



Welcome to our first AGM.

Chair's Report

Our first year has been a great success – 46 members by the end of March 2024, a full programme of speakers thanks to the efforts of Frank Ledwith and other members of our u3a, with topics ranging from the life of a doctor in the Orkneys to Bute's red squirrels.

We enjoyed a "bring and share" Christmas party and quiz, and celebrated our first birthday since our launch in March with a very colourful cake.

Our interest groups have developed over the year, with enthusiastic members co-ordinating diverse groups such as crafts, origami, outdoor sketching, French and Spanish conversation, walking, foreign films and printmaking. New groups will develop over the coming year as new members join with different skills and interests. A poetry group is currently developing on Tuesday afternoons at Ferfadd Court. All the group leaders are thanked for generously giving their time and skills, and in some cases hospitality.

The committee has had some ups and downs. It has been particularly hard to recruit a Treasurer, without whom we would be unable to continue. Thanks are extended to Heather Macbeth-Hornett and Paul Ashton, who were prepared to take on this role but had to give up due to health reasons. However, with a rejig of the roles of existing committee members, we have now overcome this problem. We are also pleased that 3 people have agreed to join our committee to help share the workload needed to run our u3a. Thanks are due also to Paul Vincent, for his support in maintaining the website.

Barbara Rimmington and Frank Ledwith

Accounts 2023-24

Isle of Bute u3a

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Year Ended 31/03/24	Year Ended 31/03/23
Receipts		
Grants		£400.00
Membership	£235.00	£465.00
Refreshments donations	£75.87	£17.20
Total Receipts	£310.87	£882.20
Payments		
Postage	£1.45	
Printing		£16.50
Refreshments	£81.40	£17.30
Room hire	£200.00	£30.00
Speaker fee/gift	£56.25	
Stationery		£9.75
Total Payments	£339.10	£73.55
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-£28.23	£808.65

Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2024

	Year Ended 31/03/24	Year Ended 31/03/23
Opening cash at bank	£808.65	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-£28.23	£808.65
Less payments not yet presented at bank	£34.25	
	£814.67	£808.65

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Grants Received

Start up grant of £300.00 from u3a (UK) and £100.00 from u3a Scotland.

3. Room hire

Monthly meetings held at Bute Baptist Church, no specific payment requested, but we make a donation of £20/month (10 meetings per year).

X

Barbara Rimmington
Acting Treasurer

10/5/24

D. A. L. Renn,

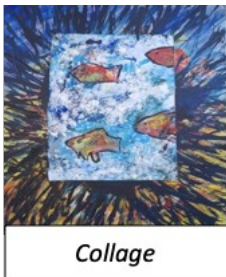
Lawrence Renn
Independent Examiner

10/05/24

Reports from Groups

Printmaking Group

Caro Preston and Yennie van Oostende started a printmaking group in October 2023 to share their enthusiasm for making prints. Participants have been able to have a go using different techniques of printmaking during 6 sessions. We have explored mono printing, gelli printing and collagraphy, making our own printing plates. In total, we have had 18 people joining 1 or more sessions, from absolute beginners to those who are well versed and who have been able to rekindle their love for printmaking. We are taking a break during the summer and plan to start back up in September.



Collage



Gelli printing on fabric



From plate to print



Walking Group

Our walking group on Bute meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Members are free to decide where to go and how long the walks should take, but we always have a leader who knows the route. We've been on sunny strolls on beaches and wandered a few mud-splattered paths in the year since the walking group started. It's a small, sociable group and we're always happy to have new members join us (whatever their ability). I have enjoyed co-ordinating the group and it's been a real pleasure to meet the people who come along to participate in the walks. Marion McCartney

French Conversation meets on the second and fourth Monday afternoons of the month, in the residents lounge at Ferfadd Court. We are a very mixed ability group and talk about a chosen topic each time. It's surprising how quickly we gain confidence in speaking, even if our French is very rusty. We often have the help of a local French Ardbeg resident, Brigitte, who is a great help when we forget a word, and of course it's good to hear an authentic French accent. We started in January with about 10 people in the group, and normally have 6-8 people at each meeting. The meetings are supposed to last an hour, but we often go over as we get engrossed in the topic. So far we have talked about journeys, books, films, food, and places. Barbara Rimmington

Crafts Val runs a small crafts group from her home at Loch End. They meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons and try out different crafts.

The Origami Group meets once a month, on the first Tuesday, to enjoy folding fairly simple models together in a friendly, supportive (and sometimes hilarious) atmosphere. We currently have five active members, and have been happily folding together since our first meeting in June 2023. Along the way we have folded envelopes, bags, boxes, rabbits, numerous Santa Clauses, and modular cubes, amongst other things. Our group coordinator Paul generally leads the sessions, and ensures that we always have one or two sets of instructions available for that month's session. Paul has been folding origami models for over fifteen years, and is finding the experience of teaching origami skills, to those with less experience, very rewarding. Origami can be an interesting challenge to mind, patience and dexterity, but usually the satisfaction of completing a model is worth the frustrations along the way - and it's a lot of fun. Paul Vincent



The Outdoor Sketching Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month, usually at 10am. We spend an hour or so sketching in our selected location, and then compare and discuss our work, usually over a coffee somewhere. It's a good way to enjoy being outside, observing, drawing or painting, and learning from others. If you're not used to working outdoors, it can be a bit intimidating when passers by want to have a look at what you're doing, but being in a group tends to take the pressure off. And most people are very impressed with what we do! In the winter we either sketched indoors, or stayed close to a cafe where we could warm up. In our first year, we met up with the Paisley u3a sketching group, once in Skelmorlie and once on Bute. We also organised a trip to the Banksy exhibition in Glasgow. It's good fun, and a challenge! Barbara Rimmington

Spanish conversation There are 5 of us now and we meet fortnightly in the Bonnie Bling for about an hour. A topic is chosen and we all say something about it and ask questions. You don't need fluent Spanish to join in! Angie Webb

Foreign Language Films meets fortnightly at Marjorie's house (due to licensing complications). After an initial good attendance at group meetings in the autumn there was a considerable drop off in attendance to levels which were not viable. So it was decided to postpone meetings till after the summer and explore the idea of a more cooperative style of choice of films to watch and with a new group leader. Frank Ledwith