

Report of U3A All Scotland Assembly

The U3A All Scotland Assembly held on 25th March at Livingston Rugby Club, was hosted by West Lothian U3A and was attended by delegates from many of the U3As in Scotland.

Delegates were welcomed by Kath Payne, Chair of U3A Scotland and Irene McCrystal, Chair of West Lothian U3A.

Morning Session 1

In the first morning session, there was a presentation by John Revie. Irene Scullion and Helen Glassford from Glasgow West End U3A on their research project on The 1820 Radical Rising.

This last armed uprising on British soil, intent on severing the Union and establishing a radical Scottish republic, ended in executions, imprisonments, transportations and 85 trials for high treason. However, despite its political and social importance, the story of this working-class revolution vanished from the historical record.

Morning Session 2

Sergeant Kirsten Mclatchie & Stuart Ward gave a presentation on Crime and Crime Prevention from Police Scotland. They provided much useful information was about how to minimise the risk of burglary and how to avoid being the victim of the various doorstep, telephone and online scams.

There was then an opportunity to socialise over lunch before the start of the afternoon session.

Afternoon Session 1

Ed Link, Andrew Wilson and Kath Payne gave a presentation about their experiences at the U3A exhibition stand set up in the Scottish Parliament from 29th – 31st January 2019.

The exhibition was held to raise awareness of the U3A movement in Scotland. Representatives of U3A UK and U3As in Scotland were on duty to talk to MSPs and visitors.

The Third Age Trust provided marketing materials which focussed on the 'Learning not Lonely' booklet. Information packs were made available to the 129 MSPs, and many who visited the exhibition were very interested and supportive of our organisation and were keen to support us in their constituencies.

Afternoon Session 2

Ed Link – Trustee for The Third Age Trust gave an Update for The Third Age Trust. In the UK there are now 1,039 U3As and 425,000 members. The figures for Scotland are 53 U3As and 12,000 members. The U3A in Scotland, although smaller in terms of numbers, had shown more significant growth in recent years than the rest of the UK.

Ed spoke about the Development Plan for U3A in Scotland which will concentrate on three main areas:

- Supporting Learning
- Developing the U3A Movement
- Raising the Profile of the U3A.

We now have three new U3As in Scotland

- Kinross-shire
- Duns & District
- Dingwall & District

There was then an open discussion forum, and updates from the various U3A delegates and the meeting closed at 3:30 pm