



3ls.website

# Tell'sMore

## 3Ls Association Newsletter



SUMMER 2019

## President's Foreword

Let's celebrate 30 years of friendship and informal learning! In this special Anniversary edition of Tell'sMore we want to take some time to reminisce about the life of our unique 3Ls Students' Association over the last three decades.

We have invited lots of people to contribute articles sharing their memories of involvement in the 3Ls, including Office Bearers, Club representatives and members. Look out for several pieces based on the theme of "Thirty" from members of the Creative Writing Club.

The success of the 3Ls is underpinned by a very supportive relationship with the University and in particular, the Centre for Lifelong Learning, led by Alix MacDonald and her team. We enjoy huge support from the CLL team and our partnership creates a synergy between formal and informal learning from which we all benefit.

I hope you have enjoyed the various events we have organised to mark this Anniversary year and that we will be able to celebrate many more decades of success as our Association continues to develop the range of membership benefits on offer.

**Diane Campbell**  
3Ls President



## Congratulations from Lesley Hart

I would like to add my heartfelt congratulations to the 3Ls Students' Association which is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary year. It was a short, informal conversation I had with a group of Learning in Later Life students in the late 1980s which led to the formation of this organisation.

In the early days of the Learning in Later Life Daytime Programme, which I was responsible for running, classes stopped at the end of March and didn't restart until the beginning of October. Students were frustrated at having such a long time to wait for new classes to begin and many wanted to stay in touch with each other during the summer months. We eventually decided that a good option would be to set up a student organisation which would be optional for class students to join. Although receiving some initial support from the University in terms of accommodation (a former cleaner's cupboard was transformed into a small office) plus a little of my staff time, it was envisaged that this new body would be 100% student led with its own constitution and equally as important, its own bank account! Over a nine month period I worked with two very committed students, Jim Alexander and the late May Dunlop, to put in place a sustainable management and financial structure in time for the formal launch of the new Association in Spring 1989. Jim was elected as the first 3Ls President and May as Vice President.



The rest you might say is history but it is easy to underestimate the hard work plus the high levels of enthusiasm, energy and expertise that have been freely given by 3Ls members over the years to ensure it has stayed the vibrant and innovative organisation which it is today.

It was my privilege and pleasure to be the University's main link to the 3Ls for many years and it was an honour to be appointed as Honorary Patron in my retirement.

Again, many congratulations to you. The 3Ls began as a social and informal learning organisation run by members for members. Thus it remains today, with identical aims and objectives. I wish it well for the next thirty years...and beyond.

**Lesley Hart**  
Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning (until 2010)  
Honorary Patron of the 3Ls (until 2018)

# A message from our Honorary President

As Honorary President, I send my warmest wishes and congratulations on this special occasion of the 3Ls Students' Association's 30th Anniversary.

This milestone is a great testimony to the dedication and support given by the past Presidents and our current President, Diane Campbell, the Management Council, the members of the 3Ls, the clubs, volunteers and background staff who underpin the daily organisation of our fantastic organisation. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding support given to the 3Ls by Alix Macdonald and all the team at the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Strathclyde.

As a CLL student myself, I participated in a class "Understanding your (compact) Digital Camera", which was a great experience for me, learning new skills and meeting other members. My camera was a Christmas present from my husband as I was about to retire from my own profession and keen to immerse myself in Learning in Later Life at Strathclyde. This was a genuinely enjoyable learning experience for me.

The 3Ls as an Association opens up learning in all areas to individual members via clubs, social events, lunchtime talks, trips and study tours. As well as offering excellent learning experiences, it also provides the basis for a friendly and dynamic community of people who, themselves, are the heart of the organisation.

Well done on achieving this important milestone and here's to the next 30 years!

Lady Eileen McDonald



# A message from our Honorary Patron

It was a great privilege and honour to take over the role of Honorary Patron of the 3Ls at the beginning of its momentous 30th Anniversary Year. The stand-out event for me to date has been the Afternoon Tea held at the Glasgow Trades House,



which celebrated the remarkable achievements of the 3Ls Students' Association over the past three decades. The Afternoon Tea was a sell-out and an outstanding success, thanks to the splendid efforts of the organising group. It was attended by many key figures in the history of the 3Ls, including the first President of the Association, Jim Alexander, and Lesley Hart, who was so instrumental in pioneering the work of what

we now call the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Strathclyde and supporting the establishment of the 3Ls. The nature and success of the Anniversary event, from the grandeur of the historic surroundings to the quality of the musical aperitif provided by Traditional Music Club members, very fittingly reflected the current health, vibrancy and collective confidence of the 3Ls whose membership now stands at over 1200. As well as looking back over the past 30 successful years with the help of well-chosen photographic images on each table for current and former members to browse, the event was also a platform to look ahead and ponder what the next 30 years of continued success will bring.

Donald Christie, Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Strathclyde

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**3** times X = XXX.

**L**et's rejoice and have lots of fun.

**S**trathclyde, our alma mater,

**T**ell'sMore, our newsletter, our paper.

**U**nited with CLL, giving such pleasures,

**D**iversity in our lunch time lectures,

**E**nergy abounding in our members.

**N**ew friendships made, and deepening,

**T**housand plus in numbers and increasing.

**S**ummer Academy, our wunderkind, fourth year approaching.

**A** Management Council, and a President

**S**howing the way, so let's all shout out, hurrah!

**S**o many opportunities for us all to partake,

**O**utings aplenty to all airts and pairs.

**C**lubs ten plus six, and still counting.

**I**talian, Spanish, French and German;

**A**rt, Architecture and Design, Book, and European Crime Book too;

**T**raditional music, Theatre, Music Appreciation and Bridge;

**I**nclude Genealogy, Computer, Creative Writing and History...phew!

**O**h, how lucky are we in the midst of these treasures,

**N**ow shout out Cheers to life and such pleasures.

Barbara Tropp

# Some 3Ls Office Bearer Memories

The Management Council depends on volunteers taking on Office Bearer positions to manage 3Ls activities. Here are some memories from those involved in these roles.

## Memories of a President

I remember so well joining the 3Ls Association in the autumn of 1998 when Jack Fletcher was President. What an interesting man he was. He had risen up through the Trade Unions to become Head of one of their colleges in Oxford.

Then came my good friend Beatrice as President. We had many laughs together, especially when Beatrice married Donald Richardson 'in later life'. On her Hen night we drove round George Square in a stretch limo, accompanied by Lesley Hart and the Principal's wife Suzanne Hamnett, drinking champagne. This was followed by dinner for thirteen at the Inn on the Green. We were noticed by Michelle Mone (now Baroness) who was so amused at our event that she sent over even more champagne.



I considered it a great honour to be elected President in 2002 and now I realise that I have known nearly all the Past Presidents.

Among the highlights of my term in office was the visit of Lord Hope, then Chancellor of the University. He was most impressed by the display of club activities. Sir Graham Hill gave a very amusing speech at our AGM. He and Lady Mary had been very influential in setting up the Learning in Later Life classes and then the Association. Dr Steven Newall our Patron was also a great help in promoting our presence in the University.

Then there was the debate with the Undergraduate Debating Society to celebrate 25 years of their Debating Chamber. It was to be most formal. We all had to wear evening dress, the Principal was in the Chair and there would be three Judges. Taking pity on us, the Student President undertook to tutor us!

The student team, all practised debaters, took it all casually and were totally mortified, when we 'oldies' were awarded the trophy by the Judges and the motion "A degree from the University of life is worth more than a University degree", was carried.

It was indeed a happy and rewarding time for me.

[Myrtle McGregor, President 2003 - 2005](#)

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## Memories of a Treasurer

There have been many 3Ls Treasurers over the years and the Treasurer was always referred to as "Honorary Treasurer" - until I came along. I won't take it personally!

A perusal of the archives reveals some interesting discussions with the auditors who prepared the accounts for the AGM, though I hasten to add that there has never been any financial irregularity. No treasurer has been found sunning themselves in the Bahamas at the expense of the 3Ls members!

The financial statements show that the 3Ls has always been a very sociable association, with numerous social activities and outings each year, as well as Burns dinners, St Andrew's Day dinners and Christmas Parties. I was intrigued to read of a "Dance Club" - perhaps our current President would like to revive that one!

Fixed assets over the years have included a Yamaha keyboard, a vacuum cleaner and an oven - the 3Ls office must have been home from home at one time!

The management of Petty Cash seems to have been slightly problematic on occasion and I was amused by the comment "The pages from the cashbook were received and as you said they will soon flatten out after being replaced in the book"!

Each Treasurer has benefitted from the experience of the previous office bearer, as have I. We are now lucky to have computer based systems which do much of the work but the consistent cooperation of the members of the Management Council over the years in adhering to the principles of good practice in financial matters makes the job of the Treasurer very straightforward.

[Winnie Mallon, Treasurer 2016 - 2019](#)

# Memories of a Convenor of Clubs

In the summer of 2013, Francis Sheppard then 3Ls President, asked me to a meeting with him. He didn't tell me why (how naïve I was then) but I knew I had not done anything wrong (how that would change) being relatively new to the Management Council.

When we met, Francis asked me if I would be the next Convenor of Clubs. After much discussion, I agreed.

Jim Rafferty, the retiring Convenor and I then met (over a very enjoyable lunch) when I was briefed with all relevant details.

All office bearer roles within our Students' Association are important, but I feel the Convenor of Clubs (CofC) is particularly so. When the 3Ls Clubs were formed it was recognised that there should be an interconnection between the Management Council (MC) and the Clubs. Thus, the CofC role was established as a formal link with the Clubs, to manage a series of separate meetings of Club Presidents. To reinforce this link, representatives of three Clubs in rotation would become full members of MC for a year.

In due course, I chaired my first meeting of the Council of Clubs and those who attended will remember it was one of the longest meetings of any kind but quickly finding my feet, they soon reduced in length. I would also like to record my very grateful thanks to Sheila Hawthorn, who took pity on me and became my Minute Secretary during my tenure.

Since the beginning of the 3Ls, Clubs have been formed and disbanded as interests change. However the Club network is healthy with a variety of new Clubs being formed in recent years. While the CofC can help look after Clubs, there do need to be volunteers to organise them.

Like my predecessors, I was very pleased to be CofC. Of all my duties in the 3Ls, it has been the one which I found the most rewarding and fun.

*John Parkhill, Convenor of Clubs 2013-2016*

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## Memories of a Secretary

I held the post of Honorary Secretary in the 3Ls Students' Association from 2009. I had recently retired from a lifetime's work in education and my involvement in the Association's aims of lifelong learning seemed like a seamless transition.

It was a privilege to be part of the Management Council, and the office bearers in particular. The serious commitments were lightened by much good humour, fun and laughter. I have happy memories of many of the people I served with, such as Jim Duffin, President, his pleasant kindly support, Meg King, vice-president, her caring, commitment and energy, Gerald Mortimer, his wit and hilarious stories and the late Francis Sheppard, always the thorough gentleman.

The CLL made a generous commitment to the 3Ls by providing regular admin assistance and I was privileged to work with the highly conscientious Alice Morton.

The Management Council was a hive of activity. It was a pleasure to witness the evolution of so many initiatives: the beginning of the Lunchtime Talks; the intergenerational links fostered between the traditional music club and the secondary music pupils of Saint Ambrose High, Coatbridge. New clubs were initiated too: the genealogy club, architecture and design, and musical appreciation.

Social events were interesting and very popular. There was the trip to York and to Mallorca, the latter linking up with European students at the University of the Balearic Islands.

In writing this article I have looked back with fond memories of all the people whom I have worked with and have a sense of real gratitude for the lasting friendships I have made.

*Mary Reilly, Secretary 2009-2011*

## Memories of a Social Convenor

I became a co-opted member of the 3Ls Management Council in 2010 and shortly thereafter became Social Convenor (with a lot of "encouragement" from the late Francis Sheppard who later went on to become 3Ls President.).

My first task was to organise a trip to Dumfries House near Cumnock which required two coaches as it was very popular. Further complications ensued as the main road in to the House was being resurfaced so members had to be ferried up and down in smaller vehicles. However, everyone was in good spirits and it was a very successful visit.

It would be impossible to describe every single trip as there were about 25 altogether. Some of the highlights were the trip to Mount Stuart in April 2015 when we experienced Scotland's varied climate in the space of a few hours - sun, rain, sleet, wind, snow...but it was a wonderful day.

The trip to the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre in Arbutnott was also memorable - a very long drive but the landscape and the Centre were impressive. One member, who shall remain nameless, was flummoxed as she thought she was going to see apes! The trip to Dundee and Verdant Works was also memorable, mainly due to Lily, who worked in the mill her entire life and is now a volunteer, demonstrating the looms and describing her working life.

Other trips which stand out in my mind were those to Rosslyn Chapel, Abbotsford House, Stirling Castle, Hill House, The Kelpies, Bannockburn, Dalgarn Mill, Commonwealth Games Venues, as well as at least 4 theatre visits, a Burns Lunch at the Piping Centre and a St. Andrew's Day Lunch at the Radisson.

Thank you to all who took part and especially to Christine King who handled all the finances - we were a great team! Finally, a big thank you to Ina Watt who came on every trip and always sent a thank you card. It was much appreciated, Ina!

*Elsa Foley, Social Convenor 2012-2016*

# SOCIAL OUTINGS AND EVENTS

Social outings and events have always been a key feature of the 3Ls Calendar and over the decades we have organised visits to a huge variety of venues across Scotland – too many to mention.

We have also enjoyed lots of Association and Club trips to foreign Places and recently have introduced a Summer Academy. Here are a few photos to remind us of fun and friendships.



Abbotsford Trip



Gin Tasting at Eden Mill



Lunch at Perth



Dining in Orvieto



Fun in Palma



Summer Academy – learning in action



John, Elsa, Peter & Anne



30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Afternoon Tea



Loch Lomond Trip



Morning Choir



Summer Academy Cake



Burns Supper

## TALES FROM THE 3Ls CLUBS

At the 3Ls, we're proud of the way courses have led all manner of students to take matters into their own hands - by studying (and socialising !) further. On this thirtieth anniversary, we asked Clubs to tell us some more...

### ART CLUB

The Art Club was originally founded in 1995 with the aim of providing an environment for informal learning and a social forum around classes run by the CLL. After a lull in activity, students re-established it in 2003 following some encouragement from Strathclyde tutor, Pheona Kerr. Since then, the club has flourished and an active membership (currently 90) enjoys a programme of three artist demonstrations, two exhibitions and an art related visit, per session.

Over the years, countless tips and techniques have been generously shared by artists who have come along to demonstrate and help further our learning and practice in the world of art. The December watercolour demonstration given by tutor, Julie Robertson, featured the added interest of a sitter dressed in a beautiful period costume on loan from Scottish Opera.

Our bi-annual exhibitions in March and November are held at the Winter Gardens, People's Palace (St Mary's Cathedral in 2019 due to essential repairs) and have given members a chance to display and sell their artwork. This has encouraged newer students to take the plunge and put their work into the public arena, often, for the first time.

This year's art visit took the shape of a trip to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum to experience the 'Highlights Tour'. In recent times our members have also enjoyed tours of The Glasgow Art Club and the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, which all provided fascinating insights into local art and architectural history.

Hopefully, the Art Club will continue to thrive because of the enthusiasm and support of members as we all endeavour to keep learning and developing our skills.

*Ann Differ*



### ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN CLUB

Our Club hasn't quite reached the 30th mark, but we can celebrate 20 amazing years, with a membership now exceeding 90. Born out of the heady days of 1999, Glasgow's Year of Architecture & Design, when the University ran a series of Seminars, the Club has held a total of 144 meetings. Each season is a mixture of talks and visits always with a balance between the historical and the contemporary. As well as 'Architecture' we have meetings exploring planning, landscape architecture and the regeneration of our City. Also the 'Design' in our title can range from engineering – the magnificent Queensferry Crossing Bridge was a particularly inspiring talk - to the decorative such as the modern design of stained glass windows. However Glasgow is the key that holds us together and looking back over the seasons I am aware that we have charted a lot of what has been going on in Glasgow's built environment over these past 20 years. Highlights? There are many, and each member will have their own memories. Here are some of mine - the designs of the Falkirk Wheel, the Riverside Museum, the Commonwealth Games buildings, the Small Animal Hospital, and the new 'Nautical College'. Summer Outings are favourites too – Fortingal, Mount Stuart, 'Historic Greenock' and Charles Jencks's architectural garden. With such a diversity of topics to choose from we can continue to look forward to many more years of stimulating meetings.

*Clio Barr*

#### Thirty Years Ago

A single raindrop, a persistent niggles,  
Joined by others,  
Planting first a notion,  
Then, gathering pace, a rivulet of thoughts,  
Merging into a stream of consciousness.  
Flowing towards its destination:  
A reservoir of ideas.  
And so, 30 years ago, was born a plan.  
A pipedream?  
No!  
A pipeline of opportunity,  
Leading to a fountain,  
Formed of knowledge, creativity  
Enjoyment!  
Delivering a rainbow of prismatic colours:  
Activities to suit every taste  
For those who are splashing happily  
Through the best seasons,  
The autumn and winter of their lives.

*Gail B. Thomson*

As you can see, over the years, hobbies have led to lifetime interests. And for many, foreign holidays have led to ... language study, which has led to ... more foreign holidays!

## ITALIAN CLUB



The Italian club has been a vibrant club now for 21 years. Kate Dougan was the first President at its inception in 1998.

The club provided members with the opportunity to learn about the history, culture and cuisine of Italy. There are now 100 members with an average attendance of 50 at each of our monthly meetings.

Amongst our many speakers there have been and will be club members, included amongst these have been Andrew Goodwin, Patricia Cook, Elaine Hansen, Peter Cairns and Ian Fulton, and in next year's programme, Terry McCabe.

By request of the members, many of whom currently attend classes, there was a lecture in Italian last year to be repeated by Giovanna Guidicini who shall talk this year about Bologna, its culture and cuisine.

Amongst our eminent speakers has been Mary Contini, who subsequently arranged for a cookery demonstration to be held in Edinburgh at "Valvona & Crolla"

A precious link for the club over the past 10 years has been with the "Royal Conservatoire" whose first year students provide a concert for us. This is enjoyed by students and members.

Over the last four years we have had two club holidays in Bologna and Lucca and our third one was in Verona this year.

## GERMAN CLUB

The German Club was founded on 14th January 1992 a few years after the 3Ls was formed. Since then, there have been many changes over the years in both the Club and the Association.

The Club has taken part in a wide variety of activities over the years. Language learning was part of meetings from the start. Visits to Nurnberg (Glasgow's twin city), Munich, Berlin and Ulm have also taken place. Links with the Goethe Institut in Glasgow have been nurtured. Christmas festivities and feasting and club membership contributions have also played an important part in the development of the Club.

We have had a wide range of contributors from many German speaking areas –various parts of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark as well as Club members speaking of their experiences.

Interesting historical, geographical, linguistic and cultural topics have been covered. A presentation followed by a question session and then a social time is the usual structure of each meeting. The presentations are usually given in German with recaps in English. We have been very fortunate in getting quality presenters for our meetings from a wide range of contributors.

The membership numbers have fluctuated over the years. The present membership increase has required a larger room. The social side remains an important factor in the life of the club. After presentations the members have time to socialise with Kaffee und Kuechen or at least coffee, tea and biscuits.

*Daniel O'Sullivan*

## SPANISH CLUB

The Spanish Club was one of the first 3Ls clubs to be founded 30 years ago. It was founded by our first President, Stanley Twedde, who remained a loyal member of the club until he passed away a few years ago. We still have members who have been with us for more than twenty years and who still attend regularly: Camille Lynch who was Club Secretary in the very early days, Isabella Howat who is a former President, and Jean Lickrish who was Social Secretary for many years, organising the infamous wine and tapas which are on offer at the end of each meeting.

The club meets once a month and the aim is to promote an interest in Spanish and Latin American language and culture and to gain a deeper understanding of 'La Hispanidad'. Spanish is, after English, the most widely spoken language in the world and our talks embrace the cultures of all Spanish speaking countries. Talks are delivered completely in Spanish and we aim to have native speakers as far as possible.

We are a very sociable bunch and we also organise lunches at Scholars' once a month. The social element even extends to our AGM – the past two have featured wine tastings. It certainly makes for an interesting event! Rest assured that no wine is consumed until business is completed. Later this year as part of the 30th Anniversary celebrations we will hire the GFT to screen a Spanish film for our members.

*Elsa Foley*





# FRENCH CLUB

With no little trepidation I state here that the French Club was the first ever 3Ls Club formed in those heady and distant days of 1988 but I can say with certainty that it was the first language Club!

The Clubs were all originally formed by students who attended the newly established classes of the Senior Studies Institute which became the Centre for Lifelong Learning. At that time the classes, as I discovered when carrying out research for this article, were not held in 40 Graham Hills but actually in the McCance Building...how times have changed and moved on.

With considerable *panache* (geddit?) the newly established French Club certainly hit the ground running by inviting a group of Troisième âge students from Vannes in Brittany to visit in June 1989 with a reciprocal visit in October the same year. Numerous return visits were made over the years and to Alsace, the Dordogne, Biarritz, the Ardennes, St Raphael and other locations.

During the *tranquille* summer period the tradition of Club lunches was established to maintain contact between members. These were run by Ellen Graham right up until a few years and still continue today. Venues patronised were Le Bouchon, Froggies, Café de Sud, Bonne Auberge and currently Côte Brasserie. If you look at the 3Ls website (3ls.website) you will see many images of lunching etc.

The original ethos of the Club was to have presentations made by external speakers and Club members which persists to this day. One particular presentation has to be mentioned. Liliane Houlade gave a presentation on her first visit to the Barras. Her sister was a textile specialist with the V&A and they spotted some "material" on a stall which they purchased for £17 in 2002 and turned out to have been woven by Huguenots and valued between £10,000 and £15,000. See the Barras, see bargains, see the French Club!

For the first time ever we had the French Consul General in Edinburgh, Emmanuel Cocher, make a presentation recently, Holyrood pupils have regularly visited. We also have maintained Club membership at the Alliance Française Glasgow over the years and members can access the various resources there. For the last few years we have joined in the annual Bastille Day Pétanque competition with the Franco-Scottish Society and the lunch after. Scope for a Club?

We were an active participant in Freshers' Day and still are although it is now known as the Open Afternoon held in September

The Club still meets twice-monthly, twice the work but twice the fun and every second meeting we have wine and nibbles.

I pay tribute here to many people who were instrumental in setting up the Club and ensuring its ongoing success. Unfortunately they are far too many to mention here. Some are still around, you know who you are and on behalf of ALL members over the years, I applaud you.

In closing I would like to thank Thérèse King for all her very kind and knowledgeable assistance in helping me with this article and who was a founding member of the Club. Merci beaucoup Thérèse (finally managed to do the accents).

John Parkhill

Of course, it may be that your interests run to the past, and to earlier times. If so ...

## HISTORY CLUB

Founded in 2017, the club is now a grand 1¾ years old!

So, with humility and admiration we congratulate the 3Ls and all associated clubs in reaching this 30th year of maturity.

Most of you will probably have forgotten your original growing pains and finding identity through the Club programme and meeting formats to reflect the consensus of your merry band of 'like-minded people'. This is all very immediate for us, and while challenging, has proven fun and rewarding. We have been privileged to share bespoke talks by our speakers and made entirely welcome during very diverse external visits. We also do extra mural 'pop ups' whereby an invite for a historically derived film or similar is attended spontaneously. All this has delivered a shared historical knowledge and perspective and, when we adjourn for refreshment, quite a lot of fun too!

So far so good but, though blessed with some 94 enthusiastic members and an energetic and imaginative committee, we are wholly aware of the challenges of sustainability and succession planning. It is therefore with genuine respect that we congratulate you all for 'hanging in there', thank you for sharing lessons learned and we wish everyone well in your very eclectic Club activities.

Well done!

Tom Ward

## GENEALOGY CLUB

Helen Dickson, our Past President, formed the 3Ls Genealogy Club in 2007 to cater for 3Ls members who had been researching their Family History. Numbers have much increased since then but we still adhere to the format of speakers alternating with members' discussions and visits. This year's speakers cover varied topics - Highland Ancestry, Jewish Records, One Name Studies and DNA. Wine & Nibbles are popular at our December and May meetings. To celebrate our 10th anniversary last year we had our first lunch out, something which may become a regular feature of the programme. Informal lunches at the Mitchell Library keep us in touch over the summer. We can also keep in touch between meetings via a "secret" group on Facebook.

During this Anniversary year, the Club produced a book of family articles written by members entitled "Read All About Us".

Senga Simpson



Not to forget the quieter joys of some more sedentary pursuits ...

## MUSIC APPRECIATION CLUB

The Music Appreciation Club is now in its 11th year and has continuously attracted a small but enthusiastic group of members.

The intention of the club has always been the enjoyment and appreciation of music, rather than examining the more technical aspects, which are covered elsewhere by a number of CLL courses. To this end, the club's scope is wide, covering all types of music; so although the emphasis is slanted towards classical music, we have also heard items of jazz, swing, pop, stage and screen music, both from our members and also from invited guests. Our guest speakers have informed us on brass bands, organs and Bach, musical entertainment production (by Walter Paul of Walter Paul Productions) and on the archive of the Royal Scottish Conservatoire (followed by a visit to the archive).

A further popular activity is the occasional 'Pot Pourri' meeting where members are encouraged to bring along a piece of their favourite music to play, and say a few words about it. In this way everyone has their few minutes of fame, and the rest of the audience gets to hear a diverse selection of tunes and airs, which are not just the committee's choice.

*Alison Howarth*

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## TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLUB

The Club was founded in 2005 by John Gowrie, who served as our President for many years. It resulted from Kate Dougan's whistle class around that time.

Our members come from a fair range of musical backgrounds and this is reflected in the different songs, tunes and styles you'll hear. We find common ground within the club in our love of performing traditional and related forms of music. Equally important to members is the social camaraderie and mutual respect we enjoy, in fact nearly as much as the music itself!

We are occasionally asked to provide music for events both within the 3Ls and outside and our efforts have been well-received in the past.

If any of you reading this have a musical bent and either haven't heard of us, or have but done nothing about it, why not give us a try? You're welcome even if you just want to listen to the others.



*George Smith*

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## BRIDGE CLUB

In the early 2000s Bridge classes were part of the Daytime Programme. As is often the case when a new subject is being taught, a different topic was introduced each week followed by some practice and this pattern was followed for 20 weeks.

Class members felt more practice was required and decided to meet on an ad hoc basis before or after classes to play hands taken from a mixture of topics at random. This worked well. However, as University accommodation was being used, a proper Bridge Club had to be set up. This happened in 2006.

Things changed over time. Bridge classes no longer feature in the Daytime Programme. From having lots of inexperienced beginners, the Bridge Club now has competent players many of whom play in other Bridge clubs. Every meeting takes the form of a tournament.

Many features have not changed. Members do not have to come with a partner. Ideally the number who turn up on Fridays would be divisible by four to give complete tables. This cannot always be guaranteed and various strategies are used to ensure that everyone can play. Most important of all, the friendly, relaxed atmosphere continues as it has always done.

A research group is looking into the health benefits of playing bridge. They say that it requires mathematical ability, social skills and strong concentration. Apparently it also helps alleviate stress and boosts self-esteem, which might come as a surprise to some bridge players.

*Sheila Hawthorn*

## BOOK CLUB

With a membership of 25 we have a fairly regular monthly attendance of 20 or so. However, this is still largely a female group and more of the male viewpoint would be welcome.

The Club began when an English Literature class was discontinued, and we aim to cover a range of categories – fiction, biography, humour, poetry. Titles are recommended by the members.

We also organise external activities – a tour of the Mitchell Library, a visit to Glasgow Women's Library, an outing to the National Library of Scotland for the Muriel Stark Centenary Exhibition and the GFT occasionally shows a film of one of our book choices. Our convivial annual lunch, currently held in the admirable Scholars' Restaurant, is something we all look forward to.

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## EUROPEAN CRIME BOOK CLUB

The 30th Anniversary of the 3Ls has provided a welcome opportunity to reflect on the Club's progress since it was founded in 2014. It was launched as the Nordic Noir Club and changed to the European Crime Club for 2018/19. The focus of both groups has been on reading crime books in English translation but film and television programmes are also discussed. Since its foundation:

- the membership has grown from 12 to 16
- 24 books have been read and discussed, covering the following countries; Sweden (7 books); Norway (4); Denmark (3); Finland (3); Iceland (3); Faroe Isles (1); Germany (1); France (1) and Spain (1)
- some authors were known but most were new, many providing pronunciation challenges- Kati Hiekkapelto (Finland), Jørn Lier Horst (Norway) and Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö (Sweden)
- and 3 speakers have attended meetings covering topics from the role of the translator, the polar pioneers of Svalbard and the influences of Nordic landscape and identity on Nordic crime fiction

The books that have left the biggest impression on those members who have been in Club for a number of years are Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow (Peter Høeg/ Denmark and Greenland), Snowblind (Ragnar Jónasson/ Iceland), The Hummingbird (Kati Hiekkapelto/ Finland), The Boy in the Suitcase (Lene Kaaberol & Agnete Friis/ Denmark) and The Drowning ( Camilla Lackberg/Sweden).

We look forward to reading and discussing many more in the years to come.

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## FRENCH BOOK CLUB

I am advised that the Club was formed in 1997 by members of the French Club who wanted to study French literature in more detail.

It has been a real privilege to read such a wide array of books and share them in such pleasant company and notice the similarities and differences in our two cultures. There are similarities such as the colonial attitudes and punishments 'pour encourager les autres' in WW1 and differences in the style and nuances of Maupassant in Un Fakir who travels in a wardrobe and Le Chapeau de Mitterrand. The adventures of the Fakir deal with present day immigrants and wearing Mitterrand's hat changes lives. These could only be written in French!

It has been interesting to read two first-hand accounts, the 'educated youths' in Mao's China with 'Balzac et La Petite Tailleuse Chinoise' and the account of a young boy's adventures during the occupation in Un Sac de Billes. Also, the cruelty in Jean de Florette and Flaubert's story of sainthood (and infection).

We all enjoyed films of L'Elegance du Herisson and Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles after having read the books. Chanson Douce, a best seller as Lullaby, provided good topics for discussion. We have just finished an account of amnesia in Rue des Boutiques Obscures and have ended the year reading La Delicatesse.

To quote Marx (Groucho) 'Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read'.

*Margaret Todd*



# COMPUTER CLUB

(disbanded late December 2018)

The first meeting of the Computer Club was in September 2000, at a time when computing and the Web were developing at a great rate and many people were anxious to set up email accounts and find out about search engines.

At our peak we had about 50 members who listened to University lecturers and tutors from the Centre and video presentations and had visits to centres developing IT control centres, such as Strathclyde Police.

It was a very exciting time. As part of research supported by the Senior Studies Institute, several of us took part in a European Project, Euconet, looking at the best way to get older people involved in IT. This meant travelling to countries across Europe, meeting older students at Universities with IT clubs like ours.

How times have changed. We all take computers for granted now and most people are using tablets or smart phones rather than standalone PCs. Classes at the Centre provide tuition where needed and younger family members are there to help.

*Myrtle McGregor*

# THEATRE CLUB

This long established and popular club is committed to live theatre and each year a programme of group visits to a wide variety of productions is organised. The Club hosts regular visits from speakers with a great depth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of the theatre. Long-serving former President Grace Smith, successfully led this Club for many years and recently handed over the reins to new President Emma Wyse.

Highlights in the Club Programme have included an annual trip to Pitlochry Theatre and ongoing links with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

**A footnote. It's worth remembering that all of the pleasure and activities detailed above are the result of hardworking, enthusiastic individuals and committees. None of our clubs can function without you, the members of the 3Ls, and your persisting willingness to supplement and improve our student experience.**

## Thirty Seconds

I knew it was a mistake the moment I said yes. Typical of me, I can't say no when those baby blues stare at me and her eyelashes go into overdrive.

I checked my watch – thirty seconds to go. I suddenly become aware of the wind above the pounding engines.

Twenty seconds to go – now I can hear my heart thumping. Although I'm surrounded by people, I've never felt more alone.

Ten seconds to go – we all start to shuffle forward towards the front.

Five seconds to go – thoughts of faking a seizure come to mind but is instantly dismissed.

One second to go - a sense of calm flows through my mind and body.

The door opens. As I leap out of the plane, I shout, "Wish me luck!" as the earth speeds towards me.

Kevin Edgar

Presidents Learning in Later Life Students' Association		
JIM ALEXANDER 1988-1991	BEATRICE MACDONALD 2000-2002	MEG KING 2010-2012
MAY DUNLOP 1991-1994	MYRTLE MCGREGOR 2002-2004	FRANCIS SHEPPARD 2012-2013
ANN THOMPSON 1994-1996	DR JOYCE DEANS 2004-2006	PETER CAIRNS 2013-2016
STANLEY BLAIR 1996-1998	IRENÉ RANKIN 2006-2007	JOHN PARKHILL 2016-2018
JACK FLETCHER 1998-2000	JIM DUFFIN 2008-2010	

# Members Memories

I attended the inaugural meeting in 1998 in the McCance Building. We had a speaker from the Garden Festival talking about the forthcoming event and encouraging us to take a season ticket. The meeting was chaired by Lesley Hart and we spent some time discussing what we should be called - finally deciding on Learning in Later Life.

One of the first classes I attended was "Urban Tours of Glasgow" taken by a French lady called Jesi-Anne. This led to the formation of the Urban Walking Club which ran for 21 years and cost only £1!

Over the years I have enjoyed many classes on varied subjects – Spanish, Literature, Poetry, Art and even Bridge! Two of the most memorable were "Armchair Tour of Glasgow" followed by "An Armchair Tour of the Islands" and "Gothic Cathedrals of France" followed by "Gothic Cathedrals of Britain".

"Enjoy Your Voice" had a mixed group of people singing in four-part harmony by the end of ten weeks!

Sheila Maguire

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When I retired all these years ago, I was quite apprehensive about having all this free time. Fortunately I discovered the range of interesting classes arranged by the CLL at Strathclyde University and have enjoyed a variety of these over the years. A class on Pictish Stones got me travelling up the North East of Scotland to Brechin, Burghead, Elgin and as far as Shetland to view these amazing carvings.

A class on Stained Glass saw us walking round the West End of Glasgow peering at doors and windows and visiting a modern stained glass designer at work. There were many more. Family History classes began a search of my family history which has lasted for years.

One day someone came round classes recruiting for the 3Ls. I joined without knowing much about what it was and discovered the world of clubs. I think when I look back over the years that clubs have developed very much during this time and they are a unique asset which complements the classes which inspired them.

We have to thank all those who volunteer to run the clubs which provide such a wide choice of interests and who have made them the successful groups they are today. As well as providing a focus for whatever interest brings the club members together, clubs give members the opportunity to participate in discussion and take part in various activities. No time to be bored!

Helen Dickson

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It seems like only yesterday but it was, in fact, more than 10 years ago that I was persuaded by my wife to attend a meeting of the Italian Club. Little did I know then what was in store for me! We had enrolled in an evening class of Italian and I thought that the Italian Club was connected to the course. This meeting turned out to be the club's AGM and after the smoke cleared, I discovered that I had been appointed the club's new secretary (all thanks to my dear wife who had proposed me).

It was then that I was to appreciate the difference between CLL and 3Ls, two disparate groups but very much intertwined with regard to seniors' learning, the formal being provided by the Centre for Lifelong Learning and the informal by the 3Ls Students' Association.

This was the start of 10 years of constant involvement with the CLL and the 3Ls. I took further courses in Italian, Photography, Glasgow History and recently Mandarin at the Centre.

At the same time I frequently attended summer courses at The University of the Balearics in Mallorca. Through the 3Ls Summer Academy we crisscrossed Scotland, visiting Pitlochry, Perth, Dundee as well as sailing to Loch Fyne on the Waverley. 3Ls outings have taken me to distilleries, museums and even the Book Festival at Wigtown. As a result, we have made many friendships, cemented by regular meetings for coffees and lunches (my waistline is testimony to that!).

In return for all these good times, I have been delighted to assist the Centre as an ambassador promulgating Lifelong Learning as well as supporting the 3Ls as a committee member and President. Here's to further adventures at the Graham Hills!

Peter Cairns

I was right in at the beginning with John Gowrie at the start of the Traditional Music Club. After about five years, I stood up (very brave me!) and announced that we should widen our horizons – not just play Scottish and Irish songs, but whatever we fancy – from my Russian folk-song medley, to the Great American Song Book – there's a great big world out there!

I got a big cheer and that's what we have been doing ever since. It seems to work out well and our numbers have swelled over the years. We did all sorts of crazy things, like performing in the stairwell, where I would put down my guitar and dash over to someone approaching the lift and offer to play their favourite song, if they donated to our charity. Some people call it cheek. I call it entrepreneurship.

John Gowrie used to get me along to the German Club to do a cabaret (in German!) for them – he would even get me a nice fee and an occasional bottle of brandy for my pains. He and I were good friends and egged each other on to write limericks. He also encouraged me with my parodies – one of which was published in Tell'sMore. I can't tell you how much I've learnt and enjoyed being a member of the 3Ls.

Irene Conway

# A Partnership with the Centre for Lifelong Learning

I am delighted to contribute to the 30th anniversary edition of Tell'sMore and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have been involved in the 3Ls since its inception – without the voluntary effort of so many people over the years, this milestone could not have been reached. What has been created is something unique to any UK university and which continues to evolve, grow and provide CLL with one of its key selling points. I am always aware that whilst CLL's Daytime Programme attracts over 2500 learners aged 50+ each year - another fact which no other UK university can boast - it is the 3Ls which adds the 'icing on the cake' to this programme.

As the Daytime Programme enters its 32nd year, there is much to celebrate. The launch of The Age-Friendly Academy in 2017 demonstrates the University's wider commitment to its status as an Age-Friendly University with the mantra that regardless of age or stage in life there is something for you at Strathclyde. Again, the 3Ls is an important aspect of this initiative and we will continue to work together to spread the message that this university has something for you in terms of not just learning but also by enabling friendships and engendering a sense of community. I never tire of hearing the chatter of students in the coffee areas nor the music and buzz emanating from teaching rooms.

I look forward to furthering the close relationship between CLL and the 3Ls and exploring new ideas and avenues of work, which will benefit both organisations. At a time when the wellbeing benefits of learning in retirement are gaining greater publicity, there is real potential to engage with new audiences and create new learning opportunities.

At the recent 3Ls Afternoon Tea, Jim Alexander, the first President of the 3Ls, talked about its beginnings and after the initial launch, the question "what will we do next?" was asked. I am delighted that, 30 years on, this sentiment still has absolute resonance for both the 3Ls and CLL as they continue to grow and create new and innovative ways in which to engage members and students.

I am privileged to be part of this journey.

Alix Macdonald, Head of Centre for Lifelong Learning



## Make Room For New

No-one is the same person they were thirty years ago. We reinvent. Redefine. We learn and we grow, like a multi-layered record of meaning and wonder. Fragments of memories. Migratory. Asunder. What does my message, my genetic code, once bold tell of life's inscriptions alternating hot and cold? Once transforming and reinventing. From time to time, more of the same. Am I, like Sisyphus, condemned to play the pursuit of knowledge game? The decision is mine. Subjects worthy of attention are on offer. I'll examine my mind, ponder the dictum of a philosopher for further transformation. Pearls of wisdom to accrue. Perhaps delve into history. Revisit a language. Something new? I'll take up the stylus, see the challenge through. Scrape away the surplus, begin again anew. I'll accept new information. Share my story. Tell my tale. New horizons to conquer, before the wax again goes pale. Erase and make new. Age does not define me, but can transform me, alter the nature of my days. My lifespan, as a finite being, has end and limit. Today is my prime. I am a multi-layered record. A palimpsest of time

Eileen Kidd

## Management Council 2018-2019

Membership this year:

Professor Donald Christie, Honorary Patron; Lady Eileen McDonald, Honorary President; Diane Campbell, President; John Parkhill, Past President; Winnie Mallon, Treasurer; Grace Gray, Convenor of Council of Clubs; Elaine Paterson, Secretary;

Members: Carl Bow, Nancy Di Paola, Adrian McNeill, Alison Johnston, Howard McNeilly, Elsa Foley, George Smith, Yiannakis Kyriakides

Tell's More Team: Diane Campbell, Bob Hume, Eileen Kidd, John Parkhill, Elaine Paterson, Barbara Tropp

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## 3Ls Students' Association

University of Strathclyde, Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE

Tel: 0141 548 4387 Email: [llassoc@strath.ac.uk](mailto:llassoc@strath.ac.uk)

Website: [3ls.website](http://3ls.website)

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