



## GLASGOW WEST END U3A December 2020 Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping well and keeping busy during Tier 4. It is a bit harder to be outside as the weather is changeable and the days shorter. Christmas will be a very different celebration this year but I hope you can meet with someone for a nice meal.

GWE U3A continues to keep going enthusiastically on Zoom though we all long for a real meeting next year.

We have a new group: Classical Music. Please contact the coordinator through the website if you are interested in joining. Other groups are continuing creatively on-line, e.g. the GWE U3A Wine Bar met successfully on Zoom on November 9<sup>th</sup>, when 16 of us tasted English wine. This was great fun.

The History group are going to invite all members to join them for their monthly talks in the New Year. The Science group also plan to share their details to enable members to join in. Chat and Chill had a successful Saturday afternoon session on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Theatre group all watched a play on Sky Arts on Sunday, and zoomed later for a chat. These are just some of the many events that keep us connected.

You should have received notification about the Shelter GWE U3A “sponsored” walk. I hope as many of you as possible can join in on the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> December (see below for how to donate). We hope for dry weather.

The membership is now 270 which is almost the same numbers as before COVID 19 disrupted our lives. However, there may be some members not able to join in groups as they are uncertain as to how to use Zoom etc. If we all contacted one such person to encourage them to join in it could make a difference. We are planning to have our monthly meetings online via Zoom until and including April. Maybe the AGM in June will be held face-to-face in the Hall...

Take care, and best wishes for Christmas and the New year.

See you all at the Christmas Event on **FRIDAY** 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Liz Ervine  
GWE U3A

### Shelter bank details

If you wish to donate to Shelter, you can do so via BACS. The details are:

Shelter National Campaign for Homeless People Ltd.  
Sorting Code: 30-00-02 Account Number: 01167206  
REF: Shelter GLA CF

### Non-Fiction History Book Group

The non-fiction history book group continues to meet monthly on Mondays via Zoom. Below is a brief review by one of our members of our last read, "The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper", by Hallie Rubenhold.

*This timely book tells the story of five women silenced by history but resurrected here, the women killed by Jack the Ripper, women whose lives have never seemed to matter in all the frenzy of "Ripperology". It is the tragic story of women who ended up living precarious lives in the slums of London. Women who, once they failed to cope with life's problems or who transgressed the moral code of the day, had no safety net to arrest their slide into destitution. The story of Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary Jane, ordinary women who were never "just prostitutes". It made me angry at times and wondering how much we have really progressed since then.*

*It is maybe salutary to note that the author received much online abuse from those who objected to the toppling of The Ripper from his pedestal!"*

Our next read, which we'll be discussing on 14 December, is "Threads of Life" by Clare Hunter.

On our webpage you'll find a list of our planned reads from January to July 2021.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/85727>

### Classical Music Group

Are you interested in listening to classical music, or playing a musical instrument with piano accompaniment? Simply contact Edith via the link below:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/108793>

### Science and Technology Group

Following our last meeting Martin Eales sent me the notes for his talk on the Unification of the British Isles. Please contact me if you wish to have a copy.

Our next meeting **on Wednesday, 16th December at 2pm** will be on the subject of Statistics. We are bombarded by statistics every day, mostly related to the Covid19 pandemic in this country and others, but also health matters in general, the economy, the American elections etc etc. Some of these numbers and graphs are simple to understand but others much less so. Geoff Der, our speaker on the 16th has recently retired from a career as a statistician, most recently with the Medical Research Council in Glasgow, so is well placed to answer our questions and maybe help us get a better understanding of some of the data presented to us.

Please email me via the link below if you have any specific areas you would like Geoff to address.

I will send out the Zoom link for the meeting nearer the 16th. Contact me directly if you are not already on my email list.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/77856>

### Wine Appreciation

The Wine Bar have had another fun filled Zoom meeting, this time testing English wines. Join us to find out what country our bar will open in next !! No experience needed .....

For more information about future meetings please contact Allan Millward via the link below.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/84698>

### **Local History Group**

The local history group has launched a programme of presentations that are open to all GWE members. These take place once or twice a month on Mondays at 2pm. The week before each talk all members will receive an email containing the Zoom link and can click on this if they want to listen in. The first of these presentations, on 16 November, was by Dr Valerie Wright of Stirling University on the topic '**Childhood, and Play in Post-War Scotland**'. This generated a lot of animated discussion, including memories of using old water-filled bomb craters as pretend lakes!

The next talk on 14 December will be by Kristin Hay of Strathclyde University on the topic "**Relationships and Reproductive Health in Post-war Scotland**".

You might also want to save the dates for our January talks. On 11th January, Professor Eleanor Gordon of Glasgow University will be talking about '**Madeline Smith and her murder trial**'. On 18 January, Glasgow historian and writer, Peter Mortimer will be presenting '**Glasgow: A Potted History**'. Peter will be providing us with a few presentations over the coming months, including one on the history of Partick.  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/84166>

### **Quilting Group**

The Quilting group would welcome anyone who would like to try out our Zoom meeting. Particularly as the next one is the last before Christmas on the 15th at 2pm (contact Christian via the link below) we will have lots of happy chat and showing of Christmas creations. No experience needed.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/81787>

**Our Range of Interest Groups** The following are the other interest groups that are keeping up or resuming activities in one way or another. Please note that this list can change at short notice.

1820 Risings, Art Appreciation, Beginners German, Book Groups, Bridge Group, Cinema Group, Coffee and Chat, Conversational French, Conversational German, Conversational Spanish, Crochet Group, Exploring Glasgow, Genealogy, History Book Group, Knitting Group, Local History Group, Photography, Poetry Appreciation, Quilting, Recorder Playing, Science & Technology Group, Shakespeare Reading Group, Sign Language, Survival French, Table Tennis, Theatre Group, Wine Appreciation, Yoga.

Would any member who is experiencing problems with contacting a group please let Jean Broadley, our Small Groups Coordinator, know. Jean can be contacted via:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/groups>

**Members** Alan Dickson is a member of the local history research group. He was involved with the U3A's 1820 Radical Rising project, both performing in and helping to write the script for the podcast play ([www.gweu3a.podbean.com](http://www.gweu3a.podbean.com)). He has just finished writing a collection of poems 'Bullfrog Blues' (a mixture of light-hearted and heart-felt offerings) reflecting on events over the past year. Free copies can be obtained by going to [www.alandickson.net/books](http://www.alandickson.net/books)

**A monthly U3A Radio Podcast** is available now. Catch up with it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr9c8qYDZ4U24Iq0J4qx0fQ>

### **U3A in the Time of Corona**

This book is based on the Diary Project and has been created using contributions from U3A members all over the country. It chronicles our reactions to coronavirus and isolation, as well as how to get a supermarket delivery, how to cut your own hair and what to do with all that free time. Some people sent drawings, photographs and poems, which have been included.

The book is A4, 120 pages, colour printed and costs £10 including postage. If you would like to order a copy, please go to the national website:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/shop/>

## November Quiz Answers

These kingdoms all had a ruler nicknamed “the Great” – who were they?

1. Wessex     **Alfred the Great**
2. Russia     **Peter the Great**
3. Prussia     **Frederick the Great**
4. Russia     **Catherine the Great**
5. Judea     **Herod the Great**
6. Frankonia   **Charlemagne**

At the Bird Feeder you might see –

1. Passer domesticus     **House Sparrow**
2. Cyanistes caeruleus     **Blue Tit**
3. Turdus merula     **Blackbird**
4. Periparus ater     **Coal Tit**
5. Carduelis carduelis     **Goldfinch**
6. Erithacus rubescula     **Robin**
7. Turdus philomelos     **Song Thrush**
8. Parus major     **Great Finch**
9. Fringilla coelebs     **Chaffinch**
10. Pyrrhula pyrrhula     **Bullfinch**

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## December Quiz – Can you identify these areas of Glasgow?

1. Girl on top of small mountain
2. It's dark among the trees
3. Girl before U.S. city
4. Boy behind a vehicle
5. A girl's country
6. Jump before the stream
7. Protect a large indoor space
8. Royal playground
9. Pay your dues and get angry
10. Healthy drink at grand residence
11. A shocked measure
12. Holy place with rhythm
13. Green order to a vehicle
14. Heavyweight behind criminal
15. English city in front of a mound
16. Forbid a Scottish town
17. Home for spring festival
18. Field to cheer you up
19. A measure of the farm
20. Nearly there?