



Welcome to September's Newsletter. Although there were no Newsletters in July and August, regular communications have been dispatched by Steve, our Business Secretary, to keep everyone in touch with what has been happening during the summer months. It was particularly heartwarming to meet together again at Novar Drive on the 20th of August. There was undoubtedly a positive energy in the hall, meeting and greeting old friends and welcoming new folk. It was an excellent meeting, and we were fortunate to have an exceptional speaker with us. Paul Noble shared a fascinating and engaging story about one Glasgow family, whose history he has researched, covering a hundred years from the 1870s through to the 1970s. Without his diligent detective work, the Brown family may have lived and died in virtual anonymity. In many ways they were a very ordinary family with humble origins, who managed to rise in stature through hard work and thrift. Three rounds of applause bore witness to our appreciation.

Next month we will have a very different gathering. On Thursday the 17th September we will hold a "Showcase" highlighting the many groups that form the life blood of the u3a movement. Most groups thrive and are relatively autonomous, benefiting from having motivated group leaders, who work tirelessly to ensure their group's prosperity. Our Interest Groups Coordinator, Lesley Shaw,

along with committee member, Jan Maclaurin, are preparing the first of what we hope will be a new model of sharing what the many groups do to inspire potential new members and hopefully establish new groups. We now have around 600 members, and the target is to have 10% of that number ie 60 interest groups, which we are pleased to have already achieved. However, each month our numbers increase, so we must keep growing and creating new groups.

It is timely that on a National level, the u3a CEO, Iain Cassidy, is launching a challenge in September to all of us to "Do Something New - just for the joy of it."

Following the "Showcase," Group Leaders will meet for a sandwich lunch and a discussion about the way forward, sharing ideas and advice.



Do something new just for the joy of it!

Quiz Night

We're holding a Quiz Night on Friday 23rd October at The Community Hall, Novar Drive, 7.00 pm - 10 pm (doors open at 6.30 pm.) There will also be a fish and chip supper (with veggie alternative.) BYOB; if it is a bottle of wine with a cork, don't forget to bring your own corkscrew! We will provide the glasses. There will also be a raffle. Quiz nights are always extremely

popular and numbers will be limited with places allocated on a first come, first served basis. The cost is £12.50 per person. Either come as a team of up to six, or join up with others on the night. All are welcome.

To book, please [email Steve](#) and pay into our main bank account Bank of Scotland Acc No: 25215367 Sort Code: 80-22-60. Ref: Name and Quiz Night.



Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch at The Bothy on Thursday 3rd December looks like being our busiest yet! The Bothy are currently making all of the downstairs available to us so we do have a few spaces left. If you'd like to join us [please contact Gail](#).



Christian's Seasonal Recipe

Chilled Cucumber Soup with Avocado Toast

Ingredients

- 2 cups of buttermilk (or use 1 1/2 cups plain yoghurt, plus 1/4 cup of water)
- 1 lb Cucumber
- 1 large garlic clove, peeled and smashed
- 2 small anchovy fillets (optional)
- 2 small whole scallions, trimmed
- 1/2 jalapeño, seeded, deveined and chopped
- 1/2 cup mixed herbs (like mint, parsley, dill, tarragon, basil and coriander)
- 1/2 teaspoon sherry or white wine vinegar, more to taste
- 3/4 teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
- 4 slices baguette, or other bread, toasted
- 1 avocado, pitted, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons of crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 lemon

Preparation

Step 1 In the bowl of a blender or food processor, combine cucumber, buttermilk, garlic, anchovy, scallions, jalapeño, fresh herbs, sherry vinegar and salt. Blend until smooth and adjust seasoning as needed.

Step 2 On the toasted bread, smash the avocado slices. Sprinkle with crumbled feta, squeeze the juice of the lemon half over the top and finish each with a drizzle of olive oil and some pepper. Transfer to a plate and set aside.

Step 3 Distribute soup between four bowls and garnish with raw corn kernels and a drizzle of olive oil. Serve avocado toast on the side.

Total time 15 mins.



Tuesday Morning Coffee Group

The Tuesday Morning Coffee Group “moved” at the beginning of the summer and we now meet In Esquire House near Anniesland Cross. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10.30am. Come along and chat to other u3a members. It’s also an opportunity to bring along anyone who is interested in joining the u3a and wants to learn more. Upcoming dates are Tuesday 8th September and Tuesday 13th October. [See our webpage.](#)



Games For Fun

Games for Fun continue to meet in Cottiers on the first Monday and third Tuesday of

every month. We have a good supply of board games old and new, so join us for some good natured game playing!

September dates are Monday 8th September and Tuesday 15th September. [More info here.](#)



The
**Friends of
Glasgow
Botanic
Gardens**

Friends of The Botanics

How would you like to be a guide in Glasgow Botanic Gardens? The Friends of GBG run tours three times a week and we are looking for new guides. If you have an interest in plants and in meeting people, get in touch to see if it would suit you. Training will be given, so no specialist knowledge needed. Our tours are free and take place on Thursdays at 11am and 2pm and Saturdays at 11am. We have a flexible schedule so you can choose your preferred days and weeks. We are a friendly bunch from different backgrounds united by our love of the Botanics. [Get in touch to have a chat!](#)

Photography

Our quest during an August outing was to capture images of the West End.

Here are two of the shots that did so perfectly. Kudos to Mark Atkinson and Margaret Gair.

For our next theme we're taking ourselves and our bus passes to Edinburgh. Look out for some of the resulting snaps in the newsletter and on the website.

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



Mark Atkinson



Margaret Gair



Travel Group

The u3a travel group has its first trip in a few weeks time when a number of us are visiting Jersey.

We are just now considering possible trips for next year and are gauging members' interest. Future trips are likely to be city breaks, or UK/Ireland coach trips. If you would be interested in joining this group to learn about future trips [contact us here](#).

Local History Group

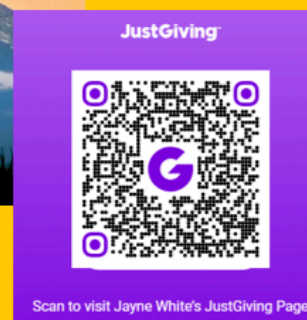
Our June event was a fascinating guided tour of Ramshorn Graveyard in the city. Our guide from the Friends of Ramshorn Church was entertaining and knowledgeable. On a very hot day, we appreciated the shade afforded by the lovely trees while learning all about the history of the church, graveyard and the stories of those buried there.

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



Climbing Kilimanjaro, Sept 2026 Please sponsor us!

Mark and Jayne



Climbing Kilimanjaro

Jayne, who successfully climbed the Munros, has asked us to share with you, her next challenge, for a cause close to the heart of many of us;

"Having completed the Munros, my husband and I have set our sights on Africa's highest peak, Kilimanjaro, and will be making our attempt on the summit via the Machame route in early

September. My breast surgeon pointed out that this would be an ideal opportunity to raise money for charity and The Beatson was my choice because of my links to the centre via my own treatment and my volunteering role.

[This is the link to my JustGiving page](#)"

Memories

Dr Derek Manson-Smith kindly shared with us the following story;

My Incredible Journey

In 1954, aged 10, I was at school in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia (as it was then). A school pal who was a boarder and lived in Katima Mulilo on the Zambezi River on the Caprivi Strip (now Namibia-Zambia border) invited me to stay for the school holidays.

We travelled by train to Livingstone (300 miles that took 18 hours) and then by light plane up the Zambezi flood plain to Katima, with the pilot swooping low when he spotted herds of game.

After a month of mucking about and fishing on the river



(completely unattended), we caught the weekly river barge from Katima about 100 miles to Mambova (where rapids block further river travel). We departed at dawn for the day-long trip with the river covered in mist and like glass, the red sun peeping over the bush on the far bank and flights of geese slowly making their way upriver. The barge meandered its way down river, with the pilot navigating the sand banks and shallows, while we enjoyed the amazing bird life, crocodiles sunning themselves on the riverbank, and crashing into the river as we approached, and families of hippo watching us suspiciously.

At Mambova, we were loaded onto an open-back truck and travelled the last 60 miles to Livingstone on a dirt road in a cloud of dust. More than half a century later, this journey is still as vibrant and fresh in my mind.

Science and Technology

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th September when Dermot Kennedy will talk about "The Origins of the Scots".

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.

Val Kaye (Group Leader)

For more information about the group and to join, [click on this link](#).



Visiting Gardens

Gardening Visits

Visit to Greenbank Gardens

This Georgian house and its walled garden was built in 1763 for Robert Allason, the grandson of a local farmer, who went on to become one of Glasgow's wealthy tobacco merchants, making his fortune trading with the American colonies.

Robert's grandfather had been a farmer in the fermtoun of Flenders. Robert began life as a baker in Govan but he was ambitious. He moved down the Clyde to Port Glasgow where he set up a business, serving the shipping trade.

Robert built up his business using three of his brothers, Sandy, William and David Allason. Sandy captained his ships and the other two became his agents in Virginia.

Their trade was primarily in tobacco from Virginia in the American Colonies and in slaves. There were three Atlantic crossings by the Allasons' ship *The Beaufort*, captained by Robert's brother Sandy Allason between 1757 and 1759. These sailed from Liverpool to the Caribbean, via Calabar in West Africa. They were slaving voyages, carrying nearly a thousand African men, women and children, 149 of whom died during the 'Middle Passage'.

William Allason wrote home later from Virginia that his affluent lifestyle had come largely from dealing in slaves.

This trade very soon made the brothers very rich and Robert used his part of the family fortune to buy Flenders Farm and build a luxurious new house to replace the former farmhouse, fulfilling his dream to return to his grandfather's lands.

Allason did not have long to enjoy his wealth, for when GB lost the American War of Independence in 1783 this put an end to the tobacco trade and he became bankrupt. The house was sold and passed through numerous hands over the following centuries.

In 1962 the Greenbank property was purchased by WP

Blyth, who decided to transform the 18th-century vegetable and fruit gardens into an ornamental garden. The gardens, historic house and the surrounding estate were given to the National Trust for Scotland in 1976.

Twelve Gardens in One

The two and half acres of gardens at Greenbank have been designed along domestic lines and there are lots of ideas that visitors can take away and try out at home.

What sets Greenbank apart is how it uses high hedges and tall plants to separate the garden space into a dozen separate and unique areas or rooms. Crammed into these 12 distinct garden

areas are over 3,700 plants. Some of the distinct garden areas are a winter and spring garden, summer garden, cottage garden, foliage garden, and an Autumn Walk.

Apart from the walled garden, Greenbank has 16 acres of woodland, where rhododendrons flourish, several ornamental pool and fountains and a herd of Highland cattle.

What to See

The gardens are planted to provide colour in all seasons. Daffodils, aconites, bluebells, and snowdrops burst forth in early Spring. Winter-flowering shrubs like witch-hazel add colour from December through February, and the gardens are planted with trees and shrubs such as dogwood, willow, and birch, whose winter bark adds even more interest to the gloomiest days of the year. Spring is the time for apple and cherry blossoms.

Greenbank holds the National Collection of *Bergenias*. It also hosts a trial area used by *Gardening Which* magazine to evaluate which plants are best suited to the Scottish climate.

The centre of the garden is marked by a sundial, and beyond it you find the foliage and cottage gardens, the "winter and spring" garden, the summer garden, and the autumn walk. These are balanced by a series of raised beds and by the garden's nursery and greenhouses.

Situated at the front of the house is a deciduous dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) which was transplanted here in 1962. The species was thought to be extinct until a living specimen was discovered in the 1940s, in the Hubei area of China – it received a huge amount of international interest as a living fossil. Seeds were quickly dispersed to botanical gardens around the world and it would have been introduced to the horticultural trade in the 1950s. It can be assumed that the Greenbank tree would have been at least 5 years old when it was brought here.

[See our web page here.](#)



Art Appreciation 2

Our final event of last session was a visit to the Dundee V&A in June for the exhibition- 'Catwalk: The Art of the Fashion Show', a celebration of over 100 years of catwalk history. We enjoyed the journey through the decades featuring the examples from well known fashion houses. We had lunch at the cafe before heading back home.

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

Ventures with a Bus Pass

Ventures With A Bus Pass has had a good summer with trips to Broughty Ferry in July and a new destination – Linlithgow – in August.

Broughty Ferry gave us a lovely beach day as well as an opportunity to visit some unique little shops - and have a good lunch!

Many of us visited Linlithgow Palace and explored this lovely town. Some also made it to the Canal Centre, though sadly we didn't get the chance to have a boat trip.

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.



Film Lovers

For this Group, almost everything happens on WhatsApp. Where would we be without

its easy and immediate process of adding comments?

It's so easy to add photographs of film posters to the WhatsApp Group chat and copy reviews from newspapers and other sites, all of which makes for an interesting and vibrant space where everyone can air their views about the films we plan to watch. There's no censure. Say what you mean - provided it's reasonably respectful of other Members' sensibilities. Our Film Lovers' Group WhatsApp quotes from Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory: "A World of Pure Imagination". And that's what Film Lovers' is all about. You don't have to be a 'Film Buff' (whatever that means) to join us. You just need to be prepared to get off your sofa, leave Netflix and Amazon Prime for another day (they're not going anywhere, if you pay

your subscriptions) and come to the GFT with us on most Friday afternoons where film performances shown before 5:00pm are more affordable. We like to discuss the films we see afterwards although, to be frank, we often just end up chatting over a coffee!

Film Lovers is heavily indebted to the GFT. It's great to have an independent cinema here in the City Centre. We have watched a varied selection of films since the last Newsletter including:- Midwinter Break, The Rose of Nevada, The Love that Remains, Broken English, Rebuilding, Miroir No.3, Disclosure Day, The Odyssey, Ish, The Summer Book and Sunny Dancer. This is just a sample of the films we've watched, many of which are not shown at the cinemas linked to the major film distributor networks.

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

