

# U3A East Lothian Newsletter

## Summer 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](mailto:groups@eastlothianu3a.org.uk) or telephone 01620 825208. See also the yellow 'Leisure and Learning' booklet and the website [www.eastlothianu3a.org.uk](http://www.eastlothianu3a.org.uk) for latest Groups information and updates between newsletters.

Many of our Groups are starting up again after a summer break. Members should contact Group Leaders if they are unsure of the arrangements for the first meeting.

#### Ceilidh Dancing & More

This group will start again on Tuesday 4th October at 11:30 am in the Alistair Grant Hall in the Bridge Centre. At the moment this group is only open to existing members but if any existing members wish to withdraw please let Sheila Sergeant know so that others may take your place (01620 825127).

#### Folk Music Singing and Playing Group

We meet on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month in the Bridge Centre's Upper Hall, from 2-4 pm. HOWEVER in September only, we will be meeting on Tuesday 13th and Thursday 29th. All instruments are welcome, we have guitars, recorders, tin whistles, a cello, concertina, fiddles, and percussion instruments. Come along if you want to find out more. Robert Russel, 01620 860702 or e-mail [rjrussel17@aol.co.uk](mailto:rjrussel17@aol.co.uk)

#### U3A Philosophy Group

After nearly five years the Philosophy Group has had a "makeover". The group is being run on a co-operative basis; Roslyn Anderson will facilitate meetings and, with a small team, will compile a programme for the autumn/winter sessions to include suggestions from members.

So far we do not have a Group co-ordinator but the group meets on the **LAST TUESDAY** of each month, 2 - 3.30pm, in the Upper Hall at the Bridge Centre, Haddington. The next meeting is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011. As with other groups, U3A members are able to attend a "taster" meeting before deciding whether or not they wish to join the group.

For information on the Philosophy group Liz Reid is temporarily available on 01620 893036 .

*The new committee at their first meeting following the AGM. From the left, Yvonne Jenkins, Bill Rarity, Donald Leckie, Ken Stirling, Pat Coupe, Rosemary Brannan, May Dickson.*



#### Appointments

The following committee posts have been confirmed

Ken Stirling	Chairman
Pat Coupe	Secretary
Donald Leckie	Treasurer
Rosemary Brannan	Groups Coordinator
May Dickson	Membership Secretary
Yvonne Jenkins	Lectures & U3A Scotland
Bill Rarity	Publicity

There is still a vacancy for another committee member. Anyone interested contact Pat Coupe on 01875 853737 or [patcoupe@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:patcoupe@tiscali.co.uk)

#### New Groups

A number of new groups have been proposed. There will be sheets available at the next open lecture on 14th September for members to note their interest or members may contact the people named below directly.

**Tai Chi** (starting at beginning 2012)  
Claire East 01620 824760

#### Writing your life story

Audrey Milan 01875 852483

#### History

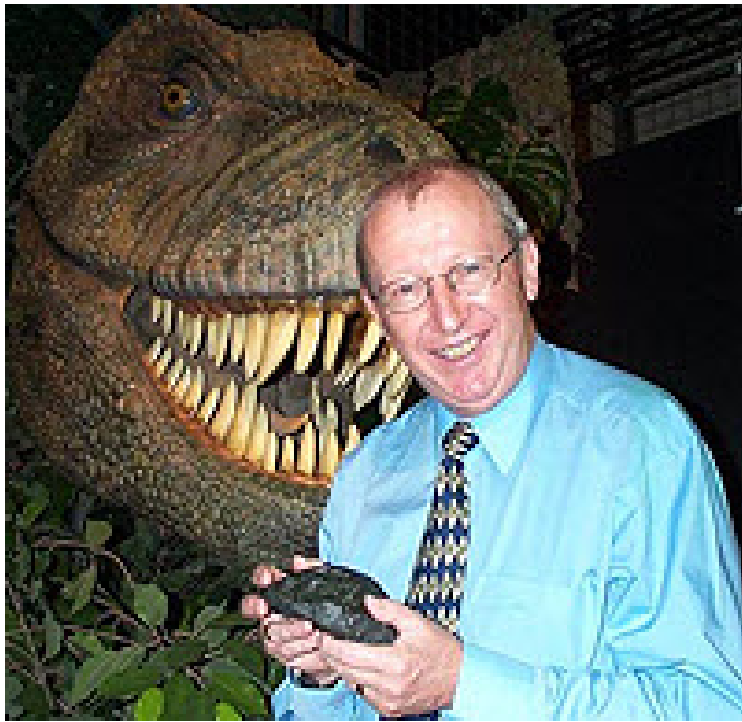
Liv Satchwell 0131 665 1912

#### Archaeology

Graeme Bettison 01875 818710

#### Group Leader

Elsie Oliver ([snowbird@ifb.co.uk](mailto:snowbird@ifb.co.uk)) has taken over the leadership of the Lunch Club from Margaret Spencer



*Professor Stuart Munro (on the right)*

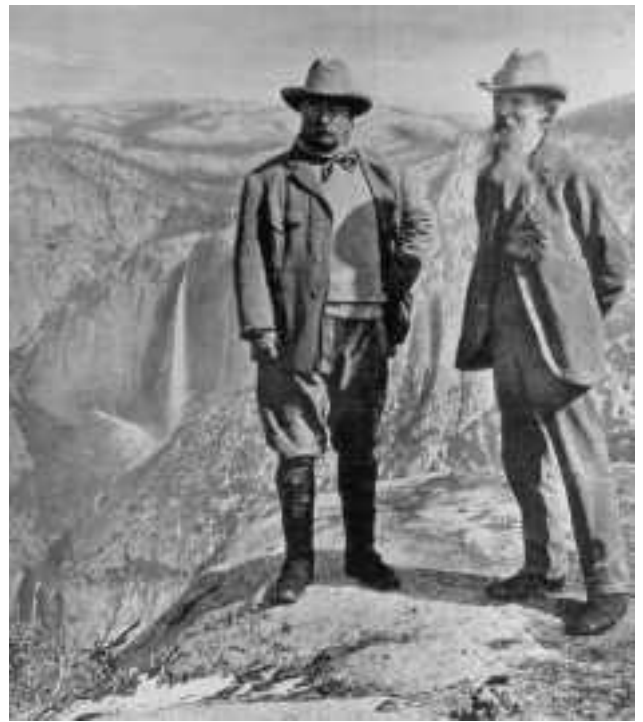
### **Life on the Rocks**

For our April lecture we were treated to a geological tour de force from the early discoveries of James Hutton at Siccar Point 200 years ago to the latest theories of plate tectonics that had us mentally crossing off holiday destinations. Stuart Munro is Scientific Director at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh and a Visiting Professor in the School of Geosciences at the University of Edinburgh.

A series of excellent visual aids showed continents sliding around the globe to form the world as we know it today. A second series of slides showed predicted movements as we hurtle towards America at the same speed as our fingernails grow. It's these things that make me glad I live on the east coast. Professor Munro is a natural communicator with the rare skill of being able to explain complicated things simply. The lively question and answer session went on for a long time before the Chair had to intervene to bring matters to a close.

"None of us can predict what the future holds, but it is in all of our hands to do little things today that will influence the landscape of tomorrow."

**Volunteers Needed** to assist with the provision of hospitality to members at lectures and coffee mornings. Names to Rosemary Brannan (contact details overleaf)



*President Theodore Roosevelt (left) with John Muir at Yosemite*

### **John Muir - Senior Citizen Extraordinary**

In June, following the AGM, Will Collin spoke about the life and achievements of John Muir. Will is a former principal of Dunbar Grammar School and has been associated with the John Muir Birthplace since its reincarnation as an award-winning tourist centre. John Muir (1838-1914) was America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist, and founder of the Sierra Club. Born in Dunbar, Muir emigrated to the USA at the age of 10 and worked with his father breaking ground for a farm in Wisconsin. From his twenties he travelled widely throughout America, mainly on foot, and settled in California where he established his reputation as a naturalist, explorer, mountaineer, farmer, geologist, writer, and, above all, pioneer of nature conservation. He campaigned to save the giant redwoods and is known in the USA as 'Father of Our National Parks'. The respect which Will has for John Muir was evident throughout the lecture which was illustrated by many excellent photographs taken by Will himself on his travels in Muir's footsteps - although not wearing the tweed suit, collar and tie and ordinary walking shoes which Muir adopted for mountaineering. "John Muir is a role model for people of all ages, particularly demonstrating that increasing age is not a barrier, but presents another series of opportunities."

Next Open Lecture : **Ian Deary**

Professor of Differential Psychology, Edinburgh University

Healthy mental ageing:  
Contributions from the Scottish Mental Surveys of 1932 and 1947  
2:30 pm Wednesday 14th September 2011

**Coffee Morning**

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

Trinity Centre,  
Church Street  
Haddington

