



- **Meeting Venues**

- Following her research for potential venues for the March & May meetings, Penny had booked the Rockfield Centre at charity rates, including AV equipment. Other venues information had been added to the Beacon Venues page
- Penny was asked to check whether the Rockfield Centre has a hearing loop.

**ACTION**

**Penny**

- **AV**

- Bob Batty is now the main person for AV and should be contacted first for meetings. Chris Adie is #2 contact and Phil Hamerton #3.

**Rosemary**

- **New Committee Members**

- Annette has had a change of heart regarding joining the committee.
- We can recruit two committee members during the year without having to hold a special members' meeting. This should be our target for summer in order to hand over roles. Recruiting another two at the AGM would result in the optimum number of committee members going into 2024-25. Without these new members, next year's committee would have an onerous workload.
- Everyone to do their best to try and recruit new committee members.

**All**

**Groups**

- **Pickleball:** Convenor Chris has done a great job splitting the group into two, with Caroline Dalgleish taking on the beginners group. Group sizes are now a more manageable 17 in the main group and 10 in the beginners, but there really ought to be a limit of 12 people, otherwise people need to sit out.
- **The Jane Austen** group has four or five members, with Rosemary Power as Convenor, and will study seven novels over a period of seven weeks, starting 25<sup>th</sup> January. They will meet at Joy's house.
- **Cribbage** only has two members. It needs to be added to Beacon as an aspiring group – the convenor will then get a trigger if people sign up.
- **Ukulele** group will start in January, with Annette Tedder as convenor; Stephen Spencer also acting as group convenor and may combine with mixed band as there's some overlap and fairly low numbers.
- **Book Group 4** still in discussion stages with personnel changes – will be reviewed in January.
- Joy will be doing a Review of Groups in the new year and it should be noted that whoever takes over from Joy in September will need to try and get round all the groups. Joy was unsure whether group convenors knew who were in their groups and Sue offered to send Joy info on what is happening from Beacon. Convenors should receive an email if members join or leave group.
- Native speakers are helping the German and Spanish groups but are not members. It was suggested we should make them honorary members, but there is no category for this at present. Neil to investigate whether we can add one.

**Joy**

**Joy**

**Sue**

**Neil**

**ACTION**

**Membership**

- We now have 152 members, plus one associate member.
- There have been 16 new members since the beginning of September, including five since November’s report.
- Records of six unpaid members and one resignation have been deleted. Neil confirmed that there is a tick box in each group to notify the convenor of changes, but that this only works if the members do it themselves – not anyone else e.g. the Committee. This will be part of Joy’s review and Neil has raised the issue with the Beacon Support team at TAT.

**Treasurer**

- The accounts have been posted in Dropbox.
- No notification from the bank yet that we will become a community account.
- Anne and Bob have been removed as signatories since they are no longer on the committee.
- Info from Beacon comes as an imported Excel file, but is not password protected, which is concerning.
- The bill this year for free convenor and committee Christmas lunches was £760, compared to £387 last year, but this was explained by the greater number of groups this year, two convenors from some groups having, appropriately, been invited, the increase in per capita cost and more convenors attending as their lunch was rolled into the Christmas lunch this year, rather than being a separate occasion in September, resulting in more people being here in December.
- Richard to look up the per person cost of the lunch at Oban Bay Hotel last year and send to Penny.

**Richard**

**Speakers**

- David Hughes will speak on his trip to Botswana and Namibia at either the May or June meeting and Bob McCulloch will fill the other month with his Photographs of Old Oban presentation.
- With March being covered by Shane Wasik speaking about basking sharks and Tony Beckett covering his cycling holidays in Spain at the April meeting, this rounds out the speaker year.
- Rosemary intended to start on next year’s list before resigning in September.

**Rosemary**

**Training**

- Evelyn confirmed she had completed her secretary training and requested access to the training site from Sue.
- Evelyn raised a formatting issue with sending all-member messages on Beacon and various suggestions were made by other committee members to help remedy the situation.

**Sue**

**Oban Times Article, January 2025**

- Needs to be submitted by 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- Joy and Penny will work on the wording.

**Politics Talks Publicity**

- Jim to push last two politics talks in January newsletter.

**Third Age Trust (TAT)**

- Penny is registered to vote for TAT council members and board members – none of whom is known to us.
- Voting opens on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**AOCB**

- Sue could not get the links to work at the top of the newsletter – Jim will investigate.
- When Jim receives photos, he should place them in Google Drive – Sue to provide access for Jim.
- The committee thanked Jim for his work on the newsletter, saying it was looking good.
- Discussion on newsletter content to be added to January agenda.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.15am in the Corran Halls.

*Minutes taken by Evelyn McManus, Secretary  
Minutes approved at January meeting on 7/1/25*

**ACTION**

**Joy/Penny**

**Jim**

**Jim**

**Jim/Sue**

**Evelyn**