

Summary Minutes SWM Meeting 10th January 2024 at 6.00 pm

Wales Trustee

An email was received the day before the SWN meeting to say that she has resigned with immediate effect. No reason was given.

SWN AGM March 14th 2024

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman will not be standing again, we currently have no Secretary and the Treasurer has already done two extra years. If SWN u3as do not step forward with nominations for Officers there will be no SWN after the AGM. Nominations must be received by the end of February.

Eisteddfod 2024

Cardiff emailed the SWN Chairman at the end of the SWN meeting to say that 'Cardiff is pulling out of organising a presence at the Eisteddfod'. All discussions that took place at the meeting regarding the Eisteddfod were therefore irrelevant.

Reports from u3a

- Christmas events: Quiz, Lunches, Craft Fair, Turkey and Tinsel, Coffee Mornings and Monthly Meetings.
- Should u3as keep Christmas parties free, charge for them, or abandon them altogether?
- Planned: Newport and Chepstow Concerts, Inter Groups Quiz. Bridgend Open Day. Several AGMs due. New Groups started or due to be started.
- Cardiff Science Group lectures – will they restart? Need support from Cardiff University. Caldicot and Monmouth have very good Science Groups. See their websites.
- Susan (Porthcawl) will send a Word version of a very good Coffee Morning poster which can be distributed to SWN u3as so they add their own dates.
- Venue problems. Costs, closures.
- A Newport member has volunteered to go to BBC Pensions talk in August.
- Chepstow and Caldicot will be involved in Town Charter celebrations in 2024.
- Porthcawl invitation to their monthly talks at the Hi Tide – see their web site.
- All u3as are autonomous independent charitable organisations and can set their own rules within their charitable obligations. For instance if a u3a

member joins a second u3a they do not have to pay the membership fee to TAT again - but it is up to the second u3a whether they apply this.

- If a u3a folds the disposal of funds is governed by what is stated in their Constitution. The funds often go to an adjacent u3a.
- Facebook Group for Fit for the Future:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/u3aforthefuture/?locale=en_GB
- Speakers for Monthly Meetings: u3a members cannot charge for their services but can ask for expenses. List of recommended speakers on SWN web site – see SWN Sharing Activities.

Welcome and Induction of new members

- Chepstow has tried leaflets, booklets, coffee mornings. Will try A4 document on joining.
- Caldicot comprehensive welcome pack seems successful. Discount vouchers idea?
- Cowbridge monthly meeting with Officers.
- Bridgend monthly café meeting.
- Are members invested in their Groups but not to their wider u3a? More of a problem with larger u3as?
- Members committed to other local organisations so haven't time to join u3a Committee.
- Don't have to be on Committee. Form sub Groups. May get some who will then become more interested in u3a and go on Committee.
- Get members to sit at Committee meetings to 'try it out'.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday March 14th

- SWN AGM - Thursday March 14th at 6.00 pm on Zoom.
- Nominations for Officers must be received by the end of February. Ken Symes, Forest of Dean is willing to stand as Vice Chair.