

Hi everyone,

**Reading Stories** - please note there will be no Zoom on Monday 1st June  
**Listening to Music** – please note there will be no zoom on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### **CRAFT NEWS**

The ladies have, as usual, been busy with a number of projects mainly knitting, crochet and some embroidery. A couple of ladies have been learning to crochet, not easy to begin with but, with practice, I am sure they will soon be experts.

Several of us were pleased to support the Theatre group's Bois y Bryn event in the library, which we enjoyed.

The photos this month include some winter toys and gifts. It's never too early to start!!

We meet as usual every Tuesday at 12.30 in St Mary's Church Hall,  
Croesyceiliog.

**Rose.**



### **FOCUS GROUP**

Unexpected issues at Glaslyn Court made the lounge unavailable for our May meeting and required a last minute change of venue. Notwithstanding the Bank Holiday, five members gathered in Magna Porta Gardens intending to talk about "Change". However, another last minute change led to our over coffee and biscuit discussion being centred around "Names".

Many anecdotes were shared involving first and family names, nicknames, the tracing of family trees and even genetic profiling. Welsh humour appeared with references to Jones the Flash (the local photographer), Twin Standard and Twin de Luxe (cryptic, but something to do with sartorial elegance or the lack of it). A thoroughly enjoyable hour.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June at Glaslyn Court when the intended theme will be “Change” – but it may be changed! **Lyn.**

### **COACH TOURS/ HOLIDAY GROUP - TRIP TO LLANDUDNO**

The following is an account of the 5-day Coach Trip to Llandudno and North Wales. The trip was by Majestic Holidays and we stayed at The Grand Hotel. We were picked up by a feeder coach at Newport Railway Station and were driven to Gordano Services to join our main coach. There were a total of 8 u3a members who embarked on the tour. As it was a May Bank Holiday our driver pushed along to avoid a bottleneck that could develop at the M5/M6 intersection. We arrived in Llandudno at a reasonable time due to his forethought.

The next day we went to Betws-Y-Coed and the Llanberis Pass, finally stopping in Conwy. On Wednesday we went to Porthmadog, to experience the Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway and then to Portmeirion to view the village used in “The Prisoner”.

We split up on Thursday with 3 people going to Chester and the rest using the Great Orme tramway. Unfortunately, one of our number fell in Chester and was taken home by her daughter. Overall, we had a good time and the staff we extremely helpful, putting together tables so we could eat together. I hope this was enjoyed by all and made future trips possible. **Alex**



### **LUNCH CLUB**

Our May lunch was held at The Gate; there was a small problem with a change of menu but, on the whole, most people enjoyed their meal and thought the service was very good.

Our next Lunch will be on Friday 19th June venue TBC. Hope to see everybody there.

All welcome **Ann** mobile: 07454010078 [email: anngill18@gmail.com](mailto:anngill18@gmail.com)

## **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*



## **WHIST**



2 very lively tables played in May enjoying the conversation and tea. Looking forward to more joining us on Thursday June 18 2 - 4 pm.

***Margaret***

## **GARDENING GROUP**



On a very hot May Day we visited Coed Cae Farm in Pontyclun, Glamorgan. We were kindly greeted by the Liley family who distributed much needed cold drinks.

The farm and garden are high up with wonderful views over the Vale of Glamorgan and the Severn estuary beyond. Jeremy Liley and his brother

farm 100 sheep and have other jobs to support the family.

His mother and father have been at the farm for over 40 years and the family live together in various parts of the large house. They have in recent years made many improvements including digging a lake and erecting stabling for 5 horses. The gardens near the house have sitting areas with lawns and colourful bedding and on the lake, at the moment, a pair of Canada geese and 12 goslings reside. The group enjoyed a generous tea with homemade cakes to finish a lovely visit.

***Marion Williams***



## **READING STORIES**

Sylvia Jones, who was a police constable in Pontypool as a young woman and later, having raised a family, was a Traffic Warden in Cwmbran, is the latest addition to the memoirs we are pursuing on Monday afternoons. In addition we have learnt of an intrepid traveller who has visited more than 190 countries, found out about the 'Ghastly Purple Thing' that lived in a wardrobe, had an insight into the care system and World War 11 pigeons!

As you can see 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>

## **WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.**



This new group held its first meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Cwmbran Library with an impressive turnout of 16 members. We started the meeting with an acknowledgement of the quote often attributed to Voltaire

“I may not agree with your views but defend your right to express them”

Our first discussion topic was the news that the Lord Chancellor David Lammy has said that Labour would give careful consideration to raising the age of criminal responsibility from the existing 10 years to as high as 14 years. Deep and meaningful discussions took place within the group including the role of parents, the rights of victims and their families and comparisons with other countries (Portugal 16, Norway and Sweden 15, Germany 14, USA 6-18 varying by state, and Iran 9 for girls and 15 for boys).

Our second topic was the projection reported in Saturday's Daily Mirror that ,of girls born in the UK in 2049, around 25% are expected to live until at least 100. The figure for boys is expected to be 20%. This again led to constructive discussions including the falling birth rate and individuals' responsibility to prepare for later life.

The third topic was the proportional representation system used in the recent Welsh Senedd elections. Discussions included the end of the two-party system dominated by Labour and Conservatives, how voters had recently changed their political affiliations, the use of tactical voting, and how it affects which local representative to contact for advice and assistance.

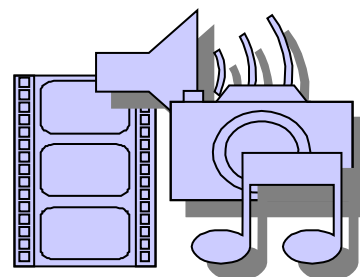
Our next meeting will be at 10.30 am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June in Cwmbran Library. Hopefully members will bring along suggestions of topics from local

and national newspapers, magazines, TV, and social media. I look forward to seeing you there. All are welcome.

**Dori**

### **LISTENING TO MUSIC**

This month we visited Wales (Sua Gan), discovered Rose Betts (Irish Eyes) and enjoyed a romantic Hindi Song. Our music choices seem to take us all over the world and 'blasts from the past' bring back fond memories. Classical pieces, film music and new talent make each Tuesday morning something of an adventure.



*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>



Yet again another successful quiz was held in May, with 26 members attending. It was a very close call this month with all 4 teams scoring highly. The worthy winners, by 1 point, were the 'odds & sods'. Thanks to Chris for a very entertaining 90 minutes.

We meet on the 1st Friday of the month, at 2:00pm in The Ashbridge Pub, everyone is welcome. **Helen**

### **HISTORY**

In our May meeting one of our regular speakers, Roger James, gave us an excellent talk on Rorke's Drift, which was the subject of the very famous film Zulu. When I became convenor 4 years ago Roger was my first speaker and he has become a firm favourite with not only myself but several of the regular attendees and as there are several new members I took the opportunity to hear it again.

The successful defence against all odds has caused many to regard the battle at Rorke's Drift against a contingent of 3000 Zulu warriors with a garrison of just 150 men, many of them already injured, as one of the greatest British history.

In the morning of the battle the British army met the worst defeat of a modern army, when the Zulu fought them at Isandlwana where the British troops were wiped out by a largely superior indigenous force. In the afternoon of that day of the 23rd of January 1879 the Zulus crossed the river and made their way to Rorke's Drift, where British soldiers were stationed on the border of the Kingdom of Zululand. The Zulus were fierce warriors and showed no mercy

They carried clubs and spears and shields, others were equipped with powerful rifles taken from the dead soldiers at Isandlwana.

Many of the British soldiers were injured and the garrison had been turned into a hospital. The British were led by John Rouse Merriot Chard, aided by Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead, and they transformed Rorkes Drift into a defensible position. Chard ordered his men to erect a wall of mealie bags around the Mission Station and to fortify the buildings with loopholes and barricades .

As the fight raged on Chard realised that he needed to shorten the perimeter of the defence and give up control of the hospital. The men defending the hospital began to retreat through the building, taking the injured with them. Many escaped successfully but some were killed. Zulu attacks continued into the night until around 4am .By daybreak however a sleep-deprived British force discovered that the Zulu army had disappeared.

The arrival of a British relief column led by Lord Chelmsford later that day brought the battle to an end. The British lost 17 men with 15 wounded. 351 Zulus were killed while 500 odd were injured.

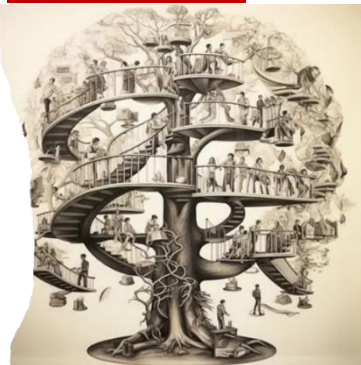
Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the British for their bravery; the most awarded in one single battle. Among those was a local soldier - Private John Williams. It was said that many of the soldiers suffered afterwards with PTSD caused by the fierce close combat fighting; many being plagued by nightmares.

Our speaker next month on the 4th of June is Geoffrey Henderson and he will be talking about Gareth Jones a renowned Welsh journalist who met Hitler and exposed Stalin. The meeting is on Thursday the 4th of June at 2pm in the hall at Llanyravon Methodist Church. All are welcome.

I will be taking, as previously announced, a list plus a non-refundable 10 pounds deposit for a trip to Dyffryn Gardens on Friday the 14th of August . The bus will be leaving the Oasis club in Croesyceiliog at 11 am.

***Regards Merle***

## **PHILOSOPHY**



At our meeting on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>, we discussed the topic of Political Philosophy, the study of governance, which attempts to answer questions such as

- How society should be organised
- How power should be exercised
- What values should guide collective life

We looked at the contributions of the ancient Greeks like Plato and Aristotle and progressed through the enlightenment period when there was growing dissatisfaction with the established social and political order. Political philosophers discussed included Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jaques Rousseau, Karl Marx, John Stuart Mills and John Rawls. The session ended with a discussion on the question



“When is it acceptable for government to limit freedom in order to protect security?”

The meeting was well attended with 13 members, all of whom made valuable contributions to the discussion. Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Cwmbran Library. We will continue with the topic of Political Philosophy and discuss the following.

- Thomas Hobbes’s view that humans are naturally self-interested and prone to conflict
- John Stuart Mills Harm Principle (power can only be rightfully exercised over individuals against their will to prevent harm to others).
- Karl Marx’s view that in capitalist societies the exploitation of labour by capital leads to inequality and social conflict.

I look forward to seeing you there. All are welcome.

**Dori**

### **POETRY GROUP**

The focus of our recent meeting was two very different poets – Walter de la Mare and Wilfred Owen. **Walter John de la Mare (1873 – 1956)** an English poet, short story writer and novelist, was partly descended from a family of French Huguenot silk merchants. One of seven siblings, de la Mare preferred to be known as “Jack” to his family and friends. At age 35, an influential acquaintance arranged for him to receive a Civil List pension which allowed him to concentrate on his writing.

He met his future wife, Elfrida, when he joined an amateur dramatics club. They went on to have four children. She died in 1943, having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease three years earlier. He died in 1956 following a coronary thrombosis. His ashes are buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

He is probably best remembered for his works for children, for his poem ‘The Listeners’, and for his psychological horror fiction, including *Seaton's Aunt*, *The Green Room* and *All Hallows*. In 1921, his novel *Memoirs of a Midget* won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and his post-war *Collected Stories for Children* won the 1947 Carnegie Medal for British children's books.

The poems we discussed today were 'The Listeners', a gothic tale of a traveller who knocks on the door of a haunted house in a moonlit forest, and 'Nicholas Nye', a poem written for ten-year-olds about a lonely young lad and his friendship with an old, abandoned donkey.



**Wilfred Edward Salter Owen (1893-1918)** was an English poet and soldier. One of the leading poets of the First World War, his poetry on the horrors of trenches and gas warfare was influenced by his mentor Siegfried Sassoon and stood in contrast to the public perception of war at the time and to the patriotic verse written by earlier war poets such as Rupert Brooke. Among his best-known works – most of which were published posthumously – are 'Dulce et Decorum est', 'Insensibility', 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', 'Futility' and 'Strange Meeting'. Owen was killed in action a week before the Armistice, at the age of 25.

He discovered his poetic vocation in about 1904, during a holiday in Cheshire. Raised as an Anglican of the evangelical type, in his youth he was a devout believer. His early influences included the Bible and the Romantic poets, particularly Wordsworth and John Keats. The poems we discussed were 'Spring Offensive' which describes the mood and behaviour of British soldiers as they rest, prepare for combat, and finally charge over a ridge; 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', a lament on the loss of young life; and 'Dulce et Decorum est', describing a gas attack on a group of soldiers returning from the front line.

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 25 June.

**Chris Andrews**

### **THEATRE & EVENTS GROUP**

Twelve of us met on Wednesday 20 May and as always there was a great atmosphere and lots of chats. This is what we discussed and the decisions that were made at our meeting.

### **Bois y Bryn Feedback**

The concert by the sea shanty group, Bois y Bryn, took place in Cwmbran library on April 29th. Feedback says it was a great afternoon with many opportunities to sing and thoroughly enjoyed by all. All but a few tickets were sold and after disbursements, £103 was given over to Torfaen u3a general funds.

## **Cardiff Castle Visit**

This will take place on Wednesday, 10th June. Each member will pay for their own entry tickets to the castle. The castle has its own tea room where we can have lunch.

Ticket prices for Cardiff castle are as follows:

General ticket (senior) - £13

Guided tour (senior) - £4.50

## **August Outing**

We are joining with the History Group, to visit **Dyffryn Gardens** and view the costumes from the BBC1 series, The Other Bennet Sister. This exhibition is only on display Friday to Monday 12.00 to 15.00, so our trip will take place, on Friday, 14th August.

A number of names and deposits of £10 have been taken already, with the cut off for requesting to join, being the 4th June at the History group meeting. This is so we can secure transport for the day. Any addition costs for transport will be advised and collected later. Members will pay their own entrance to the house & gardens of £15.40 on the day. National Trust members are free (remember your NT card). The Bennet Sister exhibition is also free.

Should the weather be unsettled we may spend some of the time at M&S Culverhouse Cross.

## **Theatre**

The matinee production at the New Theatre, Cardiff, of The Last Laugh, will be on Wednesday, 8th July. Any member that hasn't booked, but wishes to, can contact me for our seat members.

## **Vue Cinema**

These are the upcoming Sunday, matinee, Big Theatre Events at the Vue Cinema

31st May - Playboy of the Western World

28th June - Le Laisons Dangereuses

## **New Taxi Service**

Jane advises that a new taxi firm is operating in Cwmbran - Blue Cherry, tel: 01633 501501

## **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be at 11am on Wednesday, 17th June, in the conservatory of the Crows Nest. Jane and I look forward to seeing you there. **Christine**

## **WALKING GROUP**

### **7 May 2026 – Blaenavon Mining Heritage Walk**

On a sunny but windy day, nine of us started on this walk from the Garn Terrace Car Park. We followed the path up to Hill Pit on Garn yr Erw, stopping at the ventilation stack for the pit, with excellent views across the

valley. We continued northwards to reach the north face ridge again with good views across the Abergavenny area. Given the windy day, we continued along a stony track to reach and cross the Blaenavon-Brynmawr main road.

We passed the remains of the former Wainavon Station which when in operation was the highest station on the main railway network in Wales, opening in 1871 and closing as a passenger route in 1941, and for goods traffic in 1954; the track was re-laid in the 1970s to serve opencast mining nearby, but closed subsequently in the 1980s. Nearby a branch line served the Milfraen Colliery until 1937 (as the pit ceased production in 1931).

We followed the former rail line, now a cycle track, north before returning south along another well-used track along the Coity Mountain, passing the location of the Milfraen Colliery which opened in the 1860s; a mining disaster in 1929 made national headlines, with the pit ceasing production in 1933. This route again provided us with good views across Blaenavon and the valley.

We followed the track south, before taking a steeper path down, passing the Whistle Inn and back via Garn Lakes to our starting point, before stopping for refreshments in Blaenavon.

## **21 May 2026 – Roath Brook and Roath Park Cardiff**

Travelling by bus to Cardiff, five of us set off on this walk on a cloudy then warm day starting from near St Margaret's Church in Roath. The church, built in 1870, includes the mausoleum of the early Bute family from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, notably the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquesses of Bute who owned Cardiff Castle at that time.

Our route then followed the course of the Roath Brook through Roath Brook/Penylan Gardens, a scenic tree-lined route with original Edwardian footbridges and similar structures. We eventually reached the southern end of Roath Park, known as the Recreation Ground, used for football, rugby and baseball including internationals such as Wales v England which were played annually until 10 years ago. We made our way north along the cycle track through the Pleasure Gardens, Rose Gardens, and the Botanical Gardens. The City Council are supported in looking after the grounds along the Roath Brook and Roath Park by two voluntary 'Friends of' groups.

Passing under the A48, we then reached Roath Lake which was opened in 1894 and was one of Cardiff's first public parks. The land for the park was donated to the City by the Bute family in 1887, with the Lake being created on marshland by damming Roath Brook. In 1915 the Scott Lighthouse and Clock Tower, containing a scale model of Scott's Terra Nova ship, was constructed on the Lake to commemorate Captain Scott's ill-fated voyage to the Antarctic which left Cardiff in 1910. The Lake includes four islands acting

as nesting sites for birds – cormorants, herons, swans, geese, and other wading birds were very evident as we walked around the Lake! We passed two bowling clubs and tennis courts, as well as a boat house with public rowing facilities – in the summer, the Lake is a popular venue for visitors taking out the rowing boats.

We then walked south back to the Roath Recreation Ground, having lunch in a café in the very popular Wellfield Road in Roath, before walking back along Albany Road, and then City Road with its wide range of shops selling produce from around the world, before catching the bus back to Cwmbran.

### **Our next walks are:**

- **4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Newport Wetlands**
- **18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Cefn Ila Woodland Walk**

We meet at the Woodland Road Sports & Social Club Car Park at 1000 on these dates (full details to follow soon, on the Torfaen U3A website): we look forward to seeing you then!

***Jeff and Jane Phillips***

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Present** – Sandra Long, Kim Collins (Chair), Barbara Crisp, Anthea Wellington, Alex Sorby, Jeff Spittle, Ann Gill, Dori Thomas.

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

Kim Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### **2. Address by Nicky Lee.** Nicky had been unable to attend

#### **3. Apologies**

Christine Sillman, Marion Williams, John Ferran, Chris Andrews, Nicky Lee

#### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Read by Kim and agreed as a true record, proposed by Sandra and seconded by Barbara

#### **5. Matters Arising**

Membership Cards – Anthea reported that at a recent South Wales Network meeting it had been reported that most u3a's had ceased to issue physical cards. Dori reported that membership cards had been issued to all renewed members by email and that though physical cards had been printed and were available at the last monthly meeting, very few had been picked up.

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

Kim reported that she had attended a number of online meetings to familiarise herself with the organisation.

#### **7. Business Secretary's Report**

Anthea reported on the all-Wales drop-in meeting she had attended on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Items of interest included –

- Llanelli u3a receiving a grant of £6000 from National Lottery
- All u3a's are experiencing problems recruiting officers and committee members
- WhatsApp is recommended as a communication tool
- Notification from Nicky Lee of a session by an expert on constitutions and procedures at the forthcoming All-Wales meeting in Newtown on November 2nd

Anthea reported that there was nothing of specific interest discussed at the recent network secretary's meeting.

Anthea reported that at the South Wales Network meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May both the Chair and Treasurer had been re-elected and Chris Short from Abertawe u3a was elected as Vice Chair/Secretary.

Interesting projects discussed included

- An Open Gardens session under the National Garden Scheme which had raised £3000 for a charity and used as an opportunity to promote the local u3a.
- A tea and cake afternoon received a grant from the Third Age Trust of £277 to hold an event giving free entry to members who brought along a non-u3a member
- Newport u3a publishing a book and offering a pottery session.
- Chepstow u3a revamping their website

Cowbridge u3a reported difficulties following bank closure and recommended Monmouthshire Building Society which offers free banking for accounts when a balance of over £250.00 was maintained.

## **8. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report**

Dori presented the following report which had previously been circulated to committee members-

Bank Balance	£2139.35
Cash in hand	£ 18.96
Total	£2158.31

Membership 132 with 24 renewals outstanding

A reminder will be sent to all non-renewals in the next week

Dori asked Anthea, as Beacon Administrator to change the timescale for renewal from 12 to 9 weeks in accordance with our new constitution.

## **9. Report on Presence in Town Centre Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Jeff suggested that the lack of interest was partly down to the promotional material not clearly reflecting our organisation as being

welcoming to retired and semi-retired individuals, and not including our motto of “Live, Laugh, Learn”.

Anthea suggested that a Saturday was not the ideal day and that a Tuesday would be more suitable as Iceland supermarket gives a 10% discount for our demographic, attracting more potential members to the town centre.

Alex commented that the previous Open Day in Cwmbran Library was more effective for membership recruitment.

Dori confirmed that no new members had resulted from the 18<sup>th</sup> April event.

It was suggested that Jeff might be willing to take on the role of Publicity Officer and he agreed to give this some thought

#### **10. Charity Status**

Anthea reported that as our annual income is over £5000 we are obliged to start the next steps for charity status. This involves the submission of a form which must be signed by all trustees. Sandra queried the impact on banking, accounting and auditing and offered to investigate this in more detail. It was agreed that a sub committee consisting of Sandra, Anthea and Dori will meet to carry this forward.

#### **11. Update on Membership Cards**

Already discussed under AOB of previous minutes

#### **12. Discussion on opt in/out of magazine.**

It was agreed to agenda this for a future meeting

#### **13. Update on Groups**

- Alex reported that the first holiday of the Coach Holiday Group had been a success and enjoyed by all. There was some discussion on insurance and risk assessment. It was noted that members had booked their own holidays on an individual basis, and it had been made clear at group meetings that insurance was a personal responsibility. Anthea offered to provide committee members with information pertaining to risk assessment and insurance for all group meetings. Sandra agreed to agenda this for the next Convenors' meeting
- Dori reported that the first meeting of the new group “What the Papers Say” was scheduled for 10.30 am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Cwmbran Library.

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

(a) Kim reported on items discussed at a recent Chairs' Forum

- A u3a had undertaken a project maintaining flower beds at their local railway station
- U3a's had reported resignations of members due to the introduction of PayPal as a payment method

- Involvement with Local Health Authorities to promote benefits of u3a Membership
  - The use of free local papers to promote u3a's
- (b) Ann suggested that the next convenors meeting be brought forward to introduce group leaders to our new Chair and Vice Chair. Sandra will coordinate with Kim and Barbara to select a suitable date
- (c) Dori raised the topic of holding future committee meeting face-to-face as some committee members felt it would be more effective. Anthea stated that this might be a problem for Chris Andrews as she would have to travel from Blaenavon. She also felt it would be putting extra time pressure on Nicky Lee on the occasions when she joined us. Anthea agreed to contact Nicky to ask if she was able to attend our June meeting in person, if not, we would hold it on zoom. Ann agreed to book a room at the Ashbridge Inn if required.

**15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026- 10.30.**

**Location to be determined**

Minutes taken by Dori Thomas

**MONTHLY MEETING 29 MAY 2026 HELD AT LLANYRAFON METHODIST CHURCH MINUTES**

**1. Chair's Welcome**

Chair Kim Collins, welcomed members to the meeting and outlined safety procedures.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by H Williams, seconded by J McAllister.

**3. Matters Arising** None.

**Chair's Report**

Kim reported that she has been attending online u3a events to improve her knowledge of the organisation.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Dori Thomas gave the following report:

Bank £2161.60

Cash £ 18.96

TOTAL £2180.56

The total includes a contribution from the Theatre Group of £103 from the recently held Bois y Bryn concert.

Our current balance is an increase of £827.42 on the start of the financial year and an increase of £778.09 on the same date last year, which puts our organisation in a financially healthy position.

Current Membership: 129. There have been two non-renewals, both for health/personal circumstances. There are 12 outstanding renewals, reduced to 11 this morning. Members who have not renewed by the end of May will be recorded as lapsed memberships.

**5. Business Secretary's Report**

Anthea Wellington had sent her apologies.

**6. Network Secretary's Report**

Anthea had sent her apologies.

**7. Groups – Update**

**What the Papers Say:** Dori reported that the first meeting of the current affairs group took place on 19 May. There was a good turn-out of 16 members. The group will meet monthly. Dori invited members to bring along their news items for discussion, including good news stories.

**Poetry Group:** Chris Andrews reported that, following last year's successful event, the Poetry Group will be holding another Open Mic session in the Crow's Nest in the autumn. More details will be circulated in the coming months.

**8. Rota – Clearing Away**

Several members volunteered to assist with clearing tables and chairs at the end of the meeting.

**9. Any Other Business** None.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.30 am on Friday 26 June, at Llanyrafon Methodist Church.

Minutes taken by Christine Andrews

## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2026

Any errors or omissions please let me know.

*If in doubt please check with your convenor.*

DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00	FOCUS	Glaslyn Court
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00	Philosophy	Cwmbran Library
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	History	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>		Walking Group	Newport Wetlands
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Quiz	Ashbridge
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Scrabble	Ruth's home
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	What the Papers Say	Cwmbran Library
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	<b>THEATRE &amp; EVENTS GROUP</b>	Crows Nest
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>		Walking Group	Cefn Ila Woodland Walk
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Whist	Margaret's home
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>		Lunch Club	TBA
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>Gardening Group</b>	<b>TBA</b>

Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Poetry	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Monthly meeting	Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Short Stories	Zoom
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Listening to Music	Zoom
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Craft	St Mary's Church Hall