

## Minutes of General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – held after AGM

Same Attendees as AGM

1. Chrys Short (Ystradglynais) reported that rather than establishing a new u3a the decision was made that Ystradglynais would function as a satellite of Abertawe u3a. This is all going smoothly with an open day being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. A number of special interest groups are already established.

2. Jacki Fowler (Pontadulais). Had held a very successful Open Gardens day. The feeling was that this event had helped encourage a community feeling and raised awareness of u3a in the area.

A grant had been secured from the local council to support an afternoon tea. Members are asked to bring along a non-member as a guest.

3. Julie Kennedy (Newport) reported that a local history book is now with the publishers.

A holiday and day trips have been organised

A nine week Pottery trial is due to commence

After discussion within the meeting, it was agreed that a request from ITV Wales to interview members be declined, because of ITV's wish to make it a political discussion. As the u3a is not a political organisation that would have been inappropriate.

4. Derek Shottin reported that Chepstow has launched Site Works which is running successfully – a few minor tweaks and improvements being made.

Wells Cathedral was suggested as being a worthwhile destination for a day trip

Bank Transfer had been found to be an effective way of collecting membership fees

A Skittles evening will be held in June

5. Ken Syme (Forest of Dean) suggested that if a u3a is arranging a visit where another u3a is present that it would be useful for there to be communication which might enable the local u3a to engage and support.

A survey exploring people's feelings about falling or hearing about other people's falls has been circulated to a number of U3a's.

6. Rhannon Wiillams (Gilwen) asked whether the Ethics Committee at TAT is still functioning. If so, requests to take part in research projects could be referred to the national ethics committee rather than individual u3as undertaking their own due diligence. It was pointed out that these researchers are all linked to a university and so will have undergone research ethics approval. Nicky advised that this subject would be part of TATs governance arrangements and Kate Cowan could be contacted if guidance is needed

7. Elizabeth Eustace (Cowbridge). Reported that their membership has increased by 64 mainly due to Facebook and Open Day activity.

A meet and greet is planned for new members

A survey of new members is planned to establish whether they feel they are getting what they want from their membership of u3a

Membership cards – looking at a different approach. Is there any need to have these? Practice does seem to vary but the overall feeling of the meeting was that membership cards are no longer required. However, it was pointed out that a membership card would be required if a member is attending an event offered by another u3a

Mid Wales Opera are attending their next general meeting and feedback will be given at the SW network meeting

8. Constitution. A number of u3a's have been holding fire on amending their constitutions until the new national constitution becomes available. This has been approved by the board and is now with the Charity Commission and it is not possible to give a time frame for when it will be available. Therefore, it was advised that u3as do not wait to update their own constitutions

- 9 John Calvin (Caldicott) reported that Pickle Ball seems to be a good source of recruiting new members. As is Facebook

There is a need to undertake Fire Drills in all venues used by groups

Banking – As the local bank branch has closed Caldicott has moved their account to a building society . There is no charge for this account as u3a is recognised as a charity.

Have reviewed the venues for Open days in order to attract new people rather than 'People we already know'

Elizabeth Eustace – have purchased a U3a gazebo for use at similar events and has found this has attracted significant attention

#### 10. AOB

Secretaries meeting (7<sup>th</sup> May), Attendance was disappointing but those attending found the meeting very useful.

Nicky Lee reminded the meeting that there is also a national treasurer's group

The meeting closed at 18.55