

Minutes of 453rd Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 19th July 2024, at 10am

At Fremington Methodist Hall

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Nigel Wright, Sue Thomas, Norma Woodward, Ian Woodward, Julia Denton, Maureen Penny, Andy Jones, Laurence Hillel. Keith welcomed Linda Southgate (Speaker Secretary) to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** None, all committee members present.
- 2. Minutes for approval:** correction: Item 11- Nigel does know anyone at Shelterbox. He may however, be able to provide details for North Devon against Domestic Violence. Minutes Proposed Nigel Wright, seconded Sue Thomas.
- 3. Matters arising:** Actions outstanding from previous meeting. All others considered closed.
Action: Keith to ask at coffee morning if anyone is willing to take over responsibility for refreshments at these events. Norma confirmed she is happy to continue to oversee volunteer rota for coffee mornings & Keith to purchase refreshments. **Closed**
Action: Keith to ask at coffee morning for more volunteers to work the rota for 2025.
Action: Ian to email Roundswell Hall to clarify how the situation re: additional non Barnstaple u3a personnel using the hall at the same time.
It was agreed to ensure that when the hall is booked for 2025, all rooms are allocated to Barnstaple u3a.
Action: - Keith to announce at August coffee morning that tickets are available for the quarterly lunch, which is sold as a carvery.
- 4. Chairman:** The initial response from members re the Craft and collections day was disappointing. However, we now have 12 volunteers.
Herewith a list together with the display item

Nigel Wright	Bonsai (table requested near the entrance)
Julia Denton	Stitchcraft
Jenny Crook	Paintings
Helen Loombe	Beadwork
Graham Such	Model soldiers
Linda Wren	Spinning / Sue Thomas
Linda & Fray	??
Andy Jones	Plants
Keith Luckhurst	Woodwork

Mosaic group to exhibit on half the stage and,

Action: Keith to ask art group if they would exhibit on the other half of the stage.
There will be no charge for tea and coffee, members can bring along a friend/guest. However, display tables must be U3a members.

Action: Keith to make an announcement at the August coffee morning for more exhibitors

Action: All committee members to consider for next meeting whether they would like to have a 'Groups Day' next year at one of the coffee mornings in 2025.

5. **National Office:** Keith read out a statement from National office of an AGM special resolution to be more integrated with all u3a,s , a copy of the resolution was offered to all committee members

6. **Business secretary:** nil from Ian.

Maureen from September onwards will bring along parts of the constitution to discuss & agree prior to it be released onto the website.

Action: Ian to ensure Maureen has an agenda item for 3 months from September onwards.

7. **Beacon:** nil

8. **Treasurer:** Accounts sheet provided to all from Sue. £9,481.02 in the bank with £3.71 cash, and £1,395.34 is ring fenced for groups.

9. **Membership secretary:** Julia confirmed we have 302 members including 30 affiliated members.

10. **Group's coordinator:** Linda Wren (practical gardeners) and Pam Harmen (strollers) are stepping down as leaders of their groups.

Action: Laurence to contact Linda and ask if he can contact all other group members to see if anyone is willing to take over responsibility for the group.

Action: Laurence to email all membership to see if anyone is willing to take over the strollers group.

Action: Keith to ask at coffee morning if anyone is willing to take over either of these groups.

Action: Laurence to advise Nigel, for addition onto the website, of approx walk distance for each of our walking groups.

First aid training- approximately 25% of members have expressed an interest in this, therefore,

Action: Laurence to enquire if trainers are able to provide a course in late autumn, October or November, and to confirm charges.

11. **Speaker secretary:** Our speaker for July, Mary Smith, received a unanimous 10/10 for her talk, excellent. It was confirmed that if a speaker wishes payment for a charity, we are as a charity ourselves unable to do this. However, we are happy to pay a speaker's fee, which they can of course pay to their nominated charity.

Linda advised that Shelterbox will only book 6 months ahead, therefore, they are worth keeping in mind in case any other speakers are unable to attend at shorter notice. Linda provided a list of confirmed and tbc speakers for 2025, which was discussed.

Action: Linda to send electronic copy of list to Norma so this can be sent out with minutes of the meeting.

Geoff Grandy (tech team) - has devised a Speaker requirements form, to be sent out to all potential speakers. With a couple of amendments this was agreed, and to be sent out electronically rather than posting a paper copy.

Action: Linda to send electronic copy of form to Norma so this can be sent out with the minutes of the meeting.

Maureen introduced herself to Linda as she had not previously met her.
Keith thanked Linda for attending.

12. Newsletter: nil to report

13. North Devon Link: nil to report

14. Roundswell and Fremington Hall: nil to report apart from that above.

15. Lunches and coffee mornings: quarterly lunch tickets for September to go on sale at august coffee morning.

16. Website: Nigel confirmed the website approximately 1/3 complete. Permission was given by Norma to use her photograph of Barnstaple town. The name of the website is Siteworks.

Issues were raised and discussed with the introduction of Siteworks, regarding a new culture of accessing information, and the need for a transition 1 or 2 year period, when the paper e-mail copy will run alongside the website.

Action: Nigel to provide committee members with a link to view the website at an admin level.

Action: Once Siteworks is up and running, Nigel will provide teaching sessions, probably in 2 groups.

17. A.O.B: Sue advised there is another Australian author (last year we welcomed Ann Beaumont) arriving in Barnstaple very soon, for a 3 month research period. Her name is Jan Conway and she is a U3a and National Trust member. Jan sounds very independent and happy to get herself around, although Sue said she is happy to accompany her to some NT places and probably RHS Rosemoor. It was agreed to make Jan an honorary member of Barnstaple U3a whilst she is in the country, and all are happy to help.

Nigel confirmed that all of our approved policies need to go onto the website. Keith has a paper signed off , copy of all policies. Maureen emphasised the need to look at all policies on the NO website, and those we decide to utilise and be drip fed onto the website.

Keith asked everyone to give consideration to entertainment would be suitable for the Christmas lunch this year, and discuss at the next meeting.

Next coffee morning: 1st August 2024

Next committee meeting: 16th August 2024

Coffee/tea rota- Keith

There being no further business, Keith thanked all for attending. The meeting closed at 11:50