

2026 AGM Minutes

U3A WEST WALES NETWORK

Date: February 10th 2026

Time: 13:30 -

Venue: Bro Myrddin Indoor Bowling Club, Carmarthen, SA31 3BS

1. Apologies and Welcome

a. Attendees

Cardigan	Howard Lillyman
Carmarthen	Ann Kitchen
Carmarthen	David Grindrod (Chair)
Carmarthen	Gwyneth Grindrod (Observer)
Carmarthen	Peter Loughran (Webmaster)
Carmarthen	Phillippa Verity Davies (Secretary)
Cefn Sidan	Paul Reynolds
Llanelli	Paul Cullen
Narberth	Jackie Brown
Newcastle Emlyn	Hazel Towle
Newcastle Emlyn	Ruth Smith
Newcastle Emlyn	Julia Pearson
Pembrokeshire	Jan Manning (Treasurer)

b. Apologies

Newcastle Emlyn	Colin Luker (Council Rep)
Pembrokeshire	Carole
Narberth	Kay Howells

2. Previous Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting

3. Matters arising

All actions arising had been completed

4. Officer Reports

a. Chair

The chair reported that he was glad to have a year with all officers in place. There was then a debate as to whether the meeting location should remain in Carmarthen or rotate, as previously. The chair asked for a show of hands and there were 5 branches in favour of continuing at the same venue one abstention one branch in favour of rotation. The meetings will remain in Carmarthen, at the current venue.

The chair also proposed that we should move regular meetings back one month, so the network meetings would be in March, July and November.

This should mean that school half terms would be avoided. This was agreed by all present. Meetings would be either the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month, decided at the previous meeting.

b. Treasurer

The financial report was distributed, and the treasurer reported that although we have a reasonable balance, the projected expenditure for rent of the venue during the year would take most of it. So there will again be a capitation of £0.10 per paying member levied against the branches in July. This was agreed without objection. The treasurer reported that the bank, Nat West, had mailed stating that they would be introducing charges for the account. The treasurer double checked with the bank and confirmed that there should be none. The treasurer also stated that the payment section in the constitution should remove the option for Cash, so that payment was by cheque or BACS only.

RS proposed acceptance of the financial report which was seconded by HT, this was carried unopposed.

c. Secretary

There was nothing much to report, the process of getting reports in advance of the meeting is working ok. A consolidated PDF of all reports, with all contact details removed will be provided to PL for publication on the website.

d. Council Representative

Please refer to the written report in his absence.

5. Branch Reports

Note these notes are additional comments and responses to questions that supplement the information provided in the reports.

a. Cardigan

Membership up slightly to 207, the branch is adopting SiteWorks for their website, making a considerable saving over previous hosting arrangements.

Pembrokeshire noted that their move to SiteWorks, when they added a new member pack to the site, seems to have driven an increase in membership. HL recommended the Dŵr Cymru outreach speaker

b. Carmarthen

PL reported that the branch was reaching a stage when it was difficult to accommodate all members who wished to attend monthly meetings and asked if others had the same issue. On the whole it was not a general issue, although Cardigan did have an issue when they staged a panto in December.

c. Cefn Sidan

Nothing to add to report

d. Llanelli

The branch will have officers stepping down shortly and have a replacement treasurer but no Secretary. The January meeting was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. A June trip to Brecon has been organised using the remainder of the grant from The National Lottery.

The branch is increasing fees to £25, from £18 as the current level is not covering increasing costs. Despite being the most populated town in the region, membership is one of the lowest. This is thought to be because there are lots of competing organisations for the same demographic.

e. Narbeth

This branch is finding that with a small committee of only 5 they struggle with workload.

f. NCE

The branch chased the progress on their application with the charity commissioners and were advised they were sent an email last May to say there were issues, which was not received. They have had to restart application for registration as a charity,

g. Pembs

The branch reported they had 10 more recent members. The proposed aviation group never got off the ground and their gardening group now has a new leader. They have held both a group leaders' lunch and a new members coffee morning for leaders to promote their groups. They also advised that the ensemble is going from strength to strength and has a strong relationship with the local council. The representative also recommended a recent ex consultant as a speaker and offered contact details.

6. Biannual meetings between Branch Officers

This is a suggestion from Eric Kitchen in Carmarthen and included wider roles such as membership secretary. The thought being that this could spread good practice and form mutual support groups.

There was some discussion around this but many were convinced making any formal arrangement was probably not the best option.

Action: 2026.01 PVD The secretary should email the chair of each branch to ask if they have any one interested in such an arrangement, or alternatively anyone who would be happy to mentor / assist others in the same roles in another branch.

7. Constitution Changes

The constitution needs to be reviewed and refreshed, **Action: 2026.02 ALL** Would all attendees please reread the constitution, which is on our website and advise the secretary of any changes they think should be made. Please complete this before the end of February.

A revised version with marked changes will then be distributed to attendees, and any Chairs not present at the meeting, for final comments before distribution in advance of the July meeting where the new constitution will be voted on.

8. Election of Officers

a. Chair

Hazel Towle was nominated by HL and seconded by JB, elected unopposed

b. Vice Chair

David Grindrod PVD Seconded by JM, elected unopposed

c. Secretary

No nominations and the current incumbent is happy to stay on post

d. Treasurer

No nominations and the current incumbent is happy to stay on post

Secretary's Note:

The incoming Chair, as well as the continuing Secretary and Treasurer would like to thank David for all the work he has done in holding the network together over the years he has been Chair.

9. AOB

- a. Carmarthen reported an encounter with an S4C presenter who was completely unaware of the u3a and thought that the welsh representatives on the council should try to reach out to attempt to increase the awareness within that organisation. **Action: 2026.03 PVD** Pass the suggestion on to the council reps.

10. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

July 21st 1:30pm Carmarthen Indoor Bowling Club

Hazel Towle
26.02.26