

# Minutes of the 475<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

**Present:**, Nigel Wright, Sue Thomas, Phil Hawkins, Maureen Penny, Linda Southgate and Keith Luckhurst.

1. **Apologies:** Julia Denton, Andy Jones and Mary Young.
2. **Minutes for approval:** Proposed by Keith and seconded by Maureen.
3. **Matters arising:** All items either closed or dealt with through the meeting. All nomination forms were completed and passed to Phil.
4. **Chairman:** Nigel thanked the Committee for placing confidence in him.

Committee emails to provide more security for individuals:

[beaconadmin@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:beaconadmin@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[bussec@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:bussec@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[chair@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:chair@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[groupcoord@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:groupcoord@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[membership@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:membership@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[treasurer@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:treasurer@barnstapleu3a.uk)

[webmaster@barnstapleu3a.uk](mailto:webmaster@barnstapleu3a.uk)

Nigel has invited Andy to investigate setting up a Facebook account. He also wrote to the Trust on 8<sup>th</sup> May: ticket number (78874) to overcome the problem that nobody could access our Portal account. Awaiting a response.

5. **National Office:** N.O. offered the opportunity to participate in a research study into the falls sustained by older adults.

**Action: Linda expressed an interest in looking into this.**

6. **Business Secretary:** Phil has yet to submit an annual report of membership as he was unable to access the U3A portal. Nigel will deal with this to secure an invoice and Sue will arrange for the bill to be paid when it arrives.

Maureen commented that we, as a Committee, are falling behind with procedures.

**Action: She offered to investigate one procedure per month and report back to us.**

7. **Beacon:** Mary now has access.

- 8. Treasurer:** Sue circulated the copies of the bank summary and the accounts. £600 has been paid out to Sticklepath and a further £1024 to Roundswell Community Centre (hire until the end of 2026). Roundswell will be increasing their hire fee to £15 per hour in 2027. National Office has yet to be paid.

**Action: Sue will arrange for a Thank You card to be sent to Mike Blower for examining the accounts.**

- 9. Membership Secretary:** There are currently 309 members and 41 affiliates, totalling 350. To date, 23 people have yet to renew their membership. This brings the actual total to 323.

The Committee is happy for Julia to continue in her role and this will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

- 10. Groups Co-ordinator:** Maureen plans to take over as group leader for Canasta after the summer holidays, making use of the table that was collected by Andy.

In view of the disruption of the roads between Barnstaple and Fremington, the thank you lunch for group leaders and helpers is now to be held in the Ashford Room at the Barnstaple Hotel on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. The room can accommodate approx. 35 people which should be sufficient. The cost is about £21 per head for buffet and tea/coffee plus £175 for the hire of the room. Our Committee meeting will be held there at 10.30 a.m. and the buffet will be from 12.00 to 2.00.

**Action: Mary will email a revised invitation (RSVP) to relevant people as soon as possible.**

**Action: Nigel to contact Mary to finalise details.**

- 11. Speaker Secretary:** The arranged speaker, Gerry Duffy from the Barnstaple Bridge Trust withdrew 10 days before. He invited our group to visit Bridge Chambers on a future occasion. As there is no convenient parking, nor disabled parking available, it was decided that this would not be practical.

**Action: Linda to reply to the Charity.**

The last-minute replacement speaker was Julie Kemish-Mills from the Special Olympics, North Devon group. Her presentation was most interesting.

- 12. Newsletter editor:** No report.

**13. North Devon Link:** Next meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Keith and Nigel to attend this meeting.

**14. Roundswell Hall:** No report.

**15. Coffee Mornings:** No report other than approximately 70 attending each month.

**16. Website:** The statistics were circulated by Nigel. The number of hits is down but those who are visiting the website are spending longer looking at pages. Nigel has asked Dee and Tom whether they are prepared to take over the mainstay of the website updates.

**17. A.O.B.:**

**Action: Keith to contact Brenda Prentice about our bookings for Fremington Methodist Hall.**

**Action: An honorary long service award to be investigated.**

**Action: Nigel to contact HR departments of large companies on the Pottington estate about an invitation to future retirees.**

**Action: Nigel to add GDPR statement to the website.**

**Next Coffee Morning:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to be held at the Barnstaple Hotel. The subsequent meetings to be hosted at members' homes as follows: July – Maureen, August – Keith, September – Linda.

**Tea and coffee:** N/A

**Meeting closed at 11.08 a.m.** and Nigel thanked all for attending.