

Minutes of the 474th Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday April 17th 2026 at 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

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

1. **Apologies:** Julia Denton.
2. **Minutes for approval:** Proposed by Maureen and seconded by Sue.
3. **Matters arising:** All items either closed or dealt with through the meeting.
4. **Chairman:** With effect from the AGM next month, Nigel will assume the role of Chair and Keith will become Vice chair. Keith will continue to front the Coffee Mornings.

Action: All Committee members should have a nomination form. This to be obtained from Julia or possibly Phil. These to be circulated by email.

Keith to ask for a vote at the AGM from members to approve the Committee.

All committee members to be on the stage for the AGM.

5. **National Office:** No report
6. **Business Secretary:** The submission to the Charities Commission has been delayed as our financial year has been changed to fall in line with the fiscal year.

Action: Phil to send out revised AGM agenda

7. **Beacon:** No report.
8. **Treasurer:** Sue circulated the copies of the bank summary and the accounts. The Beacon charge for members of £1 per person is due for payment, at £349. No money has to be paid to National Office for affiliate members.

The accounts have been approved by Mike Blower. The petty cash of £3.71 has been absorbed into the current account. A loss was made on the talk by Charles Hanson.

The Music group has disbanded, owing £32.39. It was agreed by the Committee to write off this debt. This was proposed by Maureen and seconded by Sue.

Sue has created a spreadsheet of those members who have paid their membership for 2026-7.

9. **Membership Secretary:** There are currently 313 members and 42 affiliates, totalling 355. To date, 56 people have yet to renew their membership. The Committee is happy for Julia to continue and this will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

10.Groups Co-ordinator:

Action: There is a meeting planned with Trish of the 'Singing for Fun' group to discuss how best to spend their funds.

Action: The table used by the Canasta group to be collected by Andy. Maureen to decide whether she wants to take on the group and therefore would need the table.

Keith to email Lynne to advise that the Music group has disbanded for a mention in the newsletter.

Embroidery going well under Christine Robiniard.

Laurence was officially thanked by the Committee for all the work he has done as the Groups Co-ordinator as he hands over to Mary.

David Dickenson is giving up as a group leader. Mike Kelly will be taking on Geology and Dale Hall will be leading How it works. They have requested a new laptop and projector at a cost of about £850. The Committee decided to offer half the cost with the remainder to be met out of their existing funds.

Action: Nigel to thank David for all his hard work with his groups, after the AGM.

The thank you lunch for all volunteers is arranged at Fremington Hall on Friday 19th June.

Action: Keith will email an invitation (RSVP) to relevant people as soon as possible. The Committee agreed a budget of £10 per person. Mary to introduce herself to groups through a brief introductory letter.

11. Speaker Secretary: The April Speaker was Lisa Chanter on the topic of 'The Highwaymen of North Devon'. She was awarded only 5/10 as all she did was read from her notes and there was little engagement with the audience. The May speaker will be Gerry Duffy of the Barnstaple Bridge Trust.

Action: Linda to inform Mr Duffy of the brief AGM prior to his presentation

Charles Hanson's talk on 15th April was extremely good although we made a loss. There were insufficient tickets sold for a number of reasons. The Committee thanked Andy, Lin Jones, Mary, Geoff Grandy and Fray for running the event.

Linda has received the offer of a speaker from various other sources. These are happy to be added to the provisional list for 2027, and will be reviewed by the committee in due course

12. Newsletter editor: No report.

Action: Keith to email Lynne about change of group leaders.

13. North Devon Link: Next meeting on June 5th at 2pm. Sue to join Keith and Nigel at this meeting.

14. Roundswell Hall: No report.

15. Coffee Mornings: No report other than approx 70 to 80 attendees

16. Website: The statistics were circulated by Nigel. The number of hits is down which is probably a seasonal blip. Dee and Tom are assisting Nigel in removing people's personal details from the newsletter to comply with GDPR.

17. A.O.B.: Mary had the Blake's Coach trip brochure and asked for suggestions for which trips might be considered.

Action: Committee members to forward trip suggestions

Action: Mary to talk to Blake's about need for advance booking.

Maureen thanked Nigel for all his work on the constitution as it was added to the website. The signature page for the Constitution was signed by all those present. In the Constitution, there are certain protocols that are not pragmatic for us to follow.

Termination of membership: It was agreed that we should wait for a period of 12 weeks for non-payment of membership before taking action. This could be reviewed every 10 years.

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 7th May 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 15th May 2026.

Tea and coffee: Sue

Meeting closed at 11.35 a.m. and Keith thanked all for attending.