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### Chair's Update

Firstly, I am currently taking a leave of absence. My husband Douglas and I want to thank you for your support and the beautiful bouquet of flowers gifted to us. I would also like to thank Rod Ferrier for stepping up as deputy chair to keep our u3a vibrant and moving forward.



In October, we enjoyed a great and sunny day trip to Dunkeld. The coach was free, courtesy of a grant from Age Concern Scotland. Some members enjoyed the famous Hermitage walk while others went to find out more about Beatrix Potter at a nearby exhibition, museum and garden. We all relished the vibrant autumn colours. Many of us had a very pleasant lunch overlooking the river Tay at Dunkeld House. After lunch, we held a short quiz which proved to be a tight competition. Well done *The Autumn Wonders* team who won by a whisker!

u3a Scotland hosted an interesting group travel event for u3a members. This autumn zoom event, which was recorded, included inputs from Fife and Dundee u3as as well as Riviera Travel and Glenton Holidays. Also of interest was news that if you book with Riviera Travel and inform them you are a u3a member, then your local u3a may gain a monetary reward. Gail Donaldson, chair of u3a Scotland is canvassing opinion regarding a u3a Scotland travel group. You can find out more details about this proposal by clicking this link on our website: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a-autumn-zoom-meeting-travel/>

**Upcoming events** On **Thursday, 4 December**, the highly anticipated monthly meeting speaker is local musician, George McCallum. He will do a presentation on the Paisley weaver and poet, Robert Tannahill's life, as well as sing and recite some of Tannahill's poems. Remember, there is no January monthly meeting but these will resume on **5 February**. Meantime, the festive season gets off to a great start on **Wednesday, 10 December** with our Christmas lunch at the Glynhill Hotel's *Forever Young Event*. The lunch commences at 12:00pm and finishes around 4:00pm. There will be music - so remember to bring your dancing shoes!

We are planning a New Year social event and afternoon quiz for **Thursday, 8 January**. The venue is The Gabriels pub and restaurant in Gauze Street, Paisley. There will be finger food and refreshments from 2pm. Full details and the ticket price will be sent to members shortly. If you are interested, pop the date in your diary now!

I want to thank you for all the support throughout these eight plus years. It has been a privilege to get to know so many of you and to be involved in this adventure. Wishing you a happy, festive season.

Kathy O'Donnell, (Chair of Paisley and District u3a)

## **DUNKELD MEMORIES**



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# INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Information about all of our interest groups and how to join is available on our website, using the following link ... <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/groups/>. You will be contacted as soon as possible by the relevant group leader. Alternatively, you can send enquiries to our Membership Secretary, Andy Fairley at: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/contacts/>.

## Architecture

### Duncan Macintosh (Usually monthly on Thursdays at 10:30am)

If you would like to come and join us, please do get in touch with me, Duncan MacIntosh, via the Groups web page. Details of our 2026 events can shortly be found on our u3a website at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/architecture/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/architecture/).

## Art Appreciation

### Rod Ferrier (Monthly, Tuesdays)



Our year ends with a visit to The Art Department in Causeyside Street, Paisley for an exhibition celebrating the decorative arts. This December event follows on quickly from The *BIG ART* show, now a staple in the Paisley Arts calendar. Our group visit to *Deco 2025* takes place on **Tuesday, 16 December, at 11:00am**. It promises to be most interesting as all the exhibits are from local artists.

If you are interested in art and have not joined our group before, why not give us a try? One gallery visit, usually in the latter part of each month, is what we do. We're a sociable bunch and regularly go for a coffee or lunch after our visits.

Our 2026 program is being finalised but will include visits to these places:

- Alasdair Gray Archive
  - Lille Gallery in Milngavie Pottery with David Gillanders
  - Perth museum and gallery
  - Glasgow Art Club, with great food
- And perhaps Paisley museum and gallery!

Our group members have an amazing knowledge about art, so every day is a school day. You can contact me, Rod Ferrier at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/art-appreciation/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art-appreciation/).

## Art and Painting

### Chris Dykes (Monthly, 3rd Tuesday, St. George's Halls, Causeyside St, 1:00pm-3:00pm)

We are a group of laid back, budding artists who bring their own materials and enjoy two hours of relaxation and painting in a quiet environment. No teaching is involved but we are able to pick tips and advice from each other over a cup of tea and biscuits.

We hope to run a third block of sessions on **January 20, 2026**, **February 17, 2026** and **March 17, 2026**. There is a small charge of £3 per session, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. If you would like to join us, please contact Chris at:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/art-painting/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/art-painting/)



## Board Games

Rod Ferrier (Kilbarchan Library, 1st Tuesday monthly 2:00pm-4:00pm)



We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at Kilbarchan Old Library, Most people get there around 1:45pm till 4:00pm for a plethora of games, some old, some new – all of them supplied by our members. We enjoy a tea or a coffee and biscuits during these couple of hours of fun and chat – all for £3.

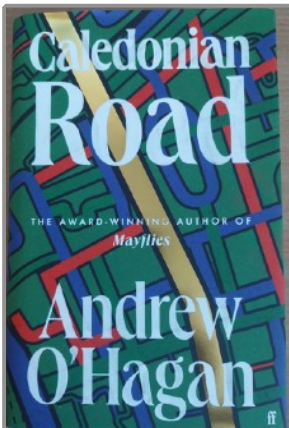
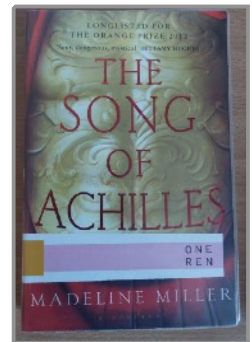
There is public transport by bus (McGills 32) from Houston Square, Johnstone, at 24 and 54 minutes past the hour to Kilbarchan. The return times to Johnstone are 7 and 37 past the hour at a bus stop near the library.

If you wish to come along but require a lift then please let me know, and we will see what can be arranged. Come along and join in! If you want more details, please message me, Rod Ferrier, at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/board-games/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/board-games/).

## Book Group

Dee Barnfield (Paisley Library, 11:00am-12:00pm, 1st Thursday of each month)

We had a good chat about *The Girl With No Name* this month, with all members appreciating both the depth of research, particularly about life in London during the Blitz, and the page-turning story conjured up by the author, Diney Costeloe. Our final meeting in December is also likely to contain some discussion of war, but from many centuries ago, as we'll be reading *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller. With a Greek branch of my family, including a nephew named Achilleas (Greek spelling), I'm particularly looking forward to this book.



As our next meeting would fall on 1 January, we won't meet again in person until **5 February, 2026**. We usually go for something different over the 2-month break, often a classic, and we discussed a range of 'free choice' options at our last meeting. This included several older classics, as well as some more contemporary choices, and following a voting process, I can reveal that the winner was *Caledonian Road* by Andrew O'Hagan. This book certainly has Dickensian echoes involving a multitude of characters, across various locations, and all strata of society.

For any queries about the Book Group or if you'd like to come and join us, please email me, Dee, at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/book-club/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/book-club/).

## Bridge Buddies

Chris Dykes (Member's home, Paisley. Every Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm)

The Bridge Buddies is a beginners' and intermediate social bridge group but all levels of ability are welcome. We play in an informal setting where we can chat and discuss strategy over tea and cake! We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in learning more about the group contact Chris Dykes at:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/bridge-buddies/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bridge-buddies/).



## Chair Yoga

Candy Millard (Wednesdays 2:30pm-3:15pm. St George's Church Halls)



This is proving to be a very popular group with additional blocks of sessions held from late September through to 26 November. We will now take a break and resume in **January 2026**. Further details will be posted on Paisley and District u3a's website.

If you are interested in coming along to this activity or want to ask any questions, please contact Candy at:  
[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/chair-yoga/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/chair-yoga/).

## Cinema and Theatre

Carole Delaney & May McFadden (Variable)

On Friday 10 October, several members attended Paisley Town Hall to see *The Glasgow Poisoner*, a new musical in the iconic series *A Play, A Pie and A Pint*. It told the story of Madeleine Smith who was accused of poisoning her lover with arsenic. Whilst the play and the seating were good, the provision of refreshments prior to the performance seemed rather disorganised.

Sunday 26 October saw members at the Linwood Showcase for a matinee screening by the National Theatre of *Mrs Warren's Profession*, Bernard Shaw's moral classic starring Imelda Staunton and her daughter Bessie Carter. This was an enjoyable afternoon with acting of the usual high standard.

The Citizens Theatre was the next outing, on Saturday, 1 November, to watch the excellent cast of four actors in a thought-provoking play, *So Young*.

On Sunday 9 November, ten members were again at the Showcase to see The Royal Ballet dancing *La Fille Mal Gardee*. This classic ballet features the famous 'clog dance' created by Sir Frederick Ashton. We were not disappointed and when the question, 'How many marks out of 10?' was asked, the swift reply was '11'.

Two days later, on Tuesday, 11 November, eight members were back at the Showcase to see the film *The Choral*. The story by Alan Bennett tells of a choral society whose male members enlist in World War 1, leaving the demanding Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) to recruit teenagers and experience the joy of singing. The film had mixed reviews from those attending but there was some lovely music and scenery.



FUTURE EVENTS: 13 members will be going to Paisley Arts Centre on **Thursday, 11 December** to see the Pace Theatre Company presenting *Snow White*. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to know more, please contact May or Carole at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/cinema-theatre/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/cinema-theatre/). We look forward to seeing you at future events.

## Conversational Spanish

### May Diver (Mondays 2:00pm-3:30pm: Kilbarchan Old Library)

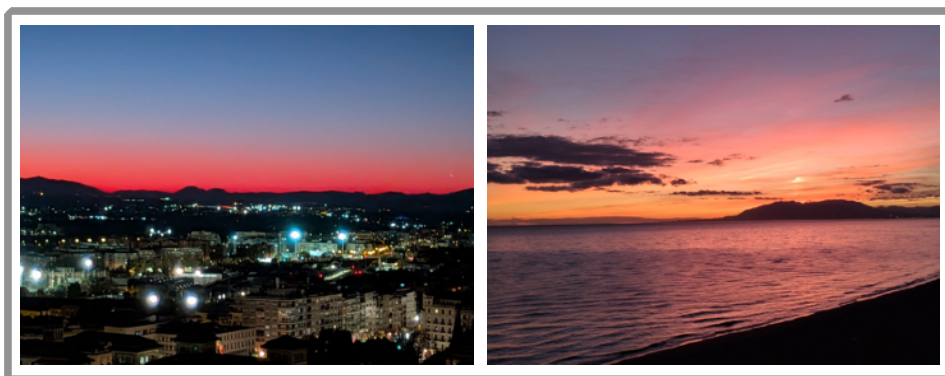
We are enjoying welcoming new members to the conversational Spanish group this autumn. Usually, we have a cuppa and a quick chat in English to start with before we try our Spanish. (It costs just £3 per person for the venue hire and refreshments.)

Thanks to all the practice, we have become more of an intermediate speaking group. Some members already have family and friends living in Spain. So these Monday sessions help us to brush up and improve conversational skills as people keep in touch by text, phone or actual visits. The photos below are of Murcia and Malaga and were provided by group members.

Looking ahead, the group will take a short break over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. It then resumes its regular Monday meetings once the schools go back in January. If you have a basic grasp of Spanish and want to practice speaking this language, then please do come along and join us.

For more information, please contact May at:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/conversational-spanish/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/conversational-spanish/).



## Crochet

### Wilma McPherson (Tuesdays 11:00am, weekly)



The Crochet group continues to meet weekly and create lovely items. It's a chance to learn about stitches and to share techniques, as well as have time for a friendly catch up.

Currently, there is a waiting list as all the places on the Crochet group are full. If you want to put your name on the list, or start another Crochet group, please get in touch with Chris our Group coordinator at:

<https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/groups/>.

### **TRIVIA QUESTION**

***Which of these famous scientists was born on Christmas Day?***

***a) Albert Einstein b) Galileo Galilei c) Isaac Newton d) Charles Darwin***

## Garden Gang

Valerie Reilly (Generally 2nd Wednesday of each month)

In October, the Garden Gang made a return visit to fellow u3a member, Roland's lovely garden to see the progress he has made in the last three years. We also took a walk onto the site of Dykebar hospital to see the extent of the preparatory work for the new housing development there. We will be keeping a watch on that.

Our November visit was to the Caulders Garden Centre at Erskine, where we were met by the manager Kevin who told us something of the background of the site and the work they do there through the seasons. Afterwards we repaired to *The Vanishing Willows*, their restaurant, where we had a very sociable lunch. And there was a chance to do some early Christmas shopping!

Over the next three months we will have indoor meetings in the Johnstone History Museum, inside the Morrisons supermarket. These take place on **11 December, 2025** – when we will have a Christmas-themed talk – **15 January, 2026** and **10 February, 2026**. Do get in touch if you would like to come and join us at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/the-garden-gang/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/the-garden-gang/).



## Lunch Group

Kathy O'Donnell (Dates vary each month)

We enjoy having lunch out together each month, mostly in Paisley and Glasgow. In October we attended an old favourite, the Ardnamurchan in Glasgow. It is a popular Scottish restaurant. We certainly look as though we are having a good time!



December would not be the same without a visit to The Weaver's restaurant. It's part of the West of Scotland Catering College in Renfrew Road. 21 of us we will be going there to keep up the tradition on **Friday, 5 December**.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIRED:** As you know, I need some time off. So here's a chance for someone to volunteer to carry on with the lunch group. Mostly, it is coming up with a date, a venue and then sending out an email to group members. Support is available with the administration for the group. If you have enjoyed our lunch events, why not come forward and give your u3a a hand? Please contact Chris, our Group coordinator, if you are interested or want to have a chat about what is involved at: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/contacts/>.

To save on washing up  
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CUP**  
to our monthly meetings. Free refills!

## Music Appreciation

**Don Page (Monthly on the last Friday, 2:00pm in Paisley Library)**

This started slowly but has grown into a lovely group for discussing different aspects of music. We choose two albums to listen to at home, then meet up to discuss them track by track. It is a great way to get to know new music.

In October we listened to Carole King's *Tapestry* album and also the band, Love and Money's *Strange Kind of Love*. In November we listened to George Benson's *Give Me the Night* as well as Sting's *10 Summoners Tales*.

There is no meeting for December. In January 2026, we will pick three albums and then meet up to discuss them. If you would like to take part and recommend some artists and their works to listen to, then please do join us. You can contact me, Don or find out more details by visiting: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/music-appreciation/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/music-appreciation/).



## Music Makers

**Ellen Bailie (Monthly, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, day varies)**



In November, it was great to have all the members of the group meeting to continue learning *Muss I Denn*, *Highland Cathedral*, *Caledonia* and *Killiecrankie*. In addition to group playing, we were entertained by song with *The Mountains of Mourne*, *House of the Rising Sun* and *Galway Bay*. Other musical contributions were *It Doesn't Matter Anymore* accompanied on the ukulele, a duet of the *Irish Washerwoman* on flute and harmonica and Joplin's *The Entertainer* on keyboard,

We are an enthusiastic group of musicians who enjoy playing a variety of music together. The group comprises of piano, flute, guitars, ukulele, vocals, harmonica and keyboard. The emphasis is on learning, having fun and making music.

The group is currently full but if you are interested in joining, please get in touch with the Group Leader, Ellen, on our website: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/music-makers/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/music-makers/).

**ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION**  
*Isaac Newton*

## Opera Appreciation

Kathy O'Donnell (Variable, depending on performance schedules)



This October, our group attended Scottish Opera's earlier version of Puccini's *La Boheme*. Their Barbe and Doucet's colourful production is set in 1920s Paris. It was a sumptuous piece with brilliant stage craft and sublime singing, which we all loved.

A few of our members attended the double bill production of Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* followed by *The Bear*. Indeed, one of our u3a members, Roisin Mulholand saw that her nephew, Barrett Daniel, had a starring role.

We are an enthusiastic group who enjoy regularly watching Scottish Opera's productions, as well as those by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. We also attend live streaming opera productions from Covent Garden at the cinema.

**Volunteer required:** We now need a willing volunteer to cover the Opera Appreciation group while I am having a little leave of absence. Please, if you are interested, contact Chris Dykes and chat over what is involved at: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/contacts/>.

## Outdoor Sketching

Kate Colyer (Tuesdays Monthly)

Please visit our website for the latest details: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/outdoor-sketching/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/outdoor-sketching/).

## Pickleball

Irene Keith (Monday 1:00pm-2:00pm, ON-X Linwood)

We continue to attract new members who are finding it easier to learn the game with the help of our more experienced players. To encourage improvement, we held a competition at the end of November where doubles partners were randomly selected. You can see the players really enjoyed themselves. Our 2026 competition was closely contended. It needed a play-off for first and second place. Congratulations to our winners Maria Frate and Eddie Ferns and to Liz Osborne and John Murning our runners up. My thanks to everyone who participated and made it a competitive tournament.



Our Christmas social is being held this year in the Adam Suite at the Paisley Wynd Centre on **Monday, 1 December** due to our growing numbers.

My thanks to our members who have made this a very social yet competitive year. If you'd like more information about the Pickleball group, and when it meets, please contact me, Irene, at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/pickleball/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/pickleball/).

## Science and Technology

**Don Page (2:00pm, 4th Thursday of the month, Café Bianco E Nero)**

This is a small, friendly group where we watch videos at home then discuss them in a café over coffee and cakes. Some of the concepts are difficult but there is enough expertise in the group to help us understand. In October we watched a video by Chris Packham about how the atmosphere formed on earth and a video about *Secrets of the Brain* Part 1. Then in November, we chatted about how humans evolved on earth in *Secrets of the Brain* Part 2. There is no group meeting in December.

From January 2025, we will watch the *Human* series on BBC iPlayer. With stunning visuals and cutting-edge science, explorer, palaeoanthropologist and evolutionary biologist Ella Al-Shamahi, reveals the story of our species. The untold origins of homo sapiens promise to be more dramatic than we ever imagined.

Please come along if you are interested and you can visit our website for the latest details:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/science-and-technology/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/science-and-technology/).

## Singing Group

**Alex Smith (Weekly/Thursdays, 11:00am, Holy Trinity & St. Barnabas Church, Paisley)**

After our November practice session, we have one more session this year on **Thursday, 4th December**. If you would like to take part, just come along to The Holy Trinity and St Barnabas Church, especially if you have had some previous involvement in the group before. Song sheets will be provided.

### SAVE THE DATE



The Singing Group will be singing at Silverburn Shopping Centre, from 11.00am till noon on **Thursday, 11th December**, in aid of the Glasgow Childrens Hospice. We hope that you will come along with your friends and family to support us in what is a very good cause.

# OTHER NEWS

## Update - 2026 Paisley and District u3a trip to Ireland

Twenty nine members have already signed up to go to Ennis, County Clare, Ireland departing on the **28 September, 2026** for 5 days. There are still a few places available, so if you would like to join us, please contact me, Irene, for more details at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/coach-trip-to-ireland/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/coach-trip-to-ireland/)



### UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE PUBLIC LECTURE

University of Strathclyde's annual Psychology Public Lecture will take place on **Thursday, 4 December**, at 6:00pm. u3a members can attend and listen to multi award-winning clinical neuropsychologist Professor Barbara Wilson OBE. She will share her many insights and unique case studies from her 40-year career in brain injury rehabilitation.

The lecture is held in the Teaching & Learning Building, Level 3 Lecture Theatre (325), 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1QX.

If you would like to attend this free event, please register for a free ticket via the following link:

[EventBrite \[Free\] Ticket Link.](#)



