

GLASGOW WEST END U3A December 2023 Newsletter

Dear All

I can't believe that it is December again and Christmas is only a few weeks away - though the cold weather is a seasonal reminder!

Our December meeting will be on Thursday December 14th at the hall in Novar Drive. Please join us from 10am for tea and coffee. The AGM will be the first part of the meeting at 10.30am. This will be followed by our Christmas party. Everyone is very welcome to attend both (or either). I am very pleased that the Hyndland Secondary School Choir will be joining us at the party. It would be very helpful (if you have not already done so) if you could email me on gad1001@aol.com to confirm you plan to be at the Christmas Party so that we can cater accordingly.

Our (post) Christmas lunch will be at Roastit Bubbly Jocks in Dumbarton Road on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 1pm (after the monthly meeting). The Sunday Lunch group has a great lunch there in August and the staff looked after us very well so I expect it will be a lovely lunch this time. We will have the restaurant to ourselves. I hope as many of you as possible can join us.

Some of our groups will be having a break in December so please check with your group leader if you are not sure if your group is meeting. I was delighted that the Short Walks Group started last month - I think it will be very popular.

As always thank you for your continued involvement and support and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy 2024

Best wishes

Gail Donaldson - Chair u3a GWE

Local History Group

The group normally meets on Mondays. We enjoy a mix of visits to places of historical interest and presentations, both in-person and via Zoom.

Our November event was a guided tour of the Hunterian Museum, followed by a self-guided visit to the Jacobite Exhibition and/or Hunterian Art Gallery and/or Mackintosh House.



Our December event, on 4 December, was a presentation on the Cuningar Stones by artist and stone carver, James Winnett.

Visit our web page via the link below:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/84166>

History Book Group

The group reads non-fiction history books and meets monthly on Mondays to discuss them.

Below is a review by one of our members of our November read. 'The Human Tide: How Population Shaped the Modern World', by Paul Morland

"Morland is an academic and a renowned authority on demography; which is concerned with the numbers of people born, their survival into adulthood, the number of children they in turn have, the age at which they die and likelihood of their moving region, country or continent. The majority of those discussing this book found it both interesting and fascinating. Morland writes well and illustrates his arguments with data enlivened by remarkable facts and anecdotes which help to establish his thesis about the importance of demographic factors in how humans live their lives. For example, in nineteenth century Britain the birth rate began to fall as people left the land, where children were viewed as economic assets for labour, to towns and cities to work in factories, where children were regarded as economic burdens to be fed and clothed. Japan's falling birth rate in the twentieth century has made it a country with one of the oldest populations and currently 8 million empty houses."

As a member of our group commented: *"Morland has given us yet another lens through which we can view the impact on societies of a variety of factors that our group has explored previously, in other books. His exploration of ageing societies and some potential benefits of immigration would give many, including some current British politicians, food for thought."*

Our next meeting is on 11 December when we'll be discussing 'Ethel Rosenberg – The Short Life and Great Betrayal of an American Wife and Mother', by Anne Sebba. We'll provide a review of it in the next newsletter.

Visit our web page via the link below:

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

Wine Appreciation

The Wine Appreciation group met this month in Hyacinth House (A very pleasant venue). We went a bit off piste this time sampling sherry for the first time. The tasting was presented by Sean Sandland, the grandson of one of our members. Sean's choice of sherry to taste was excellent and I think everyone learned something new thanks to his clear expertise on the subject. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=84698>

Longer Walks

The Longer Walks group recently made a circuit of the Avon Gorge at Chatelherault Country Park.



<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=121788>

Art Appreciation Group 2

Decades/ The Art of Change 1900-1980, National Galleries of Scotland (Modern 2)

Our October group outing was a visit to Modern 2 gallery in Edinburgh. The Modern 2 is in Belford Road, a 15-minute walk from Haymarket. Luckily for us, it was a beautiful day, so the walk through the Dean village area of the city was lovely.

The exhibition covers a series of ages of art over six rooms. From the 1900s, we viewed familiar French artists, as well Scottish colourists FCB Cadell and JD Fergusson. From fauvism, through the 30s and 40s, moving from the abstraction and realism of the 50's to the playful and experimental styles of the swinging 60's, we finally end up in the 70s room, where the minimalistic extremes 'questions the very notion of art as something with three-dimensional form or narrative meaning'.

The staff member in the exhibition was very helpful and even suggested an art app called 'Smartify', which can identify art and gives lots of information. There was something for everyone here and we also had time for lots of discussion about the artwork. We had a nice light lunch in the café at the Modern 2 and enjoyed a good chat before heading back to Glasgow around 3pm. Overall, members found this a very positive event.



"Ellen snaps Helen as she tries to recruit new members for GWE u3a!"

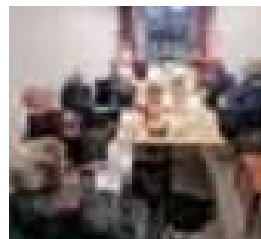


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German Conversation

Froehliche Weinachten

The German Conversation Group celebrated the start of the festive season with Stollen, Lebkuchen, Gluhwein and other German goodies (and Kurzbrot, which is our translation for Shortbread)



<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=80811>

Hatwalk Afternoon Tea

East Renfrewshire u3a have invited our members to join them on Valentine's Day to enjoy a delicious homemade afternoon tea on and marvel at the creations of millinery students from Clyde College who will be modelling their hats?

The Hatwalk Afternoon Tea will take place at Clarkston Hall (near Clarkson station) on Wednesday 14th February from 2pm until 3.30pm and is being organised by some members of East Renfrewshire u3a.

This is a fundraising event, and proceeds will be donated to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

The event will be opened by Heather Lister, the Hospice fundraiser. Shona Crozier, a millinery lecturer from Clyde College, will give a short hat-making demonstration. Millinery students will be modelling their own creations by walking round the tables during afternoon tea. Well known milliner, Jill Busby, will give a humorous talk called Heart Felt. East Renfrewshire's very own u3a Ukulele Group will be there to provide some cheer.

So come along and take part and support the Hatwalk Afternoon Tea. In doing so, you will also be supporting our local hospice. If you feel like it, we would be delighted to see you wearing a hat!

The cost is £20pp and doors open at 1.30pm. All proceeds from bookings will go directly to the hospice.

We hope to have several members attending - if you would like to join them can you please let Viv O'Duffy know: voduffy@yahoo.com

gw eu3a Calendar

That 2024 calendar are still available from Peter the Activity Group Coordinator for £5. They make ideal Christmas presents!

<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=4>

Groups

Our growing list of Activity Groups now looks like this:

Art Appreciation 1, Art Appreciation 2, Badminton, Book Group 1, Book Group 2, Bridge - Social/Informal, British Sign Language, Cinema, Coffee and Chat, Creative Writing, Crime Fiction, Current Affairs, Film Lovers, French Conversation 1, French Conversation 2, French Intermediate, Genealogy, German Conversation, History Book Group, Italian Conversation, Knitting, Latin, Local History, Longer Walks, Lunch Bunch, Mah-Jong, MOTO, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Play Reading, Poetry Appreciation, Quilting, Recorder Playing, Science & Technology, Shorter Walks, Spanish Conversation, Sunday Lunch, Table Tennis, Theatre Group, Ventures with a Bus Pass, Visiting Gardens, Walking with a Bus Pass, Wine Appreciation, Yoga

Find out more about them on their pages at the link below:

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