

NEWSLETTER #75

Penicuik and District u3a

News from the committee

New members welcomed

Please welcome Fiona Tweedie and Lorraine Wiltshire. Look out for them when you meet them and make them feel at home.

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Matters' magazine

The next edition of this national magazine will be published mid-June. If you 'opted-in' when you completed your membership renewal form and one doesn't arrive, please get in touch so that this can be investigated. You can 'opt-out' at any time during the year if you change your mind.

Helen, membership secretary
(pk3a.mem@gmail.com)

Volunteers Week. (1-7th June)

This week sees this year's u3a annual celebration of Volunteering as advised by our Chair Jim in his remarks at the last Open Meeting in May.

u3a as an organisation is dependent on individual members sharing their time and skills like so many organisations in our society at large. No coincidence therefore that we should find in our ranks so many members who give of their time freely to many many organisations around Penicuik and District, also further afield.

While recognising many of their desires for anonymity let not this time of the year pass by without thanking these Community Hero's for all that they do across a wide spectrum. Let us pay tribute to these members. Their contributions to society are invaluable.

Future events - dates for your diary

- 1) Thursday 18th June - only for those members who have paid, our 2026 summer outing will be to Thirlestane Castle, Lauder.
- 2) There will be no open meetings in June, July and August.
- 3) Thursday 17th September - Denise Millan and Naomi Knights from VOCAL Midlothian will describe their work on 'Caring Communities – strengthening our social fabric through supporting unpaid carers'.



The next bank holiday is 25 May —
Make the most of your u3a membership

Save up to 56% off
family days out across
the UK with KIDS PASS



Kids Pass gives your whole family access to discounts across theme parks, zoos, cinemas, aquariums, dining, holidays and more. One membership covers everyone, the bigger the group, the more you save.

u3a members can get a full 12-month membership for just £20.

The May bank holiday referred to above has now passed,
but this advert is for an annual membership.

News from the groups

Your Group Contacts

On Wednesday 20th May, a very successful meeting was held for our hard-working group contacts. Most contacts managed to attend and discussion followed on Risk Assessments, monitoring attendances and inter-group communication

Walkers - beware of ticks.

Reports of ticks being found on walkers along the Penicuik to Dalkeith railway

General interest

AI developments

The graphics design package Canva, available free for most u3a members, has been doing some amazing AI integration recently to really speed up and simplify the creation of any design- posters, cards, presentations etc.

Google's Ask Maps feature is rolling out and is expected in the coming weeks to be available in the UK. Using the Ask Maps feature in the Google Map app you will be able to ask questions like: "Find a restaurant with vegan options and easy parking along my route."

Or "Where can I charge my phone without a long wait for coffee?"

Look out for the Ask Maps icon on your Google Maps app.

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



Hill Pechers on the 'flat' at Loch Leven. Only 13 miles!



Our walking group in Penicuik estate.

**Have you a photo to show or
a story to tell?**

I'm waiting to hear from you.

Online activities

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

These events explore a very varied range of topics. There's something for everybody? You have to book 'tickets' to reserve your place via the above website, but as a u3a member, there is no charge.

This is to give you notice of the **u3a in Scotland 2026 AGM** at 10.30am on **11th June 2026 on Zoom**

If you wish to attend this meeting please notify the secretary on the email address below by 9th June by email. All u3a members in Scotland are eligible to attend and indeed are very welcome. There is no restriction on numbers from any u3a at present but if applications exceed the zoom capacity (highly unlikely) this may change.

At this meeting, we will be electing a new committee. There are a number of position available, including Vice-Chair, Secretary and committee members and election will be for a three-year period.

Secretary: Jenny Brogden,
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Our website is:
<https://penicuik.u3asite.uk>



History' group touring Edinburgh's West End



Nature Appreciation group on a ranger-led walk in Holyrood Park



'Oot an' Aboot' - members having fun!