

Annual Report – Vice Chair Cowbridge u3a

The role of Vice Chair is to support the Chair in whatever capacity is necessary to maintain the efficiency of the Committee and its efforts to promote the tenets of u3a.

In this role, I have chaired several sub committees, started up Meet and Greet, and represented Cowbridge u3a at Wales Nation and regional level.

Two sub committees were formed in 2025-26 year, one related to a specific event, and one longer term.

Cowbridge u3a Open Day Sub Committee

The Open Day in November 2025 was well attended and resulted in 26 new members.

Many groups were represented, free tea, coffee and cake (baked by members) was offered, and we were entertained by Porthcawl Ukelele Bandits. In the afternoon Graham Loveluck-Edwards gave a talk and we were joined by our Member of Parliament, Kanishka Narayan who was impressed with our organisation. Much of the cost of the Open Day was met by a grant from Third Age Trust. Photos were taken as a reminder of this special day. Several founding members were given honorary membership certificates in recognition of their time with Cowbridge u3a.

Sub Committee on Cowbridge u3a Constitution

Over 600 u3a's have now changed their Constitution to comply with Charity Commission requirements through Third Age Trust. Charity Law was changed in 2011, 2016 and 2022. Our Constitution was written in 1995. The Committee is considering changes in line with requirements of Charity Commission and Third Age Trust guidelines. We are also supported by our regional representatives and Governance Department of u3a. We have drawn up differences between the Constitutions and in the forthcoming year will consider what is appropriate to adopt. We will explain the changes to you and place before you for discussion.

Meet and Greet

We were notified by our Membership Secretary of a large increase in new members. I recommended to Committee that we set up a Meet and Greet team to welcome new members at General Meetings. We have also held meetings for new members to introduce them to each other and encourage the joining or starting of groups. A leaflet detailing information on Cowbridge u3a and its wider context is distributed at these meetings. Two new member meetings were held in June, and one other is scheduled for 7th September 2026. The reaction to these meetings by those who attended was very

favourable. Based on feedback received, we recruited a Membership Liaison Officer whose remit will be extended to care for all members of our u3a.

Correspondence with Membership

The Committee were originally unsuccessful in recruiting Committee Members for 2026-27. There were four vacancies to be filled. I was asked by Committee to write to the membership and ask again for volunteers. We have been successful in finding a new Vice Chair, Secretary, Events Coordinator and Membership Liaison Officer. Thank you to all who responded.

Regional and Wales Nation Meeting

I attend Zoom Regional Meetings of South Wales region which are held approximately every 6-8 weeks. These are essential in determining the health of our own u3a and allow us to share mutual concerns. They are attended by our Wales Nation representatives on Council who keep us informed of what is happening within Wales and nationally.

I also attend Wales Nation meetings held in Newtown, twice a year. These meetings are attended by national officers who contribute to the discussions and update us on the work of national u3a office and the Third Age Trust.

Elizabeth Eustace

Vice Chair

Cowbridge u3a

31st August 2026.