



Welcome to the May edition of your Newsletter.

The “You Heard It Here First” article on page 3 provides details of a forthcoming Nat King Cole event to be held at Glasgow City Halls on Sunday 28th June at 6.30pm. Music was a big part of my childhood, and I grew up listening to the velvet voice of Nat King Cole and other sublimely talented singers who emerged between the 1940’s and 1960’s. Even today I still have a “Nat King Cole’s Greatest Hits” CD. **If ten or more of us want to go to the concert, please let me know as soon as possible as a discount may be available.**

The Spotlight on Page 4 is being shone on Brenda Mason’s Quiz Group, which every month is much anticipated, well attended and greatly enjoyed by its members.

Poetry is one of those “Marmite” subjects – you either love it or loathe it. An erstwhile colleague of mine was both rigid and vehement in his view that “all poetry is rubbish”, although from what I could gather his experience was limited to, and stopped at, nursery rhymes. I have loved poetry ever since being introduced to the War Poets at secondary school, and have a few favourites that I regularly return to. The ghastly media images of children affected by the current various and seemingly endless global conflicts brought to mind a poem I heard being recited when I was a young teenager – “The Box”, by Lascelles Abercrombie. I learned it by heart and still find it very moving and relevant so, without in any way intending to cause widespread misery, I have included it on Page 5.

Please send your articles to newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk. Anonymous articles are still welcome – some of you are very publicity shy!

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st May when Robert Eynon’s presentation will be on Hamilton Palace. **As usual, the meeting starts at 1:30pm in Newlands South Church.**

Kind regards,

Eláinne Lawrie (Editor)

Future Monthly Meetings

We are pleased to have secured the following quality speakers for 2026:-

May 21st:- Robert Eynon on “Hamilton Palace”

June 18th:- Hildegard Berwick on “Glasgow International Exhibition of 1901”

October 15th: Barbara Graham on “Dr Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women’s hospitals”

November 19th: Iain English on “The Isle of May”



Brain Teaser

1. What is a DRUMLIN?
2. From which tree is the spice MACE obtained?
3. What is the official currency of South Africa?
4. Which animals are considered the "Big Five" of game hunting?
5. In which field of the arts is Barbara Hepworth most famous?



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Recently heard on the radio was a discussion on words and phrases that baffle young people nowadays (*anything grammatically accurate. Ed.*) We have come up with a few examples of our own:-

1. **“What’s the B side like”?** (*an enquiry as to the quality of the song on the reverse of a 45rpm, usually disappointing*)
2. **“That party line is still on the phone”** (*when telecommunications were run by the General Post Office (GPO) and due to the scarcity of phone lines it was not uncommon to be a “party” to a line along with someone else. Such individuals were almost invariably gasbags, and episodes of abusive telephonic arguments as to the time they were taking when you wanted to make an important call to - say – Dial a Disc were not uncommon.*)
3. **“They’ll do for under trousers”** (*when a pair of tights had a hole or a ladder in them but, even when repaired (yes, really – how many ladies went out with a needle and thread?) were considered too good to throw away so were kept to be worn under trousers, ladies over the age of about 15 in those days rarely wearing socks).*)



You Heard It Here First

“Down for the Count” is a brilliant 30-piece Swing Orchestra, and an incredibly talented bunch of musicians and singers.

Sunday 28th June at 6.30pm is going to be joyous night of music and song with the show "Celebrating Nat King Cole" at Glasgow City Halls. It really is balm for the soul, and all music lovers (not just jazz and swing fans) will have a great night out. Details from the website are shown below, and if you require more information the address is:-

<https://downfortheaccount.co.uk/live-dates/celebrating-nat-king-cole/>

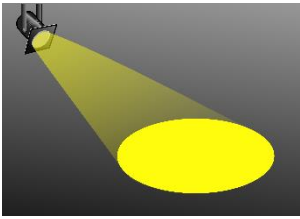
Join the 30-piece **Down for the Count Swing Orchestra** for a celebration of one of the most iconic figures in swing music history – the incomparable Nat King Cole.

Enjoy timeless classics such as **Mona Lisa**, **Let’s Face the Music and Dance** and **L-O-V-E** brought back to life by the instrumentalists and vocalists of the sensational Down for the Count Swing Orchestra – one of the few UK Jazz ensembles to feature a string section.

This is not a tribute show, but rather **a celebration of Nat King Cole’s life and music**. The show will be a joyful journey through Nat King Cole’s music, from the intimate trio recordings he made early in his career to the later luscious orchestral work with arrangers such as Nelson Riddle and Gordon Jenkins. Compèred by musical director and conductor Mike Paul-Smith, the show will feature anecdotes about Nat King Cole’s life, recreations of some of his greatest recordings, and original arrangements of other Nat King Cole classics penned by members of the Orchestra.

The Down for the Count Swing Orchestra is one of the UK’s leading swing ensembles with performance credits including Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club, the London Jazz Festival, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Twinwood Festival. Join them for this one-of-a-kind celebration of a true musical legend in 2026.





SPOTLIGHT

I have always enjoyed a quiz myself and, after running one successfully for seven years on behalf of another u3a, I decided to offer my services to Glasgow Southside.

I started the Quiz Group in February 2024 and at the first few meetings, which were held in the Community Room at Pollok Library, there were only 5 or 6 participants (who, incidentally, are still coming along each month to this day). This meant that it wasn't really practical to have "teams" so we all just sat around a table with me asking the questions and everyone pitching in with their answers.

As we had to pay for using the room (albeit at a reduced rate because we were classed as a Community Group) I had to collect £2 from each member to cover the cost. This was insufficient to cover the entire cost so I had to subsidise it for a while, but gradually the numbers increased to such an extent that I sometimes had a surplus and was therefore able to offer a "freebie" every now and again.

I'm happy to say that the number attending continued to increase, so much so that we eventually outgrew the room at the library, therefore the search began for a new venue. Having used the community room in Tesco at Silverburn in the past for my previous group, I contacted the relevant member of staff to ask if it was available and, happily, it was. It's an excellent venue with enough space to separate the teams so that they cannot be overheard discussing their answers and, as an added bonus, it's free of charge so no more having to collect money each month. **New members are always welcome** - people sometimes say to me "oh I don't know enough to compete in a quiz" but it's surprising what's hidden in those "little grey cells".

The Quiz Group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are 8 rounds consisting of 10 questions per round on subjects which vary from month to month, with 20 general knowledge questions at the end and a picture round. I try to keep the questions as varied and interesting as possible and endeavour to strike a balance between not too easy but not too difficult. Although it's meant to be a fun couple of hours, no-one wants to be made to feel stupid if they don't know the answer to a question and everyone likes to win now and again. It's a very friendly group of people, but they can actually be quite competitive! There are no prizes for the winners, but they do have their photo included in the monthly newsletter - fame indeed!

I like to think that everyone leaves having had a fun time and, maybe, having learnt something new as well.

As the saying goes, "every day's a school day".

Brenda Mason

The Box
by
Lascelles Abercrombie
(1881 – 1938)

Once upon a time, in the land of hush-a-bye, around about the wondrous days of yore,
They came across a sort of box, bound up with chains and locked with locks, and labelled “Kindly
Do Not Touch – it’s War”
Decree was issued round about, all with a flourish and a shout, and a gaily coloured mascot tripped
lightly on before
Don’t fiddle with this deadly box
Don’t break the chains
Don’t pick the locks
and PLEASE don’t ever play around with War
Well.
The children understood.
Children happen to be good, and they were just as good around the time of yore. They didn’t try to
pick the locks or break into that deadly box, they never tried to play around with War
Mothers didn’t either, sisters, aunt and grannies neither, for they were quiet and sweet and pretty
in those wondrous days of yore
Very much the same as now, and not the ones to blame, somehow, for opening up that deadly box
of War.
But someone did.
Someone battered in the lid, and spilt the insides out across the floor; a sort of bouncy, bumpy ball
made up of guns and flags and all the tears and horror and death that comes with War.
It bounced right out and went bashing all about and bumping into everything in store
and what was sad and most unfair was that it didn’t really seem to care much who it bumped
or why
or what
or for
It bumps the children mainly, and I tell you this quite plainly, it bumps them every day, more and
more
and leaves them dead and burned and dying, thousands of them sick and crying
because when it bumps it’s really very sore
Now.
There’s a way to stop the ball, it isn’t difficult at all
all it takes is wisdom, and I am absolutely sure that we could get it back into The Box
and bind the chains
and lock the locks
but no-one seems to want to save the children any more.
Well, that’s the way it all appears, for it’s been bouncing round for years and years
in spite of all the wisdom wizzed since those wondrous days of yore
and the time they came across The Box
bound up with chains
and locked with locks
and labelled “Kindly Do Not Touch” – it’s War

GROUP NEWS

LOCAL HISTORY

Group Leader – Shona Liddell

We joined the Art Appreciation Group for a visit to the Double Villa on Mansionhouse Road, Langside, designed by Alexander “Greek” Thomson. Grateful thanks to the owner for hosting this.



Our next meeting will be on 6th May and will be a heritage walk in Pollokshields. We will start at Maxwell Park and finish at the Tramway, using the leaflet kindly provided by the Heritage Trust, for which we thank them. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Shona via the website.**

Pub Lunch and Discussion Group

Group Leader – Ken Liddell

We met again in April in the Titwood Bar, which is a welcoming and easy-going pub on Nithsdale Road. We have our own alcove space, accompanied by our respective imported lunch choices and the odd drink or two! “*The Future in Technology and how it will affect us*” was duly discussed and debated with much of the emphasis, as you would expect, on the growing world of AI.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th May, same venue, 12:30-14:00hrs when we will discuss “*Public Enquiries: are there too many, can we afford them and do they change things?*”

This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.

Quiz Group

Group Leader – Brenda Mason

At the April Quiz, the Latecomers were the winning team, answering questions on subjects such as, Colours, the NATO phonetic alphabet and All Creatures Great and Small. Well done to Linda, Margaret, Nancy, Jean and Joe. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Brenda via the website.**



Brain Teaser Answers:- 1. A Hill, more specifically an elongated hill formed by glacier ice; 2. Nutmeg; 3. The Rand; 4. African Lion, African Elephant, Cape Buffalo, African Leopard and Rhinoceros; 5. Sculpture

Disc Golf

Group Leader: Ken Liddell

Half a dozen members turned out at Ross Hall Park's Disc Golf course accompanied by Nic Gordon, who, you may remember, gave us an excellent presentation on what Disc Golf is all about at March's GSS U3A's general meeting. Nic was there as a coach and motivator for our band of enthusiasts and his presence, advice and tips were much appreciated by those present. We can hope for a bit of decent weather on Friday 15th May (10:30-12:00) when the next outing to Rosshall is scheduled.

This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.

Pickleball Group

Group Leader – Heather McEwen

This group continues to thrive, so much so that it has been decided to continue playing over the summer months. Its popularity means that there is still a waiting list, but there is also still the opportunity for someone to set up a separate group. **Enquiries should be emailed to Heather via the website.**

Music Appreciation Group

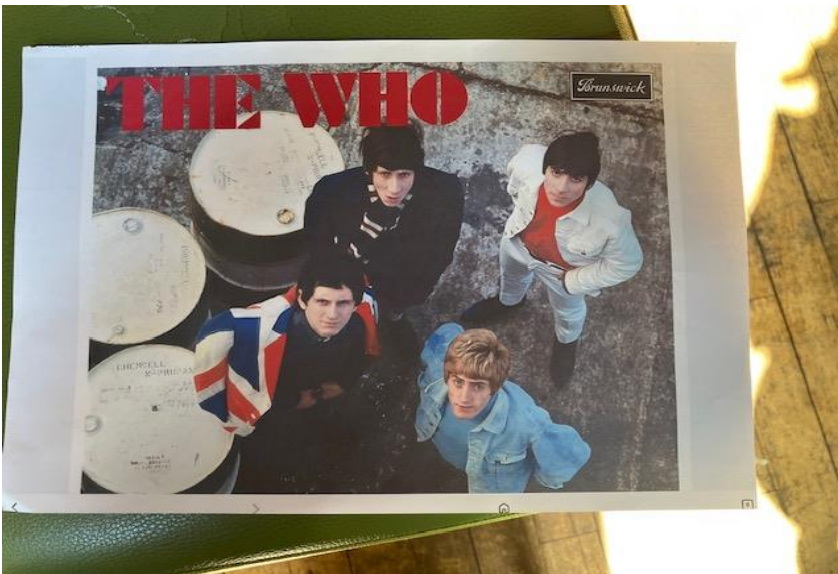
Group Leader – Ken Liddell

April's blockbuster meeting featured a memorable presentation from David Wiseman, a member of GSS u3A (although not of the Music Appreciation Group due – he says – to a clash of events!)



David wearing The Scarf

David had been at school in London with three members of The Who, though a little behind them. He found himself “roadying” for the band in its early days through to their eventual breakthrough and beyond. David had quite a few tales and also brought along a memento from these times: his scarf, worn by Pete Townsend on the cover of the first Who album, “My Generation”.



Pete Townsend (and friends) in The Scarf

Much of our planned discussion will be carried forward to the next meeting on Monday 18th May, 10:15-12:00 at the Stag and Thistle, Pollokshaws Road. We did, however, mark the recent deaths of two revered Irish singers, Dolores Keane and Moyà Brennan, and also Chip Taylor, songwriter of “Wild Thing” amongst many others. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.**

Art Appreciation Group

Group Leader – Hildegard Berwick

The Art Appreciation and Social Photography Groups had a wonderful treat in April when we were shown around one half of Alexander “Greek” Thomson’s double villa in Mansionhouse Road.

The current owner described what the area was like when the house was built in the mid-1850s, being quite rural as Langside was not within Glasgow’s city boundaries at that time. We saw plenty of the architect’s distinctive details carved into the external stonework and also indoors, in the decorative elements of door panels and ceilings.

Our May meeting is one of our Art Chat meetings. This time we will be discussing the four Scottish Colourists: Fergusson, Peploe, Hunter and Caddell, looking at a few examples of their work in a PowerPoint presentation. We are all hoping for a lively discussion!

This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Hildegard via the website.

Gardening Gnomes

Group Leader – Ken Liddell

By the time you read this, the Gnomes may well have “crossed the water” in pursuit of Ben More Garden in Argyll. We have been talking about a visit there for the last couple of years, but it’s only now about to be realised. Short route is by ferry accompanied by stunning views, followed by a brief car journey to this breathtaking tall-tree dominated garden, part of the empire of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. We visit on Tuesday 5th May.

Last month’s trip was to Kilbryde Castle near Doune/Dunblane, an impressive and ancient dwelling overlooking woodland and water. The garden was slightly underwhelming being “in-between” seasons with many spring flowers still to show. Hopefully, better luck this time at Ben More.



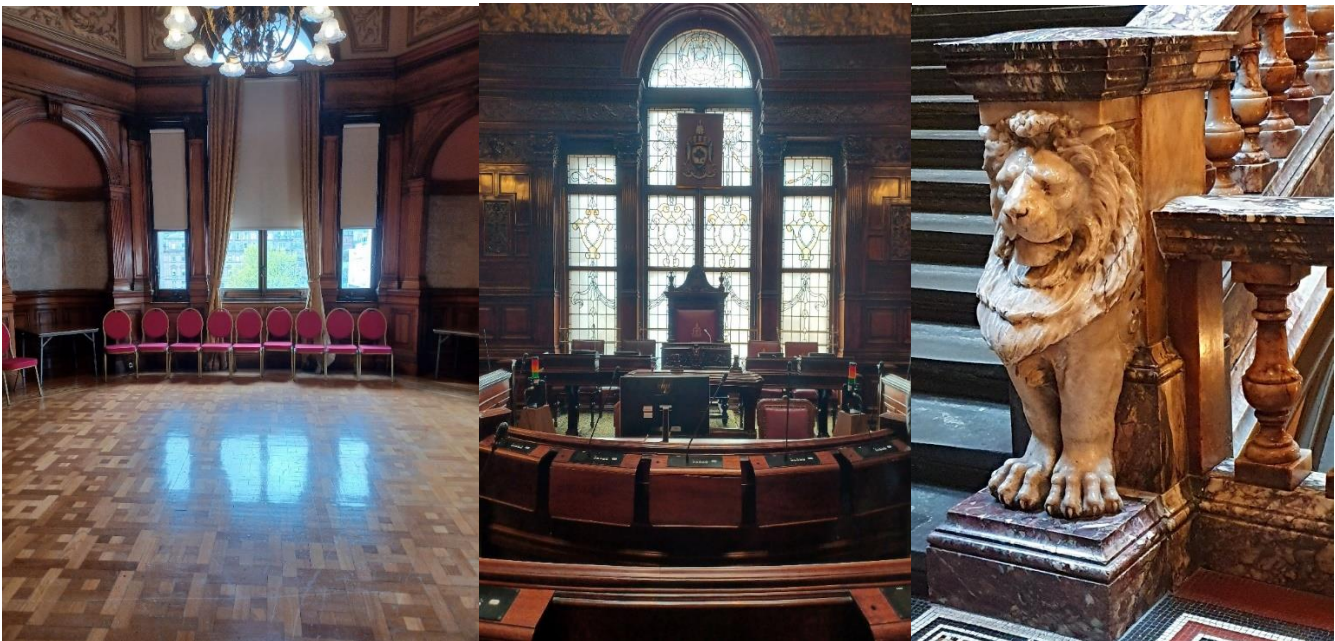
This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.

Social Photography.
Group Leader – Anne McLean

Our plan on Monday 13th April was to be at the City Chambers early enough to get a spot on the 2.30pm tour. Mission accomplished! Tours take place twice daily, at 10:30 and 2.30pm and are limited to 25 per tour. You can't book in advance so, as passes are handed out 30 minutes before the tours start, early attendance is necessary.

Our tour guide was a good communicator with a strong clear voice, which held everyone's attention for the duration of the 45 minute tour.

There were no events on so we managed to see all of the public rooms, the top floor area with portraits of previous Lord Provosts, an oval balcony beneath an atrium and Wedgewood plasterwork. We admired the marble staircase several times, more marble here than in the Vatican...allegedly. We all thought the tour was interesting and well worth the time, also, it's still free to all.



We finished our day across at The Piper bar on Cochrane Street, Irn Bru Sour on tap as well as Disco Forklift Truck. In May we are intending to visit Claypits nature reserve in the north of the city, so fingers crossed for good weather and fewer roadworks across town. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Anne via the website.**

MONTHLY TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Gardening Gnomes, am/pm visits (occasionally on other days) <hr/> Bowling 14:30 – 16:00	Women in History 10:30 – 12:00	Local History 10:15 – 12:00	Book Group 11:00 – 12:15 <hr/> Art Appreciation 14:00 – 15:00 (chat). Longer for visits	Walk in the Park 10:00 – 12:00
2	Social Photography 14:00 – 15:40 <hr/>	Walk in the Park 10:-00 – 12:00 <hr/> Local Dining (lunchtime) <hr/> Quiz 14:00 – 16:00 <hr/> Pickleball 15:00 – 16:00	Mah Jong 10:15 – 12:30	Cribbage/Scrabble 10:30 – 12:30 <hr/> Conversational French 10:00 – 12:00	Walking AM/PM
3	*Group Leaders Meeting 10:15 – 12:00 <hr/> Music Appreciation Society 10:15 – 12:00 (occasionally other slots will be used) <hr/> Bowling 14:30 – 16:00	Pub Lunch and Discussion 12:30 – 14:00 <hr/> Tennis 10:00 – 12:00 Langside Sports Club	Science & Technology 10:30 – 13:00	Monthly Meeting 13:30 – 15:30	Disc Golf 10:30 – 12:00 <hr/> Walk in the Park 10:00 – 12:00
4		Walk in the Park 10:00 – 12:00 <hr/> Pickleball 15:00 – 16:00	Mah-Jong 10:15 – 12:30	Cribbage/Scrabble 10:30 – 12:30 <hr/> Photography 10:30 – 11:30 <hr/> Conversational French 10:00 – 12:00	Executive Committee Meeting 10:30 – 12:00

The Theatre & Cinema Group meets as and when events are identified in advance
Scottish Country Dancing Group is a joint arrangement with East Renfrewshire U3A
Local Dining, Pickleball, Theatre & Cinema and Book Groups are currently at capacity with waiting lists
Group Leaders - meet March, June and November *