



GLASGOW WEST END U3A September 2021 Newsletter

Dear All

I hope you continue to keep well and are enjoying the September sunshine, though I cannot help but think that climate change is part of it all...

Dates for your diary:

16th September is our monthly meeting on Zoom, at 10 for 10.30am. The speaker will be giving information on the Forth and Clyde Canal. Please support this last Zoom meeting.

21st October is our AGM which will be held in person in Novar Drive Community Hall at 10 for 10.30am. Nominations for the committee need to be in by the 14th September as indicated on the website. An email to lizervine@hotmail.com is acceptable. We will follow all the restrictions on the 21st October, i.e. face masks when moving about etc. I assume that those attending the AGM will have been vaccinated. Before going I will have taken a lateral flow test (available free from the Scottish Government: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> - they arrive very quickly). Just a thought. As well as the AGM, on that occasion we intend to have an Open Morning when we relaunch the small groups and the GWE u3a generally.

23rd October: we plan to distribute flyers around the West End - please join us. We have over 300 members, but it is good to let others know what we are about. More information will follow.

2nd and 9th November: The UK u3a is planning events for COP26 in November, and there will be two workshops in Glasgow – see item later in this newsletter.

16th December: Christmas event. We will be selling our very first GWE u3a calendars for £5 (you may want to think about stocking fillers...) - thanks to the Photography group and to Peter Taylor for these.

The great thing is that small groups are meeting face-to-face and on Zoom. Please note that every group coordinator has to submit to the committee a Risk Assessment for the group (essential for insurance purposes). This is an assurance that a simple record is kept of names of members, and that sensible precautions regarding Covid are taken. Your cooperation in this would be much appreciated.

It's been an interesting/challenging/sad/awful 18 months. It has not ended but we are learning to work around the pandemic. It's been so good that Zoom has kept many of us connected, and I salute the resilience of the many, meeting up for coffee in the rain, for example.

Take care

Liz Ervine,
Chair, u3aGWE

WALK ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER – CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to family illness, I am having to cancel the walk, which I hope will happen on another occasion.

Catherine Watt

Non-fiction History Book Group

The history book group has been meeting monthly on Mondays via Zoom. At our last meeting we discussed 'The Watchers' by Stephen Alford. Below is a review by one of our members:

“A walk on the dark side of the Elizabethan era. This is a fascinating and very readable book on the Elizabethan secret service, set up by her ministers to protect the life of Queen Elizabeth. There are spymasters, secret agents, double agents, plotters, putative assassins, code breakers and in the background the imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots. In a Europe riven by the split between Catholic and Protestant, can Elizabeth's regime survive? We know it did, but it could have turned out so differently.”

Our next meeting is going to be on Monday 20 September and will be a face-to-face meeting at the Tea Room at the Botanics. We'll be discussing Sara Sheridan's 'A Guide to an imagined Scotland - an alternate guide to Scotland through the lives of women'. We envisage that, as we move forward, we'll have a mix of face-to-face and Zoom meetings. The latter will continue to be particularly useful during poorer weather.

For a list of our reads for the remainder of the year visit our webpage.

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

Local History Group

The local history group has recently asked members for ideas for our coming programme and been inundated with suggestions for both visits to places of historical interest and Zoom presentations.

To kick off the new season, one of our members, Doreen Edgar, is running a guided walk of the Woodside area on 27th September. It's currently fully subscribed, but she's happy to run it again if there's sufficient interest.

Keep an eye out on our webpage for the forthcoming programme. On our webpage you can also find links to the outputs from some of the research projects in which group members have been involved.

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

A Warm Invitation from Kelvin Probus

Kelvin Probus Club is now entering its 32nd year, yet it seems to have flown under the radar of many qualified folk, i.e. retired people, both men and women. It offers a series of talks by distinguished guest speakers across a wide range of matters: science, history, the arts, health, and others, all presented (in normal times!) in a pleasant and sociable ambience convenient to the West End. We think it's complementary to what you derive from U3A, offering variety beyond the focused approach of your individual groups – and variety is the spice of life!

Meetings take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the months from September to May, at 10.30am. In addition, it arranges (again in normal times) occasional visits to places of interest, as well as regular walks in the environs of Glasgow.

The session starts on Tuesday 14th September. The speaker is Professor Vasile and his subject is Space Research in a Scottish Context. He will be followed on the 28th by Katie Brooks, talking about Covid-19 Vaccines and Beyond.

Regrettably, during the pandemic our meetings have to take place virtually, using Zoom, thereby forgoing the usual person-to-person chat – apart from the break-out rooms on Zoom – after the meetings.

You are invited to arrange to participate as a guest or to find out more by contacting Hon. Secretary Robin Hutchison at robin.hutchison1@gmail.com or 07544 836039.

You'll be made most welcome!

British Sign Language

We are meeting again on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays every month at 10am on Zoom. We will be going back to basics for a few months to allow a time for revision and for absolute beginners to join us.

Masks must not be worn!!!

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/85728>

Choosing Wine

Eileen Cummings' talk about choosing wine can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWM5ub1ZWkc>

u3a UK Cop26 Events

u3a UK are organising two COP26 events in Glasgow on November 2 and 9. There will be workshops for participants to consider how things related to climate change have altered during their lifetimes.

Calligraphy

A Calligraphy Group will be starting soon on Zoom.

Beginners and experienced calligraphers are welcome. Advice will be given before the first meeting on supplies needed. Each month we will learn or practise a new script with either broad edge or pointed pen.

A handout will be provided before the meeting. The script will be demonstrated at the meeting with time for you to follow along.

Access a website of related information and a gallery to inspire!

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glasgow-west-end/page/115537>

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, Calligraphy, Coffee and Chat, Conversational French, Conversational German, Conversational Spanish, Crochet Group, Current Affairs, Intermediate French, History Book Group, Knitting Group, Local History Group, Photography, Poetry Appreciation, Quilting, Recorder Playing, Science & Technology Group, British Sign Language, 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>