



Welcome to the September edition of your Newsletter. Autumn has only just begun, but aren't the colours already glorious? It is absolutely my favourite season of the year, even after the clocks change at the end of October.

Most of our Groups have been on a summer break, so there is little news to report this month. Activities have now recommenced, so there will be information on these in October's Newsletter.

In June's Newsletter I included an article from Cathy Morgan of Wallasey u3a. In return, I forwarded Cathy a copy of that newsletter for circulation amongst her members, and I was delighted to receive an email from Nick Wootton of Wallasey u3a. Nick's family's connection with Glasgow and the bravery of his late Uncle Bill is a joy to read. Nick's email is shown in its entirety on pages 8 and 9.

A new Mah-jong Group is starting on 28th October. Details are on page 3.

This month's Spotlight article is by our Chair, Ken Liddle, who recounts the creation of Glasgow Southside u3a. Grateful thanks from all of us, Ken.

Housework is one of life's necessary evils. I am ambivalent towards it myself, viewing it as one of those things that have to be done if you don't want to live in a pigsty and walk about with clothes that resemble a Jimmy Shand accordion. In June's Newsletter, Margaret Hendry shared the Jenny Joseph poem "Warning". For this month, Margaret has found the poem "Dust If You Must" by Rose Milligan, which you will find on page 6.

Death is one of those facts of life that makes its presence known with increasing frequency as we become older and, sadly, I lost a close family member over the summer. It is also a fact that sad events can produce superb artistry (think of the number of paintings, songs, films and books on loss through death or failed love).

A longstanding favourite of mine is Tess's letter to Angel Clare from Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, which I will include in a future Newsletter. This month, however, I have chosen the magnificent letter written by Thomas Jefferson to John Adams on the death of Adams' wife Abigail in 1818. Thomas Jefferson was the third US President, succeeding Adams, and was primarily responsible for the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

I have had a copy of this letter sellotaped to the inside of one of my kitchen cupboards for years, such is the beauty of not only how it was written but for the sincerity expressed. Jefferson and Adams both died on Independence Day, 4th July 1826.

Our first Monthly Meeting for the new session was held on 17th September, and it was good to see so many of you returning. Our speaker was Dr Irene O'Brien, from whom we learned much about Glasgow's role in both making use of and campaigning to abolish the slave trade.

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held on **Thursday 15th October**. Our speaker will be Barbara Graham, who has spoken knowledgeably and enthusiastically at previous meetings. Her topic this time will be Dr Elsie Inglis and her influence on women's health and hospitals in Scotland. **As usual, the meeting starts at 1:30pm in Newlands South Church.**

Please send your articles to newsletter@glasgow-southside-ug3a.org.uk.

Kind regards,
Elainne Lawrie (Editor)

Future Monthly Meetings

We are pleased to have secured the following quality speakers for 2026/2027:-

- October 15th:** Barbara Graham on "Dr Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's hospitals"
- November 19th:** Iain English on "The Isle of May"
- December:** No meeting
- January 21st:** Afternoon Tea
- February 18th:** Hildegard Berwick on "The 1901 Exhibition"
- March 18th:** Brendan Berry on "Photography and Art"
- April 15th:** Elizabeth Roddick on "Your Mind and Improving Your Memory"
- May 20th:** Harold Amos on "Russia Starts Here"
- June 17th:** Clem Clement on "Around Scotland in 15 places – an Incomer's View"



Brain Teaser

1. What type of animal was Seabiscuit?
2. What is the first name of Mr Darcy in the Jane Austen novel Pride & Prejudice?
3. When VAT was first introduced in 1973, what was the rate?
4. To whom is the exclamation "Eureka" attributed?
5. Who painted the Rake's Progress?

Mahjong

We are relaunching this group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month between 10:30 and 12:30, starting on 28th October. We are returning to our old venue of the Stag and Thistle on Pollokshaws Road.

It's a very enjoyable game, a bit like rummy but played with tiles instead of cards. There are many winning combinations of tiles, with colourful names such as Three Philosophers and Greta's Dragon, making it a fun and fascinating game.

We are looking for more members and beginners are welcome.

Contact: groups@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk

U3A interest groups - do you want more?

U3A groups are run by members for members. We have a good number of enjoyable and flourishing groups, some of which are full to capacity and others which would welcome more members. You can find out about all our groups on the website. Or come along to our monthly meetings and chat to me.

Are there more groups you would like to see set up? Something you're already interested in or would like to try? Please let me know. We can see if anyone else would be interested too.

Is the group you'd like to join already full? Or are you on a waiting list? Or can't you manage the day the group meets? Please consider setting up a second group. A new Book Group launched by Rosie Schild is already fully subscribed and has a waiting list, proof that you are unlikely to ever be the only one interested in a particular subject.

Would you be willing to lead a new group? You don't need to be an expert and might even be a complete beginner - it doesn't matter. And it needn't be at all onerous. How often you wish to meet and how you wish to run the group is up to you.

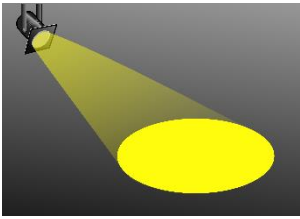
I can help so please let me know.

Please get in touch with all your ideas, suggestions and offers of help.

Heather McEwen

Groups Co-ordinator

Contact: groups@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk



SPOTLIGHT

Henry Douglass, our former chair and current IT support officer, has previously written a few paragraphs documenting the early days of Glasgow Southside U3A, which I will now expand upon.

When my wife Shona and I moved to Glasgow in March 2020, one minor consideration was “where is the nearest u3a?“, as we had been associated with Lanark & District u3a since retiring in 2013, and retained our membership there after our house move. At that time, of course, the world was dominated by Covid-19, so all u3a activities and meetings had largely been abandoned. Zoom calls for the Lanark & District branch helped keep us together.

In 2021, whilst making it clear we were not an official u3a Group, I managed to organise the Gardening Group into “Gardening Gnomes”, whereby we made flying visits in sizeable numbers to the Borders to visit gardens. The spectre of Covid still hovered, so proper distancing was observed and there was no car sharing.

I was mulling over whether to join the u3a branches of East Renfrewshire or Glasgow West End, these being the most geographically convenient. On 11th November 2022, however, this appeared on a Facebook page:-

“There will be a meeting to launch a possible Glasgow Southside u3a on the 24th November at 1.30pm in The Glad Cafe, 1006A Pollokshaws Road. Please tell your friends and come along if interested.”

And so, with 20-30 folk turning up, we launched! Glasgow West End u3a was in the background somewhere promoting the idea, and there were other “movers and shakers” too, including Liz Irvine, now one of our two Scotland representatives.

My memories are dim about who was there, and who subsequently became involved, but I do remember sitting next to Jim Gillies (our current Treasurer). Henry was also around, as was Heather Alexander, who, with Henry, put in a power of work in our first year, drafting all the boring but necessary stuff for a properly constituted u3a. Meetings in January followed in the Bungo Den, which would later become our “go-to” place for various meetings.

From there, via Glasgow Indoor Bowling Club, St Ninians’s Church Hall, St Margaret’s Church Hall and now, Newlands South Church Hall, the Glasgow Southside branch, its groups and its membership have progressed and expanded in a relatively short time. It’s important to document all this before we all forget it, and I’m grateful to Henry for pulling the story together.

I’m still an Associate Member at Lanark and District U3A.....difficult to break the ties!

Ken Liddell



A Trip Down Memory Lane

The start of the new school term reminded me of having to cover the school books issued at the outset of every academic year. This was a task that inadvertently highlighted the socio-economic differences between the pupils within the class, most but not all of whose fathers worked in the car factory or shipyards. Mothers rarely worked outside of the home then.

Those higher up the scale covered their books (AND jotters) in brown paper bought specifically for the purpose (*“money to burn” according to my thrifty mother*). They wrote their name, their class and the title of the book or subject in block capitals, all neatly underlined with a ruler.

Others (myself included) used leftover wallpaper, sparking many interior design discussions during the interval. My aforementioned thrifty mother only ever allowed woodchip in our house because “you can keep painting over it”. I had to write my details in between the bits of wood, and I defy anyone to successfully use a ruler on woodchip.

Then there were those who were from even less affluent households than the rest of us, who used an assortment of coverings like newspaper pages or plastic carrier bags turned inside out. Sometimes a sympathetic teacher would find some old paper and would quietly hand it over.

We were all the same, however, in having been brought up to respect not only education and the freedom it could buy, but also property belonging to someone else.

Elainne Lawrie



You Heard It Here First

If you ever find you have run short of coathangers, don't buy them. TJ Hughes at the St Enoch Centre has a large box of hangers beside the checkout at the womenswear section on the ground floor, which they offer free of charge. There is a wide range of hangers – singles, doubles, trouser and ones with clips.

Nat King Cole Evening

This was a most enjoyable evening out on 28th June at the City Halls, with superlative musicians and singers from the “Down For The Count” orchestra. They will be returning in early December for a Christmas concert, which will be well worth attending. The photo shows us with Pavel Rosenfeld, Publicity Manger for the orchestra.



Dust If You Must by Rose Milligan (1938 - 2024)

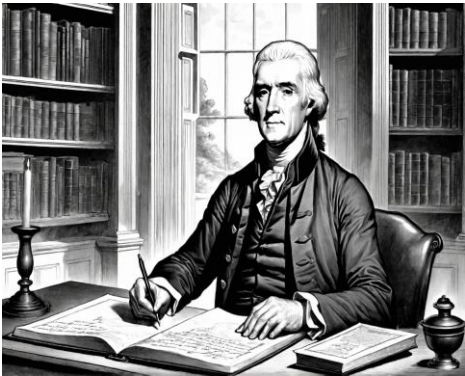
Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Thomas Jefferson's letter of condolence to John Adams

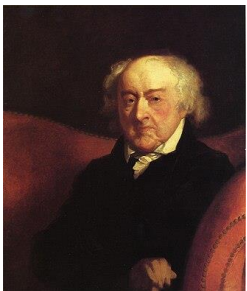


Thomas Jefferson (13th April 1743 – 4th July 1826)

MONTICELLO, November 13, 1818.

The public papers, my dear friend, announce the fatal event of which your letter of October the 20th had given me ominous foreboding. Tried myself in the school of affliction, by the loss of every form of connection which can rive the human heart, I know well, and feel what you have lost, what you have suffered, are suffering, and have yet to endure.

The same trials have taught me that for ills so immeasurable, time and silence are the only medicine. I will not, therefore, by useless condolences, open afresh the sluices of your grief, nor, although mingling sincerely my tears with yours, will I say a word more where words are vain, but that it is of some comfort to us both, that the term is not very distant, at which we are to deposit in the same cerement, our sorrows and suffering bodies, and to ascend in essence to an ecstatic meeting with the friends we have loved and lost, and whom we shall still love and never lose again. God bless you and support you under your heavy affliction.



John Adams (30th October 1735 – 4th July 1826)

Do you have a favourite poem or piece of prose? Email newsletter@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk



So ferry, cross the Mersey.....(cont'd)

Dear Elaine,

I am a member of Wallasey U3A, and have been sent a copy of your magazine by Cathy Morgan.

I was particularly taken by Nancy Steven's piece about the class trip to Rosyth Naval Dockyard, as a fellow teacher of the age group in question. I'm glad it wasn't me on the trip - my blood would have turned to ice if my class were being man-handled down into a nuclear submarine without parents' permission or the ever-necessary risk assessments! Me? Well I'm an inveterate risk-taker, but my headteacher at the time was definitely not, and definitely not interested in 'boys' stuff! 'Teddy bears' picnics were more her thing.....!

Anyway, cut to the chase.

It was really the submarine thing and Glasgow connections that woke me from my slumber.

My Auntie Hilary, a Wallasey girl and my Dad's youngest sister, was a WREN in the war, and met a dashing Glaswegian sub-lieutenant Bill Morrison, whom she subsequently married. Bill Morrison was not a tall man, which was very handy as he trained on midget submarines, or 'X'craft.

As First Lieutenant on the midget submarine XE11, he trained with his crew and undertook calibration exercises, and at the end of these they made to surface. Unknown to them, however, the tide had carried them out of their area and under the boom ship "Norina", which had been laying a buoy and had finished her task at the same time as XE11 was surfacing. While the XE11 was under "Norina", her engine had been started and the propeller sliced through the pressure hull of the XE11, which pretty much sank like a stone. Without going into all the detail, Bill and another crew member, ERA Swatton, escaped, but three other members perished.

Years later, Bill, who had suffered back trouble, was given an X-ray which showed that he had broken his back during the escape! He also eventually had an entry in the Guinness book of Records, having made (at that time) the deepest unaided ascent from a sunken submarine, having done so without any breathing apparatus. The divers who recovered the XE11 confirmed the depth as between 210 and 215 feet.

After the war, Bill became the principal of a Ford dealership in Glasgow, living in Cathcart. He, Auntie Hilary and their four children moved to Kilcreggan, then to Cove, and then took over the Knockderry Castle Hotel, a favoured watering hole for Naval personnel at Faslane. On retirement they moved to Helensburgh.

Bill trained with another Wallasey man, Lieutenant Ian 'Tich' Fraser VC, who, as commander of the XE3 sank the Japanese heavy cruiser "Takao". If anyone plays a round at Leasowe Golf Club, there is a display containing some artifacts as well as Ian Fraser's uniform. You'll see why he was

nicknamed Tich! The Diver on the XE3, LS 'Mick' Magennis was also awarded a VC for his outstanding bravery during this mission.

Bill was made an MBE, and died some years ago at the age of 88.

Anyone wanting to find out more about all these heroic men should seek out 'The Real X-Men' by Robert Lyman.

As a further aside, another Wallasey-Glasgow connection, our daughter is married to another Glaswegian. There can't be too many Raphels, can there?

I hope you find this of some interest,

Regards

Nick Wootton, Wallasey U3A

GROUP NEWS

Pickleball Group

Group Leader – Heather McEwen

We have been enjoying games throughout the summer and there is a marked improvement in play since we started. The group is now full but please still get in touch if you're keen to play.

Email: groups@glasgow-southside-u3a.org.uk

Art Appreciation Group

Group Leader – Hildegarde Berwick

In August, members of the Art Appreciation Group set off for Crieff for a joint visit with the Gardening Group to wander through the impressive formal gardens at Drummond Castle Gardens. September saw the Group returning not too far away to Perth Art Gallery. We visited a loan exhibition focusing on the works of the Scottish Colourists and we greatly appreciated the opportunity to view works not normally on display from private collections.

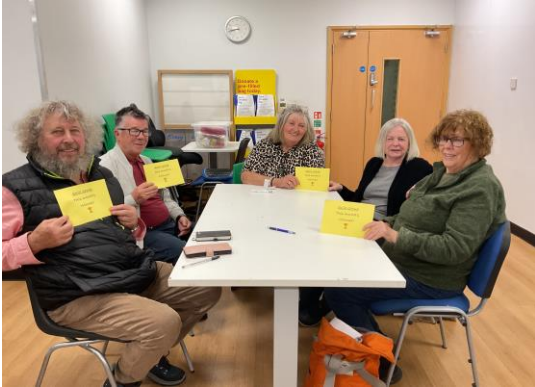
October will see us visiting Greenock and The Wyllieum, the museum dedicated to Glasgow born artist George Wyllie, who made Gourock his home. He became a full time artist after retiring as a Customs Officer and the River Clyde was a constant source of inspiration.

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

Quiz Group

Group Leader – Brenda Mason

The winning team in the September Quiz was the Jokers who answered questions on subjects such as Art & Culture, Seas & Oceans, Medical Terms and the 1960's. Well done to Bill, Joe, Rosie D, Margaret and Rosie S. **This group is open to new members, and anyone interested should contact Brenda via the website.**



Brain Teaser Answers:- 1. Racehorse 2. Fitzwilliam; 3. 10% 4. Archimedes 5. William Hogarth

MONTHLY TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

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