

# Inverness and Black Isle U3A Newsletter

*March 2026*

## *Welcome*



## **To the March Newsletter**

Thank you all for your feedback. Although I specifically asked for feedback and suggestions last month, they are very welcome any time. Following on from one comment, I would like to make it clear that contributions are always welcome from everyone, not just group leaders and committee members. If you have something to say or make a suggestion or ask a question please send me an email. It would be lovely to hear from more members.

## **Proposed Political Economy Group**

It has been proposed that our U3A should offer a Political Economy (u) group.

What do we mean by PolEcon? Economists like to make the much disputed claim their subject is a science based on immutable laws like in physics. However, economics has never been a neutral science but a social practice which describes how human beings organise the resources available to them. The application of economic ideas affects us all and requires choices to be made and in that sense is political.

One example. There is ample evidence that the economic system we have lived under for almost half a century is failing most of us. It is largely responsible for two of the greatest problems the world faces; widening inequality and a reluctance to take climate change seriously. We are told 'there is no alternative', but there is. In contrast, the system in operation between 1945 and the late 1970s reduced inequality to the lowest level ever seen in the UK.

Whether you think you could do better than the Chancellor or just want to be better informed on these matters, this could be the group for you.

If you are interested please contact Andrew Fraser at [amfraser1297@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amfraser1297@yahoo.co.uk) and if enough support is forthcoming we can ask the committee for the go-ahead.

## Writing Group - Books, short stories, plays (no acting involved)

This new group will be focusing on all forms of creative writing. The first meeting took place on Tuesday 17th February and discussed what members want from the group and agreed the best dates/times of meetings.

For further information and to register an interest, please contact:-

[Clivesoley@btinternet.com](mailto:Clivesoley@btinternet.com)

## An opportunity to meet a visiting u3a member



A member of Sussex u3a, Iain Mackinnon, who was born in Inverness, has contacted us as he plans to visit Inverness over the summer and would love to meet up with IBI u3a members. He is particularly interested to meet, or hear about, anyone who went to Leachkin school in the 1940s!

If you are interested in making contact with Iain, please let Anna know via [ibiu3awebsite@gmail.com](mailto:ibiu3awebsite@gmail.com).

## Gardening Group



The group had a very enjoyable visit to Coul House Hotel on 9th February to see the snowdrops which were in full bloom. We had an interesting walk round the garden in the sunshine and admired their beautiful, mature trees. We even completed the fairy walk although no one admitted to seeing any! Next month we are visiting Green's Garden Centre in Nairn for a look behind the scenes.

## Facebook

We hope that our new [Facebook page](#), as well as keeping current members informed of events, will attract new members. The more followers the page has, the greater the reach of our posts, so - if you have a Facebook account, please follow our page, like our posts and, whenever possible, share them! Many thanks.

## Inverness Mah-Jong group



What is Mah-Jong? Mah-Jong is an ancient Chinese game and is not the Mah-Jong game you find on your computer, where you match two identical tiles against the clock. This game is totally different!

The aim of the game is for each player to attempt to assemble four sets of tiles, with each set consisting of 3 or 4 identical tiles plus one 'pair'. Alternatively, a player may attempt to assemble the tiles into one of 19 unique patterns, known as 'special hands'. The winner of the game is the first player to lay down a completed hand by calling 'MAH-JONG'.

Mah-Jong uses skill and strategy, keeps our brains active and quickly becomes addictive!

As a newish group we are still all learning. We meet on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month. Until our numbers grow we meet in members' homes but are hoping that folk interested in playing Mah-jong will join us and we can expand to somewhere more suitable. Come along for a game and see if you like it – email [susab.williams3@btinternet.com](mailto:susab.williams3@btinternet.com) for more info.

## Meeting 2nd March Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church

PLEASE NOTE. Regarding the general meeting at the church on the 2nd March, another group will be using the space earlier in the day, finishing not too long before we are due in. There will be no issue with the room being ready for us, but please be aware that, other than those running the meeting, it might not be possible or appropriate for other attendees to come in early as work may still be going on to complete the turnaround. Please time your arrival appropriately.

Thank you

## .....and finally

Thank you again for all your contributions. Please let me have your contributions for next month's newsletter by 24th March. Please send everything to [ibiu3newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ibiu3newsletter@gmail.com)