

Minutes of the 473rd Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 20th March 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 and Laurence Hillel

2. **Minutes for approval:**

Proposed by Sue Thomas and seconded by Andy Jones.

3. **Matters arising:**

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

All other actions closed

4. **Chairman:**

With regard to the visit by Charles Hanson on Wed April 15th, Keith confirmed that Andy and Mary had volunteered to serve the refreshments and will arrive before 7.15 to set up the kitchen.

Action: Keith to ask Julia to email all members to encourage them to come along to this talk.

Keith will also contact the caretaker with a seating plan.

An email was received from Taw group, offering places on a coach trip.

Action: Keith to ask Julia to forward to all members

5. **National Office:** No report.

6. **Business Secretary:** No report

7. **Beacon:** No report

8. **Treasurer:** Sue circulated the copies of the accounts. Our group is in credit for TAMS so there is currently no payment required from us. The price of the magazine will be going up to £4.20.

Sue has paid the petty cash balance of £3.71 into the bank. Group finances are looking healthy at present. The renewal of membership is now end of March 2026 and can be renewed online.

As Sue is able to complete the accounts by the beginning of April and get them to the independent examiner, she suggested that the proposed AGM be moved to May 7th. This was carried by a vote.

Action: Sue to check if part of the affiliates' fee is payable to N.O.

The invoice for Beacon will be due for payment in April.

9. Membership Secretary: There are currently 365 members and 46 affiliate members and 200 members still to renew.

10.Groups' Co-ordinator:As Laurence is standing down, Mary has offered to take on the role.

11.Speaker Secretary: The March speaker was Mark Leveridge on his life in Magic. He was awarded 10/10 by most of the committee. The next speaker will be Lisa Chanter on the topic of 'The Highwaymen of North Devon'.

Action: Tickets for Charles Hanson's talk to be offered to Taw members who were unable to attend his talk for their group.

Linda and Keith to remind Antony a week before about the fact that we shall be following him into the hall on that evening.

Linda has received the offer of a speaker from North Devon Hospice.

They are happy to be put on the provisional list for 2027.

12.Newsletter editor:

Action: Keith to speak to Lynne about the Riviera Travel advert.

13.North Devon Link: Nigel attended this meeting with Keith and found it interesting. It is chaired by Beryl Lloyd from Braunton.

Next meeting on June 5th.

14.Roundswell Hall: No report.

15.Coffee Mornings: No report.

16.Website: The statistics were circulated by Nigel. The number of hits on the website has increased by 1% over last month. Of those who have offered help to Nigel, Scott is about to start a new job, Dee and Tom will be starting in April and there is another who can offer graphic design.

17. A.O.B:A revised date for the AGM was agreed as Thursday 7th May which will give time for the accounts to be approved.

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

Keith will try to find a suitable venue either at Fremington Methodist Hall or at Rhododendron Avenue.

Action: A U3A video advertising our group to be added to the website by Nigel.

Action: Mary has 26 people interested in day trips by coach. She is prepared to organise but would like suggestions for destinations.

Action: Nigel to add the most recent constitution to the website without the signature page which will be added later.

Action: Maureen to bring a new signature page to the next meeting.

It was suggested that we arrange a buffet lunch for all group leaders, to meet together and get to know Mary. Possibly in June?

Action: Keith to check hall availability

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 2nd April 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 17th April 2026.

Tea and Coffee: Mary

Meeting closed at 11.12 a.m. and Keith thanked all for attending.