

## **U3A WEST WALES NETWORK AGM**

**Location:** N D C S A Community Centre, Redstone Road, Narberth, SA67 7ES

**Date:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Time:** 10.00 am to start 10.30 am

## Welcome and Apologies

### Attendees:

David Grindrod	Carmarthen (Chair)	<b>DG</b>	
Jan Manning	Pembs (Treasurer)	<b>JM</b>	
Kay Howells	Narberth (Secretary)		<b>KH</b>
Howard Lillyman	Cardigan	<b>HL</b>	
Colin Luker	Trustee Wales		<b>CL</b>
Jackie Brown	Narberth	<b>JB</b>	
Paul Edwards	Newcastle Emlyn		<b>PE</b>
Peter Loughran	Carmarthen	<b>PL</b>	
Phillippa Verity Davies	Carmarthen	<b>PVD</b>	
Gwyneth Grindrod	Observer		
Roger Manning	Observer	<b>RM</b>	

### Apologies:

Llanelli, Cefn Sidan Branches, Hazel Towle and Ruth Smith (NCE), Carol Mathews (Pembs)

## 1. Minutes of the previous meeting

### A. Accuracy

PVD Noted the following corrections:

First Paragraph: Carol was not from Carmarthen, there were only two attendees

Carmarthen's Report: Peter and Ann run a lot of groups, but not the majority. It was Phillippa and not Ann who was appointed Secretary.

These corrections were proposed by JM and Seconded by ?

### B. Matters arising

Nothing to note.

## 2. Officers Reports

### A Chair

i) The Chair apologised for the late issue of the minutes and stated other matters were taking his time. He also stated that he expected things to improve going forward

### B Treasurer including Finance Report

i) The Treasurer stated finances are in order with no major expenses, only paying for venues. All contributions have been received from member u3as.

ii) She reported some issues setting up her signature with the bank which is now resolved and access to online banking is also available..

iii) At the last AGM it was decided that it was necessary to collect capitation from the various branches in the group and this has been achieved.

iv) The only expenses that we have incurred during the year are payments to The Railway Goods Trust for the hire of the venue for the meeting held in Llanelli and to the Guildhall for the meeting held in Cardigan.

v) The treasurer felt there was no need to discuss collecting capitation from members at this meeting. The meeting agreed that any capitation requirements of member networks would be raised at each meeting rather than being fixed at the AGM, though nothing was currently anticipated.

vi) Many thanks to the Narberth branch for meeting the cost of the venue hire for the AGM this year.

vii) Acceptance of the Report was Proposed by JB and Seconded by PE and accepted unanimously.

### C Secretary

i) No Report Submitted

### D Webmaster

i) The Webmaster stated that the network site is fully migrated to site works, and noted that is the case with all Welsh networks. He reported that the site has minimal content, but has links to all individual u3as within the network.

### E Branch Reports

i) Narbeth

a) Narberth reported current membership at 175, maintaining its level. There have been some committee changes with the retirement of a member who did most of the work, leading to a big learning curve for remaining members.

b) She stated that they were looking for help and support with Beacon. PL said Carms would be happy to help, and others pointed her at the national support team, who have helped others. Arrangements will be made to meet to arrange this outside this meeting.

- c) A New non-fiction book group had been created, not for discussing books but just to summarise the content of what they are currently reading.
- d) Also have new spontaneous trips group, where each person is responsible for their own arrangements. all arrangements are managed via WhatsApp.
- e) Narbeth now has a webmaster and the new site is now up and running along with a Facebook page.

ii) Pembrokeshire

- a) This u3a reported an increasing membership of 450+ <sup>1</sup> mostly driven by walking groups
- b) Wednesday June 11th they will be organising another Graham Goodeve Study Day - Pembrokeshire my county, which will cost £15 and be in Hook sports hall. The day will commence at 10am with Coffee/Tea followed by Pat Barker-Swales who will talk about music in Pembrokeshire through the years. After a light lunch provided by The Bearded Chef there will be another speaker... TBC  
Tickets will soon be on sale and as normal, places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- c) The wind orchestra has been very successful, to the point where Haverfordwest town council wants to adopt it as the town band. Narberth reported they have a concert arranged featuring them and this will be publicised to the network.
- d) RM is working on the new siteworks site which should be live in the next few weeks.
- e) They also reported some interesting speakers over the last few weeks including on scouting and a talk from West Wales River Trust - adopt a tributary. May be of interest to other u3as.
- f) They were also pleased to say that they have a centenarian member who is in the tennis group

iii) Carmarthen

- a) The u3a currently has 156 members and are glad to report that 4 new committee members have been appointed.
- b) There is a new film group based in the library, which has shown two films so far. The darkest hour and The godfather. PL says there was some concern about members' own films being covered by the national U3a licence as the library use is conditional on members of the public being allowed to attend. CL volunteered to get clarification from the national group.
- c) The history group has a talk by Dr Mary Thorley on Lloyd George and the suffragettes tomorrow and there is a special event by photographer Nigel McCall on his Antarctic trip on Friday. In addition the Music group has reformed and follows desert island disc format.  
Jackie asked for clarification on whether bbc sounds broadcasts can be

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<sup>1</sup> Later corrected by correspondence to 420

shared with members in their own homes as part of CLs licensing checks with the national u3a.

iv) Newcastle emlyn

- a) They reported they have 206 members and carried out 33 group activities this month, some meet more frequently than monthly, so not quite that many groups.
- b) Their charity status application is well in hand
- c) The new moto group is going well, and they needed to establish a second writing group. The gardening group is on hold as no current leader.
- d) There was a Christmas skit before the lunch with elves and songs
- e) The 30th anniversary celebration arrangements are underway with a (Surprise) guest speaker and the committee will be entertaining.

v) Cardigan

- a) This u3a currently has 194 members and has set their subscription the same for next year at £16
- b) New groups that have been set up are a moto group with 19 members using a WhatsApp group; script writing; and board games
- c) The quiz group has restarted and is joining pub quizzes and recently achieved 2nd and 3rd places, there were 2 teams from the group.
- d) Desert Island discs it to start next month
- e) They were grateful to Ann Kitchen from Carmarthen who made them aware of some levelling up funding which they have taken advantage of for some courses. They also have an application in for a speaker on wildlife under the same arrangements.
- f) They have an application into the national u3a for funding for an open day, advertising etc.
- g) They reported that the Committee is working well, and they have a new group coordinator.
- h) Their monthly Newsletter is popular

Vi) Wales National Trustee

- a) CL asked for everyone to use their vote for representatives
- b) He also reported grant system changes to simplify the process and that there are large grants available too. The grants include one for Facebook advertising.
- c) PL reported on the chairs' forum pleading for members to take print magazine, this was thought to be likely a fundraising issue.

### 3. Constitution Amendments

- A. These were Proposed by PL Seconded by HL and accepted unanimously

## 4. Election of Officers

### A Chair

i) Nominations were proposed but not accepted and that DG should continue as chair was proposed by JB second by HL

### B Vice-chair

i) No nominations were forthcoming and the post was left vacant. The chair proposed that in his absence the hosting u3a should provide the chair. This was correctly Proposed and Seconded and accepted unanimously, but a note of names was not taken.

### C Secretary

i) The Chair reported that PVD had put herself forward for the position and thanked KH for stepping in and for her contributions. PVD was Proposed by HL and Seconded by PE and accepted unanimously..

### D Treasurer

i) The chair reported that KH was happy to continue in the role of Treasurer. This was correctly Proposed and Seconded and accepted unanimously, but a note of names was not taken.

## 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A. On the 19 March there will be an all-Wales network meeting in Newtown and attendees were sought. HL, PL and possibly PVD said they may be able to attend.
- B. Llanelli had asked the chair to raise in their absence that they wished to have the option for a virtual attendance. There was significant discussion about this and the challenges of having effective meetings with some physical and some virtual attendees and it was considered to be undesirable. However in the attempt to address what was thought to be the underlying issue, i.e. travel to locations on the edge of the network, it was proposed that we should trial having all meetings in Carmarthen for one year and review that position at the next AGM. All attendees, including those for whom this would be the longest travel time, thought this was a reasonable suggestion. There were some potential venues discussed which would be firmed up following the meeting.
- C. All contact lists need to be verified and updated, including the respective treasurers

## 5. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

A. Location: Carmarthen venue TBC  
Date: 17th June 2025  
Time: TBC