

Minutes of the 465th Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 18th July 2025 at 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Nigel Wright, Sue Thomas, Phil Hawkins, Maureen Penny, Linda Southgate, Mary Young, Julia Denton.

1. **Apologies:** Laurence Hillel, Andy Jones

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19th June**
Approved by Maureen and seconded by Nigel

3. **Matters arising:**

Proposed Spanish/Italian speaking group to be led by a lady from South Molton. (Phil's contact), unfortunately is possibly only available at weekends. It was decided not to pursue the contact any further

Action: Laurence to check whether the Barnstaple library would be a possible venue and they are aware of any suitable teachers.

Action: Keith to pursue this and to contact Braunton U3A with a view to perhaps teaming up with them.

Action: Laurence to source a First Aid Course for an acute/winter demo.

Action: Laurence to contact the walking groups to ascertain their use of the membership cards

Lunch group will continue at The Williams Arms and it was agreed that diners might/will select their dish(es) from the menu rather than have a carvery but they would pay individually for their meal.

Nigel has removed from the website: Nature Discovery, Rummikub and Canasta groups

Action: Laurence to contact Ann Brand to confirm which groups she is continuing and to organise the return of the table on loan.

The new group of Seated Yoga will begin on Monday 8th September at 1pm at Tarka Leisure Centre at a cost of £6 per session, and a short demonstration is scheduled for the August coffee morning

4. **Chairman:** Nothing to report.

5. **National Office:** Nothing to report.

- 6. Business Secretary:** The date for the January 2026 Coffee Morning yet to be decided, due to the fact that Jan1st 2026 the hall is unavailable

The Copyright Licence has been paid at a cost of £67.21 and a copy of the certificate tabled

An Email from the Charities Commission, giving a summary of their news{14th July} was circulated but no action required at this time. Information on recommended practice will be forthcoming.

Action: Phil to email a copy to Linda for inclusion with the minutes.

- 7. Beacon:** Sue was unable to find Mary's details when she was circulating finance details.

Action: Julia will ensure that this is rectified.

8. Treasurer:

Sue confirmed that the June figures were £9,863.98 with a ring fenced for the groups was £2,136.49

Maureen queried why the ringfence of money for groups has increased but this was explained by the ebb and flow of groups' moneys and the differential period of payments to the various halls.

- 9. Membership Secretary:** Currently 327 of whom 30 are affiliates.

- 10. Groups Co-ordinator:**as Laurence was unavailable for comment, all matters are pending.

- 11. Speaker Secretary:** The July speaker, Stephen Powles who spoke about Hornets was well-received. He was awarded 9/10.

The August speaker will be from the Blood Bikes Charity. It was agreed to give them a donation of £50 from the door money in lieu of a cheque.

Linda circulated a list of possible speakers for 2026. It was agreed that there should be more topics of interest rather than charities. Age Concern and CAB have much in common and should not appear in the same year.

Action: Linda to source additional speakers and provide general information

- 12. Newsletter editor:** Nothing to report.

13. Policy Co-ordinator:

As the Music Licence has been paid for, it was agreed to include the Terms and Conditions to be on the website. This was proposed by Keith and seconded by Julia. All were in favour.

Action: Nigel to add Terms and Condition

There is an Amateur Choirs' Licence which may be required by the 'Singing for Fun' group. It would cost £2.50 per person or £125 for 25 people.

Action: This to be investigated by Laurence but Keith to contact him about it.

On the subject of Policy Reviews, it was confirmed that we would not accept money for advertising on behalf of other organisations, and will not advertise events for non-charity purposes. Recommendations to be passed on to members from National Office to be judged on merit.

Action: Nigel to post this on the website.

14. North Devon Link

Nothing to report

15. Roundswell & Fremington Halls:

It was confirmed that the roundswell hall is unavailable for 1st January 2026

16. Lunches and Coffee Mornings: Nothing to report.

17. Website: Nigel circulated the figures for the last month. It is feasible that visits to the website have been affected by recent weather. All minutes to date are now available on the website.

Action: Phil and Maureen to look at the Policies page to check if this is up to date.

Geoff Grandy will be projecting a slide produced by Nigel at the beginning of Coffee Mornings with relevant information about U3a.

18. A.O.B:

Maureen tabled an E-mail, sent to Laurence, from a member in connection with the loss of some groups, and how future groups and recruitment are being sourced. He criticised the way in which Barnstaple u3a is being run, and in his words the committee remain cosy and complacent.

It was agreed to review the E-mail for detailed discussion at the next committee meeting and determine the next step.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 15th August at 10 a.m. Coffee and tea at this meeting to be organised by Keith L..

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 7th August 2025.

There being no further business, Keith thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 11.42.