

Minutes of 455th Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 20th September 2024, at 10am

At Fremington Methodist Hall

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Nigel Wright, Andy Jones, Maureen Penny, Sue Thomas, Norma Woodward, Ian Woodward

1. Apologies: Julia Denton, Laurence Hillel

2. Minutes for approval: Minutes approved by Sue Thomas and seconded by Maureen Penny.

3. Matters arising: Actions outstanding from previous meeting. All others considered closed.

Action: Keith to ask at coffee morning for more volunteers to work the rota for 2025- **pending**. Nigel to take forward at next coffee morning in view of Keith's absence.

Action: All members present agreed a 'Groups Day' for next year, 2025. September was suggested however, speaker is booked for 2025. Selected month t.b.d. **Pending**

Action: Laurence and gardening group. To discuss under item 10

Action: Laurence and strollers group. To discuss under item 10

Action: Laurence and first aid course.

Action: Nigel to advise members of the new website, and its upgrading, address at October coffee morning.

4. Chairman:

Craft & Collection Day - an excellent day & considered by all to be a great success. A great opportunity to see our member's wonderful talents and skills and have the opportunity to talk to them about these.

It was felt it would be a good idea to have updated versions of our Barnstaple U3a leaflets to give out at such events.

To consider repeating in 2 years, September or October 2026.

5. National Office:

There is a regional meeting 7th October 2024, 10:30- 15:30. See website for details

6. Business secretary:

Ian has contacted Roundswell once more, to confirm booking for Roundswell Hall next year, 2025. No response as yet.

Ian has been advised by the Roundswell treasurer that the ante room is being used October, November & December for covid vaccinations. Therefore, we will need to ensure both refreshment and sound system equipment is not stored in our cupboard during this time as there will be no access to it.

Action: Keith to contact Geoff Grandee to request him to store at home if possible

7. Beacon: Beacon & website discussed by Nigel as linked. Encouragingly website activity of visitors, views and sessions to the site has increased. However, this figure will decrease as no data was published the previous month. **Action:** Nigel will monitor and publish results at each committee meeting

Nigel advised that another U3a has a system in place which allows new members to sign up and join, and existing members to renew memberships all online. The member details then are automatically uploaded onto Beacon. Both membership secretary and treasurer are emailed with the new or renewed members details immediately so they are kept fully informed. The charge for this system as it is transacted through PayPal & is 1.4% & 25p per transaction. Following discussion it was agreed unanimously by all to adopt this system, which should be up and running by the end of the year, to run alongside our current system.

Action Nigel to implement

8. **Treasurer:** Accounts sheet provided to all from Sue. £8,957.96 in the bank with £3.71 cash. Sue advised she had been given an invoice by Peter Looome & unsure which group to allocate to. Keith advised this to be allocated to Geology.

9. **Membership secretary:** Julia forwarded to Keith current membership numbers. 315 members, of which 285 are full members & 30 affiliated members.

10. **Group's coordinator:** covered under previous items, no additional comments.

Gardening group- It was confirmed that Andy Jones, Jackie Smythe and David Green are taking over leadership of this group.

Strollers - a new leader has come forward for this group, however unfortunately in hospital at the moment. not confirmed, but there may be a member willing to start up a poetry and creative writing group.

Action: Laurence to monitor

Laurence to enquire if trainers are able to provide a first aid training course in late autumn, October or November, and to confirm charges. **Pending.**

11. **Speaker secretary:**

Our speaker for October is Lisa Chanter, talking about the History of Bakery. Linda is unable to be at the next coffee morning –

Action: Nigel to ensure Lisa is taken care of.

12. **Newsletter:**

Action Keith to request Lynne to forward photos of the craft and collection day to Nigel for publishing on the web site.

13. **North Devon Link:** Keith attended a meeting last week with 5 other groups, who like us all have approximately 300 members. Nothing major to report

14. **Constitution:** Maureen presented the Constitution to date. 3 major differences, which need to be included in our constitution.

- a) using zoom
- b) electronic meetings
- c) proxy votes

The committee discussed clauses 1-17 of the u3a model constitution and after a lengthy discussion it was

agreed by all that these clauses be adopted. The committee will review another section of the model constitution at the next committee meeting.

Keith thanked Maureen for all her hard work to date on the constitution- this agreed and fully endorsed by all present.

15. Lunches and coffee mornings: 17 members attended the quarterly lunch last week.

Sue advised she has prices for the Xmas lunch, which is £21 for a 2 course meal at the Barnstaple Hotel.

16. Website: covered under item 7

17. A.O.B. Christmas entertainment- Keith advised he had contacted Pete Cains and Bill Roper and they were unable to perform at the Christmas lunch for us, and he had had no success with the balloon bender. Keith advised that Trish Hayhurst, the singing for fun group leader, was going to confirm that the group were happy to perform at the Xmas lunch.

Action: All committee members to give consideration to any other, additional form of entertainment

Action: Maureen to ask Line Dickinson to add into the newsletter that all committee member positions are available, for the forthcoming year 2025-2026, as of the AGM in 2025.

Next coffee morning: 3rd October 2024

Next committee meeting: 18th October 2024

Coffee/tea rota- Sue

There being no further business, Keith thanked all for attending. The meeting closed at 11:59