



Bob Batty

It is that time of year when there is not so much news and for the media it is the “Silly Season”. We do not have so much news when fewer groups are meeting during the summer. Rather than being silly, can I make a recommendation. I have been reading the Third Age Trust’s Newsletter which is distributed by email. There are many interesting stories and Alastair and Zoe Fleming get a mention! If you want to read the Third Age Trust Newsletter, you have to subscribe to it. You can do this by visiting this webpage and entering your details:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

We have had some difficulty distributing our newsletter recently, with many bounced email messages. This is why we have been sending an email message with a link instead of sending an attachment. We hope to resolve this from next month by emulating the Third Age Trust and using MailChimp to send our newsletter.

Bob

LOCAL NEWS

Summer meet ups:

Monthly talks will be resumed in October. Meanwhile, we still meet for a drink and a chat at the usual time: 10:30 on Tuesday 4 July in the Corran Halls.

Pickleball

Discussions with Healthy Options regarding the possibility of sharing equipment continue. If you are interested in joining this group, perhaps you'd like to be the person who books the courts and takes the contributions? If that's you, or you are interested in joining group, please email the address at the bottom of the page. Thank you!

GROUP NEWS

Membership of u3a local groups:

Please remember that, for insurance reasons, you cannot join the activities of a u3a group more than once if you are not a member. If you renewed your membership you will have received a membership card last autumn. If you are not sure, please contact Graham Cameron at obanu3amemsec@gmail.com .

Calligraphy Group:

The group is taking a break over the summer. It will be offered again at the u3a's September meeting, when existing group members and new people can sign up for the coming autumn and winter.

Craft Group:

The Craft Group will continue to meet and exchange ideas throughout the summer.

Creative Writing Group:

The Creative Writing group continues to meet monthly, usually on Kerrera, though we expect to go back to meeting twice a month after summer. Members bring along a piece of their own writing - perhaps a complete piece of "flash fiction", or a segment of a longer work, or even a factual piece. Usually, each writer reads their work aloud for other members to appreciate and comment on. It is all very positive and light-hearted! Most members have submitted a story for the national u3a writing competition, which has just closed, and are awaiting the results with interest!



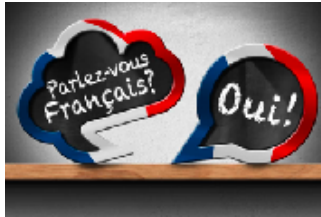
Discussion Group:

We are too addicted to the sound of our own opinions to take a break during the summer! So we will be meeting as usual on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Royal Hotel i.e. 6 and 20 July.



French Conversation Group:

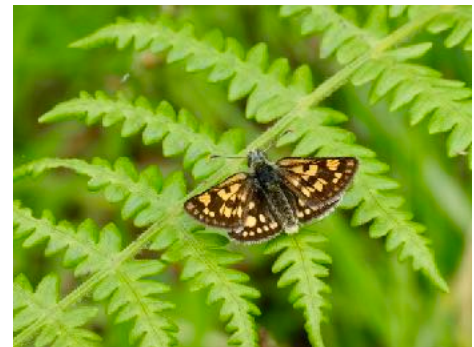
The French Conversation Group meets at the Lancaster Hotel, to speak in or hot chocolate together. We are an intermediate or advanced group. The group will reconvene on 18 August. Please contact Kathy Conventor, on the email at the



meets every Friday afternoon in French and to enjoy a coffee, tea or welcome new members who have knowledge of spoken French. August. For more information, contact Murgatroyd, French Group bottom of the page.

Gardens and Wild Flowers Group:

It was unfortunate that the visit to Braevallich, near Ford, had to be cancelled due to the exceptionally hot weather. Thought is being given to at least one visit this month but no firm plans have been made as yet because of personal holidays. Group members will be contacted by email about future plans.



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Geology Group:

The Geology group is on a summer break. Anyone else wishing to join the proposed field trip to the North-West Highlands (4/5/6 October) should contact Patrick and Virginia Bird as soon as possible to register their interest - email address at the bottom of the page - and reserve their accommodation at the [Inchnadamph Explorers Lodge](#) for as many nights as they wish to join in. The complete trip would involve the nights of 3/4/5/6/7 October, but some may wish to come for just part of the time.



Microbial mat, 1.2 billion years old, first sign of life in Scotland, NW Highlands

German Group:

German group membership has stabilised at nine people, and meets on Thursdays, 10:00am at Graham's house, and coffee is provided. The group will reconvene on 7 September.

Mahjong Group:

The Mahjong group will continue to meet over the summer at the Royal Hotel at 2pm on a Monday. New members or visitors welcome.



Out and About Group:

No plans for July.

Poetry Group:

The Poetry Reading is taking a break during July and August.



Reading Group 1:

Our June book was *The Camomile Lawn* by Mary Wesley. It was a glimpse into the world of the upper middle classes in 1939 and into the years of the 2nd World War. We found some surprising attitudes towards the Nazis, concentration camps and sex. The book was very much enjoyed by most of the group and there was discussion about reading more of Mary Wesley's books.

Reading Group 2 (Crime):

The group will meet on Thursday 6 July at 5 pm at The Falls Hotel. The book for July is *Stranger City* by Linda Grant. Not quite a crime novel, but a mysterious death!

Reading Group 3 (Fact & Fiction):

Still Life by Sarah Winman is a happy book about love, loss and recovery in chosen family. The characters and places are beautifully described and create gorgeous visual images. Winman addresses the topics of age differences and gender attractions well without making them appear false or contrived. She tackles difficult human stories whilst maintaining the reader's empathy. There was some criticism of the back story at the end, although some felt it was relevant and beautiful. "Still Life" - for some the book literally drew a picture, for others a feeling of the main protagonist being the still life within a group, drawing all to him for calm and restoration. "Time heals.....But still life in all its beauty and complexity".

On 21 September the group will discuss *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng.

Science Group:

The Science Group is taking a summer break and will meet again in the autumn. If you have any thoughts on the programme, or a talk to offer, please get in touch.

Scottish History Group:

Scottish History will resume meetings after a summer break.

Spanish Group:

The Spanish group continues to meet throughout the summer and is pleased to have a regular attendance of diehards despite the vagaries of the weather. Anyone looking for a new linguistic challenge or just good company is welcome to join us in The Lancaster Hotel at 11 o'clock every Wednesday.

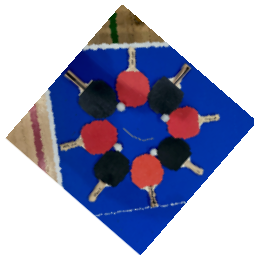


Table Tennis Group:

The table tennis group has played on through the recent glorious weather but is now ready for a siesta!

We expect to start again when schools go back in mid-August, usual time and place - 2pm on Mondays in the main hall at Atlantis Leisure. Players of any level - or none - will be most welcome.

Walk and Lunch Group:

The next walk and lunch will be on Thursday 20 July, with lunch at the Taigh an Truith Inn at Clachan Seil. This walk is based on the [Walk Highlands 'Bridge over the Atlantic' Circuit](#) on Seil:

The route follows a variety of sea - and landscapes and is a walk we've enjoyed previously.

Time 1.5 - 2 hours

Distance: about 3.5 miles



Chris Adie