

# CHIT-CHAT

**u3a**  
East Renfrewshire

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
EAST RENFREWSHIRE  
U3A

No. 126

December 2023

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## 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](mailto: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

### JANUARY MEETING

Next month's meeting will be at Broom Church in Newton Mearns. Guest speaker Tom Marchant's subject is *Dear Green Places – The Story of Glasgow's Parks*.

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.

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### u3a IN SCOTLAND

At 4.00 pm on Thursday 4th January u3a Online Across Scotland will feature a talk on Zoom by Dr Bob Pullen entitled *The Secrets of the Human Brain*. Bob will start with a simple description of the structure of the brain before inviting the audience to take part in an interactive section to test how left or right-handed they are. He will ask audience members to use their own brains to see things that are not really there and explain how men and women's brains are different.

More information and the zoom link are to be found at <https://u3asites.org.uk/onlineacrossscotland/events>

The u3a in Scotland biennial Summer School is being held in Stirling from 20th to 22nd August 2024 at the Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling. Members will be able to choose a variety of subjects to study whilst networking with members from across Scotland and beyond. Bookings are now open and members are encouraged to book early as there are limited places. More information can be found at <https://u3asites.org.uk/scotland/page/79029>.

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## THE BUZZ

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

At the start of December ERu3a took a table at the busy Broom Church Christmas Fair, gave out lots of leaflets and made £54.75 for Church funds.

Lots of beautiful craft items, donated by the Knitting, Calligraphy and Crafty Beads groups were much admired. Several people expressed interest in joining the u3a, so it was a worthwhile venture.









## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Singalong with John Rankin and his very talented Ukulele group opened the party with a mixture of songs such as *Bad Moon Rising*, *Urban Spaceman*, *Jingle Bells*, *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*, *Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus* and finishing with a rousing *We're No Awa Tae Bide Awa*. It was great to have the words displayed on screen, thanks to Roy and Robert, so that everyone could join in the singing.



Shirley and her hard working Hospitality Team provided drinks on arrival, tea, coffee, Christmas cake and mince pies. Marbe compiled a Christmas Quiz, which was won by John, Amy, Mary & Allen after a tie break question: How many snowflakes are required to fall in the UK for it be a White Christmas? Answer – One Snowflake.

A collection for the Chair's named Charity – The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice – raised £252.10.

The Committee wishes everyone a very Happy New Year.

## GROUPS

### AROUND EAST RENFREWSHIRE DINING

Around East Renfrewshire Dining Group 3 enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at The Swan Inn. The food was delicious, service good and friendly and the company superb. The diners enjoyed a good blether and a laugh.





## AROUND THE WORLD DINING

Having virtually travelled the world throughout the year, our diners came 'home for Christmas' with a Scottish lunch at Brodies, Queen's Park. Many opted for the traditional turkey dinner which came with pigs in blankets, roasted carrots and parsnips, but minus the sprouts! Other choices were available – chicken, beef and sea bream. The wine flowed, as did the chat and laughter.





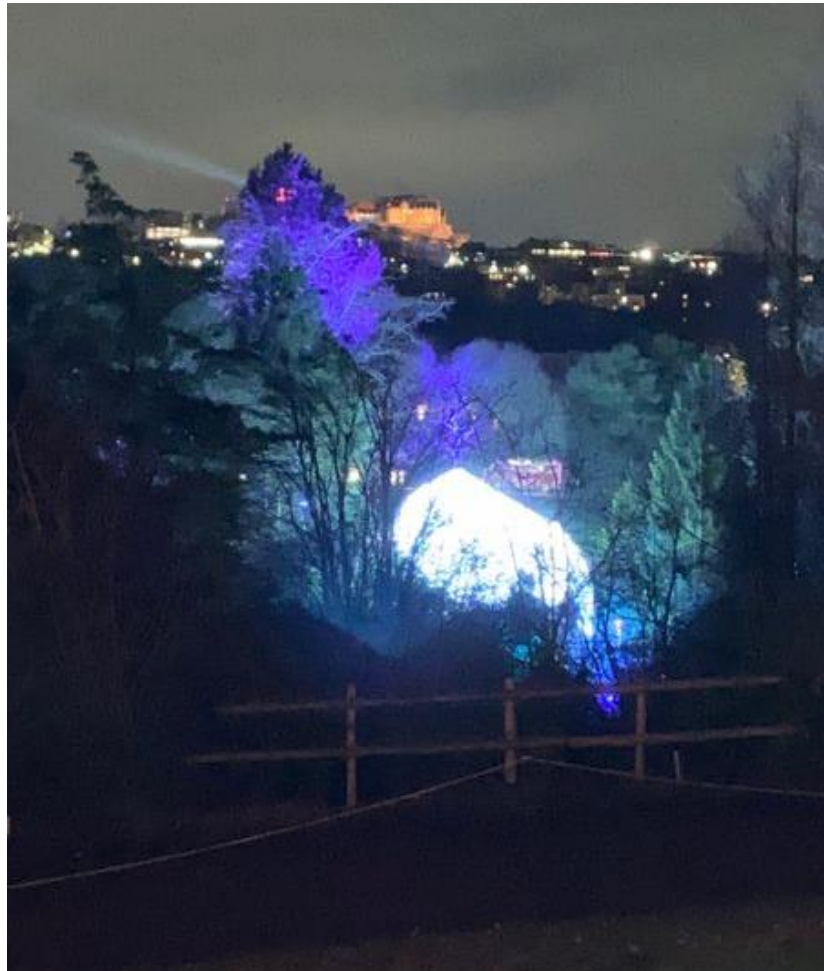
## CUPPA@11

The last Cuppa@11 for 2023.

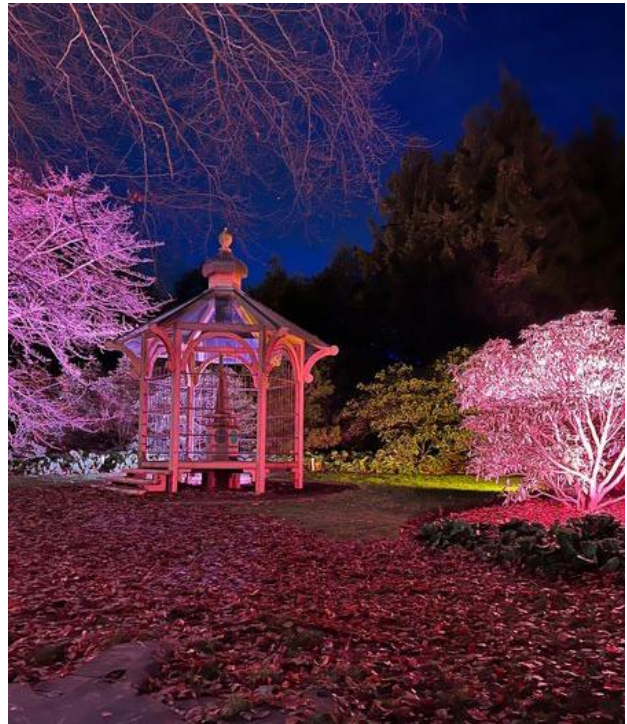


## GARDEN VISITS

The visitors got in the Festive mood at Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens at the end of last month.













## KNITTING

The Knitting Group returned to The Swan Inn in Eaglesham for their festive lunch, which was excellent. The great choice included real turkey slices and not a processed roll. The Swan had decided on a no crackers policy to cut down waste and instead provided wonderful Santa hats to keep. The service as always was very good and an enjoyable time was had by all.



## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch had a fabulous Christmas meal at Zinfandel in Nithsdale Road. Choices included duck, pheasant, salmon and turkey. The wine flowed and the service was exceptional.





## OUT AND ABOUT

This month the group abandoned all things educational and met for a Christmas lunch at The Macmillan, opposite Queen's Park. Although lunch is very often part of the group's monthly outings, it was lively to chat with friends old and new.

The group will have a break in January and meet again in February with a tour of Paisley Town Hall.



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## QUIZ

A wonderful fun afternoon was had at the Christmas Quiz, overseen by guest quizmasters Willie and Myra Dyer. Roy Bryce, Frances Mitchell, Zoe Greenhalgh, Janie Carruth, Irene Cowan and Corinne made up the winning team.

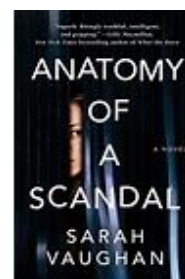


## READING



Group 4 read *Clanlands* by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish. The tag-line 'they eat sleep and breathe the Highlands on this epic road trip around their homeland' lured the readers into thinking it would be an interesting story of the two men travelling throughout Scotland with a smattering of history thrown in. However everyone in the group agreed there was far too much reference to the Outlander TV series and, since few had watched that, so a lot of the content was lost on our readers. The history bits were okay but didn't really add anything to the book, which they felt was poorly written. Also far too much time taken up on their drinking exploits, poking fun at each other or mentioning previous acting experiences/people they had met. No one really enjoyed it. Possibly the Group's worst score ever – 27.5 out of 70 😞

The Audio Reading Group read *Anatomy of a Scandal* by Sarah Vaughan. The plot concerns a high-profile marriage which begins to unravel when the husband, a junior minister in Westminster and close friend of the Prime Minister, is accused of a terrible crime. Sophie, his wife, believes in his innocence and is determined to protect her marriage and family whilst Kate, the prosecuting barrister is certain of his guilt and is determined to make him pay for his crime. The book raised issues for discussion such as privilege, arrogance and the bending of the truth to suit circumstances.



The group thoroughly enjoyed the book and votes cast makes it their best read of the year.

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## SATURDAYS

The Saturdays Group enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch and good company at the Eglinton Arms.





## SATURDAYS TOGETHER

Saturdays Together had a delicious meal at the Malletsheugh. Service and food were great and they would definitely recommend it.



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## SOCIAL SATURDAYS

The group enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Redhurst Hotel.





## SPANISH BEGINNERS

The Group lunched at the Malletsheugh on 8th December. Nice place, good food and great company.



## STROLLERS

At the end of last month the Strollers' walk in Pollok Park was followed by refreshments in the Burrell cafe. The weather was lovely and crisp and they had a very enjoyable afternoon.





## TASTE THE WORLD

Our globe-trotting diners enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at Atlantic Brasserie.



## DID YOU KNOW ...?

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

According to the Britannica Website festivals that celebrate the beginning of the new year are among the oldest and the most universally observed. The earliest known record of a New Year festival dates from about 2000 BC in Mesopotamia. Their year began with the new moon after the spring equinox (mid-March), while in Assyria it began with the new moon nearest the autumn equinox (mid-September). Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Persians favoured the autumn equinox (September 21) as the marker for the start of the year. For the early Greeks the year began with the winter solstice (December 21). For the Roman republic the year began on 1st March, but after 153 BC the official date was 1st January, which was continued in the [Julian calendar](#) of 46 BC.

In early medieval times most of Christian Europe regarded 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation as the beginning of the new year, although New Year's Day was observed on 25th December in Anglo-Saxon England. William the Conqueror decreed that the year begin on 1st January, but England later joined the rest of Christendom by adopting 25th March. The [Gregorian calendar](#), adopted in 1582 by the Roman Catholic Church, restored 1st January as New Year's Day. Scotland adopted this date in 1660, while England waited until 1752. Russia went for 1st January as recently as 1918.

Those religions and cultures using a [lunar calendar](#) have continued to observe the beginning of the year on days other than January 1. The Jewish year begins on [Rosh Hashana](#), the first day of the month of Tishri, which falls between 6th September and 5th October. The [Chinese New Year](#) is celebrated officially for a month beginning in late January or early February.

Some believe the [Babylonians](#) began the custom of making resolutions to rid oneself of bad habits and adopt better ones more than 4,000 years ago probably to curry favour with the gods.

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## WHIMSY

June Weston posted the one on the left and Libby McCree gave us the one on the right.





Annie Wills posted this.



And this is from Myra Dyer



## PICTURE GALLERY

### SOUTH SIDE

Willie Dyer produced these shots of Christmas in Victoria Road. 'If you're going to decorate why not go all out?' he says.









## DOWNTOWN

Willie also posted these of pictures of Christmas in the city centre.









## EVENTS

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Thursday	4th January	Zoom Talk by Dr Bob Pullen on The Secrets of the Human Brain
Wednesday	17th January	Monthly Meeting in Broom Church, Newton Mearns Tom Marchant – Dear Green Places – The Story of Glasgow's Parks
Wednesday	21st February	Monthly Meeting in Barrhead Brian Young – The Roman Camps in Scotland
Wednesday	20th March	Monthly Meeting in Broom Church – Allan Mauchline – Scottish Emergency Rides Voluntary Service

## CONTACTS

Mobile enquires call/text 0743 712 3921 [www.u3asites.org.uk/eastrenfrewshire](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/eastrenfrewshire)

Chair: Marbe McNeill [chair@eru3a.org](mailto:chair@eru3a.org)

Vice Chair: Lillas Dunlop [speakers@eru3a.org](mailto:speakers@eru3a.org)

Secretary: Mary Fyfe [secretary@eru3a.org](mailto:secretary@eru3a.org)

Treasurer: Ann Scott [treasurer@eru3a.org](mailto:treasurer@eru3a.org)

Membership Secretary: Roy Bryce [membership@eru3a.org](mailto:membership@eru3a.org)

Groups Co-ordinator: Allison Kershaw [groups@eru3a.org](mailto:groups@eru3a.org)

Webmaster: Roy Bryce [website@eru3a.org](mailto: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.