

## Chairman's Report

I hope you all are enjoying the summer and have managed to enjoy holidays, either at home or abroad. With some trepidation I booked a holiday in Italy with Riviera Solo in June. It was very hot, visited a lot of Cathedrals, ate a lot of pizzas and walked 40 miles in 38 degrees over 7 days! The airports were fairly chaotic, luggage everywhere but I survived unscathed and had a fabulous holiday. I am sure many of you will now be looking forward to the new u3a session and a more relaxed, Covid free environment. Your committee have continued to work on your behalf over the summer. Encouraging you to renew your membership using Beacon has been a major challenge and Keith has circulated a guide on e-mail, and over 150 members have now renewed using Beacon. Four Zoom sessions will also be held in August. (see page 2)

Our Group Leaders are the mainstay of our organisation and we are very grateful for their efforts. Over the past year they have also been faced with collecting money from their members, either per session, monthly or per meeting. Many have met through Zoom sessions. We plan to meet with Group Leaders in August and listen to their concerns and suggestions. Our Webpage, Facebook and other social media platforms are somewhat dated and I would like to form a small sub-committee to review and upgrade the platforms where necessary. We are also hoping to raise our public persona and provide information on our activities to a wider audience.

If you would like to get involved with either of these initiatives, please let me know.

We are trying to provide better information to our members who are not on e-mail. To this end we hope to install updates on the notice boards at our community centres, we would also ask if those members have a relative or friend who would receive e-mails on their behalf, if so please pass this information to our membership secretary, Sybil Berrecloth. Our monthly talks commence at Gilfillan Church on September 6th. These have proved to be very popular and Ian Gilmond has arranged a range of talks, both informative and entertaining.

We hope u3a will continue to provide you with a varied selection of activities, to educate, entertain, improve your musical or language skills and also provide friendship and support.

Ron Singer  
[chairdu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairdu3a@gmail.com)

**History Group** Are you looking for a new group to join for new session? The Dundee u3a History Group started just over a year ago and meets once a month. The members take turns to research a topic and give a presentation although if people are not comfortable doing this there is no pressure to give a talk. We have covered a wide range of topics in our short life including:-

### **Dundee Conscientious Objectors**

### **A History of the Foundling Hospital**

### **William 2nd Duke of Hamilton - Caught in the Wars of the 3 Kingdoms**

### **Why I voted for Hitler in 1933**

### **Murder of Spencer Perceval (only British Prime Minister to be assassinated)**

### **Florence Farnborough – A British nurse who served on the Eastern Front in WW1**

The talks are generally 20-30 min long and are not formal historical lectures. Rather they are on topics that people find interesting and have ranged from personal family history to local stories to world events and odd quirky items that are not well known. We are struggling for members which is making the current group unsustainable. We have as such made the sad decision to fold in December if we can't encourage more members. Therefore, if you would be interested in joining and helping the group continue, we would be delighted to welcome you to our next meeting which takes place at Finmill Community Centre on Wed 21 Sep at 2pm. If this is something that might interest you please come along to the next meeting or contact Paul Scullion ( [sculliop@gmail.com](mailto:sculliop@gmail.com) ) or Christina Howie ( [christina.howie@hotmail.com](mailto:christina.howie@hotmail.com) )

Once we are closer to the meeting date I'll ask Tracy to put it on the Facebook page with details of the talks - not sure what I'll do for the moment. Thanks Paul Scullion

## Membership renewal for 2022-23

All members should now know that we have changed the method/means to renew membership. This would have been introduced before but for Covid and in the hope that the fussiness of the log-in form would be simplified. Unfortunately the form is built into Beacon and we can't modify it but there have been plans in place for a while to change to a more 'normal' type of log-in. Fingers crossed for next year.

Despite some hiccups most members have found this to be easy and straightforward - at the time of writing (25 July) 165 members have renewed using this new method - although a small number have needed help. So why are we doing this? The reasons are three-fold:

1. At this time of year (July-September) the workload for the Membership Secretary is huge. Every renewal form received has to be compared in every detail with our records, a membership card created, an email written and sent. With over 500 members and rising this takes a great deal of time. The job of Membership Secretary is entirely voluntary so it is reasonable to give any help we can;
2. The process is simpler and quicker for members - no more need to complete a form, just check that our record is correct and click a couple of buttons. Some have reported doing this in two minutes. The Members Portal can be used at any time to update changes in your contact information and without troubling the Membership Secretary;
3. It provides more efficient record-keeping of member records and accounting

For all the reasons above I hope as many members as possible will at least try this way. I will give any help needed, just email me at the address below (not the Secretary or Membership Secretary). Anyone who has not yet renewed and is a bit uncertain can join a Zoom meeting when I can talk you through and fix problems on the spot. Invitations to take part will be circulated nearer the time.

Dates:

Tuesday 9 August at 10 am

Tuesday 9 August at 2 pm

Wednesday 24 August at 10 am

Wednesday 24 August at 2 pm

If you want to take part but can't manage any of these let me know and we'll work something out.

Current membership expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Membership of those who joined or renewed from 1<sup>st</sup> July continues to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

Finally, a request from the Membership Secretary - **if you pay on behalf of another member, or someone else pays on your behalf, please let Sybil know ([du3amemsec@gmail.com](mailto:du3amemsec@gmail.com)) otherwise this causes confusion and delay.**

Keith Rose

## 30 YEARS OF MEMORIES- A NOSTALGIC LOOK BACK

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Dundee u3a celebrated thirty years with memories and music. Organised by Irene Mollison, the celebration opened with The Ukulele Rebels singing the u3a anthem. Two of the founding members Norman and Christine Tulley, along with long standing members Mame Ramsay, Ina Anderson, Morag Walker and Jean Hannah shared some of their fondest recollections of holidays, classes attended and friendships fostered.



Ukelele Rebels

The first speaker was Anne Hamilton whose Folk Singing Group was celebrating 10 years. Their first meeting was on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, attended by 8 members, with an aims of studying folk music and songs and enjoyment of singing. By March 2016 this had grown to 72 members and the choir were much in demand for performing at Church Concerts, Burns Nights, Santa Dashes, and regular appearances at the Overgate at Christmas. They have featured at many u3a social events over the past 10 years.

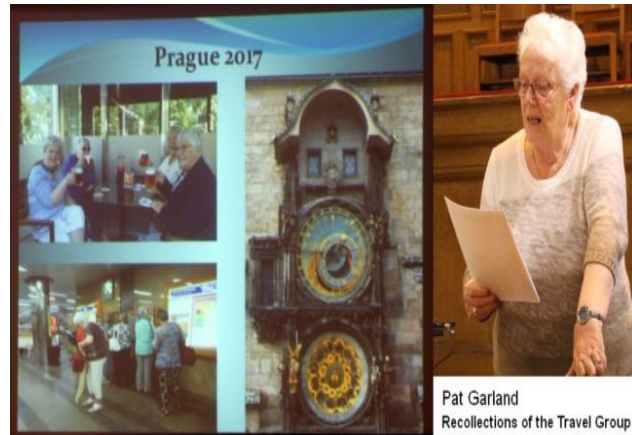
In 2016 the Folk Choir entered the computer age with a Blog, songs lyrics and songbooks on line, videos and, post Covid, Joan McCulloch's electronic song books which means the choir is virtually paperless. There have been many offshoots from the Folk Choir – Strings Entwined, a Choir, Dee Ukes and other ukulele groups, Just 3 Folk, the String Quartet and Ukulele Rebels. The Folk Choir met on Zoom throughout the pandemic and has met in 2022 on a monthly basis with individual acts featuring as well as singalongs.





The Folk Choir is one of the largest and most enthusiastic groups in u3a and great credit must go to Anne Hamilton for her energy and leadership.

The Folk Choir had a waiting list before Covid and it is hoped that when it resumes in September many new members will join and experience the joy of singing.



The second speaker was Past Chairperson Pat Garland who has played a very important role in the development of Dundee u3a. This is Pat's description of the formation of the travel groups and some of the holidays they enjoyed.

"The idea of a Travel Group started in 2013 while we were having tea after an afternoon drive and a member asked me if I knew of anyone who was going away for Christmas and she could join them. I began to realise that there was bound to be other members who wouldn't holiday on their own but would be happy to join others.

I decided as a first event to offer a Glenton tour. Not our own tour, we just joined an already organised one. I thought I might get 5 or 6 interested but very quickly I had over 20 and we enjoyed a tour to the Stratford on Avon area.

The following year we offered a tour to Ireland and we had a big group visiting Killarney, riding on Jaunting cars, walking up the Torc Waterfall and visiting Muckross House.



In 2015 we took ourselves off to Bruges. During one of our meetings when planning the trip a member asked if it would be possible to visit the European Parliament in Brussels while we were there. I contacted our MEP who organised the visit for us. The paperwork for it was a nightmare, everything had to be done in triplicate. He mentioned that we would get a grant for visiting the Parliament, probably about £300. I thought that with about 30 of us travelling it would buy us all a coffee. Oh no We got a grant for travelling and accommodation as well as for a meal despite me telling them in triplicate that we had already paid for our travelling and accommodation. In the end we were given about 600 euros EACH. It was positively obscene the amount we were given. Wouldn't happen now!!!

The Rhine in Germany drew our attention for 2016 We travelled by coach and ferry from Hull to our hotel in a tiny village called Assmanhausen.



A smaller group than usual travelled to Galway and Carrick on Shannon in 2018

Galway is described as a “balmy bohemian city” with a love of traditional music. Once a small fishing village, Galway grew in strength in the 13th century to become a prosperous walled town. The old city walls are now incorporated into a modern shopping centre at Eyre Square and Kirwan’s Lane thrums with a bustling atmosphere and St Nicholas’s Church, completed in 1320, is where Christopher Columbus is said to have worshipped in 1477.

During this tour we visited Carrick on Shannon. Although it is the largest town in County of Leitrim it struck me as a peaceful area and some of us enjoyed a walk by the river and a coffee before boarding a river launch for an enjoyable sail.

While in Amsterdam in April 2019 we were really too late to see the beautiful bulb fields but there was no shortage of colour when we visited the Kukkenhof Gardens. We also had a tour of Anne Frank’s house and visited the 17th-century Royal Delft Factory which is one of only two original Delftware ceramic producers still in operation. The charming town of Delft and its pottery and shops made for an interesting day trip where some of us enjoyed a horse drawn carriage ride and the inevitable stop for refreshments.

In 2022 the Travel Group visited Donegal. There was a stormy visit to a hilltop and a visit to Enniskillen. The highlight for some of the group was the discovery of an authentic Irish pub, the Reel Inn.”







Irene Geoghegan  
Recollections of 30 years



The final Speaker was Irene Geoghegan, who along with Bruce Kiddie, had prepared a very illuminating and entertaining presentation on Dundee in 1992 and also the development of the u3a Scottish Country Dancing Group.



Irene reminded us of the Keiller Empire, Dundee Cake and marmalade, The Timex Strike, Stephen Fry was Rector of Dundee University, a new 10p coin, Microsoft Windows 3.1 and nicotine patches. In 1992 the first smartphone was introduced, The Queen had her annus horribilis, Charles and Diana and Fergie and Andy parted company. And Ken and Deidre got divorced on Corrie.

For the 30th anniversary celebration Irene and Bruce created a new dance which the dancers perfected over several months. Irene's husband Tom, videoed the dance and this was shown to everyone at the Memories afternoon. The dance was named DU3A UR30 and was formally accepted by the Scottish Country Dance association as a new dance. I am a recent convert to the u3a Scottish Country Dancing Group, it meets in the Millennium Hall in Birkhill and resumes on September. It really is a fun afternoon, provides great exercise with a very friendly group of dances. But they need more men! No experience necessary. The Memories afternoon was brought to a fitting end by a rousing selection of Dundee songs by the Ukulele Rebels, Ruth Rose, Charlie and Irene Mollison and John and Arlene Cattanach. The next event of the 30th Anniversary calendar is a celebration lunch at the Woodland Hotel on Thursday 1st September with entertainment provided by Just 3 Folk and the u3a Folk Choir. Ron Singer - Chair Dundee u3a



## **Dundee U3A STRINGS ENTWINED group raise £3640 at our Concert For Ukraine**

At one of our recent Friday morning sessions I said “You know – people would pay to hear us!”

A couple of months later we were performing to an audience of over 200 people in Monifieth Parish Church Hall.

Our Concert for Ukraine in June was a great success with £3640 raised for “The Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal”. The money was raised from ticket sales, donations and raffle ticket sales.

All the performers and friends gave so much of their time rehearsing and performing as well as supporting with the preparations and the running of the concert on the night.

The Monifieth Church were amazing giving us free use of the Church, helping with setting up chairs and serving teas and coffees, to go with the delicious shortbread made by one of our members.

Our concert programme included music by our String Group ‘Strings Entwined’ as well as various smaller groups of musicians and singers.

Music included traditional Scottish, jazz, classical, folk, pop, and Latin American.

Feedback has been extremely positive and all those who attended had a great evening.

Our donation will help Ukraine people who have had to flee their homes, leaving everything behind, by helping to provide shelter, food and water, and healthcare.

Anne Hamilton

Co-leader of Strings Entwined

## **Committee 2022-23**

|                                    |                                |                                |                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>                    | <b>Ron Singer</b>              | <b>chairdu3a@gmail.com</b>     | <b>07873 141123</b> |
| <b>Vice Chair</b>                  | <b>Keith Rose</b>              | <b>du3avicechair@gmail.com</b> |                     |
| <b>Secretary</b>                   | <b>Margaret Stewart</b>        | <b>du3asec@gmail.com</b>       |                     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                   | <b>Lesley Anderson</b>         | <b>du3atreas@gmail.com</b>     |                     |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>        | <b>Sybil Berrecloth</b>        | <b>du3amemsec@gmail.com</b>    |                     |
| <b>Group Co-ordinator</b>          | <b>Tracey McCluskey</b>        | <b>du3agroups@gmail.com</b>    |                     |
| <b>Events &amp; Outings</b>        | <b>Irene Mollison</b>          | <b>du3aevents@gmail.com</b>    |                     |
| <b>Committee Member</b>            | <b>Donna Morrison</b>          |                                |                     |
| <b>Committee Member</b>            | <b>Ross Howat</b>              |                                |                     |
| <b>Committee Member</b>            | <b>Ruth Rose</b>               |                                |                     |
| <b>Newsletter</b>                  | <b>Val McKeeman (co-opted)</b> | <b>du3anews@gmail.com</b>      | <b>07751 152151</b> |
| <b>Committee Member (co-opted)</b> | <b>Dave Barrett</b>            | <b>davey47@gmail.com</b>       |                     |

**Submission date for next Newsletter: 21st October 2022**