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### Chair's Update

Dear members,

I hope you have enjoyed this lovely period of nice weather.

In May, we had another day trip to Kirkcudbright. We enjoyed a tour of the artist Henry Hornel's house and the beautiful Japanese gardens which look out on to the water. We also visited the lovely art gallery and managed to view the beautiful rock crystal jar, part of the Galloway Hoard on loan from National Museums Scotland. We finished off the day with a visit to the Selkirk Arms for a welcome meal. We are planning another outing in August to Melrose and will be in touch later with details. This looks like an exciting programme.

Five of our members participated in the Paisley Community Opera's production of *Carmen*. This production was performed in the Tannahill centre in Ferguslie Park. The production had a real Paisley theme to it. It was set in the 1960s and the setting was the Paisley mills rather than the cigarette factory. The hero of the show was a St Mirren top scoring footballer. It was lovely to see so many u3a members supporting this event.

Our AGM was very well attended and ten members were elected to the Committee. From left to right: Jane, Alison, Candy, Andy, Chris, Allana, Kathy, Ellen, Patricia and Martin.

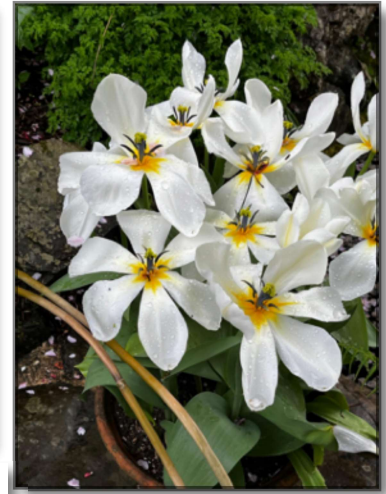


A special thank you was made to Alex, who has stepped down as treasurer after three years in the position. In addition, Martin Papworth was presented with a special certificate as our 200th member.



Thank you for your continued support and interest. Thanks also to our editorial group who produce this newsletter for our enjoyment. If you are going on holiday during the summer, we wish you safe travels.

Kathy O'Donnell  
Chair of Paisley u3a



## Our Visit to Kirkcudbright



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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)**

We recently visited the 12 remaining ancillary buildings of the once huge Ferguslie thread mill complex which occupied 22 acres. It is now mostly redeveloped with housing. If you would like to come and join us on similar outings, please get in touch with me, Duncan Macintosh, via the Groups web page:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/architecture/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/architecture/).

## Art Appreciation

**Interim Group Leaders: Liz Cuthbertson & Anne Findlay (Monthly, Tuesdays)**



On 13 May, several members of the group visited Paisley Art Institute's 137th Annual Exhibition at Glasgow Art Club. There were over 500 paintings on display, showcasing the wide variety of subjects and styles we have come to expect from the Institute's members. Lively debate took place regarding some of the paintings. We were also treated to a demonstration by Paisley artist Alastair Blain, which was very interesting. We then had a lovely lunch in the beautiful Art Club dining room and all agreed it had been another very enjoyable outing.

On **Thursday 25 June**, the Art Appreciation group will be visiting Holmwood House in the south side of Glasgow. The house, designed by Alexander "Greek" Thomson for James Couper, a paper magnate, has impressive interior design features such as beautifully patterned floor tiles. There are also lovely grounds and a cafe.

On **Thursday 23 July** we will be visiting Perth Art Gallery for the *Scottish Colourists Revealed* exhibition featuring four iconic artists - Cadell, Fergusson, Hunter and Peplow - who transformed early 20th century British art through their love of colour and light. During their lifetime, the Colourists developed an international reputation, exhibiting in Paris, London and New York as well as in Scotland. Some of the paintings in the exhibition have never been displayed in public before. It promises to be a fascinating visit.

If you are interested in art and have not joined our group before, why not give us a try? If you want to go on the mailing list, or to find out details about future visits please go to:

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

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

## Board Games

Interim Group Leaders: Gwyneth & Brian Richmond  
(Kilbarchan Library, 1st Tuesday monthly 2:00pm-4:00pm)



We enjoy playing some familiar games and having fun when we try new ones. No-one is super competitive, we just enjoy meeting up each month for a few hours. It's a great way to keep our brains active and to relax as we have a cuppa with other board 'gamers'. We are always pleased to welcome new participants. There are plenty of games available and if you have a favourite one, please do bring it with you. Our next Games afternoon is **Tuesday 2 June**. We look forward to your company.

If you are interested in coming along to the group, please get in touch with Chris, the group co-ordinator on the [Contacts](#) page.

## Book Group

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

Our May group meeting was deferred due to the election, so we'll be discussing Bernadine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other* on **4 June**.

During May it was great to see our beautiful Town Hall host the Paisley Book Festival for the third time. (I've been lucky enough to be a volunteer at all seven Paisley festivals.) I loved saying hello to u3a members in the audience for various events, and apologies if I missed anyone; it was very hectic! The event had many popular novelists, such as Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre and Doug Johnstone (who, as 50% of the *Fun Lovin' Crime Writers*, treated us to a couple of songs at the end of the conversation). Other top writers there included Sara Sheridan, Graeme Armstrong, Damian Barr and Sally Magnusson (who gamely came along in her wheelchair, due to a recent accident). Poets such as Len Pennie and Hannah Lavery also took part, though the likely star poet was 96-year-old Betty McKellar from Lochwinnoch – she was wonderful, and a beacon of hope to all of us, as the years tick by!



Children were well catered for with many events and workshops, including Dougie Payne (from Travis) with Poochie Pete (some grandparents may know him!). Non-fiction topics featured Devi Shridar on health, Chitra Ramaswamy on the Alasdair Gray archive and Nicola Sturgeon on life before, during, and after, Holyrood. Overall, an eclectic and fascinating time. Here's to Paisley Book Festival 2027!

The Book Group is currently full but if you'd like more information, please visit:  
[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)**

We continue to play weekly in a social setting. We are gradually improving and do attempt to incorporate basic conventions and analyse where we go wrong. We offer a friendly and relaxed environment for budding bridge players. If you are interested in learning or would like to play at a more competitive level, you would be very welcome. If you'd like more details, please contact Chris 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 Ho)**



Our Wednesday Chair Yoga group continues to progress and is now mastering our inner warriors. The Monday taster yoga has proved very popular and we have decided to make this a permanent group. Both groups will continue to meet over the summer.

If you are interested in coming along to this activity or you 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)**

We returned to the Citizens Theatre on 9 April, to see the play *I, Daniel Blake*, an adaptation of Ken Loach's compelling film about how people come together in the face of adversity. It was a powerful performance, particularly by the actor who played Daniel Blake. He was totally believable in his frustration and despair in dealing with government officialdom!

As one member summed it up: "*I, Daniel Blake* was a wonderful production, with really outstanding acting and a very moving storyline. It obviously resonated with the whole audience as you could have heard a pin drop throughout the production."



Sunday 19 April saw members at the Linwood Showcase for a matinee screening of the National Theatre's play *All My Sons*, starring Hollywood A-lister, Bryan Cranston. Everyone agreed that the acting was superb and that it was "An astonishing, deeply moving piece of theatre" (Evening Standard). A response from one of our member's was "I very much enjoyed the sentiment of the show and thought the acting superb, although the subject matter wasn't very uplifting."

Then on Sunday 31 May, several members went to watch the National Theatre's production *The Playboy of the Western World* at the Showcase.

If you want to join our group or would like to know more, please contact May or Carole via our u3a's group page 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)

Life is never dull in this group. We have been practicing our vocabulary in fun ways. One is by pretending to forget a Spanish word and then we try to describe it to the rest of the group. This reflects real life situations where people have needed an item in a shop (a torch) or a hotel (a bottle opener) but they couldn't remember what it was called in Spanish.



Another way we converse in Spanish is by pretending to have a medical problem and we 'phone' a pharmacy to ask advice and get help. Group members were able to ask lots of questions to try and clarify the issue and how it could best be resolved.

We also enjoyed a quickfire game which in Scotland is called Stop the Bus/ ¡Para el autobús! Extra points are given if no-one else writes down the same Spanish word. This proved very effective as both basic and complicated Spanish words were used and led to high scores for the whole group.



If you know some basic Spanish and want to practice speaking this language with others, ~~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)



Crochet today is being viewed as a textile art. It has completely shed its former 'granny hobby' image. The beautiful blankets on the left were made by Wilma herself. So it's not really surprising that our own Crochet group is fully booked.

However, we wonder if there is anyone in our u3a who has this skill? Would you possibly be willing to share your talent with other members who would love to learn how to make and create items? If you want to put your name on the waiting list, or perhaps you could offer to help start another Crochet group, please get in touch with me, Chris at: <https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/groups/>

### TRIVIA QUESTION

*What colour did UK post boxes used to be before they were red?*

## Garden Gang

Valerie Reilly (Generally 2nd Wednesday of each month)

Spring sunshine greeted us for our April visit to a Scotland's Garden Scheme venue, a private home in Kilmacolm, called Sonas, the Gaelic word for good luck. The owners took us round, beginning with a short stroll by the stream. On returning to the cultivated garden, it was explained that it had been created from scratch in the last ten years. An epic achievement!



The soaring cost of fuel dictated that the Garden Gang should look for venues closer to home than those we had originally intended. So, in May, we made a return visit to Greenbank Garden where we were met by Andrew, the National Trust for Scotland's head gardener for the Glasgow area. He gave us an introduction to the history of the property and pointed out some of the highlights to look out for as we went around. The weather was showery, but that didn't deter us and everyone was very impressed with the work being done by the gardeners. We ended our visit with a quick lunch under the umbrella in the courtyard.

Our next visit dates are Wednesday **10 June**, and on **8 July** perhaps to Hopetoun House at South Queensferry. Please get in touch if you fancy joining us and to confirm the venues. Just contact me, Valerie at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/the-garden-gang/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/the-garden-gang/).

## Lunch Group

Alex Smith (Dates vary each month)

Our next proposed visit is to go to La Bella Vita in Mosspark Boulevard on Tuesday, 23 June at 12:30pm. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Alex at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/lunch-club](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/lunch-club)

## Mah Jong

Catriona Matheson ( Latter-Day Saints, Glenburn, Paisley )



A new Paisley and District u3a group is being started for Mah Jong. This is a game of skill, strategy and luck. Each game has three or four players and uses a set of 144 tiles which have Chinese characters and symbols.

All levels of skill are welcome. The group will be led by Catriona Matheson and will start with four taster sessions in **June** for people to learn the game. The suggested dates are **Friday 5, 12, 19** and **26 June** from 10am till 12 noon. The venue will be at the Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) at the corner of Glenburn Road and Nethercraigs Road in Glenburn, Paisley PA2 8PN.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please get in touch with Ellen Bailie (Temporary Contact) who will liaise with Catriona while the group gets started, via the group link: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3ac\\_groups/mah-jong-taster-sessions/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3ac_groups/mah-jong-taster-sessions/)

## Music Appreciation

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

Our group is a friendly bunch who meet up and discuss different aspects of music. We usually choose two or so albums to listen to at home first, hearing them track by track. It is a great way to get to know new music. At our last meeting everyone had enjoyed the musicality of the Ayoub Sisters. There were more mixed reviews among us for Roxy Music's *Avalon*.



In June, we will be listening to *Blue* by Joni Mitchell and *Where the World is Thin* by Kris Drever. We are also trying *Gianni Schicchi* by Giacomo Puccini. We hope this will be a gentle introduction into the world of opera.

If you would like to come along to the group, please do contact me, Don at: [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)

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

The group continues with *Scarborough Fair*, *Jambalaya*, *The Green Glens of Antrim* and is going to re-visit *The Loch Tay Boat Song* in June. In addition to this, members also bring their own contributions for the group to listen to. Recently we had *The Rose of Tralee*, *Dark Island*, *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* and *Ashokan Farewell* ending with a rendition of *In My Liverpool Home* with impromptu accompaniment



from members of the group. Although the group is currently full, if you are interested, please get in touch with the Group Leader, Ellen at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/music-makers/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/music-makers/).

## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION Green

### Opera Appreciation

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

The Paisley Community Opera performed *Carmen* at the Tannahill Centre Ferguslie. They were supported by Scottish Opera's Orchestra and a Paisley dance team *Right to dance*. As with all Paisley Opera's productions they have a Scots translation. The action is transformed to Paisley in the 1960's. The women, including Carmen herself, are workers in Ferguslie Thread Mill, replacing the original cigarette factory. The hero of the piece Escamillo is a top scoring footballer for St Mirren rather than the toreador in the original production. We had thirteen local children who stole the show and want to take part in more performances.

There were four performances of *Carmen* and many of our u3a members supported their fellow u3a members and were very enthusiastic about the production. Future outings to be arranged. If you wish to join us, or wish more details about our group, please get in touch with us, Kathy and Jane at:

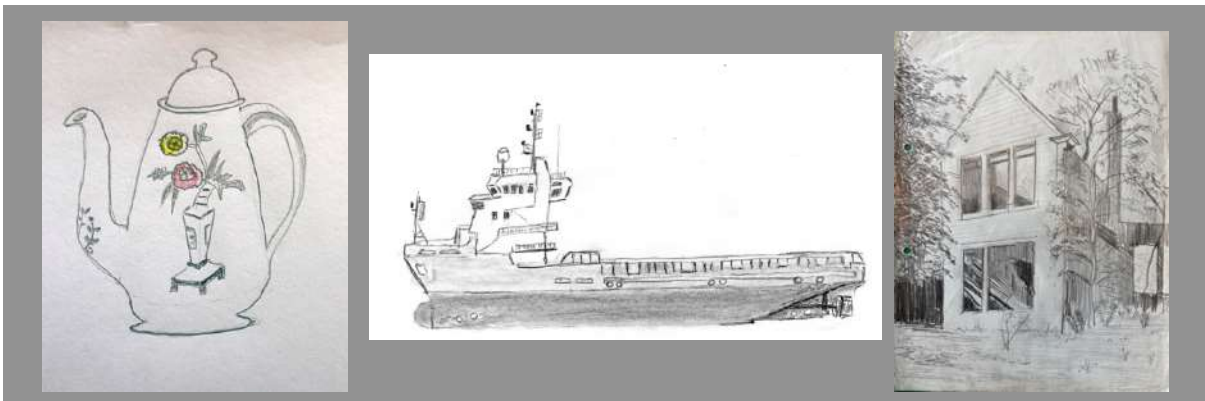
[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/opera-appreciation/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/opera-appreciation/).



### Outdoor Sketching

George Bailie (Tuesdays Monthly)

Since the last newsletter, the group have had two outings. One to Fairfield Heritage (<https://www.fairfieldgovan.co.uk>) where we sketched some of the exhibits and where we were given a warm welcome. The other outing was to the grounds of Dykebar Hospital where we sketched some of the old hospital buildings.



Over the summer months, the group plan to visit both Newark Castle in Port Glasgow and the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. If you are interested in this group or would like to receive information via our mailing list then please do get in touch with me, George at: [Outdoor Sketching - Paisley and District](#)

## Pickleball

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

The group continues at the On-x on Mondays. This is despite the limitation on being able to book courts due to the recent installation of indoor artificial turf. This decision is causing a struggle to accommodate all those wishing to participate since our playing times can vary week to week. Sadly, we may have to consider moving to Bellahouston sports centre when the schools return in August.



Meanwhile, our summer social this year will be held on **Monday 8 June** in Robertson Park in Renfrew.

If you'd like your name to go on a waiting list for future pickleball sessions, 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, last Thursday of the month, Café Bianco e Nero)**



This is a small and friendly group. Each month, we watch and review science videos at home. Then we meet and chat over coffee and cakes in a local cafe. We discuss various concepts portrayed in these videos. The world is changing rapidly and being part of this group helps us keep up to date. Thanks to BBC iPlayer, we have been following the *Human* series which reveals the story of our species.

We have also been considering different issues raised by its *AI Confidential* programmes. We will shortly pick the programmes for June and July and details will be on our u3a group web page. Please come and join us in our conversations, or see the latest group details at: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/science-and-technology/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/science-and-technology/).

## Silver Screen

**Jane Fraser (Monthly, 2:00pm on a Thursday)**

Do you enjoy classic movies? Is so, we would love you to join us. If you would like to go on the mailing list, or check future film screenings, please get in touch with Jane at:

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



## Singing Group

Alex Smith (Weekly/Thursdays, 11:00am, St. George's Church, Paisley)

Now that summer is approaching, our group is reducing the number of sessions to two blocks of three. This better suits the availability of our members. Our group will finish the last session on **11 June**. It has been enormous fun learning new songs and singing together. We look forward to re-starting in the autumn. Please contact me, Alex if you would like any more information or to come and join us at:

[https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/singing/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/singing/).

## Table Tennis

Irene Keith, (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday monthly, noon – 1:00pm, Renfrew Leisure Centre)



We currently play doubles at Renfrew Leisure Centre on a Sunday every fortnight. People are enjoying this fun way of keeping fit. If you would like to take part, please get in touch with me, Irene, and I can add your name to our waiting list.

Does anyone have, or know anyone who has, a full size table tennis table they wish to sell, or dispose of? If so, please do contact Irene at:

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

## OTHER NEWS

### u3a Group Trip Get-Together

We enjoyed a get together/social on Friday 29 May at 12:30 pm in the Mill & Brae restaurant in Paisley. It gave our participants a chance to ask any questions about the September trip to County Clare, Ireland and to discuss where we might go in 2027. There are over 30 members heading away to Ireland and there are still places available if anyone would like to join us. Contact me, Irene for details via: [https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/coach-trip-to-ireland/](https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/coach-trip-to-ireland/).

### u3a in Scotland 2026 AGM

All Scottish u3a members are welcome to attend this Zoom AGM event at **10.30am on Thursday 11th June 2026**. It will be followed by a summer event where ideas for topics which appeal to u3a members can be suggested and taken forward. Please email the u3a in Scotland Secretary, Jenny Brogden first, by **9 June**, if you would like to take part in this AGM/summer event: [jenny.brogden@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.brogden@btinternet.com)

At the AGM a new committee will be elected. There are a number of positions available, including Vice-Chair, Secretary and committee members. Full details at: [https://scotland.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/annual-general-meeting-2026/](https://scotland.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/annual-general-meeting-2026/)

## CONFUSED?

### WHAT CAN I DO AND WHEN?

No more missed events. Go to our u3a website for our What's On calendar at

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



## WHAT'S ON JUNE/JULY 2026

Mon 1 June - Sun 28 June

### West Fest

*Street festivals, concerts, community events,  
recitals & exhibitions  
West End*

10-14 June

### Glasgow Jazz Festival

*Featuring 40+ performances  
Various venues*

Sat 5 July

### Sma' Shot Day

*Featuring a parade, the "Burning of the Cork"  
ceremony & live entertainment  
Paisley*

23 July-2 August

### 2026 Commonwealth Games

*Various venues*

## Glasgow u3a Network

# ANNUAL BBQ

Thursday 18 June

1051 GWR Bar & Grill,  
(1051 Great Western Road, )  
Glasgow G12 0XP.

(4:00pm-8:00pm)

Outdoor BBQ if dry. Indoor Italian buffet if wet.

**COST:** £24pp (includes one drink)  
Payment via Paisley and District bank account

### **CONTACT KATHY AT:**

<https://paisleydistrict.u3asite.uk/u3a-events/gn-bbq-2026/>

## Monthly Meeting Programme

Thursday, 4 June: AGM followed by Tricia McKinnon  
*J&P Coats, their embroidery and the Paisley Mill*

Thursday 2 July: Geraldine McFall - *Walking to Rome*

Thursday 1 October : Brian Young - *3 Roman Campaigns in Scotland*

*Doors open at 1:30pm for a cup of tea and catch up. Meeting starts at 2:00pm*