Minutes of the 472nd Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 20th February 2026 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Sue Thomas, Julia Denton, Phil Hawkins, Laurence Hillel, Andy Jones, Linda Southgate and Nigel Wright.

1. **Apologies:** Maureen Penny and Mary Young.

2. **Minutes for approval**:
   Proposed by Sue and seconded by Julia.

3. **Matters arising:**
   All matters arising from the previous meeting have been completed.

4. **Chairman:**
   Nothing to report

5. **National Office:**
   The names of 2 candidates have been put forward for the u3a election, to represent the Southwest.
   Barnstaple u3a chairs, vice chairs, secretaries, and Treasurers are invited to vote for favoured candidate.

6. **Business Secretary:**
   Phil has received a copy of the Public Liability Insurance Certificate.

7. **Beacon:**
   Volunteers have been requested to give feedback on the use of Beacon.
   Action: Nigel has offered on behalf of Barnstaple u3a.

8. **Treasurer:**
   Sue circulated the copies of the accounts illustrating a balance of £9611.97 of which £1,589.54 is ring fenced for groups. The latest bank charges amount to £1.45.

The renewal of membership is now end of March 2026 and can be renewed online via the website. It was agreed that this system is less beaurcratic.

Andy produced a sample petty cash slip to be made available to groups for the submission of petty cash claims, and will be used by the gardening group.

Action: As invoices received from Rhododendron Avenue lack detail, Sue will contact them.

Action: Keith will explain again at the next coffee morning about the bank charges, requesting members if possible to pay by Bacs or cash to avoid high bank charges for cheques.

9. **Membership Secretary:**

Currently we have 354 members of which 39 are affiliates. The membership form has been amended such that cheques are no longer desirable for payment. Keith obtained 200 more blank membership cards to give to Julia.

10. **Groups' Co-ordinator:**

New embroidery group to start on 16th March. Laurence is still trying to find a tutor for a First Aid Course.

He has decided to tender his resignation as GC which will take effect from the next AGM in July. A replacement will be sought to fill the position.

Laurence confirmed that that he is happy to remain until the AGM and will handover to whoever.

Action; Members of the committee are requested to review their possible takeover of this function

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

Action: Andy to inform Lynne to revise the newsletter.
Nigel to include note on the web site

11.Speaker Secretary:

The February speaker was Jim Causley on the subject of Sabine Baring-Gould and the folk songs of North Devon. He was given 10/10 by all committee members.

The March Speaker is Mark Leveridge on his life in Magic.

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 2 Coffee Mornings. We shall offer tea and coffee on the night.

Action: Linda to send a copy of the Speaker schedule to Nigel for the website.

Linda/ Keith also to talk to exercise tutor, Antony about his use of Roundswell Hall on a Wednesday night to facilitate a smooth transition for our talk.

12. Newsletter editor: No report.

Action: some information needs to be sent through to Lynne. The AGM in July must be notified to members.

13.North Devon Link:

Next meeting on first Fridayin April or May. Nigel to accompany Keith.

14.Roundswell Hall: No report.

Keith confirmed that an extra usage of the Roundswell hall is scheduled for 3rd March for 2 hours by Geoff |grandee and Fray to test the sound system

15.Coffee Mornings: No report.

16.Website:

Each of our groups has its own page on the website.

Nigel had asked for help with the website and had received 3 offers: Dee and Tom, and Scott who is a computer graduate from Keele Uni. Nigel also presented a copy of the renewal/membership form used by Crediton U3A which we could copy. This is to be made available along with the existing form as it can be filled out online. A vote was taken and the proposal was carried unanimously.

17. A.O.B:

A revised date for the AGM was agreed as Thursday 2nd July which will give time for the accounts to be approved.

Action: Andy to visit Tesco at Seven Brethren to deliver poster.

Action: As Linda is considering leading a Spanish conversation group, information to be sent to Nigel for the website, and to Lynne for inclusion in the newsletter.

Action: Keith will mention at the next coffee morning to test the popularity of this new group.

Keith confirmed that Mary has a list of over 20 persons interested in coach trips. The cost of hire a coach for 1 day is £625.

Action: Mary to review following the return from holiday

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 5th March 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 20th March 2026.

Tea and Coffee: Keith L.

Meeting closed at 11.27 a.m.