



GLASGOW WEST END U3A July 2021 Newsletter

Dear All

I hope you are all well and getting out and about a bit more, dodging the monsoon conditions of a week ago.

Andrea Fisher from the Children's Wood proved to be an excellent speaker. It is fascinating that the Queen and Princess Anne visited the following week. The talk can be accessed on YouTube thanks to Peter Taylor (link on the last page of this Newsletter). All our Zoom talks will be recorded for YouTube.

Last week Catherine Watt led another successful walk around the City Parks - photographs on the website. Will the Queen visit Maryhill Park? The plan is to have another walk in September.

Coffee and Chat just dodged the storms last Saturday (3rd) at Bingham's Pond.

Gail Donaldson has been organising coffee and chat for new members (i.e. those who have joined since the beginning of 2021), located in Peter Taylor's garden. Please contact me if you would like to be included in the next one (lizervine@hotmail.com).

Our next monthly Zoom meeting is on Thursday at 10 for 10.30 am. Pat Byrne will talk about Glasgow West End. The Zoom link will be sent a few days beforehand.

As we grapple with easing of restrictions, the committee plans to hold our monthly meetings on Zoom for August, September and October. A few groups are meeting outside in cafes and gardens, which is great, but larger groups are complicated as yet.

21st October is our AGM on Zoom. Please consider standing or nominating someone for the committee. It's a great way to be involved, learn new skills, meet new people and much more. We also plan a wee relaunch/emerging from Covid weekend on the 21st-23rd October. We hope you will all be involved.

Thank you.

See you next Thursday on Zoom.

Liz Ervine
Chair
GWEU3A

July Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 15th, 10 for 10.30am: **Pat Byrne** is our guest speaker this month and many of you may be familiar with her website which has been promoting Glasgow West End since 1999. Pat will tell her story of how she started the Glasgow West website and some of the highlights she has experienced. Please Zoom in with us (approx. 1 hour) for an interesting account of our area.

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 Whisperers - Private Lives in Stalin's Russia', by Orlando Figes.

"This book tells the story of how ordinary people lived in Stalin's Russia. The book is the result of an extensive research project consisting of interviews with survivors and their families as well as diaries and letters. It is a horrifying story of fear and terror over decades. Many ordinary people were arrested by the Secret Police and often executed or sent for many years to the gulags. Other people turned informer usually to try and keep themselves safe or achieve some sort of advancement. Neighbours and work colleagues spied on and reported on each other ensuring that everyone lived in a state of fear. Most people were innocent of any crime except perhaps speaking out about poor working or living conditions but most were almost brainwashed by the system and often they (and their families) felt they must be guilty. The title of the book – 'The Whisperers' - references the fact firstly that some people were afraid to speak their true thoughts out loud and spoke in whispers, and secondly some people betrayed others. A difficult but compulsive read."

Our next read, which we'll be discussing on 12 July is 'Macbeth, a true story' by Fiona Watson.

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

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

Local History Group

Since November 2020, the local history group has been holding a series of monthly presentations via Zoom that have been open to all GWE members. These take place on Monday afternoons at 2pm. There's no need to register an interest. A couple of days before each talk all U3A members receive an email containing the Zoom link and can click on this if they want to listen in.

In June we had a talk from Professor Eleanor Gordon of the University of Glasgow on 'The Myth of the traditional family'. Who knew that the swinging '60s went all the way back to the 1860s!

We are trying something slightly different for our next group Zoom meeting which will take place on Monday, 19th July at 2.00pm. Staff members from Glasgow Museums are going to present us with some still, and hopefully also moving, images to initiate a discussion on the topic of **'Please wash your hands: Health and Hygiene in Post-war Glasgow'**. They tell us that there may even be a short quiz, so remember to have paper and pen handy.

There will be no monthly meeting in August. From September onwards we hope to move back to visiting places of historical interest, though we may still have the occasional Zoom presentation.

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

Science and Technology Group - Coordinator Role

Over the past 4 years or so the group has had some excellent speakers on topics that included geology, astronomy, farming and climate change, bird migration, the internet, as well as a range of medical and engineering subjects. There's no doubt that there is a regular and engaged audience for our talks and that the group can continue to be successful. This is a good time for someone else to take over the group, possibly bringing some fresh ideas for a new programme and thoughts about how the group is organised.

Please get in touch with Alan Watt using the pigeon link if you are willing to help. He would be very happy to set up an initial meeting on Zoom and help someone (or a small group of people) get started.

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

Coffee and a Chat is currently taking place via Zoom on the first Saturday of each month at 2pm.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/97567>

Local history group research projects

Making Peace with Nature

As COP26 (Climate Change Conference) is being held in Glasgow in November, some u3a members from the local history research project got together in early 2021 to explore the theme of the environment, and have now produced a collection of their work, titled 'Making Peace with Nature' (this is a quote from the UN General Secretary who said that this has to be humankind's top priority as we approach COP26). The collection documents each member's creative response to the UN General Secretary's challenge. It is only a start, and the group would love to receive other contributions from other u3a members in the lead up to COP26. It need only be a page or two! Are you up to the challenge? Is there a place, person or an idea that has some significance for you that connects with nature and expresses your hopes for the future? Can this be conveyed in a story, poem, song, photo, collage, sketch, painting, poster or craft, etc.? This should include a brief description of your piece of work and some background text on what it means to you. Contributions should be sent by the end of September to Alan Dickson, the Environment group coordinator. Please let Alan know (aj_dickson@hotmail.com) by 31st July if you intend making a submission.

World War 2 and its impact on the West End

Another piece of research that some members of the history group have been doing focuses on the impact of WW2 on the West End. We've pulled together a memorial walking route that you might be interested in looking at. You'll find this and other bits of research the history group are doing at:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/113488>

You may also be interested to know that there's an item in 'Clish-Clash', the Scottish Local History Forum newsletter, about our previous project on the 1820 Radical Risings.

[ps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJ5LBPGpLTI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJ5LBPGpLTI)

Wine Appreciation

The next wine tasting zoom will be on Wednesday 4th August at 6.30 pm. Anyone interested can contact me on allanmillward@aol.com

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

Our Range of Interest Groups

The following are the interest groups that, as far as we know, have kept up or are resuming activities in one way or another. Please note that this list can change at short notice. Contact a group via its page on our website.

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, 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>

North Kelvin Meadow and Children's Wood, Royal Visit

Last week Her Majesty the Queen visited North Kelvin Meadow and Children's Wood. To see what all the fuss was about, watch the video of the talk to our June meeting by Andrea Fisher, the Schools and Community Engagement Officer for the Wood, at <https://youtu.be/wFcsUBLgbNU>

Volunteering there: If you would like to volunteer at the Children's Wood please contact them at northkelvinmeadow@gmail.com - no guarantee you will meet royalty ...

Writers Against Covid-19

I hope you enjoyed all the stories published over the past year from our writers around the world. A new one appeared on the website each day and by the end of the project there were 245 altogether. I have now collected 43 of the best into a book to raise money for Unicef's Vaccinaid. They distribute vaccines to disadvantaged places, such as Africa where only 2.2% of people have been vaccinated, or The Philippines, a country close to my heart, 4.1%.

More details of *Stories From The Lockdown* are on the website, www.writerscircle.net where you can read an extract from *The Postman*. if you prefer just to make a donation, there is link to the fundraising page.

I hope you will help. We are lucky here to have ample supplies of the vaccine, available free to anyone who wants one. Others are not so lucky.

Beatson Cancer Charity – MRI Appeal Target Achieved!

All u3a members who participated in our 2 Beatson Cancer Charity walks will be delighted to learn that the MRI Appeal, *See the Difference*, has raised the funds to purchase an MRI scanner, equipment and create a state-of-the-art imaging facility for the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. The scanner will help 20,000 people at that very moment when they need it most. – We all helped to make that difference!