

NEWSLETTER

Penicuik and District u3a

News from the committee

New members

We welcome Peter and Norma Coutts, Marianne Hendry and 'Mose' Hutchison. Please look after them when you meet up

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 options cash.

Payment by cheque is no longer possible.

From the membership secy

Many thanks to all who have renewed their membership for the 2026-27 year (over 115 of you already!) If you have made a payment, but not yet returned a 'renewal' form, please do so as this helps ensure that our records are up-to-date. The form can be found on our website, under 'membership' and paper copies will be available at the AGM or by request to pku3a.mem@gmail.com

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.

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

- 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 16th April - Stratford Halliday will explain 'New Survey Techniques in Archaeology'

3) Thursday 21st May - David Kerridge will describe 'The Significance of James Clerk Maxwell'

Our constitution and committee succession

At the meeting we will be proposing changes to our Constitution which will clarify and simplify the time an individual can serve on the Committee. These changes will ensure that our u3a will have sufficient office bearers and Committee members for the next 12 months, but new committee members will be required thereafter.

Please come along and support these changes.

If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to submit your apologies, please contact Aileen by email (penicuiku3a@gmail.com) or on 07950 371421.

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

PLEASE - NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP FORWARD!

News from the groups

New group forming!

For an active brain, learn a new game! Give Mahjong a try. No experience required.

Mahjong is a Chinese game using tiles.

It is a pastime that blends strategy, luck and social interaction.

Come and see a demo at the next monthly meeting.

'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 or image. Members are also encouraged to bring a friend to open meetings and perhaps also a group meeting (after approval by the group) as 'taster' events. We look forward to seeing your efforts bear fruit!

u3a Summer School 2026

Mon 24th August – Wed 26th August 2026, Stirling University
Topics include:

AI: Artificial Intelligence, BSL: British Sign Language; Craft: Japanese Sashiko Embroidery; History: The Picts; 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

Hugh Munro, editor
pk3a.com@gmail.com OR
07849-403235
Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>

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.

If you wish to join us, it's not too late, contact Aileen on penicuiku3a@gmail.com



Our peripatetic "Oot an'About" group at Edinburgh Castle.

Could this space be used for YOUR new proposed group?

If so, contact Dougie, your Interest Groups Coordinator, at pk3a.igc@gmail.com.



Why not?

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

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.

Here are only a few examples:

- 1) Agatha Christie in the Evening - 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.00 pm
- 2) Anyone but Agatha - 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7.30 - 9.00 pm
- 3) Armchair Archaeology - 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10.30 - 12.00 noon
- 4) Armchair Travellers - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3.00 pm
- 5) Canva (Graphic Design) Course - 2nd & 4th Mondays, from 4.00 - 5.30 pm. Course starts in April.
- 6) Canva Projects - 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month 4.00 - 5.30 pm
- 7) Chess Club - Oct-Mar only - on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10.00 am. Apr-Sep - on 4th Fridays only
- 8) Climate Matters - last Friday of the month at 10.00 (not Dec)

Hugh Munro, editor
pku3a.com@gmail.com OR
07849-403235
Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>



The 'Exercise for Fun' group at full stretch!



Our hardy walking group at Norwood Castle



Our walking group on their annual 'snowdrop walk'.

2027 January Event?

We are still seeking members' suggestions for an alternative social event for our Burns lunch. e.g. a ceilidh!

All ideas will be considered. Suggestions to Hugh, please.

Retiral approaching - HELP!

Starting at our March AGM, this will be my ninth and last serving on committee. This means that I will no longer create the monthly newsletter, manage our website, manage our membership system (called 'Beacon') and advertise our u3a activities on nine local community Facebook groups. No one individual need do it all, but these roles must be filled. Can you learn ew tricks? **One year of training is available.**

Hugh Munro, editor
pku3a.com@gmail.com OR
07849-403235
Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>

u3a Penicuik & District
(The only u3a in Midlothian)

OPEN MEETING

(Followed by a cuppa and time for chat)



Thursday 19th February at 2.00pm

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

History and Heritage of the Fire Service in Scotland
By Rachel Drury



Doors open 1.45pm for 2.00pm start
Penicuik Town Hall, 33 High Street, Penicuik EH26 8HS
COST £2- FREE FOR MEMBERS
For more information about u3a visit our website
penicuik.u3asite.uk

Above is yet another 'Open Meeting' poster produced by Jackie McDonald who joined in March 2024 - Thank You!
Now, how can you help?



Family History Group 1, posing when not studying.

u3a and me - member survey

u3a is about more than just activities. It's about the connections we make and the difference u3a brings to our lives. We want to know, from you and your members, what you enjoy, what you get from u3a, what makes involvement easier or harder, and how u3a fits into your life right now.

By doing so, you can help us raise the profile of u3a and show the benefits it has on society. Your feedback will be shared with u3as to help us ensure u3a remains welcoming, flexible and sustainable for years to come.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and help us tell your u3a story. As a thank you, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 John Lewis voucher**.

[Take the *u3a and me* survey.](#)

Hugh Munro, editor
pku3a.com@gmail.com OR
07849-403235
Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>