

# Inverness and Black Isle u3a Newsletter

## April 2026

### Welcome



### To the April Newsletter



*Wishing you a Happy*

*Easter*

### 25th Birthday Party update (15th October 2026)



The birthday party committee had their second meeting on the 27th February. At this meeting various tasks were identified, so this is a shout out for anyone who can help, or know someone who can help with the following tasks:-

Willing to volunteer to be the **onsite photographer**? We need someone who could take some great pictures and videos on the day (doesn't have to be a professional)

Handy with the sewing machine? We need loads of **bunting** made to make the place look fabulous

**Can you guarantee joining us on the day? If so would you be prepared to help set up in the morning**

Good at working the **publicity machine and/or social media**? We could do with some help telling the world about our forthcoming birthday and telling the world about our wonderful u3a.

Add finally:- we want to showcase all the wonderfully talented people that we have in the u3a, to this end, would you be able to recite or write some poetry or prose, maybe some singing to accompany our u3a music group who will be performing for us, or maybe recite some Gaelic? Please let us know if you would be interested in any or all of the above – just catch up with any of the committee members - Lorna J, Avril M, Fiona M, Lesley W, Mary Q, Sally M, Daphne T.



## A word from our Convener

**Our next General Meeting** is on Friday 10th April at Inverness Town House at 10.30am

**Jamie Stone MP** will talk about his experience representing the largest UK constituency and how he got into politics. This meeting should appeal to all those members who have asked for meetings in the centre of Inverness and for meetings on different days of the week.

## Annual General Meeting

This will take place before our May General meeting on Monday May 18th at 2pm in Culloden Baptist Church. An agenda and papers will be sent out to all members nearer the time.

**Nominations** will be invited for the committee and the officers.

It is time for those of our members who take no active part in our organisation to + what they could offer.

Ideally we should have teams of members looking after our monthly newsletter and our finances.

**In addition I have only one more year to possibly continue as Convener as the U3A stipulates a term of no more than 3 years. At the minute there seem no likely volunteers to take over. Without a Convener our u3a will have to wind up.**

I would welcome informal enquiries about joining the committee or otherwise helping with our activities.

## Science Group



The April meeting of the Science group has been scheduled for Thursday 16th April, from 2.15pm-4.45pm at the North Kessock Ticket Office.

This is a slight change from recent sessions and allows some time for setting up and closing down. As the weather gradually improves and the light gets better this should avoid issues of driving back afterwards as the sunsets.

The Science group is still hoping to attract more members, though on that particular Thursday some members might prefer to take the trip to Elgin to learn about whisky at the shared General Meeting!

A recent topic of conversation may be of interest and will be revisited.

This is the proposal by a US startup company to put mirrors into low earth orbits in order to direct beams of sunlight back down to earth. This could be controversial and disruptive to wildlife and also earth bound astronomy observations.

Is it feasible? We don't know - and we also don't know whether it would be desirable or beneficial or pointless or really damaging or simply not cost effective even if it can be made to work - so discussion is ongoing.

Come along and join the discussion.

## Travel Group

The travel Group met on 3rd March to kick off their 2026 travel plans. A lively meeting ensued during which members talked and planned about their forthcoming adventures.



Getting the travel year off to a good start the first trip of the year saw seven intrepid travellers spend three nights in Belfast.



At our first meeting the following future trips were planned:-

Date	Venue	Detail
23/04	Kyle of lochalsh	day away
07/05	Japanese gardens and Falkland Palace	overnight
14/05	Waverley paddle steamer	days sailing
June	Falkirk wheel	overnight
09/07	Kyle of lochalsh	day away
August	Moravia and Elgin	day away
September	Thurso, Orkney, and north coast	3 nights away

In addition to all the above, plans are afoot to go on a European River Cruise during 2027. These plans kick off when some members are attending a meeting with Carla of Murray Travel, Inverness, who will facilitate in the planning of the cruise.

Date for the next Travel Group meeting is set for Tuesday 7th April at 10.30 in the North Kessock Community Hub, North Kessock

## Gardening Group



The group had a great afternoon out at Green's Nurseries in March. We were made most welcome by the owner who explained how he'd grown the business from selling a few plants and now sold them all over the UK and abroad. It was interesting to see the process from planting seeds to the pots we buy in the garden centre and to see the great variety they produced. And of course the day finished with the usual cup of coffee!

## .....and finally

Thank you for your contributions this month. Please keep them coming. The cut off date for the May newsletter is **10th April**. Sorry it has to so early, it will be issued on the 1st May as usual.