

East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

Newhailes and The Enlightenment

by

**Professor David Purdie, medical Professor Emeritus and Fellow of the Royal
College of Physicians of Edinburgh**



David Hume by David Martin

The Society is delighted to present this talk by Professor David Purdie at 2.30 PM on Saturday 14th November 2026.

The venue will be at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Haddington, EH41 3EX

Professor Purdie

Our speaker is also an Hon. Fellow of Edinburgh University's Institute for Advanced Studies where his published works include books on the philosopher David Hume, Sir Walter Scott and the poet Robert Burns. He is co-editor of *The Burns Encyclopaedia* and of new editions of *Scott's Ivanhoe* and *Heart of Midlothian*, both adapted for the modern audience. He has a particular interest in the Scottish Enlightenment. Additionally, he is a speech editor and adviser to several members of the House of Commons.

Talk summary

The talk will centre on the European Enlightenment with specific reference to its twin epicentres of Paris and Edinburgh. There will be references to its precedents in classical Athens and the Florentine Renaissance. The works, and legacies of the three principals of the Scottish Enlightenment: David Hume, Adam Smith and James Hutton will be discussed.

Because of the Society's interest in Newhailes House, its history and architecture will be covered together with the life of its distinguished owner the historian and jurist Lord Hailes. Overall, the talk will show how the Enlightenment swept away much of the ignorance and superstition leftover from the Middle Ages - and ushered in the morning of the modern world.

For any enquiries contact info@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk

Non members welcome with a modest cash donation appreciated

Church parking is limited to Blue Badge holders plus otherwise mobility compromised

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