

U3A meets the Queen

On 6 July 2007 representatives of East Lothian U3A, together with members of other local organisations, met the Queen when she and the Duke of Edinburgh toured the Bridge Centre at Poldrate Mill Haddington. The Royal visit was part of celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Lamp of Lothian Trust.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arriving in the rain at Poldrate Mill, Haddington.

Photographs by
Colin Dickson

East Lothian U3A committee members Liz Strachan, Jan Bundy, Richard Morton and Jim Redmond meeting the Queen during her visit to the Bridge Centre in Haddington. Richard was able to tell Her Majesty something of the purpose and activities of U3A.



Bridge Centre

In the last newsletter we reported that we had been successful in applying for grants to meet the cost of our use of the Bridge Centre in Haddington. The Centre is now the home for regular meetings of U3A with more than 10 groups being held there, as well as committee and other meetings. It will almost certainly be the venue for our tenth anniversary celebrations planned for 2009.

Open Lecture

Scottish Art in Public Galleries

The next U3A **Open Lecture** will be held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 26 September in the Town House, Haddington.

The speaker, **Matthew Wellard**, is an art historian and manager of the Peter Potter Gallery in Haddington. Non-members welcome. (£2).

Group news

Groups starting-up after the summer recess

Many groups are starting-up again at this time of year following a break during the summer months. Check in your diary or contact your group leader to make sure you know when the new 'term' starts.

Group leaders meeting

There will be a group leaders meeting on Friday 7th December at 2.15 pm at Nungate and Haddington Community Centre.

Astromony

This new group will now be starting at the end of October. Contact group leader Ronald Crawford 01620 880536 for full details. Members who have already registered an interest in joining this group are advised to re-confirm with Ron-

New members' coffee morning
Saturday 20 October, Trinity Centre, Haddington.
See next page for full details of this event.

Coffee mornings

New members are invited to a coffee morning to meet members of the committee, group leaders and each other on Saturday 20 October in the Trinity Centre, Church Street, Haddington. From 10-12 AM.

All members are invited to another coffee morning on Saturday 26 January 2008 in the Trinity Centre, from 10-12 am.

Since the members' lunches have been discontinued it was decided coffee mornings might fill the gap for those who like the chance to meet other members in a purely social way.

If the first one is successful there will be more!

Eight years hard labour *Liz Strachan writes:*

It is not our custom to single out anyone for special mention since so many people contribute to U3A in different ways, but in **Jim Redmond's** case it was decided to make an exception.

Jim was a founder member of East Lothian U3A when it was formed eight years ago and he served on the first committee. After working hard to help get things going he was all set to retire after his statutory four years service on the committee. However, he was persuaded to return as treasurer when the committee could not find anyone prepared to take the job on and computerise the system. This he did with great efficiency and good humour. We have all come to rely on him for his experience, knowledge and good judgment.

Now, after eight years, he really is retiring. Committee meetings will not be the same without his cheerful presence.

The Water Industry in Scotland

This was the title of the lecture given by Professor David Simpson following the AGM in the Town House, Haddington, in June.

Professor Simpson is an eminent economist and a leading figure in the water industry in Scotland. His comprehensive knowledge of his subject was clearly evident, covering all the technical and financial aspects of this vital national resource which is so easily taken for granted in these times when rainwater is seen as a problem rather than an asset. In his detailed address Professor Simpson covered all aspects of the processes involved in the collection, storage, treatment and distribution of healthy drinking water as well as the corresponding challenges of coping with the disposal of waste water and sewerage treatment. In tracing the history of the provision of reliable water supplies Professor Simpson covered the construction of the first water purification plant at Paisley in 1858 and up to the establishment of Scottish Water today, together with all its associated demands for ever more regulation, investment and privatisation. Members' questions reflected their appreciation of Professor Simpson's profound grasp of the challenges now facing the water industry in Scotland which is so vital to our future health and prosperity.

The Museum Group visits Abbotsford

Twelve members of the Museum Group visited Abbotsford, near Melrose, on 9 August. Abbotsford is the house built and lived in by Sir Walter Scott. The Group was taken on a guided tour and viewed Scott's immense collection of historic relics, weapons and armour, and over 9,000 rare books. The trip included a visit to the private chapel, and a wander through the beautiful gardens and grounds on the banks of the Tweed.



Museum Group at Abbotsford on a (rare) sunny August day. The trip was organised by Jim Redmond – fourth from the left. Photo by Norah Coutts.

Information about the Museum Group can be had from Margaret Gordon 01620 842363

What's IT all about?

IT – **Information Technology** – is everywhere. Come and find out what it's all about at a one-day event for U3A members who wish to increase their knowledge of computers and the internet.

See how other members have fun with IT.
Learn about some of the benefits of computing.
Confirm or refute your prejudices.

Venue: Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre

Date: Friday 19 October 2007 10.30 – 3.00
Refreshments available.

Contact: Margaret Gordon 01620 842363 or Richard Morton 01620 825979 to register interest.

A date for your diary:

November Open Lecture

U3A member, Dr Ian Oliver, will be talking on the subject of **Drug Affliction**. Dr Oliver has recently travelled in Afghanistan to assess the drug problem and has published a book on the problems of drugs in our Society. The Lecture will take place at **2.30pm on Wednesday 28 November 2007** in the Town House, Haddington.

Our Website

Don't forget that everything you want to know about East Lothian U3A is available on our very own website at:

www.eastlothianu3a.org.uk

Full details of all the groups can be found on the website as well as copies of recent Newsletters. And tell your friends that this is the place to download a membership application form.