



Monthly Meeting: Thursday 21 September 2023

Dr Malcolm Knight: 'The Art of Transformation'

A Talk and Demonstration by Dr Malcolm Knight, the founder of the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre in Glasgow, about the philosophy and history of masks and puppets. He will outline the facilities and resources housed in the present building and how and why it was transformed from a former GCC Cleansing Department into a thriving arts centre, theatre, museum and education institute. The emotional force and social significance of masks and puppets as an art of transformation within popular cultures around the world has often been overlooked. It is older than the wheel, the bow and the harpoon. In this entertaining and dynamic presentation Dr Knight will share some of the skills, passion and



vitality that involve bringing inanimate objects to life.

Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre was open as part of the Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival. Contact them [here](#).

Groups

The following are the activity groups that are currently running. Contact a group via its page on our website via [this link](#).

Art Appreciation 1,
Art Appreciation 2,
Book Group 1,
Book Group 2,
Bridge Social/Informal
British Sign Language,
Cinema,
Coffee and Chat,
Creative Writing,
Crime Fiction,
Current Affairs,
Film Lovers,
French Conversation 1,
French Conversation 2,
Genealogy,
German Conversation,
History Book Group,
Intermediate French,
Italian Conversation,
Knitting,
Latin,
Local History,
Longer Walks,
Lunch Bunch,
Mah-Jong
MOTO (Members on their own),
Painting and Drawing,
Photography,
Play Reading
Poetry Appreciation,
Quilting,
Recorder Playing,
Science & Technology,
Spanish Conversation,
Sunday Lunch,
Table Tennis,
Theatre,
Ventures with a Bus Pass,
Visiting Gardens,
Walking with a Bus Pass,
Wine Appreciation,
Yoga.

Dear All

Well another month has sped past. I hope you have all been able to enjoy the lovely spell of weather we have had. Autumn is just around the corner and it's always a special time of year.

One highlight of this month was our fish and chip supper and quiz night at Kelvindale Bowling Club. We welcomed members from Paisley, East Renfrewshire and Bearsden and Milngavie u3as as well as many of our own members. Paisley were the winners on the night and I think most people had a great time. Pleasingly our members, with the help of the bowling club, raised £746 on the night for Drumchapel Food Bank - a sum that far exceeded our expectations. The food bank was delighted and plan to use this in a special project over the winter to supply bags of fresh ingredients and recipes for making soup. I'd like to give my sincere thanks to Caffè Parma, 1051 GWR, Tranquil Touch in Bearsden and Marks and Spencer's for their generous

donations of raffle prizes - and of course to our many members who also donated prizes. There are pictures of the quiz night later in the newsletter.

u3a week is coming soon and to celebrate we are hoping that many of you will join the committee for lunch after the September monthly meeting on 21st September. We have our friends from the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre speaking to us at 10.30 in Novar Drive, then we warmly welcome you to stay for lunch. If you haven't already done so, please let me know if you plan to stay so we get the catering right! I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Finally, we are still taking names if anyone is potentially interested in a supper club. Another member wonders if there is a pianist amongst us who might be prepared to play for a singing group?

As always thank you for your continuing support.

Gail Donaldson - Chair u3a GWE

Art Appreciation Group 2 (Banksy: Cut & Run-25 Years of Card Labour)

18 of us managed to get much sought after tickets for the Banksy 'Cut & Run' exhibition in August and we weren't disappointed. What a coup for Glasgow MOMA to have the honour of staging this sold-out event!

Another of our members visited separately with her American family and friend and agreed to let us use her own review of the event for this month's newsletter. Amanda's review is viewed through the lens of her own experience in exhibition education and as a guide to our American visitors.

Member Review

"The exhibition seems self-curated which is perhaps no surprise for someone like Banksy. It also means there are a few moments in the exhibition when a little more context would be welcomed, dates - it is a challenge to communicate to a really broad audience especially folks who are younger and don't have a political memory that he's engaging over the last 30 years. I explored the exhibit with two, 22-year-old American women (my daughter and her friend), and spend some time helping them understand a little more about the issues Banksy was engaging with. I used to work in exhibition education and I recognize that doing it well takes some experience, in my humble opinion. When you are really into your work it's hard thinking about connecting with folks that only have tangential knowledge of it.

In addition, an explanation of Banksy's process would have been fascinating. The show is a display of his stencils so knowing how he used them would be powerful - multiple colours with a single stencil etc. He talks a lot about pre-planning but it would have been great to see that laid out.

Phones are placed in locked neoprene pouches (that you carry with you through the exhibit) so no photos. At one point in the exhibit folks are walking around taking Polaroids of folks with various Banksy work. Take time to get into the lorry and operate the animals too :)

We were lucky enough to get at the end of our "timed period" at 7.15, so could hang back a little and enjoy reading the panels with a little less of a crush. The first section/half of the exhibit is narrow and slowish (lots of folks trying to read).

At the end you can buy a book which has the exhibition plus a little more in a cloth bag. He's also selling a couple of posters. But that's it regarding merchandizing.

All in all, it was really worth it. What a great window into a dude who's been working since the early 1990s in such a smart and spiky way. Speaking truth to power is rarely this artful."

Amanda Rees

Find out about the group [here](#).





Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday Lunch Group had our September lunch in the Prancing Stag, 1A Ashwood Gardens, Jordanhill. It was a most welcome return to a favourite restaurant.

The food was superb and there were a lot of murmurs of satisfaction. The company even better, just what was needed on a typical Glasgow summer afternoon where it started off sunny and ended in torrential rain.

For those who could not join us this afternoon, we will be sure to pay a return visit in the New Year.

We are now confirming venues for the rest of the year, emails will be coming out shortly and will include Christmas.

If you are interested, we meet for a late lunch on the second Sunday of every month, choosing a different local restaurant each time. Restaurants that we have recently visited include The Prancing Stag, Café Andaluz, Oran Mor, The Bothy, Pescado and The Lovable Rogue. Menus are sent out to members of the Group before booking. Everyone is encouraged to suggest their favourite places.

We know that not everyone will be able to make every lunch but we hope lots of members can join us when they are able. It's a great opportunity to meet other members and spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon.

For further details, please contact the Group Leaders [here](#) and click the pigeon.

Science and Technology



The Science and Technology Group recommences this month. (Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3pm at Partickhill Bowling Club, 46 Partickhill Road, Glasgow G11 5BY.)

The first meeting of the new session will take place on

Wednesday 20th September at 3pm. (Venue as above). Richard Petty will give a talk on "Designed treatments for the once untreatable"

For more information about the group and to join, just click the pigeon on the group web page [here](#).

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.

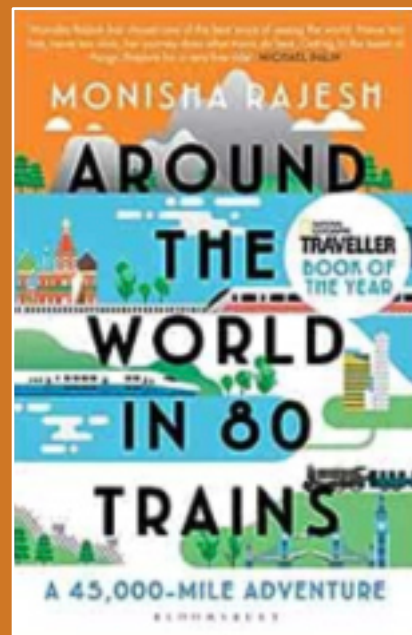
Our next outing is a walking tour of Victoria Park, led by Bearsden and Milngavie u3a member, Norrie Reid. For a list of our events in October, November and December, [visit our webpage](#).

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 August read, 'Around the World in 80 Trains', by Monisha Rajesh.

'This follow-up to Rajesh's previous book 'Around India in 80 Trains' was an easy read compared to our usual choices. Essentially a travel book written with a journalist's eye but rather contrived, trying to fit her journeys into a framework to reach her total figure of eighty journeys. We felt that that she did not take the opportunity to provide historical background in her accounts of the places she stopped off at. One exception was her discussion



with a survivor of the bombing of Nagasaki. As a British woman of Indian heritage, she gives interesting insights into her experiences of racism and sexism on different stages of her journey. When travelling in Asia she seems much more at home and her observations are

much more interesting, especially when she gets to China and Tibet. She also has a rare opportunity to visit North Korea. Although a somewhat slight book it gives us many snapshots into parts of the world few of us will have the chance to visit. A good undemanding book for a long train journey, one could choose to read sections of specific interest.'

Our September meeting was on 11th when we discussed 'The Romanovs', by Simon Sebag Montefiore. We'll put our review of it in the next newsletter. More about the group [here](#).

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group meets every two weeks in the splendid Clarice Pierce building on Byres Road. The group is small but very active; the last meeting saw submissions ranging from a caustic view of mental breakdown; to a list as a poem; to a light-hearted exercise in dialogue. Finally, this poem by Jean Marshall. Jean writes in the Doric, difficult at first to follow, but then so is Shakespeare and Burns! It is about the care/foster system, and as Jean says, 'not from that long ago.' Contact the group via [this link](#).

Aa manner o loons got sent tae us.
They didn't hae a choice.
Brave loons we kent them as,
takkin their chances wi us
the unknown.

Emergency, short term, supposed tae be
and planned respite.
Regular weekend laddies
alang wi unexpected loons.

Beloved loons came in a cocoon,
self worth webbed through
the layers o their ain labelled luggage.
Cases carefully curated,
packed wi clean claes
beyond their needs and
wi familiar transitional attachments,
invisible umbilicals keepin them
fue driftin awa.

The broken an lost loons were the
laddies withoot luggage
but plenty o baggage.
Loons fa felt they never hid
a chance o being a 'beloved loon'.
Fa stood at wir door,
delivered wi a black bag,
nae case or robust container.
Black bag, black affronted.
A thin black plastic bag that rips like
the linin o yer hairt.

Far dis a black bag belong?
Metaphor, imagery, symbolism,
foo mony degrees tae decipher?
The loons a kent an felt it.
Black bag, black affronted.

Nae mair loons withoot luggage
It wis ruled and regulated.
Ower late for the loons
fa came thru oor door
wi aa their being in a black bag.
The loons fa felt themselves
tae hae been binned.
And fa cairy the feelin still.

Black bag, black affronted,
Abolished, consigned tae the past?
Aye, luggage came wi oor last loon.
Cut loose and adrift,
he arrived wi his regulated case.
Tagged wi a 'lost loon' label,
the case wis empty o attachment.
Nithin personal for touch or smell.
Nae even much claes or
a spare pair o sheen.

Years later I still mine that case.
It wisnae a banned black bag
but my feelings surface the same.
Black affronted, hairt sair and still
ful o deepest shame.

Play Reading

The West End U3A Play Reading Group has had interest from six members with some able to join when not otherwise engaged.

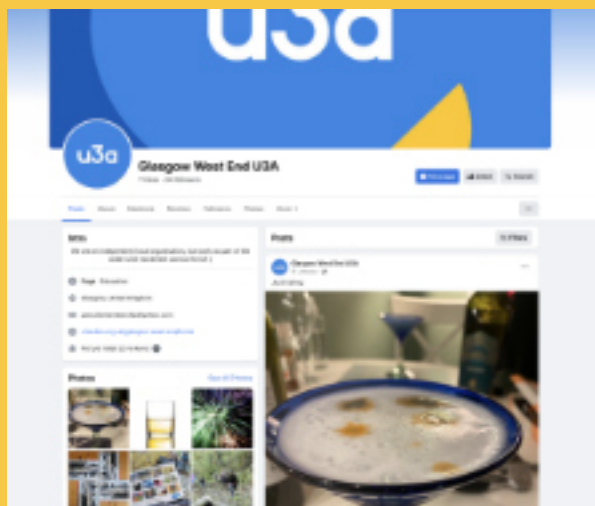
We are planning to arrange the first meeting in the first/second week of October possibly at the Byres Community Hub (subject to availability).

The group is open to anyone who is interested. Just need to click on the pigeon at [this link](#) to contact the group coordinator:



Facebook

It would be great to get more people looking at and ideally following [our Facebook page](#). Anyone can comment on the posts that already appear there. If you have new ideas, comments, news about and especially pictures of u3a activities that you would like to be posted, please click the 'Message' button to send them.



German

The German Conversation Group will be looking at some German proverbs and sayings this month.

See a couple on [their page](#) or [here](#).

An example: Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei: "Everything has an end, only the sausage has two."



Knitting

The Knitting Group is a social learning group, and we welcome anyone who enjoys working with yarn. Members are happy to share ideas and skills, and while there is no direct teaching programme, we are all learning from each other.



The group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 2pm - 4pm, in the Clarice Pears building, which is on Byres Road at University

Place. (The reception staff will know the room details.)

Teas and coffees are available in the building, and you may also bring in drinks from elsewhere.

We use a Whatsapp group to communicate.

Meeting dates:

September - 6th and 20th,

October - 4th and 18th,

November - 1st and 15th,

December - 6th and 20th.

Contact us on our web page [here](#).



Calling all singers and musicians

A member has asked whether we might have a choir or singing group. This would be a great idea, but we would need someone with the skills to play piano for and/or conduct such a group.

Would any of our members be prepared to volunteer for this, or know someone who might be? If so, someone else could probably help with the administration of a group. Please contact Peter Taylor via [this email address](#) in the first instance.

Ventures with a Bus Pass

The September u3a Venture with a Bus Pass to Pitlochry was a great success. Wonderful weather, magnificent scenery, interesting places of interest, a bit of exercise, cake, coffee, ice cream and, most importantly, great company – we could not have asked for anything more.

With the advantage of good weather, a group walked down to the river where we found the ideal spot for lunch, the Port-Na-Craig Inn with a beautiful outdoor terrace. We did walk up to the Dam at the River Tummel and the Salmon Leap to give us an appetite



before lunch. After lunch, we explored the town before heading back to Glasgow.

We would recommend anyone visit Pitlochry in the coming weeks where the scenery will be enhanced by the autumnal colours of the trees.

We plan to meet monthly over the coming months but will probably stay closer to Glasgow with shorter days on the horizon.

If you would like to join Ventures with a Bus Pass and join us on future visits, please [contact us via this website link](#) and click the pigeon.



Longer Walks

The Longer Walks group is experimenting with some additional walks which involve a little bit more hill climbing. On the first of these they went up Seamab Hill in the Ochils. Here is the group at the top, just before it started hailing. That was a couple of minutes before the sun started shining again. [Find out more on our web page.](#)



About Our Members – Jane Webster

Hello Glasgow West End

It has been quite a whirlwind really. In May 2023 I began my relationship with Glasgow West End u3a. I contacted Membership Secretary Ann to enquire about joining the u3a, as I'd heard good things about the organisation from friends in Cambridgeshire. Ann suggested I might like to come along to the monthly coffee morning at The Puppet Theatre, or the next monthly meeting at Novar Drive, which I did.

I introduced myself to Ann and she welcomed me, introducing me to other members. Wanting to make myself useful, I helped to put out the chairs, sat next to some very friendly members and listened to an

excellent presentation about the Antonine Wall. At the end of the meeting Ann thanked me and asked if I would be interested in joining the committee. I said yes and was promptly invited to participate at the next committee meeting. I was warmly welcomed. The die was cast.

I have now been co-opted onto the committee to serve as Secretary, as Avril has moved on to the next phase of her life. To echo Jean's opening comments in her exceptional article for last month's newsletter, referring to our 'persuasive' Chair. I have to report that I too have been requested to write a piece introducing myself as the new Secretary and by the way "It needs to be finished by tomorrow, but no pressure if you can't manage it".

I moved to this fair city in April 2022, following a TGA, as a result of my brain shutting down temporarily. I had been a carer for many years and was told on numerous occasions to take care of myself. Advice I registered, but ignored. I now share that advice with other people I meet when the opportunity arises. I was very lucky, there was no permanent damage.

After living with one of my daughter's and her family in Cambridgeshire for six

months, I had a call to action when my ten-year old grandson said "We know you can't do anything on your own Granny." Children do have a habit of saying it like it is.

Where to live though? My plan was to achieve full independence, not too close to relatives. I came up with what I thought was a bright idea; I have a son in Wiltshire, a daughter in London, as well as one in Cambridgeshire. So, studying the map, somewhere in the middle of the country approximately equal distance from them all. Yes, I know Glasgow doesn't fit the bill. I couldn't see any real benefits of being in Northampton (I sincerely mean no insult to the inhabitants of Northampton) I am certain it has much to offer. I have always enjoyed travelling, seeing new places and meeting new people and because of my personal circumstances and career, I have been fortunate to live in and visit a lot of places in the UK and abroad.

Why Glasgow? I have owned a flat in Glasgow since 2001, when my elder daughter studied architecture at Glasgow University School of Art. She was born in St Andrews and has a father who comes from Oban, so

as a family we have strong ties to Scotland. Natalie loved living here, her only complaint was the weather, too much rain! She should have been here last summer.

I'm not at all surprised that Glasgow is recognised as a city of creative and cultural importance. I'm certainly enjoying what u3a has to offer. I've already met some very friendly and interesting people, listened to informative talks, attended the Sausage Sizzle and socialised at Cottiers. There are over 40 groups available to cater for most people's interests. I've joined the Art Appreciation Group and been on a visit to the Willow Tea Room, with a visit to Andrew Stoddart's Studio in Paisley to look forward to. I thoroughly enjoyed Banksy's 'Cut and Run.' It is intriguing as to how they manage to keep his identity secret. Tomorrow I'll be catching the bus (£1 return) to Edinburgh and visiting the National Museum in Edinburgh for the 'Beyond the Little Black Dress' Exhibition.

I have a short list (growing longer every day) of groups that I plan on joining. I really can't envisage my love affair with Glasgow coming to an end any time soon.

MOTO

MOTO (Members on Their Own) is for those of us who socialise on our own. The group is for people who want to meet and plan a varied programme of social and other activities. The members of the group might meet up for a coffee and then arrange to get together - either in small groups or larger groups - for whatever takes their fancy e.g. a cinema visit, meal out, day trip etc. It is up to members to suggest what they want to do.



The group has been very active with another informal monthly get-togethers at Cottiers which was so well attended we took over most of the bar. It is a great chance to catch up and discuss the months ahead. We have an active WhatsApp Group with

lots of ideas and suggestions of events taking place locally. Regular updates are sent to members not in WhatsApp.

Some of the activities that members have taken part in August:

■ *A group of 12 of us visited the Royal Conservatoire for a performance of Incognito which was a very thought-provoking play*

■ *After Incognito a group then went out for a meal and a chat*

With holidays August has been quieter than usual, however, we have been very busy planning future

events with plans starting to be made for Christmas:

■ *Murder, Mystery Weekend*

■ *Beyond the Little Black Dress – an exhibition in Edinburgh*

■ *Fleurs de Villes at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens*

■ *Calton Weavers – Walk / Talk / Music*

■ *Christmas at the Conservatoire*

■ *Glasgow Women's Library – Crime Writers Discussion*

■ *Glasgow Doors Open Day – several of the talks*

■ *Glasgow Cathedral Festival – concerts*

■ *Byres Road Book Festival – members have signed up for the Poetry Reading*

■ *Nelson Mandela Tribute in Oran Mor*

Members are encouraged to suggest events. We are enjoying getting to know one another and welcoming new members. As you can see the emphasis is on FUN.

Contact us at via [this link](#) using the Pigeon if you are interested.



Photography

Transport was the subject for the photography group during August. The international cycling events in the city neatly fitted that theme, giving our members many opportunities to take shots. A stand-out (though not a stand-still) was this image by Alan Watt.

Our next meeting, on 27 September, is to photography Kelvingrove art gallery and/or park – the weather will guide us. We'll gather on Zoom on 4 October to review the results.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact us at this [link](#).



gweu3a Calendar

The new 2024 calendars with pictures from our Photography Group have just arrived. They will be on sale at future meetings for £5 each.

Quiz Night

A great time was had by all on 1st September in Kelvindale Bowling Club.

