

NEWSLETTER

Penicuik and District u3a

News from the committee

New members

We have just been joined by Chris and Marjorie Beaumont and Dave O'Brien. Please welcome them when you next meet.

Sadly, a recent new member, Susan Crosfield, died in January.

Subscription payments

Due to new bank charges, please assist our u3a by using bank transfers as much as possible ('Penicuik & District u3a', Sort Code 80-09-39, Acc.No. 06001451). You should include a reference (e.g. Subscription, Hugh).

The other option is cash.

Payment by cheque is no longer possible.

Exercise your brain?

If you wish to know more about: producing a u3a newsletter, advertising our u3a on Facebook (or elsewhere) and managing our website, then now is a good time to buddy me before I retire at the March 2027 AGM

Hugh Munro, editor
pku3a.com@gmail.com OR
07849-403235

Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>

Future events - dates for your diary

As usual, arrive about 1.45 for a prompt 2.00 pm start in the upper hall, the Cowan Institute (Penicuik Town Hall).

Please wear your name badge, it's very helpful.

- 1) Thursday 19th February - speaker to be announced - 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service'.
a) Next year's subscription (£16) can be paid here!
b) Summer outing tickets (£50) can also be paid here! Please see page 2 for more details.

- 2) Thursday 19th March - our AGM + 'AI - Friend or Foe?'

Our Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Penicuik and District u3a will be held on 19th March 2026 at 2pm in the Town Hall.

Nominations for committee positions and/or motions for consideration must be in the secretary's hands by 2.00 pm on 19th February 2026.

Forms are available on our website (penicuik.u3asite.uk) or by contacting the secretary on penicuiku3a@gmail.com



January open meeting - 77 members + 17 visitors. A record?

News from the groups

Access to u3a members area

Until recently, you had to login with a username and password to access the very useful u3a 'members area' part of the website. That's all changed and access is now unrestricted. Go to <https://u3a.org.uk/members-area>

'Bring along a friend' scheme

The best recommendations for our u3a are our members, that's YOU! You can best describe our activities with personal input and enthusiasm much better than text. Members are always encouraged to bring along a friend to an open meeting and/or a group meeting as 'taster' events. We look forward to seeing your efforts bear fruit!

u3a Summer School 2026

Mon 24th August – Wed 26th August 2026 at Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling
Topics include:
AI: Artificial Intelligence, BSL: British Sign Language; Craft: Japanese Sashiko Embroidery; History: The Celts; Photography: Enhancing Your Photography; Social Science: Positive Psychology (now full!)
Full board residential and day delegate rates are available in the hotel or university guest accommodation. More info to follow via summerschoolu3a.scotland@gmail.com

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Our constitution and committee succession

Your committee is consulting u3a HQ in London regarding changes to our Constitution. The purpose is to ensure that these changes will allow us to continue to have the necessary Office Bearers without which we cannot continue to operate.

We have mentioned before that the committee requires new members and members prepared to serve as office bearers.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP FORWARD!

In order to facilitate succession planning at the AGM in 19th March, members will be invited to approve amendments to our constitution which will clarify and simplify the rules about the appointments and service time-limits of officers and committee members. If the amendment is approved we are confident that all essential roles will continue to be fulfilled for another year.

Can you help? If so, please contact Aileen in the first instance by email on penicuiku3a@gmail.com or on 07950 371421.

Alternatively, please talk to a committee member if you want more information.

Nomination forms are now to be found on our website's (<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>) 'Documents' page. Alternatively, ask a committee member for assistance in getting this form.

2026 SUMMER OUTING

Our 2026 summer outing on Thursday 18th June will be to Thirlestane Castle, Lauder.

We will travel there by coach, have a guided tour of the castle and have lunch, all for the reasonable cost of £50/head.

Our coach will leave Penicuik at 9.30am. The exact departure point has still to be decided.

u3a Online ('Zoom') Learning Events (www.u3a.org.uk)

In February these events explore a very varied range of topics. Something for everybody? You have to book 'tickets' to reserve your place, but as a u3a member, there is no charge.

1) 'The mathematicians' library' on Friday 6th February at 10am

2) 'Gravy or grave? The ghost in literature' on Friday 20th February at 10am

3) 'Cures from within: can we use chemistry to teach the body to heal itself?' on Tuesday 24th February at 11am

4) 'Mindfulness and meditation series (6 weeks) starting on Wednesday 25th February at 10am

u3a Friends Newsletter

You can sign up for this free, useful newsletter, which includes holiday discounts at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/u3a-friends>

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Our brave walkers at Glencorse reservoir, 8th January



The 'Oot An Aboot' group enjoying Skittles at the Sheep Heid Inn at Duddingston. Great fun!



Our walkers at the Gunpowder Mill, Roslin Glen -
January 19th

Our u3a is now famous!

Nelly Mair is a Communications Officer for the 'u3a Friends Newsletter' and she recently learned about our Burns lunch from our website. She then contacted us and asked for details of how to run a Burns event and some photos. These have been sent to her and now feature in today's 'u3a Friends Newsletter'. You can see them at: <https://facebook.com/u3auk> & <https://instagram.com/u3auk/>

2027 January Event?

Our fourth 2026 Burns lunch was another great success enjoyed by the 52 members who attended. Due to difficulty in getting members to come forward for the major contributing roles, the committee has decided to try something different in 2027. So, we seek members' suggestions for an alternative social event e.g. a ceilidh! All ideas will be considered. Suggestions to Hugh, please.

Discovered in the archives!

Referring to the start of our u3a.

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One of many photos from our Burns lunch. Maggie Crane delivers the 'Immortal Memory', Derek was our host delivering the 'Selkirk Grace' and Hugh 'Addressed the Haggis'.

Penicuik **U3A**
University of the Third Age
-set to start soon



Over 70 people came to a very successful introductory meeting in Penicuik Town Hall convened by Bill Fearnley of Penicuik & District Community Council. The essentials of U3A, and the first steps we need to take to start up in Penicuik, were explained by U3A's Robina Hutton. Around 55 of those attending indicated a definite interest in taking part in U3A. Of these, 21 volunteered to organise local start-up and U3A activities, forming a steering committee which met 3 days later and is now working towards an inaugural meeting for Penicuik's U3A in about two months. In the meantime the group can be contacted at Penicuik Town Hall Open House every Saturday 10am-2pm.

Chair: Margot Daru-Elliott
Vice-chair: Devi Marshall
Secretary: Patricia Purton ~ Treasurer: Meg Scott
