

From the Executive Committee

What your Committee discussed on 3 June 2026 — in brief

Each month the Executive Committee meets to steer Edinburgh u3a on members' behalf — strategy, finances, groups, communications and more. Here's a short, plain-English round-up of the headlines, so you can stay in the loop without wading through the full minutes.

Strategy: refining our direction

- Work continues on Edinburgh u3a's strategy, including a refreshed take on our guiding idea: Learn, Laugh, Live.
- A new members' survey is being prepared, with care taken to make sure it's accessible to everyone, including members without email.
- Going forward, member surveys will be run periodically rather than every year, to make better use of everyone's time.
- Plans are well underway for upcoming events with our Group Leaders at the Botanic Gardens, where strategy ideas will be discussed face to face — interest is high, with around 60 attendees expected in July.

Learning from other u3as

- The Committee shared insights from a recent conversation with a larger u3a, comparing notes on membership systems and benefits administration to help inform our own choices.

Membership: steady growth

- New members continue to join, despite some technical hiccups with our online payment and joining systems, which are being worked through.
- Nearly all members on our database now have an email address, though the Committee is mindful of staying inclusive of those who don't.
- We're approaching a wonderful milestone: reaching 3,000 members, alongside Edinburgh u3a's 35th anniversary — celebrations are being planned.

Finance: tightening up processes

- The Committee is improving how funding applications are handled, agreeing that — for now — all requests for financial support will be reviewed centrally, with a goal of turning these around within 30 days.

- Clear role descriptions are being developed for Committee positions, to make handovers smoother as volunteers change over time.
- Work continues to resolve an ongoing online payments issue, and to appoint a new independent examiner for our accounts.

Groups & events: busy and growing

- Some groups have closed while new ones have formed — a healthy sign of members' interests evolving.
- Monthly meetings continue to draw excellent attendance, and our open coffee mornings have been a real success, with more planned and a return visit invited to Craiglockhart.
- Volunteers are always welcome to help host these informal get-togethers — a great way to meet fellow members.

Communications: keeping members informed

- A review of the Edinburgh u3a website is being planned, to make sure it serves members as well as possible.
- The Clarion magazine has a new Editor, who is reviewing its purpose and looking to broaden its team of contributors.
- The Bulletin will continue through June and July, pausing in August as usual.

Other items

- A proposal for branded Edinburgh u3a clothing for group leaders and volunteers is being developed further, with samples received and costs to be confirmed.
- The Committee agreed that Group Leaders stepping down should be properly thanked for their contribution.

Want more detail?

The full minutes of every Executive Committee meeting are available to members on request via the Secretary at the address shown below. The Committee next meets on 1 July 2026.

The official Minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Executive Committee meetings. This document is a brief summary of the main topics discussed and should not be taken as authoritative. If you require any further details about any item, please contact Gordon Ferrier secretary@edinburghu3a.org.uk.

Pauline Cox, Chair