



NEWS & VIEWS

GLASGOW UNITARIANS April 2015

A Spanish Beauty

In the centre of Valencia in Spain, a statue of Bacchus reclines comfortably, holding a large bunch of grapes by his side. Fountain waters gush and spurt from beneath his couch and all around his legs. Pigeons flutter around him, settling on his head, shoulders and knees. He looks so cool and relaxed.

How refreshing it is to see him there as the city's central statue, instead of some proud, stiff general astride his war horse. With a wee smile, Wellington's statue outside the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow, comes to mind. He sits astride his horse, wearing his traffic cone hat.

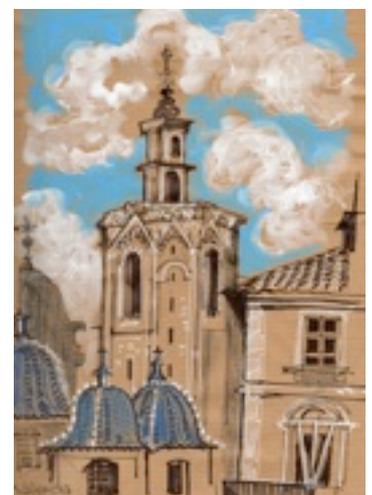
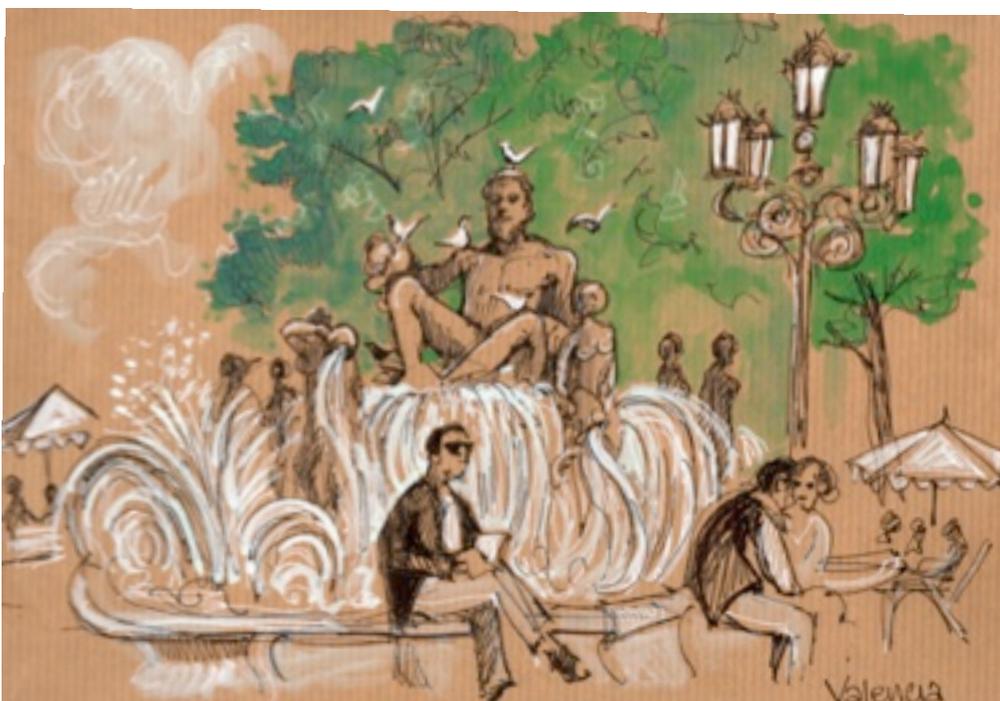
Nowadays, he has become a popular icon of our city. Glaswegian humour (and persistence) 'crowned' the Duke, instantly

making him more friendly and relaxed. Valencia's Bacchus, sprawled on his watery, fountain couch with his pigeons in attendance, creates much the same effect.

From quiet, shady corner bars to busy markets and plazas, Valencia's charm envelops everyone. February's Spanish sun soaks into the city like a blessing.

The city's mellow, unassuming atmosphere touches me deeply. She doesn't seem to care whether she impresses visitors or not. She exudes the confidence of an elegant, elderly woman who has been sure of her beauty all of her life.

Lyanne Mitchell



Left - Bacchus Fountain
Above - Valencia Cathedral



APRIL 2015 CHURCH NEWS

EASTER SUNDAY is April 5th, this year. It is a joyful occasion whether viewed through the prism of traditional Christian beliefs, as when Jesus died and rose again; or the season of Nature's renewal in the Northern hemisphere; or simply when, with a few days off from work, we can pursue our own and family interests, or perhaps have a few days away from home.

PERSONNEL

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Jim Millar, Lyanne Mitchell, Roddy
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www.twitter.com/GgowUnitarians

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday April 19th is our AGM. Members should have received the Annual Reports on 2014 two weeks previously, and come together to share our concerns for this religious society. There is an opportunity for some changes among the Trustees, so please let one of the office bearers know in advance if you are interested in joining them.

An INTER-GENERATIONAL Service

On Sunday 26th, Rev John Harley will be leading worship in Glasgow. This is seen as a great opportunity to invite along all the children who have a connection with this church, and have an inter-generational service.

The children will be in church for the first part, and be entertained downstairs before and during the sermon. Unusually, there will not be a shared lunch on this occasion, simply extra biscuits, crisps and fruit for everyone.

The Annual Meetings of the Unitarian

General Assembly took place at a large hotel in Birmingham this year. GUC voting delegates were Janet Briggs and Iain Brown. Ruth Gregory had her first experience of them. We hope to bring some impressions to the May issue of this newsletter.

Janet Briggs - GUC Secretary

VISION DAY for UNITARIANS in SCOTLAND

On Saturday 25th April, a Vision Day will be held at the Queen's Hotel in Dundee, from 11am until 4pm, run by the Scottish Unitarian Association. This will be a pleasant day out, because the run to Dundee is beautiful, whether you travel by bus, train or car. And we can meet with Unitarians from the other three Scottish churches and the Forth Valley Fellowship.

The point of the day is to share concerns, ideas and practical proposals for the future of Unitarianism in Scotland. We do hope for a good turnout from all the churches. The keynote speaker there will be the inspirational Rev. John Harley, the national Youth Officer. What is more, the SUA will be paying for lunch at the hotel, and offering help with travel expenses.

Alastair Moodie - GUC Convener



Thanks from Lyanne

Dear friends,

As many of you will know, on Sunday 19th April at our AGM, I will be standing down as Editor of News & Views and Website Manager. (As these were my main areas of activity as part of the on-line team within the Publicity & Communication sub Committee, I feel it is appropriate to also retire as Co Convener of this group.)

Before I leave these posts, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Janet Briggs, GUC Secretary. Janet was Editor of our newsletter for 10 years before I took over in 2009, when I designed and established our GUC website, and linked our newsletter to it on-line for the first time. Since then, she has supported me in the Editor's role on a number of levels :- reporting news from the Committee and items for our diary page, contributing book reviews and interesting articles, collecting the printed copies from the printer and posting them out to our list of readers. When Hugh and I recently took off for a 2 month road-trip, she took the job over again in my absence.

Janet will be willing to mastermind the N&V, but she needs contributions from everyone, particularly the Publicity Group, which contains much of our younger talent. To that end, contributions should be sent to Janet, in the usual time-frame. (see foot of Diary page 12 for details) Many thanks for your support Janet!

I am also greatly indebted to my good friend John Wilkinson, who from the beginning, has been an invaluable technical adviser not only when the website was first installed but also faithfully posting up the pages of each issue of N&V on-line and on time, every month. Thank you so much John. I could not have done it without you! (I am not a web designer - but a retired graphic designer who turned my hand to it.) I can hardly believe that our existing website is now 6 years old (and in need of refreshing / up-dating.) However, when I look at our ARCHIVES page, I confess to feeling quite a sense of pride to see the rich record of newsletters there, describing our monthly activities since Feb 2010 and sample sermons since Feb 2009. Quite a trip down memory lane!

I am also grateful to our printers at MBE Shawlands - Pepe and Damien, who have given such reliable and efficient service over the years to Janet and myself. Hopefully they will continue to do so, as our newsletter evolves.

Finally, thanks to *everyone* who has contributed to N&V during my Editorship. This made our newsletter more interesting and lively. I know you will all support Janet as she takes over.

I am in the process of writing / illustrating a second children's book and am attending a creative writing course. I am looking forward to having more time for this project and my other commitments :- freelance design work for Mount Stuart House, tutor to two island art clubs and publications designer for the Isle of Bute Artists' Collective. I also need time as a frequent 'Commuter Grannie' to London!

Roddy has kindly asked me to continue playing for services once a month and Iain has invited me to lead worship from time to time.

With all good wishes, Lyanne Mitchell

On the Great Goddess by Joseph Campbell

Many of the difficulties that women face today follow from the fact that they are moving into a field of action in the world that was formerly reserved for the male and for which there are no female mythological models.

The woman finds herself, consequently, in a competitive relationship with the male, and in this may lose the sense of her own nature. She is something in her own right, and traditionally (for some four million years) the relationship of that something to the male has been experienced and represented, not as directly competitive, but as co-operative in the shared ordeal of continuing and supporting life. Her biologically assigned role was to give birth and rear children. The male role was to support and protect. Both roles are biologically and psychologically archetypal

But what has happened now, as a result of the masculine invention of the vacuum cleaner – is that women have been relieved, in some measure, of their traditional bondage to the household. They are moving into the field and jungle of individual quest, achievement, and self-realisation, for which there are no female models. Moreover, in pursuing their distinct careers they are emerging progressively as differentiated personalities, leaving behind the old archetypal accent on the biological role – to which, however, their psyches are still constitutionally bound.

The grim prayer of Lady Macbeth before her deed, “unsex me here!” must be the unspoken, deeply felt cry of many a new contender in this masculine jungle. There is no such need, however. The challenge of the moment – and there are many who are meeting it, accepting it, and responding to it, in the way not of men, but of women – the challenge is to flower as individuals, neither as biological archetypes nor as personalities imitative of the male. And, to repeat, there are no models in our mythology for an individual woman’s quest. Nor is there any model for the male in marriage to an individuated female.

We are in this thing together and have to work it out together, not with passion (which is always archetypal) but with compassion, in patient fostering of each other’s growth.

This reading was used as part of Jim Millar’s service at GUC on International Women’s Day on Sunday 8th March

I found this quotation from Joseph Campbell, which was read by Jim Millar, both comforting and challenging. Things are improving for women. My daughters face different parameters, and perhaps fewer difficulties than I myself have encountered. And then I went home from church and switched on the television news for company while I ate my lunch. In the course of thirty minutes I learned that three female suicide bombers had entered a market in northern Nigeria and blown themselves up, killing fifty people and injuring many more: that Tallinn in Estonia is proud to be the sex-trafficking capital of the Baltic, dependent on its sex cruises and its brothels for its national income: and that although most of the food in Africa is grown by women, in many African countries they are not allowed to own land.

We women in Britain and the USA may be in the vanguard, but we have a long way to go before our sisters around the world can share the same freedoms.

Janet Briggs

OUR TURKISH FRIENDS

Since Alistair Bate was our Lay Leader in 2003-4, our church has had a friendly relationship with members of an organisation known in Turkey as Hismet, to us nowadays as the Nurture Society. Its members are university graduates, pursuing further studies or working abroad, all over the world. In the Glasgow area they have bought an abandoned church property in Cambuslang, and are converting it into their own meeting place and multicultural centre. Some of us will remember joining in with some of their celebrations, over the years.

We had invited them to tell us about themselves. Ismail had travelled up from Leeds to share with us some of his PhD work in Political Science. He could have been Scottish, with a pale complexion inclined to freckle in sunlight, and a gingery tinge to his hair. He imagines this to be a heritage of the Celtic tribes who left India and migrated westwards to the tip of the European continent.

Hismet means Service. Having received the privilege of education, graduates want to give back something to the world. In their placements they might meet ignorance, poverty and hostility. They can tackle these by relating to the people there through dialogue, by offering practical help, and through building schools and hospitals and bringing education to backward areas, often voluntarily, in addition to following their chosen professions. They are encouraged to implement the best of modern technology. Their ethos is firmly grounded in their Muslim faith, which inspires them to marvel at the created world and to respect and care for it, and the people in it, and to develop themselves to their full potential and help others to do likewise. At all times they should conduct themselves with humility, honesty and discretion, as enjoined in the Koran, facing down aggression with kindness.

These are powerful ideals, and the considerable popularity of Hismet's founder, F Gulen, has not endeared him to Turkey's new president, Tayip Erdogan. An old man now, he resides in the United States. His followers fear that any misfortune they might have could be twisted in the media and used as propaganda against them.

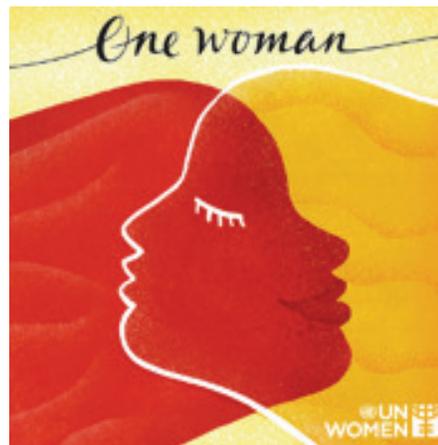
Janet Briggs



From China to Costa Rica, from Mali to Malaysia acclaimed singers and musicians, women and men, have come together to spread a message of unity and solidarity: We are "One Woman".

We Shall SHINE!

Launched on International Women's Day, 8 March 2013, the song is a rallying cry that inspires listeners to join the drive for women's rights and gender equality. "One Woman" was written for UN Women, the global champion for women and girls worldwide, to celebrate its mission and work to improve women's lives around the world. "One Woman" reminds us that together, we can overcome violence and discrimination against women and look toward a brighter future: "We Shall Shine!" Join us to help spread the word and enjoy this musical celebration of women worldwide.



Listen to this lovely song

<http://song.unwomen.org/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnq2QeCvwpw>

Two Poems *Corinna is Convener of Maryhill Writers and was recently interviewed by Radio*

Scotland on the Janice Forsythe Show. She was asked to speak about the act of creative writing - and although she felt she might perhaps have been better prepared, after the programme went out, Corinna was hailed by various people and told how good she was on the radio.

HINTS

Awake is March
above you blackened trees
stretch out vain twigs to the skies.
They strain forth, lengthen,
then summon bird cries to advertise
sprinkles, smears, splashes
all that you see on branches.
White paint? Pink splash? Rose dashes?

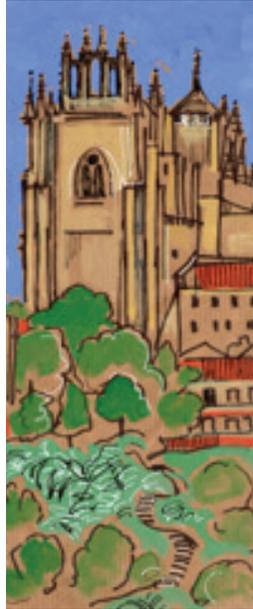
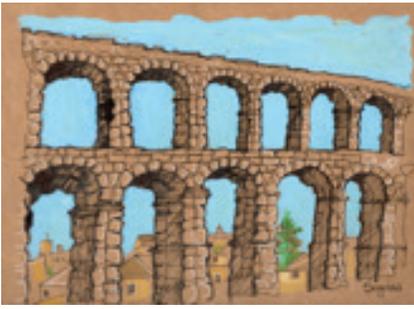
Alert the senses, quest the intellect.
Suddenly - it's Spring!
And your passions are wakened
as happiness lifts the heart for
tomorrow and yet tomorrow
they burst forth with splashes
petal heads bloom with pin-tuck flowers
all opened in the dark night hours.

Corinna Tyagi

PARTICK SNAPSHOT

To a small child
it was always grey.
Grey days in grey streets,
except on a Summer day
when Whiteinch ponds
had ducks who fed on
bread for swans
then trams approaching
trundling hums
were yellow monsters,
looming too large
out of brick tenements,
each entrance, a differing art
of tall tiled picture tales.
We'd pause and gaze
at coloured rays
the sunlight caused
on long closed windows.
Walk through narrow alleys
smell the oily sea water
while waiting for the ferry
chugging over the Clyde.

Corinna Tyagi



Scenes from a Spanish sketchbook.....

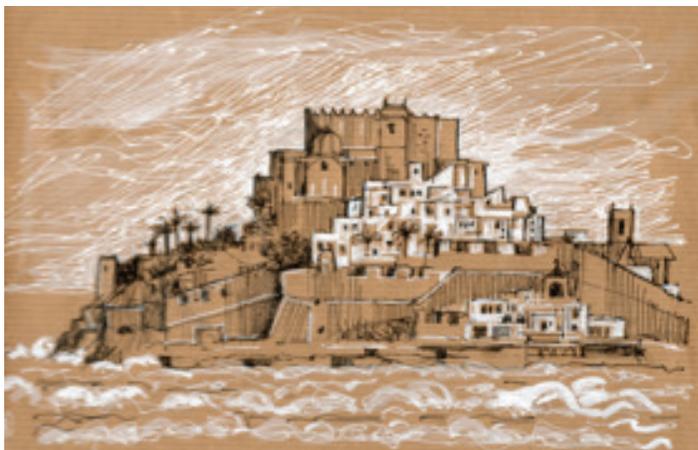
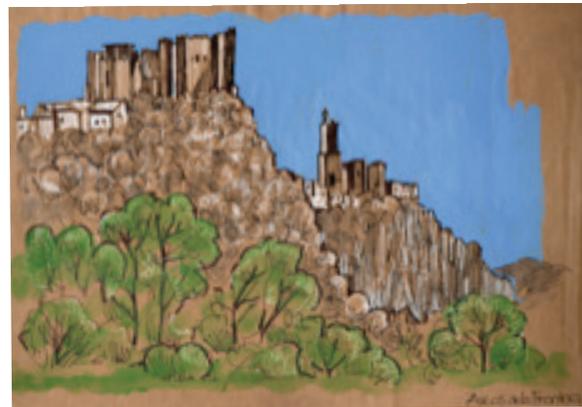
'Travel Broadens the Mind'

I wonder who coined that phrase?..whoever it was, they were so right - it most certainly does!

To serious travelers, the road trip Hugh and I took recently, would be considered rather tame. We drove through France and Spain over two months (Jan to March). To me, it was quite a challenge and even life-changing to some extent.

We avoided motor ways and used Spanish National routes which allowed us to drive through towns, villages and the ever-changing Spanish landscape. Whether industrial, ugly, picturesque, mountainous or flat - we saw the real Spain. The cities - Segovia, Toledo, Salamanca, Valencia, Tarragona, Gerona just took our breath away. Anyone who has only seen the Spanish Costas, have not really seen Spain!

A trip like this allowed me to stand back from my everyday life and to see more clearly what my priorities are for the future. We escaped the worst of the Scottish winter but much more than that, we shared an exciting and unforgettable adventure.



Top left to right and below- Segovia Roman Aqueduct / Toledo / Cadiz / Arcos de la Frontera / Trujillo Lower left - Penniscola.

Line and guache on brown paper.
www.ukunitarians.org.uk/glasgow/pdfs/currentN&V.pdf
They look better in colour!

Lynne Mitchell



April Diary

APRIL SERVICES at 11am

5th Iain Brown - *Easter Service*

12th Rob Whiteman *Guest Speaker*

19th Annual General Meeting
AGM will follow a short service led by Corinna Tyagi

26th Rev John Harley *Robots, humans and Gods*
A specially warm invitation is extended to all the children who have a connection with our church.

MUSICIANS

John

Tom

Stephen

Lyanne

FORTHCOMING EVENTS in APRIL

4th & 18th - OWW at Mitchell Library 10.30 am

5th - Easter Sunday

19th - AGM

25th Vision Day- The Queen's hotel in Dundee,
 11am – 3.30 pm run by the SUA.

26th - Inter-generational service

30th Ministry sub-committee 7pm



Please contribute to our next issue - your 'returning' Editor needs your input!

Deadline for MAY

Sunday 19th April

email items to Janet Briggs
j.briggs159@btinternet.com

or type / print clearly and post to
 159 Hillside Road
 Glasgow G43 1BT



Flowers



Coffee

5th	Mary	Janet
12th	Iain	Janet
19th	Janet	Janet
26th	Norman and Jane	