



## **January Newsletter 2025**

Welcome everyone to this the first newsletter of 2025. I hope it finds everyone well.

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

Our first monthly meeting of January 2025 did not go quite as planned. We were expecting to hear a talk about how 'Ponies Help Children' but unfortunately our speaker got a flat tyre and ended up stranded on the motorway. By the time help would have arrived for her it would have been too late for her to come to speak to us.

We asked those members present to vote whether they would just like to have 'a cuppa and a chat' or take part in a fun quiz. The vast majority chose the quiz.

I am indebted to May Foster, our secretary for already having such a thing in reserve - just in case - and those present enjoyed the unexpected format of the afternoon and finished it off with a coffee/tea and a chat.

Our next monthly meeting is due on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February when we will hear about 'What Scotland Gave The World'.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING**

We are due to have a committee meeting on Tuesday of this week. Minutes of this meeting can be requested to be seen by any member. Also if any member wishes to raise any issue at a committee meeting please speak to any office bearer or committee member, pass on the issue and it will be discussed at the next nearest committee meeting.

### **CENTRAL BELT NETWORK**

We have now formally withdrawn from this network as we felt it was no longer meeting the needs of our u3a. When first started it was to support u3as within the central belt and proved very worthwhile. Over time however it has increased and further increased in membership and now has u3as from across a vast area of the country as well as the islands. We felt that it had now become too widespread and was no longer a benefit to us.

We are continuing to belong to and support our own Local Area Network where the member u3as are from surrounding areas, have similar membership numbers and who experience the same issues as we do. Our next planned meeting is due to take place in March 2025.

## **GROUPS**

The seasonal groups - Gardening Visits and History Walking - will be starting up before too long and those interested should be hearing from them in the next month or so.

If anyone has any suggestions for any new groups please let us know and we'll see if we can make them possible.

## **FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

Things are very much changing at National Office. Previously there was one Board who oversaw all matters to do with u3a. It has been decided that this should now change and there will now be a Trustee Board and a Council. Simply put, the Board will oversee all governance matters and the Council will deal with all relevant u3a issues which remain central to everything that the Third Age Trust does.

There are four Board positions to be filled and nine candidates are standing for these and one Council position in Scotland with two prospective candidates.

When I have more information I'll pass it on.

## **SAD NEWS**

I am very sorry to pass on the news that two of our members have very sadly passed away just into the new year. Martina Straiton was a relatively new member of our u3a but she was settling in and enjoying herself. Betty Taylor had been with us for longer and both of these ladies will be very much missed. Cards were sent on behalf of our u3a to the each of the families expressing our condolences.

Please do remember to let us know if any member has been ill, in hospital or has been going through difficult times.

We rely on you for this as information does not always filter through to us.

Regards

Alice