



Falkirk and District U3A Newsletter

February 2020



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From the Chair

In the last newsletter, and the January Open Meeting, I touched on the first national U3A day, which is on 3rd June. The idea is to 'showcase what happens in U3A, challenge negative perceptions of older adults and invite other Third Agers in the community to learn about the contribution U3A makes to the quality of life of retired people.'

Tentative plans for Falkirk are slowly evolving, but the involvement of our members is needed to make our event a success. Plans across U3A are underway and it is a good opportunity for us to increase awareness of U3A in our communities. There is lots of information on the U3A day on the national website, <https://www.u3a.org.uk/u3a-day>, and it would be great if members were to come forward with their ideas on how we can participate. Please speak with any of the Committee members for further information.

Glenn

National Newsletter

See here <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=96a2d98105>

for all the latest news that is happening nationally in the world of U3A including the results of an in-depth membership survey which the Third Age Trust conducted ten years after a similar survey in 2009.

Third Age Trust

Notification of the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust

The Company Secretary, Samantha Mauger, gives notification of the date of Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust 2020 in order to allow for member U3As to prepare for the meeting.

Notification is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held at:

The East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham on:

Thursday 27th August 2020, commencing at 11.15am (time to be confirmed)

Some interesting facts from last year's Minutes

1. Despite the Trust being the 22nd largest charity in the UK it is administered by just 14 full time employees, while some smaller charities employ 80 staff to run their organisation.
2. There is a vast range of volunteer roles, including approximately 40,000 interest group leaders and approximately 10,000 U3A committee members across the movement.
3. Third Age Matters (TAM) - at over a quarter of a million readers, it is one of the major mass circulation magazines in the UK. It is viewed as a highly professional and quality magazine that remains very attractive to advertisers.

U3A In Scotland Assembly

Details of the next Assembly to be held in March 2020

https://u3asites.org.uk/files/s/scotland/docs/programmepeeblesassemblymarch20201.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2AUQCwy6_cF6vLlv_0mdCjVwczsEdOCS9GTUweos8t6rKhlQgzUMUxUTs

And booking form for anyone who is interested in going

https://u3asites.org.uk/files/s/scotland/docs/peeblesassemblybookingformmarch2020v1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2jVhSuu22DME3HnTj-DE6609V5rzfux1jRUtoOjG_-8gX6lztZd2uBeT4

U3A In Scotland Summer School

The next Summer School will be held on Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th August 2020 at Stirling Court Hotel on the campus of Stirling University.

This is the perfect opportunity for us to take part in this event with minimal travel involved and the chance to meet up with fellow Third Agers from all parts of Scotland.

Please follow this link <https://u3asites.org.uk/scotland/page/79029> to find out more details about the courses that will be available and booking details.

Group Chat

Current Affairs – After all the hectic events since the General Election, the Current Affairs group is settling down to consider the new political reality of a Conservative Government elected with a large majority and the Labour Party engaged in a leadership campaign. We will be keeping an eye on the implications of the new government over a wide range of subjects. Beyond our own shores, we will be interested in the progress of Donald Trump and his unpredictable decisions. One of the benefits of our group is the unique personal experience of members which can enlighten our discussions.

Alongside the continuing political scene we try to maintain an interest in climate change. World events show that some of the predictions are coming true - though there are still "deniers" seeing events from a different point of view. Our aim in the group is to establish the facts behind the rhetoric.

Bruce Cannon

Film Group – The group took a break in December but it's back to business on Friday 31st January with the excellent film *The Truman Show* starring Jim Carrey. Director Peter Weir made this film in 1998 when reality shows were just starting to hit our tv screens and this film is a prophetic warning of how far producers might go to whet the appetite of an audience who want to know every detail about the life of an ordinary person.

History & It's Consequences - At each meeting this groups tackles a country. Members are given articles, references, YouTube videos and/or articles two weeks prior to the meeting and at the meeting after Austin sets out the general background to the country, we discuss its history and how that has played out in the country's present situation.

Last year we addressed the Middle East and the eastern part of North Africa. This year we are looking at the Americas. We started with the colonisation of America by European humans, flora and fauna, predominantly initially about North America. We then dealt with Mexico, Peru, Chile. Most recently we looked at Cuba, but rather than looking at its politics, wars, treaties, economics and conflicts we looked at its music and at how Black, Amerindian, Spanish, African and European baroque musical roots reflect its historic origins. For our next country we turn to Venezuela which has a tangled history and an even more tangled present.

There is always room for more members. It helps a lot if you read the material beforehand, but if you cannot, still come, listen and enjoy.

Austin Reid

Diary Dates – February

Tuesday 4th - Open Meeting: U3A Falkirk Scottish History Group will talk about the 1820 Radical Uprising in St Francis Xavier Church Hall @ 2.30 pm

Saturday 22nd – Red Bridge Arts Presents *The Secret Garden* at Falkirk Town Hall at 4.00 pm

Sunday 23rd – *The Francie & Josie Sketchbook* at Falkirk Town Hall at 7.30 pm