Introduction from Pat Garland, Chair, Scotland.

Welcome to a new format newsletter which we hope to send out on a regular basis, perhaps three times a year.

The newsletter is not only for committee members and we would like you to email it out to your members, put it on your website, display it at general meetings and thus make it available to as many members as possible, especially new members.

In order to ensure that individual U3As are kept up to date each U3A has been allocated a committee member as an initial point of contact. This is not to replace emails from the Secretary who will still email information to Secretaries and Chairpersons – we see it rather as a backup.

We would appreciate input from member U3As and will try to include as much as we can. It will surely be easier to get your information in a Scottish newsletter than it is to get information in Third Age Matters. Information with regard to special events, groups which are tackling something different, a member who has achieved a special award or anything else which you think others would be interested in. I personally am always interested in happenings in other U3As.

Your committee appointed at the Stirling AGM is as follows:-

### Pat Garland, Chair

Retired Head Teacher

Secretary of Dundee U3A. 2008 – 2009
Vice Chair Dundee  2009 – 2011
Chair Dundee  2011 – 2014
Vice Chair Scotland  2014 – 2016
Chair Scotland  2016 –

**Contact person for** the following U3As:
Aberdeen, Arbroath, Biggar, Dundee, Elgin, Forfar, Orkney and Shetland.

### Kath Payne, Vice Chair

Retired University Lecturer
(Principal Lecturer in Medical Imaging).

Committee Member and Vice Chair 2010 ,
Chair, East Berwickshire 2010-14

Co-opted committee Scotland 2015
Vice Chair U3A in Scotland 2016

**Contact person for:** Moray, Skye, Inverness, Pitlochry, East Berwickshire, East Kilbride, Easter Ross & Sutherland, Forth Valley.
Veronica Kirk,  
Secretary  

u3ascotlandsecretary@gmail.com  
Retired Quality Enhancement Manager  
Committee Cupar U3A  2015 - present  
Secretary U3A Scotland  2016 -  

Contact person for:  
Cupar, East Renfrewshire, Lenzie & Kirkintilloch, Fife, Kintyre, Grantown on Spey and Perth.

John Alexander,  
Treasurer  

u3ascotlandtreasurer@gmail.com  
Retired Local Government Officer  
Website Manager, Four Border Abbeys U3A  2014 - present  
Secretary U3A Scotland  2014 - 2016  
Website Manager U3A Scotland  2015 – present  

Contact person for:  
Four Border Abbeys, Three Brethren, Tweedale, Mull, Caithness, Nairn, Wester Ross, Moray Coast, Skye

Joyce Kennedy,  
Newsletter  

u3ascotlandnewsletter@gmail.com  
Retired Financial Services Manager  
Committee Cupar U3A  2009 – 2012  
Chair Cupar  2012- 2014  
Education Development Contact, Scotland  2011-2013  
Secretary, Scotland  2013 -2014  
Committee, Scotland  2016 -  

Contact person for:  

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!  
The next All-Scotland Assembly will be held in  
ABERDEEN on 1st November 2016.

Vacancy  
Is this you?  
The U3A in Scotland Executive Committee has a vacancy for a committee member and would like to hear from anyone interested in joining us. You must be a member of a U3A in Scotland. The committee meets on a regular basis and organises events throughout Scotland. If you would like more information or would like to put your name forward, please contact  
Pat Garland  
Chair U3A Scotland  
Tel 01382 530972  
Email. u3ascotlandchair@gmail.com
The 2016 Annual General Meeting of U3A in Scotland took place in Stirling on 29th June at the invitation of Forth Valley U3A. Forty nine members attended representing twenty four U3As and we were delighted to welcome Tom Holloway from the Asia Pacific Alliance and Pam Jones, Chair of the Third Age Trust (TAT).

Pam was our keynote speaker and she began by expressing her delight in being back in Scotland having lived here for several years (and in several locations!) in the past. She spoke about her hopes, ambitions and concerns for U3A and praised the enthusiasm and commitment of all those she had met in the last few days. Throughout her talk she encouraged questions from the floor and they flowed thick and fast! Many topics were raised including the complexity of the role of the TAT trustees; the difficulty of U3A members in Scotland to access national meetings; problems in recruiting members, group leaders and committee members plus the difficulties of communication between members. Pam expressed concern that perhaps many U3As had lost sight of the main aim of TAT, i.e. that of lifelong learning. Members felt that in many rural, isolated areas the social aspect of membership was as, if not more important to many people.

The morning session was followed by an excellent lunch beautifully organised and presented by members of Forth Valley U3A. The venue provided plenty of space for members to mingle, chat, swop experiences, renew old friendships and form new contacts and friendships - U3A at its very best!

The AGM followed and thanks were expressed to retiring members Graham Clark, TAT Trustee for Scotland, Tom Berney, Chair and Lizi Irvine, Treasurer. Pat Garland was elected Chair; Kath Payne, Vice Chair and John Alexander was elected Treasurer having relinquished his previous role of Secretary. Three new committee members were elected - Veronica Kirk (Secretary), Delia Holland, who regrettably has since had to stand down and Joyce Kennedy.

The day ended with warm thanks being extended to Pam Jones and the team of Volunteers from Forth Valley all of whom had made a huge contribution to the success of the day.

As part of the organisation of the event, a new feedback form was developed which allowed members to put forward suggestions for topics for future events. Some very helpful suggestions were made and the Executive Committee are grateful for those who took time to respond. Among topics suggested were:

Dealing with disabilities: building a stronger relationship with TAT: training / support for prospective group leaders and committee members: how to use local media / website development / virtual reality sites / web page design: how to set up shared research programmes: more groups aimed at men.

Your committee will be doing their best to incorporate some of these topics into future Assemblies - but please, keep the suggestions rolling in.

We are grateful to Aberdeen U3A for offering to host our next Assembly in November of this year (details coming soon) but we are always happy to receive offers to host future events!

*Kath Payne, Event Organiser*
Ed Link, Third Age Trustee for Scotland

I am pleased to introduce myself as the recently elected Third Age Trust Trustee for Scotland. Before I do so I would like to extend my thanks personally and on behalf of the U3As in Scotland to Graham Clark, the retiring Trustee. Graham has made such a tremendous contribution to the work of the Trust that Pam Jones, the Trust Chairperson, has asked him to continue chairing the important Governance Committee. This is especially important in the years ahead as the Trust examines its organisational purpose and structures.

I joined Perth U3A in 2005 having recently moved back to Scotland and was very quickly welcomed into this lively community of like-minded people. I have since also joined Cupar U3A as a way of extending the opportunity to play the ukulele. In those early days my learning curve was accelerated by being projected into the Chair in Perth in my third year of membership. So it shows you don’t have to be an old hand to help out running your U3A.

Over the years I have been able to help the U3A movement in a number of other ways. Locally by leading groups and serving in different Committee roles. I have served as Secretary of The U3A in Scotland and organised a number of Study Days in Scotland. And for the time being I am still the UK National Subject Adviser for Philosophy.

Like many U3A members my initial focus was very much about what was going on in my own U3A. I have come to appreciate however that while the local U3A is the powerhouse of the organisation there is a lot more going on in the U3A movement than is at first apparent. Connecting with others across the wider U3A enterprise is enjoyable in its own right but it can also be a valuable source of ideas and information.

There is no shortage of opportunity through events organised by The U3A in Scotland or through the National Office. But there is no need to wait for such organised events either, why not get in touch with your neighbouring U3As and arrange exchange visits. Or go even further afield as Perth U3A is currently doing with an exchange visit to Derry U3A in Northern Ireland. I often read and hear people refer to being in such and such a ‘branch’ of the U3A and talk of Bromley as Head Office. This is redolent of the corporate world where top down governance is the norm. But misunderstanding or just loose language this is a travesty that sells the U3A movement short. Each and every U3A is a locally managed autonomous organisation that is formally federated to a national movement. More informally we are family of member U3As. These are more than just words; it is the basis of a grass roots democratic organisation. As far as the Third Age Trust is concerned the operative word is ‘federated’. The U3A embodies certain ideals and principles and together with standards of good governance each U3A agrees to uphold these values and standards. Whilst the Third Age Trust is the legal entity that owns the U3A brand name and acts as guardians of its principles its main purpose is to ensure that there is a support infrastructure in place to support the federated family of 1000 local U3As and their almost 400,000 members.

I wish you every success in running your U3A and if there is anything I can do to help please get in touch via my email. I am more than happy to visit your U3A should you choose to invite me.

Ed Link; Perth U3A and Cupar U3A
Third Age Trust, Trustee for Scotland
30th August 2016
mailto:ed.link@u3a.org.uk
30th AUGUST - 1st SEPTEMBER 2016.

Tuesday 30th August saw over 60 U3A members from all over Scotland and from England descend on Dundee for the first ever All Scotland U3A Summer School. It was soon apparent that our motto of Live, Laugh, Learn was going to play a big part in the event, as members settled into their rooms and began making new friends and searching out old acquaintances. Following registration we split into our study groups of Scottish History, International Politics, Forensic Science and Folk Music for an introductory talk by the group leader. After which, for those who were not too tired after a long journey there was a walking tour along the Dundee riverside redevelopment, organised by members of Dundee U3A. Later that evening we all gathered for a very pleasant meal followed by an optional quiz. This was well supported and appeals for penalty points, red cards and deductions for incorrect spellings were ably handled by the Quizmaster. However one question baffled even the Masterminds and Egg Heads amongst us! All answers to Part 2 of the quiz demanded answers in pre-decimalisation coinage. The clue "a monkey’s joint" floored us all! (Answer can be found at the end of the page)

The following morning we gathered to hear our guest speaker, Sandy Richardson, Development Director of the V&A in Dundee, deliver a wonderful talk on the development and progress of the new V&A. This is the first time that the V&A will have a permanent exhibition outwith London. The innovative design by Kengo Kuma is stunning and, situated in the heart of the developing riverside, will make an impressive centre piece when completed in 2018. The V&A in Dundee will continue to support the aims of its parent institution to support design and designers, and to promote a wider understanding of design by reflecting the history of design and its development.

Group seminars continued for the rest of the day with the Forensic Science group being bussed off to a local 'mock-up' crime scene for some hands-on sleuthing. Music was made and the history of familiar songs and tunes explored, with the similarity in words and tunes across regions and countries soon becoming obvious. International Politics produced some heated discussions whilst the Scottish History group delved into the facts and fiction of our complex history.

The organising committee were delighted that the Lord Provost was able to join us for the last evening’s celebration dinner which was followed by some enthusiastic dancing well into the night, with music provided by local group, 'The Carnoustie Traditionals'.

All too soon it was time for the final group seminars, feedback sessions and for some, a long journey home. (Our furthest travelled delegate was from Kent!) Feedback was incredibly positive - everyone had a wonderful experience and we achieved our objectives of Live; Laugh; Learn in buckets-full. As one of our attendees said:

“One of the most satisfying things for me was that after the course, I did not have to analyse and think about my learning outcomes. I am retired and I did it all not just to learn but to have fun - because I can.”

Roll on 2018 when we will do it all again!

For further information about your local U3A go to: www.u3a.org.uk

Ans: Ape-knee ( halfpenny....ha’penny) Don’t blame me!
**U3A in Scotland Organisation**

The committee thought it would be good to give a definition of what we provide, in order to answer previous questions.

It is best defined as providing training to U3A members on how to perform their roles and hence how to improve the governance of the U3As.

This is done principally through All Scotland Assemblies of which there are usually two per year. At these we have speakers and run breakout sessions to address various relevant topics; e.g. Chair’s role, Secretary’s role, Treasurer’s role. These are funded from the Third Age Trust who will allow us to claim up to a set amount each financial year. Our other source of income is from voluntary affiliation fees from Scottish U3As. We are looking at other themes for All Scotland Assemblies including the Trustees’ role, website management.

In addition to this we have our AGM and lastly underwrite Study Days that may be organised by member U3As.

We also have a website which has details of events committee meetings etc.

It is [www.u3asites.org.uk/scotland](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/scotland)

John Alexander, U3A in Scotland Treasurer

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**Calling All Webmasters**

We are looking at a possible course giving training on using the Third Age Trust Sitebuilder website.

I have already been on one and it is likely that we can get the same experienced people to run one for Scotland.

Can you please let me know if you would be interested and what level you would like. I assume as almost all Scottish U3As use sitebuilder it would be more in depth, such as linking in Youtube videos but please let me know.

As yet we haven't thought about location, but it will be as easy access as possible and it is possible we might need to levy a nominal charge.

Please get back to me at [u3ascotlandtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:u3ascotlandtreasurer@gmail.com)

John Alexander,
Webmaster
U3A Scotland

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**And finally….**

- The next U3A in Scotland committee meeting is on 11th October 2016. If you have any matter you wish to bring to its attention then or at any time, please contact any member of the committee. You will find their email addresses on pages 1 or 2.

- The next **All-Scotland Assembly** will be on **1st November in Aberdeen** - more details and the programme will be announced shortly.

- If you have an item you would like included in the U3A in Scotland Newsletter, please contact Joyce Kennedy on [u3ascotlandnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:u3ascotlandnewsletter@gmail.com) It is intended that the newsletter will be issued three times per year. Date for inclusion in next issue: 5th Jan 2017.