



Dear All

Happy New Year! A cold start to 2024 but plenty of activities planned to keep us busy.

I wanted to thank everyone who came to our Christmas party last month and bought raffle tickets or donated to the Baby Food Bank. I'm pleased to announce that we collected just over £270 which we were delighted to pay over to the Baby Food Bank. In total we raised over £1,000 for local food banks last year - something which we are very proud of. Thank you all for your contributions.

We have had a great response to our post-Christmas lunch at Roastit Bubbly Jocks which is this coming Thursday. Everyone who has a booked place should have received an email with the final details. Please let me know if you haven't received it.

We have a few members who for various reasons don't have email addresses. Whilst they receive a paper summary of this newsletter each month, they don't get the

Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meeting at 24 Novar Drive is this Thursday -18th January. The speaker is Professor Graham Watt and the subject is "General Practice in the NHS: Past, Present and Future". Graham is the retired Professor of General Practice at Glasgow University. He is passionate about the role of General Practice in the community and how this developed. Tea and coffee will be available from 10 pm and the meeting will start at 10.30 pm.



information we send out separately in emails. We are looking for a few volunteers to "buddy up" with these members and call them from time to time. If you are able to volunteer to do this can you please let me know by [emailing me](#).

Can I also remind you that to be vigilant with emails as we have become aware that that some scam emails may be being generated via some u3a website pigeons. Should you receive an unusual email from the u3a website purporting to be from a group leader or a committee member please just delete it. While the email may appear to come from someone you know

the reply address will be different (either completely different or with a different spelling than usual). If you accidentally reply to this email, it is likely that you will be asked to purchase something for them. We will never ask you to do this. If you have any concerns, please email me and I will be happy to look into it.

As always thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Gail Donaldson - Chair u3a GWE

Science and Technology

The next three meetings of the Science and Technology Group will be as follows:

17/1/24 Prof David Robertson
MRC centre for virus research:
"Origins of Covid 19"

21/2/24 Prof Roger Downie,
Honorary Senior Lecturer
University of Glasgow: "Darwinian
Medicine: what an understanding of
evolutionary processes and our



evolutionary history can tell us about diseases and our responses to them."

20/2/24: Prof Richard Cogdell,
Hooker Chair of Botany University
of Glasgow: "How photosynthesis
shaped the evolution of our planet"

Meetings take place on the 3rd
Wednesday of the month at 3pm at
Partickhill Bowling Club, 46
Partickhill Road, Glasgow G11

5BY. For more information about the
group and to join, just click the pigeon [on the group web page](#).

Groups

Our growing list of Activity Groups now looks like this. Contact a group on its page on our website via [this link](#).

Art Appreciation 1,
Art Appreciation 2,
Badminton,
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,
French Intermediate,
Genealogy,
German Conversation,
History Book,
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,
Shorter Walks,
Spanish Conversation,
Sunday Lunch,
Table Tennis,
Theatre,
Ventures with a Bus Pass,
Visiting Gardens,
Walking with a Bus Pass,
Wine Appreciation,
Yoga.

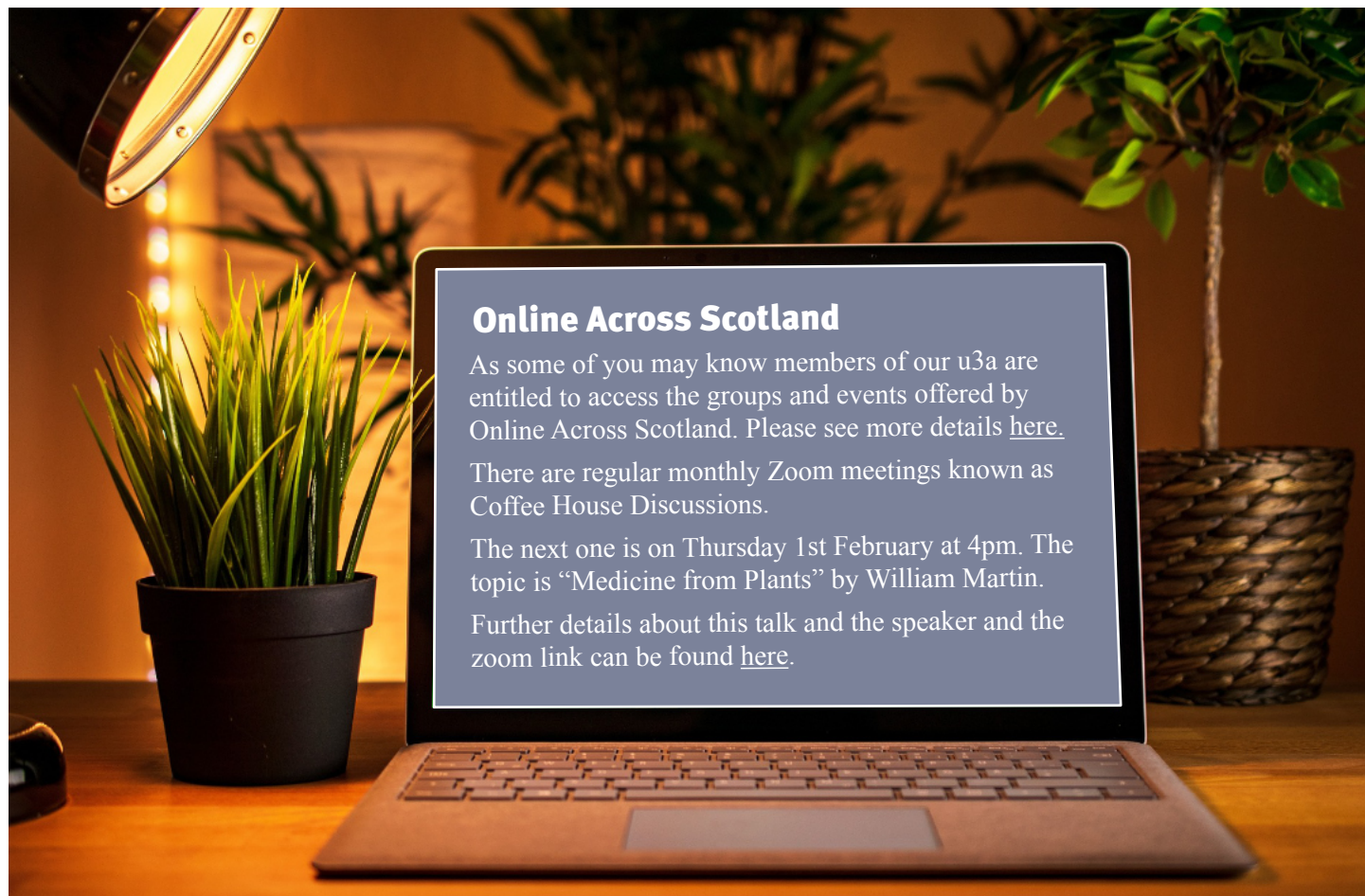


Photography

Our group's latest challenge was to create images showing colour contrast – colours so different from each other that an image demands attention. Our members succeeded in meeting the brief, none more so than our newest member Mark Atkinson. His image (above) is of seaweed on wet

sand, taken on Troon beach. It's a gorgeous shot that must inspire us all to get out and find pictures to represent the new subject: connections.

If you'd like to know more about the group, and to see some examples of our pictures, please visit our web page [here](#). To message the group leader, click on the wee blue pigeon on the page.



Online Across Scotland

As some of you may know members of our u3a are entitled to access the groups and events offered by Online Across Scotland. Please see more details [here](#).

There are regular monthly Zoom meetings known as Coffee House Discussions.

The next one is on Thursday 1st February at 4pm. The topic is "Medicine from Plants" by William Martin.

Further details about this talk and the speaker and the zoom link can be found [here](#).



Local History

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 December event was a presentation on the Cuningar Stones by artist and stone carver, James Winnett (pictured).

These fifteen standing stones, part of a 2015 regeneration project, were recovered from rubble found in the landfill site on Cuningar Loop which is opposite the Athletes' Village on the banks of the Clyde. Much of the rubble came from demolitions in the Gorbals. The carvings represent aspects of the area's history and wildlife. We all loved the talk as James is such an inspirational speaker, clearly committed through his art to representing both ancient and recent social history.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our January meeting as our planned speaker has another pressing commitment. Our next meeting will be in February when we'll be having a tour of the Women's Library, Bridgeton. Visit our web page [here](#).

Art Appreciation 1

In December the group visited the Resource Centre at Darnley. We were a little disappointed not to see any paintings as a team from the BBC were filming for Fake and Fortune. However, our disappointment was more than compensated for by an extremely interesting tour by our guide Grant, who was so well informed and good fun. To compensate for our "disappointment" we have been invited back in February for an exclusive tour led by the curator of European Art who will be showing us highlights of the collection. Something to look forward to.

On our return to town some of us enjoyed a festive afternoon tea and chat at the Willow Tea rooms in Buchanan Street.

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

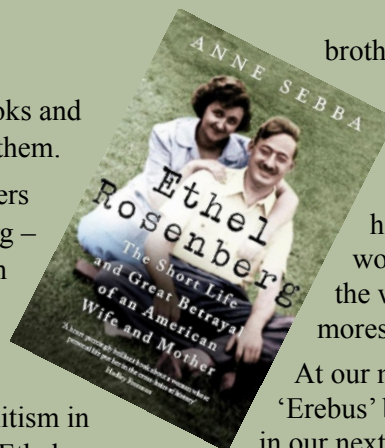


History Book

The group reads non-fiction history books and meets monthly on Mondays to discuss them.

Below is a review by one of our members of our December read, 'Ethel Rosenberg – The Short Life and Great Betrayal of an American Wife and Mother', by Anne Sebba.

"Anti-Soviet paranoia and fear of Communism plus widespread anti-Semitism in the USA ultimately decided the fate of Ethel Rosenberg and her husband Julius. Betrayed by her



brother and subjected to a travesty of a trial, they were executed as spies in 1953. This is an interesting and detailed biography of a talented aspiring woman although the group agreed that if written by an historian rather than a journalist her story would have been better understood set within the wider context of the political and social mores of 40s and 50s USA."

At our meeting on 8 January, we discussed 'Erebus' by Michael Palin. We'll have a review of it in our next newsletter.

Visit our web page via [this link](#).



Art Appreciation Group 2

Our final visit of 2023 was to the Hunterian Art Gallery, a venue right on our doorstep on University Avenue. Twenty-four of us met up just before Christmas to have a look at some of the newer exhibits and to revisit some old favourites.

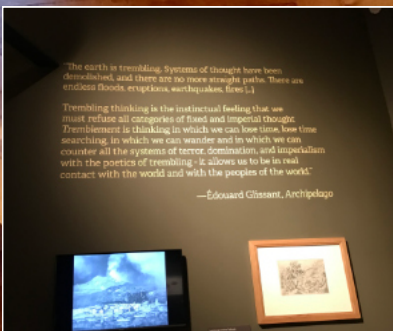
Despite an initial mix up about a guide, the wonderful Hunterian staff came to our rescue to explain the concept behind the 'Reframed' theme in the main gallery and to highlight the recently added 'Trembling Museum', an impressive collection of African art. However, the group's favourite collection on this visit was the recently opened 'Stage and Screen: Designs from the James L Gordon Collection'.

This fabulous personal collection showed set and costume designs for British theatre productions from 1900 to 1990, plus British and American designs for film and television from 1930. The works were displayed from floor to ceiling (as in the owners own home apparently) showing the work by leading artists such as Cecil Beaton, David Hockney as well as costume designs for stars like Rudolf Nureyev, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Munroe and many others. Many of the set designs for performers were identifiable by the inscriptions or drawings, for example, Liza Minelli, Elton John, The Jacksons, Mike Jagger and The Beatles.

This 'surprise' exhibition was a great hit with members and really warranted much more time, with some of us promising to return. At this busy time of the year, some of the group had other commitments, while twelve of us managed to squeeze in a light lunch at the nearby café in the new ARC University building.

This first year of the new art appreciation group 2 has been successful, with planning underway for 2024. Happy New Year to all.

Find out more [here](#).



Member of the Month: **Liz Ervine**

My first year as Trustee for Scotland has flown past. The u3a Trust is the umbrella organisation for the u3a. Its purpose is to guide, give advice, support u3as in every way possible, eg risk assessment, insurance, legal matters, finance etc. Beacon, the administrative data system used by gweu3a comes from the Trust using volunteers as does the site builder website. The u3a Trust has 23 full time equivalent staff members based in London. Important start up grants as well as grants for certain activities are produced by the Trust.

As you are aware the u3a has been in existence for 40 plus years and as society changes the movement changes too, certainly in proposed governance. A Pilot Council has been operating in conjunction with the Board in order to see how that works. More information to follow.

Enough of the theory. What do I do? I sit on the Board which meets 4 times a year in London. There are also a number of online Zoom meetings throughout the year dealing with finance etc. I work closely with u3as Scotland which is the Scottish network for u3as. We have been involved in supporting the start-up of Glasgow Southside, organising meetings with Treasurers and hopefully Chairs. Banchory u3a and Isle of Bute were in their infancy when I took over and a number of supportive phone calls and a visit were in order. Scotland is a very big place! There are 54 u3as in Scotland from Shetland to the Borders.

One of my personal aims is to contact all 54 u3as and organise for a chat and to put local groups together in informal groups. So far, I am more than half way there. This has been very rewarding to me. I am struck by how lively u3as are in Scotland as well as how different. Chairs/committee members often email me to ask for advice, to clarify

points etc. My hope is that a supportive group of Networks will be in place.

Of course, I have visited a number face to face e.g. Edinburgh, Lanark, Banchory, Kinross, Glasgow area to name but a few. I had a great chat with the committee of Callender u3a. Geographically it includes many local villages which enhances the activities.

What are the issues with u3as in Scotland?

Committee volunteers, group leaders, do we become a Charity? Do we use Beacon? Making the u3a movement known in Scotland.

U3a is UKs best kept secret. How do we make it known? A radio campaign has been suggested. I (along with others in the Trust) are investigating that possibility. Advertising in retirement courses is a possibility too.

What has given me the most satisfaction this year as Trustee?

1. Seeing Glasgow Southside u3a up and running and thriving, visiting Banchory and chatting to happy u3a members.

2. Supporting the concerned.

3. Meeting u3a members who really enjoy being part of the movement.

4. Bringing some issues to the attention of the Trust and enabling change to take place.

5. Having fun at u3a events.

What next? Continue to ensure I meet as many representatives from u3as as possible.

Be part of starting more u3as where appropriate. Be part of the advertising campaign.

Hopefully that gives you a flavour of my Trustee role. It is about people, listening, communicating, informing where appropriate.

