

Isle of Bute u3a Chair's Report June 2025

Last year we had 46 paid up members of the u3A, this year we have 51, so we have managed to build on initial, founding enthusiasm and get over the second year hurdle which bodes well for the future of the u3a.

Almost all the groups set up in the first year, as portrayed on our smart, colourful website are still running, with the exception Origami. We have a new group, Spanish conversation which would welcome new members, as would all other groups apart from Foreign Language Film which has a waiting list. Some groups are not meeting during the summer months, for example the Film, Printmaking and Crafts groups. The monthly members meetings have seemed to be a useful way of maintaining a sense of community and we have had a wide variety of speakers (and size of audience!). The committee continue to discuss ideas for broadening the scope of these meetings but have not come to any firm conclusions.

As ever we would welcome more members on the committee. The tasks are not onerous so I would hope we can recruit a Secretary as an office bearer, as set out in our constitution.

Frank Ledwith, Chair

Accounts 2024-25


Isle of Bute u3a

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2025

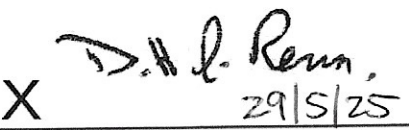
	Year Ended 31/03/25	Year Ended 31/03/24	Year Ended 31/03/23
Receipts			
Grants			£400.00
Membership	£750.00	£235.00	£465.00
Refreshments donations	£78.02	£75.87	£17.20
u3a magazine (2)	£4.00		
Total Receipts	£832.02	£310.87	£882.20
Payments			
Accountant	£50.00		
Beacon admin system (3)	£79.00		
Postage		£1.45	
Printing	£15.00		£16.50
Publicity	£71.85		
Refreshments		£81.40	£17.30
Room hire (4)	£200.00	£200.00	£30.00
Speaker fee/gift	£34.20	£56.25	
Stationery			£9.75
Third Age Trust membership (5)	£188.00		
u3a in Scotland (6)	£4.60		
u3a magazine (7)	£166.08		
Total Payments	£808.73	£339.10	£73.55
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£23.29	-£28.23	£808.65

Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2025

	Year Ended 31/03/25	Year Ended 31/03/24	Year Ended 31/03/23
Opening cash at bank	£814.67	£808.65	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£23.29	-£28.23	£808.65
Less payments presented after 31/03/25	-£34.25	£34.25	
	£803.71	£814.67	£808.65

X  26/5/25

Barbara Rimmington
Acting Treasurer

X  29/5/25

Lawrence Renn
Independent Examiner

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Basis of Accounting

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

2. u3a magazine receipts

Only one member has elected to pay for the magazine. We now receive one library copy paid for by our membership, available to borrow at meetings

3. Breacon admin system

We pay £1/member per year. We paid both 2023-24 and 2024-25 this year.

4. 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).

5. Third Age Trust Membership

We pay £4/member per year to the national u3a organisation.
We paid both 2023-24 and 2024-25 this year.

6. u3a in Scotland

We pay £0.05p/member per year, and accidentally paid twice this year.

7. u3a magazine

We were invoiced for everyone receiving the magazine in 2023-24.

We reduced the number of magazines gradually in 2024-25,
and the u3a changed their magazine distributor.

We received a Credit Note for £44.08 for overpayment for 2024-25.

Our current bill is £8.00 for 2025-26 which is set against this Credit Note.

Reports from Groups

Spanish conversation group meets fortnightly in Bonnie Bling and has increased in size but would still welcome members.

Foreign films group has been watching an array of foreign language movies the last season. They were usually selected by the members. The meetings were hosted by one of the members and therefore restricted to 10 members.

We have a waiting list for this group, so there is an opportunity to start a second group if someone has the facility to show movies (DVD or streamed) for a group of people (to avoid licensing problems).

French conversation group continues to meet on the second and fourth Mondays on the month, 2-3pm at Ferfadd Court residents lounge. We have discussed a variety of topics - tourism, technology, Spring, family, food. We are a very mixed ability group, often with the benefit of one or two native French speakers to help out when we get stuck. Our conversations often stray away from the chosen topic as we get sidetracked by an interesting anecdote.

Outdoor sketching group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10am usually to sketch outside but indoors if the weather is unsuitable. We learn from each other, exchange ideas and organise outings to interesting locations both on the island and off, eg to the Caol Ruadh sculpture park at Colintrave and Ascog Fernery.

Print making group met monthly during the year 2024–25, welcoming, new and old members to the group. It's always a sociable couple of hours spent enjoying making prints from a range of experimental techniques which do not require a printing press and can be made from easily accessible materials. We've explored mono-printing, gelli plate printing, collagraph printing, and most recently a technique called 'Chine Colle' which is a combination of printing and collage. We intend to start meeting again in September; on the Thursday in the afternoon at the Moat centre's Green Room. We invite others to join us; we tend to be a rolling group as members have other commitments sometimes. There is no need to have any experience before you come along.

Walking group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Our walks are varied in difficulty and distance, both on and off the island. Members of the group take turns to lead walks or suggest new areas to walk.

Isle of Bute u3a

Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting

held at 2pm on Friday 13 June 2025 at Bute Baptist Church, 7 King Street, Rothesay, PA20 0DD.

1. Welcome and Apologies

There were 16 apologies, one proxy vote and 13 members in attendance.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 14 June 2024

These minutes had been circulated in advance and were briefly summarised by the Chair. There were no amendments proposed and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. Chair's report

This report had been circulated in draft in advance. The main message was that membership had increased from 46 in the previous financial year to 51 in the current year, thus indicating a healthy prospect for continuing viability of the group. Some detail was given about the current 7 interest groups which are running and corrections given as to the situation on waiting lists which are incorporated in the final Chair's Report to be posted on the website.

4. Financial Report

The accounts as signed off by the Treasurer and by the independent scrutineer had been circulated in advance. It was noted that we had made a profit of £23.29 in the year and a year end balance of £803.71. Details were given on the main items of expenditure. These accounts will now be posted on the u3a website.

5. Membership of the Committee

The proposal presented was:

Chair Frank Ledwith

Treasurer Barbara Rimmington

Secretary at present vacant

Ordinary members Helen Marshall and Linda Crofts.

This was proposed by Frank Ledwith, seconded by Yennie Van Oostende and agreed unanimously.

6. AOB

Frank Ledwith asked for suggestions for widening the scope of the speakers and format of the monthly members meeting. It was suggested that members of the Open Studios Group (IBAC) might be willing to talk about their work. Other suggestions included Bute Animal Rescue, Archaeology, Coastguards, RNLi and various heritage groups. These suggestions will be followed up as various members agreed to explore contacts to approach.

The meeting closed at approx 2.30pm, followed by refreshments.