u3a Monmouth

Minutes of Monmouth u3a Committee meeting: May 19th 2026

Committee member's home: 11.00am – 13.00 pm

1	**Present** (Alphabetical order)	Frank Birch, Jo Handley, Neil Hines, Aidan Hodgson, Monica Lofgren, Averil Macdonald (chair), Jan McLagan, David Milledge, Linda Wright Iain Crawford (guest – for item concerning Film Club)
2	**Apologies**	Phil Chadwick, Phil Hewitt
3	**Minutes of previous meeting** - these were approved.	
4	**Action Grid – outstanding actions update** **3.10.4:** Afternoon tea in April cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Support will be provided for using iPad with Beacon if the group is able to continue and this is still necessary.	
5	**Monthly report - membership** Currently 1068 members. 12 joined in April following last committee meeting and a further 14 do far in May. Next new members meeting June 12th in Mitchell Troy village hall, but no meetings planned during the holiday months of July & August.	
6	**Monthly report - groups** **Italian:** now meeting in Bar125 as previous venue closed. **German beginners:** is continuing while tutor unavailable with support of members of the German improvers group. **Chair based Yoga:** meeting in Robin Hood. **Salsa:** have met for taster session but are not proceeding to active status. Note, group was unhappy with venue used for taster at the Monmouth Leisure Centre. **Photography:** interest seems to be declining. Suggested the group takes a pause followed by a re-launch (in the September timeframe) **Art:** interest has been expressed in forming an art group.	
7	**AI Group** An initial mailing list of 20+ members established to whom AI information generated by the TAT is being forwarded. There seems to be the potential for a group here. A convenor has been found and setting up a taster meeting to explore interest in being considered.	
8	**Parties – summer and Xmas** **Summer:** **I**n hand. Some 35 members were on the waiting list (May 14th) Volunteers: committee meeting will be held at the summer party venue before the party so most committee members will be available to assist prior to party. This will be limited to putting food out and moving chairs/tables. Suggested that we simply request help from party attendees for assistance with clear down. Food: we will be asking the caterers to shift the emphasis towards savoury as opposed to sweet compared to their previous offering. **Action 5.8.1:** committee members who wish to attend should prioritise joining the party wait list.	

	Xmas: the pavilion is not available on December 15th so an alternative venue is needed for that date. Suggested that Riverside might be appropriate as this is apparently functioning again. **Action 5.8.2:** Investigate suitability/availability of Riverside and other alternatives.
9	**Support for updating website** A member has been found who potentially could be interested in providing this support. This will be explored with the member at a suitable opportunity.
10	**Charity Commission Annual Return** 2024-25 return completed and submitted to charity commission April 29th. **Action 5.10.1:** When appropriate, approach our examiner to see if willing to do same for 2025-26 accounts.
11	**Parties and the constitution** Examiner of accounts, questioned whether our charity object was compatible with organizing parties for the membership. Committee believes it is but that we should investigate modifying our charity object to make this more explicit. **Action 5.11.1:** Draft a suitable revision to our charity object. **Action 5.11.2:** Once a revised object has been agreed, discuss with TAT to see if they agree that revised object is suitable
12	**TAT magazine subscriptions** The list held by the TAT has been updated and now consists of just three members.
13	**AGM** The Savoy has a capacity of approx. 320 so there is no need to consider implementing a proxy system to make it easy for a significant number of members to vote without attending in person, at this point. Suggested that we should attempt to book the Savoy for 14.00pm to provide extra time for the AGM as they normally require us to vacate by 16.00pm **Action 5.13.1:** Investigate if this is possible. Issue of committee membership was raised and the need to start planning for next years committee. **Action 5.13.2:** All current committee members to consider their intent, re: standing for committee membership at AGM
14	**Rolling calendar review** Secretary asked for agreement to discard the last/next updated columns as these are not used (aside from noting that our web domain only needs renewing on odd years). Secretary also asked whether there was any further need to continue sending magazines to the Welsh National Library? **Agreed:** remove last/next updated columns and the item related to Welsh National Library.
15	**Finance Matters** A number of finance related matters were discussed/reviewed. **Film Club:** due to various issues financial viability is currently in doubt. Suggested that the club should consider: 1. Upstairs Priory room or Rockfield hall as a venue

	2. Adopting a subscription model involving a commitment to three named films for the following three months 3. Suspending operation over June-August period with a relaunch in September **Salsa:** following taster session, not proceeding to active status. **Agreed:** transfer surplus Salsa funds (£14.20) to new group reserves. **Yoga:** still a significant surplus in all Yoga Group accounts from when operating on previous financial model. Need to agree how to allocate this surplus. **Action 5.15.0:** produce proposal for distributing surplus to members over suitable time frame (one-two months) **Insurance:** status of risk assessment (RA) completion was discussed and potential liability in event of an insurance claim. **Action 5.15.1:** status of all RA forms for home-based activities to be reviewed. **Action 5.15.2:** need to raise at next convenors meeting (in September). **Theatre (and similar) trips:** participation of none Monmouth u3a members was discussed. The following were agreed/confirmed as Monmouth u3a policy: - Monmouth u3a does not have an associate member category - trips do not have taster sessions. - being a full member of Monmouth u3a is therefore a requirement for trip participation. Noted that use of card machines would be a discussion item for the June committee meeting. **Action 5.15.3:** noting that some convenors have a definite interest in using card machines, prepare a suitable proposal for consideration. Noted that organizing the Vineyard trip with a convenor new to Monmouth u3a has not been easy. **Action 5.15.4:** better guidance is needed for convenors organizing an event.
16	**Facebook based marketing campaign** No volunteers have emerged to support such a campaign so currently on hold.
17	**Chairs update** Monmouth Tale Trail - postponed until the autumn. Writing competition - deadline for entries is June 5th. Bridges - dehumidifiers have now been removed. Film on energy – have decided not to pursue organising a showing.
18	**Monthly bulletin content** Include information about summer party, gift aid and car club. **Action: 5.18.1:** Car club information needed for both bulletin and information emails.
19	**Confirm details for afternoon meeting** This is in the Savoy with facilities to buy tea/coffee on way in.
20	**Rolling Calendar** Gift aid check – in hand. Letter will be circulated with July bulletin asking if current recipients wish to renew. Yoga 1and Yoga 2 insurance to be confirmed by end of month.
21	**AOB**

	None.
21	**DONM –** Tuesday 16th June, 11.00am