



**East Lothian u3a**  
(Scottish Charity No SC028953)

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts**  
**For the year ended 30 April 2025**

The Trustees are pleased to present to the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting their report together with the Treasurer's Report and accounts and Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 30 April 2025.

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity Name:** East Lothian u3a

**Charity Number:** SC028953

**Address**

c/o Chris Horn (secretary), 1 The Doon Steading, Spott, Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1UX

**Current Trustees**

Zoë Van Zwanenberg	Chair
Celia Coulson	Deputy Chair
Chris Clark	Treasurer
Chris Horn	Secretary
David Taylor	Lectures Co-ordinator
Helen Horn	Groups Co-ordinator
S. Anne Guthrie	Committee member

Sarah Brookes and Dianne Murray were trustees for much of the year but have had to leave the committee for personal reasons.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Constitution**

East Lothian u3a (the Charity) is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 16 June 2021 and amended on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

Members of the Executive Committee, which meets approximately bimonthly, are the Charity's Trustees. All Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is normally held in June. Under the Constitution there must be a minimum of five and a maximum of ten elected Committee members. The Committee may co-opt a further two ordinary members as Committee members (with voting rights) if they consider it would be in the interests of the Charity to do so.

### **Management**

The Committee is responsible for carrying out the general policy of the Charity and to provide for the administration, management and control of its affairs and property.

### **Relationships with other organisations**

East Lothian u3a is a member of The Third Age Trust which provides support and advice on the aims and principles of the Trust to local u3a groups in return for a capitation fee.

East Lothian u3a is also a member of the u3a in Scotland (UiS) which exists to facilitate and provide opportunities for u3as in Scotland to come together for conferences and study days and to encourage the formation of new u3as in Scotland.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Charitable Purpose**

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.'

The charitable purposes of East Lothian u3a may only be altered with the prior consent of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

### **Activities and Achievements**

Of the 42 groups registered with East Lothian u3a many meet in members' homes but others meet in a variety of venues, largely in Haddington. During 2024/25 a greater geographical spread of meeting venues has been achieved, particularly for the open lectures.

### **Membership**

Membership now stands at 557, a decrease of 22 from last year's report. More than half of new members have been introduced by existing members, so although we continue to employ posters, leaflets and a very successful open coffee morning, it remains the case that our best method of publicising ourselves is by telling other people about our u3a.

## **Future of the East Lothian u3a**

Despite a small reduction in membership, the East Lothian u3a remains a vibrant and valued organisation. Members have volunteered to take on the essential officer/trustee roles thereby securing the legal charitable status of the organisation for another year. The move to using the Beacon software has offered improved communication with the membership and less time consuming administration for office holders and group leaders. Financially the organisation is stable and despite general financial pressures is able to continue for another year without raising the membership fee.

## **Open Lectures**

During the year four open lectures have been presented. These were:

3rd August 2024:- New Hailes house and gardens. Colin Wren the gardens and designated landscapes manager for NTS Edinburgh and East of Scotland explored the history of the gardens

22nd October 2024:- Scottish Wildlife Crime. PC Gavin Ross of Police Scotland covered the "who, what, where, when, why and when".

8th January 2024:- The Work of Conservators. Thilo Bürgel, lead aircraft and technology conservator at The National Museum of Flight gave an insight into the work of conservators.

16th April 2025:- Farming in East Lothian. Gemma Cooper, head of policy for The National Farmers Union explored the issues affecting farmers and food production in East Lothian

## **Communications**

### **Newsletters**

It was only possible to produce three newsletters during the year; these were sent to all members and are also available on the website. No newsletters were produced in 2025 as the communications officer resigned from the committee for personal reasons. Plans for a working group to address this are in hand.

The newsletters include a report from the Chair of the committee as well as from other committee members; Group Leaders are encouraged to submit reports on activities of individual groups.

News of any new groups would be included, but there have been no additions during the last year.

Notices of items of interest such as Open Lectures and forthcoming events are detailed.

Another section details national and Scottish activities and provides live links to that information.

All members are encouraged to send in items for inclusion in addition to those from group leaders.

The organisation has now moved to the Beacon platform allowing much easier communication with members.

### **Website**

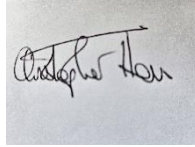
Maintenance of the website for the group continues by Ed Dee. Anyone can now access full details of the groups; this includes the East Lothian u3a email addresses of group leaders, information previously only open to members [personal email addresses are not accessible].

## Coffee Morning

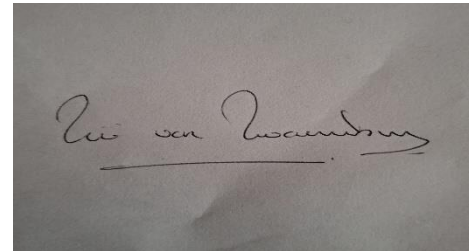
A hugely popular coffee morning was held in Haddington in October with group leaders available to explain their activities. Free coffee and refreshments were provided.



Chris Clark  
Treasurer



Chris Horn  
Secretary



Zoë van Zwanenberg  
Chair

## Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2025

East Lothian u3a

Statement of Accounts: all accounts

### Receipts & Payments, 1st May - 30th April

<i>Start year</i>		2024		NOTES		2023		NOTES
	<i>In</i>		<i>Out</i>			<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	
<i>Category</i>								
Admin & consums (central)			250				256	
Bank interest	197							(2)
Donations	945					1,278		
Equipt (central use)			1,111				219	
Equipt for groups			289				205	
Events			607				432	
Gift Aid	1,555					1,548		
Lectures			355				443	
Membership for this year	7,740			(1)		7,680		(3)
Membership for next year	4,685					3,345		
Room hire (other) for grp			8,244				7,634	
Room Hire (restricted)	750		750			1,750	1,000	
TAT membership			2,228				-	
Third Age Matters			2,803				1,426	
U3A in Scotland exps			27				-	
Sub-totals	15,872		16,663			15,602	11,614	
Brought forward	18,579					14,592		
<b>Total</b>		17,788				18,579		
<b>Balance Sheet</b>								
Current account (RBS)		6,988				3,240		
Treasurers account (RBS)		10,799				15,340		
<b>Total</b>		17,788				18,579		
NOTES								
(1)	A further £3345 in subs for 2024-25 was received in 2023-24							
(2)	Not separately recorded							
(3)	A further £3380 in subs for 2023-24 was received in 2022-23							