

**MINUTES OF CHEPSTOW U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM
TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2021**

Present: Nicky, Shelagh, Pat, Marion, Irene, Sandra, Anne, Alison, Pam, Hugh.

Apologies: Wilf, Ruth

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted.

Matters arising: None

Covid - Hugh

There has been little change in the last month although up to 6 people from 6 different households can now meet indoors (not in private houses) without social distancing. Announcements on future relaxations are expected from both Welsh and English government next week. Once the next steps are understood, we will need to consider what advice or guidance to give to conveners on non-mandatory issues.

Convener Liaison – Anne

Wilf has stepped down as co-convener liaison for personal reasons. He will continue to be a valued member of the committee. Wilf was thanked for his invaluable contribution to the role over the last 2½ years. Anne will take on a team leader role and will recruit a team of people to work with the groups.

Gardening - Sandra has stepped down as convener, Barbara Hellin does not want the responsibility of being sole convener. Sandra approached Alison Shuttleworth but she has declined. A co-convener is urgently needed.

Easy Walkers – Rachel will continue with the website and Beacon during re-organisation of walking groups.

Spanish Beginners – will await for Covid restrictions to allow meetings in members' houses.

Chepstow Festival of Arts – Nicky

The Recorder and Ukulele groups will be performing and the Art, Flower Arranging and Photography groups will be mounting displays. It was agreed to use the u3a PA system in Beaufort Square, loan three tables for information kiosks and to loan two exhibition boards to Mencap.

The u3a art groups are organised for their exhibition in the Palmer Centre but volunteers are needed to help man the u3a stand – hopefully outdoors. Anyone interested should contact Derek. **Action:** All.

Programme – Marion

Bookings are being finalised for meetings through to the end of October but ideas are sought for the November meetings. Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month will be hybrid meetings from August. It was agreed to continue Tuesday Live twice a month through to the end of March 2022.

Feedback on Tuesday Live has been very positive with compliments on the quality of the speakers and the variety of topics.

Social Events - Pam

A Summer Picnic will be on Tuesday 10th August. A provisional booking has been made for the bandstand and electrical supply, but confirmation is awaited from MCC. It was agreed that a glass of fizz will be provided to each participant.

It was agreed to book the Drill Hall for the 2022 quiz on a Friday at the end of January/beginning of February. **Action:** Hugh – completed.

Membership – Irene & Sandra

During June, 11 new members joined, eight members resigned and three sadly died. As at 30th June, membership on Beacon was 837. This compares with 931 in 2020. 11 members renewed in June. 62 members have not renewed by 30th June and have now been lapsed on Beacon.

It is hoped that the easing Covid restrictions will allow us to increase recruitment in the second half of the year.

Marketing – Nicky

Planning of the Open Day continues and Chepstow Town Mayor, Tom Kirton will be invited. A poster was agreed following discussion. An A1 poster will be placed at the Leisure Centre with a number of A4 posters on noticeboards around the town.

New banners will be ordered from a local company for the gazebo and for general awareness-raising. A4 general awareness posters will be printed for town council and other noticeboards. The A1 poster in the leisure centre has been changed.

Website

Alison is taking over from Chris Whiteman as Webmaster. The committee expressed huge thanks to Chris for the work he has done over the years.

Secretary - Hugh

The nominations for u3a directors were discussed and it was agreed to vote for Liz Thackray as Chair, Micaela Moody as Vice-Chair, Derek Harwood as Treasurer and Sue Shannon-Jones as Trustee for Wales. Shelagh will be the Chepstow delegate for the AGM. **Action:** Hugh – completed.

Treasurer – Pat and Ruth

There is now increased activity showing in the finances. At halfway through the year we are on track to remain within budget, with a major reduction in costs for the magazine. It was agreed to reduce the membership income forecast to £8,800 with a commensurate reduction in Gift Aid. The financial statement will be revised and re-issued. **Action:** Pat.

Network

Smaller u3as are struggling, particularly where members are not comfortable with technology. Chepstow is seen to be unusual in the number of members using Zoom etc.

Chairman - Shelagh & Nicky

It was agreed to re-start coffee mornings at the Palmer Centre starting with the first Saturday in August (7th). This will be promoted at Tuesday Live meetings and in the August magazine. **Action:** Nicky.

Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd August at 11:30 am at the Drill Hall