

Chairman's Newsletter

September 2026



Monthly meetings

Our speaker at the **September meeting** was Jack Hood. He gave us a very interesting talk on how radio hams have developed an emergency response service whereby their network can provide a communication channel when others fail, for example in the wilds of the Highlands supporting mountain rescue teams. The Lockerbie disaster has been their largest and most dramatic to date. I was amazed at how many were available to help.

Next meeting Monday 5 October. As usual we will meet in Ballerup Hall at 2pm. No speaker this time but you can look forward to being entertained by **Christine and Alex**. They play a blend of traditional Scottish folk, contemporary arrangements, covers, and some of their own material. You can expect a very enjoyable foot tapping afternoon followed by your usual blether over a cup of tea. **Christmas lunch sign-up – see below.**

Membership

We are still waiting for some people to renew and Alex Fleming will be in touch with group leaders for them to check that group members are paid up. Eight of you have yet to claim your refund from the summer outing – please do so asap!

The recent death of one of our members has led to some discussion in the committee about how we should share the news. Our current preference is that anyone learning of a member's death should pass on the news to our Membership Secretary who will in turn inform the leader(s) of any groups of which the deceased was an active member. Alex Fleming can be contacted at: u3aek.membershipsecretary@gmail.com Group leaders should then advise group members. It was further agreed that mention should be made in the annual report without identifying individuals.

Group News

We are working at setting up a face-to-face yoga class to complement Sheila Kelly's Zoom group and we have identified a tutor for the group. She will work with the group to identify the content and, providing we can identify suitable premises, could include wheelchair attendees. We hope to have everything ready for a start in January and the intention is to make it a weekly event, likely to take place for one hour on a Friday afternoon with a charge to cover hall rent and the tutor's fee. We already have some names but are open to signing up more. You can do this at the monthly meeting or by contacting Norma Churchill at: u3aek.vicechair@gmail.com

Some groups have spaces to take new members, information available at Monthly meeting.

Christmas lunch

The committee has been deliberating long and hard about **where** and **if** to have our usual lunch. The feeling was that the Torrance was becoming too predictable and that a change would be a good thing. Unfortunately, East Kilbride is sadly lacking in accessible venues of a suitable size. This led us to contact the Holiday Inn – but their pricing was unacceptably high. This took us back to the Torrance who delighted us by Christmas menu ideas and a reasonable price of £32 for two courses, including coffee/tea and mince pies. For example, in addition to the traditional turkey, the choice of main includes Steak and Ale Pie and feather blade of beef with Mediterranean vegetable parcel as the vegetarian option. Possible desserts are Christmas Pudding, Vanilla cheesecake and Chocolate Torte. Full menu at November meeting.

We have made a provisional booking and will need to confirm and pay a deposit early in October so we invite you to sign up with a deposit of £10 at our meeting on 5 October.

Full payment and menu choices will be covered at the November meeting (Monday 2nd.) If you want to sign up but can't make the meeting on 5 October please contact me at the address below.

TAT news

u3a diaries are now available to order

u3a diaries are available from the [u3a Brand Shop](#). Please note that we will not be buying in a quantity for resale as was the practice some years ago but I would encourage you to have a look if you remain faithful to pen and paper as it's both a diary and a notebook.

I hope that there's a good turnout on Monday 5 October. Unfortunately, Jan and I are off on holiday (yes, again!) so I won't be present but I'm sure you will have a lovely afternoon.

Kind regards

Elaine

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