

U3A WEST WALES NETWORK

Minutes

Date:14th July ,2026

Time: 13:30 - 15:30

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

1. Apologies and Welcome

Attendees

Phillippa Verity Davies	Narberth	(Secretary)
Hazel Towle	NCE	(Chair)
Jan Manning	Pembs	(Treasurer)
David Grindrod	Carmarthen	(Vice Chair)
Peter Loughran	Carmarthen	(Webmaster)
Ruth Smith	NCE	
Roger Manning	Pembs	
Colin Luker	NCE	(Wales Council Rep)
Ann Kitchen	Carmarthen	
Paul Cullen	Llanelli	
Richard Swann	Carmarthen	
Observer:		
Gwyneth Grindrod	Carmarthen	

Apologies

Jackie Brown	Narberth
Carol Matthews	Pembs

2. Previous Minutes

The AGM minutes were circulated shortly after the meeting, corrections made and published on the website.

3. Matters arising

All Actions either completed or are later on the agenda

4. Officer Reports

a. Chair

HL reiterated thanks to DG for the period as Chair.

Most activity since the last meeting has been associated with the Eisteddfod. We now have a West Wales Network logo from TAT, which has been used on the leaflet as well as a bilingual version, which they were not able to supply. HT and PVD attended an all Wales network meeting via zoom, see council representative report for more details.

This network will be taking forward a plan for meetings for those in similar roles in each branch, mentioned at the AGM. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

The TAT AGM resolution is now available. Individual U3as are encouraged to vote whether for or against the motion otherwise TAT will assume apathy and move forward without consulting the membership. There are two key dates, the first is for suggesting changes and is at the end of the month after which there will be a period to vote on the resolution.

U3A TRUST 2026 AGM RESOLUTION

Draft resolution:

This AGM asks the Third Age Trust Board to conduct, within twelve months, a formal consultation with member u3as on Trust activities involving advocacy, public campaigns and public-facing statements of policy or position, to ensure such activities are proportionate, consistent with the Trust's charitable educational purpose and the member-led principles of the u3a movement. The Board shall publish the consultation responses together with a reasoned statement of its conclusions and proposed actions and shall report to the following AGM on progress against those actions.

One of the all Wales network meetings will be a course, rather than a meeting per se. The topic of that course will be the choice of the networks, what they think will be most useful. **Action 2607.01** All to let the Secretary know the preferred topic.

Note that there are new incident forms on the TAT website, which need to be completed and sent to them following any incidents. As these forms contain personal information of those reporting, who may not be a u3a officer, as well as the person involved in the incident, there was discussion of potential GDPR issues at the All Wales network meeting and the representatives have taken that back to the council.

b. Treasurer

The treasurer circulated the financial report and stated that the remaining two capitations are in hand. See separate attachment

c. Secretary

The secretary reported that the possibility of officers in a given role getting together for 'Birds of a Feather' meetings for self help and support had already been mooted to the chairs of the branches. To be clear this means a meeting with, say, all treasurers or all secretaries to share hints and tips, concerns etc. Now that more officers had been included on the submitted

reports she had planned to solicit interest and preferences from the officers directly.

She noted that she had been working with the Chair on matters relating to the eisteddfod.

d. Council Representative

The Representative circulated his report including a summary of the All Wales network meeting that took place last week.

There was a general discussion around bank charges, as recently many banks have stopped providing free charity accounts. Various banks were mentioned as in use by branches, with and without charges. CAF apparently is a small bank specifically set up for banking for charities.

5. Constitution

The acceptance of the revised constitution was proposed by RS and seconded by PL, accepted unanimously. **Action 2607.02** Secretary to add date of adoption to the document and send to PL for publication

6. Eisteddfod

Work has been completed on identifying volunteers and scheduling the manning of the table as well as designing leaflets and getting them printed. A grant was received from TAT for expenses and that will include a £10 subsidy for volunteers, as all will have to buy tickets to attend.

The leaflets are bilingual and generic for Wales with lists on WWN and SWN branches on the back. Copies were circulated for information. Welsh banners from Carmarthen and Cardigan will be used at the event and individual u3a branch leaflets will be distributed where provided, u3a key rings and sweets to be handed out. Lanyard and badges will be provided to volunteers.

DG stated he was not comfortable with the funding going to NCE, rather than the network. CL explained that at the time of application there was no way that TAT could give grants to Networks, only to individual u3as, this has now been recognised as a gap and has been addressed by TAT. CL and HT reassured DG that there will be a clear auditable account of all expenditure for the Eisteddfod and RS explained that the grant was ringfenced in the NCE accounts.

7. Renewals (HL)

This item was not discussed in absence of HL

8. Branch Reports

Please see separate consolidated document for full reports.. The notes below reflect only topics discussed in the meeting as additional to those reports.

a. Pembs

The branch held an information day where group leaders met new members.

They also plan a trip to St Fagans in Sept

The Film group is very successful, it is held in someone's home and using DVDs provided by the members.

As the desert island disks group has completed rotation through the members choices they now have themed rounds, one of which was songs to be played at "my funeral" (sic).

There was a general discussion about potential issues with group events in people's homes. PL stated that Carmarthen had moved away from doing so and CL

reported that there are an increasing number of safeguarding issues being referred to head office. PL asked if there should be more guidance from TAT. It was suggested that this should be added to the agenda for AWN in November when Kate Cowan talks.

There was discussion about whether the network should have safeguarding training, also about welfare officers and the potential for this to expand into almost a carer role.

b. NCE

AGM resulted in changes of officers.

Now registered as a charity

c. Llanelli

Quarterly tea in Amelia's on Pembrey airport

An open day with Pontydulais was successful, gaining them 20 new members. The premise being members could only come for tea and cake if they brought a friend who was not a member.

Next monthly coffee morning will be a talk on keeping safe.

PC reached out to Cefn Sidan to offer members an alternative u3a when that one closed but no one came forward.

Now the branch has a card machine managed by the treasurer which works well.

PL suggested we should consider sharing groups more widely in the network. CL reported that that was something currently being looked at by the council and a number of approaches were mentioned including Memorandum of Understanding, and Associate Memberships. JM stated that it is only feasible when groups are not full, and if no additional charges are levied there had been an instance where a group set up by one u3a found that they were paying for a venue where all the attendees were from another nearby u3a.

d. Carmarthen

AK discussed their visit to Scanda Vale - stating members found it a wonderful experience

Some groups are struggling with low numbers, as well as group leaders stepping down, so may become inactive or suspended.

A first aid course is being run by St John's ambulance on 1/10 spare places will be offered to other u3as.

9. AOB

PL stated that job description templates provided on the TAT site need to be simplified as they often put people off taking up roles as they are so wordy. CL reported that NCE are actually drawing up a spreadsheet with all the tasks that are done by the committee and it's substantial. HT wondered if this might be something that the networks could help with.

PVD advised that she had had an email from digital inclusion and asked if she should circulate. It was thought she should. **Action 2607.03** Secretary to circulate DI email.

10. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

November 17th 1:30 pm same venue

Hogart, Towle
24.1.26