Minutes of the 468th Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee.

Held on Friday 17th October 2025 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Sue Thomas, Julia Denton, Phil Hawkins, Laurence Hillel, Maureen Penny, Linda Southgate and Mary Young.

1. **Apologies:** Andy Jones, Nigel Wright.
2. **Minutes for approval:** proposed by Maureen, seconded by Phil.
3. **Matters arising:**

Sue has visited Lloyds Bank and has calculated that the bank's proposed changes will cost us about £9 per month. She would prefer payments by BACS where possible. She also looked at the possibility of using the Co-op Bank as we have charity status. Laurence will continue to explore the possibility of a deposit account or investment bond, investing some of the organisation's money for a higher interest return.

Action: *Laurence will circulate information to the Committee for consideration.*

It was decided to leave the current account as it is for a few months and then review as to change is very disruptive.

Nigel has uploaded the information on Cyber Crime to the website.

Beacon is costing us £5.16 p.a. per person which includes membership of U3A.

The change of venue for Knit and Natter (combined with Board Games) was included in the newsletter, but not in a prominent position. A few people attended the first meeting. It was agreed to give the activity 3 to 4 months to see whether numbers improve.

Action: Keith to ask Lynne to include in the October newsletter plus a note on the website

Mary and Keith attended the Health &Wellbeing exposition and handed out flyers but, as yet, this has not resulted in any new members.

Keith tabled Nigel's a bright new poster with a QR code.

Action: Keith to request Nigel to forward to all and the committee to feed back constructive criticism. Maureen to discuss with Nigel.

The Christmas Lunch needs publicity as there has been a disappointing uptake so far.

Action: Keith to mention this at the next Coffee Morning and to bequest Lynne to include in Octobers newsletter with a photo of last year's event. Julia to email all members via Beacon.

4. **Chair:** Keith had received an offer for members to participate with Okehampton in visiting Newton Abbot racecourse on 6th May 2026 and Exeter in December. It was decided not to proceed with this.

5. **National Office:** There is to be an online Tea Party at 2pm on 6th November to celebrate Trustees' Week. Marian Luck advised that a new volunteer Trustee Representative is needed for the Southwest of England.

Action: Maureen to look into this as a possibility of accepting the post.

6. **Business Secretary:** Roundswell does have a Performing Licence. (Laurence confirmed that The Barnstaple Hotel has one too)

Action: *Phil to ascertain availability of the Centre for the evening of Wednesday April 15th 2026 for a visit by auctioneer Charles Hanson.*

The exterior door to the Centre when closed, cannot be opened from the outside. This means that anyone arriving late to Coffee Mornings has to be admitted by someone on the inside.

Action: Keith to request that *this is to be mentioned in the newsletter and on the website.*

A designated person needs to be in the foyer until approx. 10.35 a.m. and Keith will delay the commencement of the coffee morning by 5 mins

7. **Beacon:** Nothing to report.

8. **Treasurer:** Sue circulated the latest financial report. £383.24 has been received from HMRC as a Gift Aid return. The Singing Group has money in hand and might consider giving members a couple of free sessions. The Table Tennis group organises its finances slightly differently but Sue is happy with their record keeping.
   Sue also tabled a comprehensive spread sheet detailing all the income and expenditure for every group. Most informative.

There is a problem with Lloyds Bank not having the current names/addresses for the Trustees. Phil is the Principal Administrator for our charity with the charities commission but there seems to be an anomaly.

Action: Phil and Sue will endeavour to sort things out.

9. **Membership Secretary:** Currently there are 340 members of whom 35 are affiliates.

10. **Groups Coordinator:** There was an issue within one of the groups that has been brought to the attention of the Committee. Laurence and Keith have spoken separately to the individuals concerned. The Leader of the group felt it necessary to stand down but has invited the previous leader to step up in her place. The group is due to meet on 17th October and there may be developments at this point. As the Committee must remain impartial, those involved will be asked to take a break from attending to allow the group to settle. They may be invited to return to the activity after Christmas. Maureen advised the reading of the relevant policies to assure compliance with protocols.

Action: Laurence will draft a letter addressed to both parties and circulate it to Committee members.

11. **Speaker Secretary:** Linda thanked Keith for his presentation on 'The Big Stink' which was prepared at short notice when the October speaker withdrew. Linda circulated the list of proposed speakers for 2026. September 2026 has now been designated as a Craft and Collection Coffee Morning.

The next speakers will be Sue and Ivan Godfrey on November 6th 2025, talking about 'The Land of Fire and Ice' i.e. Iceland.

Action: Linda will contact Jill Ackland of Age UK to rearrange the date of her talk.

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

13. **Policy Coordinator:** Maureen has been looking at other U3As' policies. Some have a membership application form available online. Our Health and Safety documents are rather sparse. The job descriptions for the roles on the Committee need revision.

Action: Maureen to discuss with Nigel about the layout of the website and to review job descriptors.

14. **North Devon Link:** Nothing to report.

15. **Roundswell Hall and Fremington Rep:** Nothing to report.

16. **Lunches and Coffee Mornings:** Christmas lunch to be promoted. The quarterly lunches have been discontinued.

17. **Website:** Nigel circulated the latest hit chart. Other persons could be given access to the website to upload items to reduce the workload.

Action: Nigel to give a teach in to any requiring this

18. **Marketing:** The posters are in draft form and will be discussed.

Action: Comments to Maureen prior to her chat with Nigel.

Action: Mary offered to look into the possibility of a coach trip/holiday.

19. **AOB:** Julia has sent Keith a list of new members who have joined over the last 6 months. These people to be invited to a special Coffee Morning to welcome them and get to know their interests.
    Date to be confirmed

Action: Phil to check availability for a date towards the end of November 2025 at Roundswell.

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday November 6th 2025.

Next Committee meeting: Friday November 21st.

Tea and coffee: Sue.