

**Minutes of the 471st Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group
Committee**

Held on Friday 16th January 2026 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

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

- 1. Apologies: Julia Denton, Laurence Hillel.**
- 2. Minutes for approval: Proposed by Maureen and seconded by Sue.**
- 3. Matters arising:**

Finance – Ian's name and address have now been removed from the account. Sue's perseverance was successful!

The advertising of a possible coach trip produced interest from 12 people that would merit further investigation.

Action: Mary to pursue and notify Nigel to put information on the website.

- 4. Chairman:**

Keith gave feedback about the positive contact with Julia.

Okehampton U3A have offered the opportunity to share in 2 events that they are organising: 27th March – Daffodils + BBQ; 12th May Bluebells + BBQ £15 pp at the garden in Ashburton.

- 5. National Office:**

Workshops via Zoom for supporting volunteers and running groups are being offered to all S.W u3a,s by DL south west. There was no interest shown in participating in these.

- 6. Business Secretary:**

Phil explained that he had a copy of the Public Liability Insurance Certificate that was valid up to Dec 2025. He asked whether he needed to contact the National Office to obtain a copy for 2026 and was told yes.

Action: Phil to contact N.O.

7. Beacon:

Julia's email account had been compromised but this has now been sorted by her internet provider. Maureen is finding Beacon useful for her needs.

8. Treasurer:

Sue circulated the copies of the accounts and confirmed the latest bank charges amounted to £17.97. She also stated the cost of various bank transactions.

There is a need for all charities to work smarter as each transaction incurs a fee.

It was preferred that future speakers can be paid by BACS or in cash.

The renewal of membership is now end of March 2026. Some members have paid already but Sue will keep a note of the names.

Action: Maureen is continuing to chase the Leisure Centre for the invoice for payment for the Seated Exercise Class (which is now in credit).

Action: Keith will explain at the next coffee morning about our bank charges requesting if possible that payments be paid via Bacs or cash.

9. Membership Secretary: Julia had emailed Keith with the following figures:

Currently we have 348 members of which 37 are affiliates. A Committee member is still happy to assist Julia if/when she should need it.

10.Groups' Co-ordinator: No report.

11.Speaker Secretary:

The January speaker was Phil Morris, CEO of the Children's Hospice SW. He was given a unanimous rating of 10/10.

£320.03 was raised for their charity, by the attendees.

The Feb Speaker is Jim Causley on the subject of Sabine Baring-Gould.

The visit by Charles Hanson, auctioneer will be a ticket-only event on April 15th at 7.45pm. Tickets will be £2 per person and these will be available to members who may buy a ticket for a plus 1. These will be available for sale at the next Coffee Morning. We shall offer tea and coffee on the night.

Action: Sue will source the tickets.

Action: Mary and Andy will action the refreshments.

Action: Keith: to mention at the next meeting and to emphasise that it is not a valuation event

Action: Linda to send information to Nigel for the website.

12. Newsletter editor: No report.

Action: Various information needs to be sent through to Lynne for publication about the AGM, within the news letter approx 1 month before the AGM

The AGM in April must be notified to members.

Post meeting noteA later AGM date to be discussed at the next committee meeting, due to the finalisation of the accounts

13. North Devon Link: Keith was unable to attend the meeting on 5th Jan.

14. Roundswell Hall: No report.

15. Coffee Mornings: More volunteers needed from April.

16. Website:

The chart produced by Nigel was circulated. More interest is being shown in the website. The National website has yet to rearrange their layout that relates to Barnstaple and Taw groups.

17. A.O.B:

Action: The Model Constitution must be voted on and accepted by members at the next AGM to be held on Thursday April 2nd.

See post meeting note 12

Keith stated that he felt that the current committee was functioning most efficiently, but also had an informal sense of humour making the meetings and other activities enjoyable. Many thanks.

All of the existing Committee are prepared to continue through 2026-27 in their existing roles

Keith's role as chairman was discussed as the constitution states that his time is up. It was stated that he could still continue as is, or make Nigel chairman sharing some responsibilities with Keith.

All the Committee is still looking at ways to increase membership and group interests, a questionnaire will be included in the newsletter and on the website to ask about people's interests.

Nigel requested the Committee's approval for him to approach HR departments of local large companies to contact employees who are considering retirement and this was agreed. Mary offered help if needed.

The Practical Gardeners' group is changing its day from the last Thursday of the month to the 3rd Thursday.

Action: Andy to notify Lynne and Nigel for publication.

Linda is considering leading a Spanish conversation group in the near future.

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 5th February 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 20th February 2026.

Tea and Coffee: Mary.

Meeting closed at 11.26 a.m.