

**Present:** Penny Earle, Chair; Sue Pollard, Vice Chair; Richard Bosworth, Treasurer; ***ACTION***  
Evelyn McManus, Secretary; Joy Sullivan, Groups Coordinator; Rosemary Young,  
Speakers; Jim McManus, Newsletter; David Hughes

**Apologies:** Graham Cameron, Vice Chair; Neil Sutherland, Membership.

### **Minutes**

- January minutes were approved with no amendments.

### **Committee recruitment**

- Penny welcomed David Hughes to the committee.
- Penny reported that Evelyn and Jim were having to step down from their roles as Business Secretary and Newsletter due to family circumstances, so everyone would need to think about solutions for replacing them. Since David has already joined the committee, we can only recruit one more member before the AGM in September. Penny volunteered to pick up the business prep for the AGM and Joy volunteered to take the minutes until a new Secretary could be found. Other Secretary's tasks would be covered on an ad hoc basis.

**All**

**Penny  
Joy**

**All**

**Penny**

It was agreed that if no one could be found to take over the newsletter, it would be put on hold until someone stepped up. Penny to make an announcement at the members meeting explaining the situation and asking for volunteers.

- Sue suggested having members shadowing committee positions ready to take over in the future, although they would not be registered committee members and would not have voting rights.
- Penny thanked Evelyn and Jim for the work they had done whilst serving on the committee.

### **Matters Arising**

- **Publicity leaflet:**

- Evelyn reported that the leaflets had been printed, picked up and brought to the meeting and the invoice sent to Richard, who had paid upon receipt.
- There was good feedback for the leaflet from committee members and Penny thanked Sue and Evelyn for their work on producing the leaflet.
- Penny requested that everyone take a bundle home with them and she would place a spreadsheet in Dropbox listing locations in Oban and surrounding areas for everyone to deliver leaflets to. Penny will cover Atlantis and Tesco, Joy will take some to her poetry group, since many members live in outlying areas, Rosemary will cover the Dove Centre and Jim will take some to the medical centre, although previously they have said they will only display in the staff area. Sue will find out how we can display one on the noticeboard on Gibraltar Street and some will be left at the Rockfield Centre.

**All**

**Penny**

**Penny/Joy/  
Rosemary/  
Jim**

**Sue**

- **Oban Times article:**

- Penny reported that there had been an issue with our January article in the online version of the Oban Times, whereby the photos that Penny had sent had been replaced with a photo featuring Peter Kemp, a

recently deceased member. Penny called the OT as soon as she noticed it and they took the photo down. They also reported that there was no photo planned for the printed version of the paper, so the mistake would not be repeated there.

- Graham would be asked to add a "Where did you hear about us" question on the membership form.

**Graham**

- **Facebook handover/status**

- Graham has now taken over Facebook publicity from Sue and posted a new style format for the March meeting announcement. The new format was well received. There should be a fixed post at the top of the page describing what u3a is.
- Previously there had been two Oban u3a Facebook groups and also a "Community Page". Since the two groups were moribund, they have been closed down, with only the Community Page remaining (<https://www.facebook.com/obanu3a>). Joan Kemp had managed this page, but was happy to hand over control once others were in place. Control now lies with Graham and Richard primarily, with Sue and Penny being added as additional backstops.

**Graham**

- **Membership categories**

Our constitution currently does not allow for honorary members or associates, only regular fully paid members and an Honorary President. The committee agreed we should have four categories: member, honorary member, associate member and consultant members. The latter category would not receive u3a Matters nor have voting rights. Penny will write up an amendment to the constitution to cover this and then circulate the constitution to the committee.

**Penny**

- **Changes to constitution**

Everyone to read over the constitution once circulated by Penny and propose any further amendments.

**Penny**

## **Groups**

- **Ukulele:** Having successfully launched the group, which currently has eight members (besides Annette and Steve), sadly the group convenor Annette and her husband Steve are moving back to Huddersfield. Before leaving, Annette has pre-planned a year's worth of lessons and arranged for Helen Anderson to take over as convenor, with Stuart Smith as Music Librarian and Mari Park responsible for refreshments. Joy will meet with Helen shortly to go over the convenor role and introduce her to Beacon.
- **Yoga:** New member Liz Smith has approached Joy with a proposal for a yoga group to be run by Tearlach MacDonald, a qualified and registered paid instructor with public liability insurance based at Kilchrenan, who could potentially run a class in Dalmally/Taynuilt or Oban. However, the Third Age Trust is against paid tutors in principle, plus there are complications with regard to separate payments for the tutor and hall rental and so, after discussion by the committee, it was decided not to proceed with this proposal. There was a similar request from a wild swimming enterprise on Mull, which would fall into the same category. In

**Joy**

lieu of a group there was discussion around a potential speaker opportunity, but since we are full for the foreseeable future, Penny will reply (and copy Rosemary) that it is something we may consider in the future, but that we are full right now.

Penny

- **Pickleball:** the main group is still growing and so we may need to consider a second group with its own convenor to keep numbers capped at 22 (this would be in addition to the beginners group). Joy
- **Gardens and Wildflowers/Crime Reading Group:** After a phone tutorial from Joy, group convenor Dot Dahl is now able to use Beacon for messaging, group records etc.
- **Out and About and Spanish** are now the only groups not using Beacon.
- **Reading Group 4:** Has now had two meetings. The membership is small but the group is keen to continue and recruit more members.

### Membership

- Although not present at the meeting, Neil's report highlighted that we now have 168 members (including one associate member), with several new members signing up for Pickleball and Ukulele.

### Treasurer

- The accounts have been posted in Dropbox.
- Richard apologised for not posting the accounts in February (due to there being no meeting that month) and reported that our account has been left as a business account by the bank, rather than being changed over to a community account.
- Only outstanding item for the accounts is the payment invoice for Bridge.
- We are still holding £1009.49 ringfenced in our accounts for the now defunct Mull u3a, in case they start up again.

### Speakers

- Since we are full for this year, Rosemary will slot Rosemary Power's talk on *folklore and life in rural Iceland before tourism* into the second half of the 25/26 speaker year and agree a month with her.
- Rosemary has also had a proposal from Caroline Burroughs of Cromarty for a speaker slot for her poetry readings. Joy will do some research on Caroline to see if this type of presentation will work for our members and then report back to Rosemary and the committee. Joy
- Rosemary reported that she already has a speaker lined up to talk on Gilbert & Sullivan for June 2026.

### Standing Orders

- Penny explained that when she took over as Chair the Standing Orders document was still in draft form and has since remained so. Penny will look over it, in conjunction with the constitution, and circulate the draft for comment. Penny

### Badge Trays

- The committee discussed a written proposal from Graham for new badge trays, since our membership is growing and the current system cannot cope with the number of badges. Graham has sourced conference badge

trays and estimates we would need four plus a case for carrying them. Although the committee agreed with the proposal in principle, more detailed information on tray size was required to see if the trays could fit into the current case. If so, maybe we could just purchase a second similar case rather than sourcing new ones. Graham to provide more information and Penny will check whether we can store the badge cases plus the banner and stationery at the Corran Halls.

**Graham/  
Penny**

### **Third Age Trust (TAT)**

- **Voting results:**

- Scotland's representatives on the newly created u3a council will be George Cleland from Edinburgh u3a, who will be joined by Liz Ervine (an existing Trustee) from Glasgow West End. For info, we did not vote for George.
- The four newly elected Trustees who will join Allan Walmsley and Derek Harwood on the Board from 1<sup>st</sup> April are: John Bent from Barnet, Pauline Green from Stansted Mountfitchet, Alan Russell from Worcester and Laurence Wale from Worcester. For info, we voted for three out of four of these Trustees.

### **AOCB**

- We need a new members welcome pack. Neil to check out the one offered in the Brand Centre.

**Neil**

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 9.15am in the Corran Halls.

*Minutes taken by Evelyn McManus, Secretary*