

few u3a Glasgow Westend Members today who can recall going to The Cosmo to see a newly released film in Glasgow!

Yet the number of cinema-goers continues to grow despite Netflix and the other major streaming platforms infiltrating our sitting rooms. Going to see a film remains one of the

least expensive forms of entertainment. However, it's a largely solitary, sometimes lonely way to pass the time. You watch the film. The lights come back up. You struggle from your seat into the foyer and, as often as not, walk out into the rain. And then what? Become a Film Lovers' Member. Join us in

a nearby café to talk about the films you watch.

Some of us have already seen 38 films since the beginning of this year. However, we're always on the lookout for new Members to share their thoughts and join our discussions. Since 2022, Film Lovers has had a WhatsApp site and is listed on the Glasgow Westend u3a website as an interest group. Write to the organiser and we'll add you to the Film Lovers' WhatsApp site.

We're waiting to hear from you! Tell us your views on the film you've just seen. Some of us have already seen 38 films this year. What would you have said had you watched them with us? What will you say about the next 38 films we'll probably see before the end of this year?

You can contact us via the web site at [this link](#).



## Science and Technology

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th June when Billy Martin will give a talk entitled

**“Exploiting the Power of Genetics and Molecular Biology to Develop New Medicines”.**

This will be the final meeting for this session. Meetings will resume on 16th September when Professor Campbell Booth will give a talk on **“Electrical Power Systems in Scotland: Past, Present and Future”.**

Unfortunately, the May meeting was unable to go ahead because of a computer failure. However, John Davies, who had been going to speak on “Me and My Carbon Footprint”, has kindly agreed to give the talk

in February 2027. This meeting will be on Zoom as John is moving away from Glasgow.

The 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.

### 2026 - 27 Programme

Work is underway on next session's programme with five speakers already confirmed. You can see the draft programme on the group's web page. For more information about the group and to join, [click on this link](#).

Val, Convenor

## The u3a Essay Competition 2026

For this year's essay competition, we invite you to explore an incredible journey that really happened. (Your subject could be almost anything.) For more details, please visit [this u3a web site](#).

## Visiting Gardens

In May the group had a very enjoyable visit to Branklyn Gardens in Perth.

This attractive garden, a peaceful haven within walking distance of Perth city centre, was developed by John and Dorothy Renton in the early 1920s after they built their Arts & Crafts-inspired house. They were keen to have a garden that featured rare and unusual plants and flowers from all over the world.

When we visited, the rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom as were the magnificent Himalayan poppies – *Meconopsis*. (The garden holds the National collection of these glorious blue poppies.)

[See our web page here.](#)



## Art Appreciation 2

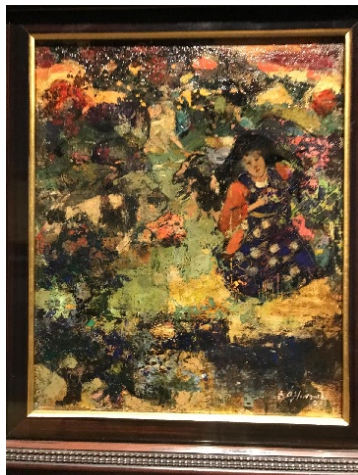
### Alexander Stoddart's Studio Visit

In April, some of our newer members visited the Paisley studio of Alexander Stoddart (King's Sculptor in Ordinary). As with our previous visit, this proved to be very popular with the group.

The sculptor works in the neo classical style and has well known work displayed on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh and in the Merchant City quarter, Glasgow as well as the King's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. His more recent work is much sought after worldwide.

As always, Sandy proved to be extremely entertaining as he shared his philosophy, knowledge, skills, ideas and experiences with us as we toured the working studio. Once inside the studio, which is spread over two large rooms, Sandy explained the process of producing the work from the initial sculpting in clay to the final casting of the piece. The sculptor's thoughts on the relationship between philosophy and art was a recurring theme throughout the visit, with Sandy managing to include his recent study of learning poetry by heart to say aloud!

Our visit concluded with a light lunch in the USW cafe where we shared our thoughts on our mesmerising visit. At Sandy's request, donations went to the local St Vincent's Hospice.



### The National Galleries of Scotland - Modern 2: Joan Eardley – “The Nature of Painting” Exhibition

This exhibition had an excellent collection of Joan Eardley's work alongside a selection of works from other well-known artists both older and more contemporary. The collection showed how she viewed other artists' work.

As well as the familiar Glasgow paintings there were magnificent landscapes around her home in Catterline as well as a collection of photographs and articles.

Needless to say, the visit ended at the cafe in Modern 2 before heading back to Glasgow. This exhibition is well worth a visit.

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

