

### CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It has been my honour to be your Chairperson during 2016 - 2017.

You, the members, have ensured the continued success of Lanark and District U3A. The membership has grown and attendance at our monthly meetings has been excellent so well done, everyone!

Our topics have been varied with excellent speakers who have been informative, witty and at times eccentric but never boring ensuring our mantra of "to live, learn and laugh".

Thanks to Eileen and her band of volunteers who provide our refreshments every month - much appreciated by all.

We are very grateful to Lanark and Carluke Choral Union and Lanark Grammar's Concert Party for entertaining us at our Christmas Lunch and Burns Extravaganza again. Community involvement is key to our success as we, too, demonstrate when we take part in the life of our towns and villages.

Eg: U3A Circle Dancing Group's participation at Springfest and U3A's Lanimer Entry. It was obvious that you were all enjoying yourselves as you entertained the spectators. Many thanks to all concerned.

Our Groups continue to thrive due to dedication of their leaders, please support if you can. If you would like to start a group or have a suggestion for a new group, please let the committee know and we will do our best to facilitate in any way.

The Annual Excursion to Drumlanrig was enjoyed by all so congratulations to the organisers - not an easy task!

Planning for 2017 - 2018 is well underway, the committee having already met to ensure that the wheels continue to turn even during the holidays. We have an excellent committee who work hard, all playing different roles but working well within the team. Please think about joining our committee, it is important to have succession within the committee to ensure fresh ideas and encourage members to be more involved. As Chairperson, I would like to thank our hardworking Committee Members without whom our U3A's success would be diminished.

I wish you all a wonderful Summer whether at home or abroad and look forward to seeing you at our Open Day at the Tolbooth, Lanark on Saturday, 2nd September and/or at our first general meeting on Wednesday, 20th September in Lanark Memorial Hall at 2pm.

Lorraine Swan

### *Welcome to your New Committee Member.*



The role of Speaker secretary has been filled by Marian Price who joined the committee this year.

Marian is hard at work already putting a programme together for the coming year and is also looking even further ahead to 2018/19.

We wish her every success in the role and would ask that if you have any recommendations for future speakers then please let Marian know.

**Last year we had speakers who delivered a very varied programme of topics.**

*The Wallace Tearooms, The Carluke VCs', The Magic of Textile Art, Looking after Ourselves in Older Age, Place Names in and around Lanark, VIP and Royal Security, The Roving Fromagiere.*

**In the true tradition of variety and something for everyone see below the programme for 2017/2018**

### **General Meeting—Dates for your Diary.**

(Third WEDNESDAY in the month at 2pm at Lanark Memorial Hall.)

The **2017/18** session starts on Wednesday 20th September 2017

<b>General Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic / Activity</b>
20th September 2017	Sylvia Russell	'Those magnificent men and their flying machines'
18th October 2017	Francine Ruane	'U3A Exchange to Mauritius'
15th November 2017	Rosemary Train	'American Civil War Trail'
<b>14th December 2017</b>		<b>Christmas Lunch – Lanark Memorial Hall.</b>
17th January 2018		A Burns Extravaganza
21st February 2018	Anne Armstrong	'Clyde Valley Orchards Cooperative'
21st March 2018	David Orr	'The RAF Servicing Commando and their Legacy'
18th April 2018	Ron Harris	'Views from the Crosses'
16th May 2018	<b>AGM</b> then Stuart Anderson	'Battlefield Bakery'

**Thursday 14th December is the correct date for Christmas Lunch.**

( Speaker and Topic may be subject to change.)



**'U3A Annual Outing 2017'**  
*Over Dalveen and hills so green  
 We went to a Castle that had to be seen  
 Further to this to a farm we did go  
 Learning of times from long ago.  
 Drumlanrig, the seat of Buccleugh  
 The Castle and Gardens we came to view  
 The tours were enjoyable and well led  
 then off to the stables we went to be fed.  
 Onward again on our travels we went  
 Ellisland Farm for our time to be spent  
 Built by the Bard as he farmed the land  
 and wrote his poems with his own hand.  
 Then after dinner home we did come.  
 Soon into slumber did we succumb.*

*Anon*

**Good** weather, choice of events, well led, what a success!



It may look like it,  
but I didn't write this ditty.



**It was delayed by a day then Lanark came out to play.**

Early this year I was asked, "Will you be here for Lanimer Day?"

My response of "What and when is Lanimer Day", was met with a detailed explanation which resulted in me participating in my first Lanimer Day, even though I said I wouldn't!

Thankfully, due to the General Election, Lanimer Day was moved to the Friday! The weather was slightly Improved from the Thursday, when we drove to Lorraine's for breakfast rolls. On arrival many of the floats were hives of activity as people added the finishing touches to the either the hundreds of paper flowers or to small children in various costumes! I was stunned by the amount of work, obviously over many months, undertaken by the various participating groups!

Lanark U3A, having been a 'walking' entry in 2016, had obtained a 'float' which had been decorated on the Thursday by Lesley Gair, Rosemary Gottlieb, Marian Price and Nelson. Lesley had already been at the float very early on Friday morning to add the finishing touches when we found it among the bigger floats! The U3A entry entitled '**In the mood**' opted for a seaside theme.



Buckets, spades, and fishing nets adorned the vehicle!

I was beginning to be 'reeled in' by the rising excitement!

Just before 10 a.m., 10 of us including the 'once' reluctant me plus the two musicians boarded the float behind the tractor!

Soon we were told to join the procession!

Very slowly we edged our way through Lanark, with crowds on



the pavement three or four deep, passing house parties in gardens with people drinking wine or beer and shouting '**Happy Lanimer Day!**' The various bands could be heard either in front or behind us, but our duo, were never outdone! Our part in the procession ended about 11.30 when we left the tractor and float and took our reserved seating just below where the Crowning Ceremony was to take place!



Over the years, in various places, I've witnessed many things but I have to say the organisation of this processional part of the Lanimer Day festivities was incredible!

The innovative costumes of the participants of the parade, blended with the Lord Cornet and the riders, the beautiful dresses of the 'maids', the pageantry of the crowning of the Queen were so very unique to anything I'd seen before! I've been to many carnivals over the years but never experienced such enthusiasm by participants or the spectators!

Truly a remarkable community event which I will happily be 'selling' to my English friends in the future.

*Barbara Chapman*

## Theatre Group News.



The 2016- 2017 Theatre Programme was busy with more local productions allowing for enjoyable pre theatre meals and easier access.

Favourites for me were Shine's 'Children of Eden' and Music in Lanark's Productions, for others, 'The Red Shoes' at the Festival Theatre.

Hopefully 2017 - 2018's Theatre Programme will provide something for everyone.

To allow that to happen you are invited to a planning meeting at **Kildare Farm , 103 St Leonard Street, Lanark on Monday 21st August, at 2pm.**

At the moment we have Shine's 'Annie' at Motherwell Concert Hall on Saturday 17th September.

Shine's 'Concert Party' in Greyfriars Church on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm.

'Lulu in Concert' at Lanark Memorial Hall on Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm.

'Buck's Fizz' at Lanark Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th November at 7.30pm.

### **More to come!**

Let me know if you are able to come along on the 261st and/or email me your suggestions.

*Lorraine Swan*

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## 'Opera Highlights'

*Review courtesy of Jeanette Arneil.*

I had the good fortune to attend this wonderful show provided by a small group of singers from Scottish Opera. It consisted of five young singers, Roisin Walsh (Soprano), Emma Kerr (Mezzo Soprano), Elgan Lyr Thomas (Tenor) and Adam Gilbert (Baritone) the fifth member of the group was pianist and Music Director, Jonathon Sinward.

We were asked to imagine the group were touring around Scotland by train when it was delayed in Lanark for a while and the singers then sang some of the most beautiful arias beginning with 'In in coupe' from La Boheme by Puccini. Next 'Where shall I fly?' by Handel.

The first act continued with 9 more pieces ranging from Verdi, Mozart, Schubert etc. continuing with the story of the delayed train finishing with 'Over the dark blue waters' Oberon by Carl Maria von Weber.

After the interval, the story took us from the first public performance of 'Bluebeard's Cake' written by Lliam Paterson. Next was 'Una voce poco fa' Il barbiere de Siviglia' by Rossini. We then enjoyed many more wonderful pieces by Ravel, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Franz Lehar finishing with 'In praise of wine and love' Love at the Inn by Roger Quilter.

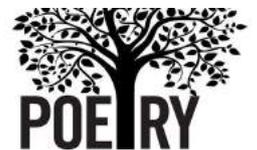
As you can no doubt guess we had a great selection of music to enjoy and the audience showed their appreciation with great gusto.

*Jeanette Arneil*

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## Poetry Reading group.

We meet in Lanark library to share poetry we have enjoyed and to discover poets and poems other people have found. Each month we choose a theme eg 'blossoming' or 'water' and hunt for poems on the theme, to bring to the next meeting. There are only a few of us, but what we lack in quantity we make up for in quality!



Email: [a4rmstrong@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a4rmstrong@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

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## Humour group.

We met on Tuesday 13th June at Lanark Golf Club for a review of the year and Morning Coffee plus goodies.

Ten members attended and we discussed plans for next year.

We will still meet at the Clydesdale but on the last Monday afternoon of the month and view a DVD and share funny stories. We hope to go to some comedy productions at the theatre.

It was a convivial morning where a fair amount of banter was exchanged!

Come along to the Clydesdale on Monday 28th August at 2pm - you will be very welcome.

*Lorraine Swan*

## Lunch Group report

Sylvia and I would like to thank the members of U3A for the support we have received since taking over the lunch group from Gillian and Sheila, cannot believe it has been a year already. We have always had around 30 members attend and everyone seemed to enjoy our choices. In March we went to The Pink Turban at Waterloo and the food was delicious and everyone seemed to enjoy going up and helping themselves.

In April we went to The Robertson Arms in Carnwath and had a lovely two course meal with tea or coffee.

In May which was the final lunch before breaking up for summer holidays we went to Prego, Clyde Street, Carlisle where again we had a most enjoyable time.

Happy Holidays to everyone and hope to see you all next session.

Laughter  
Unity  
Nutritious  
Companionship  
Hospitality  
Gastronomy  
Restaurants  
Opportunity  
Uproarious  
uncontrollably noisy  
People

*Janette Rankin*

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## Pub Lunch and Discussion Group

Members of the Pub Lunch and Discussion (PLAD) Group have enjoyed eating and meeting on four recent occasions, from March to the final debate in June.

“The Honours System” was scrutinized in March with an interesting vote at the end revealing around half of those present would not accept honours, if offered! April’s topic required members to come up with their personal “Heroes and Villains” the discussion throwing up some usual suspects for the latter with some less obvious heroes. May’s topic was “Exercise = A Healthy Life?!” while June’s discourse on “Foreign Aid” provided a lively conclusion to the year’s programme.

We continue to enjoy an excellent value lunch (still £4!) at The Crown Inn in Lanark as an accompaniment to our discussion and these arrangements will continue into 2017/18.

The new session will begin on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> (but is usually the first Friday of each month), 1230 – 1400hrs. Prospective new members will be made most welcome...contact me as below.

Email : [lid10@btopenworld.com](mailto:lid10@btopenworld.com) or [kgliddell@gmail.com](mailto:kgliddell@gmail.com) Tel : 01555 663822 or 07415 904081

*Ken Liddell*

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## Walking group report

On an icy, sunny morning in March, we met at Crossford, filling the small car park and some streets. Half of us walked up minor roads to Braidwood then returned by Fiddlers Gill path; the other half went down the Clyde walkway, round the big field and back again. Thanks to Christine and Jane for leading this. Lunch at Silver Birch was excellent.

Jane and Christine again led the short walk in April, from Carmichael Visitor Centre to Eastend House and back. The long walk took us up the road to Crossridge farm and Carmichael village, then into the estate and past the ruined Carmichael House, now visible as the conifers round it have been cut down. Both walks ended in a paddle through mud (to be euphemistic) and lunch at Carmichael tearoom.

A sunny May morning saw us on three different walks, all starting in Biggar and finishing for lunch at the Gillespie Centre. The short walk, led by Cathy, inspected the pond, golf club, and caravan site, while the long walkers climbed fences and gates and leapt streams, among new lambs and birdsong at Hillridge and Springfield – only 3 ½ miles, but lots to enjoy.

At Langlees four extra long walkers, led by Robin, turned up the hill past Langlees farm and on to Cormiston, returning by Lindsaylands Road. (6 miles).

We have enjoyed dry weather for most of our walks this year, and hope this continues over the summer.

In June there were two walks at Mauldslie. We walk every month on the first Wednesday, whatever the weather.

Contact Anne Armstrong [a4rmstrong@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a4rmstrong@yahoo.co.uk) to receive emails about the walks.

*Anne Armstrong*

## Social Cycling Group

We started our season of cycling in March.

We have two rides each month, on 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon.

We've had 6 members taking part so far, but with as many more intending to join us at some stage.

The distances we've covered are from 7 to 12 miles, with just one at 15.

We started with an easy ride, mostly off-road, from Lanark Loch round Smyllum Park and down to the Power Station. Our first April ride was from Forth - a circular by Blackhill Rd, Ampherlaw Woods, Auchergray and Wilsontown; then we had another start from Lanark Loch going by Hyndford Br, Carmichael and Sandilands. In May we ventured as far as Strathaven for our start point: the ride was intended to go to Dungavel but a navigational error led us slightly off course! but we still managed to enjoy some quiet country roads and a return on our planned route. Later in May we tried a new off-road route, from Cardies Br through Cambusnethan Wood, Clyde Walkway, Barons Haugh and Dazyell Park which proved demanding but was well enjoyed. We usually end our ride with a cuppa in a nearby Café.

We hope more members can still join us, as we have lots more cycling to do during the rest of the summer and into the autumn. It's a great way to get out on our network of quiet roads and tracks and to enjoy discovering bits of the countryside you haven't been to before.

If interested contact me on: [jfoster40@btinternet.com](mailto:jfoster40@btinternet.com)

*John Foster*

## GARDENING

The group has been undergoing a gradual change of leadership recently. I have, after 4 years, reluctantly decided to hand over to someone else to introduce 'new blood' into the group.

I am pleased to say that Christine Robbins has agreed to be the new Leader.

Because of holiday commitments etc. Christine and I have shared the last few meetings between us. I will be leading the July meeting which is a visit to Newhall Garden then Christine will be in sole charge from August onward.

I wish Christine well as she starts to plan for the future of this enthusiastic and successful group.

*Nelson Waters*



## Book group

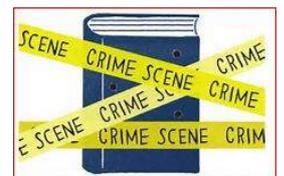
Our book group numbers have risen to our maximum of 10 members, over the last few months, and having started this particular group, six years ago (come September),

I have decided that I want to concentrate on Crime fiction from September 2017 onwards, so our group members have been given the choice of joining me, with the emphasis on Crime, or branching out with a different group leader who will cover all the different genres, as I have done up to now.

It is looking like a 50/50 split at this juncture, but I will keep you updated with any changes.

Both groups will then have space for new members, if anyone wishes to join either of our book groups let us know.

*Rosemary Train*



**Pizza Man — a light-hearted conversation?**

***A pizza order goes something like this.***

- Hello, is that Grillz
- **No sir it's Google Pizza.**
- So it's a wrong number?
- **No sir, Google bought it.**
- OK. Take my order please ..
- **Well sir, you want the usual?**
- The usual? Do you know me?
- **According to caller ID, the last 12 times, you ordered pizza with cheese, sausage, thick crust**
- OK! That's it
- **May I now recommend ricotta, arugula with sun dried tomato?**
- No, I hate vegetables
- **But your cholesterol is 7.4**
- How do you know?
- **Through the subscriber's guide. We have your blood tests for the last 7 years**
- Okay, but I don't want this pizza, I already take medicine
- **You haven't taken the medicine regularly, 4 months ago, you only purchased 30 tablets at Drugs Online**
- I bought more from another pharmacy
- **It's not showing on your credit card**
- I paid in cash
- **But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement**
- I have another source of cash
- **This is not showing on your last Tax form unless you got it from undeclared income source**
- BLOODY HELL? Stuff Google, Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp. I'm off to an Island without the internet.
- I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport; it expired 5 weeks ago.."**



**Could this have been your conversation?**

It is the Information Age so do take care with your own Identity and information when on the Phone and Internet.

Look at:

- . Personal information you set up on Social Media.
- . Conversations that you have on the Telephone and Internet.
- . That the Security on your IT equipment and Phone is set up and ensure it is good quality.

**Be careful what you share.**

**Lanark & District U3A**

**Information Day**

on

**Saturday, 2nd September 2017**

**Tolbooth, Lanark**

Following the success of last years publicity event about Lanark & District having its own U3A branch it is being run again this year.

The format of the day will be similar to last years Display boards for posters and group information. Displays around the room supplied by groups. Local and general information to take away.

Members involved throughout the day supplying helpful information to visitors.



Further information about this will be given when it is available.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in Lanark & District U3A

and what we do then ask them to come along.

**A little Brainteaser**

***100 CARS, 11 TAXIS, and 51 LORRIES***

***have travelled down a road.***

***How many VANS have travelled down it?***

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*(The answer is at the bottom of the page.)*

**Wednesday, 20th September 2017**

**Please put this date in your diary it is for the first General Meeting of the 2017/18 session.**

Contributions from anyone who has something to say, be it about the U3A as a whole, one of the groups or as an individual are welcome. Please send items for inclusion, by email, to Nelson Waters at [nelsonwaters@btinternet.com](mailto:nelsonwaters@btinternet.com)

**Thanks to everyone who contributed.**