

u3a in Scotland Summer Programme 9–20 August 2021

Courses, Lectures and Tutors

Subject to demand we plan to offer the following events:

Ancient Civilisations of the Americas

"Bonampak: the Sistine Chapel of the Maya", lecture by Professor Maria Chester, Wednesday 11 August, 14.00 – 15.30.

Immunology

"Vaccines from Edward Jenner to the Present", lecture by Professor David I Stott, Wednesday 18 August, 10.00 – 11.30.

Creative Writing

"Creative Writing: on Writing Short Stories": course by tutor Gilly Beckett, Monday 9 August, Friday 13 August, Monday 16 August, and Friday 20 August all at 10.30 – 12.00.

Scottish History 1750 – 1850

Course with four lectures.

"The Great Leap Forward: Scottish History 1750–1800", lecture by Bill Bedborough, Tuesday 10 August, 10.30– 12.00.

"Who's Who in Scotland in the later eighteenth century: a look at some of the key influencers of the period", lecture by Dr Sheena Bedborough, Thursday 12 August, 10.30 – 12.00.

"Industrial Developments on the Clyde between 1750 and 1850", lecture by Robert Hough, Tuesday 17 August, 14.00 – 15.30.

"Historical Connections between Scotland and Jamaica", lecture by Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE, Thursday 19 August 14.00 – 15.30.

To book a place for any of the above, please email Susan Tester on u3ascotlandsummerschool@gmail.com giving your name, name of your u3a and your email address for the Zoom invitation.

Outlines of the courses and lectures and tutors' backgrounds are given below.

Ancient Civilisations of the Americas

Professor Maria Chester, East Berwickshire u3a

Bonampak: the Sistine Chapel of the Maya

Hidden in the rainforest of Chiapas, Mexico, there are frescoes painted more than a millennium ago by unknown Mayan artists depicting the sophistication of the royal court: musicians, singers, noblemen, battles and more! A magical place which we will thoroughly visit today.

Background

After studying Fine Arts, Maria Chester decided to go deeper and studied Art History becoming a Professor in Pre-Columbian Civilisations. Because of her first passion, that was Cave Art and Rock Art she also developed an interest in Archaeology, which gave her a frame for her constant research. She is multilingual and enjoys travelling. She taught in several South American universities as well as private institutions. Since 2007, she is the National Subject Adviser in American Archaeology and a member of East Berwickshire U3A. In 2015. She was a founding member of the IC-International Committee to The Third Age Trust, in the United Kingdom. In May 2016, she was elected Secretary General of AIUTA- International Association of Universities of the Third Age. She is also tutoring annual courses on Art History for BEA-Berwick Educational Association. She also works for Berwick Visual Arts delivering conferences and guided tours on seasonal exhibitions at The Granary Gallery in Berwick upon Tweed, England. Since October 2018, she is also an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society in London. Recently, she was invited to become part of the team of Art Historical London, which delivers virtual talks about art to the world. She was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina but travelled the world. She lived for 20 years in Caracas, Venezuela where her daughter Ines was born in 1988. Since 2003, Maria lives in the Scottish Borders, Scotland.



Professor Maria Chester

Creative Writing: on Writing Short Stories

Gilly Beckett, East Berwickshire u3a

Are you writing? Do you want to write? Have you already embarked on a story? Have you finished your story? Or is your story still the germ of an idea?

Short story writing can take many forms and genres – contemporary, historical, crime and thriller, science fiction, fantasy, biographical. Wherever you are on your literary journey – our on-line Summer School can go a long way towards solving dilemmas about where your story is going and boosting your confidence along the exciting route towards creating your literary work. Our creative writing course delves into the writerly craft skills – defining character and place, practising dialogue; understanding the pace of narrative – and having some fun along the way.

In an address to students in Oxford Ian Fleming encapsulated his approach to writing: "You carry your office around in your head. And you are far more aware of the world around you. Writing makes you more alive to your surroundings and, since the main ingredient of living is to be alive, this is quite a worthwhile by-product of writing..." *extract from 'The Man with the Golden Typewriter' by Fergus Fleming*

Background

Gilly Beckett BA(Hons), born and educated in Bexley, Kent, writing is her passion. Following ten 'amazing' years residing – and writing in Greece – now settled in the Scottish Borders with four novels, one published, under her writerly belt – Gilly tutors and facilitates creative writing courses for libraries, Scottish Borders Community Mental Health and Wellbeing and for the past seven years, creative writing tutor for u3a National Summer Schools. Throughout the UK 'lockdown' Gilly has presented 'online' creative writing sessions and courses, all ongoing.

Gilly describes u3a Summer Schools as rewarding and enjoyable experiences for participants and tutors alike; time out to study, compare ideas, share inspiration and make new acquaintances.

Immunology

Professor. David I Stott, Bearsden and Milngavie u3a

Vaccines from Edward Jenner to the Present

Vaccines have saved many millions of lives and untold suffering from infectious diseases worldwide. I shall give a brief overview of the history of development of vaccines from the discovery of the first vaccine against smallpox by Edward Jenner in the 18th C.; attenuation of pathogens, including rabies virus, by Louis Pasteur and the Global elimination of smallpox by the World Health Organisation. How the immune system is stimulated by vaccines to produce antibodies, T-cells and memory cells that protect us against subsequent infections will be followed by a description of the different types of vaccines including those using modern technology against SARS-Cov-2. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion at the end of the talk.

Background

Title: Emeritus Professor of Molecular Immunology

Degrees: Hons. BSc (First Class) in Biological Chemistry (M/c); Ph.D. in Biochemistry (Cantab.)

Career: Research in Immunology at the Agricultural Research Council Institute, Babraham, Cambridge; The Basel Institute for Immunology, Basel, Switzerland; Research Fellow, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Glasgow; Professor of Molecular Immunology, Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation, University of Glasgow; Sabbaticals at the WHO Centre, University of Geneva; German Rheumatology Research Institute, Berlin; Visiting scientist, Finlay Institute for Immunology, Havana, Cuba.

Research collaborations with various universities and research institutes in the UK and other countries.

Hobbies: Listening to jazz and studying art and astronomy.

Scottish History 1750 – 1850

1. The Great Leap Forward: Scottish History 1750 – 1800

Bill Bedborough, Forth Valley u3a

This session focuses mainly on the period of Scottish history from the collapse of the Jacobite Rebellion in 1745 till the beginning of the new Century. While this period may lack the romanticism and drama of earlier periods in the country's history, not least that from 1650 on, it is nevertheless one of major significance for the development of Scotland and its emergence into the modern, industrialised world. The session will consider the reasons for this progression and the main features of it. As such, the emphasis will be on those developments which took place gradually and, on the whole, peacefully but at an increasing pace in the country over these years. Areas to be covered will include technological innovation; intellectual climate and education; finance and the economy; social conditions. As far as possible, where appropriate, local examples will be used to illustrate these changes.

Background

Born and bred in Glasgow, I studied at Glasgow University after leaving school and graduated MA (Hons) in History in 1964. Teacher training at Jordanhill was followed by a teaching career in schools in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Tayside and the Borders. Appointed Rector to Forfar Academy in 1979, I remained there till 1989, when I moved to Jordanhill School in Glasgow, serving as Rector there till my retirement in 1997. In the course of my career, I served on various working parties including chairing the national working parties for Contemporary Social Studies and Higher Still History. In 1991, I gained the Diploma in Educational Technology from Dundee College and in 2005 I graduated B.A in German and Spanish from Stirling University. Following retirement, I have continued to enthusiastically pursue my interests in cycling, rambling, travel and public speaking, and was a Humanist Celebrant from 2009 till 2017. From at least 1950 till the present, I have remained a staunch supporter of Third Lanark!

2. Who's who in Scotland in the later eighteenth century: a look at some of the key influencers of the period

Dr Sheena Bedborough, Forth Valley u3a

This session will examine the lives of up to half a dozen individuals who were prominent figures in eighteenth-century Scottish Society. Some are well-known, others less so, and their spheres of influence ranged across estate management, colonial and military service, business and commerce, politics, and the cultural and academic worlds. We will explore the contributions they made to the society in which they lived, and try to understand the values, beliefs and social mores which defined their world and drove their ambitions.

Background

After attending school in Glasgow, I went on to Glasgow University to study history. My working life was spent in the classroom. After a brief flirtation with maths (and a BA through the Open University in the 1980s), I returned to teaching history, finishing my career as Principal Teacher in a large Fife comprehensive school. After my retirement, I enrolled at Stirling University to study Scottish history, completing a Master's in Research, followed by a PhD in Scottish political life in the later eighteenth century.

3. Industrial Developments on the Clyde between 1750 and 1850

Robert Hough, Forth Valley u3a

The talk will cover the historical development of the Clyde from a shallow, largely unnavigable river, into a river suitable for deep water craft, and the eventual opening of the Port of Glasgow; the expansion of the quays and warehouses at the Boonielaw, to cope with the burgeoning tobacco trade and the later construction of the Forth and Clyde Canal linking the west and east coasts. The talk will also deal with the development of ship building, the early yards, and the innovation of iron and steam as a prelude to the tag 'Clydebuilt' for a world class ships.

Background

Robert is a Solicitor, qualified in England and Wales. He trained in the 1970s in a City of London firm, specialising in Maritime Law. He was primarily concerned with High Court litigation in the Admiralty and Commercial Courts, and dealt with marine accidents including ship collisions, salvage, as well as cargo and commodity disputes. In 1980 Robert moved to commence to work with a small team of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) traders and was involved in the worldwide operation of a large fleet of LPG ships. In 1987 he joined "The Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Association", (known as the Britannia P&I Club), a non-profit making 'mutual' providing protection and indemnity (P&I) insurance for its shipowner members. As a defence lawyer, he was responsible for more than 10 million tons of Danish, Norwegian and German insured ships. During his 20 years with Britannia he handled many serious maritime casualties. Since his retirement in 2010, Robert has been actively engaged in writing learning material for the P&I Industry's education programme, and in setting and marking exam papers.

4. Historical Connections between Scotland and Jamaica

Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE, Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh

Scotland's historical connections with Jamaica extended from slave masters to government control. About 30% of the slave plantations in Jamaica were owned by Scots. In Jamaica, many place names are Scottish and Jamaica Streets can be found in Scottish cities. Over 60% of the surnames in Jamaica's telephone directory are Scottish. Financially, Jamaica was a very important part of British slavery and politicians such as Henry Dundas (1st Viscount Melville) ensured that it was supplied with slaves by delaying the abolition of the slave trade in 1792.

Background

Professor Emeritus Sir Geoff Palmer CD, OBE, DSc arrived in London as an immigrant from Jamaica in 1955 to re-join his mother who left Jamaica in 1948. After leaving school in London in 1958, he worked and attended evening classes to improve his qualifications. He subsequently entered Leicester, Edinburgh and Heriot Watt Universities where he gained BSc, PhD and DSc degrees, respectively. Sir Geoff is a Board Member of various organisations and is Patron of the Association of Jamaican Nationals (Birmingham) UK. He has published books on different subjects and has received various research, academic and community awards. Professor Palmer is an

Honorary Freeman of Midlothian, Scotland. He gained his OBE in 2003, CD of Jamaica in 2020 and was Knighted in 2014 for his contributions to science, charity and human rights. In 2020, he contributed to the revision of the plaque of Henry Dundas' statue in Edinburgh and was appointed chair of the slavery and colonial legacy committees of Edinburgh City Council, Scottish Museums and Edinburgh University. In 2021 he was appointed as Chancellor of the Heriot Watt University.



Professor Sir Geoff Palmer

Further information on the Summer Programme:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/scotland/events>