



GLASGOW WEST END U3A February 2021 Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you continue to stay well and are getting your vaccines – it's really interesting to speak to people on Zoom and hear that your vaccine appointments are coming on stream. I know you are taking advantage of the dry frosty days for a walk, and the one round Bingham's Pond still has a good surface on frosty mornings.

Last month we were challenged by Kate Phillips' talk exploring links between Scotland and Jamaica. It was lovely to see so many people Zooming in. There is a link to the recording of her talk on page 4. Looking back on history helps us to realise how we got where we are, and to increase our understanding.

This month's talk, on the 18th, is from Oliver Thomson and is entitled "The History of Italy in 40 minutes". It would be very nice to be in Italy right now, or Spain, or anywhere warm really....

The interest groups continue to flourish even in lockdown. The Current Affairs Group met on Friday for the first time, attracting 16 people. We plan to have the next meeting on the 26th February - all welcome.

Chat and Coffee meets on Saturday 6th at 2pm. Please join us (as per previous notice).

We are trying to update our website, and would be very happy to hear your suggestions on that process.

There are a couple of volunteering opportunities which we will put on our website and which we hope you will consider.

I would really appreciate your comments on the u3a during lockdown. We will as a committee try and do our best to respond as best as we can.

Take care, stay safe.

Liz Ervine
Chair
GWEU3A

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, 'Bullsh*t Jobs' by David Graeber:

"Why did we cheer key but low paid workers during lock-down One? Why did we not cheer Hedge Fund Managers, PR administrative assistants or corporate lawyers? Graeber explores bullshit jobs, which he defines as jobs in which the person employed feels that the job is of no or little value to anyone. Graeber explores these jobs and considers the economic factors, and more importantly the political and moral factors responsible for the emergence of such jobs. This book will entertain and will certainly make you think."

Our next read, which we'll be discussing on 15 February, is 'Black and British: A forgotten history', by David Olosuga.

On our webpage you'll find a list of our planned reads until July 2021.

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

Science and Technology Group

We had a fascinating talk on bird migration at our January meeting when David Lawson shared with us his insights into the reasons why birds migrate and the journeys made by many species familiar to us. His talk was illustrated with some excellent photographs and maps showing the amazing distances and feats of navigation that some creatures achieve each year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 February at 2pm when David Stott, one of our members, will deliver the talk on vaccines that we had originally planned for March 2020. We delayed the talk last year for obvious reasons but it seems very timely to be having it this month when some of us will have had our first dose of a Covid vaccine.

"Vaccines: From Edward Jenner to the Present", David I. Stott

Summary

The talk will cover the history of vaccines from Edward Jenner's discovery of the protective effects of inoculation with cowpox against smallpox followed by Louis Pasteur's discovery that pathogens could be rendered harmless and protective for animals (chicken cholera and anthrax) and humans (rabies). I shall then discuss modern advances in vaccines, including recombinant gene technology, using the current SARS-Cov-2 vaccines as examples.

Alan will send the Zoom link for the meeting a few days before the 17th. Please get in touch via the link below if you are not on the mailing list and would like to attend.

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

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 Monday afternoons at 2pm. There's no need to register an interest.

In January we had a great turnout for our two talks - the first by Professor Eleanor Gordon of the University of Glasgow about the life of Madeleine Smith and the second by Glasgow historian and writer, Peter Mortimer, who provided a potted history of Glasgow.

Our next meeting is on Monday February 8th, 2 pm, on Women in Sport. This is a talk from Dr Fiona Skillin of the Glasgow School for Business and Society. If you want to listen in (and maybe ask questions) click on the Zoom link –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81659539897?pwd=OUNYY3ISMXFHcjVXZFJmQkdLNE9VUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 5953 9897

Passcode: 433146

On 15 February Peter Mortimer will be giving us a presentation on '**Glasgow Street Names**'.

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

Current Affairs Group

The Current Affairs group had its inaugural meeting on Friday 29th January. 16 people have joined. We set the ground rules on Friday with the focus being to respect everyone's view point.

The next meeting is on Friday 26th February at 1.30 pm. The plan is to meet on the last Friday of the month from 12.30 to 1.30 pm.

Please contact the group coordinator at the link below if you are interested in joining.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/110399>

Wine Appreciation Group

The next wine appreciation Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th February.

Alan will circulate more details to members of the group, but anyone wishing to join can contact him via the link below:

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

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, Book Groups, Bridge Group, Cinema Group, Coffee and Chat, Conversational French, Conversational German, Conversational Spanish, Crochet Group, Current Affairs, Exploring Glasgow, History Book Group, Knitting Group, Local History Group, Photography, Poetry Appreciation, Quilting, Recorder Playing, Science & Technology Group, Shakespeare Reading Group, Sign Language, Survival French, 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>

To view the Kate Phillips talk on YouTube - simply go to the 'channel' at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-dOE6n8PwxqMSLFpM1BN6w>

or go direct to the talk at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ_YGAcLofU&t=14s

UK Tours Online has communicated the following

We'd like to invite your members along to our latest free 'chat' on 1 March.

It's called 'Square Stories' and the five of us will be talking about London's garden squares, Oxford's Radcliffe Square, the Georgian splendour of Bath's Queens square, the tourist favourites of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares, and more. Go to the [forthcoming tours](#) page and scroll down until you find 1 March.

You'll also find [a full programme of talks](#) taking us into March, including brand new tours of the River Thames, the Cotswolds and WW1 War Memorials, among others.

If you go to our [YouTube channel](#) you can see our previous free group chats, take a tour of Parliament Square and see some of the treasures of the British Museum.

u3a Online across Scotland

u3a: Online Across Scotland is the new network set up to enable u3a members to take part in interest groups and courses offered online by fellow u3a members across Scotland. Groups and courses are open to all members of a local u3a in Scotland and it is free to join. Available now are a Book Group for Enquiring Minds, a Playwriting Course and groups covering topics such as the Climate Emergency, Computer Coding, Resilience Skills – and others. More details from the web address below:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/onlineacrossscotland/home>