

MINUTES OF U3A West Wales NETWORK Meeting

Tuesday 5th November 2024. Held at The Radley Room. The Guildhall, Cardigan.

David thanked those present for their attendance especially those who had travelled from the other side of the network area. He also thanked Cardigan U3A for hosting the meeting and for the refreshments. He welcomed Ann and Phillippa, the two Carmarthen members, who attended and explained briefly that the network was a platform which allowed for members of the different U3A branches to have informal discussions.

PRESENT

David Grindrod (Chair), Jan Manning (Treasurer) Hazel Towle, Paul Edwards (Newcastle Emlyn) Ann Tyson, Phillippa Verity-Davies (Carmarthen) David Poulton (Llanelli) Carol Matthews (Pembrokeshire) Howard Lillyman (Cardigan) Colin Luker (Wales Trustee).
Observers, Gwyneth Grindrod, John Towle.

APOLOGIES

Kay Howells (Narberth) Sandra and John Ivinson (Llanelli) Ruth Smith (Newcastle Emlyn) and Peter Loughran (Carmarthen)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting (with the exception of the fact that Carol (Pembrokeshire) had sent her apologies, and this was not recorded)

MATTERS ARISING

David stated that as discussed, the Constitution has now been posted on the website
On the subject of capitation it was agreed to remain with the current system of collecting £0.10 per paying member. It was agreed that those U3A branches that have honorary membership do not include these in the calculation. It was also agreed that the network treasurer emails the branch treasurers at the appropriate times to request payment.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David announced that Graham Goodeve who founded a lot of the U3A's in West Wales, and was instrumental in the founding of the West Wales Network has passed away.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jan produced the accounts showing the balance as of last night 4th November which shows £. There is a cheque for £ which hasn't cleared yet and Narberth made a bank transfer of £ this morning, so the actual balance of the account is now £. The only expected expense is the hire of the room for today's meeting. Jan explained that collecting the capitation from members was made difficult because she did not have an up to date contact list. This will be rectified and also details of the Treasurer of each branch will be added to the list.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nothing to report

WEB

Site Works is now up and running and is a lot easier to administer

NETWORK Branch REPORTS

1. Pembrokeshire

394 members (in middle of renewal of membership so this figure might change).

AGM will be held in December.

Looking to change website to Site Works.

At last meeting heard that Llanelli had a group called Desert Island Discs and now Pembrokeshire are running a very successful/lively group following the same principal.

We also have a new wind ensemble.

On the renewal forms we asked if anyone have an interest or expertise that they could share with other members and now have at least eight new groups from this exercise.

We are also planning another 'Graham Goodeve Study Day' next Spring.

2. Llanelli

94 members

Held an outing on 5th June

Chair Paul Cullen wef 1.8.24

There are six members on the committee but three of these are due to leave.

Held a coffee morning in August to recruit new members and had a grant from Head Office of £ for this.

Working on the Beacon System.

Newcastle Emlyn

202 Members

Around 30 interest Groups including a group called MOTO (members on their own).

AGM held in July was well attended.

Theology Group went to the meeting in York and had a stand.

Aug - outing to Hay Castle and the various bookshops.

September- new members meeting, twenty-six new members from this exercise.

At Christmas holding 'Festive Frolics' for the committee followed by Dinner at the Rugby Club

2025 will be 30th Anniversary so planning celebration at Cliffe Hotel

Now applying for Charity status with the Charity commission.

Carmarthen

154 members and five committee members, at present do not have a vice chair.

Desperate to recruit leaders and committee members

Holding a special meeting on 21st November to facilitate this.

Phillippa Verity Davies has been appointed Secretary - she would welcome any feedback from other U3A's

Cardigan

180 members

3 new groups- Tech Group, Craft Group and Castle Bagging (visiting Castles and Houses in the area)

Visit to Henlland Prisoner of War camp (just outside Newcastle Emlyn)

The ukeule Group is very popular and entertain in Local Care Homes

Monthly Meetings very successful

Attended a Conference in Aberaeron which was a celebration of 'older people' with various charities etc also in attendance.

Have problems recruiting Group Leaders

AOB

Colin Luker (Wales Trustee) drew our attention to the fact that there were elections for both the Board and the Council and nominations were due to close shortly.

He explained that there is a grant of £255.00 payable to any U3A towards the cost of an event to recruit new members to their Branch

David asked if anyone would be willing to attend a meeting in Newtown on 20th November. He has been invited by Colin to attend a meeting which will be attended by all network chairs, and he is unable to attend because of a prior engagement.

Howard and Carol volunteered to see if they can attend.

CONSTITUTION

It was agreed that David would submit an amendment to the constitution to allow for the event of no suitable volunteers to fill the officer vacancies.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the AGM and will be held in Narberth

Details will follow at a later date

The AGM will be at the Bloomfield Community Centre, Narberth

On: Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 10.00 for 10.30 am.