



Welcome to the October edition of our Elgin u3a Newsletter

I think most members will be aware that our AGM took place just a few days ago. It was a great afternoon with many more members attending than we expected which was excellent. We welcomed four new committee members onto our committee – welcome Vivian, John, Linda and Meryl.

I am aware that several members have had trouble replying to my secretary@u3a-elgin.org.uk email address when I send emails via Beacon (like the email containing this newsletter) so the best solution is not to reply to the newsletter email but send a new email directly to me at the above email address.

Kate, our publicity person on committee, and I have been busy posting news of our u3a on several Facebook pages. This has resulted in a surprising number of membership enquiries which is fantastic news. If you are a Facebook user and see any of Elgin & District u3a posts, please 'like' and 'share' them to help spread word of our great organisation and the benefits of membership.

Please remember this is your newsletter so if you have any news items which may interest other members, please let me know.

Karen Abbott, by email: secretary@u3a-elgin.org.uk or by phone: 07771560703

A message from our Chairperson Steve:

Another year flown by.

It's been a reasonably busy year for your committee, we are **your** committee voted in by the members for the members and despite needing to keep tabs on the wider u3a and Trust and Trust for Scotland our main priority is our Groups and Members. Hopefully you are aware that both Trusts do online interest groups that are available to all members. We are here to support the Groups and Group Leaders where necessary and to help provide facilities and guidance and keep our u3a healthy, both legally and financially, keeping your personal data safe and generally doing things according to the Trusts guidelines, and legal requirements etc. Various additional issues and admin during the year include, The Town Hall Closure and enrolling a new Secretary onto our committee, many thanks to Karen for volunteering it's been a pleasure so far, also a special thanks to Judy who covered all the interim secretarial work - Karen brings with her a wealth of experience from previous u3a committee work. My thanks the outgoing Committee but personally I'd like to thank them all for being a great team. I mustn't overlook the fact that 4 of the committee stood down this year so a special thank you to Robert our Treasurer, Aileen our Events Co-Ordinator, Caroline our minutes secretary, and Kate our Speaker organiser. Although, they will still be members and Group Leaders, we will miss their valued input on the committee. A quick mention of the new Committee members: - Linda, John, Vivian and Meryl welcome aboard new enthusiasm is really appreciated.

We believe our last visit to the Town Hall will be Christmas Party on Thursday 5th December - definitely a note for your diary! After that we will be meeting in the Community Centre, the facilities aren't as modern as the Town Hall and there's a bit less space but its conveniently

central and keeps a foot in the door for the future use of the refurbished Town Hall - looking forward to that. I have concerns about the time scale of the finished facility and the financial implications for us. It may be more expensive to use but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. We need to have an alternative venue or venues as a contingency plan. We may not need them but better safe than sorry. Your Committee is on the case, but helpful ideas from the members would be well received.

Stay safe out there. - Steve

News from our Interest Groups

Events Group

Several of the Events group members travelled to Eden Court to see 'Blood Brothers' last Saturday. Leader of the group, Eileen Johns, said "it was a wonderful show, the cast received a standing ovation which lasted many minutes. The theatre was packed, and the audience all enjoyed the singing and dancing which was superb. The whole show was first class, and I would highly recommend going to see it if you get the chance" The sad news is that last Saturday was the end of the run at Eden Court but hopefully there may be a chance to catch it a bit further afield.

The next meeting of the Events Group is on Wednesday 23rd October in the training room, upstairs in Asda at 2pm. If you would like to become a member of the group or would like more information, please contact the group leader Eileen Johns on 07766293390 or email: eileenjohns96@gmail.com

Film Fan Wednesdays: Are held at the Elgin Playhouse every fortnight on a Wednesday evening, these are showings of independent British and foreign language films. The next showing will be on Wednesday 30th October at 7.30pm. Unfortunately, the Playhouse was unable to confirm the title of the film, but it will be on their website on Monday evening after 7.30pm.

Please get in touch with Eileen Johns if you would like to join us or come along and meet us in the foyer before the performance.

Strollers Group

The next Stroller Group Walk is on Wednesday 30th October at 2.30pm – the location has yet to be decided,

For more information and to join the group please contact Vivian - email: vcgrainge@hotmail.com or phone: 07886 236022

The Strollers Group enjoyed a lovely walk last week in Spynie Woods.



Ukulele Group

The Ukulele group meets in the Fochabers Institute on every Wednesday morning, unless we are performing a concert somewhere. We currently have about 25 members, from beginners to more experienced players. The group size is unlimited, the more ukuleles, the better the sound.

The Ukulele is one of the easiest instruments to learn, it just has 4 strings which makes it much easier to learn than a guitar, and complete beginners can join in very quickly. Starter ukuleles are not expensive and can be found online or at local music shops.

Our meetings involve learning new playing techniques and songs, practicing for concerts, and singing along to tunes we like.

We have a collection of many of the best popular songs from the present day back to the Roaring Twenties and beyond, adapted to play on the Ukulele and sing along with. We are constantly adding to our repertoire and have great fun along the way.

We also regularly perform and present concerts and singalong sessions for local organisations such as O.A.P., B.A.L.L. Groups and Care homes all across Moray. Over the past year we have performed around 30 gigs, from Portsoy across to Forres.

Fochabers Strawberry Fair Gig

If you are a complete beginner, or if you need advice on acquiring a ukulele, please get in touch at uke3a@u3a-elgin.org.uk We will welcome you along to have a look at what we are about and have a go yourself.



Line Dancing Group

The Line Dancing Group meets every Monday from 10am to 12pm in the Supper Room in the Supper Room at Elgin Town Hall. The emphasis is on fun! With fairly gentle exercise – for beginner and improvers. This is one of our most popular u3a Interest Groups and there is sometimes a waiting list to join. If you would like to join or would like more information, then please contact Isabel MacColl on 07787 426166 or email her at isabel1754@hotmail.com

Singing Group

This group is still looking for an accompanist! Please contact Eve Kersley: kersleyeve@gmail.com or phone 01542 886070

Patchwork & Quilting Group

As you know from last month's newsletter the Patchwork & Quilting Group have created a fantastic patchwork quilt which will be one of the raffle prizes in the raffle at our u3a Christmas party on 5th December. Denise, the leader of the group, handed the quilt over to me at a recent meeting for safe keeping until December - it even comes with its own matching bag!!

If you would like more information or to join the group, please contact Denise on 07860 106467 or email denisedeane@mac.com



New Groups!

Advanced French Group

This is a new group for advanced French conversation. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 11am. As it's a small group, they usually meet in members' homes – within a 10 mile radius of Elgin. Group leader Linda says "The group really is just meeting for a chat – but it is in French! There is currently a limit on the number of members in the group as conversation is difficult with too many members".

For more information, please contact Linda Bruce lindabruce234@yahoo.co.uk

Film Group

We hoping to reform the Film Group - this was a very successful group and very popular with members. What we need is someone to be a leader for this group, no experience necessary but an interest in films would be an asset! There would be lots of support for the new leader - so if you are interested running this group or being a member, please contact Claire, our Group Coordinator

claire.m.menzies@icloud.com

Are you a Group Leader who would like to tell members about your group then please get in touch.

Alison Grigor-Taylor – A much loved Group Leader - by Judy Ballard

Many of you will already know about the sad passing of Alison Grigor-Taylor who was an enthusiastic member of several groups right from our very beginning in 2016.

Perhaps the most notable was Ukulele. She started the group in her lounge with about half a dozen members - mainly beginners, some of whom had never played a musical instrument before. Now there are about 25 members, and they frequently perform throughout Moray to lots of different social groups. So hundreds of people have enjoyed the fun and camaraderie of the group by playing, singing - even dancing on some occasions - or simply listening. What a legacy Alison has left! She will be very sadly missed by all who knew her.

If you knew Alison and would like to attend the funeral, it is on Friday 1st November at 2.30pm at Moray Crematorium.

What's Going On In And Around Elgin

Cooper Park Active Travel Hub – Cycling UK in Moray

Based in Cooper Park in Elgin, Cycling UK in Moray offers free electric bike hire, supporting local people with their cycling and travel needs. The charity has about 50 electric bikes - all shapes, sizes and weights.

They offer:

- 🚲 Adult confidence sessions and one-to-ones
- 🚲 Adult led rides
- 🚲 Family sessions and led rides
- 🚲 E-bike try out and loans
- 🚲 Adaptive bikes try outs, including tandem and e-trikes

All equipment needed free to hire including helmets.

Committee member Kate Henegan would highly recommend this as a great way to try out an electric bike if you are thinking of buying one or just to have a fun couple of hours exploring Morayshire, enjoying the fresh air and getting exercise at the same time. Kate says "We had a really enjoyable afternoon. We met Paula in Tomintoul and had a practice ride around before we set off to Inchrory Estate. Paula the leader was amazing, it was a small group of us, and we went at our own pace. We travelled about 8 miles there and then 8 miles back, but the rides don't have to be that long! You certainly don't need to be an experienced cyclist – complete novices are more than welcome.

Contact paula.campbell@cyclinguk.org

If you would like more information

Kate and her friend having a well-deserved rest at Inchrory



Digital Open Day

Moray Council and We Are Digital are working together to hold a Digital Open Day at the conference room at UHI Moray This is a free event and open to all ages on Saturday 26th October from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Get support and information about safety online and enjoy fun digital activities. Learn about local resources to reduce isolation and mental health support. This event highlights how digital solutions enhance healthy aging and independent living.

For more information contact – getdigitat@moray.gov.uk

Model Railway Fun at Elgin Town Hall

Are you a model railway enthusiast? You don't need to be to enjoy a visit Elgin Model Railway Club's Modelfair at Elgin Twon Hall on Saturday 2nd November and Sunday 3rd November. This is the premier model show in the Northeast of Scotland with displays of model railways, model boats, Aeroplanes, engineering, Scalextric, Lego and much more. Something for all ages.

Do you know of a local event that you would like to tell other members about, then please get in touch: secretary@u3a-elgin.org.uk

New Elgin & District u3a Website is now live!

Our new website is now live and you can access it at <https://elgin.u3asite.uk> A big shout out to Dunc, our tech wizz committee member for getting this up and running. Please bear in mind that it is by no means finished as it is still a work in progress.

Trust and u3a in Scotland

To find out what is going on in u3a's all over the UK, have a look at the u3a website – just Google u3a. The website is full of news, ideas, events and information.

The u3a Trust and u3a Scotland issue frequent Newsletters relating to the u3a throughout the UK. If you are interested to know what they have to offer, the links to follow are:

u3a Trust: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletters>

u3a in Scotland: <https://u3asites.org.uk/scotland/welcome>

They can also be accessed through our website: <https://elgin.u3asite.uk>

Dates for your diary

Christmas Party – 5th December 2024