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**Paisley & District u3a Press Release:**

**No embargo: 00.00 Saturday 05 July 2023**

 **u3a picnic players**

**Threatening rain did not stop Paisley & District u3a members from enjoying a**

**musical picnic.**

Guests were serenaded by 14 ukulele players during their summer event held at

Ferguslie cricket club. Musicians from both East Renfrewshire u3a and the Men’s Shed

in Barrhead provided light entertainment.

u3a chair, Kathy O’Donnell remarked: “2022 was the u3a movement’s ruby anniversary.

We celebrated this with a summer picnic and barbecue where our members were also

treated to an outdoor performance by players from the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra. It

was such a hit that the committee agreed to organise another annual picnic with music.

“Just a few months ago, our u3a began holding ukulele taster sessions. There’s now a

group of us who want to learn how to play this happy-sounding instrument. Naturally,

we’ve made contacts with other ukulele groups in the area.

“When players at fellow East Renfrewshire u3a and the Barrhead Men’s Shed heard

about our picnic, they agreed to come along and perform. Songs from across the

decades were played and sung, ranging from Al Jolson’s ‘Campdown races’ to Peter

Nardini’s ‘I blew a kiss from Wishaw Cross.’

“These musicians received such a warm reception at the picnic. They’ve duly invited

our own novice ukulele players to come and practice with them over the summer!

“Paisley & District u3a’s ukulele group restarts in September. We hope it attracts even more people to have a go at making music together. Our website has all the details.”

Find u3a groups/activities and how to join at: https://u3asites.org.uk/paisley/welcome

**ENDS**

**Notes to the Editor**

1. **Photo: 1) Paisley & District u3a members enjoying their musical summer picnic. 2) Warming up with East Renfrewshire’s ukulele group and the Barrhead Men’s Shed ukulele group 3) Paisley & District u3a members with some ukulele players** (**copyrigh**t of Allana Parker). For more details or to interview u3a chair, Kathy, O’Donnell, please contact our PR Advisor, Allana Parker on

**M: 07483 820027**

1. Paisley & District u3a has started a new ukulele group. Details of how to join this and other u3a activities can be found at <https://u3asites.org.uk/paisley/contact>
2. Paisley & District u3a is Scotland’s 50th self-help learning organisation for people in part time work or no longer working full time.  u3as are run by local volunteers freely sharing their knowledge and skills. Members are part of a UK-wide and international educational movement. The u3a motto is ‘Learn, laugh, live.’  Scotland has around 12,000 members in 55 u3as who enjoy the social side of new activities, interests and hobbies: <https://u3asites.org.uk/scotland/members> Details on this nationwide peer-learning for fun movement, with more than 1,000 u3as in the UK, at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>