

## Paisley and District u3a Press Release: No Embargo: Wednesday 26 November 2025

### u3a presents Robert Tannahill's life in poetry and songs

Fans of Paisley's weaver poet, Robert Tannahill can celebrate his achievements on Thursday 4 December. Local musician, George McCallum will sing and recite popular works by the town's local bard for Paisley and District u3a members and guests.

Commented George McCallum: "If Robert were to return today, sadly, he would find many of the things still happening which he raged against in the late 18th and early 19th century. Robert was anti-war and anti-slavery. He was very much a voice against social injustice, including the issue of mental health which greatly affected his own life. I have the privilege to learn his poems, perform his songs, and to share about his life."



u3a deputy chair, Rod Ferrier said: "George McCallum will entertain us with stories about Robert Tannahill, as well as sing some songs and share his better-known poems. Tannahill was an accomplished Scottish poet and songwriter, back then being nearly as famous as Robert Burns. Members can join in with this festive interactive presentation."

This local u3a usually meets on the first Thursday of the month in Paisley's Salvation Army Hall at Mill Street (PA1 1ND). Refreshments are available from 1.30pm -2pm, prior to the start of the presentation.

Find more on u3a groups/activities and how to join at: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/>

**ENDS**

#### Notes to the Editor

1. **Photo credit:** Robert Tannahill by Renfrewshire Is. This Paisley 'weaver' poet and songwriter is the topic of a presentation by local expert and Scottish folk guitarist and musician, George McCallum.
2. **George McCallum** is the guest speaker at Paisley & District u3a's monthly meeting on Thursday 4 December 2025 at 2pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Paisley, PA1 1ND. For more details or to interview George McCallum, please contact PR Advisor, Allana Parker on **M: 07483 820027**
3. George McCallum was introduced to Tannahill later in life. Around ten years ago, he joined the Tannahill McDonald club in Paisley. Members meet quarterly in Tannahill's cottage in Queen Street. Very soon after joining, George was encouraged to research and appreciate the life and works of Tannahill. As George plays guitar and sings, it became a joy to learn these songs, and to perform them in Tannahill's cottage. u3a members can decide the relevance of Tannahill for today's society.
4. Paisley and District u3a is Scotland's 50<sup>th</sup> self-help learning organisation for people who no longer work full time. u3as are run by local volunteers who freely share 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://scotland.u3asite.uk/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/>