



February 2024

**MONTHLY MEETING: 11AM, TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY
UPPER HALL, ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BEARSDEN CROSS**

**FLAPPERS, LIPSTICK AND THE VOTE -
HOW WORLD WAR I CHANGED SCOTLAND'S WOMEN**

Susan Morrison
Writer | Presenter | Stand-up Comedian

Susan is one of the presenters of history programmes on the BBC Radio Scotland *Time Travel* series, a writer and prolific contributor of articles to *Edinburgh News*, and a stand-up comedian appearing frequently at the Stand Comedy Club, where, on occasion, she even comperes the show.

Our **Welcome Desk** volunteers will be on hand to greet you and answer any questions. Pre-meeting tea and coffee (in eco-friendly cups) are available from 10.30am (a bargain at 50p). Please return empty cups for composting.

The committee would appreciate your help if you are able to come early to help set out chairs, or stack the chairs after the meeting and carry equipment to our storage area.



We are delighted to welcome Susan back as our Monthly Meeting speaker following her well received talk to us on "Witches" in January last year.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A RESEARCH PROJECT?

Richard Petty, convenor of the Science group is interested in hearing from anyone who might be interested in getting involved with a research project being undertaken by the University of Strathclyde.

The researchers want to ask people in our age group how they feel about the use of artificial intelligence in drug design and

manufacturing. This will involve a teaching session (which hopefully can be organised in Bearsden/Milngavie) and a subsequent longer session answering questions.

If you would like to take part or find out more, Richard can be contacted via Message Bird on the the [Science Group](#) web page.

NEW GROUPS FOR 2024

The new groups initiative launched in the January Newsletter seems to be going well. Most are coming together nicely, apart from Indoor Bowling, where the lack of a suitable venue has put paid to the idea.

Crime Fiction Group

Crime Fiction is the first group to emerge. Well done to Morag Johnson and her fellow readers of crime novels for getting their act together so quickly. Being quick off the mark seems to be important, as the group has filled up immediately. Instead of feeling disappointed, if you wanted to join this group, use [Message Bird](#) to register your interest and when there are enough people waiting we'll put you in contact with each other to see if you can form a group.

Art Appreciation Group

Hilary Tottman sought members to join a new Art Appreciation group in the last edition of the Newsletter and by attending the January Monthly Meeting. The great response means the Group will have its inaugural meeting in March, with a number of people on the waiting list. Anyone who is interested should add their name to the list via [Message Bird](#) on the Art Appreciation web page. We are hopeful of finding a way of starting Art Appreciation 2 before too long.

History Book Group

The group will read non-fiction books on topics from history, written by journalists or historians but intended for the wider public rather than academic study. Examples are *The Anarchy* by William Dalrymple or *Empireland* by Sathnam Sanghera. Our first meeting will be early April and we plan to meet once a month. Please get in touch via the [Message Bird](#) on the group web page, if you'd like to join us.

Short Story Group

The group plans to read published stories, circulated beforehand and discuss these in the group meeting probably fortnightly on Monday afternoons. Two stories per meeting will be chosen – the first two are by Joseph Conrad and Frank O'Connor and were published in the early-mid 20th century. We're also interested in 21st century writers. If you would like to join us, please get in touch via the [Message Bird](#) on the group web page. The group is at an early stage and we are keen to hear from you!

Ballroom Dancing Group

If you too have been bitten by the 'Strictly' bug, you may be interested to know that an enthusiastic group of u3a members has decided to form a Ballroom Dancing group. We welcome interest from prospective members, including those who have never danced before. Sessions will run twice a month and there will be no need to bring a partner. If you would like to join or come along for a taster session, look out for details appearing on the [Ballroom Dancing](#) web page. Please register your interest using [Message Bird](#) or sign up at the Monthly Meeting.



The three groups launched recently, have filled up very quickly. If there is a new group that you would like to join, please visit the [GROUPS web page](#). If the new group is ready or almost ready to go it will be on the list with a link to its own web page. As soon as there is a Message Bird on that page, you can ask to join.

The picture is rapidly changing, so please check web pages regularly to avoid missing out.

NEW GROUPS IN PROGRESS

- **Jazz Appreciation** has only two interested so far (if you are interested, please register that interest via [Message Bird](#) on the GROUPS page).
- **Maths and Study** groups have combined to investigate short courses which might be offered to members.
- **Birdwatching, Gardening, Table Tennis and Wine Appreciation** have all gained good support and seem likely to launch after their start-up meetings.
- **Crafting** and **Members on their Own** are both ready to go and will be available to take new members soon.

You're Invited

Sociable Seniors (Early Evening)
Wednesday 21 February
4pm, Burnbrae

If you might be interested in joining a group that meets for a sociable drink (alcoholic or not) and a chat, do come along to this initial meeting. Those attending will be able to decide if there is the enthusiasm to launch a group of this type and to agree when/where future meetings should be held. Please RSVP by email to the [Groups Coordinator](#).

GROUP NEWS

Carry on Singing

We had an early start to the new year, singing 20 songs on the theme of 'Hats, Clothes and Footwear through the Ages.' This ranged from 'Greensleeves' (1580) and 'Where Did You Get That Hat?' (1888) to 'Fashion' (1980) and 'In These Shoes?' (2000). This was followed two weeks later by a fun group karaoke session, with a good turnout despite the cold and ice.



Christmas Karaoke

RAY WALKER

Around the World Diners

Seventeen of us enjoyed an interesting and delicious lunch at Viva Brazil - while the rain poured down and another named storm raged outside.

JOAN CAMERON



GROUP NEWS continued

Longer Walking Group

The group ventured out on a very cold day to walk from Dobbies Garden Centre along part of Pow Burn and around the folly on Dougalston Golf Club, then back to Dobbies for lunch. The day was very cold but made for some lovely landscapes.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month and our walks vary in length and difficulty. Details are sent to the group the week before so members can make a decision on whether the walk is suitable for them. JANIS MCKENZIE



Backgammon

Since our little group started in December, mainly complete beginners, we have picked up the basics quickly. The realisation that there is a lot of subtlety to learn is also starting to dawn on us. Judging by whatsapp exchanges there is a great deal of enthusiasm among all members of the group. We even had our first Round-Robin tournament, won jointly by Aileen Morrison and Vivienne Petrie!

Photo Group 4 (Happy Snappers)

Jim Wilson, Convenor of Photo Group 4 (Happy Snappers), will be at February's Monthly Meeting looking to attract new members. The photo shows (an unusually high turnout of) eight of us at Glasgow Cathedral, which turned out to be an excellent location.

The group meets every fortnight and members choose a venue in turn. Usually, an hour and a half is spent taking photos, followed by coffee and cake. It is invariably an enjoyable morning out.

Everyone is welcome. For novices, it is a good way to get into photography, for the more experienced trying to get interesting compositions is always a good challenge.



PHOTO GROUP 1 SHOWCASE



GREAT WESTERN AUCTIONS CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Tuesday 2 April, 11am – 3pm Upper Hall, St Andrew's Church
No Booking Required

Allander Rotary have arranged for Anita Manning and her Great Western Auctions experts to come to Bearsden to value your treasures. This is a charity fundraiser, so why not come along and for only £10 get three items valued and enjoy a tea/coffee/juice and biscuits for you and your companions as part of the price. Payment by cash or card.

Have you recently inherited items you know nothing about? Do you have jewellery you never wear? Are you looking to cash in something you no longer want or want to declutter? Jewellery, silver, gold, fine art, vases, ornaments, scientific instruments, toys, militaria, the list is limitless.

If your item is too big or heavy to bring along then instead bring some good quality photos taken from different angles and of important parts (eg signatures or markings).

The experts will provide you with a verbal consultation and arrange items for sale if agreeable to you and GWA. A 5% reduction in their commission is on offer if you agree to put your item(s) to auction when they are valued.

Anita is supportive of the work and charity fundraising that Rotary does. She and her team from Great Western Auctions are giving their time for free. Money raised from the event will go to local and national charities.

While the plan is for Anita to attend, she will not be there for whole event. Please [email](#) if you have any questions.

Please note: There is a service in the church from 10am - 10.30am and attendees to the valuation event are requested to respect this and not arrive too early.

BE ALERT: SCAMS

Recently the u3a organisation has been targeted by email scammers. Please be mindful and always double check when you receive unexpected emails or unusual emails from people you know, especially those asking for money. Authentic looking emails from HMRC may say that you are due a tax rebate and ask for your bank details. HMRC will never notify you by email or text about

a rebate so never give out any financial information to these fraudsters.

It also pays to be healthily sceptical about any cold calls. The caller may claim to be from Microsoft or BT for example, and might try to encourage you to start making changes to your computer, tablet or phone, or worse still, may ask you to let them do so on your behalf.

LEAP YEAR FACTS

- Julius Caesar introduced the first calendar leap year in 46BC.
- Approximately 4.1 million people worldwide were born on 29 February.
- In the 5th century St Brigid of Kildare is said to have pleaded with St Patrick that women needed a chance to propose to shy suitors and so St Patrick decreed that on Leap Day women could propose to men. This tradition eventually spread throughout Western Europe.

CRYPTO-PUZZLES 62A&B

Below are well-known sayings, which has been encrypted by substituting a number in the range 1–26 for each letter. In each case, one of the letter substitutions is shown in the grid. Use the grid to record the other letter substitutions as you discover them. Do please let us know if you manage to solve the puzzles.

62A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

13 10 18 23 20 17 16 26 17 7 19 6 26 6 11 16 17 10 . 7 8
 | |
 7 24 7 19 10 ' 24 1 12 20 24 7 4 6 24 17 16 , 9 18 12
 | | |
 1 6 10 ' 24 3 6 11 4 17 19 24 7 24 .
 |

62B

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G																									

12 8 4 9 14 2 14 4 1 21 23 19 12 3 19 10 10 8 21 4
 G
 26 4 11 8 3 10 15 13 20 19 3 23 8 4 14 23 18 14 24 19
 12 21 3 3 13 14 4 1 1 3 21 14 4 14 4 21 7 21 1
 G G G
 11 14 10 15 21 15 8 18 19 .

Solution to Crypto-Puzzle 61A

He who breaks a resolution is a weakling; He who makes one is a fool.

F M Knowles

Solution to Crypto-Puzzle 61B

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

William Vaughan