

**Minutes of the AGM of Barnstaple Third Age Group held
on Thursday 7th May 2026 at Roundswell Community Centre.**

Present: Committee Members: Keith Luckhurst (Chair), Nigel Wright (Vice Chair and Website Co-ordinator), Phil Hawkins (Business manager), Andy Jones (GDB), Linda Southgate (Speaker and Minutes Secretary), Sue Thomas (Treasurer), Maureen Penny (GDB) and Mary Young (Groups Co-ordinator).

Also, those members who were duly signed in as being present.

Apologies: Julia Denton (Membership Secretary), Laurence Hillel, Cathy Chick, Roger and Ellie Bray, Justine Jackson, Elizabeth Howson, Austin Philp, Janet and Michael Elliott, Jill Rossey Green, Alexandra Lovering, Bill and Jill Roper, Elizabeth Craft (affiliate member), Val and Jim Cairns, Clive and Ruth Carey.

Welcome by the Chair.

Minutes of the 2025 AGM: The acceptance of these was proposed by Rita Price and seconded by Chris Wright. These were unanimously accepted.

There were no matters arising.

The Treasurer's report is attached to this document. The acceptance of this report was proposed by Jill Dow and seconded by Geoff Grandy. This was unanimously accepted.

The Chairman's report: There are currently 350 members, some of which are affiliates, involved in 25 group activities. The most recent groups are Seated Exercise held at Tarka Leisure, and Spanish Conversation. The Knit and Natter group, having been joined by Board Games has now extended to include embroidery as well. If anyone would like to start up a new group, they should first speak to Mary Young who will be pleased to offer advice. There is a modest fund to help get the group into a self-financing position.

The Committee has agreed in this, our 43rd year of operation, the membership fee should remain at £10 for full membership, £4.20 of which has to be sent to National Office. Affiliated membership remains at £2.

Keith then thanked all those who volunteer into the various roles that run our organisation:

Linda for Speaker Secretary and Minutes,

Dee and Tom for organising catering,

Julia and Christine for registration and membership;

Rita and Bryan for meeting and greeting,

Geoff and Fray for the technical organisation,

Lynne for the newsletter.

Over 15,000 volunteer hours are expended by our 45 volunteers every year.

We have enjoyed many interesting speakers over the last year including Mark Leveridge (Magician), Ruth Croome from the Mercy Ships, Phil Walker (Blood Bikes) and Steven Powles (Hornets).

Review of the Constitution: It has been necessary to vote on the new constitution, and this was proposed by Dave Jordan and seconded by John Vodght. This was unanimously accepted.

The election of committee members: Keith introduced the Committee members and explained their role. There being no new nominations for the Committee, the officers were duly re-elected. This was proposed by Rachel Street and seconded by Fray Southgate. Keith handed over to Nigel Wright as Nigel is taking over as Chair and Keith will take on the role of Vice Chair.

A.O.B. Nigel expressed the group's appreciation to Keith for all that he has done in his time as Chair over the last 6 years.

No points were raised from the floor.

Date of the next AGM: To be announced in 2027.

Close of meeting: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.57 a.m.

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st March 2026

Following changes set by National Office in the end of year dates for Third Age Group U3A from 31st December to 31st March, the accounts I have prepared for the AGM are for fifteen months – 1st January 2025 to 31st March 2026.

I have continued to work the accounts as a simple system of recording receipts and expenditure. The report that is presented to you is a summary of the financial situation as at 31st March 2026. I can report that we continue to operate within our means and as at 31st March 2026 there was £11804.75 in the account prior to paying the renewal membership fee and other expenses.

As Lloyds have started to charge us for using their bank, I am pleased that more members are paying for their subscriptions, lunch tickets etc. using the BACS system which at the moment is free of charge. This is a quick and efficient method for those who are happy to use it. Each cheque paid in to the bank costs 50p and cash is 75p per £100. Although bank transfers are more cost effective, I realise that not everyone is able or wishes to use this route so I want to reassure you that payments by cash and cheques are still welcome.

To help keep costs down I am able to use the deposit box in the branch rather than going to the counter so this saves a little. I have looked into changing to another bank but most are now charging for their services.

Where applicable groups continue to be self-funding but we are also able to assist new groups set up by helping with the purchase of equipment when needed. We also generously contribute to social events such as the Christmas party, and coffee mornings are still very popular with interesting and varied speakers.

By continuing to separate the cost of the TAM magazine from the overall membership fee it has made renewing subscriptions simpler. We will continue to keep the membership fee to £10 with £2 charged for affiliated members. The cost of the Tams magazine has risen to £4.20. We also intend to keep the cost of the monthly coffee mornings at £1 per person which I think is excellent value.

Mike Blower, our examiner, has once again kindly examined the accounts and I thank him for not only checking the paperwork but also for his advice and guidance. I would like to thank the group leaders for their help in the financial running of their groups by handing in their meeting's takings thus keeping the accounts up to date. Lastly, I would like to thank my committee members for their help.

Thank you.

Susan Thomas

Treasurer

May 2026