

Autumn
2026

Newsletter

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From the Editor

Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the East Lothian u3a Newsletter, which is sent to all our u3a members. This, together with our website and Beacon our integrated web-based management system, is how communication with members takes place.

What's in this Newsletter?

Following the successful relaunch of the Newsletter, I welcome you to the Autumn 26 edition. It is business as usual: submissions from our committee, members and a selection from our 40+ groups.

There are details of the last of this seasons Open Lectures and a write-up of our previous lecture.

A particular article that interested me is from the Bridge Group, have a look. There is also a section on general u3a Trust news with useful links you can follow. And, of course, we also have the latest Picture Quiz from Tony.

I am delighted with the response from the Groups, showing us what they're up to Learn-Laugh-Live. If your group is missing, scribble a few lines and take a snap or two for the next edition! Anyone can submit an article or report. I am happy to receive up-to-date news, stories and photographs you would like to submit. My email address is shown below and the deadline for the next Newsletter will be 9th January 2027.

As ever, my thanks to all contributors, and an additional thank you to Allan Rodgers for his valuable assistance. I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter!

Thanks,

David



David Taylor, newsletter editor
news@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

The
deadline for the
Winter issue is
09 Jan 2027.

Please contact the
editor if you have
any queries



From the Chair

'u3a connects you with others through the things you love'

Dear Members

Your committee continues to work hard behind the scenes and are excited to have organised a successful recruitment drive with a market stall at the August Farmers Market!

We now have leaflets, a u3a banner flag and a bright new gazebo, so if anyone wants to promote ELu3a they are welcome to borrow the equipment.

We are delighted to have some co-coordinators on board to help fill vacant roles. Celia Coulson is working with Anne Guthrie as group coordinator. In the short-term David Taylor is working with Andrew Coulson to identify potential speakers for the 2027 OpenTalks season. Thanks to all four players for their additional support.

The main way that people become members is by word of mouth, so please encourage friends and family to look at the groups we have on offer.

Visit our website:

<https://eastlothianu3a.org.uk/>

I have attended a few Regional meetings and the officers, Liz Irvine and George Cleland, are keen to help us develop. They are key in organising events across Scotland and are already planning next year's Jamboree.

A new national marketing director was appointed, and I provided feedback about how we would like the u3a to be more widely known. On the main website you can view the new videos and a few improved mottos.

I particularly like:

'A world of new experiences is open to you at u3a'

There are many other ways to get involved with the Third Age Trust through online activities highlighted on [page 21](#) of the Newsletter, please take a look.

Wishing you all a happy and colourful Autumn.

Carol



Carol Skye, Chair

chairperson@eastlothianu3a.org.uk



From the Treasurer

Hello, I am your new Treasurer, Sally Moore. I was elected in June 2025. Not only am I the new to the Treasurer role but I am new to East Lothian and Scotland. I moved to Haddington from Devon at the end of August last year. I do however have family in the Edinburgh area and have spent many happy holidays throughout Scotland over the years.

Whilst I was not a member of the u3a in Devon I had friends who did belong and were enthusiastic about the organisation. Working part time after I officially retired, caring part time for my elderly mother, dog walking, and various other activities took up all my time. I was also Treasurer for the local Tiverton group of Action Medical Research for Children. This was part of a national charity raising money to support research into children's diseases and conditions.

On moving to Haddington joining the u3a was a perfect way to get to know new people. After a coffee meeting arranged by a neighbour, I was straight into pétanque and Intermediate Walkers. I had never played pétanque before – limited to beach boules! – but my sister and brother-in-law are keen players down south so it seemed only right I should follow in their footsteps. I found everyone very welcoming and happy to take time to explain the rules and be understanding of a newbie to the game! I now enjoy playing regularly each week and am definitely improving.

The Intermediate Walkers are an equally friendly group. Walks are at a comfortable pace and it's the perfect way to chat to lots of different interesting people. The walks have also helped as a guided tour to various parts of East Lothian.

Most recently I have joined the Gardening

group. We have had some lovely visits to various gardens big and small which have been inspirational and enjoyable. Again, I have been made to feel very welcome by everyone.

The one unexpected thing perhaps was to find myself as Treasurer after such a short time. However, I couldn't let the pleas for help for new committee members go unheeded. I know that charities such as the u3a depend upon members to help whether as volunteers at events, group leaders or as support or committee members.

So, my role as Treasurer is to manage and monitor the finances of the East Lothian u3a. Day by day this includes paying invoices, booking fees, expenses as authorised and maintaining appropriate financial records. This involves communicating with members, Group Leaders, and various service suppliers. I also prepare financial information for the Committee and the end of year accounts to be approved at the AGM and submitted to the OSCR – the Scottish Charity Regulator. Once a year I liaise with HMRC to claim Gift Aid as appropriate.

I am enjoying the challenge of being Treasurer and appreciate the support of present and past Committee members. I have also been touched by the number of people who have congratulated me taking on this role.

The u3a has certainly lived up to its motto – learn, laugh, live!

Thank you for all your support.

Sally



Sally Moore, Treasurer
treasurer@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

2026 – 2027 Committee Members



Carol Syke
Chair



Sally Moore
Treasurer



Celia Coulson
Deputy Chair & Joint
Groups Coordinator



Angela Callery
Secretary



Fiona Lacey
Membership
Secretary



Anne Guthrie
Joint Groups
Coordinator



(Vacant)
Committee
Member

Committee Support Team

Tony Reeves: Co-opted Support
Rose Johnston: Co-opted Support
Ed Dee: Website & Beacon
David Taylor: Newsletter
Andrew Coulson: Open Lectures Coordinator

We need you!

Recruitment

Your committee does need more new volunteers with fresh ideas and passion for the u3a. It is vitally important that we continue the ethos of the Third Age Trust (the national representative body for the u3a movement), by working together and utilising self-help and our volunteers' energy.

I would like to thank members who have taken up roles since the AGM however, with some 500 members with their multitude of skills, I hope some more of you will join us to take up vacant roles.

Promotions Officer needed...

We would like to have a promotions officer to create press releases, photo opportunities, add to our social media profile and generally help to grow our membership. This role will be co-designed with interested members.

Trustee replacements needed...

Two trustees, the Chairperson, Carol Skye and General Secretary, Angela Callery, are likely to relinquish their roles in the near future, due to relocating. So please, please, please, consider shadowing us until we leave. Both are happy to have an informal chat with anyone who would be interested.

Giving one's time is rewarding, please have you got a few hours a month?



Carol and Angela have both really enjoyed their roles and have learned new skills as well as using their professional experience to get ELu3a in good shape, ready for new members to take up the challenge. As we have had a busy year of activity, each enjoying the groups we joined, it will be a sad farewell, but we hope to carry on supporting the u3a in our new homes. A great incentive has been keeping our minds active, supporting members and feeling fulfilled.



Anne Guthrie



Celia Coulson

Group Coordinators

New Group Coordinators appointed

Group leaders play a crucial role in the success and sustainability of u3a interest groups. This factor is recognised by your committee who are pleased to announce Anne Guthrie and Celia Coulson are now sharing the role of Groups Co-ordinator. They are very keen to support groups, the lifeblood of our u3a!

Please get in touch with them with any issue or a suggestion for a new group or see a need for another group like an existing popular one e.g. a book group.

Contact Celia and Anne at:

groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

Hot off the press....

Suggestion for new group just received:

Film Appreciation Group

If you fancy joining this newly proposed group, get in touch!



groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk



East Lothian u3a 2026 Open Lecture season



From the Open Lectures Coordinator

This season is coming to a close with a lecture to be delivered at 2.30 Holy Trinity Church, Church St, Haddington. If you have a particular parking requirement, please get in touch:

Monday 30th November 2026

"Impact of the Romans in East Lothian"

by Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator, Iron Age & Roman Collections, Museum of Scotland.

A walk through the county – key observations to coincide with major exhibition at the Museum of Scotland, "Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of the Empire".

In June Professor Alan Gow delivered a lively and informative talk, "Building and Protecting our Health, healthy ageing, lifestyle factors and how these can be modified "

What a great turnout for a superb talk. Prof. Gow left us with access to a lot of useful support material. A few links have been pasted on our website for those who might be interested in following up on some of the points discussed in the session.

In September Aidan Rooney an economist from Fraser of Allander Institute gave a well illustrated talk entitled; "Scotland's growth story: Rising in the East & Lagging in the West", the talk referenced recent economic growth in Scotland with particular reference to Edinburgh and East Lothian, the powerhouse region. If you missed it, no worries, the presentation material is available on our website.

N.B. Most of you will know I will be retiring as lecture coordinator at the end of the year. I am very pleased to be able to inform you that Andrew Coulson has stepped forward and will be running the programme from the start of 2027. We are progressing our transfer, Andrew has a lot of good ideas so please give him all your support.

David

group listing

Thinking about Groups, here's what's currently on offer. How about trying a new group? Even better, how about introducing a friend to u3a and an interest group? Choose from:

Arts & Crafts

- Art in the Drawing Room

Games

- Bridge for Improvers
- Mah Jong 2
- Modern Board Games
- Scrabble

Get Physical

- Circle Dance
- Dancing: "Strictly" We are not!
- Intermediate Walking
- Petanque
- Scottish Dancing for Fun
- Simply Strolling
- Wednesday Walkers

History

- Archaeology, History and Genealogy

Languages

- Beginners Italian
- French Conversation
- French Conversation 2
- French Conversation Gullane
- Gaelic - Learners
- German Language and Culture
- Intermediate Italian
- Parliamo Italiano
- Spanish Conversation

Literature

- Bookworms
- Book Tuesday
- Contemporary Fiction
- Play Reading

Mind and Body

- Circle Dance
- Mindfulness
- Taiji and Qigong

Music

- Enjoying Classical Music
- Folk Music
- Jazz Appreciation
- Recorder Group 1
- Recorder Group 2

Sciences and Philosophy

- Biology and Society
- Exploring Philosophy
- Geology
- Reading Philosophy
- Science
-

Visits

- Gardening
- Lunch Group
- Museums and Places of Interest

For more information contact:



groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

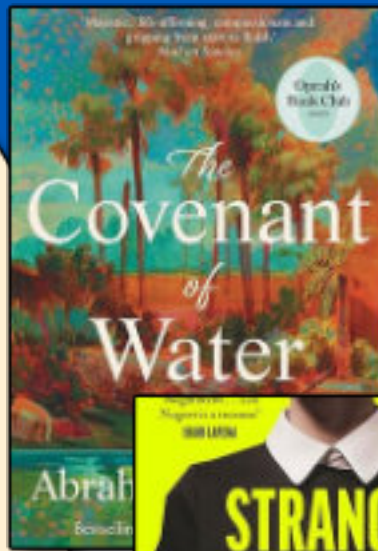


Book Tuesday Group

Book Tuesday started in 2012 and I'm happy to say is still a very enthusiastic group of ten, including some founder members.

A hidden component leading to the success of the group is East Lothian Council Library Service. They supply the group with ten copies of a book every month for ten months of the year and we choose our own titles for the other two months. We must support our libraries, they do a fantastic job supplying books to 35 book groups in the county which must be a huge task of organisation to ensure that no one gets the same books twice, we are very grateful to them.

The group meets in each other's homes on the third Tuesday of each month and after a cup of tea and a chat get down to the serious business of discussing books. One member leads the discussion for the book of the month, having undertaken research into the author and content. As the books are from the library and not always of our own choosing we can be taken out of our comfort zones and introduced to many varied subject matters. In a group of ten, all women at the moment, this can lead to many a lively discussion!



A sample of the books read this year:

- *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
- *Strange Sally Diamond* by Liz Nugent
- *Huckleberry Finn* by Matt Twain
- *See Them Run* by Marion Todd

 groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

learn, laugh, live



Bridge for Improvers Group

Bridge for Improvers is a thriving group with presently just over 30 people, with regular attendance of 3-4 tables, enjoying playing improver/intermediate duplicate bridge in a relaxed atmosphere. We are happy to take new members and to accommodate interested people, unsure of their own level in relation to the group, there is the opportunity to sit in and observe for a couple of sessions.

Until July this year we played weekly at the Nungate Centre in Haddington. However, the building is currently being refurbished and we have moved to Council premises in Lodge Street and will probably be there for the full year 2026- 27.

Oh, and by the way, ever wondered about the history of playing cards, well here's a potted history:

The cards we play with are believed to have originated in China during the 9th century not true, we regularly buy new decks! Early cards evolved with various designs emerging as paper became more plentiful. The establishment of cards, possibly related to paper money thrived and as trade routes and cultural exchanges developed, cards gradually spread westward through India and the Islamic world into Europe by the 14th century.



European countries developed their own designs these being a further evolution from Mamluk (Islamic) suits developed in the 15th Century.

The familiar four suits: Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs were popular in France where 52 card decks became standard and court cards with human figures were introduced reflecting western traditions,

The bridge group are looking forward to the next evolution of playing cards where High Card Points can be guaranteed!

Fancy giving it a go, contact:



bridge@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

learn, laugh, live

Geology Group

2026 is a memorable year. It is the tercentenary of the birth of James Hutton, known as the "father of modern geology." By observing the rocks at Siccar Point, just a few miles south of Dunbar, Dr. Hutton found evidence to support his theory that the Earth is much older than 6,000 years, contradicting the generally accepted age of the earth as derived from Bishop Ussher's calculations of biblical chronologies. Modern techniques have confirmed that Hutton was correct and indicate that the earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old. To celebrate Hutton's birth, there have been numerous events in Edinburgh and the Borders, including the creation of a Deep Time trail leading to the cliffs overlooking Siccar Point. On a beautiful day in June, the geology group followed the 1.3 km trail, enjoying the informative panels which offer audio descriptions via QR codes (they work!) as well as conventional text. The trail ends at a newly created stone viewpoint (figure 1) overlooking the world-famous unconformity at Siccar Point (figure 2).

East Lothian offers plenty of less famous examples of exciting geology. Our most recent excursion was to the beach at Dunbar, where the group spotted an unusual sandstone dyke associated with one of Dunbar's old volcanoes.

The geology group meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, usually in the afternoon. During the summer we undertake excursions to local geologically interesting sites. In the winter, we meet indoors in Haddington and have a structured series of talks featuring a wide variety of geologically interesting subjects. Talks are informal and given as Power Point presentations by volunteer group members. There is no pressure to present.

Group Reports



*Fig 1: New stone viewpoint
Credit: Geology group*



*Fig 2: Siccar Point unconformity
Credit: Geology group*

New members are always welcome. Most of us do not have any previous knowledge of geology but are curious and interested in the subject. We are fortunate to have several retired geological experts among our number. For more information or to join the group, contact:



geology@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

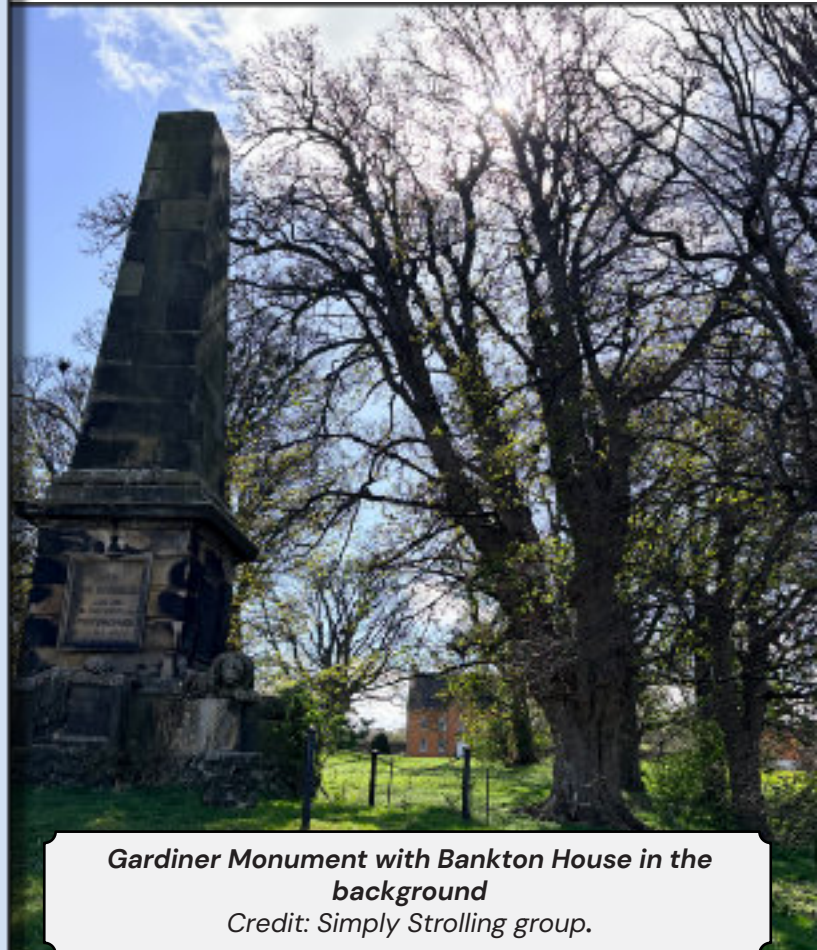
Simply Strolling Group

1745 Battle of Prestonpans Walk

24 April 2026

A dozen cheerful strollers met at the Butts car park opposite the Brig Inn, Tranent. After a brief glance at the "Secret Tunnel" which was formerly used by pedestrians down the Heugh, we set off on the adjacent railway path which once transported tons of Tranent coal to the coast for use in Edinburgh, and even London. The Battle of Prestonpans was fought across the Waggonway further north, and some of the Redcoat troops tested their weapons the day before the 1745 marching up our route, but they were repelled by Cameronian Jacobites firing at them from Tranent Kirk. On the morning of September 21st 1745, the Jacobite force fooled the Redcoat army by marching through Tranent in total silence to the south and east of our route, taking the Redcoats by surprise and defeating them in fifteen minutes at sunrise.

Our route was much more peaceful, away from traffic and surrounded by greenery and birdsong on one of the first pleasant days of the season. There was an opportunity to climb the old coal bing used as the 1745 Battle Bing Viewpoint, but it was still a bit cold and windy up there, and in any case we could see most of the important locations from our path down to Meadowmill, still used by British Rail until about 1969; nearly 250 years of continuous use on Scotland's oldest railway route. We cut along the east side of Meadowmill Sports field, then the north side bordering the East Coast Main Line to Colonel Gardiner's monument, erected by public subscription in 1853 at the instigation of Sir Walter Scott, after he had made his fortune with "Waverley", and ensured the battle was no longer known as the Redcoat officers'



Gardiner Monument with Bankton House in the background

Credit: Simply Strolling group.



Old Archie, recounting the story of his master Col. Gardiner's injury....

Credit: Simply Strolling group.



Battle of Tranent or Bonnie Prince Charlie's Battle of Gladsmuir, but the now ubiquitous Battle of Prestonpans. The monument is in a prominent position behind Prestonpans railway station on the main Edinburgh to London route, and in the garden of Colonel Gardiner's residence, Bankton House.

A few yards beyond the monument, we turned up a path through the trees leading to the dovecot of Bankton House, a "doocot" being an essential installation on any 18th century landed gentleman's estate. We negotiated our way down the precipitous steps of this one, and are invited to rest our legs and listen to the story of Colonel Gardiner's faithful manservant, old Archie, recounting his master's injury under the Thorntree, conveyance to Tranent Manse in a waggon, his death there and burial in Tranent Kirk.

Then for a quick sprint up Johnny Cope's Road, probably not as fast as Cope fleeing the Jacobites; in our case, we were staying out of the way of speeding drivers using the road as a rat run to cross the A1 between Tranent and Prestonpans. The Brickworks Road back to the bottom of the

Strollers with Bankton House in the background
Credit: Simply Strolling group.

Heugh in Tranent is now a quiet rural path allowing farm access to fields. But at one time, the easy availability of coal from the Great Seam of Scotland meant not only salt-works, but factories of all types – glassworks, potteries and brickworks were very profitable. There's little sign now of Bank Park Fire Clay Works, but the owner's house still exists on Edinburgh Road, Tranent, built of and surrounded by the solid bricks made on the site.

From the crossroads of the Heugh and Brickworks Road just below Tranent Kirk, it was a wee trek up the hill to the Brig Inn where a good number chose to enjoy drinks and a very reasonable scampi basket lunch at the Brig Inn, our first chance to enjoy sitting outside in the beer garden this year.

Happy strolling!



simplystrolling@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

learn, laugh, live



Scottish dancing for fun

After a summer break, we hope everyone will be rested and ready to put their best foot forward taking to the floor in more fun sessions in early October when we re-start. Maybe some of the skills and knowledge so slowly gained will even have been retained!

We would welcome anyone who'd like to try Scottish dancing; come along and see what we do – no previous knowledge is needed, though obviously useful, and most people will have done some before if only at school. As the group name says it's for fun and we don't worry when things go wrong (as they often do!). We meet every Monday in the "big room" at the Bridge Centre, from 1 – 3pm.

It's one of the best ways of retaining brain health – good for mind, body and of course social interaction, which often seems to take priority!

Interested? Please contact:



scottish.dancing@eastlothianu3a.org.uk





Dolly the Sheep (1996–2003), whose cloning at the Roslin Institute brought worldwide attention to Edinburgh science.

(Image: Creative Commons)

An afternoon at the Roslin Institute

In early July a small group of East Lothian u3a members accepted an invitation to spend an afternoon at the Roslin Institute – forever associated with Dolly the Sheep, but now one of the world's leading centres for animal bioscience.

Professor Bruce Whitelaw, the Institute's former Director, opened with memories of the extraordinary media frenzy that followed Dolly's birth. Overseas, he joked, simply mentioning Roslin would prompt questions about human cloning. A US immigration officer even asked whether he cloned people in his spare time!

Behind the headlines, however, Dolly's real legacy was scientific rather than sensational.

Her creation demonstrated that a single adult cell contains all the genetic information needed to produce a complete animal – an insight that has transformed research. Today, much of the work of understanding disease can be carried out using cells and tissues rather than whole animals.

The later talks showed how that science is being applied to current problems, including the search for better ways to combat African Swine Fever, one of the most serious diseases affecting pigs worldwide.

It was an engaging and accessible afternoon that reminded us how much world-class science is taking place on our doorstep. We left with a renewed appreciation of Roslin's work—and hoping that this won't be the last opportunity for u3a members to hear directly from its researchers.

Andrew Coulson

East Lothian in bloom

I know throughout the county many of our towns and villages compete in various categories of Nationwide Garden Competitions such as Beautiful Scotland and Britain in Bloom and this year North Berwick and Haddington were announced in the 2026 finalists list. I also know a significant number of our members are active in the various volunteer groups. Below is a “behind-the-scenes” look at the work put in by one particular group.

For the last twelve years, we, *Blooming Haddington* have been dedicated to enhancing the historic and natural beauty of our town, while fostering a deep sense of local pride. Driven by a core team of 15 to 20 volunteers—and supported by numerous local community groups—our efforts draw visitors from all around to admire Haddington’s stunning floral displays.

Between 2014 and 2026, the town achieved consecutive Gold Awards in the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition. Building on this success, we are incredibly proud to be representing the town, for the third time, in the prestigious Britain in Bloom competition. We are competing against Glastonbury, Henley-upon-Thames and Chatteris. Results will be announced in October at an awards event in Rochdale.

Examples of floral displays

Credit: Clare Scott



'Blooming Haddington'
Credit: Google image reworked in the style of Degas by ChatGPT





Our major achievements to date include:

- Redeveloping the Oriental Garden from a dilapidated area into a vibrant sanctuary with a pond and seating, alongside ongoing improvements to the Memorial Garden and Lady Kitty's Garden.
- Planting tens of thousands of bulbs, 1,500 lavenders, and 150 French Irises across the town.
- Maintaining street furniture, coordinating town litter picks, and introducing the popular town wheelbarrow competition.
- Designing and printing a dedicated garden trail leaflet for residents and visitors – a supply of which, are in Haddington library.

We also manage 150 hanging baskets and 22 large planters throughout the town centre.

To sustain these vibrant displays, consistent maintenance is so important, and we are always looking to increase our volunteer base.

Our volunteering times are as below, locations vary depending on gardening needs:

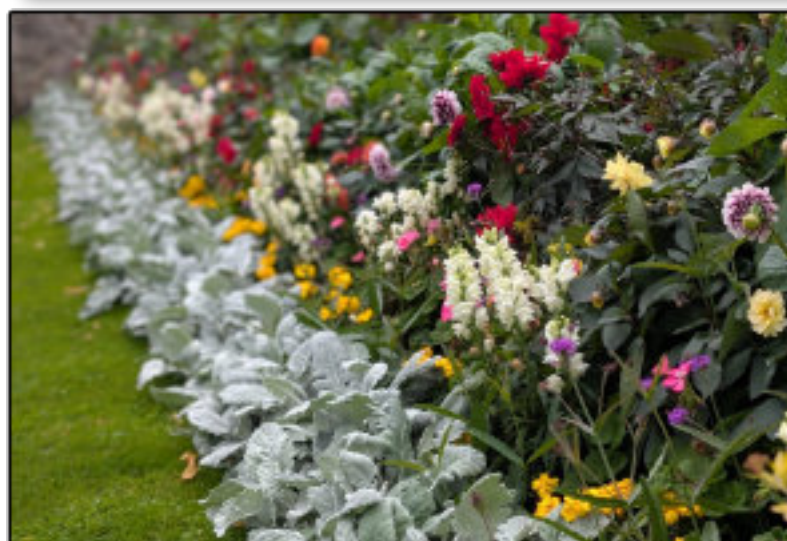
- every Monday 9.30am – 11.30am
- Wednesday evenings at 6.30 (April – September)
- 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10.00am
- No gardening experience is necessary

Check out our Facebook page for latest updates or anyone interested in joining can contact us at the email address below:

Graeme Yarwood



bloominghaddington@gmail.com



Examples of floral displays
Credit: Clare Scott

"Out and About" Picture Quiz No. 17



1. Where is this and when was it built?

2. Which beach is this?



3. Name this building and what is there for visitors?



5. Name the island, when is it sensible to visit and which saint lived there?

4. This is a relatively new pond, where is it?





6. Where is this odd statue?



7. Where and what is this, name the river.



8. What and where is this ruined building and what was its working lifetime?

9. Name this 'village' in Edinburgh and the river running through it.



10. Where is this and who built it?



[Click here](#)

[Click here for the answers to the Quiz](#)

For all u3a members in the UK



Something new from the TRUST..... "u3a and me", our new report.

The u3a and me research project explored the difference u3a makes to members' lives. The findings are very positive: 95% of respondents say u3a has improved their life in some way, while 90% say u3a gives them opportunities to keep learning and stay curious.

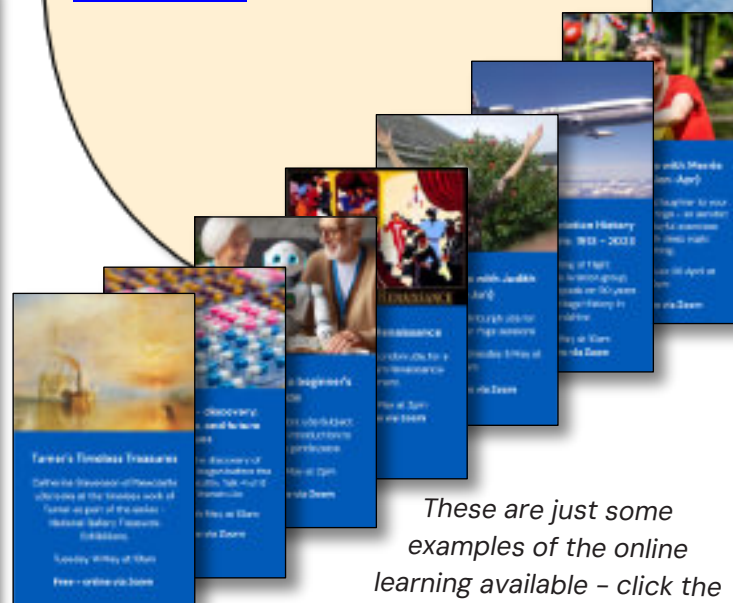
We include a link to the report here. A set of resources developed for our use are available and to make full use we would welcome support to market them locally.

For more information click this link:

[Click here](#)

Online Learning with the u3a

All u3a members can join a wide range of [online talks, workshops and courses](#), some for free with their membership. Many of these opportunities are presented by members themselves, sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. Click the above link to see the range of what's available. You can sign up for [notifications](#).



These are just some examples of the online learning available – click the link above for full details

u3a Friends Newsletter



u3a Friends is an exciting initiative to bring together stories and interests from across the u3a movement; to use our collective voice to change lives and to share exclusive member offers with our exclusive Friends Extra benefits program. All of these come together under the banner of u3a Friends. Signing up to the newsletter means you are up to date and in touch with all that's happening across the movement as it happens.

For more information
click this link:

[Click here](#)

u3a Matters magazine

The magazine of the u3a is published five times a year and, as a u3a member, you automatically receive a printed copy, unless you opt out.

Our u3a has to pay £8 per year for the 5 copies sent out so, if you want to reduce our costs by stopping your copy of the printed version and keep up to date by reading an electronic version, please contact the Membership Secretary:

membership@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

You can sign up to an online u3a newsletter, <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters> for current up-to-date news on many u3a activities.



u3a East Lothian Beacon

[Return to East Lothian u3a website](#)

East Lothian u3a Members Portal

Please enter your E-mail address

E-mail

If you have not created a password for your membership account, use the Register link below to set one up.
[Register for a membership account](#)

If the Membership Secretary has updated your e-mail address use [Verify e-mail](#) (you will also need to set your password)

Enquiries: membership@eastlothianu3a.org.uk or contact the Membership Secretary

Beacon and the member portal

I am sure that you are all aware of Beacon – the name appears on virtually every u3a email that arrives in your email in-box. You may not however be aware of what it is and how we use it within our u3a.

Beacon is software developed specifically as an administration tool for u3a branches. Apart from providing a mechanism for authorised members to send emails to all or groups of members, it stores member's details and their membership status. It is the primary tool used by the membership secretary for handling joining and renewals and maintaining membership records.

Group leaders use Beacon to record information about their group, it's activities and group members; they can add or remove members from their group and see whether a member is current (i.e. has paid their membership subscription).

Beacon enables the treasurer to keep accurate financial ledgers of income and expenditure, ensuring that our records agree with the bank statements. The

treasurer categorises the monies in and out so that the financial picture is available at any time. Beacon will also be used by the Auditor to verify our annual accounts.

Beacon may be used by any u3a member to maintain their own personal details, to see what groups they are in and what groups are doing. To do this, one makes use of the **Beacon Member's Portal**. It is quite simple to register to use the portal. The web address to enter into any web browser is <https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=836&sc=ERVG>

While registration is relatively self-explanatory, more details are available on our [u3a web site](#) on the Documents page.

Please check with your Group Leader and ensure you are getting full value from Beacon!

 beacon.admin@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

That's all!

*..... well nearly. Fancy a coffee, I do
after working my way through this.*

*Join us on Saturday 31st October at 10am
(Farmers Market Day) Corn Exchange
Haddington!*

Newsletter published by



Editor: David Taylor

Contact the Editor at news@eastlothianu3a.org.uk

The next issue of the Newsletter will be the Winter Issue.

The closing date for contributions is **9th January 2027**

- Please send any articles, notices and photographs to the Editor.
- Please ensure that those in the photos have given permission for these to be used, and inform the Editor. Please, where possible, give your photo a title and give the name of the photographer.
- Please submit a plain text file, with photographs as separate JPEG files.

New notices and diary dates are shown on the Notices and Events pages of www.eastlothianu3a.org.uk

learn, laugh, live

Autumn Quiz 2026 - ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Yester Parish Church in Gifford, built in 1710 | 6. In Cockenzie house garden |
| 2. North Berwick West Beach | 7. The weir at the western end of Haddington on the Tyne |
| 3. Redhouse Castle, Garden Centre and Cafe | 8. Gladsmuir Old Ruined Church 1695 to 1938 |
| 4. A new pond in Gillen Bents | 9. Dean village with The Water of Leith |
| 5. Holy Island – Only at low tide, St Cuthbert. | 10. Barnes Ness lighthouse built by the Stevenson brothers David and Charles |

NOTE: This indicates that the photo realistic image has been generated by AI.