

GLASGOW WEST END U3A February 2023 Newsletter

Dear All

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the slightly milder weather.

I was pleased to see so many of our members at our post-Christmas lunch at The Bothy last month. I thought it was a lovely lunch and I hope everyone who managed to join us enjoyed both the lunch and the company. If you like going out for lunch, remember that we have two lunch groups - The Lunch Bunch and The Sunday Lunch Group - details of both are on the group pages of our website.

I'm also pleased that a few of our new groups are moving forward. Creative Writing and The MOTO (Members on Their Own group) both met for the first time recently and had lots of interest. The new Latin for Beginners group will meet for the first time next month. I have also been asked if there would be interest in a group which would visit gardens over the spring and summer months. If anyone is interested, please do let me or Peter Taylor our Groups Co-ordinator know.

We will shortly be revamping the look of our monthly newsletter. If you have any ideas on what you would like us to include in the newsletter that isn't currently included, please do let me know.

Finally, I'd like to remind everybody that our membership year ends at the end of March, and renewal fees will be due on or before April 1st. Please see late in the newsletter for details on how to renew.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Gail Donaldson - Chair u3a GWE

Last month we had a wonderful presentation from Kate Hunter from The Search and Rescue Dog Association. It was fascinating to hear how the dogs were trained and I think most of us loved meeting Bodie who is now retired and Missie who is very much a working dog. If anyone wants to make a donation to the charity they can do so on their justgiving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/sardascotland>



u3a Glasgow West End Events 2023

We have an exciting line-up of varied speakers for our monthly meetings in the first half of 2023. All our speakers give of their time freely and we are very grateful for their contributions. Sometimes there can be unavoidable last-minute changes, but our Chair, Gail will come to our rescue with a quiz or similar!

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday in the month in Hyndland Community Hall in Novar Drive. Coffee and tea are available from 10.00 am onwards when there will be an opportunity to chat with old and new friends. The talks begin at 10.30 am. and we allow time for questions at the end. All are welcome.

Future meeting include:

- Thursday **16 February 2023** Mike Findlay will speak to us as CEO of the **International Network of Street Papers** on "How street papers are tackling homelessness and poverty internationally".
- Thursday **16 March 2023** Donna Brennan, Solicitor, will speak to us about **Wills and Powers of Attorney** and will be happy to answer any questions we may have
- Thursday **20 April 2021** Marion Maudsley will talk about **the City of Nuremberg**, which is twinned with Glasgow.
- Thursday **18 May 2023** Alan Leslie will give a talk on the **Antonine Wall**.
- Thursday **15 June 2023** Allan Mauchline will tell us about the charitable work of **ScOTSERVS**.

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

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 last meeting on 23 January was a riveting guided tour of the Govan Stones, the unique collection of early mediaeval stones displayed in Govan Old Church.

On 20 February at 11.00 we'll be having a Zoom presentation from artist and stone carver, James Winnett, about the Cuningar Stones public art project. James is not only talented but also a highly informative and entertaining speaker. Some of you will recall the tour he gave us in October 2021 of House for an Art Lover (our first face to face meeting post-lockdown) and his talk last year on the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Bellahouston.

We'll send the link out to all GWE u3a members if you'd like to listen in.

For a list of future events, visit our webpage 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 in the Three Crows in Crow Road to discuss them. Below is a review by one of our members of our last reads, two books about the history of Ukraine: 'The Gates of Europe' by Serhii Plokhy, and 'Borderland: a journey through the history of Ukraine', by Anna Reid.

'The group set the ambitious target of reading these two books over the festive period, which proved to be a difficult challenge. The Gates of Europe is written by a Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University and the lack of familiarity with this period of European history, including such figures as Prince Volodymyr of Kyiv and Prince Yaroslav the Wise, presented the group with a lot of material to assimilate. The task was not made any easier by the publishers (Penguin) using a densified text that pushed our ageing ocular systems to their

limit. Help was provided by a set of maps, a historical timeline and a list of Who's Who divided into the various groups who have inhabited the land now known as Ukraine.

In comparison, Borderland was written by a journalist and sheds a more human consideration onto the major periods of history covered by Plokhy and was a much easier book to read. The history of Ukraine is a depressing saga of man's inhumanity to man, exemplified by the great famine (Holodomor) of the 1930's and the terrible treatment of the Jewish population. Both authors have captured the nuances and complexities of the different historical factors impacting upon this part of the world and if very few 'good guys' emerge it serves to reinforce the effect of both internal and external conflicts on that beleaguered part of the world.'

Our next meeting is on 13 February when we'll be discussing 'The Empireland – how imperialism has shaped modern Britain', by Sathnam Sanghera.

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

The Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday Lunch Group had a lovely lunch at the weekend at GWR. The group meets on the second Sunday of every month - please have a look at our group page and click on the pigeon if you would like to have details of our lunches.



<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=117205>

Coffee and Chat

Dates for Coffee and Chat

4th March

8th April (Easter weekend)

13th May

(Please note the change in April and May)

Science and Technology Group

The next meeting of the Science and Technology Group will take place as follows:

Wednesday 15thth February at 3pm at Partickhill Bowling Club 46 Partickhill Road G11 5BY. Coffee from 2.45pm

Rosalind Holmes: "It's All in Your Genes – the mechanisms by which some features are controlled by our genes and the effects they can have on some of our (my) life experiences"

The following two meeting, both of which will also be in Partickhill Bowling Club, will be as follows:

Wednesday 15th March at 3pm

Alan Watt: "Quantum Mechanics – it's not all rocket science"

Wednesday 19th April at 3pm

Valerie Kaye “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – What is it, what causes it and how can it be treated?”

Look out on the website for details of other future meetings which will be posted as soon as the programme is finalised. If you wish to join the group or have any enquiries, just click on the pigeon on the group web page

Val Kaye (convenor)

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

Ventures With a Bus Pass

We are a group who like to meet at a pre-agreed bus stance (generally at Buchanan St Bus Station) enjoy the ride, share lunch together (though not everyone does this), walk/explore the destination and enjoy a ride home again!

Since we formed last year, we've been to Largs, Ayr, Dundee, Moffat, Dunfermline, Helensburgh and other locations.

Find the group on GWEu3a website and then send a message via the pigeon to indicate your interest in our activities, General info will be sent in return.

Full details of the March Venture will be emailed and 'WhatsApped' out to current group members shortly after the beginning of March.

A Day Out in Stirling



<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/119245>

The Friends of The Glasgow Necropolis

We had hoped to have a monthly presentation this year from The Friends of The Glasgow Necropolis but unfortunately, they can't do this on Thursday mornings. They have however sent us a film (40 minutes long) which covers a lot of the work of the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis. WE hope you find it interesting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwAD9ZO39ZE&t=8s>

IT Help

IT Help is available and free!

Get in touch with Bill via the link below if you require assistance with for example: MS Excel, ME Word, MS Powerpoint, Windows File Explorer (File Management), Mobile Phones, Broadband.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=960&page=113761>

Membership News

Membership is due to be renewed at the end of March - this is an advance warning. You can renew any time from now onwards.

The annual subscriptions, unchanged from last year's, have been set as follows: Individual £15, Joint £12.50 each, Associate £10.

Our preferred method of payment is by bank transfer, to GLASGOW WEST END U3A, sort code 87-37-21, business account number 87559068. Please put your name in the reference section and please let me know when you have done so at the email address below.

(We can also take payment by cash (at a monthly meeting, at a table by the door) or by cheque made payable to Glasgow West End U3A and sent to me at 26 Clarence Drive, Glasgow, G12 9QX.)

gweu3amembership@yahoo.com

Personal Details

Can we just ask you to let us know if you change any of your personal details - e.g. address (your Third Age Matters magazine is sent to your home address), email address or mobile number.

Thank you

New Groups

Successful first meetings have been held of people who want to get the activities started in two new groups:

Creative Writing: contact the group at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/126619>

MOTO (Members on their own), a group which brings people together to plan a range of activities of their choice: contact the group at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/126077>

Our former group for people interested in Latin has also been revived, and plans to have some sessions at a beginner/refresher level: contact the group at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/84342>

Groups

The following are the activities groups that are currently running. Contact a group via its page on our website and please get in touch with Peter Taylor, Activity Group Co-ordinator if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, to discuss how we might make them happen – via the link below.

Art Appreciation, 2 Book Groups, British Sign Language, Cinema, Coffee and Chat, Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Film Lovers, 2 French Conversation groups, French Intermediate, Genealogy, German Conversation, History Book Group, Italian Conversation, Knitting, Latin, Local History, Longer Walks, Lunch Bunch, MOTO (Members on their own), Photography, Poetry Appreciation, Quilting, Recorder Playing, Science & Technology, Social Bridge, Spanish Conversation, Sunday Lunch Group, Table Tennis, Theatre, Ventures with a Bus Pass, Walking with a Bus Pass, Wine Appreciation, Yoga.

Click on 'IT Help' to get in touch with our volunteer who can offer this.

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

Your Ideas

The u3a works on the principles of Self Help and Mutual Aid. Members form groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire, and these are run by the members, for the members. If there is an activity that you would like to join others in doing, why not help to bring people together to try it. You can then share your enthusiasms and skills – you don't have to be an expert or teacher.

Please get in touch with Peter Taylor, Activity Group Co-ordinator if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, to discuss how we might make them happen via the link below:

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