

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



obanu3a@gmail.com

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Chair's Remarks

I hope you have had a fun-filled summer and are looking forward to an exciting Autumn as our groups re-start. Don't just stick to what you know; come along to our Open Morning to see what else is on offer. We have an amazing variety of groups to exercise your brain or your muscles. If you have an idea for something new, please contact [David H.](#)

Most of us are retired and grateful to let others run things for us but some of you may have the skills that we are looking for. Consider joining our u3a committee and helping to keep this terrific resource running.

Sue

Interim Chair

Welcome to New Members

This month we welcome Christopher, Diane and Hazel.

AGM and election of officers 1st September

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 11.30am on Tuesday 1st September in the Corran Halls. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

U3A Open Day 1st September

From Astronomy to Walking; Pickleball and Discussions - do join us for a free cuppa and explore the opportunities available to you at our annual Open Morning on Tuesday 1st September at 10.30am in the Corran Halls.

Monthly Members' Meeting

Join us for a cuppa and a blether and see what we have planned for the future - Tuesday, 4th August in the Studio Theatre of the Corran Halls.

Oban u3a Group Reports (click the Group's name to go to its webpage):

[Art visits](#)

Exhibitions & workshops over the summer:

The 2026 [Artmap Argyll Open Studios Trail](#) takes place from Friday 21 August to Monday 31 August: click on the link to plan your visit.
If you'd like to share a visit with other u3a members, please let me know.

Eve Campbell - Transit: Sat, 11 Jul 2026 18:00 Fri, 11 Sept 2026 16:00

An Tobar, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Transit takes us on a colourful passage through ancient Atlantic woodland and past small rocky islands, exploring the diverse nature of Scotland's coastal topography. Reflecting maritime history, including Loch Fyne skiffs, Clyde puffers, and the waterways that connected local communities in a collection of bold, vibrant textiles and mixed media pieces.

RSA200: Celebrating Together - Life Drawing with George Donald RS

Thursday 13 August 2026 10:00 - 16:00

An Tobar, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

RSA200 Moving Image Programme film screenings: The Moving Sketchbook

Monday 17 August 2026 10:00 - Friday 28 August 2026 16:00

An Tobar Snug, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Beginners Pottery Residency – Isle of Mull

Monday 24 August 2026 10:00 - Friday 28 August 2026 16:00

An Tobar, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Clay Days with Rebecca: Form and Play

Saturday 19 September 2026 10:00 - Sunday 20 September 2026 04:00

An Tobar, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

[Astronomy](#)

A meeting has been set for August 18th at 2pm at Corran Halls. In addition, a number of interesting events are due shortly:

Astronomical Events Upcoming:

- August 12th: Solar Eclipse 6:08 pm (Please use caution and special glasses for this event. Always seek proper equipment and instruction for viewing the sun)
- August 27/28: Partial Lunar Eclipse (Americas) 2:23 pm.
- August 28th: Full "Sturgeon" Moon

Please note that we have inadvertently deleted the Astronomy group on Beacon! We have a list of most but not all members so please [email Liz](#) to re-register an interest.

Bridge Group

Numbers in the Bridge group are increasing slowly. We have a group who play relaxed Bridge while another group learn the basics. Whether you are a Grand Master, a complete beginner or somewhere in between do join us! We meet on Thursday afternoons in the Kilmore Hall.

Craft Group

There's no update this month. Please see webpage for further details.

Creative Writing Group

The Convenor writes:

*I hope you're still feeling creative,
Whether newcomer, incomer or native!
So unless you're laid up with the flu or distemper
We'll see you again on the 9th of September!*

Watch this space!

Discussion Group

The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month (this month, August 6th + August 20th). Quite often our discussions are political in nature, this month we discussed: the 'coronation' of Andy Burnham as leader of the Labour Party, would his ideas be good for Scotland; and, should MPs, MSPs or any elected person be able to re-stand as a candidate after resigning. But anybody can throw a subject out for discussion. Please bring cash for your drink. Anybody who wishes to join please get in touch with me through the contacts page on U3A Oban Groups or [email me](#).

Drama

The drama group is resting until September.

French Conversation Group

The French Conversation group is currently on their summer break. We reconvene on the afternoon of Friday 21st August, at the Lancaster Hotel. For more information, please contact Kathy or Anne-Marie via the Oban u3a website, or at the Tuesday monthly coffee mornings. We have a few spaces for new members who have an intermediate level of French conversation or above. You will be made most welcome.

Gardens and Wildflower Group

Due to family commitments and then a short period of continuing ill health, the convenor has been unable to confidently plan ahead for August. She'd greatly appreciate additional help, or, indeed, someone happy to be a convenor, or



Common blue butterfly: photo Dot Dahl

co-convenor, of the group. Unfortunately, if no one comes forward to help, this group, which has successfully taken members, in great social company, to lovely locations, to enjoy delightful selections of flowers, cultivated and wild, may have to close.

Common blue butterflies on birds foot trefoil - on which the female (right) lays her eggs and on which the caterpillars feed

Geology Group

The next planned activity for the group is the field excursion to the North-West Highlands, 22-24 September. If anyone else wishes to join the event, that is still possible, though finding local accommodation is now difficult. If you wish to join, contact us at fleming.a.z@btinternet.com as soon as possible for more details.

More dates for diaries: the winter programme in the Studio Theatre, Corran Halls, will begin on Tuesday 6th October, with two more meetings in October (13th and 27th) and provisionally two more in November (10th and 24th).

For those of you heading for a beach holiday, perhaps with youngsters in tow, the Scottish Geology Trust Beach Pebbles Guide (download pdf at <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Beach-Pebble-Guide-Scottish-Geology-Trust2021v1-1.pdf>) may help you search the beach!

Mahjong Group

This group continues to meet throughout the year. Come along to the Royal Hotel on a Monday afternoon to see how easy it is to learn.



Out and About Group

The out and about group had a lovely visit to the Station Bakehouse at the old Creagan station. Baking was wonderful and made by the lovely Gloria who hails from Spain.

Pickleball - Competitive

The group plays in Atlantis from 09:00 to 10:30 on Friday mornings. However due to school bookings the 14/8/26 session will be from 16:00 to 17:00, the rest of the month is normal morning times.

We have an active membership of 27 and regularly play on four courts instead of three. Please contact the convenor if interested.

[Pickleball - Recreational](#) and [Pickleball Plus](#)

There's no update this month. Please see webpage for further details.

[Reading Group Classic Reads](#)

The Jane Austen group has transformed into a Classic Reads group - reading and discussing works by noted authors - not necessarily their best known works. New members welcome. We're a small group as yet and may have some flexibility about meeting times/days.

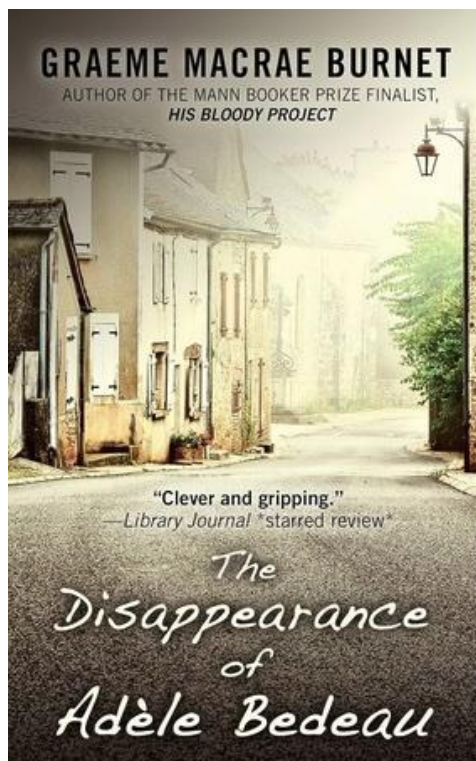
[Poetry Reading Group](#)

The next meeting on Tuesday 4th August at 2.00 p.m. is at Mary's house on Seil. The theme is Families. Please let Joy know if you're able to attend and if you would like a lift. A couple of members have offered places in their cars: details from Joy.

[Reading Group 1 - General](#)

The group enjoys a wide range of genres with titles chosen by members of the group. This group is currently full. Please see webpage for further details.

[Reading Group 2 - Crime](#)



'It was an evening like any other in the Restaurant de la Cloche'. These opening lines capture the banality and tedium of life in the small town of Saint-Louis in 'la France profonde'. In Graeme Macrae Burnet's 'The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau', the evidence is not always the truth.

This dark, addictive tale concentrates more on atmosphere than on action and brings together two unfortunate and grey men - one a suspect, the other a detective - with more in common than they know. The pace is slow and suspenseful, the reveal even more so. A past and tragic crime becomes entangled in the perplexing disappearance of a young waitress, thus producing a devastating outcome.

An intriguing story with loose ends and mis-directions, Burnet presents a barely-concealed, deceptive trick in his translator's afterword.

Our next meeting is on 13th August at 17.00 in The Falls of Lora Hotel. Our book choice is Robert Goddard's 'This is the Night they Come for You.

[Reading Group 3 - Fact and Fiction](#)

'Penelope Unbound' by Mary Morrissy (2023)

This novel is based on the true relationship between Nora Barnacle (his muse and wife) and James Joyce. Although, from the moment they arrived in Trieste station in 1904, aged 20 and 22, the story takes off and the author reconfigures Nora as an 'unbound' woman, who takes charge of her own destiny and follows a completely different trajectory. She does not wait for Joyce in the station, as he bids her, but accepts a lift with an unknown man and a totally different life for Nora Barnacle unfolds.

The story is very well-researched and makes reference to Joyce's writing, as well as to their friends, acquaintances and families. There are numerous references to things that actually occurred in their lives, but the lines between fact and fiction get blurred as this is a novel, one in which the reader has to suspend belief and go with the narrative flow of Nora's reimagined life.



We had a fascinating discussion, instigated by Penny, based on her current reading of the biography 'Nora' by Brenda Maddox (1988). Clearly there's a huge background to the novel and we only touched the tip of it as we talked about Joyce, his codependent relationship with Nora and their extraordinary life

together. There is so much more to learn about them both and about indeed about his great literary works.

Our August book is 'The Bird Skinner' by Alice Greenway (2014)

[Reading Group 4](#)

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on 27th August at Ganavan, the book is 'Behind the Scenes at the Museum'

[Science and Technology Group](#)

The 2025/26 season of Science Group meetings has now finished, and the group is taking the usual break for the summer. Activities will resume in September. Our thanks to all who have attended our meetings and helped deliver another successful season, especially the speakers who have presented a wide range of interesting and inspiring presentations.

During the summer we will start planning future activities and we welcome your thoughts and feedback. So please do let us know your suggestions, interests and possible contributions. All ideas are welcome! Please write to us at obanu3ascience@gmail.com

[Scottish History Group](#)

Scottish history will resume in the autumn. The plan is to invite speakers on various periods over the course of the winter months. There will be the delayed session on the 'Declaration of Arbroath'.

[El Grupo Español](#)

El Grupo Español tiene una extra-razón por ser feliz porque hemos introducido una otra ronda a nuestras sesiones en que cada personal tiene que compartir un chiste con el resto del grupo.

¿Que mas?

Para decir la verdad no hay mucho que decir. Sin embargo, estoy muy satisfecho con las contribuciones del grupo durante la ronda que llamamos 'El Compartimiento'. Para mí, esa es la mejor parte de la reunión a causa de la variedad de asuntos. Otra vez, quiero dar mis gracias a vosotros por la preparación y los ejemplares. En la última reunión cubrimos un rango de asuntos que reflejan los intereses de los socios incluyendo: un comentario sobre la corrupción en la Copa Mundial con la suspensión de una tarjeta roja; un video sobre el conquistador Orellana; un reportaje de una visita al Galeón Andalucía; una anécdota de la visita de unos amigos a Oban y música en la

Catedral de San Juan: y una discusión sobre lo que mas te gusta de España y también de Escocia.

Hasta la vista baby,
Tony

[Table Tennis Group](#)

As the summer months are a busy time for Group members, and Atlantis is booked for children's activities during the school holidays, play has currently been suspended and will resume on the 31st August.

[Ukulele Group](#)

How about joining us as we sing and play our ukuleles? We would like new members and hope you'll come along and be part of our friendly and welcoming group. We plan to meet throughout the year. No ukulele? Members have kindly offered to bring along ukuleles to get you started and tuition is at hand.

Be good to see you - Tuesday evenings, 7 till 9, Congregational Church, Tweeddale Street (Just up from Chalmers shop. Enter street level, middle door.)

[Walk and Lunch Group](#)

We are looking for a new convenor for this popular group. Thanks to Liz for all the time and effort she has put in over the years.

Edited by David Alcock ObanU3ANews@gmail.com
