



November 2023

MONTHLY MEETING: 11AM, TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER
UPPER HALL, ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BEARSDEN CROSS
THE DRAMATIC STORY OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Neil Hannah will focus on the marriages, murders and mysteries that characterise the story of **Mary Queen of Scots**. Three times married, three times a queen and three times imprisoned – you will hear a dramatic story, an accurate (if incomplete) portrayal of the queen – and a well-told tale.

Neil trained in physics and spent his career in business and industry, as well as teaching corporate finance, but he readily admits he does not have as much as an O Level (far less a National 5) in history. Now semi-retired, he retains a couple of directorships in business and helps run a couple of charities in Cumbria where he lives.

Pre-meeting tea and coffee (in eco-friendly cups) are available from 10.30am (a bargain at 50p). Please return empty cups for composting.

Our **Welcome Desk** volunteers will be on hand to greet you and answer any questions. If you are able, please come earlier to help set out chairs or help stack the chairs after the meeting and carry equipment to our storage area. Any help you can give is appreciated by the committee.

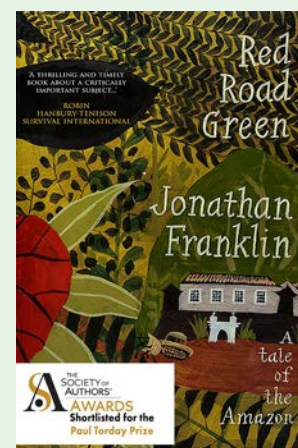


Mary Queen of Scots – arguably the most romantic, enigmatic and surely the most tragic figure in our history

JONATHAN FRANKLIN BOOK

For anyone who missed out on the chance to buy a paperback copy of Jonathan Franklin's book at our October meeting, copies will be available for purchase ahead of Neil Hannah's talk.

£10 – CASH SALES ONLY





NEVER TOO EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Hallowe'en has left us spooked, firework displays went off with a bang – and Christmas is in sight!

Following last year's successful December Monthly Meeting, we will again be holding a Christmas coffee morning on **Tuesday 19 December**. Look out for more details next month.

This is just a heads-up, so you can look out your Christmas jumper and loosen up your vocal chords in readiness for Christmas entertainment, songs and carols.



GROUP NEWS

Local History Group

In addition to meeting in Milngavie Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month, the Local History Group also undertakes a visit to a place or event of historical interest suggested by a member on the third Thursday.

In August, we had a guided tour around the historic area in Glasgow known as Grahamston, and in September, we visited the beautifully decorated Holmwood House in Clarkston designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

Our most recent visit on 19 October was to St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on Great Western Road. We were treated to brief history



Bell Ringing

of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and an explanation of the murals and the large 17-foot high paintings by Gwyneth Leech featuring modern scenes of Kelvingrove Park in a religious context. A highlight was being able to access the spiral



Holmwood House



St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

stone stair to the bell tower and, for some of us, actually ringing one of the bells – the only remaining peal of bells in Glasgow.

We each received an information pack about different aspects of the Cathedral and the kind offer of tea or coffee.

JOHN GAIR

Backgammon

If you have never played Backgammon, the board can appear confusing and if you watch it being played, it can appear even more confusing. The good thing is it's actually easy to play and is an enjoyable, frustrating and sociable game that has been played for thousands of years around the world.

One of our members, Tom Nicholson, learnt to play it in Egypt many years ago. He does not consider himself a top player, more of an enthusiastic amateur and still learning. If there is enough interest in a



Backgammon group, he'd be happy to teach others how to play or facilitate games between those who have played before but don't have many opportunities to play fellow Backgammon lovers.

If you might be interested in joining a new group, please email tonich65@gmail.com.

Tom will be at our Monthly Meeting on 21 November and will be happy to answer questions over coffee before the talk.

No commitment needed at this stage – expressing an interest just gives you the chance to find out if this might be for you!

Longer Walks

A group of nine braved the yellow weather warning for rain to walk the Doon Hill and Fairy Knowe circuit near Aberfoyle.

The rain had been and gone and we had perfect autumnal weather for this delightful circuit, which includes beautiful native woodland, open countryside and riverside.

Following the walk, we had a most enjoyable lunch at Macmillans Kitchen at Benview Garden Centre.

JANIS MCKENZIE



Carry on Singing

We had a great turnout on 29 September and enjoyed singing 20 songs on the theme of 'Time'. Our selection included well known hits across the decades such as *Rock Around the Clock* (Bill Haley and His Comets), *Yesterday* (The Beatles), *The Longest Time* (Billy Joel) and

Cher's If I could Turn Back Time.

Two weeks later, Allan brought his trusty karaoke machine and he gave us the option to choose our favourites. The next two hours were anarchic fun and we all went home with ribs aching from laughter.

RAY WALKER

BEARSDEN FLOWER CLUB DEMONSTRATION – 21 NOVEMBER

Members are invited to Bearsden Flower Club's demonstration and raffle on Tuesday 21 November at 2.30pm in St Andrews Church Hall. The demonstrator is Enid Reid and her

title is 'Autumn in the Tropics'. In addition to the demonstration, there will be a raffle of Christmas Hampers, as well as the usual flower raffle. The charge for visitors is £6.

WEBSITE – WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

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Bearsden & Milngavie

u3a

We rely on groups to provide information about their activities for our website. Some edit their own pages, others advise edits to the Webmaster, and this works quite successfully. However, we also appreciate feedback, eg to highlight out-of-date information so that this can be corrected.

We created a [Feedback page](#) about a year ago with the aim of finding out what users

like or dislike about the website. This simply involves clicking on “LIKE” or “DISLIKE” and providing feedback. To date, there have been 130 Likes and 100 Dislikes. This suggests there are issues that need to be addressed. Please help us by telling us what you like or dislike and what you think would improve your experience as a user of our website.

WEBMASTER

U3A ONLINE ACROSS SCOTLAND NEWSLETTER

The Autumn issue is available on [our website](#). It includes interesting articles from various u3a groups, an item on hearing loss and information about the 2024 Summer School

which will be held at Stirling University in August. 2024. Two of our own members, John Davies and Billy Martin, will be presenting courses.

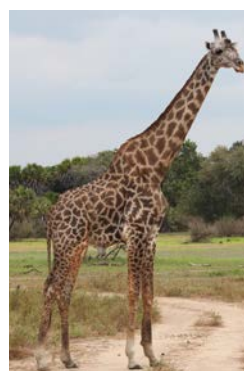
ONLINE EVENTS

The Trust runs online events each month and a talk on 21 November entitled ‘Protect ourselves from fraud’ may be of interest.

Details are on the [Future Lives](#) web page. Further talks and courses can be found at [u3a Online Learning](#).

FASCINATING FACTS

- A golden razor from King Tutankhamun’s tomb was still sharp enough to be used
- The giraffe’s heart is huge; it weighs 25 pounds, is two feet long and has walls up to three inches thick
- Mickey Mouse was the first non-human to win an Oscar



CRYPTO-PUZZLES 59 A&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.

59A

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59B

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Solution to Crypto-Puzzle 58A

Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.

APJ Abdul Kalam

Solution to Crypto-Puzzle 58B

If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten years, plant trees. If your plan is for a hundred years, educate children.

Confucius