

CHIT-CHAT

u3a
East Renfrewshire

THE NEWSLETTER OF
[EAST RENFREWSHIRE U3A](#)
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CROPPED CHAT

This month's *Chit-Chat* is lacking some regular items because I've gone off on holiday to the USA.



The missing content will be added to a bumper October issue.

NOT YET

This grim visage can be seen over one of three entrances to a famous landmark building. Find out where it is and why you might want to avoid passing through it for a while in *Groups*.



CHAT LINE

Chit-Chat needs readers to keep sending in pictures, anecdotes, funny stuff etc. You can send it to me at chit-chat@eru3a.org, or post it on the [ERu3a](#) page in Facebook.

MAKE CONTACT

Use the link incorporated in the *Chit-Chat* heading to access our website, and the various message birds to contact group facilitators. By using the message bird in the [Contacts](#) section of the website you can access any of the post-holders listed there. Safe links to other websites may also appear in *Chit-Chat*.

The interest groups featured in *Groups* are just a few of those now available. They are all listed alphabetically in the [Groups](#) Section of the website. Facilitators can be contacted by clicking on the blue Message Bird incorporated in every group's heading.

If you don't have access to the Internet, phone 0743 712 3921 for information about groups etc.

Jim Hamilton

THE BIZ

OCTOBER MEETING

Next month's guest speaker Kevin Scott is the author 14 books including 4 novels and a series for the RNLI. He is an enthusiastic sea fisherman, and has been a keen genealogist for the past 30 years. He has also played competitive league rugby and composed board games and books for tourist boards. He will give a talk on Grahamston, Glasgow's forgotten village.

The doors are open at 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. Refreshments are served after the talk and we ask for a small donation of £1 to cover the costs. If you can- please bring your own mug.



THE BUZZ

MONTHLY MEETING

Our Guest Speaker at the September meeting was Aoife Mooney, Regional Manager for the Southwest Scotland Branch of [The Macular Society](#). Her presentation was short but informative after which she spent the rest of the meeting time responding to members' questions. It was surprising how many of the audience suffered from Macular Degeneration (MD).

Aoife mentioned the Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) which causes people who have lost their sight to see images that are not there. These CBS hallucinations caused by the brain's adjustment to significant vision loss are not a sign of a mental health problem. The condition occurs most often among elderly people with eye conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to speak to Aoife contact Lillas Dunlop who will put you in touch. u3a Online Across Scotland have a Zoom Coffee House Speaker on Charles Bonnet Syndrome on the first Thursday of each month at 4.00pm, to which all members are welcome. To access the next talk on 2nd November please use the Zoom link below:

Details: Meeting ID 993 1667 2323

Passcode: 154212



GROUPS

AROUND EAST RENFREWSHIRE DINING

Group 1 visited Zyka this month. Although it was a wee bit chaotic the food and company were very good.

Group 3's outing was to the Eglinton Arms hotel in Eaglesham. Despite the horrible weather there was a good turnout and the diners enjoyed an excellent dinner, good service and great company.



Group 1 enjoying dinner at Zyka.

AROUND THE WORLD DINING

This month our peripatetic diners made a return visit to one of their favourite restaurants – The Wee Ghurkha Curry House in East Kilbride village – last visited in 2017. This Nepalese restaurant is run by an ex- Ghurkha and his Scottish wife. The food was every bit as good as they remembered and the service warm and friendly. There was a wee nod to the Scottish connection in the shape of Haggis Pakora as a starter. Mains included several curry dishes such as Bholpuri from eastern Nepal and Chow-Chow Nepal, a pan-fried noodle dish. Nepalese beer was on offer as well as wines and soft drinks. At £13.95 for two courses served piping hot, it was excellent value and remains one of our diners' favourites.



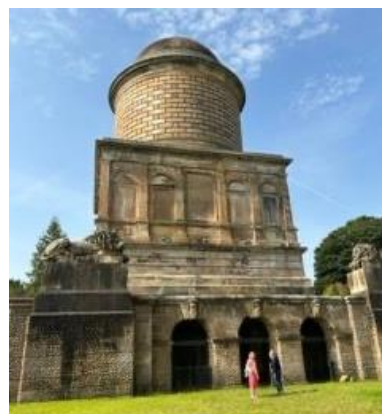
FASHION THROUGH THE AGES

The Fashion Through the Ages Group enjoyed a visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum to view the fascinating Mary Quant exhibition. Lots of fond memories were evoked by looking at the fashions from a time when they were all much younger (and slimmer).



OUT AND ABOUT

In early September our outandabouters had a fascinating tour of Hamilton Mausoleum. The weather was sunny and warm for their walk down to the mausoleum from the Low Parks Museum. Peter, their excellent guide, enlightened his talked about the history of the building and the Dukes of Hamilton with his impersonations of the characters involved. The Hamiltons are still the foremost family in Scotland and the Duke is the keeper of the keys of Holyrood Palace.



The mausoleum was built as a tomb and monument to Alexander, the 10th Duke, but was incomplete at the time of his death in 1852. There are three entrances to the crypt, under carved heads representing Life, Death and Immortality. Mourners would enter by the Life arch and leave by the Immortality arch, with only the coffin entering through the central 'Death' door.



No cement was used in the construction and the stones were dovetailed to fit. During World War I coal mining was allowed to be extended under the mausoleum, resulting in the building dropping down five metres. In 1921, because of fears of subsidence, the bodies were removed and reburied in Bent Cemetery in Hamilton where they lie today. Although the building did lean for a number of years it never fell and settled back to near vertical.

The interior of the mausoleum is richly decorated, with a beautiful mosaic floor comprised of marble from around the world. The bronze doors to the chapel replicate the famous Baptistery doors in Florence, masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance. The massive dome's spectacular 18 second echo, one of the longest in the world, made the interior unsuitable for its original purpose as a chapel.



At the end of the tour the group returned to the Museum for a lovely soup and sandwich lunch. By then saturated with information, most declined the offer of a museum tour that focused on dairy farming, coal mining and the history of the Cameronian Regiment.



READING

This month Mearns 3 read *Yellowface* by Rebecca F. Kuang. The book concerns two authors, one a successful Chinese American author and one a struggling white author. When the successful Athena dies in a freak accident, June steals her unpublished manuscript. The ensuing tale concerns relentless social media, racism, cultural appropriation and the cutthroat publishing industry. The group considered it an interesting and definitely a different read.

Mearns 4 read *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. The group loved the descriptions, the fashions, the homes etc. from the opening chapter which certainly set the scene at the Opera, where one went to see (not the production!!) and be seen, through to the ending which certainly surprised some of us as it was not a happy-ever-after conclusion. The expectations of the upper class in 1870 New York were so high and totally different to today's life. The book gave great scope for discussion about how they went about their lives, loves, work, entertaining etc. Definitely a classic in the true sense. Although a bit angry at the conventions of the time everyone really enjoyed this book.

QUIZ

The East Renfrewshire u3a Dunderheids team recently took part in the Glasgow West End u3a Quiz.



Congratulations to The Village People team, Ritchie, Margaret, Allen & Yvonne who were the winners of the September Quiz.

STAGE CRAFT

Our new group has started work on the set of The Odd Couple for gtp's autumn production in Eastwood Park Theatre from 1-4 November. The last time the flats were used was for The Slab Boys and all were painted dark green with random paint splashes. The first task is to give them all a white undercoating to get them ready for repainting. Our guys (and dolls!) certainly look as if they are enjoying themselves with all that paint and have earned their coffee break.





SOCIAL SATURDAYS

This month our Saturday socialisers had lunch at Parklands, Newton Mearns.



EVENING STROLLERS

Our strollers enjoyed a walk in Rouken Glen park on a lovely Tuesday evening.

TASTE THE WORLD

Ten of our tasters had lunch at the Nippon Kitchen this month.



THEATRE



The group has had an active September with a visit to the Andre Rieu streaming event on the 2nd, followed by Minerva's production of Our House. They are presently looking forward the Theatre Guild's production of - Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in October and are currently taking bookings for Giffnock Theatre Players' production of Neil Simon's well known play The Odd Couple on Saturday 4 November at 2.30pm – with lunch at Banco for those who want to get together beforehand!

All these at our local Eastwood Park Theatre.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

TURNING TO DUST

One of the topics covered by Randall Munroe in his 2022 book *What If 2?* concerns the nature of dust. He reveals that household dust is not – as widely believed – mostly composed of dead skin, but is 'a disgusting salad made from whatever happens to be lying around your house'. It can include soil, pollen, cotton fibres, crumbs, sugar, human or animal hair, plastic, flour, glass, smoke and mites.

A 1973 study in *Nature* found that skin cells made up between 0.4% and 10% of airborne dust. We do shed around 50 milligrams of skin cells per hour and if all this went into the air our houses would be as dusty as coal mines, but most of it doesn't. Some settles quickly onto the floor but a lot goes down the drain when we wash, rubs off on our clothes or ends up on our pillows and mattresses.

WHIMSY

NOW WHO'S LAUGHING?

Brenda Mason posted this.



JUST WENT TO A WEDDING THAT
WAS SO EMOTIONAL EVEN THE
CAKE WAS IN TIERS.

CHOKED UP

Annie Wills posted this.

PICTURE GALLERY

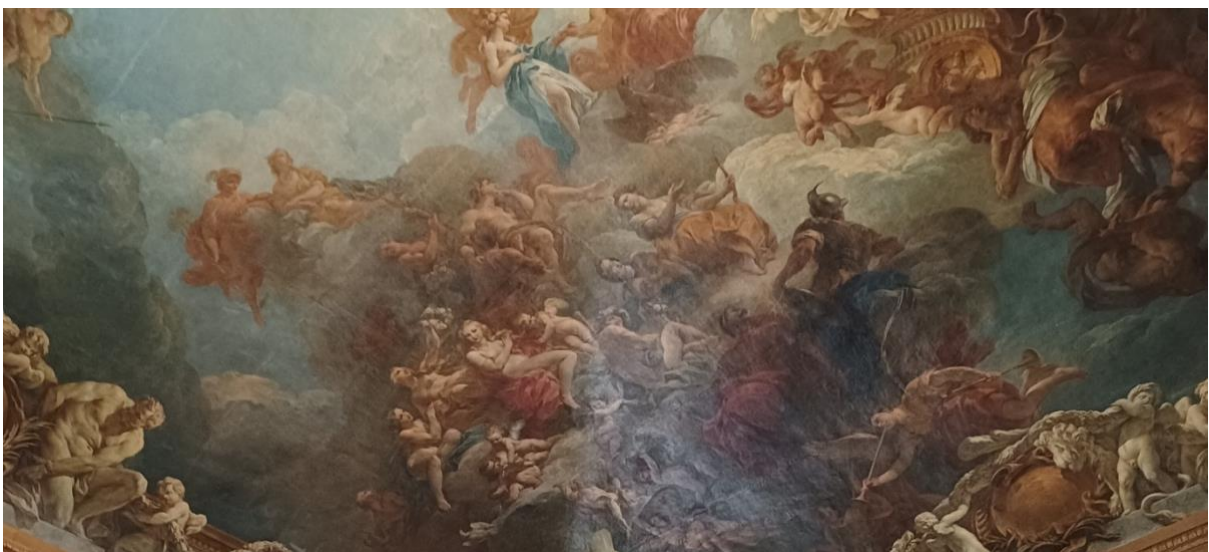
LA VIE PARISIENNE

At the end of last month Carol and Jim Hamilton spent a few days in Paris and brought back these pictures.





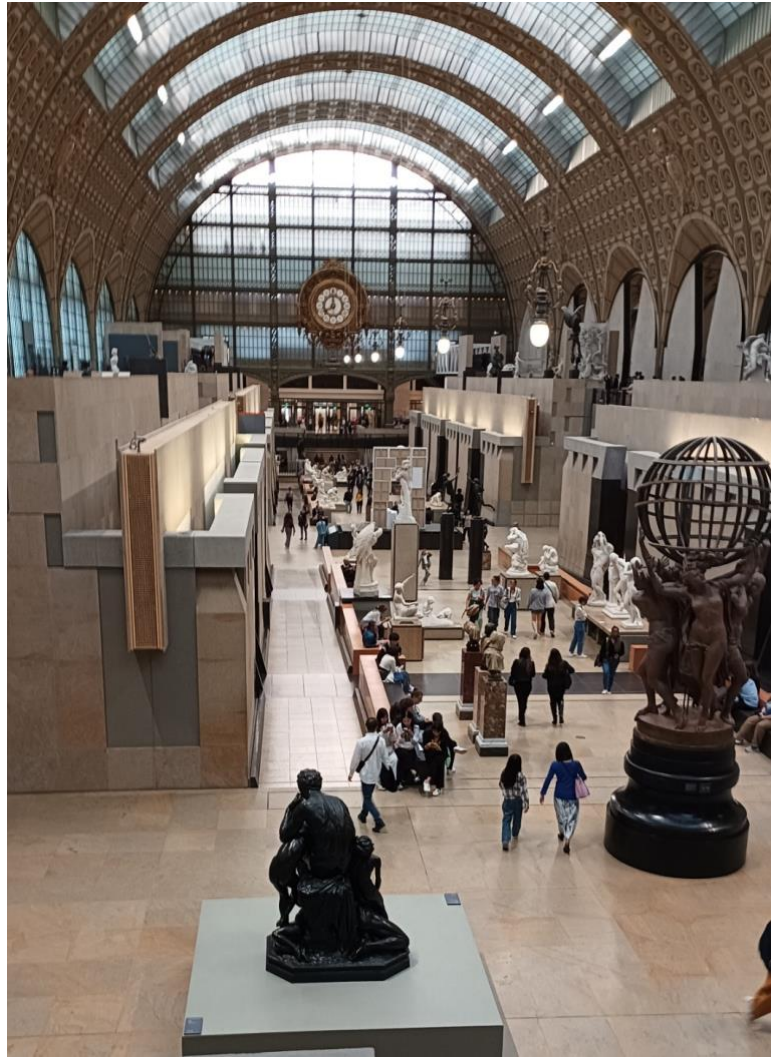
The Hall of Mirrors at Versailles



Part of the Ceiling of a Royal Bedchamber at Versailles



Inside Musee D'Orsay



At the Monet's Waterlilies Exhibition in Musee de l'Orangerie



Sacre Coeur

EVENTS

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Wednesday	18 th October	Monthly Meeting in Barrhead Kevin Scott Grahamston - Glasgow's Forgotten Village
Wednesday	15 th November	Monthly Meeting in the Broom Church Hall , Broom Road East, Newton Mearns. G77 5HN Liz Allan - John and Annie Glen - Stars and Struggles
Wednesday	20 th December	Christmas Party in Barrhead

CONTACTS

Mobile enquires call/text 0743 712 3921 www.u3asites.org.uk/eastrenfrewshire

Chair: Marbe McNeill chair@eru3a.org

Vice Chair: Liliash Dunlop speakers@eru3a.org

Secretary: Mary Fyfe secretary@eru3a.org

Treasurer: Ann Scott treasurer@eru3a.org

Membership Secretary: Roy Bryce membership@eru3a.org

Groups Co-ordinator: Allison Kershaw groups@eru3a.org

Webmaster: Roy Bryce website@eru3a.org

SUPPORTING u3a



The [Riviera Travel Affinity](#) scheme donates 10% of the cost of holidays booked by members.

East Renfrewshire u3a doesn't endorse any commercial organisations.