

## u3a SWN Meeting - October 03

### Meeting Notes (Zoom Companion)

#### Meeting Information

<b>Event name</b>	u3a SWN Meeting
<b>Time</b>	Oct 03, 2024, 05:15 PM - 07:02 PM (BST)
<b>Participants</b>	Attendees Ken S, Jacqui F, Derek P, Elizabeth E, Anthea W, Susan L, Nicky L, Derek S, Rhianon W, John W. Apologies Peter C, Lynn S

#### Quick recap

The team discussed the accuracy of AI-generated meeting minutes and the need for corrections, as well as updates on charity events, fundraisers, and the transition to a new web system. They also discussed the upcoming AGM resolution, network activities, and the challenges of transferring websites. Additionally, they explored the potential of online courses for members, the usage of Whatsapp groups for informal communication, and the migration of the South Wales Network's website from Site Builder to SiteWorks.

#### Next steps

- John to set up and administer the WhatsApp group for the South Wales Network.
- Derek Shottin to offer an introduction to Beacon via Zoom for interested members.
- John to send Jackie Derek Shottin's email address to facilitate Beacon demonstration.
- Ken to include details of online courses in the newsletter to encourage member participation.
- Derek Shottin to continue developing the South Wales Network website pages on the Wales website.
- All U3As still on Site Builder to urgently contact the SiteWorks team to discuss migration before mid-December.

#### Summaries

#### AI Minutes Accuracy, Charity Events, and AGM Updates

The team discussed the accuracy of AI-generated meeting minutes and the need for corrections. Ken reported on a charity event requiring volunteers and fundraisers, and Derek Pope shared a positive experience raising funds through a charity talk. Ken mentioned transitioning to a new web system. David, the new treasurer, is still waiting for bank details from the previous treasurer to complete the transition of signatories. Ken led a discussion on the AGM resolution and network activities. John from Bridgend shared updates on their committee's functioning, charity commission details, and plans for an open day. Rhiannon discussed their focus on committee members and a summer festival. Nicky expressed concern about finding replacements for outgoing leadership roles. Derek Pope discussed implementing Beacon online entry, upcoming events like a trip to Oxford and a pickleball group. Jacqui reported their AGM is scheduled for November and they are seeking new committee members. John asked Derek Pope about the cost of their coach trip.

#### **Local Artist Event, Website Challenges, and U3A Updates**

Jacqui discussed the upcoming local artist event and the challenges she faced with transferring their website. Derek Pope suggested that not all website features need to be used and guided training could be beneficial. Jacqui also mentioned a potential collaboration with another U3A nearby and shared details about a recent talk on seal rescue. Elizabeth, a new member from Cowbridge U3A, introduced herself and shared that her group has around 60 members, with several upcoming events and a successful committee. Derek Pope added that they are planning a bring and buy event as a fundraiser. Anthea reported on the progress of new groups and an open day. Susan and Elizabeth discussed plans for the organization's 30th anniversary next year and their attendance at an autumn network link event, where they heard about regional summer schools from a speaker from Yorkshire.

#### **Discussing East Anglia's Teamwork Model and Collaboration**

Susan, Elizabeth, and Nicky discussed the successful model of teamwork from East Anglia, which they had adopted, and suggested that this approach could be beneficial for other groups. They emphasized the importance of collaboration and support among members, and mentioned the ongoing efforts to establish a volunteer hub in Port Call. Susan also highlighted the benefits of collaboration, such as empowering others without feeling overwhelmed, and mentioned an ongoing project aimed at achieving this goal. Ken acknowledged and thanked Susan for her input.

#### **Encouraging Online Course Participation and Excursions**

The meeting discussed the usage of online courses among members and the potential for encouraging more participation. Ken mentioned that he includes details of online courses in his newsletters to encourage members to attend. Elizabeth suggested that members might benefit from online courses but might be hesitant due to lack of computer savvy or unfamiliarity with Zoom. Derek Pope noted that members can use online courses independently and don't need to report back. Anthea and Derek Shottin shared that they still have active Zoom groups in their U3, which are popular among members. Ken also mentioned that the last talk in the Forest of Dean was about Machu Picchu, which was well-received by the attendees. Plans for a Christmas lunch and excursions to Oxford were also discussed. Nicky shared that their away days, which started in 2018, initially struggled to fill but have since gained momentum, with plans for an overnight trip next year.

### **Trust Resolution Discussion and Concerns**

Ken led a discussion about the 3rd day's trust resolution, seeking input from the team. Nicky expressed concerns about the lack of representation for their region and the Council's choice of chairman. The team agreed that the resolution did not fully address their concerns and suggested an extra year would have been beneficial for proper representation. Nicky also expressed concerns about the decision being rushed and the potential consequences, suggesting more time for discussion and resolution would have been beneficial. Ken acknowledged the potential difficulties that might arise. Elizabeth shared the outcome of a committee vote, revealing a majority in favor of the decision, despite some disagreement. The team seemed to accept that the decision would likely pass and they would have to manage any issues that arise.

### **South Wales Network Website Migration Discussion**

Ken and Derek Shottin discussed the migration of the South Wales Network's website from Site Builder to SiteWorks, with Derek Pope emphasizing the urgency due to Site Builder's shutdown. Derek Pope shared his progress on the new website, which is currently in its early stages and will be hosted on the Wales website with no additional charge. Derek Pope also mentioned that the Wales website will serve as a template for other regional websites in the UK. Ken proposed a way forward to Susan Parker, which was to be discussed with the Site Builder team. Derek Pope and Rhiannon agreed that the new site builder was easier to use and had a more modern appearance compared to the old one. Ken expressed his anticipation for the new site to be up and running before January.

### **Southwest Network Whatsapp Group Proposal**

Ken proposed the idea of setting up a Whatsapp group for the Southwest network, which John Williams had already initiated. John explained that the group would be used for informal communication and sharing of events, and would be encrypted for security. Derek Shottin expressed concern about the misuse of Whatsapp groups for non-work-related content, but Ken suggested that the administrator could delete such posts or remove the user from the group if necessary. The team agreed to schedule the next meeting on Thursday, the 23rd of January, and discussed the possibility of Derek Shottin introducing Beacon to the group via Zoom. The conversation ended with the team expressing gratitude for the productive discussion.