



GLASGOW WEST END U3A January 2023 Newsletter

Dear All

If it isn't too late to say it again - Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and was able to celebrate with family and friends for the first time in 3 years.

Its back to the everyday routine now and time to plan the year ahead.

We have a very interesting presentation on Thursday January 19th in the hall at Novar Drive. Kate Hunter from The Search and Rescue Dog Association and a colleague will give a talk about the charity. In particular we will learn how they train and recruit the dogs and handlers and we will get a chance to meet a couple of the dogs and handlers.

Our programme of talks is in fact organised now until June (many thanks to Viv Imrie O'Duffy who finds and books the speakers for us. Details of the talks are on the events page of the website which is always worth a look. <https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/events>

On Thursday 19th January we will also be having our (post) Christmas Lunch - at The Bothy in Ruthven Lane and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Also, a reminder that our monthly coffee and chat in the Puppet Theatre will be on Saturday 4th February. This is a very popular event and new members are always especially welcome. Liz Ervine will send a reminder closer to the date and you can let her know if you plan to come.

We hope to get our MOTO group started in the next couple of weeks. This will be a social group for members on their own. If you are interested in finding out more please click on the pigeon on the group page and we will let you have details of our first meet up. <https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/126077>

Finally, there is another chance to "Meet Your Trustee" and join Liz our Scottish Trustee for a Zoom session at 10am on Tuesday 31st January. I'll send the zoom link again closer to the time.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Gail Donaldson - Chair u3a GWE

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and Chat is very well supported, 31 of us met on Saturday 7th January. It takes place at The Puppet Theatre, 8-10 Balcarres Avenue, G12 0QF

As we have built some excess money it is proposed that on the 4th February those attending will be asked to contribute a pound rather than the £2.50.

I hope that is satisfactory. Thanks, Liz Ervine

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 **19 January 2023**: Kate Hunter from the **Search and Rescue Dog Association** and a colleague will give a talk about the charity – how they recruit and train the dogs and handlers. We will get to meet a couple of the dogs with the handlers.
- Thursday **16 February 2023** Mike Findlay will speak to us as CEO of the **International Network of Street Papers**.
- Thursday **16 March 2023** Donna Brennan, Solicitor, will speak to us about **Wills and Powers of Attorney**.
- 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>

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, Current Affairs, Film Lovers, 2 French Conversation groups, French Intermediate, Genealogy, German Conversation, History Book Group, Italian Conversation, Knitting, 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.

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Longer Walks



"The Longer Walks Group continues to go out, in sunshine and in rain"

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

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 next meeting will be on 23 January when we'll be having a guided tour of the Govan Stones. 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 read, 'Hitler's British Traitors', by Tim Tate. For a list of our forthcoming reads, visit our webpage at the link below. If you're not a group member but enjoy reading any of the books we discuss, feel free to send us your thoughts on them.

'This was a fascinating book, all the more so since the author faced huge challenges in finding source material. So much has been redacted, haphazardly filed, deliberately or accidentally removed or destroyed, or still classified and not yet released. His painstaking work in locating material is evident. The book raises very current issues and ethical dilemmas: why is there such fear of 'foreigners' when, in fact, so much subversion and terrorism comes from our own citizens; and what measures are we prepared to accept against individual liberty to ensure the safety of the wider public?

The book also highlights the amateurism of the security services at the time and the worrying role played by class. Spies and Nazi sympathisers in positions of power regularly escaped punishment or restrictions while those with few advantages were imprisoned and, in a few cases, executed. The book can feel a bit repetitive at times but well worth reading.'

Our next meeting is on 16 January when we'll be discussing two books about the history of Ukraine – 'The Gates of Europe' by Serhii Plokhy & 'Borderland: a journey through the history of Ukraine', by Anna Reid.

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

Science and Technology Group

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

Wednesday 18th January at 3pm at Partickhill Bowling Club 46 Partickhill Road G11 5BY. Coffee from 2.45pm

John Davies will give a talk on: ***“The mind of your microwave: the computers around us that nobody notices”***

John Davies was a professor of electronics at Glasgow University until he retired in 2020 and has written a textbook on microcontrollers. He has been a member of U3A Bearsden and Milngavie Science Group for two years. John said the following about his forthcoming talk:

“Most of us are surrounded by electronic devices that we would consider to be computers – desktop computers, laptop computers, tablets or smartphones. But your house and other possessions are full of computers in embedded electronic systems that few people realise are there. These tiny computers are called microcontrollers and may be as small as the head of a match, costing less than a packet of crisps. My kitchen has about ten and a modern car may contain a hundred. This talk starts with a nostalgic trip back to computers of the 1960s before returning to the present day to show how these embedded devices became so prevalent.”

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

Wednesday 15th February at 3pm

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”*

Wednesday 15th March at 3pm

Alan Watt: *“Quantum Mechanics – it’s not all rocket science”*

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>

Film Lovers

The new group has begun to go to the GFT (or elsewhere) and to meet to chat about films. If you are interested, please click on the pigeon at the link below and ask to join the WhatsApp group in which members arrange cinema trips.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/125316>