

**Minutes of 450th Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group
Committee,
Held on Friday 19th April 2024, at 10am**

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Nigel Wright, Ian Woodward, Norma Woodward, Julia Denton.

1. **Apologies:** Andy Jones, Sue Thomas , Maureen Penny, Laurence Hillel

2. **Minutes of meeting held 15th March 2024 for approval:** Proposed Nigel Wright, seconded Ian Woodward

3. **Matters arising:**

Actions outstanding from previous meeting. All others considered closed.

Ian confirmed that members are covered for group activities wherever this is in the UK. However, it is expressly NOT holiday insurance. For the trip planned by the Ramblers group, holiday Fellowship have stated all individuals MUST have individual holiday insurance. It was suggested the Group Leader/s should have a copy of their own individuals insurance prior to the commencement of the trip.

4. **Chairman:** no to report

5. **National Office:**

Keith advised a Friends Extra Benefits scheme has been launched. This will allow members, access to discounts and services, such as 40% off Wills, cinema tickets, Park Dean holidays etc....

Members should access via the U3a website and follow the link to Friends Extra Benefits.

This month sees u3a's International Creativity and Innovation Day, which epitomises all the u3a

Friends who contribute to the National Newsletter. The u3a festival in July will have many u3a creative people taking part and will be the biggest meeting of members since it began over 40 years ago. The programme and ticket information is on the u3a website.

6. **Business Secretary:**

Ian reported on behalf of our treasurer that the invoice of £1012.00 has been paid via BACS for our Third Age Return.

7. **Beacon:** Nigel reported this is working ok

8. **Treasurer:** Sue has sent a summary account for March to all. There is currently £10,944.38 in the bank and includes £3.71 in cash.

9. **Membership Secretary:**

Julia confirmed that we currently have 289 members of which 29 are affiliates, therefore 260 full members. There are 69 members who have not renewed.

10. **Group's co-coordinator:** We currently have 29 groups.

11. Speaker Secretary:

ACTION- Keith to report to Linda our speaker last month Stephen Powells was very well received with 10/10.

Our next speaker is Sally Smith, on Magnificent Women and their Flying Machines.

12. Newsletter Editor: nil to report.

13. North Devon Link: Keith reported that since Tiverton have pulled out of the quietly link meetings, he has received an email from Taw to establish thoughts on the value of these quarterly meetings. Taw are going to have a committee vote on this. Following a discussion it was felt that there is value in sharing experiences and Keith will report this back.

14. Roundswell and Fremington Halls:

In light of the forth coming elections and the fact we have had to alter our May coffee morning to the end of April. Whilst no dates announce yet we need to be mindful this is also likely to be the case in view of the General Election, sometime in the Auterm

15. Lunches and coffee mornings: Sue has advised she will be on holiday for the next coffee morning. The next quarterly lunch is booked for Thursday 20th June, cost £13 and she has ordered tickets. They will be on sale at the June coffee morning.

Action: Keith to ask Andy if he is available to compile a list names for those wishing to attend the lunch at the next coffee morning. If Andy is unavailable Julia and Christine will do this.

16. Website:

Nigel advised much work has been undertaken on the new National u3a website, Site works. We now need to create the Barnstaple version using the Site works framework. To do this, members need to use it. Nigel stressed this is NOT a solo project and will require input and help from the committee and members. Nigel has further training to complete. Following this, and with further input from the full committee, Nigel will be able to progress our website. When ready it was suggested a short presentation be made, at a coffee morning to members, with perhaps assistance from Ian. Keith suggested a separate committee meeting be held to look specifically at the website structure. Nigel suggested early October for this.

Action- Nigel suggested an October date for a full committee meeting to discuss the same

Action - Keith to mention at next coffee morning that U3a nationally is updating the website and ask who has viewed the site in the last fortnight.

17. A.O.B.

Ian has received an email from The Fern Centre, asking us if we would like to have a pop up stand 9th May, to promote our u3a to people who are looking at life beyond cancer. Following discussion, it was decided that it wouldn't necessarily give value to the event for us to attend.

Action - Ian to respond

Julia has recently been approached by a new member regarding a safe driving course for our members.

Action - Keith to contact the member and see if they have any contacts for such a course .

Next coffee morning 29th April 2024

Next committee meeting 17th May 2024

Tea/coffee rota - Norma and Ian

There being no further business Keith thanked all for attending. The meeting closed at 11:12am