



Welcome to the “Flaming June” edition of your Newsletter, and to Frederick Leighton’s famous portrait of the same title. It has been pouring with rain all week, and not by any stretch of the imagination remotely “flaming”. Summer arrived for a few days towards the end of May, giving enough time to finish planting in the garden, so fingers crossed for a prompt re-appearance of the sun.

The annual barbeque takes place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the GWR Bar & Grill. Details are on Page 6. Also on Page 6 is information on two taster sessions for Bridge.

As you know, the u3a is a national organisation and the articles in the quarterly magazine highlight how much activity there is nationwide with various groups. I was delighted to learn from one of my friends who lives on Merseyside that she is a member of the u3a in Wallasey. I have since had an interesting exchange of emails with Cathy Morgan, one of the committee members of that branch, and she has kindly prepared an informative note for this month’s Newsletter. You will find this on Page 4, and I hope you will take advantage of Cathy’s invitation to view Wallasey u3a’s Facebook page.

The Spotlight on Page 7 is being shone on Moira Shearer’s two groups – Women in History and Science & Technology. Moira has had an admirable career as a scientist and, as our Deputy Chair, our representative for the u3a in Scotland AND a Group Leader, has an enviable energy. Moira hopes to welcome you to one or both of her groups.

Nancy Steven is our Book Group leader, and she has prepared a recommended reading list for the summer based on the most popular books voted by the Group, which is on Page 5. As a retired teacher, Nancy has many tales to tell, and on Page 3 you will find an amusing account of a school trip to Rosyth Naval Dockyard.

The poem “The Box” that was included in May’s Newsletter was well received. One of our members, Margaret Hendry, shares the Jenny Joseph poem “Warning” on Page 8. There can be few clearer expressions than this of the “I really don’t give a stuff” attitude that gladly comes with getting on a bit.

Some of our groups will be taking a break in July and August, but others will continue. Details are on Page 2. Your Newsletter will also be on holiday, but only for July – it will be back in August.

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**, and there is a change to the programme. Sadly, Hildegard Berwick has a fractured foot so her planned presentation on the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1901 will take place when we reconvene in the autumn. We send Hildegard our best wishes.

Instead, our speaker will be Brendan Berry on John James Audubon's Birds of America. Brendan's planned presentation of this topic in February had to be postponed due to his wife's illness, and we are pleased to welcome him back. **As usual, the meeting starts at 1:30pm in Newlands South Church.**

Please send your articles to [newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk).

Kind regards,  
*Elainne Lawrie* (Editor)

### **Future Monthly Meetings**

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

**June 18<sup>th</sup>:-** Brendan Berry on "Birds of America" by John James Audubon

**October 15<sup>th</sup>:** Barbara Graham on "Dr Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's hospitals"

**November 19<sup>th</sup>:** Iain English on "The Isle of May"



### **Brain Teaser**

1. What was the name of the dog in "Peter Pan"?
2. What is the surname of Emma in the Jane Austen novel of the same name?
3. What was the name of the drummer in Dr Teeth & the Electric Mayhem, the fictional band from The Muppet Show?
4. In which country is the holiday destination of Bali?
5. Which English painter was famous for his scenes of the industrial north with their matchstick figures?

### **Group Summer Timetable**

**The following Groups will not meet during July and August:-** Quiz, Pub Lunch and Discussion, Local Dining, Theatre and Cinema, Women in History, Science & Technology, Bowls.

The Local History Group will not meet in July **only**. The next meeting will be in August.

**The following Groups will meet during July and August:-** Pickleball, Garden Gnomes, Tennis, Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation, Social Photography, Disc Golf, Walking, Board Games, Book, French.



### A Trip Down Memory Lane

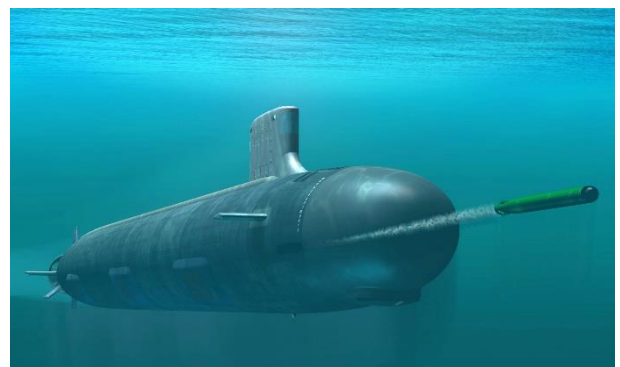
One of the perks of being a primary school teacher was organising educational visits to coincide with learning. Especially if you were able to have a guided tour "behind the scenes" of places where ordinary members of the public were rarely admitted. I have toured fire stations, police stations, a milk bottle factory, MacDonalds and even RAF Leeming tornado base.

One of the more memorable excursions, however, was visiting HMS Cochrane, the Royal Navy name for Rosyth Naval Dockyard. On arrival, my group of 9 year olds was met by a rather dashing lieutenant who was to be our guide for the day.

First stop was the navy police dog section for a display, then it was off to view a frigate. Our guide apologised that there wasn't more to see because, due to Queen Elizabeth's jubilee, the majority of Her Majesty's ships were taking part in a sail-past in the south of England. He then had a lightbulb moment, however, and excused himself to make a phone call (no mobile phones in those days). He returned looking very pleased with himself and said "Follow me", then led us along what seemed to be an empty quayside. I soon realised from the reaction of the children that there was something in the water. That "something" turned out to be HMS Odin, a nuclear submarine which was undergoing a refit.

Before I knew what was happening, the children were quickly taken on board by passing them one by one from sailor to sailor. I was left to descend the metal ladder, and by the time I was on board the children had scattered to the far corners of the submarine. Getting everyone safely on dry land was no mean feat, but everyone - including me - went home with a smile and a tale to tell. I often wonder how many of those children remember that visit. I certainly do.

*Nancy Steven*





## So ferry, cross the Mersey.....

Our Wallasey U3A here on the Wirral, across the river Mersey from Liverpool, was first set up in 2008 between a few friends and with just a few members. Gradually, however, it has risen to about 212 members, although it varies from month to month.

I joined about 9 years ago and signed up for the ukulele group. I had played the guitar years ago, but adult life got in the way so I thought I would learn to play the ukulele to see how I was going to adapt. That was when I realised that the U3A was doing for me exactly as it says on the tin, and this is how we like to promote it now. It introduced me to new friends at a time when my husband's and my social life was declining after retirement.

I was also suddenly learning new skills, so it wasn't long before I persuaded my husband to join me in the ukulele group. One group led to another for us, and we started persuading other people we knew to join our U3A.

Over the years we gradually became more and more involved. We both became committee members, I took over the editing of the newsletter, Facebook group and our website and then I was asked to lead the ukulele group and I started a Bus Buddies group.

One of our jobs on the committee is to try to encourage more people to join our U3A, and to convince them that it is not just for retired people but for people of all ages who have some time on their hands. Our committee now is made up of an enthusiastic mix of men and women with various backgrounds and experiences which means that we all contribute with our own skills, ideas and enthusiasm. I think we are lucky with our committee members, however we are constantly on the lookout for new members due to the limited time that we are each allowed to serve.

Over more recent years those who are joining are more comfortable with using the internet, which means that we can send our newsletters by email. Also, each of our groups communicate using Whatsapp, and we have an ever-growing Facebook group as well as our website.

You are very welcome to join our Facebook group **(4) Wallasey U3A | Facebook**, the more the merrier. Also please have a look at our website for more information about us.

***Cathy Morgan***



Summer is fast approaching and that means holidays! Whether you are relaxing on a beach, by a pool, on the deck of a cruise ship or just lazing in the garden, your companion should be a good book. In case you are at a loss as to what to choose, here are some recommendations from the Book Group that we have enjoyed over the past few months.

### **"Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell**

The story of Shakespeare's son Hamnet, who inspired the play Hamlet. Now an Oscar winning film.

### **"List of Suspicious Things " by Jennie Godfrey.**

An excellent debut novel about two teenage girls living at the time of the Yorkshire Ripper murders. They decide to solve the murders themselves by listing things about people in their community. It reveals how a community is interlinked. A feel good story with a twist at the end.

### **"Two Kinds of Stranger " by Steve Kavanagh**

An internet influencer is kidnapped by a stranger who murders her husband and best friend and then frames her for the crime. Eddie Flynn is the lawyer whose team investigate. Intricate plot with interwoven stories.

### **"Wild Animal " by Joel Dicker**

Crime thriller set in Geneva and Nice. Sophie and Arpad are a golden couple who live a wealthy lifestyle. But all is not as it seems. A tale of lies, stalking and bank robberies. Lots of twists and red herrings right to the final chapter.

These are only some suggestions to accompany your summer. They are all available at your local library. Let us know if you read any of them.

**REMEMBER - *"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book"***  
(JK Rowling)

***Nancy Steven***





## You Heard It Here First

### **Glasgow Network of u3as Annual Barbecue 2026**

Come along and enjoy a relaxed summer get-together with friends from across the u3a network.

- Outdoor Barbecue in fine weather
- Italian Buffet indoors if it's wet
- A sociable evening
- Great food
- Great company

**Date:** Thursday 18 June 2026  
**Time:** 4:00pm – 8:00pm. Food and drink served from 5:00pm – 6:30pm  
**Where:** 1051 GWR Bar & Grill, 1051 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XP  
**Cost:** £24 per person (includes food and one drink – wine, beer or soft)  
**How to book:** email: [secretary@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk)  
**OR**  
pay by bank transfer to: **Glasgow Southside u3a**  
**sort code: 80-22-60**  
**account no: 24795569**

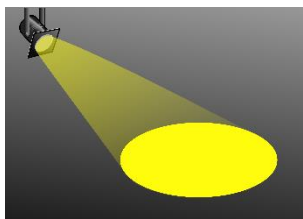
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### **ANYONE FOR BRIDGE?**

The Clyde Bridge Centre, 4 Centura Park, Nasmyth Road, Hillington G52 4PR is hosting two “taster sessions” on 13<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2pm – 4pm. No experience is necessary, and a friendly, stimulating environment in which to make new friends and learn a popular game is promised.

All queries should be emailed to [Frances.Mckeon@clydebridgecentre.org](mailto:Frances.Mckeon@clydebridgecentre.org)





## SPOTLIGHT

I am a microbiologist and spent most of my working life in London working in cancer research. When I retired I joined Kingston upon Thames u3a and among the groups I participated in were Science and Technology and Women in History.

Science and Technology was an ideal group for me because of my career in cancer research. I was the only biologist in the group which had about 16 members. We explored a variety of topics introduced by individuals in the group and based on their individual interests or careers. We also visited places of scientific interest from time to time including Bletchley Park, the wartime code breaking centre and also the Atomic Energy Authority's nuclear fusion laboratories at Culham near Oxford.

One of my other interests is history and the Women in History group was another way of exploring history through the lives of famous (and not so famous) women from the past. With a group of around 20 members we covered quite a number of interesting lives throughout the period that I was a member.

I returned to Scotland in 2021 and was involved in setting up Glasgow Southside u3a. The committee members of the new u3a were encouraged to offer groups which our members could join. I offered to lead the two groups mentioned above which I was familiar with.

Glasgow Southside u3a Women in History has been running now for over three years during which time we have explored the lives of women such as Josephine Baker, Jessie Stephen and Freya Stark. We also visited the Womens' Library in Bridgeton.

Glasgow Southside u3a Science and Technology group has covered a large number of topics and scientists such as nuclear fusion, quantum mechanics, Epigenetics and we have visited Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life and the National Mining Museum.

Women in History meets from 10.30 till 12:00 on the first Tuesday of the month. Science and Technology meets from 10.30 till 12:00 on the third Wednesday of the month. The groups have been meeting at Pollokshaws Burgh Hall but from September 2026 both groups will be at Newlands South Church.

New members are always welcome. Both groups do sometimes lead to lively discussions and I like to think we all learn something new.

***Moir Shearer***

**Warning**  
**by**  
**Jenny Joseph**  
**(1932 - 2018)**

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter

I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth

I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick flowers in other people's gardens

And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
Or only bread and pickle for a week  
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
And pay our rent and not swear in the street  
And set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised  
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

***Do you have a favourite poem? Anything from Pam Ayres to William Wordsworth is welcome. Please email [newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk)***

## GROUP NEWS

### LOCAL HISTORY

#### Group Leader – Shona Liddell

In May the group had a very interesting walk around Pollokshields. We learned a lot about the establishment of the area, and who built and lived in the buildings.

In June our visit was to the Ramshorn Graveyard, where we had a fascinating guided tour and talk about the lives of those buried there, and their contribution to Glasgow between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> and mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Photos, from the left, are:- The Mason's insignia on Pollokshields Burgh Hall; our Group outside Titwood Bowling Club Arts and Crafts Pavilion; "The Knowe" by Alexander "Greek" Thomson and the burial place of David Dale.

We will not be meeting in July, so our next get-together will be the first Wednesday in August (topic still to be decided). **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**

Turnout was small for our May debate on the merits of Public Enquiries, however the discussion proved lively and wide ranging. It was pretty astonishing how much we, i.e. Scotland and the rest of the UK, separately spend on what are viewed as “obligatory” investigations, with many of which you will be familiar. Does “it must never happen again” actually ring true, however?

The Titwood Bar is proving to be a very friendly environment, and we were pleased to welcome two new members, Josie and Liz. The final discussion before the summer break (Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 12:45-14:00) is “*Americanisation: how has it affected us, 100 years (or so) in?*” We resume in September. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.**

## **Quiz Group**

### **Group Leader – Brenda Mason**

The May quiz was won by the Four Aces, answering questions on subjects ranging from Greek Mythology, Film Taglines to Hits of the Sixties - with many others in between. Well done to Margaret, Elaine, Rosie and Nancy.



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

**Brain Teaser Answers:-** 1. Nana; 2. Woodhouse; 3. Animal; 4. Indonesia; 5. L. S. Lowry

## **Disc Golf**

### **Group Leader: Ken Liddell**

The DGs picked a reasonable May day to get the season properly under way. A couple of us had been at Nic Gordon’s April coaching session, so we all made the effort to embrace some of the suggestions/tips he had given. June’s get-together takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> (10:30-12:00). Why don’t you join us at Rosshall Park.....we continue over the summer.

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

## **Pickleball Group**

### **Group Leader – Heather McEwen**

Pickleball continues to be popular. We will be playing twice a month over the summer, as usual. The next date is June 23rd. There is a waiting list in operation for this group. **Enquiries should be emailed to Heather via the website.**

## **Science and Technology**

### **Group Leader – Moira Shearer**

On Wednesday 17th June we will be exploring Mirror Bacteria and their potential threat to life. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Moira via the website.**

## **Book Group**

### **Group Leader – Nancy Steven**

This month we have been reading "**The Enigma of Room 622**" by Joel Dicker. It is a weighty tome of 560 pages, however, each page is essential to the intricate plot or plots.

At the end of the book, we realise it has all been a game of smoke and mirrors. The events inhabit a world which is both fictional and non-fictional.

A complicated novel by a great storyteller, which is well worth a read.

There is a waiting list in operation for this group. **Enquiries should be emailed to Nancy via the website.**

## **Music Appreciation Group**

### **Group Leader – Ken Liddell**

Another lively session in mid-May, reminiscing over the music of recently departed icons, while also, at last, covering most of the significant ladies of Irish music. We discussed bands like the Cranberries, the Corrs, even B\*witched, plus Sinéad O'Connor, Imelda May and Lisa O'Neill, among others. We had a mention for Donovan near to his 80th birthday, while one of our new members had prepared a short "year" quiz based on musical happenings. More this month, perhaps, Marion??

Next time we'll travel to Dundee and Fife to sample music and music makers there. And maybe Paul will be back to guide us through minimalist music via his playlist.

There is a football-related problem this month affecting our usual venue, the Stag and Thistle. We will therefore be trying a new venue, the HUG Cafe, Skirving Street, Shawlands, G41 3AB. Initial overtures have had positive feedback so we'll give it a shot on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 10:15-12:00. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.**

## **Women in History**

### **Group Leader – Moira Shearer**

Women in History on Tuesday 2nd June will be discussing Rena Stewart, a Scottish linguist at Bletchley Park who translated Hitler's will and was a pioneer at the BBC World Service. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Moira via the website.**

## **Art Appreciation Group**

### **Group Leader – Hildegarde Berwick**

The May meeting of the Art Appreciation Group was an Art Chat meeting which focused on the Scottish Colourists, with some interesting comments and observations about the artworks discussed.

**There will be no meeting in June.**

July will see the Group visiting the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow to see their exhibition about John James Audubon and his impressive publication of drawings, 'Birds of America'.

August will be a joint meeting with the Gardening Group to the formal gardens of Drummond Castle, outside Crieff.

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

## **Gardening Gnomes**

### **Group Leader – Ken Liddell**

There have been two trips by the Gardening Gnomes since May's newsletter. You will remember that we were about to cross the water to Benmore Garden, north of Dunoon. On the day, the weather was kind, and the eight of us made an impression on the 120 acres in the time available, still allowing time for a bite or two to eat afterwards. It was very obviously Rhododendron time, but with many other highlights too, including the "Handkerchief" tree.



Despite a poor weather forecast, we set off for Moffat to view the celebrated “Himalayan” garden at Craigieburn, visited by Robert Burns. More recently, the garden has been cultivated from scratch and populated with an exotic selection of Nepalese flora, expertly tended by Dawa Sherpa and overseen by the owner, Janet McGowan. Despite this garden being only six acres compared to the 120 acres at Benmore, it was a fairly astounding visit to experience the unusual greenery on show. Fortunately, the weather behaved until we were safely inside the Rumbling Tum for our lunchtime bite.



On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July we will be visiting a selection of gardens in Lanark, open under Scotland's Gardens Scheme. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Ken via the website.**

### **Walking Group** **Group Leader – Rosie Schild**

The Group's latest walk on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May was from Prestwick to Troon. We had a perfect day and everyone enjoyed the 5 mile walk along the beach. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Rosie via the website.**



## **Social Photography.**

### **Group Leader – Anne McLean**

Monday 11th May found us meeting earlier at 1pm to make the trip across town to Claypits Local Nature Reserve on a No 75 bus. Once an industrial hub running alongside the canal, it has grown into a thriving nature and wildlife place managed by a group of community volunteers.

Rain kept away for the duration of our wander through the woods before returning along the canal path. We spotted a heron, and there were several anglers trying their luck although no one had managed to catch anything when we were there.

As the cafe only opens Wednesday to Sunday, we walked back into city centre to enjoy refreshments at Lauders while reviewing our photographs and discussing future visit locations.

We decided on an outdoor venue again for our June meeting. This time we will be closer to home, visiting Cathcart Cemetery/Linn Park and possibly The Old Smiddy. We're hoping that the weather will be dry and warm for our meeting. **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,<br>am/pm visits<br>(occasionally on<br>other days)<br><br>Bowling<br>14:30 – 16:00                                                                        | Women in<br>History<br>10:30 – 12:00                                                                                                    | Local History<br>10:15 – 12:00           | Book Group<br>11:00 – 12:15<br><br>Art Appreciation 14:00 –<br>15:00 (chat). Longer for<br>visits                    | Walk in the Park<br>10:00 – 12:00                                   |
| 2    | Social Photography<br>14:00 – 15:40                                                                                                                                         | Walk in the<br>Park<br>10:00 – 12:00<br><br>Local Dining<br>(lunchtime)<br><br>Quiz 14:00 –<br>16:00<br><br>Pickleball<br>15:00 – 16:00 | Mah Jong<br>10:30 – 12:30                | Cribbage/Scrabble<br>10:30 – 12:30<br><br>Conversational French<br>10:00 – 12:00                                     | Walking<br>AM/PM                                                    |
| 3    | *Group Leaders<br>Meeting 10:15 –<br>12:00<br><br>Music Appreciation<br>Society 10:15 – 12:00<br>(occasionally other<br>slots will be used)<br><br>Bowling<br>14:30 – 16:00 | Pub Lunch and<br>Discussion<br>12:30 – 14:00<br><br>Tennis<br>10:00 – 12:00<br>Langside Sports<br>Club                                  | Science &<br>Technology<br>10:30 – 13:00 | Monthly Meeting<br>13:30 – 15:30                                                                                     | Disc Golf<br>10:30 – 12:00<br><br>Walk in the Park<br>10:00 – 12:00 |
| 4    |                                                                                                                                                                             | Walk in the<br>Park<br>10:00 – 12:00<br><br>Pickleball<br>15:00 – 16:00                                                                 | Mah-Jong<br>10:30 – 12:30                | Cribbage/Scrabble<br>10:30 – 12:30<br><br>Photography 10:30 –<br>11:30<br><br>Conversational French<br>10:00 – 12:00 | Executive<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>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 \*