

# CUPAR U3A



## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021



Haugh Park, Cupar

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## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It is a pleasure to be able to write this article as Chair of Cupar U3A and to offer my thanks to the many people in our organisation who have helped steer us through the pandemic into slightly calmer waters.



As I write, Cupar U3A has 241 members across over 40 interest groups. This is quite astounding when I hear from others around the UK who, have not been meeting at all, or who have drastically lost numbers. Thanks must go to all who have made Cupar U3A so successful. The return to Open Meetings at the Corn Exchange and the successful event at the Societies Fair shows that we are ready once again to embrace in person meetings and although our watch word continues to be caution, I have received many messages of support for our policy of gradually opening up our activities.

Continuing the strong U3A ethos of Learn, Laugh Live, members continue to develop new interest and we are delighted to welcome new groups to our growing list of activities. We now have a proposal for new Bridge group and a new Conversational German group as well as increased post Covid19 interest in existing groups.

At a national level The Third Age Trust continue to build their presence through the website and targeted programmes of support. Much of this is discussed in Third Age Matters and the monthly newsletters. I would urge you to look through this if you can since it brings a wide perspective to topics, which affect us all at this time.

Your Committee continue to meet monthly via Zoom and whilst we always have a full agenda we are very keen to hear from our members. Please do let us know if you have any views or ideas on how we operate or ways in which we can improve. Better still why not join us on the committee where you will be made most welcome.

James Tebbs  
Chair, Cupar u3a

## U3A BEACON

Responding to requests from some U3A's The Third Age Trust embarked on programme of upgrade to the Beacon administration system. Unfortunately the upgrade has run into development problems and for now, the Trust has dropped back onto the stable and familiar older system which is being enhanced to meet new demands.

At Cupar U3A under the watchful eye of Hilary Fraser and our membership secretary Elaine Lennox we have always been happy with the old system which provides all we need to maintain a consistent and secure method of managing our interface with members and groups.

As with all data base systems the output is only as good as the input. So if you have any changes to your contact details or if Group Contacts have changes to timings or members of their groups, please do let us know so that we can keep the data base up to date.



## DECEMBER OPEN MEETING

Our hope is that we will be able to hold a Christmas party in the Corn Exchange for our Open Meeting in December

The Zoom Christmas meeting last year with our own snippets of Christmas related film was so well received we hope to repeat the exercise this year. We are asking contributors to send a short power-point presentations on a Christmas theme for inclusion in this year's film.

Each presentation need only be a few minutes long and in that way if receive several we should get a very interesting afternoon

To start us off I am putting together a few slides on " Christmas in Derbyshire"

All entries need to be with me by 26th November so please let me know if you are able to provide something

Email to [james.tebbs@btinternet.com](mailto:james.tebbs@btinternet.com)



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	James Tebbs
Vice Chair	TBA
Treasurer	Francoise Harnett
Secretary	Jane Masters
Minutes Secretary	Jane Masters
Membership Secretary	Elaine Lennox
Fire Safety	James Tebbs
Open Meeting Speakers	Lesley Murray
Equality & Inclusion	Kate Thomson
Groups Liaison	Don Allan
New Member Liaison	TBA
U3A National Delegate (Scotland)	Don Allan
Newsletter Editor	TBA
Zoom Meeting Co-ordinator	Allan Ferguson
Committee Member	Roger Harnett

## NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Beacon Guru	Hilary Fraser
General Enquiries	Veronica Kirk
Webgirl	Veronica Kirk

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we are aware of several members who have sadly died. Here is some information about three of them.

### Anne Pattullo

Anne was a member of French Group 2 and what a member she was. Full of life, laughter and lots of stories about her younger life. Anne had a great zest for life and even if ill health prevented her from doing as much as she would have liked she was just great company. She created beautiful gardens where ever she lived and her garden in Freuchie was a superb testament to her skills. The annual highlight of our group's year was the "summer picnic" in Tentsmuir where Anne's family owns some land in the middle of the forest. Anne playing "mine host" was a hoot. She spoke French with such enthusiasm that the words Joie de Vivre could have been created for Anne. We will all miss her sense of fun, her laughter and her many stories. Anne you are much missed by us all.



Two images of Anne's Garden in Freuchie

## Bob Fraser

I wish to acknowledge through the Newsletter the contribution which Bob Fraser made to Cupar U3A.

Bob, who died earlier this year, was a committed and valuable member of the U3A and contributed much to life and development of our group.

He was liked and admired by all who knew him, his dry humour and interesting anecdotes about life in Northern Ireland and his time with family in the motor home or away on his boat will be familiar to many.

His steadfast companionship to me and others whilst walking in Swallows 2 will be much missed.

I know I speak for all when I send our very best wishes to Hilary and his family.

(James Tebbs)



Bob was also a keen connoisseur of wine – and other alcoholic beverages. Here is his legendary – not to mention magical – recipe for Cointreau, which Hilary retrieved from his folder.



### **ORANGE LIQUEUR (COINTREAU)**

Pour a bottle of vodka into a wide necked jar.

Suspend a good orange just above (not touching) – using string and 2 cocktail sticks.

Leave for approximately 4 – 6 weeks. The spirit will extract the essence from the orange giving the vodka a delicate orange flavour. You can repeat this if necessary.

When you are happy with the flavour sweeten to taste with sugar syrup. Start with about 6oz and add as required.

## Geoff Armitage

Geoff Armitage was born in Bradford on Christmas Day 1930. After school came national service, when he hoped that he would get a chance to develop his language skills, but instead spent eighteen months in Aldershot. His subsequent work as a Customs and Excise officer saw him with postings at London Docks, Belfast, London Airport, Carlisle and Edinburgh.



During the latter part of this time, he began to get involved in youth work and decided on a career change, first running a youth centre in Chester and then working as a local authority youth officer in Lancashire and then Hillingdon. A further change came, when he decided to focus on his interest in outdoor activities, working first for Ramblers Holidays and Waymark, before running his own activity holiday business based in Dufftown, Moray.

After retirement, Geoff and Celia decided to move to Cupar, where they thought the interests they wanted to develop in retirement would be supported. Having been a rugby player in his younger years, Geoff enjoyed going to watch Howe of Fife. He also attended language classes at St Andrews University and more recently an informal German group. They both attended lectures/societies relating to archaeology and history and enjoyed being able to attend theatre and concerts without the long drives experienced further north.

An important bonus of moving here in late 2008, was the establishment of Cupar U3A in 2009 and Geoff joined groups that related to the interests he had developed throughout his life: Italian, walking (Swallows) and local history. At his funeral Bill Duff (for the Italian group) and Mike Sawyer (for Swallows) spoke of their memories of Geoff:

Geoff led a group where everyone was welcome irrespective of their level. He found ways to support newcomers and he was never judgemental, correcting errors with endless patience. He was a committed leader, always coming up with different ways for us to learn. He kept the group going through the pandemic –taking on the challenges of Zoom. His enjoyment of life was obvious from his passion, his wide interests and the twinkle in his eye when he recounted some of the more humorous tales. We will miss him but his inspiration will keep us going as a group. (The Italian group).

Geoff was one of the original members of the Swallows and early on he and Celia made an important contribution to the group by organising our first three migrations (short breaks each autumn). He showed great attention to detail in the planning and delivery of these breaks and displayed great care for those who came along. Over the years I have enjoyed his company on many walks and I became aware of his love of the countryside, the wide range of activities he had engaged with over the years, his interest in current affairs and especially his belief in social justice. He was a good listener and a tremendous raconteur, with a wry sense of humour and a wealth of knowledge and experience. We will greatly miss him. (Mike Sawyer)



## GROUP NEWS

### Swallows 4

Swallows 4 was established at the end of 2019 with the aim of giving members monthly opportunities to take part in longer walks of six to eight miles. Initially about 12 members completed the first three walks, the last of those taking place at Moncrieffe Hill near Perth among blankets of snowdrops in bloom, before the first Covid lockdown at the end of March 2020.



Moncrieffe Hill amongst the snowdrops.

U3A walking groups were not permitted to resume during the easing of restrictions in summer 2020, so it was more than a year later that the next Swallows 4 walk took place in April this year. Since then, the group has continued to meet monthly with different members taking turns in planning and leading the walks, so at the time of writing a total of six walks have taken place this year in Falkland Estate, Collessie Den and Lindores Loch, Higham Hill and John Knox's Pulpit.



John Knox's Pulpit

Currently the group has 15 members, though injury and other commitments have meant that numbers on walks have generally been restricted to five to eight. There have been a few comings and goings this year but there is still space for more walkers to join what is a very friendly and accommodating group.

Swallows 4 meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

## Gardening Group



We had a very interesting afternoon spent recently in the company of Johnny Mitchell, Head Gardener at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews.

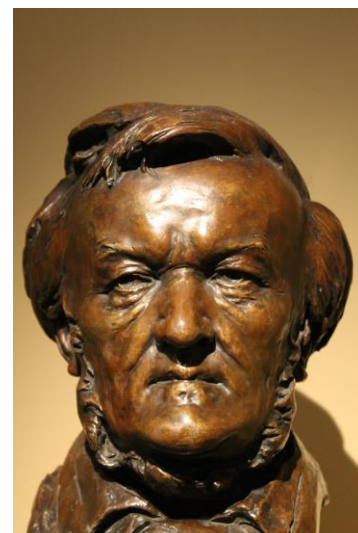
Johnny's enthusiasm for the wild flower meadow at the Fairmont, his bee keeping and honey production enterprise and hydroponically produced edibles he provides for the hotel kitchens, is so infectious. We could have spent many more hours in Johnny's company. The afternoon flew past.

Afternoon tea, so delicately presented with Johnny's produce, was very kindly served in the garden by the hotel staff. Our youngest grandson would describe all as "dishlish"!!!

A wonderful afternoon spent in great company with good friends.

## Music Groups 1 – Letham

This is being written on September 14th., well in advance of the Winter Newsletter, but an auspicious day, because this has been the date of our first 'live' sessions, morning and afternoon, since lockdown began. During the lengthy period when we could not meet, we've been able to watch a series of video programmes, one every fortnight with some gaps for holidays, which have taken the place of live meetings – so we've had programmes on Malcolm Arnold, Grieg, Max Bruch, Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, Mozart Piano Concerti, Vaughan Williams' 'Pilgrim's Progress', music by John Blow and Sir Arthur Bliss, the 'Eroica' Symphony, Sibelius's 7th. Symphony, 'narrative' music by Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov, saxophone music, 'Hail Mary (a selection of religious music), Bruckner, film music by 'classical' composers, concerti with multiple soloists and so on.



YouTube has proved invaluable for this.

Our first 'live' programme – today's programme – was called 'Holiday Tunes from the Cats' Protection League', which turned out to be music by Wagner, Delius and popular songs from the Second World War (there was a reason for the odd title). We expect to have programmes on Elgar and Sibelius Concerti,



Faure, the songs of Cole Porter and the 'St. Matthew Passion' in the coming weeks and then – who knows?? What is obvious, though is that people were so pleased to meet again, have a chat and listen together to some tunes that this is clearly a very worthwhile enterprise, and it is hoped that we can continue as we have done today.

Three cheers for U3A for providing a framework for these experiences, which enrich us both culturally and personally and thereby are a Good Thing.

## Cupar U3A Art History Group During Lockdown

This is almost a diary of the Art History Group's experiences during lockdown and beyond; the late addition was stimulated by the Newsletter Editors request for material!



March '21 Edward Hopper "Room in Brooklyn" 1932

It's almost coming up to the anniversary of lockdown and I'm left with the odd sensation that I can't decide if it has gone quickly or dragged on interminably. Was there life before lockdown. was there life during lockdown – has anything happened or has time gone by in a blur? To try and address this sense of dislocation and unreality, I want to try and chart what the group has done – what it has achieved during the last year - as a way of trying to get the year in perspective.

This time last year. March 2020, we were halfway through a programme examining "Collage" and the way "Cut and Paste" had developed from the pre-20th century, through the papiers colleees of Braque and Picasso to its current usage. We looked at Picasso, Max Ernst, Hannah Hoch, Matisse through to British artists – Eduardo Paolozzi, Penrose, Eileen Agar, Margaret Mellis and Brit Pop artists like Peter Blake of Beatles fame. We learnt a lot about the way artists assembled their images and the different techniques and materials they use. Cut and paste is now in common usage and it was interesting to trace it from its beginnings.



Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band Peter Blake 1967

Up until March 2020, we had been happily ensconced in Cupar Fire Station Community Room -just big enough then to cram in the 12 members of the group – and very dependent on lugging around heavy machinery to show our slide shows/presentations, if we wanted to continue our programme, during Covid we had no choice but to opt for Zoom. After beginning the process through the expertise of group members, the task was made much easier when the CuparU3A took the initiative to get an annual subscription to Zoom on behalf of all our groups. It made the process so much simpler. It's actually easier now to show PowerPoint presentations and access YouTube videos off the internet than it was to present them in person at the Fire Station.

On a few occasions, we have paused our programme and had very enjoyable sessions where each member of the group has shared their favourite picture and what it has meant to them. Normally 2 members will make presentations each month on their chosen artist. However, we have deviated into unique personal reminiscences about marine painters in East Anglia; undiscovered female artists linked to Babylonian antiquities and Agatha Christie: a famous extant Japanese reclusive contemporary of Andy Warhol (Yayoi Kusama) and a forgotten genius who was a contemporary female artist in the Britpop movement alongside David Hockney (Pauline Boty). The width and range of our discussions has been stimulating and it's also been good to have time to see each other on Zoom on a regular basis and just catch up!. In this context it has helped us through lockdown that we have taken the decision to agree to share email addresses within the group so that everyone can communicate with each other directly rather than merely communicate through the group leader/group contact. We've lost count of the number of films, concerts, art gallery sites, web links from the National Gallery of Scotland, Byre Theatre,

U3A National newsletter, Arts Society, D.C.A., Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble; Dundee University sites etc. that we have shared amongst us. I think this will continue even after lockdown finishes (...it has)

During the Summer of 2020 we considered 4 options for our 20/21 studies and agreed, on a vote, to look at the British Neo-Romanticists -a group of loosely associated artists - many of whom disputed the label that was assigned to them - who produced their work mainly between the 1930's and 1950's. The book by Michael Yorke "A Sense of Place -9 NeoRomantic Artists and Their Times" acted as a source document.

As we began to examine their work some of the key themes that influenced them seemed very apposite for our current situation. Many of them were heavily influenced by the trauma of the first world war: their experience of the imminence and then the devastation of the Second World War and their search for inner peace and tranquillity. Although heavily influenced by the Parisian art scene and Picasso, they turned, rather than to impressionism and the modernism of their European friends, to the British tradition of William Blake, Samuel Palmer and J M W Turner. Their inspiration in the face of uncertain and depressing times was from history mythology and the majesty of Nature.

They worked in a variety of disciplines -oil paintings, watercolour prints, lithographs, etchings ceramics even stained glass.

Before and during the Second World War the leading figures were Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland. John Piper. Michael Ayrton. Afterwards there were John Minton, Kenneth Vaughan, Robert Colquhoun. John Craxton, David Jones, Cecil Nicholls, Alan Sorell, Prunella Clough and at a later stage, Patrick Procter. Each was highly individual and for many of us an exploration of a talent that we knew little about but have really come to treasure. Although they disputed any suggestion that they were a "group", studying them has been like completing a jigsaw puzzle where gradually we have been able to make sense of a period in time and the richness of our artistic heritage.

Below is a list of the artists we have studied and a representative work from each of them which you can view by going to the underlined title of the painting and simultaneously pressing CTRL and clicking your mouse/Enter

### **Neo-Romantic Artists Reviewed Work May 18 2021**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Picture</b>
1	Graham Sutherland	1939	<b><i>Entrance to a Lane</i></b>
2	Paul Nash	1918	<b><i>The Menin Road</i></b>
		1941	<b><i>Totes Meer</i></b>
3	Michael Ayrton	1948	<b><i>The Field Roller</i></b>
4	John Piper	1943	<b><i>The Rise of the Dovey</i></b>
5	John Minton	1947	<b><i>Time Was Away</i></b>
6	Alan Sorell	1944	<b><i>Southampton Dock</i></b>
		1945	<b><i>FIDO in Operation</i></b>
7	Keith Vaughan	1943	<b><i>Night in the Streets of the City</i></b>
8	David Jones	1947	<b><i>Vexilla Regis</i></b>
9	John Craxton	1948	<b><i>Pastoral for P.W.</i></b>
10	Cecil Collins	1939	<b><i>The Artist and his Wife</i></b>
11	Prunella Clough	1951	<b><i>Lowestoft Harbour</i></b>
12	(Robert Colquhoun)	1941	<b><i>Marrowfield (Worcs,)</i></b>
		1941	<b><i>??Composition with Figures</i></b>
13	Patrick Prockter	1971	<b><i>The Guardian Readers</i></b>

### **September 2021 Postscript**

We've now moved on from the "British Neo-Romanticists". We spent the Summer deciding what our next course of studies would be and finally decided on "20th Century Design and Designers". We begin our course of studies in October.

During the Summer we have had talks on Fife artists Wilhelmina Barnes Graham the Lorimers of Kellie Castle: Printmakers the Harley brothers and artist William Wilson. We have also celebrated the centenary of Joan Eardley and a range of other artists many of whom have had exhibitions (and Zoom lectures) at the outstanding Scottish Gallery in Dundas St, Edinburgh

Art, its history and the study of artists has seemed to us a meaningful way of navigating both our experience of lockdown and our gradual emergence from it. Doing it as a group – as a shared endeavour - has been immensely enriching.

## Cycling Group

The Cycling group was established late in 2019 and managed only one meetup before the first Covid lockdown in March 2020.

Activities resumed in April this year and since then the group has completed six rides of up to 21 miles in different parts of north east Fife including the East Neuk. Numbers have been quite low with a core of around six riders, with three of those using electric bikes.

The cycling group meets on the first Monday morning of every month and there is plenty of space for new members to join.

It is hoped to establish a beginner's group that would support beginners or those who have not cycled for a long time to ride up to about six miles or so, but this is likely to be next year.



## Music 2 – Ceres

The pandemic may have changed many things and curtailed many activities – but it hasn't managed to stop the music.

At least, that's the case for the Music 2 group, which has managed to remain active despite Covid-19.

In the early days of the lockdown the group's fortnightly programmes were delivered via YouTube but as restrictions eased it became possible to hold real-live meetings once again. Initially, to comply with Covid rules, these get-togethers took place outdoors, in the garden of the group contact's home in Ceres. And, with the weather invariably being kind to the group, the sessions proved to be most agreeable. It may have had to compete with birdsong and the occasional passing vehicle but somehow the music seemed more vibrant when played outdoors.



And so members enjoyed in these al fresco sessions programmes on The Marriage of Figaro and on the relationship between various composers (one week Mozart and Haydn, then Richard Strauss and Mahler, then Brahms and Dvorak). There was an interesting programme on the Romanian composer George Enescu and the group enjoyed couple of sessions on theme-and-variations pieces. There was even a programme on requiem masses, which must surely have bemused passers-by. Who would expect to hear Benjamin Britten's War Requiem belting out from a speaker at 10am on a Tuesday in Ceres, of all places?

Garden meetings ended with the onset of autumn and the group has reverted to indoor sessions. The first of these was devoted to music in some way connected to group members' birthdays, providing an excuse for some unlikely musical partners, from Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus and Verdi's Celeste Aida to Elvis Presley's Wooden Heart and a First World War German marching tune.

Future programmes will continue in the same vein, with a mixture of the familiar and the obscure and always with a friendly chat and a mid-session cuppa.

Meetings are held in the group contact's home from 10am-12 noon every second Tuesday. New members will be made most welcome – and knowledge of classical music is most definitely not a requirement.

## Dance Group

The Dance Group is starting back on Monday 1st November at Old Parish Centre at the usual time 1.45-2.45.

No dance experience necessary as the routines are very simple and based on having fun while keeping fit. Various music to suit all tastes from 70's to the latest popular tunes including tracks from musicals.

New members most welcome to come and try this friendly group.



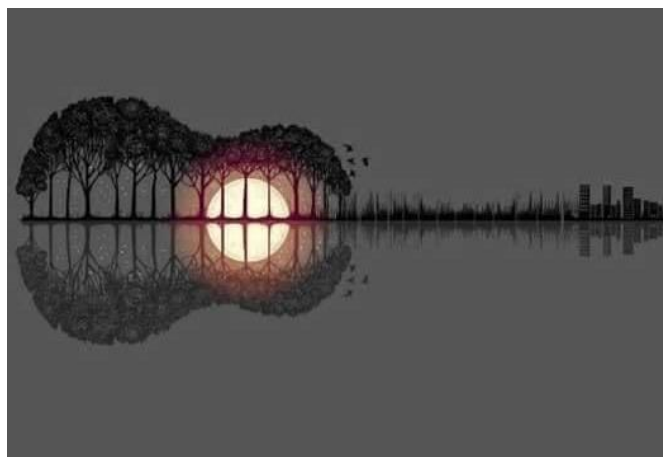
## Guitar Group

The U3A Guitar Group provides a forum for acoustic guitar players of all levels of ability - from beginners to accomplished players - and with a wide range of musical interests to meet and play together.

It is not a performance group; rather it is a friendly, small, self-help group where all members share what they know - both technique and repertoire - and learn with and from each other.

The Group has worked on folk and Celtic music, popular songs, blues and jazz, and classical pieces.

We meet for two hours on alternate Monday mornings at the Cupar Old Parish Centre. New members are always welcome - although the nature of the venue and COVID precautions will limit the number of active members.



## Premier Crew Wine Group



Our first gathering, in August 2021 after 18 months or more of restrictions was a huge success. Outside, in glorious sunshine, (with blankets available should things turn cooler) we enjoyed the simple, yet oh-so-long missed, company of good friends, a mix of nibbles AND of course, some lovely wines.

We started with a little Prosecco – a Christmas gift lurking in the fridge – just to toast meeting up after so long apart. We also gave thoughts to Bob Fraser, one of our happy band whom we very much miss. Then onto the serious stuff of the day.

All four wines chosen were from Aldi, and all under £10.

- **Castellore Soave** – a light and fruity white with a fresh finish and subtle touch of spice (£5.49)
- **Frappato IGP** – a medium bodied red with fruity aromas and a fresh and lively finish (£6.49)
- **Valpolicella Riposa** – a medium bodied red delicately perfumed with flavours of cherry and plum, with a velvety texture (£7.79)
- **Maremma Toscana Reserva** – a medium to full bodied red with a complex, persistent finish (£7.99)

Of the four, we particularly enjoyed the last two.

Thanks to Cupar u3a for bringing us together – and we are looking forward to our next meeting.

Slainte Mhath, everyone.

## Ukulele group (Cupalele)

March 2020 marked a turning point in all our lives.

At the beginning of that year we had nine performance bookings in the diary. As it turned out, we only played three. The last was on March 11th for Seescape at Cupar OPC.

Two days later we started work on a playlist for two concerts in April. We did not know it then but that would be the last time we met together for quite a while.

The pandemic then changed everything.

We cancelled our Cupar Y meeting for March 20th. But that same day we had our first Zoom meeting! We missed very few Fridays after that.

We rapidly discovered the limitations of Zoom when trying to play together as the system delays meant that it was impossible to keep in time with anyone else and so we had to adapt.

One of us would lead a song with rest of the group muted but playing along with the leader. No pressure there, then. Sometimes we practised techniques and skills led by one of our own members. On four or five occasions we were joined by a professional tutor and some members of Ukulele 2 came to these sessions also.

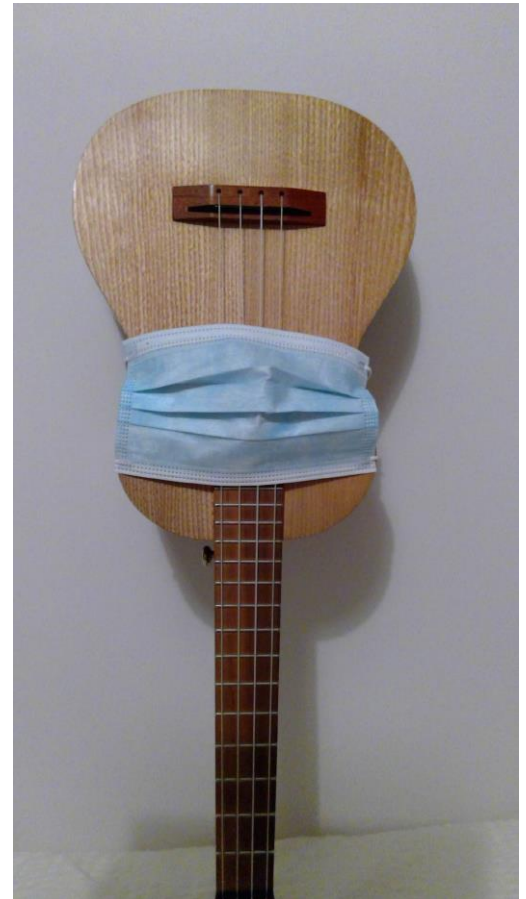
Sometimes we seemed to chat more than we played but that was good for keeping the group together.

We met via Zoom nearly every week for almost eighteen months and averaged about 10 members per session.

Then on September 3rd we resumed face-to-face meetings at Cupar Y. Some of us may have been a bit rusty but that was far outweighed by the sheer joy of playing together again.

And two of last year's cancelled gigs are back in the diary – restrictions and Risk Assessment permitting!

Onwards and upwards.



## GATHERING OF THE SOCIETIES, CUPAR

Cupar U3A took part in the Gathering of Societies held on Haugh Park in Cupar on Sunday September 26th. The Cupar Community Council had decided to give all local societies the chance to showcase themselves and encourage the community to come out and see what we all had to offer.



Cupar U3A Chair, James Tebbs, did a great job of creating new leaflets for us but rather than just hand them out we decided to do some inclusive activities. This became a treasure map with pictures of all the groups that our U3A has running. There are 41 groups currently, involving languages, crosswords, indoor games, walking groups, gardening groups, a theatre and film group and many more. The aim was to guess which of our groups was hiding the 'Treasure' to win the prize, with wine and boxes of chocolates up for grabs.

Committee members, Jane Masters and Lesley Murray, created the map and donated the prizes and with help from other members it went very well on the day. As a further incentive to study which groups we have, Jane and Lesley came up with 6 groups that currently do not function. These included Advanced Tightrope Walking, Brain Surgery for beginners and Astronaut training. If anyone could guess at least 3 of the 6 then they could claim a sweetie immediately.

We had lots of interest in the map, especially as it was free entry and it ensured that people could talk about it and the groups and ask more questions. People asked for themselves, for their parents and even children had a go, with one family winning the chocolates.

We had nearly 80 entries, gave out over 50 leaflets and gained 3 new members the next week, so apart from a great time had by those who helped, it was a good result for our U3A.

So, if you are no longer in full time work, and your family is grown and you would like to become involved or learn more about us, then check our contact information:

web address: [www.u3asites.org.uk/cupar/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/cupar/home)

email: [cuparu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cuparu3a@gmail.com)

phone: 07754 689640

Lesley Murray Cupar U3a

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD TASTER

Cryptic crosswords originated in the UK, first appearing in the 1920s. To the uninitiated, they can appear obscure and difficult but in fact they should all follow rules that mean they can be solved by deduction. A compiler is expected to play tricks to mislead the solver, but must play fair.

A good cryptic clue has two elements:

A precise definition – a synonym for the answer, usually at the start or end of the clue.

A subsidiary indication – the cryptic alternative route to the answer, usually indicated by wordplay.

Because the answer is given in more than one way, the solver can usually be confident of the answer. This is in contrast to non-cryptic crosswords that require other letters to confirm correct answers.

In our two Cupar u3a Cryptic Crossword groups - One Across and Clueless - we are helping each other to learn the cryptic tricks. During lockdown we were able to continue our learning and valuable social contact using weekly WhatsApp meetings and emails. Now we are back to 'normal', you've maybe seen the strange sight in Caulders Tearoom on Monday and Thursday mornings. A group with heads down not speaking to each other, then suddenly exploding into chat and hilarity.

We are motivated by the mental challenge and those wonderful 'Aha!' moments so we have compiled the crossword below as a simple taster of what we enjoy.

*Best wishes from the team with the drookit duck logo!*

1		2		3
	■		■	
4				
	■		■	
5				

### ACROSS

1. This comedian is such a card! (5)
4. For a tough masculine look, he stuffed away his Pakamac hood. (5)
5. Appearing on TV from the beginning. (5)

### DOWN

1. Enormous expression of double Dutch? No, just half of it! (5)
2. Thrills in a football game. (5)
3. Good man follows a small marsupial to a resting place. (5)

*Answers on next page*

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD TASTER ANSWERS

*The synonym looked for is almost always at the beginning or end of the clue - underlined below.*

GOOD LUCK Best wishes from the team with the drookit duck logo!

An anagram indicated by the word "drookit".

### ACROSS

1. JOKER This comedian is such a card!

Joker is a synonym for a comedian and The Joker is in a pack of cards.

4. MACHO For a tough masculine look, he stuffed away his Pakamac hood.

The word "stuffed" is an indicator that this is a hidden word inside PakaMAC HOod.

5. ONSET Appearing on TV from the beginning.

Onset is a synonym of beginning with word play of being on a TV set.

### DOWN

1. JUMBO Enormous expression of double Dutch? No, just half of it!

A play on the expression Mumbo Jumbo, using as it says only half of it to give a word meaning enormous.

2. KICKS Thrills in a football game.

Synonym for thrills and football involves kicks.

3. ROOST Good man follows a small marsupial to a resting place.

Good man is saint, commonly abbreviated to St. ST comes after (follows) the shortened (small) word for a kangaroo – ROO.

## GROUPS CURRENTLY OFFERED BY CUPAR U3A

Art Appreciation	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly
Art History	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly
Bridge	Wednesdays – to be confirmed
Craft	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday
Book Group NOT NOW online	Monthly, Tuesdays
Creative Writing	Monthly, Wednesdays
Cryptic Crosswords, 1 Across	Mondays am fortnightly
Cryptic Crosswords, Clueless	Thursdays am fortnightly
Cycling	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday, monthly
Dance	Mondays pm
Economics	Last Monday monthly
Film/Theatre & Outings	Monthly 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday a.m.
French 1	Mondays am
French 2	Tuesday am fortnightly
French 3	Mondays pm
Gaelic Conversation	Mondays am, weekly
Gardening 1	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday pm
Gardening 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday pm
German Conversation	Fortnightly Tuesdays am
Guitar	Monday am fortnightly
Indoor Sport	Tuesdays pm
Italian Intermediate	Thursdays pm
Jazz Appreciation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday monthly
Local History	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday pm monthly
Lunch/Social	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday
Music , Letham (2 groups)	fortnightly Tuesdays, am and pm
Music, Ceres	fortnightly Tuesdays, pm
Philosophy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday pm monthly
Play Reading	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday monthly

Poetry	Friday pm fortnightly
Singing for Fun	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, pm
Solo Lunches	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday monthly
Spanish	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday am
Swallows Walking	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday am
Swallows Walking 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday am
Swallows Walking 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday am (shorter walks)
Swallows Walking 4	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday am (longer walks)
Ukulele 1	Fridays am
Ukulele beginners	Wednesdays am
Whisky Tasting	Monthly 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday
Wine Tasting Premier Crew	every 2 months
Wine Tasting 2	Monday monthly
Wine Tasting 3	tbc

**ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US through any of the contact methods shown on the front page**

Thank you to all our contributors.  
We really do appreciate the time and effort you put into preparing and submitting articles.

For any errors or omissions spotted, please accept my apology - editor