

## TORFAEN u3a - NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2026

*Hi everyone,*

*Our New Members Coffee morning took place on 16th March 2026 in the conservatory of the Crow's Nest, Llanyravon. It was well attended by new members, committee and convenors. Christine Andrews talked about the UK organisation and our local branch.*

*Thanks to all who organised and attended the event and provided snacks of quiche, scones and cake. A good social meeting which we hope to repeat next year.*



Should you need further information on Torfaen u3a activities you can find contact details for the committee toward the end of this newsletter or visit our web page. <https://torfaen.u3asite.uk>

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.**

### **Open Day/Presence in Cwmbran Town Centre**

Torfaen u3a will be in Cwmbran town centre on 18 April from 10am to 4pm in Gwent Square. A gazebo, table and chairs will be supplied. The committee are looking for members willing to help on the stand for two hour shifts if possible.

### **Coach Tours/ Holiday Group**

We are a recently formed group enabling members to take Day Trips, or longer, with likeminded people. We currently have 2 tours in the offing, a Day Trip to Stratford upon Avon with Jenson's Travel in April costing £18.50 per person and a North Wales tour with Majestic. The former has been well received with around 20 members signed up and the latter with 7. We are open to suggestions for future destinations from all. Our next meeting is at The Crow's Nest, Cwmbran on the Monday 13th April at 10:30. Please feel free to join us and offer any suggestions.

***Dori and Alex***

## **CRAFT NEWS.**



*No new projects this month we are carrying on with our knitting crochet and embroidery and other individual craft items. The photo this month is a small embroidered picture.*

*Our meetings are as usual in St Mary's Church Hall on Tuesdays at 12.30-2.00pm.  
Happy Easter everyone.*

***Rose***

## **FOCUS GROUP**

Our March meeting was held at Glaslyn Court with six members attending. Our theme for discussion centred around "At a time when nothing seems to be right, what impresses you most about our country". A wide ranging discussion, including references to culture, land of song, "Trumpism" (unsurprising in the context of the day's news and our liking for digression!), kindnesses and the issue of how to progress toward a fairer society, was both lively and enjoyable. There will be no meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Monday) but meetings will resume as normal in May.

***Lyn***

## **GARDENING GROUP**



Our group had an excellent trip to Chepstow Garden Centre where there was a lovely selection of spring plants and shrubs for sale. Many members came away with full baskets.

Most of us had lunch in the restaurant there, so it proved to be a good social event as well. The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 28th, 2 pm at Llanyravon Methodist Church and will be a plant swap.

## **HISTORY**

In our meeting in March we were given an interesting and very informative talk by our speaker Stella Evans about the renowned cook Isabella Beeton. Born in London on the 12th of March 1836 the daughter of a linen merchant Isabella Beeton nee Mayson was a Victorian wife ,mother and journalist whose Book of Household Management published when she was just 25, is one of the most famous cookery books ever published and is still in print today.

She was educated in Germany and in 1856 married Samuel Beeton ,a wealthy publisher and she began to write articles on cooking and household management for her husband's publications.

In 1861 she published the first instalment of her book which was an immediate success selling over 60,000 copies in the first year which sold more copies than Great Expectations by Charles Dickens who was the famous writer of that era. The book also contained advice on childcare, etiquette, entertaining and the employment of servants. It was illustrated with colourful engravings on nearly every page and was the first to format recipes in a layout which is still used today.

Despite producing a book illustrating the duty of women within the home Mrs Beeton herself was a woman in the public realm working amongst men and commuting to London every day with her husband and leaving her young children at home so stepping outside the sphere that her book so widely advertised .She also became the editor of her husband's magazine for two years.

She was writing an abridged version of the book which was to be entitled The Dictionary of Every Day Cooking when she very sadly died at the young age of 28 after giving birth to her 4th child.

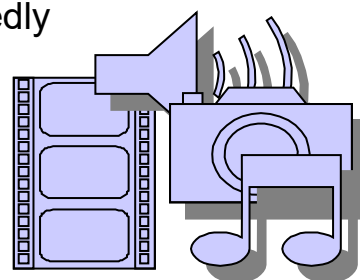
The popular belief that she was responsible for the modern cookery book is incorrect as in fact the format we are familiar with today with listed ingredients quantities and method was first made popular by a lady called Eliza Acton who Beeton freely plagiarised which apparently was a trend at the time ! However her name will always be associated with Victorian cooking and home management and I am sure many of us or our mothers would have had a copy in their kitchens.

The next meeting will be on Thursday the 2nd of April at 2pm at Llanyravon Methodist Church. The speaker will be the excellent Kay Blackwell who some of us have heard before, and the topic is The Life of a Secretary. Look forward to seeing you all.

**Regards Merle**

### **LISTENING TO MUSIC**

Neil Sedaka singing Laughter In The Rain was undoubtedly an apt choice to begin yet another rainy month and a new folk song for St David's Day called between Stone and Sea was enjoyed. Accordions, pianos, all kinds of horns and stringed instruments made their appearance and we were often in awe of the musicality of the performers. We found lots of music to inspire, console and make us smile. The following are a 'lucky dip' into the forty or more pieces of music we have enjoyed this month.



*Baker Street - Gerry Rafferty, Ravel - Pavane pour une Infante defunte , Erik Satie - Gymnopédie No.1, Mike Batt singing "The Closest thing to crazy", cajun music with pays d'en haut, Borodin: In the Steppes of Central Asia, I am a Woman – Helen Reddy, Boogie Woogie Piano , hits from the sixties and so much more.*

*Favourites old and new are interspersed with interesting facts and every Tuesday in one hour from 11 am to 12 noon on Zoom we try to find something for everyone. Do feel free to just drop in and listen. Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83882138264?pwd=VsBxP1HYxZCHZvL3jaX3bfbvsW8yoV.1>

### **LUNCH CLUB**

Our lunch at The Ship in Caerleon was a bit disorganised as they didn't seem to be ready for us, even though we were a smaller group than usual and had pre ordered the meals, the staff did apologise. Our meals were served all together which everybody enjoyed as well as the good company. Our next lunch will be on Friday 17th April at 12.30 at The Parc y Prior, in Malpas.

***All welcome. Best wishes, Ann***

## **SCRABBLE**

*We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Everyone welcome we are a fun group who doesn't take it too seriously and all enjoy the cake and biscuits.*

**Ruth**



## **POETRY GROUP**

At our March meeting, we focused on two poets – Breyten Breytenbach and Simon Armitage. Breyten Breytenbach (1939-2024) was a South African writer, poet, and painter. He became internationally well-known as a dissident poet and vocal critic of South Africa under apartheid, and as a political prisoner of the National Party–led South African Government. He was also known as a founding member of the Sestigers, a dissident literary movement, and was one of the most important poets in Afrikaans literature. We discussed two of his poems – ‘Rebel Song’ and ‘On the Road to the Kouga’.



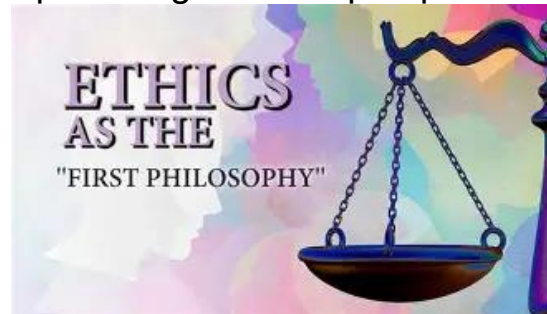
Simon Armitage, the current Poet Laureate, was born in West Yorkshire in 1963. After studying Psychology at Manchester University, he qualified as a social worker and worked as a probation officer in Greater Manchester until 1994. Now a published and acclaimed poet, teacher of creative writing and broadcaster, he currently is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds. He has received numerous awards for his poetry, was named the Millennium Poet in 1999 and was awarded the CBE for services to poetry in 2010. He has had a life-long passion for popular music and is lead singer and lyricist with the band The Scaremongers. His work combines wry colloquialism and humour with poignancy, treating subjects such as death, violence, and lost love with directness and wit. The poems we looked at were ‘A Vision’, ‘Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass’ and ‘You May Turn Over and Begin’.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 pm at Llanyravon Methodist Church. If you have an interest in poetry, why not come along and join us. You would be most welcome. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 23 April.

**Chris Andrews**

## PHILOSOPHY

Our last meeting took place on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Cwmbran Library. It was very well attended with 18 members present. The meeting took the form of a philosophical debate on “Moral Obligations to Assist Refugees”. Four of our members effectively addressed the group offering different perspectives.



The Universalist approach emphasises that

- Moral principles are universal.
- Refugees share equal moral worth.
- Assisting them is not charity—it is obligation.

A Special Obligations theorist can support:

- Accepting refugees when a nation has the capacity
- Providing financial and logistical support to refugee hosting regions
- Participating in international agreements that distribute responsibility fairly

A hybrid theorist argues that moral reasoning requires weighing obligations, not flattening them.

- What do we owe all human beings as a matter of basic moral concern?
- What do we owe our own citizens as a matter of special commitment?
- How can we meet both sets of obligations without undermining either?

An approach opposing ethical responsibility to helping refugees suggested

- We can care about refugees without accepting an ethical obligation to assist them.
- Responsibility must be grounded in capacity, proximity, agency, and democratic legitimacy — not in guilt or abstract moral universalism.
- Helping is a choice. It is not a duty.

The ensuing debate was lively, informed, and thought provoking. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our next meeting will be at **2pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** April in Cwmbran Library when Rafi Abbas will give a presentation on the philosophy of the Baha'i faith which teaches the essential worth of all religions and the unity of all people. Rafi is an excellent presenter, and all are welcome to attend.



**Baha'i Beliefs**

**Main Beliefs**

- **Harmony must exist between religion and science**
  - Started in modern science era
  - Need to harmonize them
  - "Religion and science walk hand in hand, and any religion contrary to science is not the truth"

**Baha'i Beliefs**

**Main Beliefs**

- **Compulsory education must prevail**
- **There should be a universal language**

**Baha'i Beliefs**

**Main Beliefs**

- **There is a basic unity of all religions**
  - All religions teach the same basic message
  - Difference should be ignored



Thanks to the 4 members who attended the Cowbridge U3A Quiz who represented Torfaen U3A admirably. Here is an account of the day from Carole

### **COWBRIDGE QUIZ CELEBRATION**

Four of our members represented Torfaen U3A on the 23rd March to help celebrate their 30th anniversary by taking part in a quiz which was held in the town hall in the main street of Cowbridge. Alex, Carole, Niel and John made up the team. There were 17 teams competing, 5 of them from Cowbridge. The other teams came from Swansea, Pontyclun, Porthcawl and other areas in S Wales. The quiz took the usual format of eight written subjects in question form and two picture questions.

Refreshments were served during the halfway point. *At the end of the quiz, the top three were announced and small prizes were given. John took a look at the scores and discovered that our team had come eighth.*

***Well done, Torfaen - we could hold our heads up.***

The quiz continues to become ever more popular with record numbers of 30 attending in March. Whilst it is great to see so many people enjoying the quiz, the increase in numbers attending is causing a few issues.

As I have said on a number of occasions I think it is sensible to have a maximum of 6 people per team. Those of you who attended in March will know that there were up to 9 in some teams. Many of you have mentioned to me that this causes issues with communication and some members feeling that their contribution is not valued simply because they are unable to be heard.

Whilst there is no easy answer to this and I certainly do not want to start restricting numbers, my proposal is:- that when numbers exceed 24 I will attempt to set up a 5th team and make them as even as possible. It will mean re-arranging the furniture but I am sure we can manage. It will also mean that the quizmaster will need to be a bit nomadic.

With this in mind can I ask that all members please arrive in plenty of time to get the teams sorted for a prompt 2:00 pm start. Thank you all for your understanding and if anyone has any better ideas or suggestions I am all ears.

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 2:00pm in The Ashbridge Pub. Everyone is welcome.....honest !      Next meeting Friday 3rd April      **Helen**

### **READING STORIES**

*"My name is Nat Davy. Perhaps you've heard of me? There was a time when people up and down the land knew my name, though they only ever knew half the story. The year of 1625, it was, when a single shilling changed my life. That shilling got me taken off to London, where they hid me in a pie, of all things, so I could be given as a gift to the new queen of England."*

The above extract from *The Smallest Man* by Frances Quinn is currently holding our attention and proving a very different experience to our young Japanese girl training to become a Geiko, who has to balance baseball and flower arranging and the autobiography of Mavis Nicholson, which continues to resonate with our own childhood memories of Whitsun walks and heads on desks at school.

A visit to 'death row' with Trevor McDonald made very sobering listening and a ghost story 'Where the crow flies the raven dies' was quite unsettling but 'Another side to St David' gave some comic relief as did Margaret Atwood's acerbic wit.

Extracts from books and magazines bring topics on various subjects and new writers and old favourites entertain. Our readings are many and varied

so please feel free to join us on any Monday; it doesn't have to be a regular commitment and we are happy to welcome members who prefer just to listen.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89712354545?pwd=5ZDHbawvYu95crjKZn5XryoeKlNLcJ.1>

## **THEATRE & EVENTS GROUP**

The Theatre and Events Group, met on the 18th March, with 14 members attending. The following were discussed:

### **Bois y Bryn**

The afternoon concert by this sea shanty group, is open to all u3a members. While many have already reserved or purchased tickets for Bois y Bryn at The library on the 29th April, 2-4pm, tickets are still available at £5.00 each. Please contact me at [casillman@gmail.com](mailto:casillman@gmail.com) if require one.

### **Gwen John Exhibition**

This is on Wednesday, 25th March at the National Museum, Cardiff. It was agreed that we would travel from Cwmbran, by bus with some joining earlier or later in the journey. 13 have already pre-paid but anyone wishing to join us may pay the entrance fee on the day.

### **Cardiff Castle Tour**

This will take place on Wednesday, 10th June. Nine people who attended on Wednesday, have expressed an interest. If you wish to add your name please let me or Jane know.

### **August Outing**

Suggestions were received for an outing on the 19th August, our usual meeting day.

Investigations will be made into the following:

1. A trip to Bath
2. Afternoon tea
3. Dyffryn House & Gardens (exhibition of costumes from 'The

Other Bennet Sister' If you have further suggestions please let us know.

### **AOB**

#### **Exhibition**

For interest. An exhibition by Mr Scribbleman, Paul Weston, is on show at the old Council offices in Old Cwmbran, until the 13th May. The show features plain-air sketches and oil paintings capturing local scenes.

#### **Jensen's Coach Trip**

Members have expressed an interest in a Jensen's coach's trip to Wells & Clark's village on Wednesday, 2nd September. We will investigate further at our April meeting.

### **u3a Information & Recruitment Event**

This will take place in Gwent Square on the 18th April, between 10am and 4pm. Volunteers are required to hand out leaflets and talk to people about our organisation. If you are able to help please email me with the time(s) you are available.

### **Next Meeting**

We will meet at 11am on Wednesday, 15th April in the conservatory, at the Crows Nest. We hope to see you there.

### **WALKING GROUP**

The walks for April will be on 9<sup>th</sup> April 'The Bloreng Circular', and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 'The Taff Trail - Bute Park to Llandaff', both starting at Woodland Road @1000. Details are on the website.

### **Thursday 5 March 2026 – Blaenavon Heritage Walk**

On a sunny and showery day, seven of us set off from the Blaenavon Heritage Centre, crossing the Afon Llwyd at the Aaron Brutes Bridge, one of the oldest examples in the world of a cast iron bridge, built around 1812. Blaenavon UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its status recently and was so designated, ranking alongside other World Heritage Sites, for its unique collection of industrial landscape features and structures dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

We then walked through Forge Side northwards along the cycle track, and passed Big Pit, now part of the National Museums and Galleries Wales – on this occasion we did not go down the Pit! We continued along the cycle track, alongside the Blaenavon Heritage Railway track that connects The Whistle Railway Halt with Forgeside running for just over three miles, and is especially popular during holiday periods.

We then continued northwards around Garn Lakes, a former colliery tips area, now landscaped with water features for recreational and nature conservation purposes, before turning south back to the Heritage Centre, and a coffee break and then returning home.

### **Thursday 19 March 2026 – Parc Bryn Bach to Tredegar**

Another sunny bright day, eleven of us started from Parc Bryn Bach, just off the Heads of the Valleys Road, to head south towards Tredegar. We followed the track alongside Bryn Bach Lake, which was extremely busy with families and children out for the sunny day – Parc Bryn Bach is another example of a reclaimed industrial/mining site with an area of over 340 acres, to create a large lake, recreational areas with many walks, as well as nature conservation sites too.

Leaving the Parc, we walked south into Tredegar, passing the house where Aneurin Bevan was born, before then stopping at the Tredegar Medical Aid and sick Relief Fund Building, now a nursing home, but formerly the surgery where local people – pre-National Health Service – made small contributions to the fund for medical treatment. This fund is thought to be the model that Aneurin Bevan drew on as a model for the creation of the NHS.

We continued south along the main street, passing the NHS Memorial Gates that mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS Foundation in 1948. There are a number of remarkable murals on the walls near the memorial, celebrating those who work in the NHS which are well worth visiting. The group then came to the famous Tredegar Clock which stands tall in the centre of Tredegar, and dating from 1858 is a reminder of the importance of the iron industry for the town.

We stopped for lunch at Bedwelty House, passing the former library which Aneurin Bevan used extensively for his self-taught education, and the former home of Michael Foot, former MP and Leader of the Labour Party in the 1980s. Bedwelty House was purchased in 1800 from the Morgans of Tredegar House by the ironmaster Samuel Homfray who rebuilt it as his home, then subsequently repurchased by the Morgans for the manager of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, and eventually donated to the local community in 1901. Leaving through the extensive grounds, we looked at the large single block of coal said to weigh 15 tons, which was originally to be displayed at the 1851 Great Exhibition, but it proved to be too difficult to transport it in one piece!

We returned back through Tredegar, passing the site of the former Tredegar Hospital as well as the home of Bevan's mother which was also used as his constituency office, before walking back to Parc Bryn Bach and northwards alongside the other side of the Lake. We then viewed a Mining Memorial (opened in 1924 by Max Boyce) to those miners who had worked in pits in and around the Tredegar area, before making our way back home.

### **U3A Walks in April 2026**

Our walks for April will be on

- 9<sup>th</sup> April 'The Blorenge Circular', and
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April 'The Taff Trail - Bute Park to Llandaff',

Both start at Woodland Road @1000. Details are on the website: we look forward to you joining us.

***Jeff and Jane Phillips***

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Minutes of Committee Meeting held Thursday 12 March, 2026, on Zoom

**Present** Christine Sillman, Christine Andrews, Dori Thomas, Sandra Long, Dave Davies, Anthea Wellington, Marion Williams, Ann Gill, Alex Sorby, Jeff Spittal (observer)

**1. Chair's Welcome**

Christine S welcomed members to the meeting including Jeff Spittal who has been nominated to join the Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

**2. Apologies** None

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were agreed as a true record, proposed by Alex, seconded by Dave.

**4. Matters Arising** None

**5. Chair's Report**

Christine S reported that she was unable to attend the last Chairs' Forum but has received written notes which she has circulated to the Committee. The theme of the meeting was creating a first impression. Christine gave a summary of the content and asked members to read through the notes before the New Members Meeting.

**6. Business Secretary/Network Contact Report**

Anthea informed the meeting that she has received eight nominations for the Committee. Christine A and Dave will be standing down, although Christine has confirmed that she will continue as Minutes Secretary. No nominations have been received for Chair. The implications of this were explored. Anthea offered her support to anyone taking on the role. Christine S will provide a comprehensive handover. Filling vacancies on the Committee and Chair will be discussed at the New Members meeting when members will be encouraged to participate.

**Network Contact** – Anthea reported that no further meeting had been held since she reported back at the last Committee meeting.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Dori had circulated her report prior to the meeting:

Bank balance	£1200.15
Cash	£ 18.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1219.11</b>

The balance at the start of the year was £1218.27

Membership: 127 (at least four more in the pipeline)

#### **8. Annual General Meeting**

This will be held on 27 March. Anthea reported that the necessary paperwork has gone out to members, including the proposed new Constitution. The date is likely to clash with another meeting at LMC and the entrance from the car park will not be available to us. Marion reported that she has arranged a speaker who will speak for 45 minutes after AGM business is concluded.

#### **ACTION**

Christine S to speak to Brian Marshall regarding the clash of meetings

#### **9. All Wales Meeting**

Anthea asked if Alex and Helen Williams will be attending. Alex was unsure. The meeting is being held in Newtown, which is a journey of almost three hours.

#### **ACTION**

**Alex** to check with Helen and let Christine S know

#### **10. Open Day/Presence in Cwmbran Town Centre**

Christine S confirmed that we will have a stand in Cwmbran Town Centre on Saturday 18 April from 10am to 4pm. A minimum of two people at a time will be required to cover the stand.

#### **ACTION**

**Christine S** to announce at the AGM and ask for volunteers

**Christine S** to contact Committee members for confirmation of their availability for the rota

#### **11. Health Check Questionnaire**

The Committee addressed each of the questions. The following is a summary of the main points arising out of the discussion:

We generally have a high level of renewals among new members. Membership growth is reported at each Committee meeting and has grown significantly over the past two years. We do not have a language group. It is now possible to pay for a tutor, although the tutor must be appropriately insured and group members must fund the cost. We are financially healthy. Committee changes have been in line with our current Constitution, however, a new Constitution is being considered at the AGM. We have a range of ways of communicating with current and prospective members, including leaflets, website, monthly meetings, Facebook, newsletter, email. We have a ratio of eight members per total number of groups. There has been an overall increase in the number and variety of groups, although there have been some significant losses, eg Art Appreciation, Drama. Membership forms have been adapted to include questions on new members'

interests and the skills, knowledge they can offer. It is anticipated that the upcoming New Members meeting will inform members about u3a and encourage them to volunteer. Jeff gave feedback on his experience of being a new member which was constructive and generally positive. Some groups lend themselves better to social interaction. Large groups can sometimes be more difficult to settle into. Attending neighbouring u3a provision is possible but there are costs attached. Online learning is available.

### **New Members' Meeting**

Sandra and Marion have organised the meeting which will take place at the Crows Nest. Cakes and quiches will be provided. Drinks can be obtained at the bar. Fifteen new members have confirmed their attendance. Christine A will give a presentation on the u3a organisation. Also on the agenda will be opportunities for new members to meet Committee members and Convenors, to give feedback on their experiences of joining u3a, their interests and what they can contribute. Alex agreed to take photographs.

### **12. Groups**

**Theatre Group** – Christine S reported that the social event will be held in Cwmbran Library on 18 April. A sea shanty group will perform. Tickets £5.

**Coach Tour Group** – Alex reported that 12 members have booked for a trip to Stratford on 21 April, and a holiday has been booked. Jeff commented on the imbalance between males and females in general group make-up.

### **13. Any Other Business** None.

### **14. Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 9 April, on Zoom

**Minutes taken by: Christine Andrews**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 MARCH, 2026 HELD AT LLANYRAVON METHODIST CHURCH MINUTES**

### **1. Chair's Welcome**

Christine Sillman welcomed members to the AGM and noted the good level of attendance.

### **2. Apologies**

Barbara Bennett, Lynne Wakefield, Margaret Oelmann, Jane Lewis, Patricia Parsons, Marilyn Priday, Ann Martin, Carol Briffett, Anne Williams.

### **3. Confirmation of Quorum**

Anthea Wellington confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Retha Durose, seconded by Dave Davies.

### **5. Matters Arising**

None.

### **6. Chair's Report**

Christine Silman confirmed that there will be no increase in membership fees this year and that last year's increase has been justified in order to ensure our u3a remains financially healthy. Two members of the Committee are standing down – Dave Davies, who has served on the Committee for around 13 years, and Christine Andrews, who has completed 10 years. Christine S expressed her thanks to both for their contribution over the years.

### **7. Treasurer's Report/Accounts 2025-26**

The End of Year report, prepared by our Treasurer Dori Thomas, had been circulated to all members prior to today's meeting. Dori took members through the details. See Dori's reports at the end of these minutes for full details. Membership at the end of last year was 114. Although a number of members did not renew, recruitment of new members has been encouraging and our overall membership has increased to 131.

### **8. Accounts – Questions**

None.

### **9. Approval of Accounts**

Approval of the Accounts was moved by Rob Wilkinson, seconded by Dave Davies and agreed unanimously by those present.

### **10. Approval of Proposed New Constitution**

Anthea Wellington reported that it had been necessary to develop a new Constitution as the existing one is no longer fit for purpose. The Third Age Trust provided advice and a model constitution to assist u3as. The model consisted of two parts, of which only part 2 was open

to some amendments. The proposed Constitution has been circulated to members for queries and comment. Anthea has responded to those she received. Approval of the new Constitution was moved by Linda Westerman, seconded by Dorothy Hayward and agreed without dissent by those present.

## 11. Approval/Vote from Nominations

**Chair & Vice Chair** – Anthea Wellington reported that no nominations for these posts have been received. Christine Silman emphasised the importance of filling these roles if Torfaen u3a is to continue and, as no nominations were forthcoming, Christine called a short break in proceedings for members to give further consideration to this.

**Chair** - following the break, Kim Collins was nominated as Chair – proposed by Retha Durose, seconded by Sandra Long and agreed unanimously by those present.

**Vice-Chair** – following the break, Barbara Crisp was nominated as Vice-Chair – proposed by Ruth Alderman, seconded by Ann Fry and agreed unanimously by those present.

**Other Nominations Received** – Anthea reported on those nominations received prior to today's AGM:

<b>Business Secretary</b> –	Anthea Wellington
<b>Treasurer</b> –	Dori Thomas
<b>Committee/Trustee</b> –	Marion Williams
	Sandra Long
	Christine Silman
	Jeff Spittle
	Alex Sorby
	Ann Gill

**Minutes Secretary** – Christine Andrews, who is stepping down from the Committee is willing to continue as Minutes Secretary.

## 12. Approval//Vote on Nominations for Committee/Trustees

The nominations set out above were approved unanimously by those present.

## 13. Approval of Appointment of Examiner for Accounts

Margaret Oelmann has agreed to continue in this role. This was

approved unanimously by those present.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

##### **Recruitment Event**

Christine Silman informed those present that this will be held on Saturday 18 April, in Gwent Square, Cwmbran Town Centre, where we will have a stand. She asked for volunteers to cover the stand, hand out leaflets and to talk to members of the public who may be interested in our organisation.

##### **Social Event**

Christine Silman reported that the Theatre Group has organised an afternoon with the sea shanty group Bois y Bryn. This will take place at Cwmbran Library on 29 April from 2-4pm. Tickets at £5 each are available from Christine.

#### **15. Date of Next Annual General Meeting**

The details of the next AGM meeting will be confirmed in due course. It is likely to be held on the last Friday in March 2027.

**Minutes taken by: Christine Andrews**

## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2026

Any errors or omissions please let me know.

*If in doubt please check with your convenor.*

DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00	History	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00	Quiz	The Ashbridge
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Philosophy	Cwmbbran Library
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Scrabble	Ruth's Home
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>		Walking Group	'The Blorengce Circular'
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Coach Holiday Group	Crows Nest
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	THEATRE & EVENTS GROUP	Crows Nest
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30	Whist	Margaret's Home
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lunch Club	Parc-y-Prior
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10-4</b>	<b>Open Day/ Presence</b>	<b>Cwmbbran Town Centre</b>
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Walking Group	'The Taff Trail
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00	Poetry	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Monthly meeting	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	<b>Gardening Group</b>	Llanyrafon Methodist Church

