Notes of SW network meeting held on 13th July via zoom

1. Welcome by Ken Syme (Chair)
2. 11 members present . Nicky Lee (Council member) in attendance
3. Two apologies received – Karen Green and Jayne Treasure
4. Permission to record the meeting. Agreed
5. Chairs report. Attended meeting for officers of each Wales network. Potential workshops to be offered, suggested topics include succession planning and motivating members to volunteer. These workshops will be face to face and £50 will be available to each u3a to support travelling expenses . Further details to follow and members to vote on the options or to make suggestions for different topics. There will be a TAT member of staff present at the November all Wales meeting. SW network will use our September meeting to coordinate the questions we wish to put. (To prevent duplication) Cher Palmer (Welsh Language subject advisor) will join our September meeting
6. Treasurer report – no change
7. Local reports
   Cowbridge -membership continues to grow and new groups have been established . AGM is in September and are looking for a new secretary. Moving to having on line membership cards. There are a small number of older members who are not on line but these numbers are decreasing
   Chepstow - having a summer drink party for members. The stand at the Welsh Fun day helped advertise u3a in the local area but no new members as a result. Celebrating 40 years next year. Challenge – the local bank branch is closing and charges for cheques.
   Cardiff - membership stable and some new groups established Challenge is succession planning for committee members and in particular the Group Coordinator role. Established a team to help manage monthly meetings. Introduced card readers Issue of venue is causing concern. The current venue will be undergoing a 12 month refurbishment, a central venue is needed but likely to be more expensive. (Cowbridge is facing a similar issue)
   Abertawe – working to support the Ystradglynais model. Looking to identify what is needed to support new models of working
   Nicky Lee asked what changes would be needed in Beacon to support different models of working . Abertawe does not use Beacon so potential for Gilwen to be a pilot.
   Gilwen – Living stones project going well . Issue – succession planning for the committee
   Sully – slight drop in membership. A number of special interest groups have waiting lists

   General discussion A question about the Forwarding system on websites so committee members email address are not visible. If using site works this is not a problem. Could the all wales meeting be anywhere else than Newtown? The practicalities of travel between North and south disused. Suggestions for other venues requested. Hybrid meetings could be a solution but currently the technical ability to support this is not available .It was felt that repeating the same subjects at these all meetings is not particularly attractive and we need to look at new subjects. Also we need to look at different models of managing our u3as - many u3a are struggling to recruit committee members and lack of committee members is the most common cause of u3as having to close . So we need to explore different ways of working together . It was recognised that the impetus needs to come from the membership .

It appears that a questionnaire about the Rewards in R- Stecruitment issued in May has not gone out to everyone. This will be reissued . Does the network communication system need updating? Need to check Nicki's communication list for accuracy.
Torfean – New constitution has been agreed .
USK – stable membership numbers . Possible new group - Rumicub. General discussion regarding having guests at meetings. In the specific case discussed those present felt it was appropriate to allow the quest to attend.
8 Resolution to be put at the National AGM in Octobler. The general feeling amongst those present was that they supported the resolution to require TAT to consult the membership before any move toward a campaigning role is made. Members will take this question back to their u3as. This subject will be on our September meeting agenda. It was recognised that any move to adopt a campaigning role at national level is a major change and therefore consultation is vital and therefore the vote needs to be YES in support of the resolution

8. Older persons commissioner – offers free talks and comes highly recommended
9. Network network needs updating - action Ken to discuss with Garry
10. AI – on line workshops being planned – focus would be on practical application
11. Meeting closed 7.15 Date of next meeting September 22nd – 6pm via Zoom