

U3A East Lothian Newsletter

Autumn 2011

Scottish Charity Number SC 028953
Supported by East Lothian Council

Group news

For information on individual Groups contact the Group Leader. For general Group information contact Rosemary Brannan, Groups Coordinator - groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk or telephone 01620 825208. See also the 'Leisure and Learning' booklet and the website www.eastlothianu3a.org.uk for latest Groups information and updates between newsletters.

The **Outdoor Art Group** has gone into hibernation until April 2012, when we will convene a meeting of existing and potential members to discuss and agree the venues for Summer 2012 (May to September)

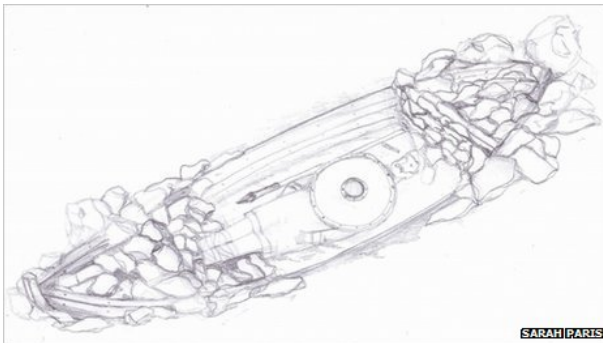
Any members interested in joining the group should contact Robin Sharp 01875 853031 /email rr.sharp@yahoo.co.uk for further information.

Looking forward into the past

A new group of enthusiasts has been formed to learn more about archaeology and history, both at a local and national level. Their first exploratory meeting brought together those who were more interested in archaeology than history and vice versa and all agreed that a combined programme covering both interests would make an even more enjoyable and informative learning experience for all concerned.

And so the group agreed to hold their next meeting on 21 November at 11.00am in the Bridge Centre, Haddington to draw up a programme for 2012 which would involve combinations of guest speakers, attending other events such as conferences and lectures, site visits and walks and learning about the wealth of archive material soon to be more readily accessed when the John Gray Centre opens early next year.

And, just to mark the forming of our group, the discovery of the UK mainland's first fully intact Viking burial boat site was announced in the same week!



An artist's impression of the burial boat from the BBC News website

Graeme, who has taken on the role of group leader, says "I'm sure this is just the sort of thing the group will want to get their teeth into early in their new session and it is great that Archaeology Scotland and CFA Archaeology are locally based. I don't think that there was much Viking presence in East Lothian but I hope to be told otherwise. If they were not here it would certainly be fascinating to know who was and what was going on locally 1,000+ years ago when this

really important Norse grave was being placed on the Ardnamurchan peninsula in the west Highlands."

In 2012, the group will meet on the third Monday of each month starting at 11.00am in the Bridge Centre, Haddington.

Graeme Bettison can be contacted on 01875 818710 / 07876 237911 e-mail at graeme.bettison@tesco.net

Lunch Group.

We meet once a month on different days of the week so as not to clash with members' other interests. We could almost be called Ladies who Lunch although not quite, as one or two stalwart men do attend. Whatever your gender you are welcome to join us for a friendly meal. The next outing is on Tuesday 6th December to Osteria, North Berwick meeting at 12.30 pm where I look forward to seeing you. Please contact me one week in advance should you wish to join us.

Elsie Oliver. 01620 824284 or snowbird@ifb.co.uk



A new **Tai Chi** group will be starting on Thursday 12 January from 10-12 in the Bridge Centre.

It will run weekly. Loose, comfortable clothing and flat shoes advised.

Contact Claire East 01620 824760 or at claireeast@btinternet.com



Errata

In the latest Learning and Leisure booklet that was sent to all members please correct the following email addresses :

Needlework/Craftwork

May Bowie jan.bowie1@btinternet.com

Gardening

Nicola McNeill : nicola@lyars.demon.co.uk

Looking at Paintings

Janette Redmond : janred@onetel.com

Basic Bridge

Beryl Robinson doesn't use email.

Also, for those of you who didn't spot the deliberate mistake, the front page should read 2011 - 2012. Maybe 2022 is a bit optimistic?

U3A National Chess by eMail

I have more detailed information on this which I can supply if you are interested. Alternatively contact Dick Chapman (Watford U3A) on 01923 231754 or dick.chapman@ntlworld.com with name, grade and email address.



Ian Deary *Professor of Differential Psychology, Edinburgh University*

Healthy Mental Ageing : Contributions from the Scottish Mental Surveys of 1932 and 1947.

Scotland is unique as it is the only country to have tested the intelligence of the entire population of children at age 11 on the same day. This was done twice in 1932 and 1947. Professor Deary found the original test papers in a cupboard in Moray House and embarked on the world's longest ever study, examining the same people from age 11 to age 90.

As well as subjecting the original data to new forms of statistical analysis now possible with the aid of computers, Ian Deary and his team attempted to trace the children who had taken part with a remarkable success rate. Individuals were invited to attend to be retested and given a very thorough medical examination. This work is still ongoing but the results were fascinating. Ian Deary came very well recommended from some members who had heard him at the U3A National Conference at Heriot Watt two years ago and did not disappoint. He has that very rare gift of being able to explain complicated subjects simply. Daunting statistical charts became easy to understand. Average IQ scores for girls and boys were very similar but the underlying analysis revealed more of the boys lay at the extremes of high and low intelligence while a higher proportion of the girls were clustered around the mean.

One of our members is part of the 1947 cohort and she confirmed that she found the process very enjoyable, achieving an improved score in her later years and meeting up with long-lost schoolfriends.

The talk was very well attended and the questions and applause were an indication of an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Ever thought about Self Publishing?

Have you written that masterpiece but do not know what to do with it now?

Have you tried self publishing but got lost in the jungle?

Have you done it and won?

What about all this e-publishing business?

Why not have a look at the article in the recent U3A news (page 26)? Anyone who is interested in getting together for a chat about writing and self publishing should contact Graeme Bettison on 01875 818710 or graeme.bettison@tesco.net

Open Lectures

As always I am putting this newsletter together in the knowledge that the date of the next open lecture is uncomfortably close and the newsletter is the main method of communication to inform our non-email members about these events. I think that it would be worthwhile to set out the dates and speakers that have been arranged so far for 2012. As ever the further away the date is then the more likely it is to change but with that caveat....

We have been very fortunate (with Mona's assistance) to secure Aubrey Manning for 15th February, (subject still to be confirmed)

18th April brings another local speaker, Dorie Wilkie on the Prestonpans Tapestry.

20th June is the AGM and Ken Stirling our Chairman has some thoughts on the format of that meeting which will be revealed in due course.

19th September brings Susannah Kerr former curator at the Portrait Gallery (Royal Portraits or Conquering Heroes)

Update the kitchen calendar or U3A diary now!

As ever the committee are always grateful for suggestions for speakers and any members with ideas should contact Yvonne Jenkins on 01620 894011 or yvonneallan@greenbee.net



Next Open Lecture :

Where is the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh?

by **Andrew Coulson** U3A Member and Secretary of the Pinkie Cleugh Battlefield Group

2:30 pm Wednesday 14th September 2011, Town House, Haddington

Coffee Morning

Saturday 19th
November 2011
10:00 - 12:00

Trinity Centre,
Church Street
Haddington