



Chair's report
AGM 8 September 2026

Welcome & apologies

Helen Narracott (chair) welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

Membership

Membership over the last year has remained constant at 252, which is slightly down on last year, but new members are joining all the time.

Interest groups

There are currently 27 interest groups, with both wine tasting and art activities holding a waiting list. Astronomy, German conversation, local history and short walks groups are dormant.

New groups include:

bird watching

board/card games 3 interested

crafting only 3 signed up

family history 7 members

flower arranging suggested

foodies 6 members

smartphone & computer skills

social meetup

Details of all the groups will be on the Tu3a website shown at each meeting on the digital board at meetings.

Ideas for new groups are always welcome (send these to the Group Co-ordinator).

The Cross Keys is now asking for groups to guarantee a £50 spend each meeting, which is impractical. Both the International Affairs and the Scottish History have moved to the Drill Hall. Another option would be to reserve a table at The Park (no charge but can be noisy) or in members' homes (classical music, mahjong, book & film groups do this).

Venue information/hire charges are on the Tu3a website.

The committee

We have no retirements from the committee this year, but we will need a new Clive next year as groups coordinator, and replacements for Helen & Alistair, responsible for such a diverse range of speakers at the monthly meetings. All three would like to step down at the next AGM. If you feel you could possibly be interested in either of these, perhaps shadowing over the next year, let Clive, Helen & Alistair or Kathy the secretary know.

Volunteers

Like every organisation we depend on volunteers. Apart from the committee we are fortunate to have ongoing technical support from Paul Bretherwick and Ian Rodwell at the monthly meetings and Ian for maintaining the website, Jim Strachan for maintaining the Beacon database of members and Eileen Fletcher for welcoming members.

We always need more volunteers; if you feel you could help, even as an occasional stand-in, please let the Secretary know. Or what about joining the committee?

Communication with members:

Newsletter

The newsletter is sent out most months, by email, with a printed copy to the members who are not online (these can be large print copies). The newsletter gives details of forthcoming talks, news from interest groups, and occasional items which could be of interest to members.

Website

The best place to find information about interest groups is through the website.

Facebook

The Tu3a Facebook group has 74 members. It's a private group, so you must be a member to use it, and as with all private groups, all posts must be approved by the administrator. It can be a good way to show news about groups.

Peeblesshire News/Peebles Life

Details of forthcoming meetings are listed in both the *Peeblesshire News* and the monthly *Peebles Life* magazine.

Monthly meetings

Meetings for the general membership are held each month between October and June, with the AGM each September. There is a speaker at each meeting, sometimes one of our members. This is followed by a chat over a cup of tea.

Topics in the last year have included: The work of the procurator fiscal's office, Riding for the Disabled, Servants at Traquair, the Borders Meadows Trust and the Problem with grey squirrels.

Coming up are Fiona Dunlop with a further talk about the War Graves Commission, Margaret Fox with Someone to watch over me and in December the Tweed Valley Blogger.

At last year's AGM committee member Nancy Norman arranged a competition to create a 3D model depicting a piece of music. This year's challenge is for a 3D model depicting a title of a book. There are 24 entries, and the winner was Ailsa Anderson, who correctly identified 19.

Another initiative from Nancy is a Tweeddale u3a recipe book- a collection of recipes from members together with a little background story or memory. I have brought mine.

Annual outing

We have had two events this year: an afternoon tea at the Hydro, and day trip to Dunfermline, both well supported.

And we have a plan for Christmas lunch, again at the Hydro. Details to follow.

And finally

Once again, thank you all for coming, and thank you to the committee and volunteers. We hope to see you all again on 13 October for Fiona Dunlop and the Commonwealth War Grave Commission.

The next AGM will be on 14 September 2026.

Helen Narracott

Chair

8 September 2026

