

Minutes of the 470th Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 19th December 2025 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Sue Thomas, Phil Hawkins, Andy Jones, Maureen Penny, Linda Southgate and Mary Young.

1. Apologies: Julia Denton, Laurence Hillel and Nigel Wright.

2. Minutes for approval:

On the previous minutes, it should have been noted that, on the subject to cease Marketing, a vote was taken and the motion passed by majority.

Proposed by Maureen and seconded by Phil.

3. Matters arising:

Keith produced A4 posters for distribution and confirmed that he had delivered posters to
Tesco at Rose lane and Sever brethren.

Sainsbury

ASDA

Roundswell Hall

Methodist Hall Fremington

Methodist Hall Rhodendrum Ave

Branham Medical centre

Age Concern

Library

Copies were passed to committee member to distribute

Action: All to help distribute

Lloyds Bank still have Ian's name and address on the account despite Sue continuing attempts to get them to change this.

Action: Sue will try again

Layout of the website is ongoing as Nigel is working on it. Maureen has had her first lesson to enable her to assist with the workload.

Linda has contacted Jill Ackland about changing the date for her Coffee Morning talk.

Regarding a possible coach trip, Mary queried what interest there might be.

Action: An advert pertaining to a possible coach trip to be mentioned at the next Coffee Morning, and included on the website and newsletter. Keith to action

Maureen to arrange to meet new members in the New Year with a welcome coffee at a cafe in Barnstaple.

4. Chairman:

No report.

5. National Office:

a) Maureen is considering standing as a rep for the South West, and Keith handed her an E-mail from National office. She feels that National Office do not consider the needs of the smaller groups?

b} Keith mentioned that there are various u3a zoom workshops available, from National office should any committee member wish to attend.

6. Business Secretary:

If the Committee goes ahead with a deposit account, Laurence wanted to know who should have access. It was unanimously decided to shelve this matter until the new financial year when we might know more about what is happening with interest rates and the cost of the existing Lloyds current account.

7. Beacon:.

Maureen confirmed that she is now familiar with Beacon

8. Treasurer:

Sue circulated the summary accounts and group returns. She has spoken to Trish and the Singing group will receive a free month. Seated exercise is nearly at the point of paying for itself.

Sue confirmed that the Christmas lunch had a deficit of £42 which is £40 less than last year.

9. Membership Secretary:

Julia had E-mailed Keith with the following membership figures:

346 members of which 37 are affiliates.

Keith has received an E-mail from Julia which he tabled. It stated that she would like to continue in her role as membership secretary but would understand if the Committee wanted her to stand down as illness which has prevented her from attending recent meetings. The Committee agreed that Julia should continue but support would be offered by a committee member if needed.

Action: Keith to reply to Julia.

10. Groups co-ordinator:

No report.

Action: Keith to check with Laurence whether the disclaimer letter has been circulated to all group leaders about the need for participants to be fit and able for their chosen activities.

11. Speaker Secretary:

The January speaker will be Phil Morris, CEO of the Children's Hospice.

12. Newsletter editor:

No report.

13. Policy co-ordinator:

Ownership of this role will be put under the umbrella of the Business Secretary. Maureen is happy to assist.

14. North Devon Link: No report.

15. Roundswell Hall: No report.

16. Coffee mornings:

All were agreed that the Christmas party was very successful. Feedback was generally favourable.

17. Website:

The chart produced by Nigel was circulated.

On the website, The Taw location appears above Barnstaple which obscures our information. Nigel has discussed the matter with N.O. who have agreed to revise in the new year.

18. Marketing:

To be removed from future agendas.

19. A.O.B.

Keith asked all, over the Christmas period to consider their role within Barnstaple u3a and whether they wish to change at the AGM. He confirmed that he hoped all will remain as the committee was very efficient, friendly and got things done.

Keith thanked all for their involvement throughout the past year and wish all an enjoyable Christmas and happy new year.

Next Coffee Morning: Monday 12th January 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 16th January 2026.

Tea and Coffee: Phil.

Meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.