Carmarthen u3a Caerfyrddin

2025 AGM

Location: The Bowling Club St Peter's Street
Date: Thursday 29th May 2025
Time: 2:00pm

1. Apologies and Welcome

I. Committee Present:
Peter **L**oughran (Chair)
Eric **K**itchen (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)
Ann **K**itchen (Group Coordinator & Newsletter Editor_
Phillippa **V**erity **D**avies (Secretary)
Shirley **McF**arlane
Richard **S**wann
Susan **E**dwards
Ann **T**yson

II. Apologies:
Eleanor Baird

2. Minutes of last meeting - accuracy

I. Minutes of the previous AGM on 30th May 2024 were duly proposed and seconded and signed off by Peter Loughran.

3. Matters arising

I. There were none.

4. Chair's Address

I. PL noted that the main points of his report had been sent out to the membership by email/post. However, he wished to add that he felt that there was much to celebrate, not least, that the U3a was growing steadily. He reminded the attendees that u3a was a member led organisation and was sure we could do more. PL pointed out that there was a social value for members in coming to U3a events, some stronger than others.

II. There are 25+ groups with new ones in the pipeline and PL urged members to come forward if they thought they could help. He pointed out that to share the effort groups could have shared leaders and pointed to the walking group and the discussion group as good examples where this was working well.

III. Carmarthen u3a is part of the West Wales Network which is an opportunity to find out what other u3a's are doing.
IV. Some of the Committee are standing down and new members are needed to keep the branch alive and responsive to the needs of the members. There are lots of jobs both on and off the Committee
V. PL finally paid tribute to the current Committee for all their hard work and to the group leaders who do so much to keep their groups flourishing and attractive to fellow members

5. Treasurer's Report

I. The Treasurer's report was also distributed to all members in advance of the meeting and the accounts have been verified by the Independent Examiner (Stephen Earles), this was also included in the distribution.
II. There was a question from the floor as to what constituted the revenue payments and EK explained the cost of using Beacon (£1 per member), hosting the website and West Wales network administration costs (£0.10 per member) were the elements.
III. EK explained that while the increase in 24/25 to £18 was felt necessary in expectation that venues would increase their charges, these increases were lower than expected. There are therefore no plans to ask for another raise in 2026.
IV. The treasurer reduced reserves between 2023 and 2025, and the surplus has now been reduced but felt that it was still too high as only 6 months expenditure is the recommendation. Chris Driver disagreed with this and believed that the surplus should be maintained.
V. EK referred members to the graph within his report that illustrated both the reduction in reserves and income distribution which is mainly members' fees. He also stated that $^{2}/_{3}$ of members contribute to Gift Aid, which results in additional income from HMRC.
VI. In conclusion Eric stated that the branch's financial position was very healthy
VII. **Appointment of Independent examiner for 2025/26 Accounts.** Phillippa Verity Davies proposed that the current Independent Examiner (Stephen Earles) was accepted, Richard Swann seconded and with a show of hands, with no objections, it was passed.

6. Group Leaders Reports

I. An electronic copy of the Group Leaders report had been sent to all members prior to the AGM.
II. AK introduced herself and expressed the thanks of the committee Juliet for meeting and greeting, Kate and Jackie for registration and Fred and Carole for the raffle.
III. AK next gave a general overview of events including different lectures, photographic presentations and a variety of visits and tours. She had a special mention for Leah from

Pendine Enterprise, which is a Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire Council funding initiative for education and training. Leah has facilitated £2600 worth of craft courses for members in the last year, for which we are very grateful.

IV. AK also mentioned that a partnership had formed with Cardigan U3a and contributed to their recent 'Draw a Bird' exhibition

V. AK went on to thank group leaders for sending in their reports for the newsletter and praised the leaders for their effort and time. She also thanked Peter for all his hard work and this was reciprocated.

VI. Richard Swann made a verbal report for the Music Appreciation Group, apologising for not getting the written report in. The group reformed in January with input from Malcolm Berry after a hiatus, being set up originally by Peter and Betty Marshall who are no longer with us. He explained how the meetings are arranged, with members bringing along inheritance tracks on DVD or storage drives to play. The music ranges from classical to modern pop.

VII. Chris Driver as group leader of two groups, (Coffee Mornings and Art) stated that they were very friendly groups and new members were always welcome. She raised concerns that there are more groups starting on a Wednesday, clashing with the Art group which has been on this day for 10 years. Some of these new groups are ones that she and the other Art members are interested in but now can't attend. AK explained that we have so many groups it is extremely difficult to find a slot that doesn't clash. There was then a discussion about groups moving to evenings and weekends to ease the problem.

VIII. Les, one of the key members of the Poetry group, encouraged new members to come along, even if it was just to listen.

IX. Frances Thesiger mentioned the newly set up Start Speaking Welsh group and praised the tutor, Rosemond.

7. Nominations and Election to the Committee

I. PVD stated that the only nomination she had received was for Les Murphy.

II. This means that with 4 current committee members stepping down there was no need for any votes as there would still only be 6 members in total. Peter Loughran, Eric Kitchen, Richard Swann, Shirley McFarlane and Susan Edwards will remain on the Committee.

III. PL raised the point that with 5 members being the minimum required according to the constitution the committee remains fragile.

8. AOB

I. As part of Volunteers Week, CAVS will have a marquee in the grounds of the Bishop's Park and volunteers are needed to help out at the u3a table. EK explained the event is

primarily for volunteers from across Carmarthenshire as a thank you although it is also an opportunity for charities to set up a stall. Group Leaders plus those who routinely do the registrations would be eligible to attend in addition to the committee and Speaker Secretary.

II. Kate Waldron asked when the new officers of the committee would be advised, and when members would be advised of her replacement as Speaker Secretary. PL stated the plan was that the new committee would meet next week (w/c 2nd June) and an announcement would follow regarding the new officers and replacements for roles.